

# DISCOVERY TOURS

CHINA ■ TIBET ■ CENTRAL ASIA ■ INDOCHINA ■ JAPAN ■ INDIA ■ SRI LANKA



IMMERSIVE JOURNEYS INTO THE HEART OF ASIA



# SEE ASIA DIFFERENTLY

For 19 years Wendy Wu Tours have been blazing trails into Asia, pushing boundaries and opening up unseen regions of this fascinating continent for the thousands of travellers that book with us each year. We passionately believe that Asia is a place of adventure, full of diverse cultures, rich in heritage and grand nature, and all of our enthusiasm and insider knowledge brings this to life on our Discovery Tours.

Our Discovery Tours are designed to give you a deeper and more authentic understanding of the region. Visit both iconic and lesser visited locations and get

closer to local culture – on foot, by bicycle, over land and water. This is your invitation to see diverse, quirky and beautiful Asia differently with Wendy Wu Tours.



*Wendy Wu*

Wendy Wu – Owner, Wendy Wu Tours

The Wendy Wu Difference  
Are These Tours for Me?

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Tailormade Asia  
Booking Your Trip

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67

## DISCOVER CHINA

8-29

China Explorer 15 days 10  
A China Adventure 17 days 12  
China Trailblazer 21 days 14  
Enchanting China **NEW** 17 days 16  
Land of the Dragon **NEW** 21 days 18

China: The Big One 28 days 20  
Chinese New Year 10 days 22  
Sichuan Explorer 15 days 24  
Yunnan Adventure 16 days 26  
Dreams of Nature 22 days 28

## GO BEYOND

30-39

Tibetan Wonders 23 days 32  
Mongolia & the Naadam Festival 23 days 34

Road to Samarkand 24 days 36  
Silk Road Explorer 26 days 38

## DISCOVER JAPAN

40-45

Sapporo & Snow Monkeys 11 days 42

Trails of Japan 13 days 44

## DISCOVER INDOCHINA

46-53

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Reflections of Vietnam 17 days 50

Vietnam & Cambodia Discovery 21 days 52

## DISCOVER INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

54-65

Vibrant India 16 days 56  
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Trans-Himalayan Journey **NEW** 23 days 60

Himalayan Kingdoms 24 days 62  
Spirit of Sri Lanka **NEW** 15 days 64





# THE WENDY WU DIFFERENCE

12 reasons to book a Discovery Tour.

## 1 NO ONE KNOWS ASIA LIKE WE DO

Wendy Wu Tours has long been blazing trails into Asia, giving our customers the opportunity to travel to destinations that you just won't find on offer anywhere else. We want you to come to know this rich and beautiful continent as well as we do, and these Discovery Tours are our way of breaking the boundaries – we are working to bring you ever closer to that authentic experience that true travellers crave.



## 2 A TALE WORTH TELLING

Seeing a country is just scratching the surface; the Discovery Tours have been developed to help you *experience* it, with hand-picked activities that do just that. Whether it is hiking along the Great Wall, giving you the opportunity to grasp the true magnitude of its scale and purpose, to visiting the Robot Restaurant in Tokyo, for a taste of the truly baffling culture of Japan, we've made sure that you go home with many tales worth telling.



## 4 HAND-PICKED HOTELS

Our Discovery Tours use a range of different accommodation options. Mostly, you'll be staying in three- to four-star rated hotels, in a location well suited for your touring, that reach our high standards of cleanliness, safety and comfort. On some of our 'moderate' and 'active' graded tours you may find yourself in more basic and interesting accommodation – be it a family-run guesthouse, a hilltribe homestay, a Buddhist temple or a ger camp.

## 3 INDUSTRY-LEADING NATIONAL ESCORTS

All of our Discovery Tours are accompanied from beginning to end by a dedicated, knowledgeable National Escort. Your guide is not only with you to make sure that your tour runs smoothly; born and raised in China, Japan, Vietnam or India, wherever you are touring, your National Escort is your treasure trove of local information. From them you can learn more about daily life, get tips and secrets and visit people and places that the normal tourists don't get to see. Knowledgeable and passionate, our National Escorts make these adventures exceptional.



## 5 WE LOVE SOLO TRAVELLERS

We welcome solo travellers on all of our tours and, as our Discovery Tours are for the intrepid at heart, you can be safe in the knowledge that all the people on your tour will share similar values, outlooks and sense of adventure. Even better, if you are a single traveller and are willing to share a room, you won't have to pay a single supplement.

## 6 UNRIVALLED AIRLINE CHOICE

We have access to airfares from all the leading airlines, giving you a huge choice of flights which are convenient for where you live, offering stopovers where you want and the upgrades you require.



## 7 TRAVELLING IS ALL PART OF THE ADVENTURE

The transport selected as part of our tour is intended to combine convenience with an enjoyable authentic experience. You could be riding a bicycle or old steam locomotive, speeding along by bullet train or floating languidly downriver by boat. Whether it is on an air-conditioned coach or open-air ox cart, we will make sure you are as comfortable as you possibly can be.

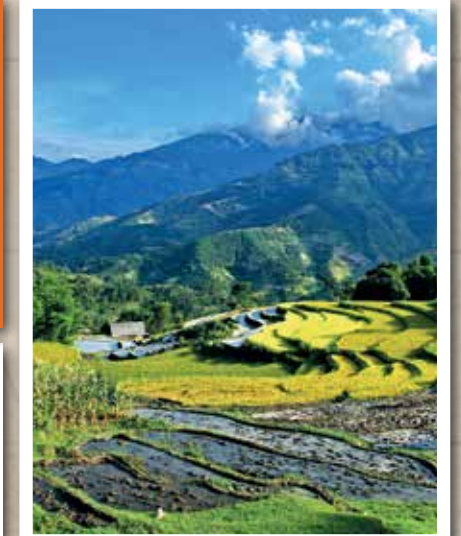


## 8 EXPLORE ON YOUR OWN TERMS

Having the freedom to explore on your own is all part of the Discovery Tours concept. We've included free time on many of our itineraries that allows you to head out and make your own discoveries too; free evenings, particularly, mean you can go out and taste a whole range of local flavours. Tours that we have graded 'Flexible' take this one step further by making many of the more active elements of the tour optional, so you are able to choose whether you want to take part, or would prefer to use the free time to pursue your own interests.

## 9 TIPPING MADE EASY

We handle tipping so you don't have to. Our simple system means tips are paid by each group member to a kitty kept by the National Escort who then distributes it throughout the trip.



## 10 DISCOVER TOGETHER

Nearly all of our Discovery Tours operate with a maximum of just 18 travellers. This gives you the chance to discover your destination with likeminded adventurers whilst also getting a more intimate and involved travel experience.

## 11 VISAS INCLUDED

Your visa fees are included in your tour price. Our dedicated visa team are here to help you fill out the form, then we take care of the application process for you – leaving you to get excited about your upcoming holiday.

## 12 OUR GREAT VALUE DISCOVERY TOURS

- ✓ Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (subject to change)
- ✓ All accommodation
- ✓ All or most meals
- ✓ English speaking National Escort and local guides
- ✓ Visa fees for UK and EU passport holders
- ✓ Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- ✓ Comprehensive tour dossiers and travel guides
- ✓ Safe and secure with ABTA, ATOL and IATA

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions and shows, insurance of any kind and additional tipping.



# ARE THESE TOURS FOR ME?

Who better to help you decide than your fellow travellers and the Asia experts themselves?

## TRAVELLERS' TALES...

### MICHAEL & MARGARET

We travelled on China Trailblazer. Our national guide, Addison, looked after us extremely well. Nothing was too much trouble, he organised each section of the holiday without any hitch, and did so with great humour and great efficiency. A lot was packed into this holiday and it was energetic and fast moving, but so very rewarding overall.



### BRIAN

I travelled on China: The Big One and received the best service I could have wished for. The guide was the best ever with a sense of humour to match! It was really the best holiday ever; I'm so glad we chose The Big One, and fitted so much in while we were in China.



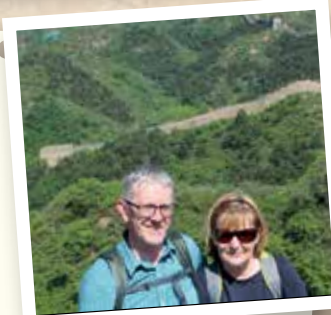
### GERALD

I travelled on Tibetan Wonders. The service was first rate from a company that is expert in its field. This is a tough tour so it is important that you can rely on the experience of the tour company.



### STEVE & TRISH

We travelled on A China Adventure. This was the holiday of a lifetime. Every day brought more 'wow' moments. We all enjoyed incredible experiences and there were so many that no one on the tour could nominate their highlight. It would not have been possible for an independent traveller to organise a comparable holiday. Only Wendy Wu and their guides could have gained access to many of our experiences. A rating of excellent does not adequately describe just how good this holiday was.



97%

customer service rating  
(rated as good or excellent)

98%

tour experience rating  
(rated as good or excellent)

Based on over 1,000 feefo customer reviews.

## OUR STAFF STORIES...



### EMILY, SENIOR MARKETING EXECUTIVE

For me, the Discovery Tours are about giving our customers the chance to see a different side of China, India, Vietnam, or wherever they have chosen to visit – they get to tap down deeper into the heritage and culture than those who travel on our classic tours.

### TOM, PRODUCT MANAGER

I think the Discovery Tours offer travellers the chance to get a bit more off the tourist trail than the majority of other Asia tours do, whilst also seeing the iconic sights in a more active way. Hiking along the Great Wall is one of the most spectacular and fascinating things I've ever done.



### FLORA, TRAVEL CONSULTANT

It has to be the experiences that make the Discovery Tours such a great way to explore Asia – in a place like Rajasthan in India, where the heritage is so rich and varied, activities such as exploring by bike, touring by bullock cart and visiting rural villages really open up a destination.

### JULIA, CREATIVE MANAGER

Friends of my family recently returned from doing 'A China Adventure', and they loved every minute of it. Meeting the local people of the Beijing hutongs and the hilltribe people of Longji were highlights for them – they chose a Discovery Tour because of these types of opportunities.



ARE THESE TOURS FOR ME?

## TOUR KEY

To help you decide which tour is for you, just look for the icons below on the page.

### TOUR GRADING



#### Active

These tours feature more physically demanding activities which require a good level of fitness. Challenging yet rewarding hikes appear on most of our active itineraries, and may also include cycling, visits to remote locations and areas of high altitude.



#### Moderate

These journeys, though less physical in nature than our active tours, still feature some walking and longer periods of sightseeing. They are still packed with unique elements but these will be easier and will not travel to such remote locations.



#### Flexible

By making the more physically demanding features of our active tours optional, these tours are exactly what they say on the tin; flexible. You can pick and mix activities and free time meaning more opportunity for independent exploration.



#### Altitude

This symbol indicates that areas above 3,000m are visited on tour.

### Tour Dossiers

It is essential that you read the full details in the Tour Dossier before booking to ensure you're comfortable with all elements of the tour. Information regarding locations of altitude, acute mountain sickness, and detailed descriptions of activities can be found here.

If you have an existing medical condition, we recommend checking with your doctor before travelling. Tour Dossiers can be found on our website. If you have any questions, please contact our reservations team.

**feefo**  
The Global Feedback Engine

We are keen to receive as much feedback as we can. We have partnered with independent online review site, feefo, to give you the chance to tell us what you think.



# CHINA



## OUR TOP TEN CHINA ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES

### 1 HIKE ON THE GREAT WALL

Take a spectacular hike over a quieter and more rugged section of this iconic edifice as it snakes over forested hills, taking time to absorb the centuries-old history it represents.

### 2 WALK THE LONGJI RICE TERRACES

Resembling a winding, staircase, the rice terraces will take your breath away. A challenging but rewarding hike takes you past minority villages and spectacular views.



### 3 CYCLE OR RAFT IN YANGSHUO

Cycle through the serene sea of pastures and paddy fields, or drift quietly down the Yulong River on a bamboo raft; both watched over by the towering limestone peaks of which the area is so famous.



### 4 DUJIANGYAN PANDA RESERVE

Close to Chengdu and at the foot of Mt Qingcheng, you can visit the charming and beautiful pandas of Dujiangyan. Smaller and less visited than neighbouring reserves, but still easily accessible, Dujiangyan provides a home very similar to the pandas' natural habitat.



### 5 WEIBAOSHAN MEDITATION

Wander past ancient Taoist temples nestled in the trees, to Qinzia Temple where a Taoist priest will introduce you to some traditional meditative practices.



### 6 PINGLE ANCIENT TOWN

Considered Sichuan's most charming town, Pingle also has a rich and colourful history as a stop on the ancient and fabled Tea Horse Road.



### 9 CYCLE XIAN'S CITY WALLS

Xian's old city walls are 12 metres high, 15 metres wide and 14 kilometres long and one of the best preserved in China. Hopping on a bike and pedalling around them is a great way to admire this great fortification and to see Xian from above.



### 7 SHANGHAI MORNINGS

Spend a morning like the native Shanghaiese by taking a walking tour through the city's colourful concessions.



### 8 TIBETAN VILLAGE IN ZHONGDIAN

Pay a visit to a local family in rural Zhongdian, where you will dine with your local hosts and learn about their way of life.



### 10 BEIJING'S HUTONGS

Explore one of the oldest hutongs in Beijing, Yandaixiejie; wander through the hutong soaking up the ambience before being welcomed into the home of a family where you can sit down to lunch and have a chat.





# CHINA EXPLORER

Explore the very best of China; voyage on the Yangtze, hike along the Great Wall and venture to atmospheric ancient towns on an active itinerary specially designed to bring you closer to the many authentic charms of this fascinating part of the world.

CHINA

## Day 10: Ancient Ciqikou

Jump on the bullet train to Chongqing. Visit the charming old town of Ciqikou – there's time to wander the cobbled alleyways and learn about its colourful history. Later, board your Yangtze Cruise vessel, home for the next three nights. (B,D)

## Days 11-12: Yangtze River Cruise

During your Yangtze cruise, nature takes over, revealing some of the world's most dramatic scenery including the Three Gorges. Over the next two days prepare for one breathtaking panorama after another. Take fascinating side trips to Shibaozhai or the Fengdu Relocation Village and Goddess or Shennong Stream. This is a chance to absorb extraordinary countryside and get a glimpse of life on the river banks. (B,L,D)

## Day 13: Three Gorges Dam

Visit the Three Gorges Dam, then fly to Shanghai. On arrival the evening is at leisure to begin exploring this neon wonder. (B,L)

## Day 14: Shanghainese Shanghai

Wake up to the buzz of Shanghai, and take a breakfast walking tour between coruscating skyscrapers and traditional streets. Walk through the city's most fascinating districts, marvelling at monuments and rickety buildings before enjoying breakfast as the locals do – sample pancakes, fried bread sticks and tofu. Visit the Yu Garden, the old town and the Silk Museum before taking an evening stroll along the Bund and enjoying a farewell dinner of authentic Shanghainese cuisine. Your final farewell to China will be a cruise down the Huangpu River, serenaded by the neon lights of Pudong. (B,L,D)

## Day 15: Fly Shanghai to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

15 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £3,190

FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

13 BREAKFASTS, 11 LUNCHES, 9 DINNERS

ACTIVE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Great Wall hike

Hike along the back of rugged Jinshanling as the Great Wall drapes lazily over the mountains, stopping to appreciate astounding views and fascinating history.



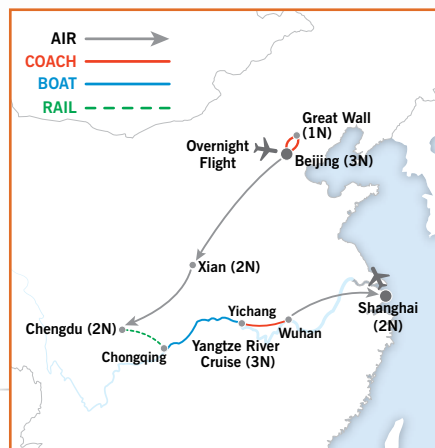
Jinjiu Rope Bridge

Suspended over a dramatic gorge filled with lush bamboo, the Jinjiu Suspended Rope Bridge offers breathtaking views and an exhilarating experience.



Dujiangyan Pandas

Smaller than Chengdu but benefitting from a leafier, more remote location, Dujiangyan is the perfect place to meet China's cuddliest icon.



## Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing

Fly overnight to Beijing, China's historical capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

## Day 3: Forbidden City and Summer Palace Walk

Stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Walking through this ornately designed complex offers an unsurpassed insight into

China's colourful past. Continue to the idyllic Summer Palace and explore the magnificent grounds, before taking a walk up Longevity Hill to enjoy panoramic views. (B,L,D)

## Day 4: Beijing's Hutongs

Arrive early for a visit to the Temple of Heaven and mingle with the locals as they start their day with Tai Chi, dancing and card playing in a flurry of sociable activity you would never see in a park at home. Next, you'll visit Yandaixiejie, where you'll have some free time to wander the hutongs. These narrow alleys offer an authentic glimpse of the old Beijing, before the emergence of high-rise buildings and modern commerce. Sit down for lunch with one of the families who call the hutongs home before driving to Simatai Great Wall. Sail up to the apex of the Wall by cable car to see the sunset. (B,L,D)

## Day 5: Hike the Great Wall

Travel to the Great Wall at Jinshanling, a section that is much less frequented by tourists than other parts. The stark yet magnificent surroundings allow you to put yourself in the shoes of those who walked this incredible edifice hundreds of years ago. Your trek will last approximately four hours as the wall improbably courses through dramatic

landscapes and rugged terrain. Later, head back to Beijing, where you'll have free time. Buzzing Sanlitun or lakeside Houhai are a great choice for the evening. (B,L)

## Day 6: Cycling in Xian

Fly to Xian. The ancient former capital is surrounded by an imposing and enormously wide wall, which is used as a city thoroughfare. You'll enjoy a gentle cycle ride that will take you the nine miles around the wall and past many smiling locals, giving you a unique perspective of Chinese urban life. Take in an optional fountain and light show and be dazzled by the city at night. (B,L,D)

## Day 7: Terracotta Warriors and Muslim Quarter Walking Tour

Housed in three immense hangars, the ranks of the Terracotta Army stand sentinel in their subterranean necropolis, constructed to protect China's first Emperor in the afterlife. Gaze over the ranks of warriors and horses, each one unique, whilst your guide introduces you to these life-like soldiers' fascinating story. Visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition then take a walking tour of the narrow and twisting streets of the Muslim Quarter. Sample the delicious, freshly cooked snacks and gain an insight into the city's fascinating culture and significance as the start of the Silk Road. This evening is at leisure. (B,L)

## Day 8: Pingle Ancient Town

Fly to Chengdu and drive to Pingle Ancient Town. Dating back to the Han Dynasty, Pingle was a stopping point on the Tea Horse Road. Take time to walk through its maze of tea house-lined streets before walking through Jinji's dense bamboo forest, then see the forest and gorge from above by crossing Jinji Rope Bridge. Return to Chengdu. (B,L,D)

## Day 9: Dujiangyan Panda Base

Visit one of the world's finest panda conservation centres where you'll gain a real insight into the hard work that goes into caring for and boosting the population of this endangered species. The pandas here are kept in conditions very close to their natural habitat. Later, ascend Mt Qingcheng, the most holy Taoist mountain in China by cable car. It is a truly beautiful spot with numerous peaks covered with lush greenery and secluded temples. Take a stroll among the mystic scenery of Yuecheng Lake. (B,L,D)

## DEPARTURES

2017 DATES			
23 Apr - 07 May	£3,190	03 Sep - 17 Sep	£3,290
07 May - 21 May	£3,190	08 Oct - 22 Oct	£3,290
2018 DATES			
08 Apr - 22 Apr	£3,490	02 Sep - 16 Sep	£3,590
06 May - 20 May	£3,490	16 Sep - 30 Sep	£3,590
20 May - 03 Jun	£3,490	14 Oct - 28 Oct	£3,590

## Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

## Flight and supplement information

### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,690 (Beijing - Shanghai)
- Single room from £520
- Tipping paid locally RMB 900



# A CHINA ADVENTURE

For the adventurous at heart, embark on an odyssey that will have you hiking along the Great Wall and among the Longji Rice Terraces, revelling in the rural beauty of Yangshuo, and soaking up China's monumental history.

CHINA

## Day 13: Li River Cruise

Take a gentle cruise along the Li River to Yangshuo. Lined with the most dramatic, sci-fi style limestone cliffs on the planet, the serenity of life on the riverbanks is a wonderful sight. This evening there is an option to be wowed by the light spectacular 'Sanjie Liu', a dramatic water-based show set on the Li River. (B,L,D)

## Day 14: Tai Chi, Country Cycling or Yangshuo Rafting

Start the day with a relaxing yet invigorating session of Tai Chi, taking time with a master to learn this ancient martial art. This afternoon there is the option of riding a bicycle through the countryside or join an optional bamboo rafting trip along the Yulong River – another chance to really soak up the unspoiled surroundings and explore every corner of this exquisite location. (B,L)

## Day 15: Fly to Shanghai

Drive back to Guilin and spend some time exploring Reed Flute Cave before going from the serene to the supercharged as you fly to Shanghai. (B,L)

## Day 16: Shanghainese Shanghai

Wake up to the buzz of Shanghai, and take a breakfast walking tour between coruscating skyscrapers and traditional streets. Walk through the city's most fascinating districts, marvelling at monuments and rickety buildings before enjoying breakfast as the locals do – sample pancakes, fried bread sticks and tofu. Visit Yu Garden, the old town and the Silk Museum before taking an evening stroll along the Bund and enjoying a farewell dinner of authentic Shanghainese cuisine. Your final farewell to China will be a cruise down the Huangpu River, serenaded by the neon lights of Pudong. (B,L,D)

## Day 17: Fly Shanghai to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

17 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £3,190 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK 14 BREAKFASTS, 14 LUNCHES, 8 DINNERS ACTIVE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



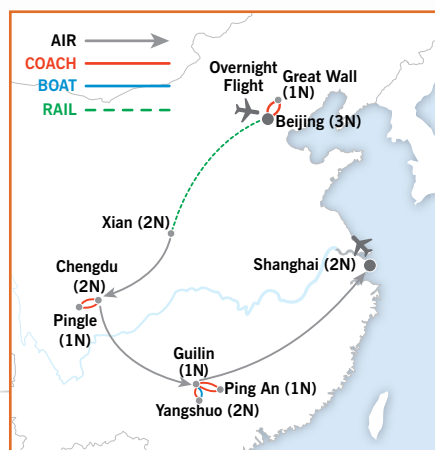
Unique to this tour, a hike from Gubeikou to Jinshanling allows you maximum time to appreciate China's most famous edifice.



The Silk Road City of Xian is surrounded by an imposing battlement wall; cycling on the top provides amazing views of the city from above.



Hike over the curving steps of Longji, stopping to appreciate this beautifully incomprehensible feat of man-made landscaping.



## Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing

Fly overnight to Beijing, China's historical capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

## Day 3: Forbidden City and Summer Palace Walk

Stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Walking through this ornately designed complex offers an unsurpassed insight into

China's colourful past. Continue to the Summer Palace and explore the magnificent grounds, before taking a short hike up Longevity Hill to enjoy panoramic views. Stop for a photo at the Olympic Stadium before dinner. (B,L,D)

## Day 4: Beijing's Hutongs

Arrive early for a visit to the Temple of Heaven and mingle with the locals as they start their day with Tai Chi, dancing and card playing in a flurry of sociable activity you would never see in a park at home. Next, you'll visit Yandaixiejie, where you'll have some free time to wander the hutongs; these narrow alleys offer an authentic glimpse of the old Beijing, before the emergence of high-rise buildings and modern commerce. Sit down for lunch with one of the families who call the hutongs home before driving to Simatai Great Wall. Sail up to the apex of the Wall by cable car to see the sunset. (B,L,D)

## Day 5: Hike the Great Wall

Take the short transfer to Gubeikou to begin the hike to Jinshanling. One of the most wild and scenic section-to-section hikes of the Great Wall, your path will traverse ancient and rugged landscapes, only going off-wall briefly to navigate around a Chinese military base. After approximately six hours of hiking, you'll return to Beijing where the rest of the day is at leisure. (B,L)

## Day 6: Xian by Bullet Train

Ride the bullet train to Xian, the ancient former capital. Explore the narrow and twisting streets of the Muslim Quarter. Sample the delicious, freshly cooked snacks and gain an insight into the city's fascinating culture and significance as the start of the Silk Road. (B,L)

## Day 7: Terracotta Warriors and Cycling on the City Wall

Housed in three immense hangars, the ranks of the Terracotta Army stand sentinel in their subterranean necropolis, constructed to protect China's first Emperor in the afterlife. Gaze over the ranks of warriors and horses, each one unique, whilst your guide introduces you to these life-like soldiers' fascinating story. Continue to the ancient city wall for a cycle on the fortifications surrounding the heart of the city. Tonight, dine on Xian's traditional and delicious dumplings. (B,L,D)

## Day 8: Travel to Pingle

Fly to Chengdu and drive to Pingle Ancient Town. Dating back to the Han Dynasty, Pingle was a stopping point on the Tea Horse Road. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B,L)

## Day 9: Pingle Ancient Town

Enjoy a morning at leisure, perhaps taking the time to walk through Pingle's maze of tea house-lined streets. Later, see Sichuan's expansive bamboo forest from above on Jinji Suspended Rope Bridge. Drive back to Chengdu. (L,D)

## Day 10: Dujiangyan Panda Base

Visit one of the world's finest panda conservation centres where you'll gain a real insight into the hard work that goes into caring for and boosting the population of this endangered species. The pandas here are kept in conditions very close to their natural habitat. Later, ascend Mt Qingcheng, the most holy Taoist mountain in China by cable car. It is a truly beautiful spot with numerous peaks covered with lush greenery and secluded temples. Take a stroll among the mystic scenery of Yuecheng Lake. (B,L,D)

## Day 11: Journey to Ping An

Take an early morning flight to Guilin before transferring to Ping An for an overnight stay. (B,L,D)

## Day 12: Rice Terraces and Ethnic Villages Hike

Wake up to stunning views of the misty, stepped hills of Longji. Today's full-day hike among the terraces will take you past small hamlets and picture-postcard views of the rice terraces which cover the landscape in intricate patterns. Whether full of water or bursting with rice plants, a walk in Longji provides an unforgettable experience of rural China. Return to Guilin where the evening is at leisure. (B,L)

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18 May - 03 Jun	£3,490	12 Oct - 28 Oct	£3,590

## Price includes:

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- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

## Flight and supplement information

### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,690 (Beijing - Shanghai)
- Single room from £450
- Tipping paid locally RMB 860



# CHINA TRAILBLAZER

Take a journey like no other. This is your chance to see the classic sights, and also explore a different side of this beautiful country – be it from the back of a bicycle, on a hike through serene countryside, or a walk through buzzing city streets.

CHINA

A three day voyage along China's riverine treasure is a chance to relax and enjoy a slower pace, whilst absorbing one breathtaking panorama after another. (B,L,D)

**Day 12: Ciqikou Ancient Town**  
Disembark your cruise vessel and enjoy an early lunch in the charming old town of Ciqikou – there's time to wander the cobbled alleyways and learn about its colourful history. Take a bullet train to Chengdu. (B,L,D)

**Day 13: Pingle Ancient Town**  
Drive to Pingle Ancient Town. Dating back to the Han Dynasty, Pingle was a stopping point on the Tea Horse Road. Take time to walk through its maze of tea house-lined streets before seeing the bamboo forest from above on Jinli Suspended Rope Bridge. Return to Chengdu. (B,L,D)

**Day 17: Li River Cruise**  
Take a gentle cruise along the Li River to Yangshuo. Lined with the most dramatic, sci-fi style limestone cliffs on the planet, the serenity of life on the riverbanks is a wonderful sight. This evening there is an option to be wowed by the light spectacular 'Sanjie Liu'. (B,L,D)

**Day 18: Tai Chi, Country Cycling or Yangshuo Rafting**  
Start the day with an invigorating session of Tai Chi, taking time with a master to learn this ancient martial art. This afternoon there is the option of riding a bicycle through the countryside or join an optional bamboo rafting trip along the Yulong River – another chance to really soak up the unspoiled surroundings of this exquisite location. (B,L)

**Day 19: Fly to Shanghai**  
Drive back to Guilin. Go from the serene to the supercharged as you fly to Shanghai. (B,L)

**Day 20: Shanghaiese Shanghai**  
Wake up to the buzz of Shanghai, and take a breakfast walking tour between coruscating skyscrapers and traditional streets. Walk through the city's most fascinating districts before enjoying breakfast as the locals do – sample pancakes, fried bread sticks and tofu. Visit Yu Garden, the old town and the Silk Museum before taking an evening stroll along the Bund and enjoying a farewell dinner of authentic Shanghaiese cuisine. Your final farewell to China will be a cruise down the Huangpu River, serenaded by the neon lights of Pudong. (B,L,D)

**Day 21: Fly Shanghai to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

21 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £3,590 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK 19 BREAKFASTS, 18 LUNCHES, 12 DINNERS ACTIVE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Muslim Quarter

Walk through Xian's buzzing and industrious Muslim Quarter, sampling delicious and exciting street food and meeting colourful locals as you go.



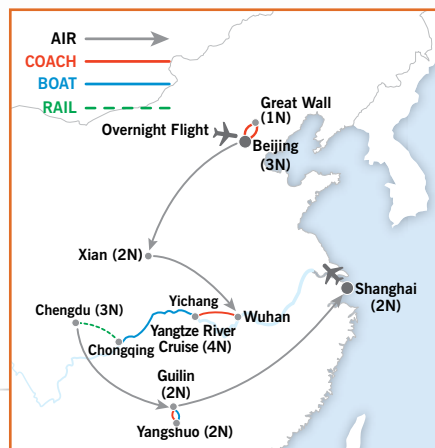
Walking in Yangshuo

Featuring toothlike limestone karsts and sleepy pastoral scenes, a walk through Yangshuo's unique countryside feels otherworldly.



Shanghai Breakfast

Get a feel for life in the big city as you dine on breakfast snacks in local Shanghai markets, shoulder to shoulder with local residents.



**Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing**  
Fly to Beijing, China's historical capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

**Day 3: Beijing's hutongs**  
Arrive early for a visit to the Temple of Heaven and mingle with the locals as they start their day with Tai Chi, dancing and card playing in a flurry of sociable activity you would never see in a park at home. Next, you'll visit Yandaixiejie,

where you'll have some free time to wander the hutongs; these narrow alleys offer an authentic glimpse of the old Beijing, before the emergence of high-rise buildings and modern commerce. Sit down for lunch with one of the families who call the hutongs home before driving to Simatai Great Wall. Sail up to the apex of the Wall by cable car to see the sunset. (B,L,D)

**Day 4: Hike the Great Wall**  
Travel to the Great Wall at Jinshanling, a section that is much less frequented by tourists than other parts. The stark yet magnificent surroundings allow you to put yourself in the shoes of those who walked this incredible edifice hundreds of years ago. Your trek will last approximately four hours as the wall improbably courses through dramatic landscapes and rugged terrain. Later, head back to Beijing, where you'll have free time. (B,L)

**Day 5: Forbidden City and Summer Palace Walk**  
Stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Walking through this ornately designed complex offers an unsurpassed insight into China's colourful past. Continue to the Summer Palace and explore the magnificent grounds, before taking a short hike up Longevity Hill to enjoy panoramic views. (B,L,D)

**Day 6: Explore Xian**  
Fly to Xian, the ancient former capital. Explore the narrow and twisting streets of the Muslim Quarter. Sample the delicious, freshly cooked snacks and gain an insight into the city's fascinating culture and significance as the start of the Silk Road. The evening is at leisure - Defu Lane offers a vibrant atmosphere at night. (B,L)

**Day 7: Terracotta Warriors**  
Housed in three immense hangars, the ranks of the Terracotta Army stand sentinel in their subterranean necropolis, constructed to protect China's first Emperor in the afterlife. Gaze over the ranks of warriors and horses, each one unique, whilst your guide introduces you to these life-like soldiers' fascinating story. Continue to the ancient city wall for a cycle on the fortifications surrounding the heart of the city. Tonight, dine on Xian's traditional and delicious dumplings. (B,L,D)

**Day 8: Travel to Yichang**  
Fly to Wuhan and transfer to Yichang. Later, board your Yangtze Cruise vessel, home for the next four nights. (B,L,D)

**Days 9-11: Yangtze Cruise**  
A man-made marvel, The Three Gorges Dam showcases this massive feat of engineering. As you cruise upstream nature takes over, revealing some of the world's most dramatic scenery including the Three Gorges themselves.

**Day 14: Dujiangyan Panda Base**  
Visit one of the world's finest panda conservation centres where you'll gain a real insight into the hard work that goes into caring for and boosting the population of this endangered species. The pandas here are kept in conditions very close to their natural habitat. Later, ascend Mt Qingcheng, the most holy Taoist mountain in China by cable car. It is a truly beautiful spot with numerous peaks covered with lush greenery and secluded temples. Take a stroll among the mystic scenery of Yuecheng Lake. (B,L,D)

**Day 15: Sun & Moon Pagodas**  
Take an early morning flight to Guilin. Take a walk around the picturesque Ronghu Lake and admire the Sun and Moon Pagodas – two towering examples of traditional Chinese-Buddhist architecture. (B,L)

**Day 16: Rice Terraces and Ethnic Villages Hike**  
Travel to the beauty of the misty, stepped hills of Longji. Today's full-day hike among the terraces will take you past small hamlets and picture-postcard views of the rice terraces which cover the landscape in intricate patterns. Whether full of water or bursting with rice plants, a walk in Longji provides an unforgettable experience of rural China. Return to Guilin. (B,L)

## DEPARTURES

2017 DATES			
01 Apr - 21 Apr	£3,590	02 Sep - 22 Sep	£3,690
15 Apr - 05 May	£3,590	23 Sep - 13 Oct	£3,690
06 May - 26 May	£3,590	07 Oct - 27 Oct	£3,690
2018 DATES			
31 Mar - 20 Apr	£3,890	08 Sep - 28 Sep	£3,990
14 Apr - 04 May	£3,890	22 Sep - 12 Oct	£3,990
05 May - 25 May	£3,890	06 Oct - 26 Oct	£3,990
19 May - 08 Jun	£3,890	13 Oct - 02 Nov	£3,990

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

### Flight and supplement information

#### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,090 (Beijing - Shanghai)
- Single room from £620
- Tipping paid locally RMB 1,130



NEW

# ENCHANTING CHINA

Slow down the pace and thoroughly explore China's great cities on a relaxed itinerary that introduces you to the very best sights, with the option to do even more. Extra free time allows you to discover more at your own pace and in your own way.

CHINA

## Day 14: Fly to Shanghai

A man-made marvel, the Three Gorges Dam showcases this massive feat of engineering. Visit the mammoth dam before disembarking your cruise vessel. Fly to Shanghai. (B,L)

## Day 15: At Leisure in Shanghai

Enjoy a day at leisure in Shanghai, and begin your explorations of this action-packed city. Alternatively, take an optional tour to Zhujiatiao, one of Shanghai's sleepy water towns, built on an old canal system once used to transport goods all over imperial China. The town's narrow alleyways exude old-world charm, whilst the waterways are lined with ancient buildings and crossed by stone bridges. (B)

## Day 16: Shanghaiese Shanghai

Wake up to the buzz of Shanghai, and take a breakfast walking tour between coruscating skyscrapers and traditional streets. Walk through the city's most fascinating districts, marvelling at monuments and rickety buildings before enjoying breakfast as the locals do – sample pancakes, fried bread sticks and tofu. Visit Yu Garden and the old town and the Silk Museum before taking an evening stroll along the Bund and enjoying a farewell dinner of authentic Shanghaiese cuisine. Your final farewell to China will be a cruise down the Huangpu River, serenaded by the neon lights of Pudong. (B,D)

## Day 17: Fly Shanghai to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

17 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON

£2,990



FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK



15 BREAKFASTS, 8 LUNCHES, 4 DINNERS



FLEXIBLE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Personal exploration

Choose between optional excursions and free time, so if you want to delve deeper into Beijing, Xian, Shanghai and Chengdu on your own terms, you can.



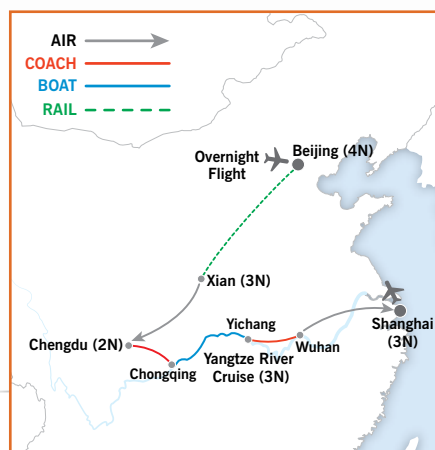
Yandaixie hutong

Get a glimpse of what Beijing was like before gleaming modernisation took over; wander along this atmospheric street and join a local family for lunch.



Cycling in Xian

The Silk Road city of Xian is surrounded by an imposing battlement wall; cycling on the top provides amazing views of the city from above.



## Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing

Fly overnight to Beijing, China's historical capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

## Day 3: Imperial Beijing

Heading to Beijing's symbolic heart, stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City where you'll find a complex full of imperial

treasures. Visit Yandaixie, where you'll have some free time to wander the hutongs. These narrow alleys offer an authentic glimpse of the old Beijing, before the emergence of high-rise buildings and modern commerce. Sit down for lunch with one of the families who call the hutongs home. This evening enjoy some free time in the vibrant Houhai district. (B,L)

## Day 4: Huanghuacheng Great Wall and Free Time in Wangfujing

This particularly scenic section of the Great Wall is reached by boat, and boasts spectacular views from the top. Spend the afternoon at leisure exploring colourful Wangfujing market, or enjoy an optional Peking duck dinner. (B,L)

## Day 5: Summer Palace

Explore the beautifully designed grounds of the Summer Palace including the Long Corridor and the Marble Boat. Spend time strolling around pretty Kunming Lake and walk up wooded Longevity Hill. Enjoy a photo stop at the Olympic Park. (B)

## Day 6: Temple of Heaven

Visit the Temple of Heaven and mingle with the locals as they start their day with Tai Chi, dancing and cards in a flurry of sociable activity. Take the bullet train to Xian. (B,L)

## Day 7: Terracotta Warriors

Housed in three immense hangars, the ranks of the Terracotta Army stand sentinel in their subterranean necropolis, constructed to protect China's first Emperor. Gaze over the ranks of warriors and horses, while you are introduced to these lifelike soldiers' fascinating story. Take a walking tour of the Muslim Quarter and maybe sample some of the freshly cooked snacks. With the evening free, why not enjoy a cold beer in Defu Lane or take an optional tour of Xian by night? (B,L)

## Day 8: At Leisure in Xian

Today is a day at leisure to explore Xian. There is the option to enjoy a gentle cycle ride that will take you the nine miles around Xian's beautifully preserved city wall, past many smiling locals. (B)

## Day 9: Chengdu like a local

Fly to Chengdu and walk around People's Park, a hive of activity. See beautiful golden koi, locals dancing and practicing Tai Chi, visit a local tea house and most interesting of all, spend time in Matchmaker's Corner. (B,L)

## Day 10: At Leisure in Chengdu

Today is a day at leisure in Chengdu, with the option of visiting the old town of Pingle. Dating back to the Han Dynasty, Pingle was a stopping point on the Tea Horse Road. Take time to walk

through its maze of tea house-lined streets before seeing the bamboo forest from above on Jinji Suspended Rope Bridge. (B)

## Day 11: Giant Pandas

Spend the morning visiting the Giant Pandas of Chengdu Panda Base. Here you can observe these gorgeous creatures lounging, playing and chomping through piles of bamboo in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Drive to Chongqing and board your Yangtze cruise vessel. (B,D)

## Days 12-13: Yangtze Cruise

As you cruise downstream nature takes over, revealing some of the world's most dramatic scenery including the Three Gorges themselves. A three-night voyage along China's riverine treasure is a chance to relax and enjoy a slower pace, whilst absorbing one breathtaking panorama after another. (B,L,D)

## DEPARTURES

### 2017 DATES

05 May - 21 May	£2,990	13 Oct - 29 Oct	£3,190
01 Sep - 17 Sep	£3,190		

### 2018 DATES

06 Apr - 22 Apr	£3,290	07 Sep - 23 Sep	£3,390
04 May - 20 May	£3,290	12 Oct - 28 Oct	£3,390

### Price includes:

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- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
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- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

### Flight and supplement information

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- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,490 (Beijing - Shanghai)
- Single room from £560
- Tipping paid locally RMB 870



NEW

# LAND OF THE DRAGON

Take a relaxed journey through the great sights of China, walking on the Great Wall, admiring the Terracotta Warriors and visiting the Giant Pandas, while also having plenty of free time and optional excursions to make the holiday your very own.

CHINA

## Day 15: Giant Pandas

Spend the morning visiting the Giant Pandas of Chengdu Panda Base. Here you can observe these gorgeous creatures lounging, playing and chomping through piles of bamboo in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Drive to Chongqing and board your Yangtze cruise vessel. (B,D)

## Days 16-17: Yangtze Cruise

As you cruise downstream nature takes over, revealing some of the world's most dramatic scenery including the Three Gorges themselves. A two-day voyage along China's riverine treasure is a chance to relax and enjoy a slower pace, whilst absorbing one breathtaking panorama after another. (B,L,D)

## Day 18: Fly to Shanghai

A man-made marvel, the Three Gorges Dam showcases this massive feat of engineering. Visit the mammoth dam before disembarking your cruise vessel. Fly to Shanghai. (B,L)

## Day 19: At leisure in Shanghai

Enjoy a day at leisure in Shanghai, beginning your explorations of this action-packed city. Alternatively, take an optional tour to Zhujiajiao, one of Shanghai's sleepy water towns, built on an old canal system once used to transport goods all over imperial China. The town's narrow alleyways exude old-world charm, whilst the waterways are lined with ancient buildings and crossed by stone bridges. (B)

## Day 20: Shanghaiese Shanghai

Wake up to the buzz of Shanghai, and take a breakfast walking tour between coruscating skyscrapers and traditional streets. Walk through the city's most fascinating districts, marvelling at monuments and rickety buildings before enjoying breakfast as the locals do – sample pancakes, fried bread sticks and tofu. Visit Yu Garden, the old town and the Silk Museum before a farewell dinner of authentic Shanghaiese cuisine. Your final farewell to China will be a cruise down the Huangpu River, serenaded by the neon lights of Pudong. (B,D)

## Day 21: Fly Shanghai to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

21

DAYS FROM

PER PERSON

£3,290



FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK



19 BREAKFASTS, 9 LUNCHES, 4 DINNERS



FLEXIBLE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Personal exploration

Choose between optional excursions and free time, so if you want to delve deeper into Beijing, Xian, Yangshuo and Chengdu on your own terms, you can.



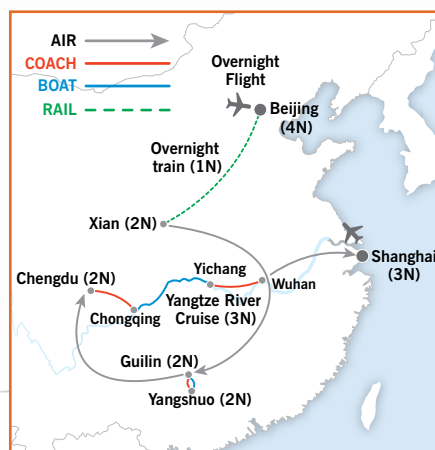
Huanghuacheng

Looming gracefully over the peaceful lakeside, Huanghuacheng is a lesser visited section of the wall where you can feel centuries of history.



Shanghai breakfast

Get a feel for life in the big city as you dine on breakfast snacks in local Shanghai markets, shoulder to shoulder with local residents.



## Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing

Fly overnight to Beijing, China's historical capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

## Day 3: Imperial Beijing

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to wander the hutongs. These narrow alleys offer an authentic glimpse of the old Beijing, before the emergence of high-rise buildings and modern commerce. Sit down for lunch with one of the families who call the hutongs home. This evening enjoy some free time in the Houhai district. (B,L)

## Day 4: Huanghuacheng Great Wall and Free Time in Wangfujing

This particularly scenic section of the Great Wall is reached by boat, and boasts spectacular views from the top. Spend the afternoon at leisure exploring colourful Wangfujing market, or enjoy an optional Peking duck dinner. (B,L)

## Day 5: Summer Palace

Explore the beautifully designed grounds of the Summer Palace including the Long Corridor and the Marble Boat. Spend time strolling around pretty Kunming Lake and walk up wooded Longevity Hill. Enjoy a photo stop at the Olympic Park. (B)

## Day 6: Temple of Heaven

Visit the Temple of Heaven and mingle with the locals as they start their day with Tai Chi, dancing and cards in a flurry of sociable activity. Take the overnight train to Xian. (B,L)

## Day 7: Terracotta Warriors

Housed in three immense hangars, the ranks of the Terracotta Army stand sentinel in their

subterranean necropolis, constructed to protect China's first Emperor. Gaze over the ranks of warriors and horses, while you are introduced to these lifelike soldiers' fascinating story. Take a walking tour of the Muslim Quarter and maybe sample some of the freshly cooked snacks. With the evening free, why not enjoy a cold beer in Defu Lane or take an optional tour of the city by night? (B,L)

## Day 8: At Leisure in Xian

Today is a day at leisure to explore Xian. There is the option to take a gentle cycle ride that will take you the nine miles around Xian's beautifully preserved city wall, past many smiling locals. (B)

## Day 9: Fly to Guilin

Fly to Guilin. On arrival explore the magnificent formations of Reed Flute Cave and browse the displays of the South China Pearl Museum. Later, take a late afternoon stroll around the picturesque Ronghu and Shanhu lakes, mingling with the local people as you go, then head to the vibrant Zhengyang Pedestrian Street where you are free to enjoy dinner and drinks. (B)

## Day 10: Hiking in Longji

Today there is an option to take a four-hour hike in the stunning rice terraces of Longji. Walk over the fields and enjoy picture-postcard views of the terraces which cover the landscape in intricate patterns. Otherwise, spend more time in Guilin. (B)

## Day 11: Li River Cruise

Take a gentle cruise along the Li River to Yangshuo. Lined with dramatic, sci-fi style limestone cliffs, the serenity of life on the riverbanks is a wonderful sight. Take a walk through this idyllic wonderland and get an insight into life here. Later, visit the magnificent Moon Hill. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B,L)

## Day 12: Yangshuo Tai Chi & exploration

Start the day with a relaxing yet invigorating session of Tai Chi, taking time with a master to learn this ancient martial art. You may wish to join an optional bamboo rafting trip along the Yulong River or cycle through the countryside for one last, tranquil jaunt in Yangshuo. (B)

## Day 13: Chengdu like a Local

Return to Guilin and fly to Chengdu. Walk around People's Park, a hive of activity. See beautiful golden koi, locals dancing and practicing Tai Chi, visit a local tea house and most interesting of all, Matchmaker's Corner. The rest of the day is at leisure where you can enjoy an optional hot pot dinner and face changing show. (B,L)

## Day 14: At leisure in Chengdu

Today is a day at leisure in Chengdu, with the option of visiting the old town of Pingle. Dating back to the Han Dynasty, Pingle was a stopping point on the Tea Horse Road. Take time to walk through its maze of tea house-lined streets before seeing the forest from above on Jinji Suspended Rope Bridge. (B)

## DEPARTURES

2017 DATES			
08 May - 28 May	£3,290	16 Oct - 05 Nov	£3,490
04 Sep - 24 Sep	£3,490		
2018 DATES			
09 Apr - 29 Apr	£3,690	10 Sep - 30 Sep	£3,790
07 May - 27 May	£3,690	15 Oct - 04 Nov	£3,790

## Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
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- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

## Flight and supplement information

### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,790 (Beijing - Shanghai)
- Single room from £620
- Tipping paid locally RMB 1,070



# CHINA: THE BIG ONE

The complete Chinese adventure – this itinerary takes more time to explore the highlights of this beautiful and eclectic country, from busy cities, rural utopias and quirky ancient towns where you are free to absorb the relaxed atmosphere.



28 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £3,790

FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

26 BREAKFASTS, 17 LUNCHES, 5 DINNERS

FLEXIBLE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Personal exploration

Choose between optional excursions and free time, so if you want to delve deeper into Beijing, Xian, Shanghai and Chengdu on your own terms, you can.



Huanghuacheng

Looming gracefully over the peaceful lakeside, Huanghuacheng is a lesser visited section of the Wall. Feel centuries of history as the wall drapes lazily over the surrounding hillside.



Dali's Ancient Town

The cobbled, winding streets of Dali's Old Quarter are a delight to relax in and wander through – spend an evening here people watching.



### Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing

Fly overnight to Beijing, China's historical capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is at leisure.

### Day 3: Forbidden City and Hutongs

Stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Next visit Yandaixiejie Street where there's time to wander the hutongs; these narrow alleys offer a glimpse of old Beijing. Later, there's free time to explore. (B,L)

### Day 4: Huanghuacheng Great Wall and Wangfujing

This particularly scenic section of the wall is reached by boat, and boasts spectacular views from the top. Spend the evening at leisure exploring colourful Wangfujing night market, or enjoy an optional Peking duck dinner. (B,L)

### Day 5: Imperial Summer Palace

Take a relaxed day exploring the beautifully designed grounds of the Summer Palace including the Long Corridor and the Marble Boat. Spend time strolling around pretty Kunming Lake and walk up wooded Longevity Hill. Enjoy a photo stop at the Olympic Park. (B,L)

### Day 6: Temple of Heaven

Visit the Temple of Heaven and mingle with the locals as they start their day with Tai Chi, dancing and cards in a flurry of sociable activity. Take the overnight train to Xian. (B,L)

### Day 7: Terracotta Warriors

Housed in three immense hangars, the ranks of the Terracotta Army stand sentinel in their subterranean necropolis, constructed to protect China's first Emperor. Gaze over the ranks of warriors and horses, while you are introduced to these lifelike soldiers' fascinating story. Take a walking tour of the Muslim Quarter and

sample freshly cooked snacks. With the evening free, why not enjoy a cold beer in Defu Lane? (B,L)

### Day 8: Cycling in Xian

Start your day with a gentle cycle ride that will take you the nine miles around the wall. This afternoon visit the Little Wild Goose Pagoda. (B,L)

### Day 9: Beautiful Guilin

Fly to Guilin. Walk around the lakes then enjoy the evening at leisure – you may wish to stroll around Zhengyang Street. (B)

### Day 10: Hiking in Longji

Today there is an option to take a four-hour hike in the stunning rice terraces of Longji. Walk over the fields and enjoy picture-postcard views of the terraces which cover the landscape in intricate patterns. Otherwise, spend more time in Guilin. (B)

### Day 11: Yangshuo Countryside

Take a gentle cruise along the Li River to Yangshuo. Lined with dramatic, sci-fi style limestone cliffs, the serenity of life on the riverbanks is a wonderful sight. Take a walk through this idyllic wonderland and get an insight into life here. There's an option to hike to the top of Moon Hill for epic views. (B,L)

### Day 12: Yangshuo Tai Chi

Start the day with an invigorating session of Tai Chi, taking time with a master to learn this ancient martial art. You may wish to join an optional bamboo rafting trip along the Yulong River or cycle through the countryside for one last tranquil jaunt in Yangshuo. (B)

### Day 13: Kunming at Leisure

Transfer to Guilin and visit Reed Flute Cave. Fly to Kunming. (B)

### Day 14: Stone Forest

Meander through the formations of the UNESCO-listed Stone Forest, where towering limestone pillars stand tree-like in a fascinating illusion of woodland. Back in Kunming stroll through Green Lake Park and have an evening at leisure, perhaps enjoying the vibrant Wenhua Alley district. (B,L)

### Day 15: Dali's Ancient Town

Drive to Dali and spend the rest of the day admiring the Three Pagodas and being immersed in the atmosphere of the fascinating old quarter and lively market. Stroll along Foreigners' Street and explore the many dining options here. (B,L)

### Day 16: Dali at Leisure

Take an optional visit to Weibaoshan, one of the fourteen sacred Taoist mountains. Steeped in legend, the mountain features 20 Taoist temples nestled on its forested slopes. Walk up the forested hillside to see a handful of these intricately decorated temples, stopping at Qinzia Temple where you will be met by a Taoist priest for a relaxing meditation session. Or spend the day relaxing in Dali. (B)

### Day 17: Shaxi Ancient Town

Drive to Shaxi Ancient Town, nestled deep in the Himalayan foothills. Learn about the fascinating minority peoples that reside in the area and enjoy a local lunch. In the afternoon, continue to Lijiang and spend the evening wandering the historic old town. (B,L)

### Day 18: Jade Dragon Snow Mountain

A magnificent mountain massif, Jade Dragon incorporates several peaks, the tallest of which soars to 5,500 metres. Take a cable car to one of the gorgeous high meadows and enjoy amazing vistas. Visit the minority Baisha Naxi Village and admire the fascinating Baisha Frescoes. (B,L)

## CHINA

### Day 19: Tiger Leaping Gorge

Today's optional mini-trek to Tiger Leaping Gorge takes you through dramatic cliffs and down into the gorge itself. If you don't join the trek, the day is at leisure in Lijiang. (B)

### Day 20: Chengdu like a Local

Fly to Chengdu and walk around People's Park, a hive of activity. See beautiful golden koi, locals dancing and practicing Tai Chi, visit a local tea house and most interesting of all, Matchmaker's Corner. Later visit Wide and Narrow Alleys. (B,L)

### Day 21: Giant Pandas

Visit Chengdu's renowned panda base and see these charming creatures up close. The rest of the day is at leisure where you can enjoy an optional hot pot dinner and face changing show. (B,L)

### Day 22: Ancient Ciqikou

Jump on the bullet train to Chongqing. Enjoy free time in the charming old town of Ciqikou then board your Yangtze Cruise vessel, home for the next three nights. (B,D)

### Days 23-24: Yangtze Cruise

A cruise down the Yangtze reveals some of the world's most dramatic scenery. (B,L,D)

### Day 25: Three Gorges Dam

Visit the Three Gorges Dam, then fly to Shanghai. (B,L,D)

### Day 26: Shanghaiese Shanghai

Wake up to the buzz of Shanghai, and take a breakfast walking tour between coruscating skyscrapers and traditional streets. Visit Yu Garden, the old town and the Silk Museum. Cruise down the Huangpu River, serenaded by the neon lights of Pudong. (B,L)

### Day 27: Suzhou

Join the optional day tour to delightful Suzhou, or spend more time at leisure in Shanghai. This evening enjoy a delicious farewell dinner. (B,D)

### Day 28: Fly Shanghai to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

## DEPARTURES

2017 DATES			
02 Apr - 29 Apr	£3,790	17 Sep - 14 Oct	£3,890
07 May - 03 Jun	£3,790	08 Oct - 04 Nov	£3,890
03 Sep - 30 Sep	£3,890		
2018 DATES			
02 Apr - 29 Apr	£4,190	03 Sep - 30 Sep	£4,290
16 Apr - 13 May	£4,190	17 Sep - 14 Oct	£4,290
07 May - 03 Jun	£4,190	08 Oct - 04 Nov	£4,290

### Price includes:

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- Single room from £840
- Tipping paid locally RMB 1,250



# CHINESE NEW YEAR

Chinese New Year is the world's biggest festival and there is no better place to experience it than in the great cities of China. Immerse yourself in Chinese culture and celebrate this special time of year like the locals do; with fireworks, family festivities and temple fairs.



KEEP EXPLORING



HARBIN SNOW & ICE FESTIVAL  
3 NIGHTS FROM £990pp

Immerse yourself in a magical winter world at this unique festival. Hundreds of masterpieces carved into ice and snow line the banks of the Songhua River, all lit up in a kaleidoscope of colour. You'll have two days to explore this wonderland and see the sights of this fascinating city.

*Price includes internal flights from Beijing and breakfast daily.*

10 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £2,590 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK 8 BREAKFASTS, 5 LUNCHES, 6 DINNERS MODERATE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Hong Kong New Year

See a dazzling parade of costumes and colour, and watch thrilling fireworks over Victoria Harbour from a cruise boat on the water.



Xian Lantern Festival

Visit the City Walls encircling Xian to see the colourful and intricately designed winter lantern display; an unforgettable photo opportunity!



Ice Festival

Venture to the dramatic, snow covered Longqing Gorge to see intricately carved ice sculptures and revel in New Year festivities.



Days 1-2: Fly to Hong Kong  
Fly overnight to Hong Kong, the ultimate east-meets-west destination. Visit the famous flower markets and enjoy a New Year's Eve celebratory dinner. (D)

Day 3: Hong Kong Chinese New Year Parade  
Hong Kong vibrates with anticipation for the upcoming celebrations as you explore the colourful temples and streets of the city. In the evening take your reserved seats for the Tsim Sha Tsui Night Parade, to witness the truly astonishing variety of colourful floats, live music and dance performances as they pass. (B,L,D)

Day 4: New Year Fireworks  
Visit bustling Stanley Market and Aberdeen Fishing Village, home to rows of old-fashioned junks and house boats, before finishing at Victoria Peak for mesmerising views over skyscrapers, bays and islands. The afternoon is free to enjoy the New Year ambience, then see one of the world's greatest fireworks displays whilst cruising on Victoria Harbour. (B,L)

Day 5: Lantern Festival  
Fly to Xian, terminus of the Silk Road and the greatest of China's ancient capitals. Dumpling-making is considered an art form in China and you will learn the secret to making these intricate parcels as a master chef prepares them before your eyes. Xian is surrounded by an imposing and enormously wide wall which would have once been patrolled by Ming Dynasty soldiers and is now used as a city

thoroughfare. Head to the walls in the evening and discover that they have been decorated in a riot of colours and lights for the dazzling Lantern Festival. (B,D)

Day 6: Terracotta Warriors  
Housed in three immense hangers, the ranks of the Terracotta Army stand sentinel in their subterranean necropolis. Gaze over the ranks of crossbowmen, infantry, horses and chariots, all drawn up in traditional battle order, as your guide introduces you to these life-like soldiers' unique stories. Take a walking tour of the narrow twisting streets of the Muslim Quarter; and sample the delicious, freshly cooked snacks whilst gaining an insight into the city's fascinating culture and significance as the start of the Silk Road. Later in the day visit a local family to learn about the ancient traditions of the Spring Festival – a time when millions of people travel thousands of miles to see their loved ones. This is a unique opportunity to discover how local people celebrate China's most important event of the year. (B,L)

Day 7: Temple Fair  
Fly to Beijing, a city drenched in history and at the heart of China's future. Join the locals with a stroll around the Ditan Temple Fair, sampling traditional lucky snacks and enjoying the entertainment and games. Later, enjoy a sumptuous Peking duck dinner. (B,D)

Day 8: Champagne on the Great Wall and Longqing Ice Festival  
This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. The stark, yet magnificent landscape puts you in the shoes of those who guarded this incredible edifice hundreds of years ago. Stop for a well-deserved glass of champagne and to appreciate this magical moment. In the afternoon head to the valleys of Longqing for the Ice and Snow Festival, a bright and colourful display of ice lanterns, ice carving and snow sculptures. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Family Festivities  
Stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Walking through this ornately designed complex offers an unsurpassed insight into China's colourful past. In the evening meet up with a local family to learn more of what makes the Spring Festival so special as you create intricate paper decorations and paint elegant Chinese calligraphy. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Fly Beijing to UK  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

Please note: the maximum group size on this tour is 29.

DEPARTURES

2017 DATE		
26 Jan - 04 Feb	£2,590	
2018 DATE		
14 Feb - 23 Feb*	£2,790	

\* The 2018 itinerary is slightly different. Please refer to [wendywutours.co.uk](http://wendywutours.co.uk) for details.

- Price includes:
- International flights and current taxes
  - Domestic transportation
  - Accommodation
  - Meals as stated
  - Touring with guides and entrance fees
  - Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

- Flight and supplement information
- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £2,170 (Hong Kong - Beijing)
  - Single room from £440
  - Tipping paid locally US\$47 & HKD 280



# SICHUAN EXPLORER

Sichuan contrasts markedly from the rest of China, with differing attitudes, cuisine and spectacular landscapes of forest and mountain. Richly endowed with natural and cultural wonders, touring this magnificent province never fails to steal your breath away.



## CHINA

**Day 12: Huanglong Pools**  
Hundreds of vivid pools in striking colours, formed by thousands of years of mineral deposits, tumble gently down through the bright green forests of Huanglong Valley. The whole area is full of beautiful sights and as it is relatively undiscovered, is a pleasure to explore. There is an option to take the chair lift up to Huanglong Temple at the head of the valley for excellent panoramic views, before we continue to the delightful Mao County. (B,L,D)

**Day 13: Qiang Minority Village**  
The Qiang people are an ethnic minority group in China with a population of about 326,500. Qiang is actually a Chinese word that translates in English as 'shepherds'. Their customs, architectural style, clothing and religious beliefs are far removed from the western world. You will visit a minority village where you'll be joined by a local elder, who will talk through the history and culture of his people, before visiting a local family. Later in the afternoon, drive to Chengdu. (B,L)

**Day 14: Local Chengdu**  
Spend the day absorbing the culture of People's Park. People watching here is an endless pleasure, from the grizzled locals playing mah-jong to the lonely singles looking for love in Matchmaker's Corner. Join the locals in an exciting square dancing session. Stop at a local teahouse and wander through the Wide and Narrow Alleys. Visit the Shu Brocade and Embroidery Museum. In the evening enjoy a delicious Sichuan hot pot dinner and an optional 'face changing' show. (B,L,D)

**Day 15: Fly Chengdu to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

15 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £2,490 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK 13 BREAKFASTS, 12 LUNCHES, 11 DINNERS ACTIVE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Smaller than Chengdu but benefitting from a leafier, more remote location, Dujiangyan is the perfect place to meet China's cuddliest icon.



Clear, cyan pools rest beneath tree-draped hills in China's most spectacular park. Walking through it reveals ever-changing, phenomenal landscapes.



Meet one of the most isolated minorities in the wilds of Sichuan and get a glimpse of a rarely-seen, deeply traditional culture.



**Days 1-2: Fly to Chengdu**  
Fly overnight to Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

**Day 3: Leshan Grand Buddha**  
Travel to Leshan to see the Grand Buddha. The 71 metre Buddha, the world's largest and UNESCO World Heritage-listed, is carved into a hillside overlooking the confluence of the Dadu and Min Rivers. Completed in the year

803, it is said that the Buddha's presence has calmed the turbulent waters of the river. View the Buddha from above before climbing down the cliff for a close up. A short boat trip will give an even better perspective. Continue to Mount Emei. You'll spend the evening at the foot of the mountain. (B,L,D)

**Day 4: Explore Mount Emei**  
Mount Emei is the cradle of the Buddhist religion in China with the first temple built here, on its peak in the 1st century. Pilgrims and tourists mix amongst the lush vegetation and inconspicuous old temples, all admiring the striking and diverse natural beauty of the mountain and its setting. Spend the day soaking up the ambience and exploring. (B,L,D)

**Day 5: Mengdingshan**  
Travel to Mengdingshan. Explore amongst the vast stretch of tea bushes and take a tour of a plantation, where you'll be shown the whole process of producing tea, from plucking the leaves to brewing the perfect cup. (B,L,D)

**Day 6: Pingle Ancient Town**  
Dating back to the Han Dynasty, Pingle was a stopping point on the Tea Horse Road. Take time to walk through its maze of tea house-lined streets before seeing the bamboo forest

from above on Jinji Suspended Rope Bridge. Drive to Chengdu. (B,L,D)

**Day 7: Dujiangyan Panda Base**  
Visit one of the world's finest panda conservation centres where you'll gain a real insight into the hard work that goes into caring for and boosting the population of this endangered species. The pandas here are kept in conditions very close to their natural habitat. Later, visit the Dujiangyan Irrigation System, an infrastructure constructed in 256BC and still in use today to irrigate 5,300 square kilometres of land. (B,L,D)

**Day 8: Taoist Mt. Qingcheng**  
Mt. Qingcheng is the most important Taoist Holy mountain in China. It is also a truly beautiful spot with numerous peaks covered with lush greenery and secluded temples. You'll be welcomed by a Taoist priest at the Old Master Pavilion on the summit of Mt. Qingcheng. Take the opportunity to speak to him and learn about his religion. You'll also be shown the art of Chinese painting and calligraphy. (B,L,D)

**Day 9: Nine Villages Valley**  
Enjoy the drive through spectacular mountain scenery to Nine Villages Valley, where you'll spend the next three nights. (B,L,D)

**Day 10: Explore Nine Villages Valley**  
A national park of ragged peaks, sapphire lakes, abundant forests and rushing waterfalls, Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou National Park) is considered one of China's most beautiful areas. Named after the nine typical Tibetan settlements scattered through the valley, the park is a World Biosphere Reserve, full of endemic flora and 140 species of birds. A trip up to the top of the valley to Long Lake, the highest, deepest and largest in the area, offers spectacular alpine views whilst a short walk to Five-Coloured Lake and Nuorilang Falls showcases some of the valley's most beautiful sights. (B,L,D)

**Day 11: Shuzheng Village**  
Visit Shuzheng Village, the largest settlement in the park. Spend some time with a local Tibetan family who will give you an insight into daily life in Nine Villages Valley. A lovely afternoon walk takes you from Rhinoceros Lake, passing Tiger Lake ending at Reed Lake – an excellent way to really relish the local scenery. You'll pass an old watermill, many prayer wheels and Tibetan prayer flags en route. (B,L,D)

DEPARTURES			
2017 DATES			
16 Apr - 30 Apr	£2,490	03 Sep - 17 Sep	£2,690
07 May - 21 May	£2,490	08 Oct - 22 Oct	£2,690
2018 DATES			
15 Apr - 29 Apr	£2,690	02 Sep - 16 Sep	£2,890
06 May - 20 May	£2,690	07 Oct - 21 Oct	£2,890
Price includes:			
International flights and current taxes			
Domestic transportation			
Accommodation			
Meals as stated			
Touring with guides and entrance fees			
Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders			
Flight and supplement information			
Based on London Heathrow departures			
Flight upgrades available on request			
Land only from £1,990 (Chengdu - Chengdu)			
Single room from £460			
Tipping paid locally RMB 750			



# YUNNAN ADVENTURE

The most wonderfully complex of all China's provinces, Yunnan boasts a rich diversity of people and landscapes. Explore verdant forest and dramatic mountains, archaeological sites and indigenous cultures on this varied adventure.



16 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £2,890 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK 14 BREAKFASTS, 12 LUNCHES, 8 DINNERS ACTIVE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Taoist Meditation

Join a Taoist priest on the misty slopes of sacred Weibaoshan, and learn relaxing meditative techniques in these extraordinary surroundings.



Ethnic Villages

Yunnan is dotted with colourful, long-established ethnic minorities – visit some of the remotest areas for a glimpse of rural Chinese culture.



Yuanyang Hike

Venture over the winding steps of Yuanyang, a curvaceous feat of natural and human engineering sculpted into the hillside.



- Days 1-2: Fly to Kunming**  
Fly to the relaxed city of Kunming. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.
- Day 3: Stone Forest**  
Meander through the formations of the UNESCO listed Stone Forest, where towering limestone pillars stand treelike in a fascinating illusion of woodland. Enjoy a local-style lunch. Return to Kunming where you can sample the local delicacy, Crossing the Bridge noodles, for dinner. (B,L,D)

- Day 4: Travel to Dali**  
Drive to Dali, a charming town that offers a peek of bygone China. Wander the Ancient Quarter and see the magnificent Three Pagodas. (B,L)
- Day 5: Meditation on a Mountain**  
Journey to Weibaoshan, one of the fourteen sacred Taoist mountains. Steeped in legend, the mountain features 20 Taoist temples nestled on its wooded slopes. Walk up the forested hillside to see a handful of these intricately decorated temples, stopping at Qinzia Temple where you will be met by a Taoist priest for a relaxing meditation session. The evening is at leisure. (B,L)
- Day 6: Shaxi Ancient Town**  
Drive to Shaxi Ancient Town, nestled deep in the Himalayan foothills. Learn about the fascinating minority people that reside in the area and enjoy a local lunch. In the afternoon continue to Lijiang and have some free time to explore the Old Quarter, a jumble of cobbled streets, precarious wooden buildings and rustic stone bridges. (B,L)
- Day 7: Meet a Shaman Master**  
Take a chairlift to one of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain's gorgeous meadows and enjoy amazing vistas of this magnificent mountain massif. Continue to Baisha Naxi Village and

- meet a Dongba Shaman who will demonstrate how to write ancient Dongba written characters, before you attempt this quirky art form yourself. Sample traditional Naxi cuisine. (B,L,D)
- Day 8: Tiger Leaping Gorge**  
Visit the Black Dragon Pool for magnificent views of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Over 3,000 metres deep, Tiger Leaping Gorge, with its backdrop of snow-capped mountains, is one of China's most extraordinary sights. The whole area is spectacular – prepare for breathtaking views. Continue on to the Tibetan monastery town of Zhongdian, also known as Shangri-La. (B,L,D)
- Day 9: Rural Shangri-La**  
Visit Songshanlin Monastery before embarking on a 2-3 hour walk to Napa Hai. Here you will be surrounded by towering mountains and lush grasslands that are brimming with flora and fauna. Continue to a rural Tibetan-style village, where you will learn about the villagers' way of life - make butter tea and taste home-cooked dishes. Return to Shangri-La. (B,L,D)
- Day 10: Explore Shangri-La**  
Spend the morning wandering through the town, absorbing its fascinating mix of Tibetan and Han Chinese culture. Also visit Dafo Temple before a free afternoon. (B,L)
- Day 11: Kunming**  
Fly to Kunming. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B)

- Day 12: Travel to Jianshui**  
Travel to Tonghai and visit the unique Xingmeng Mongolian village on the way, where the residents wear traditional costumes and keep old customs alive. After a stroll around Tonghai market, continue to the antiquated town of Jianshui for an overnight stay and visit the Confucian temple, one of the largest in China. (B,L,D)
- Day 13: Yuanyang Market**  
Visit the Zhang Garden before travelling further south to Yuanyang where you can explore the bustling market, full of fresh produce and locals in traditional, colourful costume. (B,L,D)
- Day 14: Yuanyang Rice Terraces**  
Created by the Hani people over hundreds of years this wide, watery expanse is a spectacular sight to behold. Described as 'land sculpture' in China, the elements turn the terraces into pools of colour that reflect their mood, whether it's the reds and yellows of sunrise or the whites and greys of a mist settling over the valley. Hike through the terraces visiting Hani ethnic villages such as Qingkou and Bada. (B,L,D)
- Day 15: Lendun Village Market**  
Travel back to Kunming via Lendun Village Market. (B,L,D)

- Day 16: Fly Kunming to UK**  
Fly back home, arriving the same or following day. (B)

## DEPARTURES

2017 DATES			
08 Apr - 23 Apr	£2,890	07 Oct - 22 Oct	£2,990
06 May - 21 May	£2,890	28 Oct - 12 Nov	£2,990
02 Sep - 17 Sep	£2,990		
2018 DATES			
07 Apr - 22 Apr	£2,990	06 Oct - 21 Oct	£3,190
05 May - 20 May	£2,990	27 Oct - 11 Nov	£3,190
08 Sep - 23 Sep	£3,190		

- Price includes:**
- International flights and current taxes
  - Domestic transportation
  - Accommodation
  - Meals as stated
  - Touring with guides and entrance fees
  - Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders
- Flight and supplement information**
- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £2,390 (Kunming - Kunming)
  - Single room from £420
  - Tipping paid locally RMB 800



# DREAMS OF NATURE

Towering pinnacles swathed in mist, sky-skimming mountains and nature at its most verdant are just some of the wonders included on this scenic tour. Indulge your senses with China's most spectacular, mysterious and dramatic natural highlights.

CHINA

## Day 18: Leshan Giant Buddha

Travel to Leshan to see the Grand Buddha. The 71 metre Buddha, the world's largest and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is carved into a hillside overlooking the confluence of the Dadu and Min Rivers. Completed in the year 803, it is said that the Buddha's presence has calmed the turbulent waters of the river. View the Buddha from above before a short boat trip, which will give you an even better perspective. Continue to Emeishan. (B,L,D)

## Day 19: Explore Mount Emei

Mount Emei is the cradle of the Buddhist religion in China with the first temple built here, on its peak in the 1st century. Pilgrims and tourists mix amongst the lush vegetation and inconspicuous old temples, all admiring the striking and diverse natural beauty of the mountain and its setting. Spend the day soaking up the ambience and exploring. (B,L,D)

## Day 20: Pingle Ancient Town

Dating back to the Han Dynasty, Pingle was a stopping point on the Tea Horse Road. Take time to walk through its maze of teahouse-lined streets before seeing the bamboo forest from above on Jinji Suspended Rope Bridge. Drive back to Chengdu. (B,L)

## Day 21: Chengdu Panda Base

Spend the morning visiting the Giant Pandas of Chengdu Panda Base. Here you can observe these gorgeous creatures lounging, playing and chomping through piles of bamboo in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. This afternoon, absorb the culture at People's Park. People watching here is an endless pleasure, from the grizzled locals playing mah-jong to the lonely singles looking for love in Matchmaker's Corner. In the evening enjoy a delicious Sichuan hot pot dinner and an optional 'face changing' show. (B,D)

## Day 22: Fly Chengdu to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

22 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £3,490 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK 20 BREAKFASTS, 17 LUNCHES, 15 DINNERS ACTIVE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Hike over the curving steps of Longji, stopping to appreciate this beautifully incomprehensible feat of man-made landscaping.



Scale the lofty heights of the 'Avatar Mountains' to view otherworldly, ethereal peaks seemingly floating through the mist.



Walk up to the turquoise pools of Huanglong, and witness crystalline water tumbling over naturally formed calcium walls.



## Days 1-2: Fly to Guilin

Fly overnight to Guilin. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

## Day 3: Yangshuo's Landscapes

Take a gentle cruise along the Li River to Yangshuo. Lined with dramatic limestone cliffs, the serenity of life on the riverbanks is a wonderful sight. Later, take a walk through this idyllic wonderland and get an insight into life here. There's an option to take a rewarding hike to Moon Hill for beautiful views. (B,L,D)

## Day 4: Tai Chi & Bamboo Rafting

Start the day with a relaxing and invigorating session of Tai Chi, taking time with a master to learn this ancient martial art. This afternoon there is an option to go bamboo rafting on the Yulong River. Drift past verdant riverbanks and under ancient bridges as you paddle on the glass-like water. This evening you have the option of enjoying the magical Sanjie Liu night show. (B,L)

## Day 5: Reed Flute Cave

Drive back to Guilin and spend the afternoon exploring Reed Flute Cave and learning about the South China pearling industry at the Pearl Museum. (B,L,D)

## Day 6: Longji Rice Terraces

Travel to the iconic Longji Rice Terraces and head out for a three hour walk through the traditional rural landscapes. There are several viewpoints boasting picture-postcard views of the extensive rice terraces that cover the hillside in intricate patterns. Drive back to Guilin. (B,L)

## Day 7: Bullet Train to Changsha

Catch the bullet train to Changsha, and drive to Zhangjiajie. (B,L,D)

## Days 8-9: Zhangjiajie

A scenic area of over 3,000 sandstone pillars, rising from misty folds of subtropical forest and

cloaked in vibrant green vegetation, Zhangjiajie's striking beauty is unforgettable. Ravines and gorges, streams and waterfalls and a plethora of endangered plants and animal species complete this idyllic scene. During your time here you will enjoy some beautiful walks, as well as taking a cruise on Lake Baofeng and a visit to Huanglong Cave and Huangshi Village. You'll also see the famous Yuanjiajie Avatar Mountain and Emperor Mountain. (B,L,D)

## Day 10: Yichang

Catch the train to Yichang, where you'll board your Yangtze Cruise vessel, home for the next four nights. (B,L,D)

## Days 11-13: Yangtze River Cruise

A man-made marvel, The Three Gorges Dam showcases this massive feat of engineering. But as we cruise upstream nature takes over, revealing some of the world's most dramatic scenery including the Three Gorges themselves. A voyage along China's riverine treasure is a chance to relax and enjoy a slower pace, whilst absorbing extraordinary countryside. Take a side trip to the attractive Goddess or Shennong Stream and enjoy shore excursions to the Ghost City of Fengdu or Shibaozhai. (B,L,D)

## Day 14: Fly to Jiuzhaigou

Disembark your cruise vessel and fly to Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou). (B,D)

## Day 15: Nine Villages Valley

A national park of ragged peaks, sapphire lakes, abundant forests and rushing waterfalls, the Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou National Park) is considered one of China's most beautiful areas. A trip up to the top of the valley to Long Lake, the highest, deepest and largest in the area, offers spectacular alpine views whilst a short walk to Five-Coloured Lake and Nuorilang Falls showcases some of the valley's most beautiful sights. Later enjoy traditional lamb skewers. (B,L,D)

## Day 16: Shuzheng Village

Visit Shuzheng Village, the largest settlement in the park. Spend some time with a local Tibetan family who will give you an insight into daily life in Nine Villages Valley. A lovely afternoon walk takes you from Rhinoceros Lake, passing Tiger Lake ending at Reed Lake – an excellent way to really relish the local scenery. You'll pass an old watermill and Tibetan prayer flags en route. (B,L,D)

## Day 17: Huanglong Pools

Hundreds of vivid pools in striking colours, formed by thousands of years of mineral deposits, tumble gently down through the bright green forests of Huanglong Valley. There is an option to take the chair lift up to Huanglong Temple at the head of the valley for excellent panoramic views, before catching a flight to Chengdu. (B,L)

## DEPARTURES

2017 DATES			
07 Apr - 28 Apr	£3,490	08 Sep - 29 Sep	£3,690
05 May - 26 May	£3,490	06 Oct - 27 Oct	£3,690
2018 DATES			
05 Apr - 26 Apr	£3,790	06 Sep - 27 Sep	£3,990
03 May - 24 May	£3,790	11 Oct - 01 Nov	£3,990

## Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

## Flight and supplement information

### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,990 (Guilin - Chengdu)
- Single room from £690
- Tipping paid locally RMB 1,120



# GO BEYOND



## OUR TOP TEN GO BEYOND ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES

### 1 EVEREST BASE CAMP

Colourful prayer flags and little orange tents surround you as you gaze upon the north face of Mount Everest, and get a glimpse of the demanding climb up the mountain on the roof of the world.



### 2 EXPLORE THE GOBI

Stay in a yurt camp on the plains of the Gobi, take a four-wheel drive through the curving, ever moving 'Singing Sand Dunes', and stand before the deep orange Flaming Cliffs of Bayanzag.



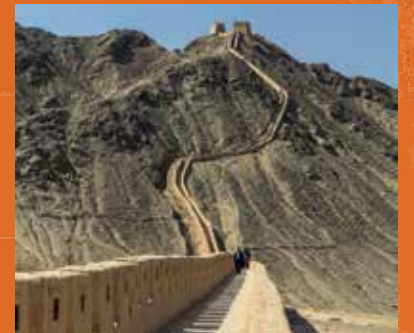
### 3 VALLEY OF FLOWERS

Take a stroll through the alpine Valley of Flowers near Jety-Oguz in Kyrgyzstan. Dotted with evergreen saw-toothed mountains, you would be forgiven for thinking you were in the Dolomites.



### 4 GREAT WALL AT JIAYUGUAN

Snaking through the sands of the Gobi, Jiayu Pass is regarded as China's western gateway. Wander through Jiayu Fortress and on the Wall itself for views of the beautifully bleak desert.



### 5 DEBATING MONKS

Home to more than 3,000 monks, Sera Monastery is noted for animated and sometimes heated debating sessions, which are integral to the Buddhist learning process.



### 6 NAADAM FESTIVAL

The Naadam is the biggest celebration of the Mongolian calendar. You'll experience the proud nomadic culture and witness the three 'manly games'.



### 9 TRAVERSE THE TORUGART PASS

Cut through the Tian Shan Mountains and over the Torugart Pass, a remote outpost marking the border of Kyrgyzstan; you'll feel like an adventurer of old as you pass through.



### 7 HUNTING WITH EAGLES

In a unique demonstration of ancient Kyrgyz hunting, watch as a traditionally dressed eagle hunter and his beautiful bird seek out prey.



### 8 TRACE THE SILK ROAD

Follow the original Silk Road overland, through China's Xinjiang Region.



### 10 KASHGAR SUNDAY BAZAAR

A visit to the colourful Sunday Bazaar overwhelms the senses with colour, smells and tastes (if you dare!). Roll up your sleeves and immerse yourself in China's biggest and burgeoning bazaar.





# TIBETAN WONDERS

Journey through the diverse landscapes of Yunnan Province up to 'the roof of the world' where you will experience the many wonders of Tibet. Admire ancient monasteries and Himalayan vistas before taking in the ultimate view of Everest.

## GO BEYOND

post office, with the Himalayas dominating the horizon, as we make our way to Base Camp. Here, situated under the gaze of Everest's north face, the views of the world's highest peak are unsurpassed (weather permitting). Visit Rongbuk Monastery, draped in colourful prayer flags, and stay overnight in the township. (B,L,D)

### Day 16: Everest Sunrise

Rise early to see a glorious sunrise over Everest before driving to Old Tingri. (B,L,D)

### Days 17-18: Shigatse and Gyantse

Return to Shigatse where the evening is at leisure. The next day visit Tashilhunpo Monastery, and join the pilgrims on their evening 'Kora' (circumnavigation) of the monastery. Then continue to the pleasant town of Gyantse to visit the Gyantse Kumbum. Visit a traditional folk house for some home brewed 'chang'. (B,L,D)

### Day 19: Tsedang

Travel along the Brahmaputra River to Tsedang, called the 'cradle of Tibetan civilisation'. Visit Gangpo Ri. (B,L,D)

### Day 20: Yumbulhakang Palace

Perched on a hill over the Yarlung River, legend says that the ancient Yumbulhakang Palace was the first building in Tibet and the palace of the first Tibetan king. Continue on to the Chang Chun Monastery and the King's Tombs before returning to Lhasa. (B,L)

### Day 21: Chengdu

Fly to Chengdu. The afternoon is at leisure. (B)

### Day 22: Giant Pandas

Visit the famous Panda Conservation Centre where you can get up close to China's celebrated bears in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Visit People's Park, Matchmaker's Corner, a Tea House and the Shu Brocade Factory. Tonight, sample delicious Sichuan cuisine for dinner. You will also have the option to see a face-changing show. (B,L,D)

### Day 23: Fly Chengdu to UK

Fly back home arriving the same or following day. (B)

## DEPARTURES

2017 DATES			
06 May - 28 May	£3,990	02 Sep - 24 Sep	£4,190
20 May - 11 Jun	£3,990	16 Sep - 08 Oct	£4,190
03 Jun - 25 Jun	£3,990	07 Oct - 29 Oct	£4,190
2018 DATES			
05 May - 27 May	£4,290	01 Sep - 23 Sep	£4,490
19 May - 10 Jun	£4,290	15 Sep - 07 Oct	£4,490
02 Jun - 24 Jun	£4,290	06 Oct - 28 Oct	£4,490

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

### Flight and supplement information

#### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,490 (Kunming - Chengdu)
- Single room from £640
- Tipping paid locally RMB 1,040

**23** DAYS FROM **PER PERSON** **£3,990** **FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK** **21 BREAKFASTS, 18 LUNCHES, 13 DINNERS** **ACTIVE**

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



At the foot of Foping Mountain, Songzanlin glints in the sun light. Discover an atmospheric warren of ancient castles, prayer wheels and pilgrims.



Pace quietly through the Jokhang or around the Barkhor Circuit; and you will begin to absorb the deep spirituality that runs through the veins of this inspiring city.



Hike to the legendary Base Camp used by Everest hikers and sherpas, and take in a truly once-in-a-lifetime, epic view.



### Days 1-2: Fly to Kunming

Fly overnight to the relaxed city of Kunming, 'the city of Eternal Spring'.

### Day 3: Discover the Stone Forest

Meander through the formations of the UNESCO-listed Stone Forest, where towering limestone pillars stand treelike in a fascinating illusion of petrified woodland. This afternoon visit Dianchi Lake and the Western Hills. Returning to Kunming, tuck into local delicacy Crossing the Bridge noodles for dinner. (B,L,D)

### Day 4: Travel to Dali

Drive to Dali, a charming town that offers a peek of bygone China. Wander the Ancient Quarter and see the magnificent Three Pagodas. (B,L)

### Day 5: Taoist Mountain Meditation

Weibaoshan is one of the Taoist religion's most sacred mountains, and has twenty temples dotted on its forested slopes. Take a scenic walk and discover a handful of these temples, stopping at Qingxia temple where you will be met by a Taoist priest who will introduce you to Taoist meditation techniques. (B,L)

### Day 6: Shaxi Ancient Town

Drive to Shaxi Ancient Town, nestled deep in the Himalayan foothills. Learn about the fascinating minority peoples who reside in the area and enjoy a local lunch. Continue to Lijiang and spend the evening wandering the old town. (B,L)

### Day 7: Jade Dragon Snow Mountain & Dongba Shaman

A magnificent mountain massif, the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain soars to 5,500 metres. Taking a chairlift, explore one of the gorgeous high meadows and enjoy the amazing vistas. Admire the fascinating Ming Dynasty frescoes at Baisha and see the intricate creations of the embroidery

school. Next, meet a genuine Shaman who will teach you to write the forgotten language of Dongba Pictograms. (B,L,D)

### Day 8: Tiger Leaping Gorge

Visit Black Dragon Pool for magnificent views of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Over 3,000 metres deep, Tiger Leaping Gorge, with its backdrop of snow-capped mountains is one of China's most extraordinary sights. Continue on to the Tibetan monastery town of Zhongdian, also known as Shangri-La. Visit Dafo Temple and take some free time to explore the old town. (B,L)

### Day 9: Rural Shangri-La & Napa Hai

Visit Songzanlin Monastery before hiking 2-3 hours to Napa Hai. Here you are surrounded by towering mountains and lush grasslands brimming with flora and fauna. Next, visit a rural Tibetan-style village where you will learn about the villagers' way of life, make butter tea and taste home-cooked dishes. (B,L,D)

### Day 10: Lhasa

Fly to Lhasa, the heart and soul of Tibet. The afternoon is free to relax and acclimatise to the altitude (B,D)

### Day 11: Jokhang Temple and Spiritual Barkhor Circuit

Lhasa is a quickly growing modern city but among the narrow, old streets you'll feel a million miles from the stresses and strains of the modern world. Wander around the Barkhor

Circuit to see traditionally dressed locals, stalls of religious trinkets and prostrating pilgrims. Inside the Jokhang Temple, the devotion is palpable as queues of people worship in the flickering light of yak butter candles. There will also be a visit to Sera Monastery, to witness the debating monks. (B,L)

### Day 12: Potala Palace

The Potala Palace is an architectural wonder towering over the city from its seat on Marpo Ri (Red Mountain). The Potala, the winter palace of the Dalai Lama, houses thousands of rooms filled with old treasures from intricate shrines to beautiful frescoes. Next, explore Norbulingka, the summer residence of the Dalai Lama, set in parkland just outside the city. Learn to make delicious momo dumplings and enjoy lunch at Snowland Restaurant. (B,L,D)

### Days 13-14: Shigatse

Travel across Tibet's stark plains to Shigatse. Dominated by a fort reminiscent of the Potala, Shigatse is Tibet's second city and the traditional home of the Panchen Lama. Take yak butter tea with a local family. The next day continue by road to New Tingri admiring the awe-inspiring views of the mighty Himalayas as we go. (B,L,D)

### Day 15: Everest Base Camp

Traverse some of the world's most incredible scenery stopping en route at the world's highest



# MONGOLIA & THE NAADAM FESTIVAL

To most, Mongolia is a place of mystery as remote as they come. This tour is a journey of discovery through the land of Genghis Khan, traversing the endless plains to explore sites of immeasurable natural beauty. Meet the lovely people and get involved in local festivities.

## GO BEYOND

### Days 15-16: Lake Khovsgol

The extraordinary Lake Khovsgol is known as the Blue Pearl of Mongolia, a vast body of water enveloped in dense pine forests and backed by soaring mountains. Spend two days surrounded by nature in this national park, enjoying the flora, fauna and incredible scenery. (B,L,D)

### Day 17: Lake Khovsgol to Ulaanbaatar

Travel through more delightful scenery to the city of Moron, where you will have the afternoon at leisure. Fly to Ulaanbaatar. (B,L,D)

### Days 18-19: Naadam Festival

Spend two days enjoying the revelry of the traditional Naadam Festival. Dating from the times of Genghis Khan, the 'three manly games' have locals taking part in Mongolian wrestling, horse racing and archery. There's also a wealth of pageantry and ceremony in a festival of raucous fun that you'll see nowhere else in the world. (B,L,D)

### Day 20: Terelj National Park

Soak up the beautiful alpine scenery of the Terelj National Park. Visit Turtle Rock and take an easy hike up to the Aryabal Monastery, perched on the mountainside. Visit a local family to get a glimpse of their nomadic lifestyle. Spend the night in a ger camp. (B,L,D)

### Day 21: Ulaanbaatar

Drive back to Ulaanbaatar, visiting the Genghis Khan statue complex en route. (B,L,D)

### Day 22: Ulaanbaatar Folklore Performance

Enjoy a leisurely day visiting Zaisan Memorial Hill and the Cashmere Factory. This evening sit down to a traditional folklore performance. (B,L,D)

### Day 23: Ulaanbaatar to UK

Fly back home arriving the same or following day. (B)

23 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £4,990 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK ALL MEALS - 21 BREAKFASTS, 20 LUNCHES, 21 DINNERS ACTIVE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Naadam Festival

The defining festival of a country, the 'Three Manly Games' attract villagers and nomads from across Mongolia. Witness a cultural spectacular.



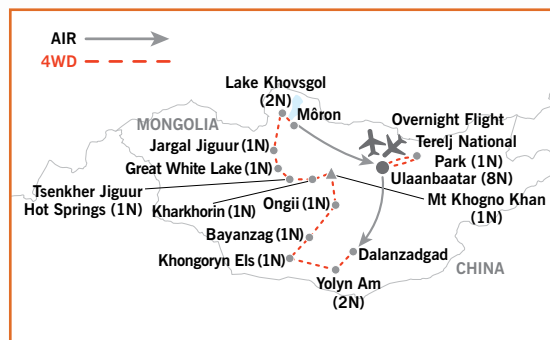
Nomadic Ger Camps

When travelling through the wilderness, nights spent in a cosy Ger Camp will give you a taste of a truly nomadic Mongolian way of life.



Gobi Desert

Travel through the Gobi Desert to see many of Mongolia's renowned landscapes, including Eagle Valley and the sand dunes at Khongoryn Els.



### Days 5-6: Gobi Desert

Fly to Dalanzadgad which sits on the edge of the legendary and inhospitable Gobi Desert. Transfer to the ger camp near Gurvansaikhan National Park for two nights. You'll spend two days immersed in natural beauty amongst jagged mountains and undulating sand dunes. Visit a local family to learn about their life in the desert. We also hike through the magnificent Yolyn Am Gorge. (B,L,D)

### Day 7: Khongoryn Els Dunes

Embark on a 4WD adventure to Khongoryn Els and explore Mongolia's largest sand dunes, also known as the 'Singing Sand Dunes'. Enjoy the beauty of these stark landscapes, and for those who are feeling adventurous, climb to the top for fantastic views. (B,L,D)

### Day 8: Flaming Cliffs

Continue exploring the magnificent landscapes of the Gobi Desert before travelling to Bayanzag. Made up of peaks and canyons in a striking fiery red and orange sandstone, the Flaming Cliffs are a spectacular sight. The area is especially important thanks to the vast number of dinosaur fossils that have been

found – even the amateur eye can spot them as you wander through the canyon. (B,L,D)

### Day 9: Ongiin Khiid Monastery

Journey to the banks of the Ongii River and view the atmospheric ruins of two monasteries – Barlim Khiid and Khutagt Khiid, comprising Ongiin Khiid, formerly one of the largest monasteries in Mongolia. (B,L,D)

### Day 10: Mt Khogno Khan

Spend the day exploring around the foot of the imposing Mt Khogno Khan. Set in the beautiful surroundings of a Natural Reserve, discover the remains of 17th century Uvgun Khiid Monastery whilst enjoying the resplendent nature and mountain vistas. (B,L,D)

### Day 11: Kharkhorin City

Mongolia's former capital Kharkhorin is located in a spot picked by Genghis Khan in 1220. However, the city remained Mongolia's political, cultural and economic hub for only 40 years before power was transferred to Khanbaliq – now modern day Beijing. After the collapse of the Mongolian Empire, the city was abandoned to the elements and destroyed by roving soldiers until its remains were used to build Erdene Zuu Khiid, Mongolia's first Buddhist monastery – which we will visit today. (B,L,D)

### Day 12: Tsenkher Jiguur Hot Springs

Lounge in the volcanic hot springs of Tsenkher Jiguur, surrounded by verdant scenery. (B,L,D)

### Day 13: Great White Lake

Enjoy the scenery of Great White Lake, set amongst the extinct volcanoes of the Khangai mountain range. The extinct Khorgo Volcano sits watching over the lake – hike up to the crater for wonderful views, or walk along the lake shore where there are excellent opportunities for bird and wildlife spotting. Also visit Zayaiin Monastery in Tsetseling Town. (B,L,D)

### Day 14: Jargal Jiguur

Spend a little more time lingering in the spectacular panoramas of Great White Lake before driving to Jargal Jiguur ger camp. (B,L,D)

## DEPARTURES

### 2017 DATES

24 Jun - 16 Jul £4,990 08 Jul - 30 Jul £4,990

### 2018 DATES

23 Jun - 15 Jul\* £5,490 07 Jul - 29 Jul\* £5,490

\*2018 itinerary will have four nights in Ulaanbaatar at the start of the tour, and four at the end.

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

### Flight and supplement information

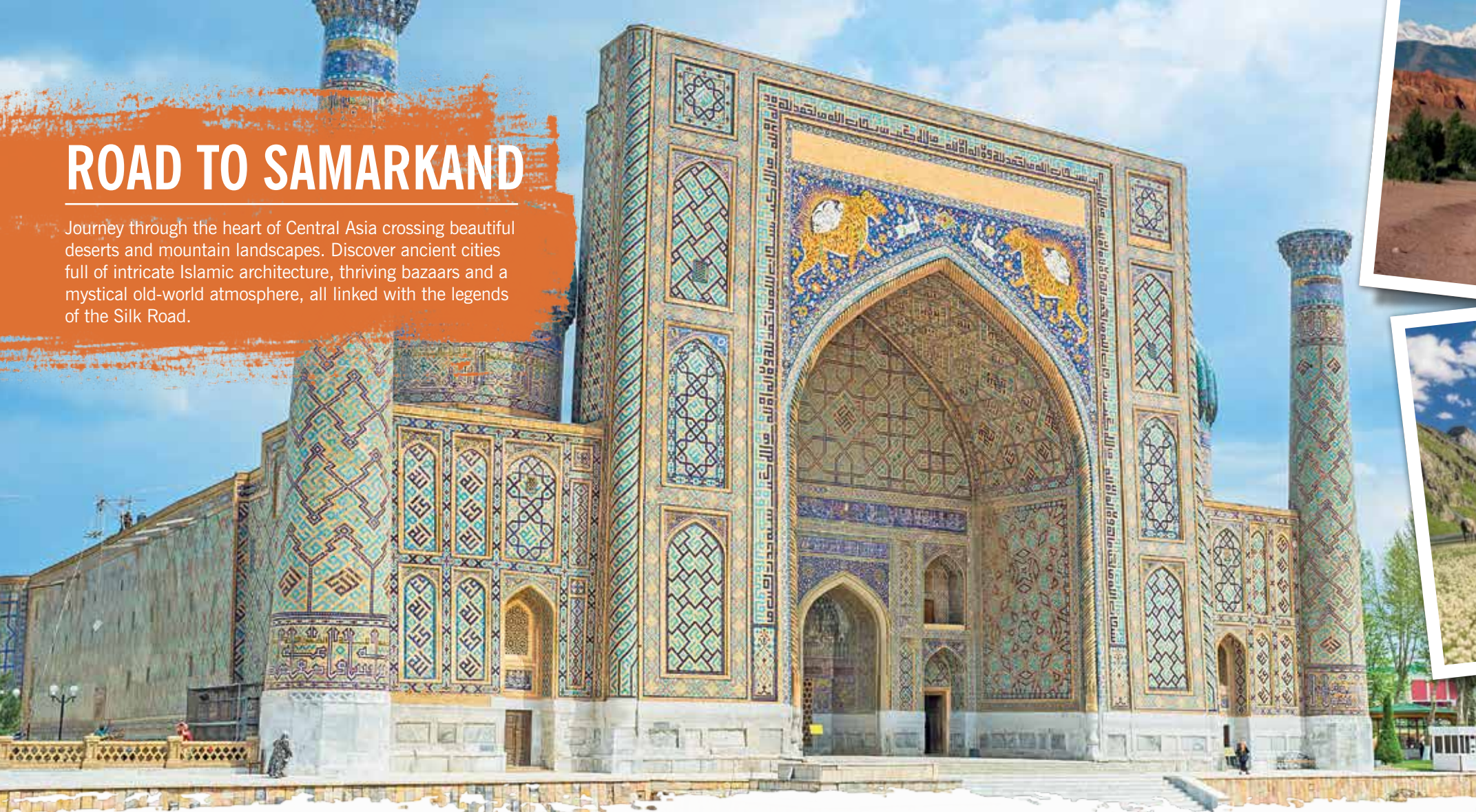
#### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £4,290 (Ulaanbaatar - Ulaanbaatar)
- Single room from £640
- Tipping paid locally US\$120



# ROAD TO SAMARKAND

Journey through the heart of Central Asia crossing beautiful deserts and mountain landscapes. Discover ancient cities full of intricate Islamic architecture, thriving bazaars and a mystical old-world atmosphere, all linked with the legends of the Silk Road.



**24** DAYS FROM **PER PERSON £4,390** **FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK** **ALL MEALS - 22 BREAKFASTS, 21 LUNCHES, 22 DINNERS** **ACTIVE**

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Torugart Pass

Journey over the Tian Shan Heavenly Mountains to Kyrgyzstan, through the stunningly remote, wind-whipped Torugart Pass.



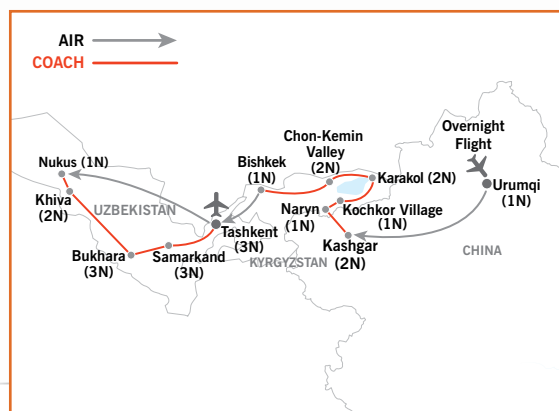
Eagle Hunting

On the banks of Lake Issyk-Kul, a skilled Eagle Hunter will demonstrate the complex working relationship between man and beast.



Samarkand

Birthplace of Tamerlane, Samarkand is an enigmatic Silk Road city, sparking the imagination of travellers for centuries.



### Days 1-2: Fly to Urumqi

Fly overnight to the city of Urumqi. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture. (D)

### Day 3: Tian Chi Heavenly Lake

Escape to the tranquillity of Tian Chi Heavenly Lake, a crystal clear body of water formed in a crater. In the evening fly to the remote city of Kashgar, the heart of the Silk Road. (B,L,D)

### Day 4: Explore Kashgar

Its skyline punctured by minarets, Kashgar feels a million miles from anywhere. Although now a modern city, the sights and sounds of Kashgar's streets have remained unchanged for millennia, as it remains as much of an integral trading post as in its Silk Road heyday. Today's visits include Abakh Hoja Tomb, Id Kah Mosque and the atmospheric alleyways around Id Kah Square. (B,L,D)

### Day 5: Tian Shan Mountains

Cross the border into Kyrgyzstan through the magnificent Tian Shan Heavenly Mountains. Making our way over the Torugart Pass to Naryn, stop en route at the 15th-century caravanserai at Tash Rabat. (B,L,D)

### Days 6-7: Eagle Hunting and Karakol

Drive to Kochkor Village and watch a Shyrdak (carpet) demonstration. The next day continue to Karakol via Bokonbayevo village on the shores of Lake Issyk Kul, where the locals will demonstrate their skill at hunting with eagles. (B,L,D)

### Days 8-9: Explore Karakol

Spend the morning soaking up the atmosphere of the bustling animal market before examining the region's diverse religious influences with visits to the Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral and the Chinese mosque. Take an afternoon stroll in Jety-Oguz and through the beautiful Valley of Flowers. The next day visit the Przhevalsky Museum and Semenov Gorge before driving to Cholpon-Ata. Cruise on Lake Issyk Kul and explore animal petroglyphs etched into glacial stone. (B,L,D)

### Day 10: Ethnic Ashu Village

Walk in the foothills of the mountains and take in the daily way of life in Ashu Village. (B,L,D)

### Day 11: Bishkek Folk Performance

Drive to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan's capital, a city of wide, leafy boulevards which contrast with the Soviet-era architecture. En route visit the 11th-century Burana Tower, an intricate minaret out in the countryside. This afternoon visit Ala Too Square and Oak Park. This evening enjoy a traditional folk performance. (B,L,D)

### Day 12: Tashkent

This morning take a leisurely hike in Ala Archa National Park. This evening fly to Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. (B,L,D)

### Day 13: Explore Nukus

Fly to Nukus and visit Savitskiy museum before exploring Mizdahkan, an Islamic complex in Hojeli Village. (B,L,D)

### Day 14: Desert Fortress

Discover the magnificent desert fortress of Chalkik Kala (Tower of Silence), Kizil Kala Fortress, Toprak Kala Fortress, Ayaz Kala and Kyrkkyz Kala. Arrive in Khiva. (B,L,D)

### Day 15: Kuhna Ark Fortress

The ancient city of Khiva has a long and turbulent history as part of the Silk Road and a slave trading post. This fascinating destination is lovely to explore – wander around the many medressahs, mosques and minarets within the ancient city walls, as well as the magnificent 17th-century Kuhna Ark Fortress. (B,L,D)

### Days 16-18: Sacred Bukhara

After a day's drive across the Kyzyl Kum desert arrive at the holiest city in Central Asia, Bukhara. Bukhara has been built up over thousands of years, with an

## GO BEYOND

atmospheric old centre and some pre-Soviet era architecture. Spend two days seeing the sights, with visits to the Ark Fortress, Chor Minor, Kalon Minaret, Labi-Hauz Plaza, Bolo Hauz Mosque and the summer residence of the last Bukharan Emirs. (B,L,D)

### Days 19-21: Samarkand

Perhaps the most notable name in Silk Road history, Samarkand is a UNESCO World Heritage city with an evocative skyline of domes and minarets - it has mystical presence. Drive to the city via Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of the great historical leader, Tamerlane. Spend two days exploring some of the many historical sites of Samarkand including the Registan, Sher Dor Medressa, the Bibi-Khanym Mosque, Shah-I-Zinda and the Ulugh Beg Observatory. (B,L,D)

### Day 22: Samarkand to Colourful Tashkent

Begin the return journey to Tashkent, passing through the impressive Gates of Tamerlane. The afternoon will be spent exploring this eccentric city, visiting the 16th-century Kukeldash Medressa, Kaffal Shashi Mausoleum, Khan Medressa and Khashi Imom Complex. Also see the Chorsu Bazaar, a traditional market under a beautiful blue dome, the Crying Mother Monument. (B,L,D)

### Day 23: Tashkent

Explore famous sights around Tashkent including the Museum of Applied Arts, 1966 earthquake memorial, Independence Square, Alishedr Navoi Theatre and the Amir Timur Maydoni before exploring Broadway Street. (B,L,D)

### Day 24: Fly Tashkent to UK

Wake early this morning for your flight to the UK arriving the same day. (B)

## DEPARTURES

### 2017 DATES

07 May - 30 May **£4,390** | 15 Oct - 07 Nov **£4,490**

### 2018 DATES

06 May - 29 May **£4,790** | 07 Oct - 30 Oct **£4,890**

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

### Flight and supplement information

#### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,790 (Urumqi - Tashkent)
- Single room from £590
- Tipping paid locally US\$30 China, US\$50 Kyrgyzstan & US\$65 Uzbekistan



# SILK ROAD EXPLORER

Follow in the footsteps of intrepid adventurers by journeying along one of the world's most famous trading routes, the Silk Road. Beginning in ancient Xian, venture across this vast land to reach the fascinating outpost of Kashgar and its famous Sunday market.



**26** DAYS FROM **PER PERSON** **£3,790** **FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK** **24 BREAKFASTS, 23 LUNCHES, 22 DINNERS** **ACTIVE**

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



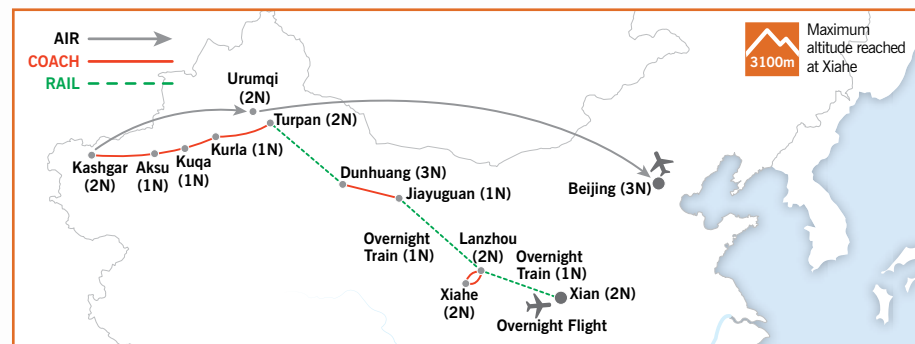
Clinging to the stark, lunar landscape of Gansu, Jiayuguan Pass marks the western terminus of the Great Wall and is crowned by Ming-era fortresses.



A fertile oasis in the desert, stopping at remote Dunhuang it's easy to put yourself into the shoes of an ancient Silk Road camel trader looking for refuge.



Drive between Turpan and Kashgar, following the ancient Silk Road; stopping at the desert townships of Kurla, Kuqa and Aksu.



### Days 1-2: Fly to Xian

Fly overnight to Xian, the ancient former capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

### Day 3: Terracotta Warriors

Housed in three immense hangars, the ranks of the Terracotta Army stand sentinel in their subterranean necropolis, constructed to protect China's first Emperor in the afterlife. Gaze over the ranks of warriors and horses, each one unique, whilst your guide introduces you to these life-like soldiers' fascinating story. Later in the day, take a walking tour of the narrow and twisting streets of the Muslim Quarter.

Sample the delicious, freshly cooked snacks and gain an insight into the city's fascinating culture. (B,L,D)

### Day 4: Cycling in Xian

Start the morning with an optional early visit to the local park to see Xian's residents taking part in Tai Chi and dancing. Later, enjoy a gentle cycle ride that will take you the nine miles around the wall and past many smiling locals. Visit the Xian Museum and the Little Wild Goose Pagoda. Board the overnight train to Lanzhou. (B,L,D)

### Days 5-6: Explore Lanzhou

Enjoy a moment of tranquillity at the hilltop Baita Temple and tuck into some delicious

Lanzhou-style noodles made with hand-stretched dough. The next day cross Liujiaxia Lake by speed boat and head into the green hills around Liujiaxia to explore the extraordinary Thousand Buddha Caves of Bingling Temple and their wealth of Buddhist murals, statues and sculptures. Also visit the statue of Maitreya (B,L,D)

### Day 7: Tibetan Xiahe

Conquer the scenic Jishi Mountain Pass to arrive at Tibetan Xiahe. (B,L,D)

### Day 8: Labrang Monastery

Giving a taste of the mysteries of Tibet, Labrang Monastery is a fascinating maze of prayer wheels, chapels and chortens. Dine on traditional Tibetan food for lunch, including Tibetan dumplings, known as momos. (B,L,D)

### Days 9-10: Great Wall at Jiayuguan

Return to Lanzhou and board an overnight train for Jiayuguan. Seen as China's western gateway, Jiayuguan is the perfect place to get to grips with your Silk Road history. Visit the Jiayu Fortress and take a walk on the western extremes of the magnificent Great Wall for panoramic views over the starkly beautiful Gobi Desert. (B,L,D)

### Day 11: City of Sands

Drive to Dunhuang. Located on a major trade and cultural crossroads, Dunhuang, known as the 'City of the Sands', sits in a verdant oasis on the edge of the Taklamakan Desert. Visit

### Day 15: Explore Turpan

Visit the ruins of ancient Jiaohe and the striking red sandstone Flaming Mountains. See elegant Emin Minaret before visiting a typical home in grape valley. Also learn about the fascinating Karez irrigation canals. (B,L,D)

### Days 16-19: The Silk Road

Over the next four days travel along the original Silk Route through the Xinjiang Region, viewing ruins and sights largely unvisited by tourists. Travel to Kurla and visit the ruins of the Iron Fortress. The next day, see the ruins of Subashi, arriving in Kuqa to visit the old city wall. Also visit the Kyzil Thousand Buddha Caves before travelling to Aksu. Arrive in fabled Kashgar the following day. (B,L,D)

### Day 20: Explore Kashgar

Its skyline punctured by minarets, Kashgar feels a million miles from China – in fact, it feels a million miles from anywhere! Although now a modern city, the sights and sounds of Kashgar's bazaar have remained unchanged for millennia, as it continues to be as integral a trading post as in its Silk Road heyday. Today's visits include Abakh Hoja Tomb, Id Kah Mosque and the atmospheric alleyways around Id Kah Square. (B,L,D)

### Day 21: Kashgar Sunday Bazaar

Dive headlong into Central Asia's largest bazaar. Within this riot of textures, vivid colours and traditional dress, you can browse

the Shazhou Night Market, where you can wander amongst the stalls, tasting local snacks. (B,L,D)

### Day 12: Mogao Grottoes

A system of temples and sanctuaries, the Mogao Grottoes exhibit wonderful examples of Buddhist paintings and statues that span thousands of years. (B,L,D)

### Day 13: Singing Sand Dunes

Visit Crescent Moon Spring, nestled amongst rolling sand dunes, and the famous Singing Sand Dunes, a phenomena produced by the wind blowing through the grains. (B,L,D)

### Day 14: Turpan

Catch the bullet train to Turpan, a lush green oasis set in a barren landscape. An easy-going town famed for its grapes, its pleasant streets are lined with lush vine trellises. (B,L,D)

## GO BEYOND

hundreds of stalls selling anything from spices and carpets to boots and blenders. Fly to Urumqi. (B,L,D)

### Days 22-23: Heavenly Lake

Escape to the tranquillity of Tian Chi (Heavenly Lake), formed in a crater. Explore the East Poplar Valley where you will pay a visit to a Kazak minority family in their yurt and spend some time with them, learning their way of life. Enjoy local Uyghur lamb skewers for dinner. The following day explore the collections of the Xinjiang Museum. Fly to Beijing. (B,L,D)

### Day 24: The Great Wall

This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate its sheer magnificence. You will have an opportunity to visit a Jade Museum, where you will be able to buy a small handcrafted piece. Jade is revered throughout China, it is said to bring fortune and prosperity to those who wear it. In the afternoon savour the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you wander through traditional Chinese gardens. (B,L)

### Day 25: Imperial Beijing

Heading to Beijing's symbolic heart, stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City where you'll find a complex full of imperial treasures. Soak up the ambience of the Temple of Heaven before visiting Yandaixiejie, where you'll have some free time to wander the hutongs. These narrow alleys offer an authentic glimpse of the old Beijing, before the emergence of high-rise buildings and modern commerce. Sit down for lunch with one of the families who call the hutongs home. This evening dine on Peking duck and enjoy a Chinese acrobatic show. (B,L,D)

### Day 26: Fly Beijing to UK

Fly to the UK arriving the same or following day. (B)

## DEPARTURES

2017 DATES			
17 Apr - 12 May	<b>£3,790</b>	04 Sep - 29 Sep	<b>£3,890</b>
08 May - 02 Jun	<b>£3,790</b>	18 Sep - 13 Oct	<b>£3,890</b>
22 May - 16 Jun	<b>£3,790</b>	09 Oct - 03 Nov	<b>£3,890</b>
2018 DATES			
16 Apr - 11 May	<b>£4,190</b>	03 Sep - 28 Sep	<b>£4,290</b>
07 May - 01 Jun	<b>£4,190</b>	17 Sep - 12 Oct	<b>£4,290</b>
21 May - 15 Jun	<b>£4,190</b>	08 Oct - 02 Nov	<b>£4,290</b>

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

### Flight and supplement information

#### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,290 (Xian - Beijing)
- Single room from £640
- Tipping paid locally RMB 1,130



# JAPAN

## OUR TOP TEN JAPAN ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES

### 1 TRADITIONAL TEA CEREMONY

Witness the ritual of preparing and presenting matcha tea at a traditional Japanese tea ceremony. Held in a traditional old tea house in Kyoto, you'll find the ceremony fascinating.



### 2 SAPPORO SNOW AND ICE FESTIVAL

One of the world's largest winter festivals, wander amongst the huge and impressive ice and snow sculptures of people, places and animals for which Sapporo is famous.



### 3 SEE THE SNOW MONKEYS

Walk through breathtaking alpine scenery to meet the cheeky snow monkeys of the Jigokudani Monkey Park. Here you can observe as they bathe and frolic in the steaming hot spring pools.



### 4 THEME RESTAURANTS

Animation and cosplay are hugely popular pastimes in Tokyo, with huge numbers of cafes and restaurants based on themes that cover everything from cats to popular movies. Try it out for yourself at the Robot Restaurant and a Maid Café.



### 5 TAIKO DRUMMING

Learn the basic drumming techniques and showmanship needed for you to bash out a traditional Japanese rhythm.



### 6 WEARING A KIMONO

Get dressed up in this quintessentially Japanese and surprisingly complex getup to truly immerse yourself in the culture and traditions of old Japan.



### 9 HIKE THE BASE OF MT FUJI

Spend half a day hiking around the base of the iconic Mount Fuji, soaking up the spectacular alpine scenery and finding ever-better vantage points from which to appreciate the perfect symmetry of its cone.



### 7 SAKÉ BREWERY

Learn the process needed to create Saké, Japan's national beverage. Enjoy a tasting of this clear rice liquor.



### 8 KOYASAN TEMPLE STAY

Spend a night in an old temple, at the peak of holy Mount Koya, rising early to join the monks for their morning prayers and chanting – a magical experience.



### 10 SUMO WRESTLING

The May and September departures of the 'Trails of Japan' include tickets to witness the traditional ritual and sporting prowess of Sumo Wrestling, at one of the six annual tournaments in Tokyo.





NEW

# SAPPORO & SNOW MONKEYS

Experience the world's largest Ice and Snow Festival at Sapporo, the largest city on the northern island of Hokkaido, before coming face to face with the mischievous Japanese Snow Monkeys in the beautiful Alps. There is also time to discover Japan's many treasures – old and new – in Tokyo and Kyoto.

11 DAYS FROM **PER PERSON** £4,490



FLIGHT INCLUSIVE  
FROM THE UK



9 BREAKFASTS,  
4 LUNCHES, 3 DINNERS



MODERATE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Snow and Ice Festival

At Sapporo's Snow and Ice Festival you can wander amongst beautifully-crafted snow and ice statues – the competition is fierce so prepare for breathtaking creations.



Snow Monkeys

The Japanese Macaque, or Snow Monkeys, are the stars of the Jigokudani, where they spend time everyday bathing, in natural hot spring pools.



Snow Light Path

Wander through the port town of Otaru where the streets are decorated with gleaming lanterns and beautiful sculptures – a truly enchanting sight to see.



### Days 1-2: Fly to Tokyo

Fly overnight to the dazzling metropolis of Tokyo, Japan's capital city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

### Day 3: Explore Tokyo

Tokyo is the ultimate 24-hour city, but look behind its frantic, high-tech frontage and you'll find plenty of tranquil backstreets and old temples to explore. Today begins with a visit to Meiji, a tranquil Shinto shrine set amongst a stretch of woodland, before heading across town to the vibrant district of Asakusa, Tokyo's

old town. Here, at its heart, you'll find Sensoji, Tokyo's oldest temple which you will explore before wandering down Nakamise, a shopping street that has been providing temple visitors with a variety of traditional, local snacks and tourist souvenirs for centuries. Later, cruise down the Sumida River, disembarking in Hanarikyu Garden, an Edo Period Japanese garden surrounded by the Shiodome district's futuristic skyscrapers. Finally, visit the Edo-Tokyo Museum, to learn about Tokyo as capital of imperial Japan. (B,L)

### Day 4: Travel to Nagano

Enjoy a morning at leisure in Tokyo. This afternoon, transfer by private bus to your hotel in the pretty mountain city of Nagano. (B,D)

### Day 5: Snow Monkeys

Head to Jigokudani Yaen Koen. Walking through a picturesque forested valley you'll reach the steaming hot pools where the beautiful Japanese Macaque, or Snow Monkey, spend their day bathing in the waters. This afternoon will be spent visiting the 7th-century Zenkoji Temple, one of Japan's most popular. (B)

### Day 6: Fly to Sapporo

Return to Tokyo and hop on a flight to Sapporo, where you will be spending the next three days. On arrival, transfer to the hotel for check in and spend the rest of the day at leisure. (B)

### Day 7: Sapporo Snow and Ice Festival

Explore Sapporo and the Snow Festival with a local guide. One of the largest events of its kind in the world, Sapporo attracts sculptors from all over the world to compete, which inevitably leads to bigger and better creations every year! Start with a visit to the Tower Clock, an exquisite example of Meiji architecture, and a wander along Odori Avenue and through the Susukino district, where hundreds of ice sculptures will be on display. This afternoon, transfer to Sapporo Beer Factory, where there is an optional beer tasting. Browse the exhibits of the Beer Museum before popping next door to the Sapporo Beer Garden where you will dine on a Genghis Khan dinner – barbecue lamb, a Sapporo special! (B,L,D)

### Day 8: Otaru Snow Light Path Festival

This morning, ascend to the Okurayama viewing point, soaring up to the summit of the Sapporo Winter Olympics ski jump by chair lift – the views over the surrounding mountains are breath-taking. Later, visit the pretty port town of Otaru. Stroll along the canal, nosh on some of Japan's best sushi and soak up the atmosphere of the Snow Light Path Festival. (B,L)

### Day 9: Kyoto Tea Ceremony

Transfer to the airport and board a flight for Osaka. On arrival, head straight to a quintessential Japanese experience – a tea ceremony. This private tea ceremony, in a Kyoto tearoom, will demonstrate the traditional rituals of tea preparation and service. (B)

### Day 10: Explore Kyoto

An enchanting city, Kyoto was capital for a thousand years; today it is the legacy of ancient Japan, full of tranquil temples, silk-clad geisha and sublime gardens. Start with Kinkaku-ji, the 'Golden Pavilion', Kyoto's most famous temple. Continue to Nijo Castle then wander down Nishiki Market, known as 'Kyoto's kitchen', ending the day at Sanjusangendo Temple. Gather tonight for a farewell dinner. (B,L,D)

### Day 11: Fly Osaka to UK

Transfer to Osaka and fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

## DEPARTURES

### 2018 DATE

01 Feb - 11 Feb **£4,490**

\*2017 departure is available on a private basis. Please enquire for more details.

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees

### Flight and supplement information

#### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,810
- Single room from £590



NEW

# TRAILS OF JAPAN

Traditional versus modern, nature versus urban – Japan is a land of contrasts. On this exhilarating tour you'll experience it all, delve deeper into Japan's rich and fascinating past, present and future, covering robot restaurants to tranquil temples to potent saké and all that's in between.

## JAPAN

traditional kimono. This afternoon, travel by road to Koyasan, where you will spend the night in a 13th-century temple in a traditional tatami room. (B,D)

### Day 11: Morning Prayers

Rise early to join the monks for their daily morning service – hearing the recitation and chanting is a magical experience. After breakfast, take a walking tour of Koyasan. One of Japan's holiest sights, this mountain top sanctuary is full of temples and pagodas to explore. Pay a visit to Kongobu-ji and Okunoin before travelling to Osaka. (B)

### Day 12: Sake Brewery & Himeji

Take a day tour to Himeji, visiting the 17th-century Himeji Castle which is considered a prime example of Japanese feudal period architecture. Continue on to a sake brewery, where you can learn about the brewing process of this potent rice wine and enjoy some tasters. Return to Osaka and experience the bright and brash Dotonbori district. (B)

### Day 13: Fly Osaka to UK

Transfer to the airport and fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

**Please note:** the maximum group size on this tour is 24.

## KEEP EXPLORING



### HIROSHIMA & MIYAJIMA 3 NIGHTS FROM £840pp

A city that needs little introduction, visit Hiroshima's emotive Peace Park to reflect on the events of the past and take the ferry over to Miyajima to see the famous Itsukushima Shrine with its giant vermilion torii gate lapped by the waters of the Inland Sea. You'll travel to and from Osaka by superfast bullet train.

## DEPARTURES

2017 DATES			
15 May - 27 May*	£4,990	20 Nov - 02 Dec	£4,890
18 Sep - 30 Sep*	£4,990		
2018 DATES			
19 Mar - 31 Mar	£5,690	17 May - 29 May*	£5,590
22 Mar - 03 Apr	£5,690	13 Sep - 25 Sep*	£5,590
26 Mar - 07 Apr	£5,690	15 Nov - 27 Nov	£5,490
29 Mar - 10 Apr	£5,690		

\* This departure includes tickets to a Sumo Tournament on day 4 of the itinerary

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees

### Flight and supplement information

#### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £4,190 (Tokyo - Osaka)
- Single room from £840

13 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £4,890



FLIGHT INCLUSIVE  
FROM THE UK



11 BREAKFASTS,  
3 DINNERS



ACTIVE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Mt Fuji walk

Take a walk to remember, watched over by the perfectly symmetrical cone of Mount Fuji – there has never been a more perfect excuse to pause and catch your breath.



ultramodern Tokyo

Explore the quirks and trends of modern Tokyo, visiting the high-tech districts of Harajuku and Akihabara to visit the Robot Restaurant and a Maid Café.



sumo wrestling

Two departures of this tour include tickets to Tokyo's annual Sumo Tournament, where you can enjoy all the ritual and tradition, as well as cheer on a wrestler.



### Days 1-2: Fly to Tokyo

Fly overnight to the dazzling metropolis of Tokyo, Japan's capital city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

### Day 3: Discover Tokyo

Today you will explore the two sides of Tokyo, the modern and the traditional. The city tour begins at the Tokyo Skytree, the world's tallest tower at 634 metres. From the top, on a clear day, you may catch a glimpse of Mount Fuji. Close by is Asakusa, at the heart of which is Senso-ji, Tokyo's oldest temple, and the vibrant

Nakamise shopping street. This afternoon includes a stop at the famous Shibuya road crossing, the tranquil Meiji Shrine and the vibrant district of Harajuku. Finally, it's time for a uniquely Tokyo experience – the Robot Restaurant. Here you'll experience what can only be described as a sci-fi cabaret – utterly surreal and only in Japan! (B)

### Day 4: Japanese Drumming

This morning, try your hand at traditional Japanese drumming with a Taiko class, learn the fundamental techniques of beating the 'wadaiko' with 'bachi'. Next, head to the district of Akihabara, Tokyo's electronics district. Wander the neon-bill-boarded streets and visit a Maid Café, one of Tokyo's most popular types of themed establishments. This afternoon, explore Tokyo's past at the Edo Tokyo Museum. (B)

On the May and September departures, there is an extra special addition to this day; a Sumo Tournament. Many of Japan's most ancient traditions are preserved in the sport, and the ritual involved in its performance are as fascinating to watch as the wrestling itself.

### Day 5: Mount Fuji

The perfectly symmetrical cone of mighty Mount Fuji is the iconic image of Japan – this morning you will journey out of Tokyo into some of Japan's beautiful rurality to its foot. Pick up a hiking trail and tramp through alpine forest, across meadows and around lakes at the Fuji's base, pausing often to gaze on the peak towering above you. (B,D)

### Day 6: Lake Ashi

This morning, take to the calm waters of Lake Ashi. Surrounded by beautiful alpine scenery, keep an eye out for Mount Fuji peeking over the surrounding hills, and the striking vermilion red of torii gates around the lake edge. Later travel to Matsumoto and explore the magnificent Matsumoto Castle, also known as 'Crow Castle' due to its black exterior. (B)

### Day 7: Snow Monkeys

Travel to Yudanaka to visit the Japanese Macaques, or snow monkeys, at the Jigokudani Yaen-Koen (Monkey Park). These creatures are unique in the fact that they make use of the area's natural hot springs, bathing and playing in and around the water. Continue to Hodaka and ride up into the Japanese Alps on the Shin-Hotaka Ropeway, reaching an observation platform at 2,156 metres, which gives breathtaking views over the surrounding mountains (weather permitting). Drive to Takayama where you will be staying at an onsen. Here you can relax and bathe in the

natural hot spring pools and experience this most traditional pastime. (B,D)

### Day 8: Bullet Train to Kyoto

Take a Limited Express train to Nagoya, where you'll change onto a Shinkansen bullet train to Kyoto. This afternoon, start discovering Kyoto's rich heritage with a visit to the enchanting Fushimi Inari Taisha with its pathway of vermilion torii gates before admiring the views over the city from Kiyomizu Temple. Stroll around the old neighbourhoods of Higashiyama and Gion, the geisha district, with a stop at Gion Corner, that showcases the seven professional performing arts. (B)

### Day 9: Japanese Tea Ceremony

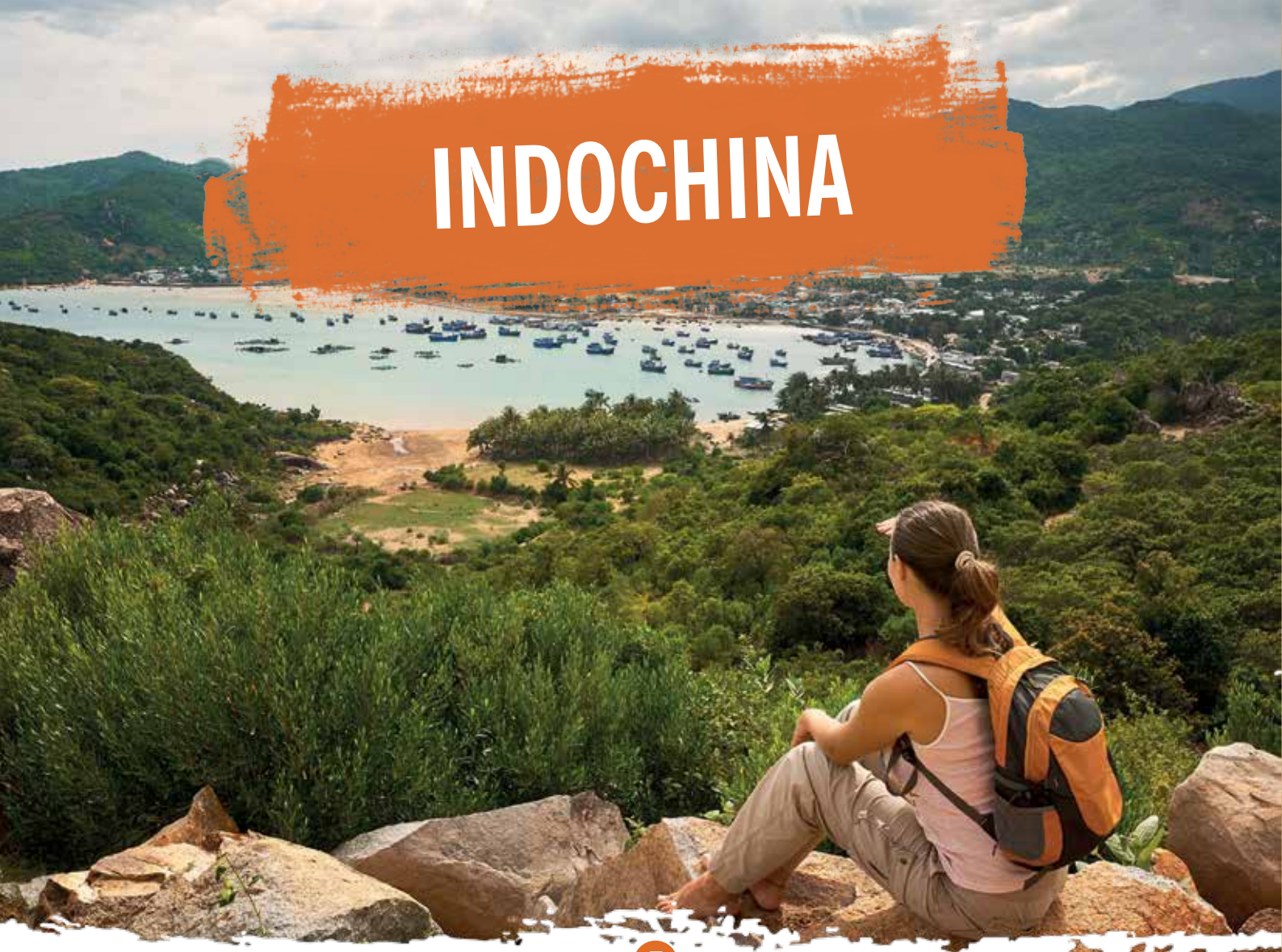
Today is a full day tour of Kyoto, starting at Kinkaku-ji, the 'Golden Pavilion', before contemplating Zen at Ryoan-ji, Japan's most famous classical garden. Next you'll have some free time in the Arashiyama district where you can explore by bicycle – the Bamboo Forest should not be missed. Later in the afternoon, witness the rituals involved in the preparation and pouring of matcha tea in a traditional tea ceremony. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B)

### Day 10: Kyoto Culture and Koyasan

Spend the morning exploring the craft of kimono creation at Nishijin Textile Centre, before a cultural experience that will see you learning the paper-folding art of origami and the complicated process of dressing in a



# INDOCHINA



## OUR TOP TEN INDOCHINA ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES

### 1 TREKKING IN SAPA

Hike the rice fields around Sapa, passing through villages and stopping to take in spectacular views on a less-traversed route through this breathtaking part of Vietnam. Meet hilltribe people as you take a class in Batik painting in one of the villages.



### 2 FARMER AND FISHERMAN EXPERIENCE

Jump on your bicycle and take a beautiful route through Hoi An's charming rural scenery to share the work of a local farmer and attempt to paddle the unique bamboo basket boats of the local fishermen.



### 3 MINES ADVISORY GROUP, LAOS

Visit the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and speak to its head about the vital work it does clearing the unexploded ordnance dropped on Laos during the Vietnam War and educating the local people.



### 4 HANOI STREET EATS

Embark on a culinary adventure through the street food of Hanoi, a city that has food stalls on every corner. Taste local delicacies, cooked fresh just for you.



### 5 ANGKOR WAT BY TUK TUK

See the famous Angkor Wat from the seat of a rickshaw. Pass by lotus-like towers, dense jungle and visiting monks.



### 6 MEKONG DELTA BY BICYCLE

Wheel quietly through the verdant Delta on a bicycle rickshaw, passing peaceful villages to get an insight into local life in the 'Rice Basket of Vietnam'.



### 9 VINH LONG HOMESTAY

Explore the beautiful Vinh Long and unwind in the rural charm of the Mekong Delta, with an overnight stay in an authentic Vietnamese homestay, enjoying home-cooked food and a simpler way of life.



### 7 HIKE REMOTE HOANG SU PHI

Walk through rural Hoang Su Phi mountainous area, stopping in a Red Yao village to learn more about their daily lives.



### 8 VESPA THROUGH SAIGON

Ride pillion on a vintage Vespa in classic Saigon style on a night time food adventure. Enjoy a cocktail before venturing to a favourite local eating spot, finishing in a lively bar.



### 10 FLOATING VILLAGES, SIEM REAP

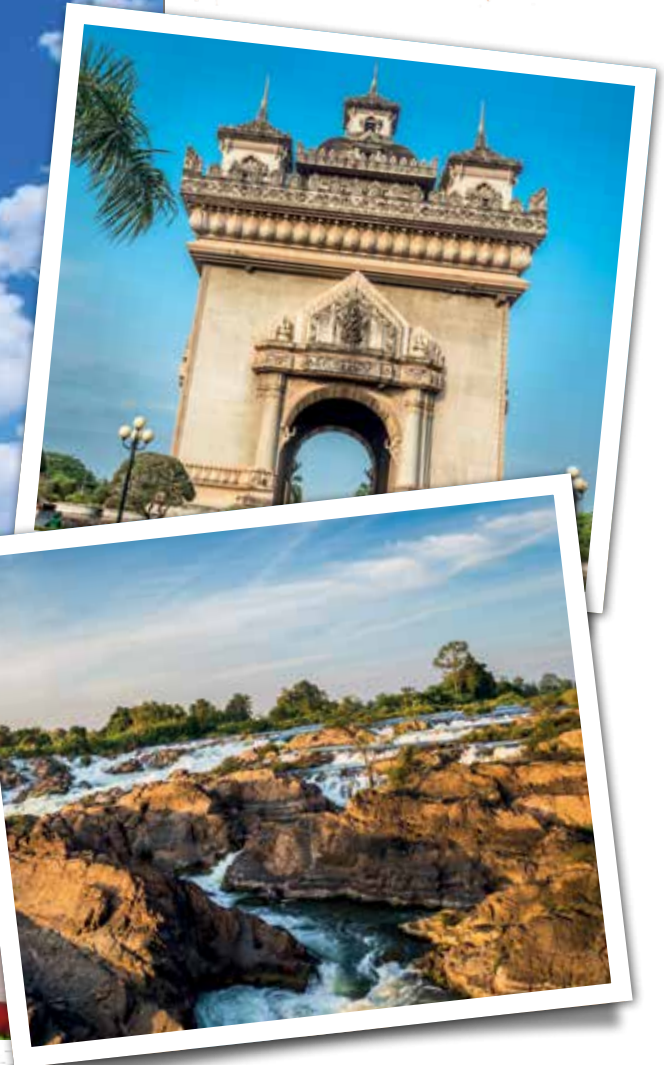
The floating villages of Tonle Sap Lake provide an insight into a totally different way of life. Wave at the friendly locals as you float along the village 'streets' and watch them going about their daily business on and above the water.





# HIGHLIGHTS OF LAOS

Laos has remained the most pristine and culturally-intact country in Indochina. Experience the old-fashioned charm of the city, explore untouched landscapes and meet the incredibly friendly people, who have faced adversity and come out smiling.



**15** DAYS FROM **PER PERSON £2,590** **FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK** **12 BREAKFASTS, 11 LUNCHES, 8 DINNERS** **ACTIVE**

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Takbat Ceremony

In Luang Prabang, take part in a solemn alms-giving ceremony; placing rice in bowls held by passing monks, deep in meditation.



Plain of Jars

Laos' mysterious stone jars have baffled archaeologists for years – wander through them and come up with your own theory!



Kuang Si Waterfalls

With water cascading over layers of turquoise pools, you'll think you're walking through an aquatic fairytale at the Kuang Si falls.



### Days 1-2: Fly to Bangkok

Fly overnight to Bangkok where you will spend the night. (D)

### Day 3: Fly to Luang Prabang

Fly to Luang Prabang. On arrival you will have free time to start soaking up the local culture. An enchanting city, Luang Prabang is the quintessential image of Laos. At its core, lush greenery, golden temples and vivid-robed monks come together to create a colourful, rich heritage and an enduring French-colonial legacy. Take a walking tour around the vibrant night market,

keeping an eye out for craft souvenirs from Laos' hill tribes as you go. (B,L,D)

### Day 4: Kuang Si Waterfalls

Rise early this morning to witness the Buddhist ceremony of Takbat, when the monks of Luang Prabang's monastic communities collect alms from locals. These lines of silent saffron robe-clad monks will be an enduring image of your trip. See Wat Sene and the National Museum. Visit the traditional H'mong village of Ban Na Ounae, before walking to the cascading turquoise waters of Kuang Si Waterfalls for a picnic lunch and a swim. Stop at Ock Pop Tok Weaving Centre on the return to Luang Prabang. (B,L)

### Day 5: Mekong River Cruise

Explore Wat Xieng Thong, considered Luang Prabang's most beautiful temple. Board a boat to cruise the mighty Mekong up to the sacred caves of Pak Ou, known for the hundreds of miniature Buddha sculptures that reside within. Visit the local villages of Thin Hong and Ban Xang Khong to witness the daily life of the local people and their cottage industries. This evening enjoy a traditional music and dance performance. (B,L)

### Day 6: Phousi Hill

Climb Phousi Hill to admire the views down over the city before exploring Wat Mai, Wat

Visoun and Wat Aham. Browse the wares at the lively hill tribe market before a free afternoon. (B,L)

### Day 7: Phonsavan

Drive to Phonsavan via Phoukhoun, stopping at Tham Phra Cave and Nong Tang Lake on the way. (B,L,D)

### Day 8: Plain of Jars

One of the most important prehistoric sites in Southeast Asia, these mysterious clusters of giant jars are thought to be about 2,000 years old. We will visit Site 1 where there are over 200 jars, Site 2 which also allows you to admire the beautiful scenery of the region and Site 3, situated in picturesque woodland. There will also be a visit to the office of the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), an organisation that helps clear unexploded ordnance that are a remnant of American raids during the Vietnam War. Take the opportunity to speak with the organisation's head. (B,L,D)

### Day 9: Vang Vieng

Depart Phonsavan for Vang Vieng. Stop en route at Pathang village, where you can enjoy dramatic views over the karst landscapes for which Vang Vieng is famous. On arrival, head into Tham Chang Cave to explore. The cave was used as a hideout for locals when marauding Yunnanese came to town in the early 19th century. (B,L,D)

### Day 10: Discover Vientiane

Drive to Laos' capital. Nestled in a languid bend in the Mekong, Vientiane is a delightfully quaint city, more friendly backwater than chaotic capital. Spend the rest of the day exploring with visits to Wat Si Saket, Wat Phra Keo, That Luang Stupa, and the Patuxai Victory Monument, that resembles Paris' Arc de Triomphe. (B,L)

### Day 11: Si Phan Don

Rise early for a morning flight to Pakse. On arrival drive to Khong Island, the largest island of the Si Phan Don archipelago in the Mekong River. The rest of the day is free. (B,L,D)

### Day 12: Khong Island

Around Si Phan Don, meaning '4,000 islands', the pace of life is slow and easy and the river views are gorgeous. See the magnificent Khone Phapheng Waterfall, Southeast Asia's largest, and pop over to Khone Island by speedboat to discover its charming colonial buildings and see Lphi Waterfall, nicknamed the Devil's Corridor. Depending on the season, you may see traditional fishing techniques in action. The rest of the day is free. (B,L,D)

### Day 13: Bolaven Plateau

Depart Khong Island for Pakse, stopping to admire Tad Yuang and Tad Fane waterfalls as we go. Continue on to the Bolaven Plateau to pay a visit to a coffee plantation and learn about the process of planting, harvesting and roasting the beans.

This evening enjoy a farewell dinner back in Pakse and visit the exotic evening market. (B,L,D)

### Days 14-15: Fly Pakse to UK

Fly from Pakse to Bangkok where you'll have the use of a hotel room before your evening flight back to the UK, arriving home the following day. (B)

**Please note:** the maximum group size on this tour is 24.

## DEPARTURES

### 2017 DATES

21 Mar - 04 Apr **£2,590** 17 Oct - 31 Oct **£2,590**

### 2018 DATES

20 Mar - 03 Apr **£2,890** 16 Oct - 30 Oct **£2,890**

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Excludes Laos visa (bought locally)

### Flight and supplement information

#### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £1,990 (Bangkok - Bangkok)
- Single room from £380
- Tipping paid locally US\$91



# REFLECTIONS OF VIETNAM

Journey from Sapa in Vietnam's northern reaches, where you'll hike amongst rice terraces and meet ethnic minority people, through the heritage-rich cities of Hanoi, Hoi An and Saigon, to the very south, where you'll explore the canals of the lush Mekong Delta.

## INDOCHINA

Take a tour of Saigon's busy streets, from the colonial Notre Dame Cathedral and French colonial Post Office, down former Rue Catinat to the Hotel Continental made famous in the 'Quiet American' movie. Take a final stop at the Caravelle Hotel's beautiful rooftop bar for panoramic views of the city, something best enjoyed with a local beer in hand. (B,L,D)

**Day 14: Mekong Delta by Rickshaw**  
Head south to Ben Tre. Ride a rickshaw (xelo) past quiet rural villages and verdant fields before boarding a boat to drift through small backwater canals. Drop into local workshops where you can chat to the locals before seeing how crispy rice paper and sticky rice are made. Visit the residence of a former Viet Cong Soldier who survived two years fighting the Khmer Rouge. Arrive at your homestay in the afternoon and take the time to wander around the village. (B,L,D)

**Day 15: Cycling in the Mekong**  
After breakfast visit the colourful Cai Thia market, then cycle along small paths through orchards and thatched houses stopping to chat with local farmers on the way. Enjoy a garden lunch with fresh fruit, rice wine and traditional music, before transferring to Can Tho. (B,L,D)

**Day 16: Cai Rang Floating Market**  
Pay a morning visit to the famous Cai Rang floating market, taking in the scenery and locals going about their daily business along the canals. Take a relaxed cycle through quiet and isolated countryside before returning to Saigon. (B,L,D)

**Day 17: Fly Saigon to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

17 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £2,790 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK 15 BREAKFASTS, 13 LUNCHES, 11 DINNERS ACTIVE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Sapa Hike

Covered in curvaceous, verdant rice terraces, Sapa is a gem to explore. Stop at ethnic villages to learn more about life in the area.



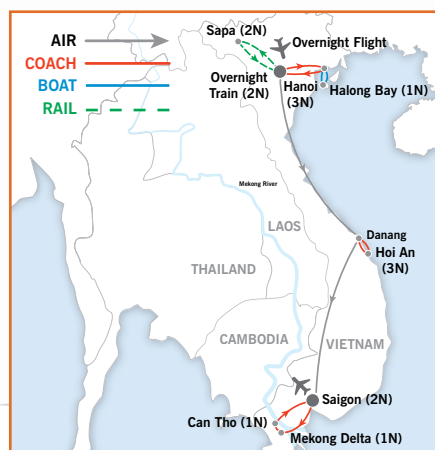
Hoi An by Bicycle

Crumbling, flower-covered houses give way to green fields and seaside as you cycle through the charming streets of Hoi An.



Mekong Delta

Wind over sleepy backwaters and through luscious jungle on the back of a rickshaw, and discover a more relaxed pace of life in the Delta.



### Days 1-2: Fly to Hanoi

Fly overnight to Hanoi, Vietnam's colonially-influenced, atmospheric capital. Depending on your time of arrival, the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture. Enjoy a welcome dinner this evening. (D)

### Day 3: Discover Local Hanoi

Start your day with a visit to the Ho Chi Minh Complex and the Ethnology Museum to learn about the country's ethnic groups. Next, visit the home of a water puppet artist where you

will have the chance to participate in the creation of the puppets and experience a private performance. Tonight, discover Hanoi's street-side night life and taste the varied flavours of Vietnamese street food such as Pho Cuon and Banh Xeo – a truly local way of eating dinner! (B,L,D)

### Day 4: Temple of Literature and Lao Cai

This morning rise early and pay a visit to the fabulous flower market in Quang Ba, and see Tai Chi at Truc Bach Lake – an oasis of peace and daily life in the centre of Hanoi. Visit the Confucian Temple of Literature and the Old Quarter before boarding your overnight train to Lao Cai. (B,L,D)

### Day 5: Sapa Minority Villages

After an early morning arrival and breakfast, transfer to beautiful Sapa. Later you will trek through luscious, stepped rice paddies and hills visiting small villages to rest and meet the residents, ending your walk at Ham Rong Mountain. (B,L)

### Day 6: Sapa Trekking

Your Sapa adventure continues today with approximately seven hours of trekking through the rice terraces, visiting the H'Mong Village of Y Linh Ho and Cat Cat Village. Continue to Lao Chai and try your hand at batik painting, in a

class lead by a Black H'mong woman. Sit down for a chat with an ethnic minority family, then head to visit Ta Van before transferring back to Sapa. (B,L)

### Day 7: Train to Hanoi

Take a free morning soaking up the views around Sapa, before an afternoon trek between Hau Thao and Giang Ta Chai villages – at Giang Ta Chai, there is also an attractive waterfall. All aboard the overnight train back to Hanoi. (B,L,D)

### Days 8-9: Cruise Halong Bay

Arrive into Hanoi and depart for Halong Bay. Board your vessel for a serene and unforgettable cruise on the glassy, limestone-studded waters. You'll pass by quaint fishing towns, taste freshly caught seafood and admire the ever-changing vistas of the bay. There are many activities to take part in while you're onboard - take a swim in the cool waters of the bay, explore stalagmite and stalactite-filled caves, including the magnificent Surprise Cave, and take to the waters yourself in a kayak. (B,L,D) On day 9, rise early to catch the sunrise over the karst peaks of the bay. Return to Hanoi. (B,D)

### Day 10: Hoi An Walking Tour

Fly from Hanoi to Danang and drive to Hoi An, where you will spend an afternoon wandering the beautiful, charming, flower covered streets of this ancient town. Walk past Chinese traders' homes, visit local artists and tailors and walk through

the 16th-century Japanese Bridge. Arguably Vietnam's friendliest town, Hoi An is always a favourite for relaxed exploration. (B,L,D)

### Day 11: Farmer and Fisherman Experience

Jump back on your bike today and wheel through the scenic rice paddies outside Hoi An. Pay a visit to local farmers where you can try your hand at traditional farming techniques – look out for water buffalo! Enjoy a calming boat ride to a peaceful fishing village, where you can try fishing-net making and paddling in unique bamboo basket boats. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. (B,L)

### Day 12: Cham Island Paradise

Cruise a sapphire sea to the idyllic Cham Island. Arriving at Lang Village, you'll take a relaxed stroll and learn about the island's history. Enjoy amazing sea views on the way to Chong Village – if you're lucky the monkeys might make an appearance. There's time to take a swim in the sea, relax on the white sands and take a seafood lunch before returning to Hoi An. (B,L)

### Day 13: Saigon Walking Tour

Fly to dynamic Saigon, where modern high-rises rub shoulders with ancient temples.

## DEPARTURES

2017 DATES			
03 Feb - 19 Feb	£2,790	10 Nov - 26 Nov	£2,890
08 Sep - 24 Sep	£2,790		
2018 DATES			
02 Feb - 18 Feb	£2,990	09 Nov - 25 Nov	£3,090
07 Sep - 23 Sep	£2,990		

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

### Flight and supplement information

#### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,190 (Hanoi - Saigon)
- Single room from £340
- Tipping paid locally US\$80



# VIETNAM & CAMBODIA DISCOVERY

Discover two fascinating countries. Hike through the verdant rice terraces of Hoang Su Phi and taste the street food in Hanoi. Your journey ends with an unforgettable exploration of the Angkor Wat complex by tuk tuk.



## INDOCHINA

### Day 16: Cycle along the Mekong

Take a relaxed morning cycle through the village, sampling freshly picked fruit. Drop by the local market and pay a visit to Cai Nhum Cathedral before returning to Saigon. (B,L)

### Day 17: Cambodian Circus

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Siem Reap. There is a special treat that awaits in the form of a performance from the PHARE Cambodian Circus, an NGO that teaches street children to become internationally renowned circus artists. (B,L,D)

### Day 18: Angkor Wat by Tuk Tuk

What better way to see the world-famous Angkor Wat complex than from the back of a traditional tuk tuk? You'll explore Angkor Wat, the centrepiece of Siem Reap's famous temples, before riding your tuk tuk to Angkor Thom and the Bayon Temple, a 12th-century masterpiece. Lastly, buried deep in the jungle, you will find Ta Prohm; a photogenic and atmospheric smorgasbord of trees wound through temple ruins. (B,L)

### Day 19: Kompong Kleang Floating Village High water season (Aug-Feb)

Visit Kompong Kleang, a settlement of over 20,000 people housed in wooden structures on stilts, suspended up to ten metres above the water. Greeted by waves of friendly locals, here you can glimpse Cambodia's countryside culture and easy going family lifestyle. After lunch, head out into the dense forest and find the hidden temple of Beng Mealea, whose wonders lay undiscovered for centuries. (B,L,D)

### Low water season (Mar-Jul)

Journey into rural Cambodia and visit a local village where you will ride an ox cart through the fields before touring the village where you can participate in fishing or farming; learning more about the way of life here. Return to Siem Reap, visiting Banteay Srei and Banteay Samre on the way. (B,L,D)

### Days 20-21: Fly Siem Reap to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the following day. (B)

21 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £3,190 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK 18 BREAKFASTS, 15 LUNCHES, 12 DINNERS ACTIVE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Hoang Su Phi

Sapa's premier trekking destination, Hoang Su Phi's Rice Terraces change year round – from glassy pools of water to cascading layers of green.



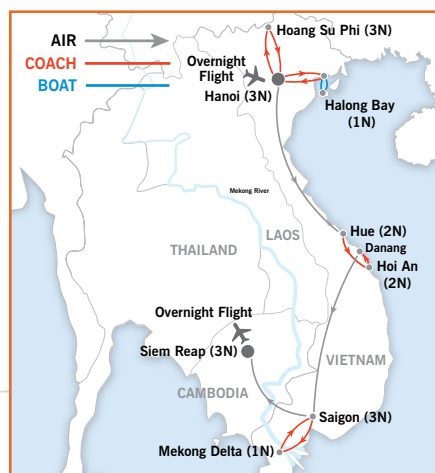
Saigon by Vespa

In true Vietnamese style, ride pillion through the streets of Saigon on a night time adventure, stopping for cocktails and local food.



Angkor by Tuk Tuk

Unleash your inner Indiana Jones on a tuk tuk adventure through the mysterious, forest-consumed temples of Angkor.



### Days 1-2: Fly to Hanoi

Fly to Hanoi, Vietnam's colonially influenced atmospheric capital. Depending on your time of arrival, the rest of the day is at leisure. (D)

### Day 3: Discover local Hanoi

Start your day with a visit to the Ho Chi Minh complex and the Ethnology Museum to learn about the country's ethnic groups. Next stop at the Confucian Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first university, before taking a walking tour of

the Old Quarter where you will witness Hanoi's rich cultural and artistic history. Take a relaxed stroll at Hoan Kiem Lake, a great spot for people watching. (B,L)

### Day 4: Hoang Su Phi

After breakfast travel to Hoang Su Phi, an area of emerald green rice terraces. The rest of the day is at leisure to begin exploring. (B,L,D)

### Days 5-6: Hike through the Rice Terraces

Take an unforgettable journey on foot through the epic rice terraces of Hoang Su Phi. As you turn every corner, a new view of this outstanding landscape of lush, mist-wreathed terraces will unfold in front of you, providing a plethora of unreal photo opportunities. Stop en route at a Red Yao village to learn about local life in the area, and meet the Long Tunic Yao people as you explore. You'll spend the first night in a Red Yao homestay. (B,L,D)

### Day 7: Hanoi's Street Food

Travel back to Hanoi. This evening, take a walking tour of the city's unique street-side night life and food vendors. Taste the varied flavours of Vietnamese street food such as Pho Cuon and Banh Xeo – this is where the locals come to meet, dine and have a good time. (B,L,D)

### Days 8-9: Cruise Halong Bay

Depart for Halong Bay. Board your vessel for a serene and unforgettable cruise on the glassy, limestone-studded waters. You'll pass by quaint fishing towns, taste freshly caught seafood and admire the ever-changing vistas of the bay. There are many activities to take part in while you're onboard - take a swim in the cool waters of the bay, explore stalagmite and stalactite-filled caves, including the magnificent Surprise Cave, and take to the waters yourself in a kayak. (B,L,D) On day 9, rise early to catch the sunrise over the karst peaks of the bay. Return to Hanoi and transfer to Hue. (B,D)

### Day 10: Imperial Hue by Bicycle

Cycle through Hue for a tour of the imperial sights. Start at the Imperial City, then continue to Phu Mong Garden House. Stop by Thien Mu Pagoda overlooking the Perfume River before driving to Tu Duc Tomb. From here, take a cyclo tour along the banks of the perfume river. (B,L)

### Day 11: Charming Hoi An

Drive to Hoi An, stopping en route at the Museum of Cham Sculpture. Spend the afternoon wandering the beautiful, flower-covered streets of this ancient town. Walk past Chinese traders' homes, visit local artists and tailors and walk through the 16th-century Japanese Bridge. Arguably Vietnam's friendliest town, Hoi An is always a favourite for relaxed exploration. (B,L)

### Day 12: Farmer and Fisherman Experience

Hop on your bike today and wheel through the scenic rice paddies outside Hoi An. Pay a visit to local farmers where you can try your hand at traditional farming techniques – look out for water buffalo! Enjoy a boat ride to a peaceful fishing village, where you can try fishing-net making and paddling in unique bamboo basket boats. (B,L)

### Day 13: Hoi An at Leisure

Enjoy some free time in this beautiful town before flying to Saigon in the late afternoon. (B,L,D)

### Day 14: Saigon Old and New

This morning discover the amazing network of the Cu Chi Tunnels. Back in Saigon visit the Reunification Palace, the Central Post Office, Notre Dame Cathedral and the War Remnants Museum. This evening take an exhilarating ride on the back of a vintage Vespa, classic Saigon pillion style. Stop for a cocktail before continuing to a favourite local eating spot. Wind up your night with drinks, accompanied by a live band. (B,L,D)

### Day 15: Ben Tre by Bicycle

Drive to Ben Tre and set out on a boat trip through winding, palm tree-lined canals. After lunch, cycle through rice fields and coconut groves and visit the Cao Dai Temple, local markets and a bonsai village. Spend the night in a local homestay. (B,L,D)

## DEPARTURES

2017 DATES			
17 Feb - 09 Mar	£3,190	20 Oct - 09 Nov	£3,290
10 Mar - 30 Mar	£3,190	24 Nov - 14 Dec	£3,290
29 Sep - 19 Oct	£3,190		
2018 DATES			
16 Feb - 08 Mar	£3,490	19 Oct - 08 Nov	£3,590
02 Mar - 22 Mar	£3,490	23 Nov - 13 Dec	£3,590
16 Mar - 05 Apr	£3,490		

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

### Flight and supplement information

#### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,590 (Hanoi - Siem Reap)
- Single room from £380
- Tipping paid locally US\$90



# INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

## OUR TOP TEN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES

### 1 JEEP TOUR, COLOMBO

Explore Sri Lanka's capital in a vintage World War II-era jeep. Cruise the streets in style, the sea breeze playing in your hair, stopping to admire the big sights as you go.



### 2 HIKE TO TIGER'S NEST

Perched precariously above Bhutan's Paro Valley, the Tiger's Nest Monastery can only be reached on foot. Walk with pilgrims through tranquil woodland and spinning prayer wheels whilst admiring the views as you go.



### 3 LAMA BLESSING

Boudhanath stands tall above Kathmandu's skyline – it is Nepal's most sacred stupa. Admire it, and the views from it, and explore its monastery where you will be honoured with a blessing by one of the resident Lamas.



### 4 RICKSHAW TOUR OF AGRA

Ride a rickshaw through the streets of Agra passing by old bazaars, traditional eating joints and places of worship. You'll get a real feel for this melting pot of a city, with its multi-cultural influences.



### 5 RAJASTHAN BY BULLOCK CART

Explore the pastoral landscapes around Bijaynagar in true rural style – by bullock cart! Pass through villages where you can interact with the locals.



### 6 CYCLE UDAIPUR

Hop on your bike to wheel amongst the intricate palaces, temples and back streets of this atmospheric city. Finish by the water and take a spectacular sunset cruise.



### 9 KHECHEOPALRI LAKE

Sacred to people of both the Buddhist and Hindu faiths, Khecheopalri Lake is believed to fulfill wishes. Set amongst beautiful scenery, the area is also known for its biodiversity – walk with the pilgrims on their kora.



### 7 TREK THE ELLA GAP

Follow trails through tea plantations, rice paddies and forest, reaching a vantage point that will give you breathtaking views over the Ella Gap.



### 8 YAK BURGERS, LHASA

Sit down to a meal of delicious yak burgers (they taste like beef ones) and celebrate this incredible, shaggy beast.



### 10 MAHAWELI CRUISE

Cast off into the dawn mists of the Mahaweli River, joined by a naturalist. Flowing through Kandy, the river crosses an area of great biodiversity – spot birds, amphibians and water creatures as you float by.





# VIBRANT INDIA

From magnificent hill forts to remote villages, the colourful and vibrant state of Rajasthan is full of adventure. Let your imagination be captured by the sights and sounds of the desert, and interact with the people who make this one of India's most magical states.

## INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

### Day 12: Amber Fort by Jeep

Head just out of the city by jeep to the colossal Amber Fort, stopping en route to admire the exquisite façade of Hawa Mahal, or 'Palace of the Winds'. The Amber Fort is built of yellow and pink sandstone and white marble, its opulent courtyards, halls and apartments are full of intricate carvings and stained glass. This afternoon explore the City Palace, part of which is still home to Jaipur's royal family. Visit a gem cutting and polishing workshop, something for which Jaipur is famous. (B,L,D)

### Day 13: Agra Auto Rickshaw Tour

Travel from Jaipur to Agra, stopping en route at Fatehpur Sikri. Built in the 16th century as the Mughal capital of Emperor Akbar, the city is a fusion of Muslim and Hindu styles, and one of India's best preserved examples of Mughal architecture. Arrive in Agra and take to the streets in an auto rickshaw that will introduce you to the sights and sounds of the city. (B,L,D)

### Day 14: The Taj Mahal

Tour the city coming first to India's most iconic sight, the Taj Mahal. A monument to love built for Mumtaz Mahal, the favourite wife of Shah Jahan, the Taj Mahal is built entirely of white marble. From a distance the effect is ethereal but get up close and you can admire the intricate pietra dura (stone inlay) work. Come next to the mammoth Agra Fort, the imperial city of the Mughal rulers. Within there are palaces, audience halls and mosques to discover. Return to Delhi. (B,L)

### Day 15: Rickshaw Ride through Old Delhi

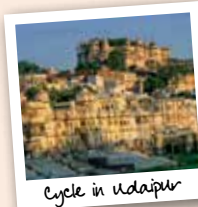
Take a full day to explore Delhi. Starting in Old Delhi, embark on a rickshaw ride through the atmospheric streets, visiting Jama Masjid, a Jain Temple and the Red Fort ending with lunch at Chor Bazaar. Cross into New Delhi to view the colonial grandeur of the Rajpath, including the Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate, finishing the day at Humayun's Tomb. (B,L,D)

### Day 16: Depart Delhi

The day is at leisure before boarding the overnight to the UK. (B)

16 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £2,890 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK 14 BREAKFASTS, 12 LUNCHES, 10 DINNERS ACTIVE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Cycle in Udaipur

Cycle through the back streets of the Old City, passing by temples and bazaars, then finish at iconic Lake Pichola for a sunset cruise.



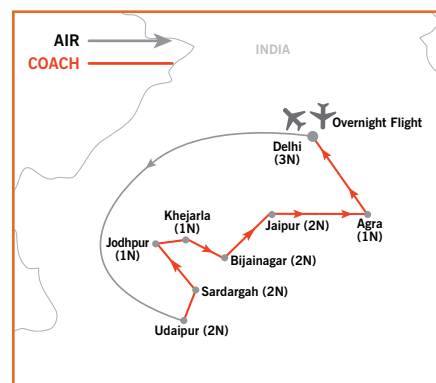
Rajasthan by Jeep

Take a jeep safari through the village and desert landscapes of Rajasthan, stopping en route at colourful local villages.



Rickshaw Ride

Take a rickshaw through colourful Delhi, finishing with lunch at the exciting Chor Bazaar; a menagerie of busy trading.



### Days 1-2: Fly to Delhi

Fly overnight to Delhi, India's rambunctious capital city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

### Day 3: Cycling in Udaipur

Fly to Udaipur, considered India's most romantic city thanks to its grand palaces and lakeside setting. This afternoon climb on to your bicycle and take a leisurely ride through the backstreets of the old city. Pass through Jagdish Chowk, visit Jagdish Temple and wend through Bada Bazaar. Finally, peddle along the

banks of Lake Pichola to finish at the Tripolia gate of the City Palace, where you will board a boat for a sunset cruise which includes a stop at the 17th-century Lake Garden Palace. (B,D)

### Day 4: Explore the City Palace

Delve deeper into the cultural wonders of Udaipur starting at the spectacular City Palace. Started in 1599, over the years many a maharani has added his bit, making this Rajasthan's largest palace. Within you'll find the Dilkush Mahal, the Sheesh Mahal, the Moti Mahal and the Palace of Lord Krishna, each boasting exquisite and ornate decoration. Drive around Fateh Sagar Lake then later, journey to Shilpgram to visit a rural arts and crafts village – here you can learn about the tribal people of India's western regions and see their traditional architecture, crafts and rural lifestyle. (B,L,D)

### Day 5: Temples of Ranakpur

Travel from Udaipur to Sardargarh, stopping at the magnificent Jain temples of Ranakpur en route. Built in the 15th century, these marble temples feature some of India's most beautiful carvings and are a major pilgrimage for followers of the Jain religion. Sardargarh sits in the shadow of its majestic hill fort which will also be your home for the next two nights. (B,L,D)

### Day 6: Jeep Safari around Sardargarh

Take a short cycling tour of the city to orientate yourself before exploring further into the fort with a guide. This afternoon climb aboard a jeep to travel out to the remote villages around Sardargarh. Meet with the local villagers and a hermit (sahdu), see life in a rural Rajasthani village and visit a local weaver and a marble cutter. Enjoy the sunset by the lake. (B,L,D)

### Day 7: Travel to Jodhpur

Drive from Sardargarh to Jodhpur, on arrival the rest of the day will be yours to spend as you wish. (B,L)

### Day 8: Mehrangarh Fort

Sat high above the city on a sandstone plinth, the Mehrangarh Fort is one of Rajasthan's most impressive sights – spend the morning strolling through its palaces, temples and gardens and examining the displays of its museum. Afterwards, visit Jaswant Thada before driving out to 400-year-old Khejarla Fort, a striking red sandstone building that is a magnificent example of Rajput architecture, where you will spend the night amongst its blend of art and architecture. (B,L,D)

### Day 9: Desert Jeep Safari

Today's jeep safari will introduce you to the customs and culture of the rural villages of Rajasthan, as well as the villagers themselves, particularly the wonderfully hospitable Marwari people. Visit a fabric workshop and see the craftsmen at work. Drive to Bijaynagar and check into the Bijay Niwas Palace, a heritage hotel packed with original features, art and antiques. (B,L,D)

### Day 10: Rural Rajasthan by Bullock Cart

After breakfast climb aboard a bullock cart for a leisurely guided tour of the rural villages around Bijaynagar. Take the opportunity to interact with the friendly villagers and catch them going about their daily lives, as well as seeing their homes, a school and a temple. Take a peaceful nature walk before cycling to a dam to witness sunset over the lake as you take High Tea on the shore. (B,L,D)

### Day 11: Travel to Jaipur

Journey from Bijaynagar to Jaipur before enjoying a free afternoon. (B,L)

## DEPARTURES

2017 DATES			
17 Mar - 01 Apr	£2,990	13 Oct - 28 Oct	£2,990
22 Sep - 07 Oct	£2,890		
2018 DATES			
16 Mar - 31 Mar	£3,290	12 Oct - 27 Oct	£3,290
21 Sep - 06 Oct	£3,190		

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

### Flight and supplement information

#### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,390 (Delhi - Delhi)
- Single room from £590
- Tipping paid locally USD\$85



# HIMALAYAN ADVENTURE

Embark on a journey of extremes, striking across the starkly beautiful landscapes of Tibet, on the roof of the world. Then discover the verdant and chaotic valleys of Nepal under the ever watchful gaze of the mighty Himalayas.

## INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

■ **Days 16-17: Chitwan National Park**  
Admire the sunrise before departing for Chitwan National Park. A jungle safari delivers you to the Terai, or plains region. Tomorrow, take an early morning nature walk, and visit the elephant stables. Later, enjoy a serene trip down the Rapti River to view the animals on the river banks. Observe an elephant bath and this evening enjoy a traditional Tharu Stick dance performed by local farmers. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 18: Daman**  
Drive to Daman which has one of the most spectacular outlooks over the Himalayan range of anywhere in Nepal. Continue on to Kathmandu (B,L,D)

■ **Day 19: Lama Blessing**  
Essentially a suburb of Kathmandu, Patan was once the capital of an independent kingdom, something that is noticeable in its distinctiveness. See the UNESCO World Heritage Royal Palace and the sights of Patan's Durbar Square. Returning to Kathmandu, visit the Bodhnath Stupa and Monastery for a very special Lama blessing. Continue to Pashupatinath Temple. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 20: Swayambhunath**  
Kathmandu is a city of many layers – a modern day assault on the senses, a hub of cultural and artistic heritage and a monument to the medieval era. Today's visits include Swayambhunath Temple, Durbar Square, the Kumari Temple and Thamel Market. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 21: Fly Kathmandu to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

21 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £4,190 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK ALL MEALS - 19 BREAKFASTS, 18 LUNCHES, 19 DINNERS ACTIVE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Hike to the legendary Base Camp used by Everest hikers and sherpas, and take in a truly once-in-a-lifetime, epic view.



Relive scenes from the Jungle Book as you meet the elephants and the myriad of other wildlife from Nepal's beautiful plains region.



A wander through intoxicating Kathmandu reveals a heady mix of medieval temples, atmospheric alleyways and markets selling wares from all over Nepal.



## ITINERARY

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Chengdu**  
Fly overnight to Chengdu. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture. (D)

■ **Day 3: Giant Pandas**  
A visit to Chengdu's famous Panda Conservation Centre allows you to see China's celebrated bears up close in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Stroll through People's Park and see Matchmaker's Corner, and visit a traditional tea house. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 4: Lhasa**  
Fly to Lhasa and acclimatise. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 5: Debating Monks**  
Lhasa is a modern city but among the old streets at its core you'll feel a million miles from the modern world. Venture inside Jokhang Temple where queues of people worship in the flickering light of yak butter candles. Wander around the Barkhor with traditionally dressed locals and prostrating pilgrims. There will also be a visit to Sera Monastery to witness the debating monks. This evening, try yak burgers for dinner. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 6: The Potala Palace**  
The Potala Palace is an architectural wonder towering over the city. The former winter palace of the Dalai Lama, it houses thousands of rooms filled with old treasures. This evening enjoy a traditional Tibetan dance performance. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 7: Shigatse**  
Travel across Tibet's stark plains to Shigatse, Tibet's second city and the traditional home of the Panchen Lama. Take a stroll through the local market and browse the wares on sale. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 8: Tashilhunpo Monastery**  
Visit Tashilhunpo Monastery, the hilltop complex that is the monastic seat of the Panchen Lama. From here drive to New Tingri admiring awe-inspiring Himalayan views. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 9: Everest Base Camp**  
Rise early to make the final assault across the Gue La to Pasum and Rongbuk, a monastic village festooned in colourful prayer flags. Visit the world's highest post office, then continue to Everest Base Camp, situated under the gaze of Everest's north face, from where the views of the world's highest peak are unsurpassed (weather permitting). (B,L,D)

■ **Day 10: Gyantse Kumbum**  
Drive to the pleasant town of Gyantse and visit the famous kumbum. This fascinating monastery is home to the largest chörten in Tibet – climb it for a secession of colourful mural-filled chapels and wonderful views. Stay overnight in the town. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 11: Yamdrok Lake**  
Drive back to Lhasa, making a stop to admire the colossal Karuola Glacier, stretching down the side of Mount Simila towards the road; and a stop to admire the breathtaking blue of the sacred Yamdrok Lake, backed by the snowy peaks of the Himalayas. Overnight in Lhasa. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 12: Into Nepal**  
Fly to Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. Meet your Nepalese guide and transfer to Dhulikhel to see the traditional Nuwari houses and browse the local market. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 13: Bhaktapur**  
Take a visit to Changu Narayan Temple before taking a hike to Telkot through the forest landscapes, admiring the stunning Himalayan scenery. Drive to Bhaktapur and visit the Old Houses before enjoying a traditional Nepalese lunch. This afternoon wander Bhaktapur's cobblestone streets where you'll stumble across many old courtyards, temples and artisans busy at their craft. Visit the Golden Gate and the Palace of 55 Windows on Durbar Square. (B,L,D)

■ **Days 14-15: Pokhara**  
Travel to Pokhara. The town sits on the verdant banks of Phewa Lake with virtually uninterrupted views of the majestic Annapurna and Manaslu ranges. Take a walking tour, admiring the views. The next day explore the Mountain Museum. (B,L,D)

## DEPARTURES

2017 DATES			
18 Apr - 08 May	£4,190	05 Sep - 25 Sep	£4,290
09 May - 29 May	£4,190	03 Oct - 23 Oct	£4,290
2018 DATES			
18 Apr - 08 May	£4,490	05 Sep - 25 Sep	£4,590
09 May - 29 May	£4,490	03 Oct - 23 Oct	£4,590

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

### Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £3,690 (Chengdu - Kathmandu)
  - Single room from £690
  - Tipping paid locally US\$80 (China) & US\$127 (Nepal)



NEW

# TRANS-HIMALAYAN JOURNEY

Travel through the Himalayas to the state of Ladakh, where the altitude is not the only thing that will take your breath away! Discover the mountains and monasteries of this former-Buddhist kingdom in the ultimate Himalayan adventure.



23

DAYS FROM

PER PERSON

£3,790



FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK



21 BREAKFASTS, 14 LUNCHES, 14 DINNERS



ACTIVE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Jakhoo Temple walk

Walk up to the ancient Hindu temple of Jakhoo at the highest point of Shimla, for panoramic views over the mountain ranges of the Outer Himalayas.



Hemis Festival

The Hemis Festival sees the Monastery lamas dressed up in colourful masks to perform dances and sacred plays to a raucous soundtrack.



Camel Safari

Tramp through the famous sand dunes aboard your Bactrian friend, admiring the drama of the stark wilderness and rugged mountain terrain that surrounds you.



### Days 1-2: Fly to Delhi

Fly overnight to Delhi, India's rambunctious capital city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

### Day 3: Agra

Transfer to the station and take an express train to Agra. On arrival visit the 17th-century Itmad-Ud-Daulah, nicknamed the 'Baby Taj' and the colossal Agra Fort. (B,L)

### Day 4: Taj Mahal

Rise early for an enchanting sun rise at the magnificent Taj Mahal. Drive back to Delhi and tour New Delhi, visiting India Gate, passing the grandiose Parliament buildings and finishing in the heart of the city, the vibrant Connaught Place. (B,L)

### Day 5: Travel to Shimla

Transfer to the station and take a train to Chandigarh, before continuing by road to Shimla. The rest of the day is free. (B,D)

### Day 6: Explore Shimla

The summer capital of British India, and nicknamed the 'Queen of Hill Stations', Shimla has a spectacular location. Start the day with a visit to Jakhoo Temple, which sits at the highest point of the city, offering amazing views. Continue exploring with visits to the Himachal State Museum, Chadwick Falls, Prospect Hill and Sankat Mochan. Spend some time in the heart of town, soaking up the atmosphere and enjoying the views. (B,L)

### Day 7: Travel to Manali

Drive to the picturesque town of Manali, passing through some breathtaking scenery. (B,L)

### Day 8: Around Manali

Take an excursion to Naggar, where you'll find an old castle and temples, and the Roerich Art Gallery. Set up a hill, the views are as impressive as the paintings. This afternoon, discover more about the town of Manali with a city tour. You'll visit Hadimba Temple, Vashisht hot water springs and old Manali village. (B,L)

### Day 9: Jispa

Drive to the small village of Jispa, going over the Rohtang pass (3,980 metres) en route. Visit Keylong village to browse the local market and explore the 12th-century Khardong monastery. (B,L,D)

### Day 10: Baralacha Pass

Travel on to Sarchu, making photo stops regularly along this spectacular route as it heads up into the mountains and over the Baralacha pass (4,800 metres). This afternoon is at leisure, where you can spend some time exploring your home for the night – a beautifully located tented camp. (B,L,D)

### Day 11: Travel to Leh

Drive on to the captivating mountain-enveloped town of Leh, crossing two more spectacular mountain passes, La Chung La (5,065 metres) and Tanglang La (5,360 metres). This evening as at leisure to acclimatise to the altitude. (B,L,D)

### Day 12: Around Leh

Surrounded by stark mountain peaks, wherever you go in Leh brings more and more spectacular views. Today your explorations will include 11th-century Spituk Gompa, the Tibetan-Buddhist Sankar Gonpa and the hilltop Phyang Monastery. (B,D)

### Day 13: Hemis Monastery Festival

Spend a day at one of the largest and well-known monasteries of the Ladakh region, Hemis. The Hemis festival is a colourful affair, with masked lamas performing dances and making sacrificial offerings to the divinities of the Buddhist Drukpa order. (B,D)

### Day 14: Ladakh's Monasteries

Visit Thiksey monastery, an excellent example of Ladakhi architecture, before exploring Shey Palace, built by the first king of Ladakh. (B,D)

### Day 15: Uletokpo Camp

Drive to Uletokpo, stopping at Likir Monastery en route. Arrive at the Sham valley, where you will be spending the night in a tranquil eco resort. Take a pleasant walk through the woods to Ridzong Monastery. (B,L,D)

## INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

### Day 16: Lamayuru

Explore the centre of the Ladakh region, an area that has a high concentration of Buddhist monasteries and visit the ruins of Lamayuru Monastery. (B,L,D)

### Day 17: Return to Leh

Hit the road back to Leh, stopping en route at Alchi monastery, which boasts particularly beautiful sculptures and wood carvings. (B,L)

### Day 18: Nubra Valley

Travel to the Nubra Valley via the route that is said to be the highest drivable road in the world. Crossing the Khardung pass (5,260 metres) you'll have incredible views down over the Indus Valley. Tonight's tented camp is close to the beautiful village of Hunder, an oasis in the cold desert of the Nubra Valley. (B,L,D)

### Day 19: Camel Safari

This morning, visit the famous sand dunes of this high altitude desert and take a camel safari. This afternoon explore Diskit Monastery, which is full of tangkas and statues to admire. (B,L,D)

### Day 20: Return to Leh

Travel back to Leh, where the rest of the day will be at leisure. (B,L,D)

### Day 21: Day in Leh

Spend the morning at leisure before an afternoon walking tour that takes you through the historic bazaar and the narrow backstreets. (B,D)

### Day 22: Fly to Delhi

Fly to Delhi. Take the afternoon to explore the sights of Old Delhi; drive past colossal Red Fort, browse the bustling bazaar of Chandni Chowk, and visit Jama Masjid, India's largest and most impressive mosque. Visit an Indian family home for dinner this evening. (B,D)

### Day 23: Fly Delhi to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home later the same or following day. (B)

## DEPARTURES

### 2017 DATE

22 Jun - 14 Jul £3,790

### 2018 DATE

12 Jun - 04 Jul £4,190

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

### Flight and supplement information

#### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,290 (Delhi - Delhi)
- Single room from £1,390
- Tipping paid locally US\$170



# HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS

Embark on a journey of extremes, striking across the starkly beautiful landscapes of Tibet, on the roof of the world, before descending into the verdant and chaotic valleys of Nepal under the ever watchful gaze of the mighty Himalayas.

24 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £4,990 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK ALL MEALS - 22 BREAKFASTS, 21 LUNCHES, 22 DINNERS ACTIVE

## ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Tiger's Nest

Bhutan's most breathtaking monastery, hike through picturesque landscapes to reach the famous Tiger's Nest, 900 metres above the Paro Valley.



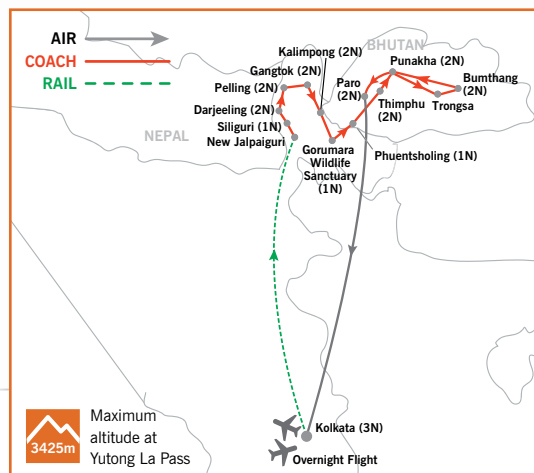
Toy Train

Winding its way through the tea plantations between Ghoom and Darjeeling, the Himalayan Railway, or 'Toy Train' is a wonderful experience.



Khecheopalri Lake

Admire the fantastic scenery around the holy Khecheopalri Lake as you join Hindu and Buddhist pilgrims as they make their way around the sacred kora.



### Days 1-2: Fly to Kolkata

Fly overnight to Kolkata. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture. (D)

### Day 3: Explore Kolkata

Enjoy a relaxed morning before venturing out for an afternoon tour with visits to the magnificent Victoria Memorial and Kalighat Temple, you'll also see Fort William. (B,L,D)

### Day 4: Train to New Jalpaiguri

Get up early to visit a fragrant flower market and view the cantilever Howrah Bridge. Stop by Kumhartuli, the artisan colony and see a Jain temple. Later board a train to New Jalpaiguri before driving to Siliguri to spend the night. (B,L,D)

### Day 5: Drive to Darjeeling

Head out of Siliguri through endless tea plantations to the famous hill station of Darjeeling which is located at a cool 2,134 metres. (B,L,D)

### Day 6: Explore Darjeeling

Rise before the sun to catch it rising over Mt Kanchenjunga from Tiger Hill, which you'll reach by jeep. On the way back to Darjeeling visit Yiga Choling Monastery. Later, all aboard the famous 'Toy Train' which winds its way through the lush green hills and plantations before enjoying the Himalaya Mountaineering Institute. (B,L,D)

### Day 7: Into Sikkim

Drive north to Pelling, crossing into the state of Sikkim. Pop into Pemayangtse Monastery, one of Sikkim's oldest, where you can find tranquillity along with amazing views. (B,L,D)

### Day 8: Khecheopalri Lake

Visit the spectacular Khecheopalri Lake, considered sacred by both Buddhists and Hindus, and the magnificent Kanchenjunga Falls. (B,L,D)

### Days 9-10: Discover Gangtok

Drive through more spectacular scenery to Sikkim's vibrant capital Gangtok, stopping at 18th-century Tashiding Monastery en route. There is nowhere better to enjoy exotic flowers and mountain panoramas. The next day visit Enchey Monastery, the Sikkim Research Institute of Technology and Do Drul Chorten. (B,L,D)

### Day 11: Rumtek Monastery

Begin the day at Dharma Chakra Centre and old Rumtek Monastery, before hitting the road to the bustling bazaar town of Kalimpong. (B,L,D)

### Day 12: Kalimpong at Leisure

Take a day to catch your breath and do some leisurely explorations of Kalimpong – there are plenty of spots to enjoy Himalayan panoramas and also flower nurseries full of local orchids. (B,L,D)

### Day 13: Gorumara Wildlife Sanctuary

Take a jeep safari into the depths of Gorumara Wildlife Sanctuary, where you might be lucky enough to spot a one-horned rhino, elephants, leopards and bison. (B,L,D)

### Day 14: Into Bhutan

Cross into Bhutan and continue to Phuentsholing. Later visit the Zangtho Pelri Lhakhang temple in the centre of the town. (B,L,D)

### Days 15-16: Discover Thimphu

Hit the national highway to Bhutan's capital Thimphu, stopping en route at Kharbandi Gompa, a Tibetan Buddhist monastery. The next day, explore the city with time at the National Library, Institute for Zorig Chusum, the Handicrafts Emporium and Folk Heritage Museum, Textile Museum and Trashi Chhoe Dzong. (B,L,D)

### Day 17: Travel to Punakha

Browse the local markets and begin the journey to Punakha. Pass over Dochu La mountain pass with a quick stop to admire the views. This afternoon see magnificent

## INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

Punakha Dzong and the new Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten. (B,L,D)

### Day 18: Trongsa Dzong & Bumthang

Leave Punakha for Trongsa via the Pele-La pass. Visit Trongsa Dzong, built in 1648, and Ta Dzong Museum, before departing for Bumthang crossing the Yutong-La pass and down into the Chhume Valley. (B,L,D)

### Day 19: Explore Bumthang

Spend the day surrounded by Bumthang's rural beauty, stopping at Kurje Lhakhang, and Bhutan's oldest monastery, the 7th-century Jambey Lhakhang Temple. Later visit Tamshing Lhakhang Monastery and Jakar Dzong. (B,L,D)

### Day 20: Scenic Drive to Punakha

Return to Punakha, enjoying the incredible scenery on the route all over again. (B,L,D)

### Day 21: Punakha & Paro Temples

Take a morning hike to Chimi Lhakhang, 'Temple of Fertility', then head to Paro. Set in a beautiful valley, Paro is surrounded by some of Bhutan's oldest temples and monasteries. Visit Ta Dzong and Rinpung Dzong. (B,L,D)

### Day 22: Tiger's Nest Monastery

Taksang (Tiger's Nest) is Bhutan's most famous monastery, perched on the side of a cliff 900 metres above the Paro Valley. It can only be reached by a moderately challenging hike along a woodland trail – the views along the way are the perfect distraction! Returning to Paro, visit Kyichu Lhakhang. (B,L,D)

### Day 23: Fly to Kolkata

Rise early to fly back to Kolkata, where you'll have the afternoon at leisure. (B,L,D)

### Day 24: Fly Kolkata to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

## DEPARTURES

2017 DATES			
14 Apr - 07 May	£5,190	03 Nov - 26 Nov	£4,990
13 Oct - 05 Nov	£4,990		
2018 DATES			
13 Apr - 06 May	£5,690	02 Nov - 25 Nov	£5,490
12 Oct - 04 Nov	£5,490		

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

### Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £4,390 (Kolkata - Kolkata)
- Single room from £1,190
- Tipping paid locally US\$95 (India) & US\$60 (Bhutan)



NEW

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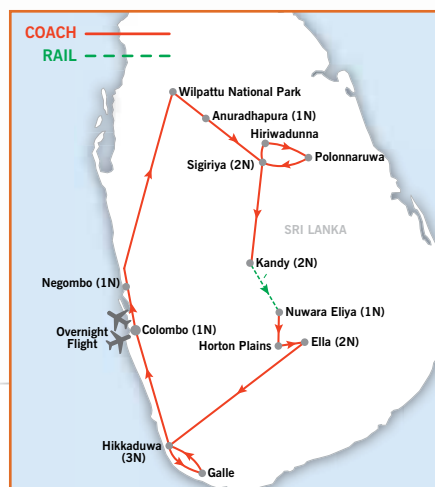
Spot elephants, sloth bears and leopards as you head out on safari through two of Sri Lanka's top national parks, Wilpattu and Horton Plains.



Hike through the incredible countryside around Ella. Pass rural villages, plantations and paddy fields, and pause for views over the spectacular Ella Gap.



Tour Colombo's cosmopolitan streets in open-top, antique jeeps. Injecting an extra bit of excitement into your normal city tour, there is no better way to explore!



### Days 1-2: Fly to Colombo

Fly overnight to Colombo. On arrival you will be met by your expert tour guide and transferred to your hotel in the beach resort of Negombo, north of Colombo. The rest of the day is yours to explore.

### Day 3: Wilpattu National Park

Journey to Anuradhapura, which sits at the heart of Sri Lanka's cultural triangle. En

route stop at the Wilpattu National Park for a safari. Whilst exploring amongst the 'willus', natural sand basins that fill with rainwater, keep an eye out for elephants, sloth bears and leopards, for which the park is world-renowned. (B,L,D)

### Day 4: Sigiriya

The UNESCO World Heritage-listed Sigiriya, or Lion Rock, rises a sheer 180 metres out of Sri Lanka's central plains. Marvel at it from below, before passing through two giant lion paws and climbing a series of galleries and staircases, many lined with magnificent frescoes. At the top you'll find the remains to King Kassappa's palace and incredible views. (B,L,D)

### Day 5: Hiridawunna Trek

Head to the village of Hiridawunna where you'll get a glimpse at rural life. Starting on a path along an ancient reservoir, observe the rich bird life and the day-to-day activities of the local people as you walk. Paddle across a river to visit a family on their farm before continuing through the bush-terrain, home to monkeys and even the occasional elephant. This afternoon, continue to the 11th-century city of Polonnaruwa, also a UNESCO site. Wander amongst the well-preserved ruins and gaze on the Heavenly Maidens frescoes. (B,L,D)

### Day 6: Journey to Kandy

Travel to Kandy, a city set tranquilly among forests and plantations at Sri Lanka's heart. Another World Heritage site thanks to its rich heritage and cultural treasures, tour the city visiting the Temple of the Sacred Tooth, Sri Lanka's most sacred temple, an arts and crafts centre, a gem museum and the market. This evening, join the locals in the quadrangle of the Temple of the Sacred Tooth to witness the evening puja. (B,L,D)

### Day 7: Mahaweli River Expedition

Venture out into the early morning mists of the Mahaweli River. Paddle through the city and out into the wilderness where the naturalist who will accompany you will point out the exotic birds and amphibians that make up just some of the area's biodiversity. Later, travel to see a brass maker who will show you his home, his workshop and his craft – you can even help him with his work. This evening tap your feet to the beat of traditional music and dancing at an optional cultural show. (B,L,D)

### Day 8: Travel to Nuwara Eliya

This morning is free in Kandy before heading for the station to catch the train to Nanu Oya – the scenery that you pass through is some of the best in Sri Lanka. Proceed to Nuwara Eliya, a 19th century British hill station, a



## INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

Ella Gap. Pass through rural villages, giving a glimpse of the routine of village life in Sri Lanka's highlands. (B,L,D)

### Day 11: Ella to Hikkaduwa

Leave Ella soaking up the final glimpses of lush highlands as you go and journey down to the golden sands and swishing palms of Hikkaduwa. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B)

### Day 12: Explore Galle

Sri Lanka's greatest colonial treasure, Galle was once the great port of Ceylon, a tropical city surrounding a Dutch fort. Your local guide will take you on a tour that encapsulates its history, culture, food and legends, giving you the perfect overview of Galle and the people who call it home. Return to Hikkaduwa. (B,L)

### Day 13: Free Day in Galle

Take a day to relax or to make your own explorations. (B)

### Day 14: Explore Colombo

Depart Hikkaduwa and travel to Sri Lanka's vibrant capital city, Colombo. On arrival, transfer to World War II-era jeeps for a unique and adventurous city tour. Roaring around the city in these open-top antique vehicles, you'll see the Dutch Hospital, Old Parliament, Colombo harbour, Slave Island and much more. This evening, sit down to a Sri Lankan-themed farewell dinner, full of delicious local flavours, in a traditional-style but carbon neutral venue set around a 200-year-old Banyan Tree. (B,L,D)

### Day 15: Depart Colombo

Transfer to Colombo airport to board your flight to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

**Please note:** the maximum group size on this tour is 22.

place of cool climes enveloped in tea plantations. (B,L,D)

### Day 9: Horton Plains Safari

Set on a high altitude plateau, Horton Plains encompasses an eco-system so unique and fascinating that it is a part of the UNESCO World Heritage site that covers the whole of Sri Lanka's Central Highlands. Discover the wide variety of flora and fauna and gaze over World's End, pass through herds of sambar deer and keep an eye out for fishing cats, otters and leopards. Visit a tea plantation to learn about the process, from bush to brew, and proceed to the spectacularly-set hill village Ella. (B,L,D)

### Day 10: Ella Trekking

After breakfast, set out on a full day trek through the incredible countryside that surrounds Ella. Follow a trail through tea plantations, paddy fields and dense forest. For those feeling extra adventurous you can climb the steep route up Ella Rock, from the top of which are views over the breathtaking

## DEPARTURES

2017 DATES			
12 Oct - 26 Oct	£3,190	23 Nov - 07 Dec	£3,290
2018 DATES			
19 Jul - 02 Aug	£3,790	22 Nov - 06 Dec	£3,690
11 Oct - 25 Oct	£3,590		

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

### Flight and supplement information

#### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,590 (Colombo - Colombo)
- Single room from £990
- Tipping paid locally US\$80



# TAILORMADE ASIA

Our group tours give you the chance to tick off all of the big sights and to travel in the company of likeminded people but not everyone wants to stick to the trail. If you like what you see but are looking for more flexibility and freedom, a tailor-made tour may be for you.

## WHY TAILORMADE?

With a tailor-made itinerary you can travel where, when and at the pace you want, for as long as you want. You can pick your accommodation and add all the extras you like, from meals to guides to excursions. You can indulge your interests, whether it's Ming Dynasty pottery or large wading birds, and miss out anything that doesn't hold much appeal. You have complete control.

### 1 PERSONAL SERVICE

The creation of your perfect itinerary is a combination of your ideas and desires, and our expertise. Your dedicated tailor-made consultant will listen to what you are looking for, make recommendations and work with you to create a holiday that fulfils all your wants and needs.



### 3 LOCAL FLAVOURS

Asia is home to a wealth of different people and cultures, each offering their own characteristic and delicious cuisines. Tasting the local food is a way of getting to the heart of a culture, and we know the best areas to eat and the finest restaurants. We can ensure you get to try all the regional specialities on your trip with us.



### 5 DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Learning, seeing and experiencing are all part of travel. By tailormaking your trip you can take this a step farther and do something a bit different – a day as a panda keeper, a Vietnamese cooking class or ballooning over Bagan are just some of the many options.

### 6 PRIVATE GUIDING

There is no better way to really experience your destination than with your very own local expert. Not only will you learn more about the sights and culture but you will get the inside knowledge on local life. And we only use the best guides, the ones who are both passionate and knowledgeable about their country.



## WHAT WE DO:

Our team of dedicated tailor-made Asia experts will help to design your perfect, unique itinerary so you can have a holiday that fits all of your wants and needs for excellent value – whether it's some minor adjustments to one of the group itineraries you've seen in this brochure or building something completely from scratch.

### 2 INDIVIDUAL TRANSPORT

You can travel around your destination any way you like, be it by bullet train, plane or car, but we will always provide you with your own vehicle and driver to make sure that you get the most out of your time exploring. This way you can stop where and when you like.

### 4 ACCOMMODATION CHOICES

Accommodation across Asia ranges from ger camps to grand old palaces. The choice of hotel style and standard is completely up to you. Just give us the number of stars that you want and where you want to be, and we will use our extensive knowledge and superior rates to select one that meets your needs requirements and budget.

# BOOKING YOUR TRIP

Booking your holiday should be simple and straightforward, so Wendy Wu Tours is committed to supporting you through every element of the booking process right through until after your holiday has finished.

## BOOKING MADE EASY

### 1. CHOOSE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Get a taste of the tours in this brochure. Visit our website for more details, including interactive maps, destination information, photos, videos, reviews, updates and detailed tour dossiers. Choose the style of trip that suits you:

- Fully Inclusive Group Tours
- Flexible Private Tours
- Bespoke Tailormade Holidays

**Still not sure?** Contact our experienced Travel Consultants to talk through your options.

### 2. CHECK AVAILABILITY

Speak to our expert Travel Consultants, or your preferred Travel Agent, and we will check the tour availability, find the best flights and confirm your full package price.

### 3. BOOKING & DEPOSIT

Group Tour places can usually be confirmed immediately upon payment of a deposit of £350 per person. Private Touring arrangements can usually be confirmed within 48 hours.

Once your tour is complete, we will send you confirmation by email. By making a booking you are confirming that you have read the tour dossier, are fit enough to fully participate in your tour, will travel with adequate travel insurance and agree to the booking conditions at [wendywutours.co.uk/before-you-go/booking-conditions](http://wendywutours.co.uk/before-you-go/booking-conditions).

### 4. FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of your payment is due 60 days before departure and you will be issued with your travel tickets and documentation approximately two weeks before travel.



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All our staff have travelled throughout Asia and can provide you with detailed information about our itineraries. Just call us on any day of the week and we'll be happy to discuss your holiday and answer any questions you might have.

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Why not break your trip to the Far East with a stopover – most airlines won't charge you any extra for stopping over en route. We are able to book your hotel, transfers and touring and add it to your trip. World class destinations such as Dubai, Singapore and Hong Kong are just a few of the options available between Asia and the UK. If you want to stay longer in Shanghai, Beijing, Hanoi or wherever your trip starts or finishes, we are able to add extra nights onto your trip for a small supplement.



## ADD FINISHING TOUCHES

We want to make your holiday enjoyable and stress-free and can help you book:

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- ✓ Airport Parking from £6 per day
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- ✓ Travel Insurance from £4 per day

Please speak to our experienced Travel Consultants who will happily provide advice and arrange these for you.



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Many of our customers enjoy the Wendy Wu Tours experience so much that they travel with us again and again. What's more, they also recommend us to their friends and family. We really appreciate this loyalty and want to reward you for it.

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Recommend us to your friends and we'll send you a hamper as a thank you for the first booking we receive. Plus for every subsequent booking, we'll send you £50 worth of shopping vouchers.

■ **Loyalty Discount**  
When you book your second holiday, we'll give you a £100pp discount.

■ **Welcome Home Discount**  
When you book another tour with us within four-weeks of returning home, we'll give you a £200pp discount.

■ **Become a Wendy Wu Tours VIP**  
Book three trips or more and we'll give you £250pp off the total cost of your holiday.

Conditions apply. Rewards and discounts cannot be combined. Refer to our website for full details.



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