

Beyond the City Walls 12 days



Take the road less travelled from bustling Beijing to cosmopolitan Shanghai. Visit the Great Wall, Forbidden City and Terracotta Warriors, before discovering the striking limestone peaks of Guilin, the fascinating eclectic mix of minority groups in Yangshuo and Longsheng's incredible Dragons Backbone.

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Beijing / Ends in: Shanghai
- Departs: Saturdays - March to October
- No local payment required
- Breakfast: 11, Lunch: 2, Dinner: 2
- Hotel Rating: 3 - 4 star
- Tour Guide: Yes

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - [click here](#)
- To book this trip - [click here](#)
- To enquire about this trip - [click here](#)

TOUR MAP:



QUICK WEB LINKS

China Prices :: Why Us for China? :: China Reviews :: Our China Blog :: Top Spots in China :: Festivals & Events :: Hotels in China :: China - Useful Info :: FAQs on China :: China Visas :: China Gallery

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Day 1: Beijing

Saturday. Hello China! Arrive Beijing and included airport transfer to our hotel. Overnight - [Beijing](#)

Day 2: Forbidden City

This morning, we explore the heart of Beijing including the vast Tiananmen Square where Chairman Mao's tomb and various monuments to the people are located. Dominating the city's heart is the Forbidden City, a centre of power for five centuries and seat of the emperors. Entering through the Gate of Heavenly Peace (replete with Chairman Mao's portrait), we enjoy a guided tour of this old city within a city. Later we take a rickshaw ride through the Hutongs of Beijing, weaving through old back lanes, traditional courtyards and compact houses, gaining a fascinating snapshot of the city's traditional way of life. Tonight, we enjoy a traditional dinner at a city restaurant. Overnight - [Beijing](#)

Day 3: The Great Wall

Today, we drive beyond Beijing to Badaling, to walk a section of the famous Great Wall. Built in the Ming Dynasty, a 6m wide pathway makes a formidable defense, following the highest contours of a steep range of hills. Tonight, we attend a Chinese acrobatic performance. Swinging ropes, juggling hoops, spinning plates, rings of fire and human pyramids are just a few tricks these showstoppers pull out. Overnight - [Beijing](#)



Day 4: Summer Palace

Beijing - Xi'an. Free morning, head out to the nearby street market to try a few unusual local delicacies. Later we visit the Silk Alley markets and the Summer Palace, set on Kunming Lake. We view from a distance the 2008 Olympic stadium commonly referred to as the 'birdsnest' and aquatic centre. Tonight we travel to Xi'an in Shaanxi Province by express soft sleeper train Overnight - [Sleeper Train to Xi'an](#)

Day 5: Terracotta Warriors

Arrive Xi'an and transfer to hotel. We visit the Terracotta Warrior

archaeological site where 7,000 Warriors stand battle ready and have done so for the past 2,200yrs. Try counting them! Visit to a clay workshop specialised in making replica figurines. Tonight, optional Tang Dynasty Bolt-on, with dinner and performance. Overnight - [Xi'an](#)



Day 6: Big Wild Goose Pagoda

Xi'an - Guilin - Yangshuo. Spend the morning at leisure before commencing a tour of the Big Wild Goose Pagoda and enjoying a bicycle ride atop the Xi'an City Wall. After an early dinner in Xi'an we fly to Guilin. Upon arrival, transfer to Yangshuo (approximately 1.5hrs drive). Late evening check in. Overnight - [Yangshuo](#)

Days 7 - 8: Yangshuo

Yangshuo offers a world of opportunity for exploring the great outdoors. With breath-taking beauty, striking limestone mountain scenery and pure clean rivers, one can choose to go swimming or tubing down the Yu Long River, hike or hire a bicycle or motorbike and head off on one of the many mountain trails. Stop to watch the local fishermen use their trained cormorants to catch fish (a centuries old tradition, though somewhat commercialised these days) and perhaps take a sailing trip on a bamboo raft up stream or down stream, hand paddled or motorised. You can also visit any number of the giant local caves or go to Xanadu - a primitive minority village bursting with rural charm, culture and genuine hospitality. If this is not enough, Yangshuo is also China's foremost venue for rock climbing, with around 300 bolted routes and several companies offering guiding and equipment hire.

At a slower pace, discover West Street, which has retained its traditional styles and is laden with quirky shops, tea shops, antiques, art studios, calligraphers, t-shirt designers and souvenir curios. Maybe take a beginners art class with a local painter or enjoy a morning class at the 'Cloud 9' cooking school. West Street is a sort of 'Global Village' where the local ethnic minority of Hui, Zhuang, Yao people (each with their own distinct appearance, traditions and culture) mix with the Han Chinese, foreign travellers and a number of foreign residents managing cafés and restaurants.

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By nightfall sit back and relax at any one of the many al fresco cafes, pubs or bars serving cold beer and delicious speciality foods. Catch a film at an outdoor cinema or attend the nightly 'Impression Liu Sanjie' performance. This popular musical extravaganza is performed outdoors by the river with a mountain backdrop by a cast of more than 500 singers and dancers.

Yangshuo is yours to explore at leisure on day 7 and until late afternoon on day 8, where we return to Guilin. Overnight - Yangshuo (1) Guilin (1)



Day 9:

Guilin – Longsheng – Shanghai. This morning we drive to Longsheng. Here, we explore the rice terraces of the Dragon's Backbone! Beginning at the base of Mt Longji the verdant green rice fields coil the steep mountain layer upon layer climbing to its summit. Where there is soil a terrace has been made! Taking a walk along the stone paths no more than a metre wide, we climb skyward to enjoy panoramic views of the ribbon like terraces with picturesque valleys and meandering streams below. Evening flight to Shanghai. Overnight - [Shanghai](#)



Days 10 - 11: Discover Shanghai

Focus your eyes on spectacular Shanghai. Perhaps China's most modern city, its amazing Pudong skyline is stunning. The next two days are free for you to explore the city at leisure. Consider visiting

the Jade Buddha Temple, Yuyuan Garden and street market, The Bund, shopping along Nanjing Road or taking a cruise along the Huangpu River. Overnight - [Shanghai](#)



Day 12: Shanghai

Wednesday. Our tour concludes after breakfast and onward departure transfer to the airport.

WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- Beijing - Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, UNESCO listed Emperor's Summer Palace, Silk Alley markets, Cloisonne Factory, Hutong area of Beijing, Chinese Acrobatic Show
- Badaling - UNESCO listed Great Wall of China
- Xi'an - UNESCO listed Terracotta Warriors, Clay warrior workshop, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, City Wall and bike ride
- Yangshuo – free time. A picturesque village with quirky street markets set within a karst mountain backdrop. Sailing, rafting, hiking and outdoor pursuits
- Longsheng – the Dragon's backbone rice terraces, Ping'an village and minority groups
- Shanghai - free time. Visit the Jade Buddha Temple, Oriental Pearl Tower, Yuyuan Garden, The Bund & Old Shanghai

What's Included

- 11 breakfasts, 2 lunches & 2 dinners
- 10 nights 3-4 star hotels
- 1 overnight train (soft sleeper cabin) Beijing - Xi'an
- Chinese acrobatic performance
- Rickshaw ride through Beijings Hutongs

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- Xi'an - bike ride on medieval City Wall
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1, day 7 and day 12
- Touring of Beijing, Badaling and Xi'an
- Tour leader escorted for groups of 6 or more
- English speaking specialist guides at local sights
- All relevant transfers and transportation
- 1 economy class flight - Xi'an - Guilin
- 1 economy class flight - Guilin - Shanghai
- Day trip to the Dragon's backbone and Lonji Village

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$3 - 5 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture
- Entrance Fees: \$75 USD
- Tipping Kitty: \$70 USD

BOLT-ONS:

Make the most of your time away! Listed below are the optional activities that are available on this trip. Please note that you will need to book these prior to travel as we cannot always guarantee availability of these activities once you are on holiday.

Tang Dynasty Dinner Show - USD \$89

The Tang Dynasty Show is a performance of Chang'an music and dance that originated during the time of the illustrious Tang Dynasty. Colourfully choreographed according to various historical records of the ancient arts with a host of singing, dancing and musical instrument playing performers, coupled with simple backdrops and props, this is entertainment that was once fit for a Tang emperor!

Giant Pandas - USD \$99

Join us on an excursion to see China's beloved mascot - the Giant Panda, at the Shaanxi Rare Wildlife Rescue and Breeding Centre, located at the foot of the Qingling Mountain range in Louguantai Forest Park north west of Xi'an. Originally established as Louguantai wild animal breeding and protection centre, it was the first dedicated crested ibis breeding centre in China. Later it became a shelter for ill or injured Giant Pandas in the region.

Hong Kong Express - 1 day - USD \$499

At the crossroads between East and West, Hong Kong is one of the most exciting cities in the world. Hong Kong has good museums, numerous markets, great seafood, restaurants, bars and nightlife. Jump aboard the comfortable overnight sleeper train from Shanghai direct to Kowloon in central Hong Kong.

Nanjing - 3 days - USD \$569

Nanjing, capital of imperial China under the early Ming dynasty, offers an fascinating mix of imperial and revolutionary history. Famed for it's City Wall (one of the worlds longest), Nanjing has mant sites of interest including the Mausoleum of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the great pioneer of the Chinese Revolution, the ruins of the Ming Palace, the Tomb of Zhu Yuanzhang, the first Ming Emperor and the Yangtze River Bridge.

Suzhou - 3 days - USD \$589

Suzhou, a 2,500 year-old cultural city is located in an area of rivers that crisscross the Yangtze River Delta of southeastern China. In the city, boats bob along waterways interwoven with small bridges that run parallel to the streets and traditional houses built along them. Coupled with a stunning collection of UNESCO-listed gardens and famed for it's silk, Suzhou is an oriental treasure!

Yellow Mountain - 5 days - USD \$869

Considered the most beautiful mountain in China, Yellow Mountain or Huangshan is one of a range of 72 peaks in Anhui Province. Set amidst rural landscapes and with it's slopes clad in pine, the ethereal scenery is nothing short of breathtaking.

Kunming - 3 days - USD \$399

Kunming, an ancient cultural city and home to many of China's ethnic minorities, is the capital of the beautiful Yunnan Province. Kunming, known as the 'City of Perpetual Spring', is surrounded by gorgeous mountain scenery including the unique Stone Forest - a unique 270 million year old limestone karst formation of bundled rocky grey outcrops, resembling a petrified forest.

PRICES AND DATES: from USD \$2,889

Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged provided there is another single traveller booked on the tour date of your choosing.

2012

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
02 JUN - 13 JUN	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
16 JUN - 27 JUN	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
30 JUN - 11 JUL	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
14 JUL - 25 JUL	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
28 JUL - 08 AUG	USD \$2,889	USD \$679

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11 AUG - 22 AUG	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
25 AUG - 05 SEP	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
08 SEP - 19 SEP	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
22 SEP - 03 OCT	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
06 OCT - 17 OCT	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
20 OCT - 31 OCT	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
03 NOV - 14 NOV	USD \$2,889	USD \$679

2013

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
09 MAR - 20 MAR	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
23 MAR - 03 APR	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
06 APR - 17 APR	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
20 APR - 01 MAY	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
04 MAY - 15 MAY	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
18 MAY - 29 MAY	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
01 JUN - 12 JUN	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
15 JUN - 26 JUN	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
29 JUN - 10 JUL	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
13 JUL - 24 JUL	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
27 JUL - 07 AUG	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
10 AUG - 21 AUG	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
24 AUG - 04 SEP	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
07 SEP - 18 SEP	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
21 SEP - 02 OCT	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
05 OCT - 16 OCT	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
19 OCT - 30 OCT	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
02 NOV - 13 NOV	USD \$2,889	USD \$679
16 NOV - 27 NOV	USD \$2,889	USD \$679

Supplementary Prices

	Price/Person	Single Supp.
Beijing - Pre-tour accommodation	USD \$55	USD \$44
Shanghai - Post-tour accommodation	USD \$55	USD \$54
Arrival Car Transfer - Beijing	USD \$125	USD \$0

This tour was very well organized and all our free time had great options to choose from. This was my 5th trip to China and I have been on organized tours before and I have to say this is #1!

[Katie Powell, Apr 2011](#)

We found the tour fantastic. Beijing especially. Well organized, we saw all the highlights and everything was on time. I really liked how the trip flowed together. greatly enjoyable experience

[Gina & Gerard, Jul 2010](#)

POSTCARDS:

Here's what some of our past travellers have written in to us and said about their experiences on this trip.