

Chinese Checkers 11 days



A complete checker board of history, culture, sights & experiences. Jump from old Beijing and the expansive Great Wall to the mammoth carved statues at Longman's Caves, Suzhou - known as little Venice and 21st century Shanghai

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Beijing / Ends in: Shanghai
- Departs: Saturdays - March to October
- No local payment required
- Breakfast: 10, Lunch: 4, Dinner: 2
- Hotel Rating: 3 - 4 star
- Tour Guide: Yes (for groups of 6 or more)

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. Huan ying, welcome to China and the start of your holiday! Airport arrival transfer and hotel check in. The remainder of the day offers free time. Overnight - [Beijing](#)

Day 2: Forbidden City

Today, we embark on a guided tour of the nation's capital. Tiananmen Square, a patriotic vision of grandeur and the Forbidden city, the walled city of the former Chinese emperors boasting stunning temples, courtyards and reception halls. Afternoon rickshaw ride navigating the old back lanes and courtyards of Beijing's Hutongs. Tonight, Welcome Dinner at a city restaurant. Overnight - [Beijing](#)



Day 3: The Great Wall

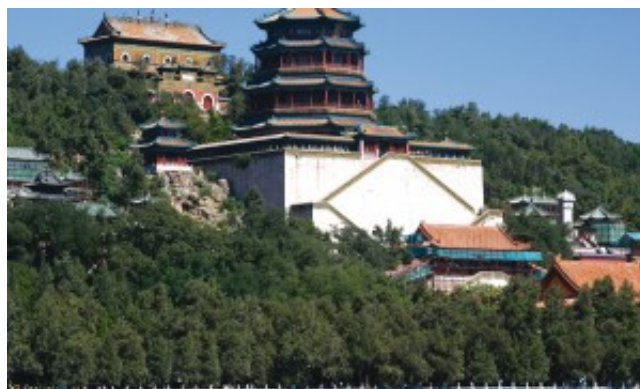
Today we walk the famous Great Wall. Said to be seen from space, the enduring symbol of Chinese civilisation and genius is a prize national treasure. The UNESCO protected Great Wall of China was built as a defensive structure to protect China against marauding invaders from the north. Although the present wall dates mainly from the Ming dynasty, some 20 states and dynasties were involved in its immense construction over a period of 2,000 years and followed different routes and building extensions as required. At one time perhaps nearly 9700km long, the wall was garrisoned by nearly 1 million soldiers and featured over 1,000 fortified passes and 10,000 beacon towers. Today, the now partially ruinous Great Wall stretches some 6700 kms across barren hills, deserts, mountains and plateaus. Today's visit offers a healthy, if steep and vertiginous walk with breathtaking views of the Chinese countryside.

After taking time to catch our breathe we tour a nearby cloisonne workshop demonstrating the ancient Chinese art of combining copper and enamel to make decorative pieces. Tonight, a death defying Chinese acrobatic performance. Overnight - [Beijing](#)



Day 4: Summer Palace

Beijing - Luoyang. Spend the morning at leisure before touring the Summer Palace. The vast complex is replete with lavishly decorated temples, halls and courts, reconstructed in 1902 at the whim of the extravagant Dowager Empress Cixi. Visit to the famed Silk Alley markets and drive by the Beijing 2008 Olympic Stadium en route to the train station. Overnight - [Sleeper Train](#)



Days 5 - 6: Luoyang - Longman Caves

Luoyang - Xi'an. Today we explore the UNESCO - listed 6th Century Longman Caves etched into the cliffs of the Yi River. The 1300 caves (grottoes) are adorned with 100,000 statues and images of Buddha and his disciples, carved during the Northern Wei Dynasty. Later we tour the White Horse Temple, the first Buddhist temple in China. Day 6, a visit to Peony Square to watch ballroom dancing, tai chi and sword fighting. After free time we board the new high speed train to Xi'an (journey time approximately 2 hours). Dinner and evening at leisure. Overnight - [Luoyang \(1\), Xi'an \(1\)](#)

Day 7: Xi'an Terracotta Warriors

Emperor Qin's Terracotta Warriors are reputed to be the greatest discovery of the 20th century - 7,000 life-sized clay soldiers stand ready for battle. We visit the archaeological site and the workshop where the replica warriors are crafted. Tonight, optional Tang Dynasty Bolt-on, with dinner and performance. Overnight - [Xi'an](#)

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Day 8: Big Wild Goose Pagoda

Xi'an - Shanghai. First up this morning, we tour the lofty Big Wild Goose Pagoda. The complex of temples, pagoda's and expansive gardens, constructed during the 7th century offered refuge and a store house for Chinese Buddhists to translate the very important Buddhist sutras from India.

The fun starts now as we take a leisurely to bicycle ride (solo or tandem) atop the well-preserved Xi'an city wall. At a minimum of 6 metres in width, 9 miles in length - with no steep inclines the wall offers a great vantage point for peeping down upon the city hubbub below. After we visit the Great Mosque, Muslim Quarter and enjoy some free time in the city centre before boarding our train destined for sizzling Shanghai. Overnight - Sleeper Train



Day 9: Shanghai

Good morning Shanghai! Just the mere mention of 'Shanghai' conjures up mystery, romance and general decadence. Pre - 1949, cosmopolitan Shanghai was a magnet for seekers of wealth, idle colonialists, explorers and the dispossessed. Everything went belly up in 1949, when Mao and the communists took to power and swept the good times and rock and roll away. A legacy of these heady times is Shanghai's Bund where on and around this waterfront promenade are a vast series of grandiose pre-1949 buildings. Just across the Huangpu River is the new Shanghai, a high-tech development of gravity defying skyscrapers.

Today we tour many of the city's top spots - Yu Gardens and Bazaar- Shanghai's finest traditional garden, the Bund, Pudong and the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, the Jade Buddha Temple and take a cruise including a cruise along the Huangpu River. Overnight - [Shanghai](#)



Day 10: Suzhou, Grand Canal Cruise

Shanghai - Suzhou - Shanghai. Today, we journey to an oriental Venice via high speed train - ancient Suzhou interwoven by a series of canals and pretty waterways. We cruise on the Grand Canal at 1800km in length it's the longest canal on earth and ranks alongside the Great Wall as China's greatest engineering achievement, and visit a silk workshop Overnight - [Shanghai](#)



Day 11: Shanghai

Tuesday. Our tour ends after breakfast and onward departure transfer to 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.

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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
- Luoyang – UNESCO listed Longman Caves and stone carvings, White Horse Buddhist Temple, Peony Square activities
- Xi'an - UNESCO listed Terracotta Warriors, Clay warrior workshop, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, City Wall and bike ride, Muslim Quarter, Great Mosque and market.
- Shanghai - Oriental Pearl TV Tower, Jade Buddha Temple, The Bund and Old Shanghai, Yuyuan Garden, Huang River skyline of Pudong City
- Suzhou - UNESCO listed gardens, Grand Canal and waterways, Silk factory, Humble Administrator's Garden

What's Included

- 10 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 2 dinners including a traditional Chinese meal in Beijing and a hot pot dinner in Xi'an
- 8 nights 3-4 star hotels
- 2 overnight trains (soft sleeper cabin)
- Chinese acrobatic performance
- Rickshaw ride through Beijings Hutongs
- Xi'an - bike ride on medieval City Wall
- Shanghai - Huangpu River Cruise
- Suzhou - historic Grand Canal cruise
- Touring of Beijing, Luoyang, Xi'an, Shanghai and Suzhou
- Tour leader escorted for groups of 6 or more
- English speaking specialist guides at local sights
- All relevant transfers and transportation
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 11
- High speed train journey between Luoyang and Xi'an

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: \$130 USD
- Tipping Kitty: \$65 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!

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.

Datong - 4 days - USD \$599

Datong is an ancient cultural city dating back more than 2,000 years, the region's biggest attraction is the UNESCO-listed Yungang Caves. Built more than 1,500 years ago, the 53 caves are a treasure trove of ancient Buddhist art comprising a fine collection of carved-sandstone Buddhist figures. The 'Hanging Temple' also located outside of Datong was constructed some 1,500 years on a precipitous rockface. Literally hugging the cliff, the temple is a total spectacle.

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.

Guilin & Yangshuo - 3 days - USD \$569

Renowned for its striking, if bizarre scenery - vast areas of karst limestone outcrops that rise up from flat rice paddy fields, Guilin is often the subject of Chinese painting. The Lijiang River cruise is a true pleasure that offers an endless procession of peaks and simple villages. Charming Yangshuo, a river town lined with cafes and little shops selling handicrafts, clothing and curios, offers gentle respite far from the madding crowds of the cities.

Dragon Boat Festival Supplement - USD \$60

The Dragon Boat Festival is one of the three most important Chinese Holidays, together with Chinese New Year and Mid-Autumn Festival. Held in the Summer (usually June, on the 5th day of the 5th month of the Chinese lunar calendar), the festival is an occasion to ward off disease and evil spirits.

PRICES AND DATES: from USD \$1,689

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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 who require their own room 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, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

2012

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
26 MAY - 05 JUN	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
09 JUN - 19 JUN	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
23 JUN - 03 JUL	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
07 JUL - 17 JUL	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
21 JUL - 31 JUL	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
04 AUG - 14 AUG	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
18 AUG - 28 AUG	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
01 SEP - 11 SEP	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
15 SEP - 25 SEP	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
29 SEP - 09 OCT	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
13 OCT - 23 OCT	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
27 OCT - 06 NOV	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
10 NOV - 20 NOV	USD \$1,689	USD \$559

2013

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
16 MAR - 26 MAR	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
30 MAR - 09 APR	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
13 APR - 23 APR	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
27 APR - 07 MAY	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
11 MAY - 21 MAY	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
25 MAY - 04 JUN	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
08 JUN - 18 JUN	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
22 JUN - 02 JUL	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
06 JUL - 16 JUL	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
20 JUL - 30 JUL	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
03 AUG - 13 AUG	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
17 AUG - 27 AUG	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
31 AUG - 10 SEP	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
14 SEP - 24 SEP	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
28 SEP - 08 OCT	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
12 OCT - 22 OCT	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
26 OCT - 05 NOV	USD \$1,689	USD \$559

09 NOV - 19 NOV	USD \$1,689	USD \$559
23 NOV - 03 DEC	USD \$1,689	USD \$559

Supplementary Prices

	Price/Person	Single Supp.
Beijing - Pre-tour accommodation	USD \$55	USD \$44
Shanghai - Post-tour accommodation	USD \$55	USD \$54

POSTCARDS:

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

On the go China have a great team - this is made up from their friendly and warm personality. The tour size was just enough that we all got to know each other and enjoy all of the chinese customs. I do plan to return to China in the future and look forward to the changes that occur.

[Kelly Brewster, May 2011](#)

We found the whole trip the best and would recomend it to our friends. Our tour leader was the greatest, very helpful and we felt safe and happy with her. I would like to thank everyone, I will remember this trip forever. It was the best! Thank you.

[Frank & Barbara Dyjak, May 2011](#)

The information given by the national and local guides was very good and I learnt a lot about each place visited. The guides were also very helpful in telling us where to go for a meal and what can we do in our free time.

[Peter, May 2011](#)

We found our guide to be a wonderful, very friendly, efficient, well organized and very knowledgeable. She gave us information on local shopping opportunities, the best local shops. She made our trip in China very special. Because of our wonderful experience here, we will be keen to take another "On The Go" tour in the future and we will definitely recommend your company and China to our friends. Thank rou for allowing us to have this wonderful opportunity.

[Marion, Michael, May 2011](#)

As a group we found Feng, our tour leader, very informative, patient,

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thoughtful, very helpful and with a great sense of humour - in short-she made our holiday very memorable and enjoyable.

Jacqui, Debbie, Simon, Jo, May 2011

Thanks on the go and especially big thank you to Feng, our guide, who made our holiday such a pleasure. We had a wonderful time in China!

Neil and Karen Maitland, Apr 2011

This was my first multiple day group tour and it was exceptional! Very well organized and executed. Mandy, our guide, was enthusiastic & knowledgeable.

Yvonne, Apr 2011

Hello Charlie, We are back from China, and just wanted to let you know that our vacation was one that we will always remember. Everything was more than expected: excellent organization, wonderful tour guides (specially Chris), luxurious hotels, delicious food, beautiful sightseeing places, etc. We totally recommend "On The Go Tours" to others. Will probably contact your company again in the future for other adventures. Thank you very much, and Happy Holidays!!!

Tomas Fernandez and Luis Presiga, Nov 2010
