

# Gateway to Tibet 11 days



Exploring Beijing's grand Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City and scenic Great Wall, Xi'an's warriors and mighty medieval fortress, we continue our journey to the roof of the world, Tibet - a spiritual land that has exerted its magnetic pull over travellers for centuries.

## TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Beijing / Ends in: Lhasa
- Departs: Saturdays - March to October
- No local payment required
- Breakfast: 10, Lunch: 2, Dinner: 3
- Hotel Rating: 3 - 4 star
- Tour Guide: Yes days 1 - 6 (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

# Gateway to Tibet 11 days

## Day 1: Beijing

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

## Day 2: Forbidden City, Tiananmen Sq

Today we explore the heart of Beijing - 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 the old city, within the imperial city. Tonight, dinner at a city restaurant. Overnight - [Beijing](#)

## Day 3: Great Wall of China

Don some comfortable shoes. Today we drive to Badaling, to walk a section of the Great Wall. The Wall is impressive to say the least. Following the ridge of barren hills through northern China it stretches as far as the eye can see. Later we visit a cloisonne workshop demonstrating the unique Chinese art of combining copper and enamel to make decorative pieces. Tonight, watch a death-defying acrobatic performance. Doing the 'splits' is an elementary skill, when compared to what these acrobats can do! Overnight - [Beijing](#)

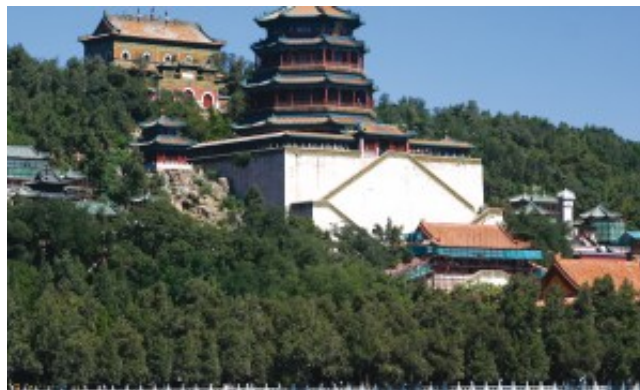


## Day 4: Summer Palace & Silk Alley

Beijing - Xi'an. This morning offers free time. If you are up for a little adventure, make your way to Wangfujing Dajie (shopping street, only a 10 minute journey). Through the winding alleys and adjacent back streets of Wangfujing you'll find numerous souvenir sellers, chinese herbalists and snack stalls, the later offering some fairly obscure local delicacies. BBQ Seahorse on a skewer anyone?

Later we re group and visit the Summer Palace, set on Kunming Lake and the cavernous Silk Alley market. En route to the train station we drive past the 2008 Olympic stadium commonly referred to as the 'birdsnest'. (4 berth soft sleeper cabin) Overnight

## - Sleeper Train



## Day 5: Terracotta Warriors

Arrive Xi'an and transfer to hotel. Today we visit the Terracotta Warrior archaeological site and a workshop where we see the process used to create the terracotta figurines. In battle formation, the Terracotta Warriors are one of China's most impressive sights. This evening we can attend a Tang Dynasty dinner and performance with Chang'an music and dance originally performed for the illustrious Tang emperors. Tonight, optional Tang Dynasty Bolt-on, with dinner and performance. Overnight - [Xi'an](#)



## Day 6: City Wall Bike Ride

Early this morning opt for our Panda excursion to the Shaanxi Rare Wildlife Rescue and Breeding Centre a 2hour drive from Xi'an. See our Giant Panda bolt-on for more info. Later, we take a leisurely bike ride along the 9 mile medieval City Wall that encircles the old town. Our afternoon offers a guided tour of the the Big Wild Goose Pagoda and early dinner. Free evening to relax or independently explore. Overnight - [Xi'an](#)

# Gateway to Tibet 11 days



## Day 7: Tibet

Xi'an - Lhasa - breakfast. Consider independently exploring the Muslim Quarter or see the Grand Mosque before your noon flight to Lhasa. Upon arrival to Tibet you will drive (approx 1.5 hours) to the fabled city of Lhasa. Once you reach Lhasa the remainder of the day is free for you to relax and acclimatise at 'the roof of the world'.

Note: Travellers will fly without tour guide accompaniment to Tibet. Upon arrival to Tibet you will meet with our local guide who will conduct sightseeing arrangements throughout your stay.

Overnight - [Lhasa](#)

## Day 8: The Potala Palace

We begin our exploration of this mystical city first heading to Lhasa's most enduring image, the Potala Palace. The winter home of the Dalai Lamas and a masterpiece in design, 13 stories high, containing thousands of rooms, this is the heart of Tibet, its (exiled) government and people. The Dalai Lama's Summer palace, Norbulingka, is our next place of pilgrimage. Less daunting and surrounded by gardens, this homely palace reflects the Dalai Lama's more earthly pleasures and it was from here the present Lama fled in the 1950's. However, it is the Jokhang Temple which will be the most enlightening stop of the day. The holiest shrine in Tibet, it houses a solid gold shrine of the enlightened Buddha and it is around which, in varying degrees of exertion, all Tibetans prostrate themselves at some point throughout their lifetime.

Overnight - [Lhasa](#)



## Day 9: Drepung Monastery

Our exploration of Lhasa continues today as we take the short journey to the 15th century Drepung Monastery. Formerly one of the central monasteries of Tibet it was torn asunder during the Cultural Revolution and continues to rebuild its walls and status today. Just north of Lhasa is the Sera Monastery, still a working retreat 600 years after its foundation as a main teaching monastery and one of the three great Gelukpa 'Universities' once housing more than 5500 monks. You will see young novices learning scriptures in the Debating Garden and being rewarded for a correct answer with a resounding hand-clap from their master. Returning to Lhasa we will experience the Barkhor markets which surround the Jokhang temple and sell all things Tibetan.

Overnight - [Lhasa](#)



## Day 10: Pilgrims & Yamdrok Lake

An early morning start as we drive out toward the Himalayas. From Lhasa, itself at 3500m, we travel over the Kamba-La pass and reach 4794m above sea level. As we journey along the winding road, weaving our way through the rocky mountains and valleys, in the far distance on a very clear day it maybe possible to catch a glimpse of the High Himalayan Peaks of Everest and Lhotse.

From the top of the pass we can look down on the deep azure waters of Yamdrok Lake, cradled by snow capped mountains before dropping down to the shores itself. One of Tibet's 3 holy

# Gateway to Tibet 11 days

lakes, nomadic tents, pilgrims prostrating and children hunting with sling shots on the stony beaches make this something you are likely to have never experienced before. Rising back into these vivid and rugged mountains we head back to Lhasa, looking for herds of Yak along the way. Overnight - [Lhasa](#)



## Day 11: Lhasa

Tuesday. Hotel check out and included onward 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.

### Trip Highlights

- Beijing - Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, UNESCO listed Emperor's Summer Palace, Silk Alley markets, Cloisonne Factory, Hutong area of Beijing and 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.
- Lhasa – Potala Palace, Norbulinka Palace, Jokhang Temple, Drepung Monastery, Sera Monastery, Barkhor Bazaar. Yamdrok Lake, Kamba-la pass
- Yamdrok Lake and Kamba-la Pass

### What's Included

- 10 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 3 dinners incl. a Peking Duck dinner in Beijing
- 9 nights 3-4 star hotels
- 1 overnight train (soft sleeper cabin)
- Chinese Acrobatic Performance
- Economy class flight - Xi'an – Lhasa

- Rickshaw ride through the Hutong area of Beijing
- Xi'an - bike ride on medieval City Wall
- 4x4 drive to Yamdrok Lake
- Touring of Beijing, Badaling, Xi'an and Lhasa
- Tour leader escorted for groups of 6 or more (days 1 - 6)
- English speaking specialist guides at local sights and for sightseeing in Tibet
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 11
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private vehicles
- Tibet Travel Permit (given to you in China).

### 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: \$115-170 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!

### 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.

### 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

# Gateway to Tibet 11 days

1,500 years on a precipitous rockface. Literally hugging the cliff, the temple is a total spectacle.

## PRICES AND DATES: from USD \$2,599

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 - 12 JUN	USD \$2,599	USD \$579
16 JUN - 26 JUN	USD \$2,599	USD \$579
22 SEP - 02 OCT	USD \$2,599	USD \$579

### Supplementary Prices

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

*Everything was so well organised and our tour leader Feng was a complete treasure. I can't stop raving about the time we had in China, I think my friends are getting annoyed. I can't help singing your praises on the go, recommending to everyone. Tibet is a must see.*

[Karen Shaw, Jun 2011](#)

*Going into Tibet made me feel humbled – it's like the land that time forgot. Such a touching experience and beautiful as well.*

[John Gunns, Nov 2009](#)

*Dear Ryan I can't believe that it is nearly 6 weeks since we returned from our trip. I have been meaning to email you ever since to tell you that we had the most wonderful trip - Tibet in particular was a never to be forgotten experience and we are both determined to go back. I guess you know that there were 8 of us to start but we lost 5 within*

*the first two days - taken off by the Chinese authorities and put in quarantine because someone on their flights had tested positive for swine flu. We were very lucky to escape. Your tour guides were as usual fabulous. In particular Pembe in Tibet was unbelievable - what a wonderful man we learnt so much from him. Tibet really made us feel very humble - difficult to put into words how special we found it. Anyway suffice to say that next year we intend motorbiking in the USA but future trips lined up include a return to Tibet; Vietnam and Cambodia; Peru; Chile and Mongolia so you shall be seeing us again. We cannot speak highly enough of On the Go!! Many thanks for all your help and good advice. Kind regards Jenny and Pete*

[Jenny and Pete, Jul 2009](#)