

# Mandarin Sunrise 15 days



Ultimate China! Travelling a full circle that begins and ends in Beijing, you will discover temples, tombs, palaces and ancient cities, uncovering culture, tradition, religion and local communities along the way. This is China at its very best - it's the full monty!

## TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Beijing / Ends in: Beijing
- Departs: Saturdays - March to October
- No local payment required
- Breakfast: 14, Lunch: 6, Dinner: 2
- Hotel Rating: 3 - 4 star (basic 2/3 star in Qufu)
- 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. Overnight - [Beijing](#)

## Day 2: Forbidden City

Today we tour of the nation's capital and host of the 2008 Olympics. Tiananmen Square is essentially the heart of Beijing. A patriotic vision of grandeur, Tiananmen Square is a square for the public and also home of the mausoleum of Chairman Mao and the striking Monument to the People's Heroes. Perhaps one of Beijing's most famous sights is the Gate of Heavenly Peace. Up above the gate and looking out across to all his people, is Chairman Mao.

Heading back a few centuries, we step into the Forbidden city, the walled city of the former Chinese emperors. Entry was Forbidden to all but those on imperial business until 1911, when the last emperor, Puyi, was overthrown. Comprising of 9999 rooms, temples and hallways the complex is an architectural feat and stunningly beautiful. This afternoon we take rickshaws to explore the Hutongs of Beijing. As our trusty rickshaw driver peddles us through the network of alleys, old back lanes, traditional courtyards and compact houses we gain a fascinating snapshot of the city's traditional way of life. There is time to meet a local family and take a peek inside their home. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at a city restaurant. Overnight - [Beijing](#)

## Day 3: The Great Wall

Today, we drive beyond Beijing to Badaling, where we can walk a section of the famous Great Wall. Parts of the wall have been renovated, a little steep in sections though not too challenging. Continuing, we visit a cloisonne workshop. Tonight, watch an incredible acrobatic show, with gymnastics, bicycles and rings of fire! Overnight - [Beijing](#)



## Day 4: Summer Palace

Beijing - Luoyang. Off to the Summer Palace, set on Kunming Lake,

where we view the lavishly decorated temples, halls and courts, reconstructed in 1902. The Long Corridor, a hand painted 730m covered walkway offers gentle respite from the elements. It is said that the Dowager Empress Cixi liked to travel with a retinue of at least 1,000. Her arrival at the rebuilt Summer Palace in 1905 was met by 458 eunuchs, and her two main meals consisted of some 100 dishes. Nice! This afternoon we visit the famed Silk Alley markets boasting more than 1000 stores and every souvenir imaginable. Later, we travel by train to Luoyang. En route we'll view the Beijing 2008 Olympic Stadium –and aquatic centre. Overnight - Sleeper Train to Luoyang

## Day 5: Longman Grottoes

Arrive Luoyang and transfer to hotel. Later we explore the UNESCO world heritage listed 6th Century Longman Caves, etched into the cliffs along the Yi River. The 1300 caves (grottoes) were hollowed out by humans to create temples inside the mountain. Adorned with more than 100,000 statues and images of Buddha and his disciples carved during the Northern Wei Dynasty. Later this afternoon we tour the much adored White Horse Temple, the first Buddhist temple in China Overnight - [Luoyang](#)



## Day 6: Xi'an

Luoyang – X'ian. Early this morning we walk to Peony Square to watch or partake in a little exercise. Many Chinese get their daily exercise by practising ballroom dancing, performing tai chi, sword fighting and play sports like badminton and hacky sack in the wee hours of the morning. There is free time before we board the new high speed train to Xi'an. Evening at leisure. Overnight - [Xi'an](#)

## Day 7: Terracotta Warriors

Xi'an is perhaps most famous for the discovery of Emperor Qin's Terracotta Warriors. Discovered in 1974 by local farmers digging a well, the 2,200 year old terracotta warriors comprise of more than 7,000 life-sized soldiers standing battle-ready in excavated pits under the cover of a modern protective hanger. No two faces are alike – each is said to be an individual portrait. Today, we visit the archaeological site of the Terracotta Warriors and a workshop where crafts people make clay warrior replicas. This evening we

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offer a Tang Dynasty dinner and performance with Chang'an music and dance originally performed for the illustrious Tang emperors. Overnight - [Xi'an](#)



## Day 8: Big Wild Goose Pagoda

Xi'an - Beijing. Exploring the city, we visit the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, enjoy a bike ride on top of the City Wall and check out the Muslim Quarter and Great Mosque. Later, we board our overnight train bound for Shanghai. Overnight - Sleeper Train to Shanghai

## Day 9: City tour

Arrive Shanghai and hotel check in. Focus your eyes on spectacular Shanghai. Perhaps China's most modern city, its amazing Pudong skyline is breathtaking. After time to freshen up we enjoy a tour of the Jade Buddha Temple, Yuyuan Garden, old Shanghai, the Bund and take a Huangpu River cruise. Overnight - [Shanghai](#)



## Days 10 - 11: Waterways

Shanghai - Suzhou - Shanghai - Qufu. Today, we journey to Suzhou by high speed train. A sort of oriental Venice, ancient Suzhou is interwoven by a series of canals and pretty waterways. We enjoy a cruise on the Grand Canal and visit a silk workshop. There's plenty to see and do in Shanghai, Day 11 is free for you to venture to the Old City, French Quarter or opt to shop along the famous Nanjing

road. This evening we bunk down in our soft sleeper train cabins en route to Qufu. Overnight - Shanghai (1) Sleeper Train to Qufu (1)



## Day 12: Qufu

Qufu, birthplace of Confucius and home to the Confucius Temple, ranks with Beijing's Forbidden city as a great classic Chinese architectural complex. With 466 rooms and over a kilometre long, the complex was built and dedicated to the descendants of the great sage, who lived here continuously for more than 2,500 years, spanning 77 generations. The grandeur and opulence of the mansion conveys the power and wealth of the mighty Kong clan and their head Yansheng Duke (Confucius' direct male descendant). The clan rose throughout imperial history as the family head was granted increased privileges. With the decline of imperial rule, the end was nigh and in 1940, the last of the family line - Kong Dechend - fled to Taiwan during the Japanese invasion. Not surprisingly, half of Qufu now claims descent from the Kongs.

After visits to the mansion and temple we take a rickshaw ride around the city wall with a visit to the eerie Confucius forest. The forest is studded with tombs and graves of Kong family members dating back some centuries. Anyone with the surname Kong can still be buried here today. Evening stroll through the colourful night market. Overnight - [Qufu](#)

## Day 13: Bu Yang Village

Qufu - Bu Yang village - Mt Tai Shan - Jinan. A short drive leads us to Bu Yang Village. The principles of Communism and communal work and land ownership are somewhat still in place here. We stop for a light lunch at Mr Peng's (one of the party officials) home. Seated around the family's low to the ground lazy Susan, Mrs Peng serves up local dishes and copious bottles of beer. This is real village life! A short stroll leads us to the village prep-school, (our Change 4 Children project) we step into the class room to be swarmed by the mass of 5yr olds all vying for our attention. Later we drive to Mt Tai Shan, perhaps the holiest of the five Chinese holy mountains devoted to Taoism. There are more than 6000 steps to the summit, streams of pilgrims take the challenge, we take the cable car. With stunning scenery and many ancient

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temples dotting the slopes we visit Heaven Street, Cloud Bridge and the Jade Emperor's temple. A short drive to Jinan. Overnight - [Jinan](#)



## Day 14: Jinan

Jinan - Beijing. Today, we embark on a short city sightseeing tour and enjoy a fabulous Hotpot lunch. Afternoon express train journey to Beijing. Overnight - [Beijing](#)



## Day 15: Beijing

Saturday. Tour ends after breakfast 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
- 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
- Qufu - UNESCO listed Confucius Mansion, temple and forest.
- Bu Yung village - village, homestead and kindergarten
- Jinan - UNESCO listed Mt Tai Shan (Peaceful Mountain). Heaven Street, Cloud Bridge, Jade Emperor's Temple

### What's Included

- 14 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 2 dinners including a Traditional Peking Duck dinner in Beijing and 2 Hotpot lunches
- 11 nights 3-4 star hotels (basic 2/3 star in Qufu)
- 3 overnight trains (soft sleeper cabin)
- Chinese acrobatic performance
- Rickshaw ride through Beijing's Hutongs
- Xi'an - bike ride on medieval City Wall
- Shanghai - Huangpu River Cruise
- Suzhou - historic Grand Canal cruise
- Touring of Beijing, Badaling, Luoyang, Xi'an, Shanghai, Suzhou, Qufu and Jinan
- Return cable car journey - Mt Tai Shan
- English speaking specialist guides at local sights
- All relevant transfers and transportation
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 15
- Tour leader escorted for groups of 6 or more
- High speed train journey - Luoyang - 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: \$192 USD
- Tipping Kitty: \$90 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.

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## 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!

## 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.

## 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 \$2,399

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.
26 MAY - 09 JUN	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
09 JUN - 23 JUN	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
23 JUN - 07 JUL	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
07 JUL - 21 JUL	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
21 JUL - 04 AUG	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
04 AUG - 18 AUG	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
18 AUG - 01 SEP	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
01 SEP - 15 SEP	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
15 SEP - 29 SEP	USD \$2,399	USD \$729

29 SEP - 13 OCT	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
13 OCT - 27 OCT	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
27 OCT - 10 NOV	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
10 NOV - 24 NOV	USD \$2,399	USD \$729

#### 2013

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
16 MAR - 30 MAR	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
30 MAR - 13 APR	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
13 APR - 27 APR	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
27 APR - 11 MAY	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
11 MAY - 25 MAY	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
25 MAY - 08 JUN	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
08 JUN - 22 JUN	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
22 JUN - 06 JUL	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
06 JUL - 20 JUL	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
20 JUL - 03 AUG	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
03 AUG - 17 AUG	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
17 AUG - 31 AUG	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
31 AUG - 14 SEP	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
14 SEP - 28 SEP	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
28 SEP - 12 OCT	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
12 OCT - 26 OCT	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
26 OCT - 09 NOV	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
09 NOV - 23 NOV	USD \$2,399	USD \$729
23 NOV - 07 DEC	USD \$2,399	USD \$729

#### Supplementary Prices

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

### POSTCARDS:

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

*Fantastic, the Mandarin Sunrise tour is a tour we'll never forget and for all the right reasons. We saw all the amazing sights listed and more, our guides were made for the job and helped us out anytime we needed as well as being very knowledgeable and professional. There is so much we could talk about the trip but the Longman caves and*

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*carvings are one of the less known wonders that we were amazed at. When you start running out of memory cards for your camera, you know you've had the trip of a lifetime!*

Mr John Gillies, Oct 2011

*The trip has been very educational & amazing, our guides have been great - all very friendly & helpful. Thanks!*

Leanne Bakse/James , May 2011

*Dear Mr Jiang, I just thought that I would drop you a short line to say how much I enjoyed my trip to China with On the Go Tours. It was an amazing experience and one that myself and my wife will never forget. One particular aspect of the trip that we enjoyed was the quality and knowledge of the tour guides that we had. In particular Mandy was terrific and I really wanted to drop you a short note to say what an amazing asset she is to your company. She really goes that extra mile to make your trip an enjoyable one and has such an excellent personality and really takes care with her group to ensure that they have enjoyed each aspect of their holiday. Please pass on my best regards to your team and of course Mandy for a trip that I will never forget.*

James Tonner, Dec 2010

*Would not have done this without on the go. We were made feel very welcome, safe and well cared for. We experienced some things that would have never been able to organize ourselves - ie. Embroidery Institute in Suzhou and the great walk through the alleys of the old town in Jinan. It is very hard to pick a single thing to be the highlight of the trip, but it would probably be the visit to the village in Shandong Province - playing with the children was an absolute delight and we were honoured to be invited to their homes for lunch. We would like to thank everyone who had a part in making this an amazing holiday.*

Pauline Stephenson and Keith Saunders, Jul 2010

*Wow – what a country! It's been an incredible tour and I will cherish the memories forever.*

Kathryn Dawes, Nov 2009

*Hi Charlie Just return from our amazing trip to China ... wow, what can i say! So please we added the extra days and got to visit Jinan and Qufu as it was thoroughly rural China and we both enjoyed seeing how people lived! Our guide Regina was excellent and extremely well organised, plus she had a great sense of humour which always helps. Everything about the trip was absolutely amazing but if i had to give you three highlights it would be climbing the Wall, visiting the*

*Terracotta Warriors, meeting Mr Peng in Bu Yang village and shopping in Silk Alley Market ... I know that's four highlights, but what can i say - i'm a shopoholic so had to add Silk Alley market!! Thanks so much On the Go, we'll be back ...*

Nicki & Jarome, Sep 2009

*A faultless tour which ran like clockwork so full compliments to our guide Jin who showed us China through his eyes. Couldn't fault a thing - a very enjoyable and educational 13 days.*

Ben Trotter, Jul 2009