

totally china

# go guide

don't leave home without it



## tour spotlight

### what you see

- Beijing - Tiananmen Sq., Forbidden City, UNESCO-listed Great Wall, UNESCO-listed Ming Tombs, UNESCO-listed Summer Palace, Silk Alley markets, Cloisonne Factory
- Xi'an - UNESCO-listed Terracotta Warriors, clay warrior workshop, Huaqing Hot Springs, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, City Wall, Muslim Quarter
- Guilin - River Li cruise, Yangshuo
- Tunxi & UNESCO-listed Huangshan region - Yellow Mountain
- Suzhou - UNESCO-listed gardens, Grand Canal & waterways, Humble Administrator's Garden, Silk factory
- Shanghai - Oriental Pearl TV Tower, Jade Buddha Temple, The Bund and Old Shanghai, Yuyuan Garden, Huang River skyline of Pudong City

### what you get

- 17 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 11 dinners
- 16 nights 3 - 4 ★ hotels
- 1 nights sleeper train
- Xi'an - bike ride on medieval City Wall
- Guilin - River Li cruise to Yangshuo
- Hangzhou - bicycle ride
- Huangshan - cable car ride to Yellow Mountain
- Suzhou - historic Grand Canal cruise
- Shanghai - Huangpu River cruise
- Economy class flights - Xi'an - Guilin - Hangzhou
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 & day 18
- Touring and excursions as per itinerary
- Local English speaking specialist guides at local sights
- All relevant transfers and transportation



## on location

### Your guide to on the ground...

#### visa requirements

Visas are required by all visitors to China. It is essential the visa is procured prior to travel. Visa forms are available from us and also supplied upon booking. Please ensure your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of return from China. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change. Visa procurement is also the responsibility of the traveller and not of on the go.

#### climate

In all, China has a great diversity of climates. To sum it up - China experiences hot summers in most parts of the country, very cold winters in the north and comfortable winters in the south! Sep-Oct is warm to hot and dry across the country. Nov-Mar is winter with very cool temps in the north, whilst mild in the south. If combining the north and south, you'll experience 2 distinct weather patterns. Apr-May - perfect in the north, if a little humid and rainy in the south. Jun-Aug can bring a few showers.

#### time

China is 8 hours ahead of GMT ( during BST-7hrs)

#### money

GBP£1.00 = CNY10.77 USD1.00 = CNY6.66 (subject to fluctuation). The Yuan is exchangeable prior to arrival in China. Exchange facilities are available at various bureau de changes and banks. ATM machines exist in all major towns and cities.

#### health requirements

Recommendations - Tetanus and Polio (if no booster in 10 yrs, plus Typhoid (valid 3 yrs) and Hepatitis A (validity varies). A Malarial risk exists in remote areas of the south, and Rabies and Meningitis are present in Tibet and remote areas, so seek medical advice.

## how much?

- **ENTRANCE FEES**  
Entrance fees are not included in your tour. Please budget approximately **USD\$135**
- **TIPPING KITTY**  
A small tipping kitty will be collected from all tour participants to cover tips en route. **USD\$90**
- Can of coke, 330ml **CNY3-5**
- Mineral water (local brand, 500ml or 1L) **CNY2-5**
- Meal for 2 (entree, main, a beer, local restaurant) **CNY150**
- Beer (local brew Tsingtao - 640ml approx) **CNY4-10**
- Chocolate candy bar (local brand) **CNY7**

## bright ideas

- Bring a hat for the sun. Bring a broly for any rain!
- Don't forget to bring your camera and go snap happy.
- If you fancy a tippie, take advantage of Duty Free buys.
- Buy some Yuan (currency) at the airport on arrival.
- Buy a phrasebook and practice your holiday Mandarin.
- Bring a small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Keep a supply of small notes for local transactions.
- Keep a photocopy of your passport data pages.

## 5 things to do/see:

- The Great Wall. An enduring behemoth. Go and take a climb. This is China.
- Once forbidden to all but the emperor and his entourage, the Forbidden City is open for some imperial exploration in Beijing.
- Take a stroll on gargantuan Tiananmen Square - a square for the public and home of Mao's mausoleum.
- Check out the terracotta warriors in Xi'an
- Check out Shanghai's futuristic Pudong skyline, and The Bund. Once old Shanghai's commercial heart, it's a combination of Liverpool and 1920s Manhattan.

# the big 5

## 5 things to buy:

- Chairman Mao's famous quotation-filled little red book. A classic People's Republic souvenir.
- A Chinese foot massage. Seriously good for the soul.
- A bottle of Maotai - essentially Chinese firewater!
- Your own personal ink seal, personalised in Chinese characters with a carved marble or bronze handle.
- A few choice purchases from the many markets. A fancy new famous brand ski jacket or handbag?





# totally china : itinerary

## day 1 - beijing

Beijing - Good Morning Beijing! Arrival transfer from the airport to our hotel. If arriving into Terminal 2, please turn right once you've passed customs to reach the pick up point. If arriving into Terminal 3, you will be met just outside of the restricted area.

Overnight - Beijing.

## day 2 - forbidden city

Beijing - breakfast. Today we set out to sightsee the nation's capital. Beijing is also China's political, economic and cultural big boy. It's been around since the year dot. Established in 1045 BC, for 800 years alone it served as the capital of several powerful dynasties. Tiananmen Square is a square for the public and also home of the mausoleum of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the Communist father of the Communist People's Republic and the striking Monument to the People's Heroes. We'll have a stroll on the square, which attracts many pleasure seekers taking photos.

Across the way is the Forbidden City. A vision in grandeur with its imperial yellow roofs and vermilion walls, the Forbidden City, once forbidden to all those except on imperial business until 1911, when the last emperor, Puyi, was turfed off his throne. Beijing was always a walled city but the Forbidden City, seat of the great emperors, was the innermost sanctum of the city. Built between 1406 and 1420, it served as the imperial palace for the Ming and Qing dynasties. Enjoy a guided walk through the city's many temples, grand halls and courtyards. This evening, enjoy a dinner at a city restaurant. Dinner and overnight - Beijing.

## day 3 - the great wall

Today, travel beyond Beijing to Badaling, where you can walk (and almost climb on some sections) on the Great Wall. No matter how many pictures you've seen, the Great Wall of China is grand. Following a ridge of barren hills through northern China, it stretches as far as the eye can see - at least 6,700 kms. Continuing, a visit is made to the tombs of the Ming emperors, where some 13 emperors were interred. The tombs are approached via a sacred gateway and gate houses. Also visit a cloisonne workshop, where you'll see firsthand the production of decorative items utilising the techniques of this practised and ancient craft. Lunch and overnight - Beijing

## day 4 - summer palace

Beijing - Xi'an - breakfast - Visit Silk Alley markets and the Summer Palace with its UNESCO-listed imperial gardens, located on Kunming Lake. Overnight train to Xi'an.

## day 5 - xi'an / terracotta warriors

Xi'an - breakfast. 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 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, Huanqing Hot Springs, a scenic spot in the shadow of Li Mountain and a workshop where crafts people make clay warrior replicas. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Xi'an

## day 6 - big wild goose pagoda

Xi'an - Shanghai - breakfast. Today, we visit the city symbol, the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, before enjoying a leisurely bike ride on Xi'an's medieval City Wall, which dates from the Ming dynasty. We then visit the local Muslim Quarter and Great Mosque. Later, fly from Xi'an to Guilin. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Guilin.

## day 7 - guilin

Guilin - Yangshuo - Guilin - breakfast. Renown 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. We undertake a relaxing cruise down the River Li to Yangshuo passing an endless procession of peaks and simple villages. The local fishermen use trained cormorants to catch fish and local village boys paddle out to the river boats with all manner of souvenirs. We spend some time in charming Yangshuo, with its little shops and cafes. Back in Guilin, we visit the enormous Reed Flute Caves. Lunch, Dinner and overnight - Guilin.

## days 8 & 9 - hangzhou

Guilin - Hangzhou - breakfast. Today, we fly from Guilin to scenic Hangzhou. Hangzhou is unusual for a Chinese city in that it encompasses large tracts of greenery which might normally be classified as countryside. This is thanks to Xi Hu, the large lake that Hangzhou straddles. The lake is dotted with various islands and causeways, whilst the shoreline offers wonderful vistas of green trees, hills, flowers, pavillions, pagodas and boats.

Hangzhou is also the southern terminus of the Grand Canal and an important centre for silk, tea and paper-making. We visit Six Harmonies Pagoda and Chinese Tea Museum. On day 9 we explore the West Lake, Lingyin Temple and take a bicycle ride. Lunch, dinner and overnight (2) - Hangzhou.

## day 10 - tunxi

Huangzhou - Tunxi - breakfast. Sitting at the foot of Mt Huangshan, Tunxi is an ancient town that is set around the junction of two rivers in the southernmost area of Anhui Province. It's famous ancient street is lined with many ancient, yet very well preserved buildings in the Ming and Qing style. Upon arriving in Tunxi, the remainder of the day at leisure. Lunch, dinner and overnight Tunxi.

## days 11 & 12 - yellow mountain

Tunxi region for Huangshan and region - breakfast. Visit Huangshan by cable car. Considered the most beautiful mountain in China, Yellow Mountain or Huangshan is one of a range of 72 peaks in the south of Anhui Province. Set amidst rural landscapes and with its slopes clad in pine, the ethereal scenery is nothing short of breathtaking. Some 9,000 steps have been carved into the mountain, for those that want to walk up the most stunning stairwell on earth, though our excursion does include a return cable-car journey to the scenic area, where you'll stay for two nights in a hotel at the top. Lunch, dinner and overnight (2) - Huangshan (Yellow Mountain).

## days 13 & 14 - suzhou

Tunxi - Suzhou - breakfast. Day 13 - continue to ancient Suzhou in Jiangsu Province. Day 14 - one of China's most charming cities, Suzhou's fame rests on its waterways, and canals that are dotted with traditional bridges, houses and UNESCO-listed gardens. A cruise on the Grand Canal exposes Suzhou's beauty. Also visit a silk workshop and the Humble Administrator's Garden. Lunch, dinner and overnight (2) - Suzhou.

## days 15 & 16 - zhouzhuang

Suzhou - Zhouzhuang - Shanghai - breakfast. Enroute to Shanghai we stop off at lovely Zhouzhuang - an ancient town featuring traditional buildings, small bridges and tree-lined waterways astride the Jinghang Canal. Focus your eyes on spectacular Shanghai. Perhaps China's most modern city, its amazing Pudong skyline is breathtaking. Enjoy a tour of the Bund area and a cruise on the Huangpu River. On day 16 we tour the Jade Buddha Temple, Yuyuan Garden, Old City area, Oriental Pearl TV tower and Shanghai Museum. Overnight (2) - Shanghai.

## day 17 - shanghai

Shanghai - breakfast. Today is free for you to explore. Perhaps visit the French Quarter or the Old City and have a drink at the landmark Peace Hotel on Shanghai's Bund, with its legendary jazz band which play nostalgic rhythms amidst 1930's Art Deco elegance. Overnight - Shanghai.

## day 18 - shanghai

Breakfast. Hotel checkout and included onward departure transfer to the airport.

Note: This itinerary is semi-independent in style. The Totally China itinerary is arranged and operated exclusively for you on a departure date of your individual choosing. You travel by yourself (with local representation at various points) without joining a group. However, on occasion consolidation of travellers may occur during some sightseeing or transportation. Whilst a rating of 3-4 star hotels is given, accommodation can be upgraded at additional cost. Please ask!

\*The go guide & information contained herein has been compiled with care and in good faith. It is as accurate an illustration as can be given with regard to the proposed itinerary. Circumstances beyond our control such as inclement weather or local conditions could force us to amend the proposed itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the client and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown may be subject to change but are an accurate reflection of costs at the time of writing this go guide. Please also be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and remain the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go.



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