

Hong Kong to Hong Kong

16 days | Starts/Ends: Hong Kong



SEMI INDEPENDENT TOUR:
Discover China's ancient and reinvented culture. Marvel at the iconic cityscape in Hong Kong and karst landscape of Yangshuo, get up close to China's national icon in Chengdu's Panda Breeding and Research Centre, walk among the Terracotta Warrior army in Xi'an and through the ultra-modern capital Beijing.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Hong Kong – marvel at the Hong Kong skyline from Victoria Peak
- Chengdu – visit the famous Panda Conservation centre and get up and close with China's national symbol
- Shaolin – learn the art of Kung Fu from masters from Shaolin Temple (optional)
- Mandarin Challenge – enjoy free Mandarin lessons with your guides and use your new skills completing challenges around Beijing
- Great Wall of China – hike to unrestored sections of the wall, set up camp on a deserted section and watch the sunrise on one of the Wonders of the World

- Xi'an – walk among the famous UNESCO listed Terracotta warriors made to protect the emperor in the afterlife
- Yulong River – cruise along the karst landscape of Yulong River in Chinese style bamboo rafts
- Beijing – roam the streets of China's fascinating capital independently. Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Silk Alley markets, Jade Carving Factory, Hutong area of Beijing, Chinese Acrobatic Show
- Yangshuo – cycle through post-card worthy landscapes and past limestone peaks along the Li River

What's Included

- 11 nights hostel, 1-night camping, 3 overnight trains (6 berth hard sleeper cabins): Chengdu – Xi'an; Zhengzhou - Beijing; Beijing – Hong Kong
- Daytime trains: Hong Kong – Guilin; Guilin – Chengdu
- All relevant transfer and transportation within China using public transport
- Local guides for scheduled sightseeing in Yungshuo, Chengdu, Xi'an, Shaolin and Beijing. Unescorted travel between cities
- Free basic Mandarin lessons
- Local guide in Hong Kong for tour briefing
- Entrance to Terracotta Warriors museum
- Hiking along unrestored parts of the Great Wall of China

- Entrance to Giant Panda Research & Breeding Centre
- Cycle and cruise excursion down Yulong River

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
- Optional activities, these must be paid for locally
- Laundry, meals, drinks, items of a personal nature

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Hong Kong to Yangshuo



Hong Kong – Yangshuo. Welcome to China. Arrive into Hong Kong International Airport and independently travel by public transport

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USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

updated on 22-02-2019

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into the Yess Inn @ Tau Ma Tei Hostel where you will be met by your tour leader and the rest of the group. We then travel to Victoria Peak for spectacular views of the cityscape and harbour. Return to the hostel to collect our bags before independently boarding our first bullet train to Guilin (3 hours), where meet our new tour leader and transfer to our hostel in Yangshuo for an evening at leisure.

Please note: The meeting time at the hostel is 7am **Overnight - Yangshuo**

Days 2-4 : Yangshuo

Yangshuo, set on the banks of the Li River, home to karst limestone peaks and emerald waters, is ours to explore for the next few days. On arrival we are met by our new trip leader and make our way to the hostel for an afternoon to explore Yangshuo at leisure or perhaps partake in some of the optional activities; kayak down the Li River or for those looking to unwind there is the option to enjoy some traditional Chinese therapies, such as hot cupping. This evening wander down West Street or witness the spellbinding sound and light show Impression Liu Sanjie, a must see in Yangshuo!

On day 3 we begin exploring this stunning landscape with a bike tour passing spectacular scenes of rural life; farmers tending rice paddies, village people washing their clothes in the river and fisherman meandering downstream on their bamboo rafts. We reach the Yulong river, a tributary of the Li River where we have the opportunity to glide down the silky water on our very own traditional bamboo rafts, passing ancient bridges and villages on the river, the perfect photo opportunity. The rest of the afternoon and next day are at leisure to relax; try your hand at cooking some traditional Chinese cuisine, travel to the famous Moon Hill and caves for a dip in the mud baths and hot springs, enjoy deep water soloing or rock climbing on the limestone peaks, or visit your leaders home village for a truly authentic experience showcasing rural life in China. Whatever you decide to do, you will not be disappointed

Overnight - Yangshuo

Day 5 : Yangshuo to Chengdu

Yangshuo – Chengdu. Spend our final morning in Yangshuo at leisure before boarding the bus to Guilin where we bid farewell to our leader and board the night train to Chengdu (approx 7 hours). **Overnight - Sleeper Train**

Days 6-7 : Chengdu Pandas



Chengdu, the capital of the Sichuan Province and home to the world-famous Giant Panda Research & Breeding Centre, created to protect and breed this once endangered animal, imitating the panda's natural habitat so that they might have the best possible environment for breeding and rearing. We arrive just in time to witness these furry creatures tuck into breakfast and have the chance to wander through the grounds. Be sure to visit the nursery to see the new born pandas and look out for the other endangered animals housed here such as the red panda, black-necked cranes and much more. This afternoon our leader gives us a basic Mandarin lesson, before arriving back to the hostel for an evening at leisure. For those looking for some evening entertainment, there is an optional traditional Sichuan Opera on offer tonight.

Day 7 is at leisure to meander around Chengdu or participate in some of the optional activities on offer. Visit Leshan and marvel at the world's largest stone Buddha, which took over 90 years to carve, or sample the famous Sichuan hot pot. This evening sample the city's buzzing nightlife scene!

Overnight - Chengdu

Day 8 : Chengdu to Xi'an

Chengdu – Xi'an. We spend one final morning in Chengdu to visit any last-minute sites we have missed. Visit Wenshu monastery, the Sichuan Province museum or visit a traditional Chinese tea house before saying goodbye to our Sichuanese leader and board the night train to Xi'an! **Overnight - Sleeper Train**

Days 9-10 : Xi'an & Terracotta Warriors



On arrival to Xi'an we are greeted by our new leader and board the bus to our hostel to check-in and freshen up or participate in some of the optional excursions. Bike ride along the Ming Dynasty ancient wall that divides the city, explore the Bell-drum towers, wander through the Muslim quarter to see unique Chinese mosques and learn about the history of the Silk Road. For dinner we recommend the local street food in the Muslim quarter, the lamb skewers are a must!

On the morning of day 10, we visit the jewel of Xi'an – The Terracotta Warriors. The army was made to guard Emperor Qin Shihuang in the afterlife after he unified China for the first time in history. Take time to walk through this impressive army and museum which has been built on top of the emperor's underground palace and burial site. This evening there is the option to give back to the community with a visit to the Star Sun Home, a local charity in the heart of the Muslim district, which provides care and education to children with mental illness.

Overnight - Xi'an

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Day 11 : Xi'an to Shaolin

Xi'an – Shaolin. Today we leave Xi'an behind and board the bus to Shaolin (approx. 7 hours). On arrival we make our way to our family run guest house, located a stone's throw away from the Shaolin temple. This afternoon there is an optional Kung Fu lesson and show at a local children's home run by a master from the Shaolin Temple. We dine together at the guesthouse (at your own expense), and for dessert, we have our second Mandarin lesson! **Overnight - Dengfeng**

Day 12 : Shaolin to Beijing



Shaolin – Beijing. Rise and shine early this morning for an optional visit to The Shaolin Temple, the flagship of Kung Fu, to admire the masters practicing physically impossible moves in the courtyard. We then hike to Dharma cave, located on Elephant Trunk Mountain and dedicated to Dharma who became a Buddha after 10 years of meditation in the cave, and are rewarded with stunning views of the surrounding shrines and landscapes. Return to the guesthouse for a late lunch (at your own expense) before we check out and board our night train to Beijing (approx. 10 hours). **Overnight - Sleeper Train**

Day 13 : The Great Wall

We arrive into Beijing bright and early this morning, where we're greeted by our new leader and take a bus to the Great Wall stopping at a local farming village for lunch (at your own expense). Make sure you wear comfortable walking shoes as we will be hiking on un-restored sections of the wall, where we'll have the place to ourselves, as we watch the sun set on this Wonder of the World and enjoy another Mandarin lesson with our leader.

Please note: Due to cold weather bookings made before the end of April and after the end of September will be staying in a guesthouse near the Wall but will return to the Wall to watch the sun rise.

Overnight - Camping on Great Wall

Day 14 : Morning at The Great Wall



We have an early start this morning as we wake up bright and early to witness the sun rise along the Great Wall, a completely unforgettable experience. We then return to Beijing where we have the rest of the day to enjoy this amazing city. In the afternoon there is an optional excursion to the fake goods market and use your haggling skills to buy souvenirs for your friends and family. Perhaps taste Beijing's signature dish of Peking Roast Duck before witnessing a stunning acrobatics performance this evening. **Overnight - Beijing**

Day 15 : Beijing to Hong Kong



Today is our final day in the Chinese capital and is ours to explore as we see fit. Take a walk-through Tiananmen Square, visit the Forbidden city, the once imperial palace of 24 emperors during the Ming and Qing dynasties. For a bird's eye view of the Forbidden city, Temple of heaven and Tiananmen Square head to Jingshan Park. There is also an optional visit to Nanluo

district, one of the best-preserved historical areas in Beijing, famous for its hutongs and siheyuan courtyards as well as an array of bars and cafes. This evening we board our night train to Shenzhen (approx 22 hours).

Overnight - Sleeper Train

Day 16 : Hong Kong

We arrive into Hong Kong via Shenzhen in the evening where our tour ends. Transfers to the airport or additional nights accommodation in Hong Kong can be arranged on request for an additional fee.

PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. 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. If a roommate cannot be found the single room supplement will apply.

PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
11 Mar	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
13 Mar	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
18 Mar	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
20 Mar	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
25 Mar	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
01 Apr	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
03 Apr	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
10 Apr	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
15 Apr	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
22 Apr	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
27 May	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
29 May	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
03 Jun	USD 1,495	USD 1,495

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Date	Twin Share	Single
05 Jun	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
10 Jun	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
19 Jun	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
26 Jun	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
01 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
03 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
08 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
15 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
17 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
22 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
24 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
31 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
05 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
07 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
12 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
14 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
21 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
28 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
02 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
04 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
11 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
16 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
18 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
25 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
02 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
07 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
09 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
16 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
23 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
30 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,495

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
03 Jun	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
08 Jun	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
10 Jun	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
17 Jun	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
24 Jun	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
01 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
06 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
08 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
15 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
22 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
27 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
29 Jul	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
05 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
10 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
12 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
19 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
26 Aug	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
02 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
07 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
14 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
16 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
23 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
30 Sep	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
07 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
14 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
19 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
21 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
28 Oct	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
04 Nov	USD 1,495	USD 1,495

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
09 Mar	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
11 Mar	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
18 Mar	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
25 Mar	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
01 Apr	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
06 Apr	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
08 Apr	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
15 Apr	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
22 Apr	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
29 Apr	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
06 May	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
11 May	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
13 May	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
20 May	USD 1,495	USD 1,495
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