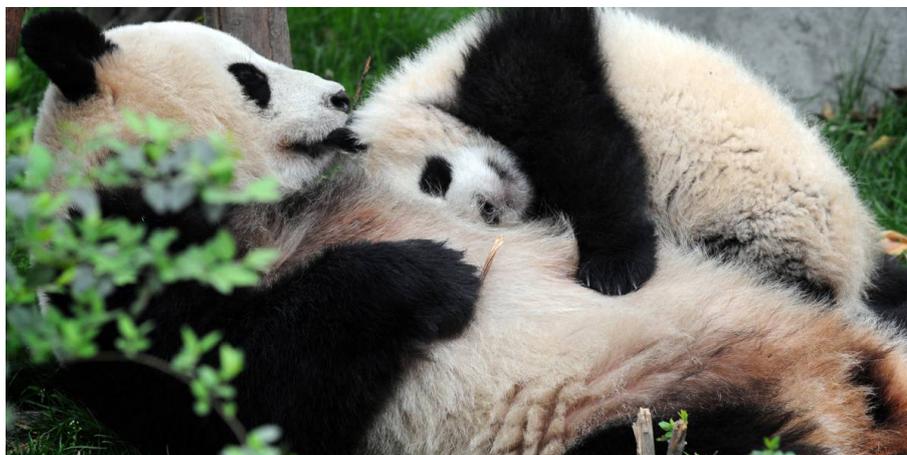


Best of China

14 Days | Beijing to Shanghai



Setting out from Beijing uncover some of China's most famous and ancient sites, from the legendary Great Wall, to Xi'an's Terracotta Warriors and Leshan's Giant Buddha, plus meet the country's cuddly mascot, walk the Dragon's Backbone and enjoy some free time in spectacular Yangshuo.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- YANGSHUO - Free time to explore these spectacular surroundings at your own pace
- LONGSHENG - The Dragon's Backbone rice terraces.
- CHENGDU - Giant Panda Research Base - one of the best places in the world to see the Giant Panda and pioneers of panda research and conservation in China, Jinji Old Street and Wuhou Memorial Temple
- LESHAN - Leshan's Giant Buddha. Carved into the rockface, standing at 71m tall, its one of the world's largest Buddhas
- BEIJING - Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Silk Alley markets, Jade Carving Factory, Hutong area of Beijing, Chinese Acrobatic Show

- BADALING and JUYONGGUAN - 2 UNESCO listed sections of Great Wall of China
- XI'AN - UNESCO listed Terracotta Warriors, Clay warrior workshop, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, City Wall and bike ride and Muslim Quarter
- SHANGHAI - free time to explore

What's Included

- 13 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 1 Peking Duck dinner
- 12 nights 3 - 4 star hotels
- 1 overnight train: Beijing - Xi'an (4-berth soft sleeper cabin):
- 2 economy class one way flights: Chengdu - Guilin and Guilin - Shanghai
- High speed train journey: Xi'an - Chengdu
- Touring of Beijing, Badaling, Juyongguan, Xi'an, Chengdu, Longsheng and Yangshuo
- Chinese acrobatic performance
- Rickshaw ride through Beijings' Hutongs
- Xi'an - bike ride on medieval City Wall
- Tour Guide escorted for groups of 6 or more
- Beijing Capital Airport arrival transfer on day 1 and departure transfer day 14 from Shanghai Airport
- English speaking specialist guides at local sights
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private A/C vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$100-110pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$110-120pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide is not included in the Tip Kitty. We suggest USD\$3-5 per day, per traveller for a job well done, however the amount is up to you

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Beijing

Saturday. Huan ying, welcome to China and the start of your holiday! Airport arrival transfer from Beijing Capital Airport to your hotel for check-in. The remainder of the day offers free time for you to independently explore this astonishing city.

If you require a transfers from Daxing International Airport, this can be arranged at an additional fee, please speak with your reservations consultant for further details.

Day one is designed to be an arrival day for all passengers, so there are no formal arrangements on this first day.

Overnight - Beijing

Day 2 : Forbidden City

This morning we gather for a short a Welcome Meeting. Your entrance fees and tip kitty will

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Best of China

be collected at this time. Then, it's time to set off and see some of Beijing. A patriotic vision of grandeur, Tiananmen Square is a square for the public and also home to the mausoleum of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the striking Monument to the People's Heroes. In the square Mao's gargantuan mausoleum where since his death in 1976, he has lain in state in his crystal coffin. Although we don't visit the mausoleum - we do have the opportunity to walk around the outside of it which is usually filled with local tourists snaking their way around it in long queues. We'll take a further stroll on the square, which attracts many tourists wishing to take photos, all under the watchful eye of the dutiful guards.

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 a famous colour portrait of Chairman Mao Tse-tung. Today, he is looking at a different Beijing, one that is quickly entering the 21st century. The Gate of Heavenly Peace is the main entry point into the Forbidden City. A vision of 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. Built between 1406 and 1420, it served as the imperial palace for the Ming and Qing dynasties. We enjoy a guided walk through the city's many temples, grand halls and courtyards. A fascinating place to explore, the 720,000 sq m lavishly constructed Forbidden City boasts 9999 rooms!

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, before returning to our hotel. This evening, we enjoy an eye boggling Chinese acrobatic performance. Swinging ropes, juggling hoops, spinning plates and human pyramids are just a few tricks these show stoppers pull out followed by a Welcome Dinner of Peking Duck. **Overnight - Beijing (B, D)**

Day 3 : The Great Wall



After a free morning to further explore the city, we drive beyond Beijing to Badaling, where we can walk a section of the famous Great Wall. An enduring symbol of Chinese civilisation and genius, the UNESCO protected Great Wall of China was built as a defensive structure. The immense construction took place over a period of 2,000 years and followed different routes and building extensions as required. Snaking some 6700 kms across barren hills, deserts, mountains and plateaux, the now partially ruinous Great Wall stretches east to west in northern China. At one time perhaps nearly 9700 kms long, the wall was garrisoned by 1 million soldiers and featured over 1,000 fortified passes and 10,000 beacon towers. A little steep in sections, but the photo opportunities are worth a million dollars!

This evening we spend the night at our quaint hotel which offers views of the Great Wall near Juyongguan Pass. We rate our accommodation this evening as 'basic'. Guest rooms are clean and offer ensuite facilities, though furnishings and amenities are outdated. We use the Changjuyuan hotel (with very few alternatives in the area), due to its exceptional location - just minutes by bus from the Juyongguan section of the Wall. The location of the property affords us the opportunity to be at the Juyongguan Pass section of the wall early tomorrow morning to enjoy a leisurely walk along the wall, without the tourist masses. **Overnight - Juyongguan Pass (B)**

Day 4 : Morning at the Great Wall



Beijing - Xi'an. We rise early this morning and head (5 min bus drive) to the Great Wall at Juyongguan Pass when it opens to beat the crowds.

Surrounded by rugged mountains, Juyongguan Pass was an important military stronghold from the days of 770BC! This part of the Great Wall is in good condition and offers those who want it, a quite challenging walk to the top - but those willing to give it a go will be rewarded with magnificent views! This part of the wall has a number of Buddhist temples including the fascinating Cloud Platform which is famous for its Buddhist inscriptions and carvings. The 'platform' was originally the base for a number of Stupas.

Later we visiting a Jade Carving Centre to learn about this ornamental rock and its importance in Chinese culture. After lunch we head back to Beijing. Free time is offered in the cavernous Pearl Market, before travelling by express soft sleeper train to Xi'an in Shaanxi Province.

Note: For those that are not interested in shopping at the Pearl Market, you have the option of visiting the Temple of Heaven if you haven't done so already, the entrance gate is directly across the road from the Pearl Market. In 1998, the temple was added to the World Heritage List and in 2005 underwent a USD\$5.9 million face-lift in preparation for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The temple is well worth a visit especially now renovated. Entrance fees are approx. 35¥pp (dependent upon time of year) and entrance tickets can be purchased on the day at the front gate.

Overnight - Sleeper Train (B, L)

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Day 5 : Terracotta Warriors



Arrive Xi'an. Most famous for the Terracotta Warriors, perhaps the find of the 20th century and only just usurped by the discovery of King Tut's gold-laden tomb in Egypt, Emperor Qin's Terracotta Warriors comprise more than 7,000 life-sized soldiers which stand in military formation in excavated pits under the cover of a modern protective hanger. Made of local clay, no two faces are alike, each is said to be an individual portrait.

Emperor Qin's army of 2,200 year old terracotta warriors were discovered in 1974 by local farmers who happened to be digging a well. Previous emperors used to be buried with their slaves but slavery had been abolished. So, to make up for this, Qin had the warriors made to be buried near him to protect him in the afterlife. Delicate excavation continues on site, where hundreds of warriors remain smashed like eggs, not due to the passage of time but rather a peasant revolt after the emperor's death.

The emperor's tumulus (ancient grave mound) is located about a mile away and is said to contain untold treasures. To date, only trial archaeological digs of the main site have been completed.

We then visit a workshop where you'll see modern-day crafts people producing terracotta warrior figurines, followed by the Muslim Quarter. This evening, On Broadway - Chinese style we can attend a Tang Dynasty dinner and performance with Chang'an music and dance originally performed for the illustrious Tang emperors - includes dinner, a traditional performance and return transfers (bookable locally Yuan 350 per person).

Overnight - Xi'an (B, L)

Day 6 : Big Wild Goose Pagoda & Xi'an Old City Wall

After breakfast, we enjoy a bike ride atop the Xi'an City Wall (electric car option available). Dating back to 1370 the 12m-high walls are some of the few remaining urban fortifications still standing in China today and after extensive restorations the City Walls offer ample opportunities from which to explore Xian. Our last Xi'an visit is to the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, one of Xian's most iconic landmarks.

Late this afternoon we take a high speed train to Chengdu. Reaching speeds of up to 300km per hour the journey is an experience in itself.

Overnight - Chengdu (B, L)

Day 7 : Chengdu Panda Research Base



A short drive out of town takes us to the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. China's Giant Pandas are considered the most endangered mammal on the planet. Due to a loss of habitat in the Sichuan, Shaanxi, and Gansu Provinces it is estimated that there are less than 1500 giant pandas remaining in the wild - 80% of which are located in Sichuan Province.

The centre opened in 1993 and for the purpose of breeding, research and education. A team of 46 collaborating with researchers from 8 different countries and 15 guest experts work within the facility. Covering an area of over 92 acres, there is plenty of space for the Giant Pandas and several species of rare and endangered animals to freely roam. Visiting the Panda nursery is a must, here you can get relatively close to the centre's infant population.

The Breeding Center has achieved breakthroughs in captive breeding, has set up the largest semen and cell bank for the Giant Pandas in the world and created the first Giant Panda stud book!

Later we visit the Wenshu Monastery, built under the guidance of Zen Master Ci Du Hai Yue in 1697, during the Qing Dynasty. The temple is a hidden gem with few tourists visiting and a stop much be made at the delightful teahouse located inside the temple grounds which serves a fine cup of green tea and some of the best vegetarian food in the city. After we stop by the well trodden Jinli Lu street - meaning 'ancient pedestrian street' in the old city filled with food stalls and vendors of every description. We also visit the Wuhou Memorial temple - this peaceful temple is set amongst beautiful and expansive gardens.

The evening is spent at leisure. If you are interested, most nights Sichuan Opera is performed at the Shufengyayun Theatre and tickets can be booked in advance or locally. First and second class seats are the best!

Overnight - Chengdu (B)

Day 8 : UNESCO Great Buddha of Leshan



Driving to Leshan our morning is spent exploring the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Dafo (Great Buddha), which is carved into the red sandstone face of Lingyun Hill overlooking the treacherous confluence of the Min, Qingyi and Dadu rivers below it. Dafo has huge 8m feet, his ears droop 7m, his shoulders span 28m and his nose measures a whopping 5.6m! Evening at leisure. **Overnight - Chengdu (B, L)**

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Days 9-11 : Guilin & Yangshuo



Chengdu - Yangshuo. Early this morning we fly to Guilin where we'll drive out to Longsheng for a tour of the spectacular terraces of the Dragon's Backbone. Taking a walk along the stone paths no more than a metre wide, we'll pass many of the Yao and Red Yao minority women. Reaching the 'Seven Stars accompanying Moon' lookout, soak up the spectacular views.

Later, we head to Yangshou for the night. The remainder of our time here is at leisure. Choose to hike, hire a bicycle or motorbike and head off on one of the many mountain trails or stop to watch the local fishermen use their trained cormorants to catch fish (weather and seasonality dependant). Time can also be spent exploring the ancient alley of West Street. Maybe enjoy a morning class at the 'Cloud 9' cooking school. By nightfall, visit any of the cafes, pubs or bars or attend the nightly 'Impression Liu Sanjie' musical, with a cast of 500 singers and dancers. **Overnight - Yangshuo (B:3)**

Days 12-13 : Shanghai

Yangshou - Shanghai. In the afternoon on day 12, we drive to Guilin and fly onward to Shanghai. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel.

Shanghai is a city where old meets new with the former French concession and traditional Chinese buildings standing beside gleaming modern skyscrapers and neon lights. Spend the next day at leisure, independently exploring this cosmopolitan city. Head to the attractive Bund waterfront area and take in the spectacular Pudong skyline, stroll around the beautiful Yuyuan Garden and explore the picturesque Old Town. **Overnight - Shanghai (B:2)**

Day 14 : Shanghai

Friday. Our time in China comes to an end today. Following breakfast and hotel check-out a transfer will take you to the airport for your onward travels.(B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Holiday Inn Temple of Heaven

The Beijing Holiday Inn Temple of Heaven is an elegant and comfortable hotel with well-furnished and spacious rooms. Practical in design, the guestrooms feature internet access and the hotel also boasts a range of restaurants and bars, as well as an indoor swimming pool. Located just a 10 minute walk from the Temple of Heaven, the hotel is the perfect base from which to explore this fascinating city.



Holiday Inn Express Beijing Minzuyuan

Located just a stones throw from the Beitucheng Subway station, with access to Line 10 & Line 8, the Holiday Inn Express Beijing Minzuyuan is a perfect base to explore the many amazing highlights of Beijing. Within walking distance of the hotel you'll find the famous Birds Nest Olympic Stadium. The hotel boasts a stylish restaurant offering breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Grand Dynasty Culture Hotel

Located a stone's throw away from the Ancient City Wall and Islamic Mosque, is the Grand Dynasty Culture Hotel. The hotel offers modern comforts in the heart of the city. Each air-conditioned guestroom features WiFi, a minibar and satellite TV. There is an onsite restaurant which serves a daily buffet or a la carte breakfast as well as a variety of Asian and Western dishes. During free time, guests can enjoy a relaxing massage or work out in the fitness centre.



Holiday Inn Express West Gate

The newly opened Holiday Inn Express West Gate is a bright and modern hotel in downtown Chengdu. Guest rooms are clean and stylish with excellent amenities. Wi-Fi is available and complimentary wired internet is available in all rooms. Breakfast is served buffet style in the restaurant with a delicious array of Western and Chinese dishes. There is also an onsite bar available for refreshing beverages. Located in the north of Chengdu and a 20 minute walk from Baiguolin Subway Station.



New West Street International Hotel

Boasting a stunning setting surrounded by mountains, this modern-style hotel offers

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an array of facilities spread over a 60-acre area. Alongside the fantastic outdoor swimming pool, guests can enjoy tennis and badminton courts, a golf driving range, sauna and fitness centre. When it comes to dining, there is a choice between Chinese and Western cuisine, as well as a coffee shop. Guestrooms are spacious and well-equipped, with extra amenities including a small refrigerator and complimentary Wi-Fi, with some offering mountain views.



New West Street Hotel

Offering a fantastic location in the very centre of Yangshuo, the New West Street Hotel is set just opposite Yangshuo Park. Its guestrooms are well-equipped with modern amenities including air conditioning, a flat-screen TV and an electric kettle, with some providing views over the surrounding mountains. Free WiFi is available throughout the hotel and for an additional fee, guests are able to enjoy the rejuvenating spa and massage treatments in the wellness centre.



Ramada Encore Shanghai Hotel

Ideally located close to several plazas and shopping centres, this modern hotel offers you a comfortable stay in one of China's fastest growing cities. Guestrooms are equipped with all the essential amenities, with free WiFi and access to the breakfast buffet included. The onsite Dakang Restaurant also serves lunch and dinner, and you can expect a tasty menu featuring both Western and Chinese cuisine. Other amenities include a fitness centre, coffee shop and small convenience store.



Guides & Groups

Our longest group tour in China is our Yin & Yangtze – 16 day tour. All other group tours that we offer are sectors of this larger tour. Some travelling on your trip may only travel with you for a week or more and others may continue on to complete the full 16 days. It also might be that you end your holiday part way through the larger tour and others in the group continue on. Whenever there is 6 persons or more on your holiday you will have a tour guide escorting/ travelling along with you. Your guide will conduct the sightseeing arrangements, or accompany you where the local law dictates that a local guide must conduct the sightseeing in this region. Where the group number is less than 6 persons you will travel from place to place with a driver and meet a local guide at each new destination that will conduct your sightseeing arrangements in this location.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Entrance fees

Entry fees to most sites are not included although reasonably priced. In China, we'll collect the entrance fees on Day 2 of the tour at the Welcome Meeting (the amount is noted under exclusions on the first page of this document). A comprehensive breakdown of the entrance fees is provided upon arrival. All funds collected in China for entrance fees and optional excursions (that you may wish to undertake) are payable in local currency - Chinese Yuan (CNY).

Note: If you are over the age of 60 at time of travel, a discounted ticket or free entry to some sites may be possible (subject to change by the government). Entrance fees will be collected in full on day 2, and your guide/s will attempt to get a discount at each site on your behalf. If a discount is obtained your guide will issue a refund at this time. Please make your guide aware of this (if you

are eligible) at the Welcome Meeting so that the discount can be requested throughout the tour.

Tipping kitty

At the start of your tour at the Welcome Meeting, we'll collect a small tipping kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions on the first page of this document) from all tour participants to cover tips throughout your holiday. This saves you the hassle of knowing when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage handlers, bus drivers, train conductors and other support staff throughout the tour.

This amount does not include a tip for your tour guide. For a job well done, we suggest USD\$3-5 per traveller, per day. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

Groups & guides

Some of our group tours are sectors of a larger tour. Some travellers on your trip may only travel with you for part of your tour. It also might be that you end your holiday part way through a longer tour and others in the group continue on.

Guides: We believe the best way to see a country is through the eyes of a local and as such we only employ tour guides native to the country you are visiting. Our guides are passionate, caring, knowledgeable and fun, and by travelling with a local you to get to see the wonders of the country through their eyes. Tour guides will remain with groups of 6 or more. Where groups are 5 or less, travel between cities will be unescorted with transfers at either side of the airport/train station and a local guide will conduct the scheduled sightseeing within each city.

China Country Guide

Welcome to China - Arrival transfer

For tours starting in Beijing A complimentary airport arrival transfer is included when arriving into Beijing Capital Airport. After attending to immigration and customs formalities, please proceed to the arrival hall. If arriving to Beijing into Terminal 2,

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when exiting immigration to the arrivals hall, please turn right where our representative will be waiting. If arriving into Terminal 3 you will be met just outside the restricted area. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative. Please have your Tour Voucher handy and make it available to our representative. Our representative will assist you with your luggage and escort you to our vehicle, for your transfer to your hotel.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative after waiting 20 minutes (remember Beijing is a busy International Airport) or your flight to China is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

If you require a transfers from Daxing International Airport, this can be arranged at an additional fee, please speak with your reservations consultant for further details.

Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from China.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For information about visas, head to www.onthegotours.com/China/Visas

Please note: If you plan to renew your passport between now and your departure date, please let us know as soon as possible (not your soon to be old passport details). When booking accommodation, trains or flights, we must have the details of the passport that you will be carrying with you on your trip.

Health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

As tap water is not safe to drink in China, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available from hotels, shops and restaurants. Make sure bottled water is sealed.

Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com

- Food in China is very different and arguably better than your local takeaway! If you prefer western snack food, consider bringing a supply
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume, basic torch/flash light and umbrella for sun or rain
- Comfortable closed in walking shoes for climbing the Great Wall etc
- DEET based mosquito repellent and antihistamine cream
- Universal travel adaptor
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Plastic poncho to go over your jacket. Whilst site-seeing, you can be in the rain for an extended period and even a rain jacket can get soaked. You can purchase a cheap one locally, but we suggest taking one from home of a better quality that doesn't rip easily
- If your tour includes an internal flight, most airlines have a 20kg baggage limit
- Note: The government has introduced a policy for the purpose of environmental protection, whereby hotels no longer supply disposable items such as slippers, shower caps, tooth brush/paste, etc

Porterage

Pack as light as possible! In China, most often porterage is not available at railway stations and you will need to carry your own luggage. Bags with wheels can be a hindrance when climbing several flights of stairs, though are a blessing when walking lengthy distances to reach our awaiting transportation.

Media restrictions

There are restrictions on all media, including social media and free press throughout China. Whilst on holiday, you will have limited or no access to social media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Google Plus - so no Google Maps and no Play Store. To bypass the firewall, you could look at downloading a VPN, which is much easier to do before you go to China.

WeChat:

Communication between the group and Tour Guide or Leader is best via the app: WeChat. Please install this App prior to your holiday as it is very hard to download the app once you have arrived in China. If you opt to open the WeChat account prior to arrival and it requests that you have to be contacted by someone already on WeChat before opening your account, don't worry, this can be done locally with your guide (just have the app downloaded ready to finalise opening your account locally).

There is also limited international calling options, so please check with your local provider before leaving home, to source the best roaming or online options to keep in regular contact with family and friends during your travels.

Travelling by train

Fast and efficient, China's first rail lines were laid in the 19th century, and today the government continues to invest heavily in this crucial mode of transport which connects many parts of the country. When travelling during the day, 'soft' seats, that is to say 'upholstered' seats are provided.

For overnight travel on some of our "Signature Range" tours, clients are accommodated in 'soft class' sleeper cabins. Aboard each wagon are 9 compartments that comprise of 4 bunks per compartment. Four people of mixed gender share one compartment. On occasion, dependent upon group size, you may be sharing with local people on the overnight journey, though sometimes dependent upon how the Chinese Railways Booking Office configure the bookings, the cabin may be filled with four of our passengers.

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A dining wagon serves reasonably priced Chinese food of the noodles and rice variety, along with snacks and drinks. A very simple menu is published in English. Each wagon offers a WC and hand basin facility. At one end, is a Chinese squat-style WC, whilst at the other end is a modern Western-style WC. Cabins are lockable from the inside and luggage is stowed in overhead compartments and under the bottom bunk. Bed linen and slippers are supplied, and often there is a TV mounted on the wall at the end of each bed that may even work. Most channels are broadcast in Mandarin, excluding one English Channel, which has little of interest on it!

For overnight travel on budget "Essentials Range" tours, clients are accommodated in "open" 6 berth bunks. We try to get all of our travellers in the same compartment/seating area so that you can have fun getting to know each other better, playing games etc. It is possible to upgrade to a four-berth soft sleeper on your trip, please contact us at time of booking for rates (upgrades are only possible if the open class ticket has not already been purchased and please note that you will be sleeping in another carriage to that of those in the 6 berth carriages).

Shopping in China

China is a virtual Aladdin's Cave. Government-run Friendship Stores in almost all cities stock a range of fixed-price souvenirs and handicrafts and can offer a reasonable idea of what is acceptable in terms of quality and price. After a visit to the Friendship Store, visit private stores, craft shops and local department stores. However, the best shopping is often at public markets. If you see something you want, buy it when you see it - prices don't vary greatly, but selection can vary from location to location.

In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they have been carefully selected based upon positive feedback from On The Go travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

Holidays & events

China has many important National Holidays and events that are celebrated throughout the country. During these times (the lead up to them and afterwards) there can be delays to public transport, the roads can be much busier and many sites are a lot more crowded as the locals take this time to visit family, celebrate the holiday and experience the wonders and amazing places within their own country.

During this time you'll likely to encounter a celebratory atmosphere, but an additional level of patience, flexibility and understanding goes a long way so that you may enjoy your holiday.

As tourists, you will be generally be unaffected and your tour guide will do their best to plan around these events. Though when initially planning your holiday, if you prefer not to travel when sites are crowded or are concerned about delays, then travelling during these holidays is possibly not for you. For more information: www.timeanddate.com/holidays/china/2021

It's not like home!

Travel to far - flung corners of the earth involves lifestyles and conditions that are sometimes very different from what you are used to back home. You must come prepared to cope with unusual situations,

local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned. With the greatest respect and in the interest of your ultimate enjoyment you must understand this. Things can and do change in foreign countries.

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/China/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for what to wear, local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare for your holiday.

- Be prepared as the locals smoke everywhere in China
- The Chinese don't have an awareness of personal space, be ready to have people standing very close to you, nudge you or even walk into you, they are not being rude, it's just a very different culture
- Many tourists report scams in Shanghai, so be friendly but careful. Never ever follow a stranger anywhere
- Spitting and snorting is common in China as they see the use of tissues as unhygienic
- Some locals won't queue and will often walk straight to the front of a line with no awareness or care of what they have done wrong
- Chinese people are delighted if you make any attempt to speak Mandarin, even if it's only a couple of words

Toilets/washrooms

Public toilets, when found, are usually 'squats' - holes in the ground with footrests at either side and often don't possess a door! They can be a novelty and are easy to use. The custom is to wash with water from a jug or little pipe attached to the toilet using your left hand. Doesn't appeal? Here are some hints!

- Time yourself with the accommodations you are staying at
- If you are out and about, find the nearest hotel, restaurant, fast food outlet, or toilets at tourist attractions, which all tend to have Western style facilities
- Ask your tour guide to make a stop
- Always take some antiseptic hand gel or antibacterial hand wipes with you and BYO toilet paper as its rare in public toilets

Best of China - 14 Days

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This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.