

China Family Adventure

8 days | Beijing to Shanghai



FAMILY TOUR OF CHINA - For families with children aged 5 years and over. Take your warriors on a grand Chinese Adventure. Climb the Great Wall, visit the awesome terracotta army in Xi'an and discover modern Shanghai.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- BEIJING - Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Hutong areas of Beijing, Cloisonne Factory and Chinese Acrobatic Show
- BADALING - UNESCO listed Great Wall of China
- XI'AN- UNESCO listed Terracotta Warriors, Clay warrior workshop, Xi'an city wall bike ride
- SHANGHAI - The Bund and Old Shanghai, cruise on Huangpu River and free time

What's Included

- 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- 6 nights 3 - 4 star hotels
- High speed train: Xi'an - Shanghai
- 1 overnight train: Beijing - Xi'an (4-berth soft sleeper cabin)
- Chinese acrobatic performance
- Rickshaw ride through Beijing's Hutongs

- Xi'an - bike ride on medieval City Wall. Entrance to Tang Culture Museum and calligraphy demonstration
- Shanghai - Huangpu River Cruise
- Beijing Capital Airport arrival transfer on day 1 and departure transfer day 8 from Shanghai Airport
- Touring of Beijing, Badaling, Xi'an, Shanghai
- Tour Guide escorted for groups of 6 or more
- English speaking specialist guides at local sights
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private A/C vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: Adult USD\$50-60pp/ Child USD\$40-50pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$50-60pp, 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 : Huan ying

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 & Tiananmen Square



This morning we gather for a short Welcome Meeting. Your Entrance Fees and Tip Kitty will be collected at this time (as detailed in the exclusions section of your Trip Notes).

Today, we explore the sites of the nation's capital, both ancient and modern. Established in 1045 BC, for 800 years alone Beijing has served as the capital of several powerful

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dynasties. Tiananmen Square partly framed by illustrious Chang-an Avenue is essentially the heart of Beijing. A patriotic vision of grandeur, Tiananmen Square is for the public and home of the mausoleum of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the striking Monument to the People's Heroes. Mao's gargantuan mausoleum is in granite where since his death in 1976, he has lain in state in his crystal coffin. We'll have a stroll on the square, which attracts many pleasure seekers wishing to take photos, all under the watchful eye of the dutiful guards.

Dominating the city centre 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 this old city within a city.

Later we take a rickshaw ride through the Hutongs of Beijing. As our trusty rickshaw driver peddles us through the network of alleys and old back lanes, we gain a fascinating snapshot of the city's traditional way of life. After a break for lunch we travel to the Pearl Market - an Aladdin's Cave of souvenirs, handbags and gadgets for a spot of shopping.

Tonight, after dinner we witness 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! **Overnight - Beijing (B, D)**

Day 3 : The Great Wall & Acrobatic Performance



Beijing - Xi'an. Some say it can be seen from space, but unless you're a top gun at NASA, you'll probably never know. Instead, experience the real deal. Today, we travel

beyond Beijing to Badaling, where we 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 very impressive.

An enduring symbol of Chinese civilisation and genius, the UNESCO protected Great Wall of China was built as a defensive structure. Although the present wall dates mainly from the Ming dynasty, some 20 states and dynasties were involved in its immense construction 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 plateau, 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 nearly 1 million soldiers and featured over 1,000 fortified passes and 10,000 beacon towers.

After our morning walk on a small section of this massive masterpiece of human endeavour, we enjoy lunch and then visit a Jade Carving Centre. Tonight, we board the overnight sleeper train (4 berth soft sleeper cabin) to Xi'an. **Overnight - Sleeper train (B, L)**

Day 4 : Xi'an & Terracotta Warriors



Arrive Xi'an, hotel check in and free morning. Today we visit one of the 20th century's greatest finds - the Terracotta Warriors! Comprising of 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.

Afterwards exploring archaeological site we visit a workshop where you'll see modern-day crafts people producing terracotta warrior figurines.

Lastly today, we will head to the vibrant Muslim Quarter, where free time is offered to independently explore. **Overnight - Xi'an (B, L)**

Day 5 : Try your hand at calligraphy & bicycle ride along the wall



Xi'an - Shanghai. Encircling Xi'an's old city is the 15km in length and 6 metres wide medieval wall. This morning we'll take a leisurely bicycle ride along the wall (solo or tandem). Looking down offers delightful views of the city hubbub and daily life.

We then visit the Tang Culture Museum. We get a brief introduction to the Folk Art of Shaanxi, traditional painting and calligraphy. Afterwards we get the chance to try our hand at calligraphy using a brush and some ink! This afternoon we board our express train to Shanghai. Late evening arrival and transfer to our hotel.

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Note: On occasion (once, twice a year) at the Xi'an City Wall, parents are asked to write a letter stating that they take full responsibility for the safety of children (under 12 years) when bike riding. A letter is also required for those over 60 years. **Overnight - Shanghai (B)**

Day 6 : Sizzling Shanghai



Just the mere mention of 'Shanghai' conjures up mystery, romance and general decadence. Pre – 1949, cosmopolitan Shanghai was a magnet for seekers of wealth, idle colonialists, explorers and the dispossessed. The city's oddities were due to the unusual circumstances of the city's existence. Written into the Treaty of Nanjing was the notion of extraterritoriality, which translated as foreign nationals not being bound by Chinese law, but rather by the laws of their own consuls. Basically anything went. Until 1949, foreigners dominated commerce, banking and industry, amassing huge fortunes and transforming the landscape of foreign concessionary sections of Shanghai. Everything went belly up in 1949, when Mao and the communists took to power and swept the good times and rock and roll away rather swiftly.

A legacy of these heady times, is Shanghai's Bund where on and around this waterfront promenade are a vast series of grandiose pre-1949 buildings. After four decades of austerity, economic reforms implemented by Deng Xiaoping, reawakened Shanghai. Today spend the morning at leisure and later this afternoon we take a coach tour along the Bund and old Shanghai and a sunset cruise along the Huangpu River. **Overnight - Shanghai (B, D)**

Day 7 : Explore Shanghai



Today offers free time to independently explore. Perhaps visit the Oriental Pearl TV tower, the Jade Buddha Temple, French Quarter, Shanghai Disneyland or take a more interactive approach and discover Shanghai's Science and Technology Museum with IMAX 3D, IWERKS 4D and space theatres, it's a top spot for kids! **Overnight - Shanghai (B)**

Day 8 : A fond farewell

Saturday. It's time to take your little Warriors or Dragons home. Our tour concludes after breakfast, hotel check out is at 12 noon and included departure transfer to the airport. Happy 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.



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

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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.



Entrance Fees for children

It is possible for Chinese nationals, under the age of 12 years to pay some 20 – 50% less than the Adult (Chinese national) ticket price. To receive the relevant discount children must present a school/student ID card. The Chinese Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs are unable to give us a conclusive response as to whether the same principle applies to entrance fees for Non Chinese National children. The Chinese Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs have confirmed that a reduced rate is available, though the discount will vary from site to site (dependent upon whether the site is operated by national government or provincial government) and that a child's school/ student ID must be shown at the time of purchasing the ticket. If your child does not have a student ID your guide will try their utmost to get discounts where available but this cannot be guaranteed.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements

As of 01 November 2021 it is a condition of travel, as detailed in our Terms & Conditions that all travellers over 18 years provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

We recognise any vaccine that has been authorised for use in the country where the vaccine was administered. This includes vaccines such as AstraZeneca, Covaxin, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Pfizer-BioNtech, Sinopharm, Sinovac and Sputnik.

In all instances, you must be fully immunised. This means you must receive the full dosage of the COVID-19 vaccine and allow a minimum of 14 days before travelling in order for immunity to take effect. Each COVID-19 vaccine has different dosages and timeframes for immunisation, so please check the related medical advice associated with your vaccine. Children under 18 years are not required to provide evidence of vaccination to travel at this time.

If you are unable to be vaccinated due to medical reasons, you may apply for an exemption. Exemptions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. To apply, you must provide supporting documentation from a medical professional.

Proof of COVID-19 immunisation must be provided to us **no less than 4 weeks prior to travel**. We accept COVID-19 digital certificates, NHS Covid Pass or Vaccination Record Cards e-mailed to info@onthegotours.com or you can upload your vaccination history yourself via our traveller login. <https://www.onthegotours.com/Login>

The information you will need to upload includes: Administering national authority or government, document No, name of Vaccine, date/s of vaccination.

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.

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.

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

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attending to immigration and customs formalities, please proceed to the arrival hall. If arriving to Beijing into Terminal 2, 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

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Booking Office configure the bookings, the cabin may be filled with four of our passengers.

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

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- Always take some antiseptic hand gel or antibacterial hand wipes with you and BYO toilet paper as its rare in public toilets

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