

Family Fun Adventure In China

Highlights

- ✚ Pandas!
- ✚ Shows Acrobatics, Legends of Kung Fu, Opera Face Changing, Impression Sanjie Liu
- ✚ Art Class, Sony Explora Science, Great Wall, Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium, Water Cube, The Forbidden City, Dragon Boat, Terra-Cotta Warriors, Cooking Class, River Cruise and much, much more!
- ✚ A one of a kind family fun adventure!

Itinerary

Day 1

Depart from North America today on an overnight flight to China.

Day 2 Beijing

Welcome to Beijing, the capital of China. You will be met at the terminal of Beijing Capital International Airport and transferred to your downtown hotel. After a special Peking Duck Dinner, you will enjoy the famous Beijing Acrobatic Show. After the show you will be taken back to your hotel.

Howard Johnson Paragon Hotel (Dinner Included)

Day 3 Beijing

After breakfast, you will start your day with a tour of Tiananmen Square, a testament to the communist, and more specifically, Mao's influence on China's modern history. From there you will proceed to The Forbidden City, an ancient imperial palace, home to emperors for over 500 years. Home to the Last Emperor, it now houses the Palace Museum. Does it really have 9999 rooms?

Next you will attend the Baigongfang Handicraft Museum. There is genuine concern that China's traditional arts and handicrafts are disappearing and the museum is part of an effort to protect and nurture a priceless heritage. Space is provided for 103 masters to make and show their works. You have the option of participating in one of seven art classes. They are

kite making, paper rose, Chinese knots, paper cutting, dough figurine, opera face make-up and Chinese brush writing. The next tour site is Temple of Heaven, a complex of ancient religious buildings where the ancient Emperors prayed for peace and harvest. If you made a kite, you can fly it here!

After dinner you will enjoy some serious jumping, tumbling, kicking and rolling at the famous Legend of Kung Fu show. After the show you will be taken back to your hotel. Howard Johnson Paragon Hotel (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)

Day 4 Beijing

This morning starts with a visit to the Great Wall. You will be driven to Mutianyu in Huai Rou County on the north-east of Beijing. This is a less busy section that is well known for its beautiful surroundings; dense woods and rich pastures changing colors with the seasons of the year. You can take the cable car up and toboggan down if you want to pay the extra price.

In the afternoon, you will have chance to take pictures of Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium and the Water Cube. You can relax and drink some famous Chinese tea and enjoy a Chinese tea ceremony in a well-know Chinese tea market. The next stop is the Summer Palace, regarded as a museum of gardens in China. You will have a chance to take a dragon boat on Kunming Lake to enjoy picturesque scenery and go across to the island and see the 17 arch bridges. After the whole day tour, you will be transferred you back to your hotel. Howard Johnson Paragon Hotel (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)

Day 5 Beijing - Xian

This morning your will tour some of Beijing's Hutongs (alleys) by rickshaw. You will visit the typical Chinese quarters of Houhai (Shicha Lake) and many famous old buildings, where you can explore the real life of ordinary people in Beijing. Then you will pay a visit to a local family and learn to cook dumplings. Enjoy sharing the dishes made by your own hands with the hospitable host family. The next stop of the day is the porcelain factory, which is also a must in any Beijing tour.

Sony Explora Science is the next stop. Everyone is sure to love this museum. It has a lot of dream toys including robotic dogs which can play soccer, musical sculptures, sound and light transformers, soap bubble rings and much more. You will transfer to airport directly in Beijing and you will fly to Xian. Xian served as China's capital for over ten dynasties.

After two hours, you will be met at Xian Xianyang International Airport where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Have a good rest!

Xian Forest City Hotel (Breakfast and Lunch included)

Day 6 Xian

The Museum of Terra-Cotta Warriors and Qin Tombs are the first stop today. Qinshihuang, the first emperor in Chinese history, began to build his own cemetery when he was just 13 years old and the construction took 38 years. After, you will visit the Terracotta factory where you will learn to make figurines.

After lunch, you will go to Big Wild Goose Pagoda. With seven storeys and a height of 64.5 meters, it was originally used to store Buddhism books brought from India during the Tang Dynasty. (618 - 907 A.D.)

Before going back to your hotel, you will attend a special dumpling dinner and enjoy a splendid Tang Dynasty singing and dancing show.

Xian Forest City Hotel (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)

Day 7 Xian - Chengdu

Today you will visit the Shaan Xi History Museum. A walk through the exhibits here is like walking through the history of the Silk Road.

You begin with items from the Xia Dynasty (2200 - 1700 B.C.) and move through history into the Ming and Qing dynasties. The collection from the Han through the Tang (618 - 907 A.D) and Song (960 - 1279 A.D) dynasties shows the changes of art and craftsmanship. The Ancient City Wall, built more than 600 years ago, is the best preserved ancient city wall in China. You can rent a bicycle here and enjoy a ride on the wall. Next is a visit to the streets of the Muslim Quarter. Here you will find the best food stalls and a great lively market atmosphere.

After a transfer to the airport, you will fly to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province in southwest China. After 1 1/2 hours, you will be met at Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport and transferred to your hotel in Chengdu city center. Have a good rest!

Caesarean Hotel (Breakfast and Lunch included)

Day 8 Chengdu

After breakfast, your tour guide will escort you to the Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding and Research Center. In this park like setting, you will see China's national treasure. There is no other place in the world where you will see these pandas. The panda's bamboo comes from the mountains and special misting sheds have been built all around the grounds to keep bamboo fresh. It is really an excellent recreational area and highlight!

After lunch you will visit the UNESCO heritage site Mount Emei scenic area which includes the Leshan Giant Buddha. It has been compared in grandness the sphinx and the Valley of the Kings of the Nile. You can see both the sitting Buddha and the sleeping Buddha which is made up of several hills.

Tonight, after dinner, you will enjoy the famous Sichuan Opera Face Changing show. Sichuan Opera is well-known in China, and it is characterized by solo singing, skilled acting, rich percussion and incredibly funny comedies. Performers wear brightly colored costumes and move to quick, dramatic music. They also wear vividly colored masks that they may change within a fraction of a second.

Caesarean Hotel (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)

Day 9 Chengdu - Guilin

This morning you will say goodbye to Chengdu and fly to Guilin, famous for its breathtaking beautiful scenery.

Today you will visit Elephant Trunk Hill, and have fun visiting the different shapes, camels, old man, elephant trunk, bamboo shoots and exploring inside Reed Flute Cave and the China Sea Pearl Museum.

Elephant Trunk Hill is located at the conjunction of the Li River and the Peach Blossom River. The hill looks very much like a giant elephant with a long trunk, and has become the symbol of Guilin city.

Guilin Bravo Hotel (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Day 10 Guilin / Yangshuo

After breakfast, you will be picked up from your hotel and driven to the Zhujiang Pier for your 4 hour Li River cruise. Li River is one of China's most famous scenic areas and the largest and most beautiful Karst landscape sightseeing areas in the world

You will disembark at the one thousand year old town, Yangshuo, and visit West Street, also called Foreigner's Street. With a history of over 1,400 years, West Street is the busiest

as well as the oldest street in the town.

As China continues to open to the outside world, this little town attracts more and more foreigners with its unique mix of culture and, gradually, the street has become a center for cultural exchange between the east and west.

Tonight you will enjoy the largest live action performance of landscape in the world.

Impression Sanjie Liu is directed by Mr. Zhang Yimou, the general director of the opening ceremony of Beijing Olympic Games 2008. The show has a cast of some 600 performers, of which many are local fishermen. It took 5 years of practice before the first performance.

After the show you will be driven back to your hotel.

Guilin Bravo Hotel (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included)

Day 11 Guilin / Longsheng

Today you will enjoy a cultural tour of the Longsheng area and ethnic tribes. Longsheng is located in the mountainous region northeast of Guilin. The natural beauty and the colorful ethnic Chinese cultures and customs attract people from all over the world.

A 2 hours scenic drive on beautiful mountain road will get you to the Longji area. Here you will visit Zhuang and Yao minority villages and meet some local families. Ethnic girls dressed in their local colors may have a demonstration on hair combing or singing and dancing.

You will enjoy the beautiful terraced rice fields after getting to the summit of Longji (Dragon's backbone). The terraced rice fields were first built in the Yuan Dynasty, about 800 years ago, and completed in the Qing dynasty under the crystallization of wisdom and labour of the Zhuang people. The terraced fields are built along the slope winding from the riverside up to the mountaintop, the highest at an elevation of 885 meters.

The coiling line spirals up from the mountain foot to the top, making the mountain looks like huge snail if seen from afar. Be sure to enjoy the wonderful views around Pingan village.

Guilin Bravo Hotel (Breakfast and Lunch included)

Day 12

Today you finish your Family Fun Adventure in China. You will be transferred to Guilin Liangjiang International Airport to start your trip home. (Breakfast Included)

Price

\$2780.00 CAD (land only)

Pricing is an estimate only and is subject to change based on availability and other factors. You can use this tour as the basis for a custom tour if you would like but pricing for custom tours may differ depending on changes made. Please note below what is included and not included below:

Included:

- ✓ All hotel accommodation
- ✓ All meals as per itinerary
- ✓ All sightseeing tours as specified by the itinerary
- ✓ Entrance fees as per the itinerary including night show tickets, and Li River cruise.
- ✓ Private, knowledgeable English speaking guides
- ✓ Private air-conditioned transportation with licensed drivers
- ✓ All domestic flights: Beijing - Xian, Xian - Chengdu, Chengdu - Guilin including airport taxes
- ✓ All hotel and airport transfers

Not included:

- ⊗ Travel insurance
- ⊗ International flights
- ⊗ Excess baggage charges
- ⊗ Visa fees (if applicable)
- ⊗ Meals and beverages not specified on itinerary
- ⊗ Items of a personal nature such as laundry and gratuities
- ⊗ Fee for cable car on the Great Wall
- ⊗ Fee for bicycle rental on Xian Ancient Wall

Map



Beijing

Xian

Chengdu

Guilin

Travel Guide

China (People's Republic of China)



Location: Asia

Status: UN Member Country

Capital City: Beijing

Main Cities: Guangzhou, Guilin, Hangzhou, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Suzhou, Xi'an, Yangzhou

Population: 1,350,000,000

Area: 9,596,960 km²

Currency: Renminbi (RMB)

Languages: national: Mandarin (Putonghua)

Religions: Buddhist 80%

Calling code: +86

Drive on the right

China invokes the same curiosity and feeling of wonder and puzzlement that Egypt does. Shrouded in mystery for a long time, ruled by majestic emperors and having contributed so much to history, science, alternative therapies and medicine, art and many more, there is every reason for you to want to visit China. In 2011, the number of international travelers to china hit an impressive 12 million. You too will love this massive country with its massive population of more than 1.3 billion people.

Traveling to China is no small feat. There are so many languages, cultures and beliefs that even the veteran, seasoned traveler will be rattled. From the Wall of China that was last upgraded in 1368, to the massive Tiananmen Square with the Mao Zedong portrait, there is so much to see in China. There are the Karst Mountains in Yangzhou and the Paradise on Earth in Hangzhou. One, two or even three long trips are not enough to see even half of this majestic country.

Best time to go

Because of the vast size of this country, different people may have to travel at different times depending on the region they want to explore. However, for the first time travelers, the best time to go there is during autumn, that is, from early September to late October. Then the temperatures are ambient, ranging from 50^o to 70^oF. During this period, there is little or no rainfall.

General Information

Passport and visa

You must have a visa and passport that is at least 6 months from the expiry date. The Tourist Visa (L) is issued to aliens going to the Peoples Republic of China for tourism. It is important that you keep your passport with you when you are traveling in China. For safety, make sure that you have a photocopy of your passport on your person somewhere.

Money

The official currency of China is the Renminbi, in most cases referred to as the Chinese Yuan. Usually, visitors are allowed to carry up to 5000 US dollars, but any more than that, they will be required to have the relevant paperwork. It is advisable to keep some US dollars with you, but change some of your currency into RMB. You will need your passport to change currency at the bank. You can also carry your ATMs with you, but be ware of the transaction charges like domestic currency conversion levies. Popular logos like Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted in China.

Post and telecommunications

Hotels in China will allow you to send postcards back home. China Post handles all postal needs both locally and internationally. A postcard, parcel or other mail can be sent via three post means. Air is the fastest. It is expensive but mail takes 7 to 15 days top be delivered to the recipients. Surface Air Lifted (SAL) is next, slightly expensive but takes longer. Mail will be transported by air between countries and then by sea, land or whatever is applicable to the recipients' point of collection. The third one is the Surface mail that is transported via sea, rail or land. It can take many days, but it is very cheap.

Calling abroad is easy but expensive. Internet access is available in all major tourist places and you will find WiFi in most cafes in more built up areas.

Transportation

China has a well-established transport network. However, the available means may not be enough to meet everyone's travel needs, especially during the holidays when everyone is traveling home to their kin. In the larger cities, there are light rails, metro and maglev train systems. *chángtú gōnggòng qìchē* (*long distance buses*) are the best form of transport in China. With the number of express highways increasing, long distance bus travel is becoming even more convenient than rail travel. Buses are the most convenient way to get around and the fares are very affordable. However, the traffic jams can be nasty. Allow enough time for the bus journey if you are going to catch a train or a plane. Forget self-drive car hires unless you are used to the kind of freestyle driving you will find here. Taxis are readily available, but for your sake, ask for a receipt and always choose a decent looking taxi, with the meter prominently displayed.

Health and Safety

Climate

Climate in China is very diverse, because this is a big country. Springs can be warm, pleasant and with little rain in some parts like the north of China, but in others like in the north east, spring can be cool and dry. In others, there could be a little rain.

Some parts like the western interior can experience extreme heat in summer, yet others can experience just 19^o of temperature. Temperature in the East Coast can go to 35 degrees. It will be hot and humid.

Winters can be bitterly cold, especially in the North East, sometimes going to as low as -20^o.
Fall

can be very cold in some places, yet in others like the north, the conditions will be similar to spring.

Health and wellbeing

There are excellent health facilities in China. Always go to the largest hospitals in the big cities, as they will have better services. Carry your own tissue paper, as public toilets may not provide the same. In addition, bring your alcohol wet wipes.

If you suffer from a chronic condition, let your doctor list down as much information about your illness as possible and carry that note with you always. In addition, when you get to Beijing, Guangzhou or Shanghai, buy a first aid kit and over the counter medication that you think will be necessary or carry your first aid kit and medication from home.

Vaccinations

Before travelling to China, please ensure you have adequate protection against disease. Contact your doctor for the latest medical advice on the vaccinations you need, no less than two months before your departure.

Travel insurance (compulsory)

We do everything possible to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. However, travel inevitably involves some risk and this should be recognised by holidaymakers. Travel insurance is a cost effective way of protecting yourself and your equipment should any problems occur such as cancelled trips, delays, medical emergencies, baggage loss or damage. It also gives you peace of mind. Please make sure your travel insurance covers all activities planned on your trip.

Culture & Customs

Etiquette and cultural differences

If you speak just one or two words of Mandarin, the Chinese will be very delighted. Always introduce yourself with a big smile. The etiquette in China can be something of a shocker to you. If you are introducing yourself formally, state your full name, place of work and position. If informally, give your full name and a simple greeting. If you are introducing other people,

juniors are introduced first, then the seniors. Women are introduced first, then the men. The host is always introduced before the guest.

Always use two hands when giving something, even business cards.

There is no dress code per se in China, but it should not be too revealing. Easterners are very conservative and even if you are on the beach, try not to wear a too skimpy bikini. The Chinese love color red.

Politeness is a universal language. Be polite, even when you are exasperated. Don't point fingers and try not to use gestures unless you have studied their meaning first. China is a very old oriental country. A gesture may mean something in the western countries and an entirely different thing in the East.

Food and drink

Chinese food can be hot and spicy, but all the same, it will give your palates a run for their money. It will be very exciting. When you get to a restaurant, ask to see the English as well as the Chinese menu because some restaurants are known to overprice food for tourists. You should never tip in restaurants or even in taxis. In addition, always look for a hotel that serves Chinese as well as western food. It may not be a good idea to go Chinese all of a sudden especially if you are not used to it.

Once you start sampling the local fare, you will love it. Staple food in China is mostly wheat and rice. However, there are many more types of foods like sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes and legumes. The other most common dishes that you will find include fried bitter melons, noodles cooked with tomato and egg sauce, seasoned potatoes, black fungus with sliced pork (sautéed) and eggs. There are many more. In addition, there are KFC's, McDonalds and Pizza Hut's. You need not go hungry in China.

Water

It is not advisable to drink tap water in China. Bottled water is recommended but do check the expiry date before opening. Ice is widely used and is produced with treated water.

Public holidays

New Years Day on January 1 every
year Spring Festival that depends on
Lunation Qing Ming Festival - April 4 or
5

June Solstice - 21 June

May Day - May 1st

Dragon Boat Festival - 5th of every 5th lunar month

Mid Autumn Day - 15th day of the 8 lunar month in Chinese calendar

Arbor Day - 12th every year

Spring Festival - first day of the first lunar month

Lantern Festival - 14

February National Day -

October 1st Double Seventh
- August 2

These are just a few. There are many more of them, including the ethnic minority festivals.

Helpful tips

Donations and gift giving

Although there is poverty in certain areas of China, please read the following points about donations and gift giving.

Do not give money to people begging, especially children. This reinforces the belief that begging is an acceptable way to make a living. If children make money from begging, their parents are less likely to send them to school. Children working on the streets are also vulnerable to abuse. Giving money and goods to beggars can accentuate an unequal relationship between locals and visitors, with tourists being seen as purely money givers. Do not give sweets to children in villages that we visit.

Do not feel that you necessarily have to give material things. Sometimes, giving your friendship, time and interest to locals can be the best gift of all.

Tipping

Tipping is a personal matter and travellers are encouraged to tip any amount they feel is appropriate. For your convenience, we have included a suggested tipping guide below: Bellboy: 1 - 2 Yuan per suitcase / bag

Chambermaid: 2 - 4 Yuan per day

Guides: 10 - 15 Yuan per day for guides (depending on group size and performance) Drivers: 10 Yuan per day, per person

Restaurants: in smart establishments you may find that the tip is already included in the bill. In local restaurants tips are not expected but you may wish to leave loose change on the table.

Price guide

Generally, things are cheap in China. However as a tourist you will get overcharged if you are not careful. Haggling is considered a sport when it comes to non-food products. Always stay calm and polite and you'll be surprised at the discounts you may get. Be aware that many items for sale on street stands are counterfeit.

Street food

Baozi: RMB 3

Rice dish: RMB 3 - 6

Restaurants

Western dishes: from RMB 15

Local dishes: from RMB 8

Drinks

Soft drinks RMB 1 - 2

Beer: RMB 5 - 7

Fruit juice: RMB 2 - 3

Water: RMB 1 - 1.5

Other Items

DVDs (real): RMB 10 - 20

SIM card: RMB 10

Mobile phone: from RMB 100

Pre-departure checklist

Travel insurance

Passport with at least six months validity from date of entry

Photocopy of
passport Visa or visa
on arrival

Vaccinations

ATM cards/travellers

cheques All relevant tickets

Reconfirmed flights

Lightweight clothing

Long-sleeved shirts and trousers (recommended for
evenings) Electrical adaptor: 220V, 50Hz; 2 pin plugs

A small bag/backpack for day and overnight trips

Appropriate shoes for trekking, cycling and walking

Insect repellent

Sunscreen

Medication/first aid
kit

Please note: *Domestic airlines impose restrictions on baggage at approx 20kg maximum, so travel lightly where possible. Also be aware that train and boat cabins have limited space.*

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