



Splendours of China Escorted Tour

1 - Arrive Shanghai

On arrival into Shanghai, you will be met by a local representative and transferred to your hotel.

Known as the Paris of the East, Shanghai is the beating heart of modern China. This vibrant city is a fusion of Oriental style and cosmopolitan chic and offers the best shopping, dining and nightlife in the country.

Your accommodation for the first two nights is in the Regal Shanghai East Asia Hotel.

2 - Shanghai (Breakfast & Lunch)

Experience the historical side of the city on a stroll through the Old Town and visit the classically styled Yu Gardens. Walk past carp-filled pools, towering bamboo and exquisite rockeries to discover the historical halls and pavilions.

Shanghai's colonial past is elegantly displayed along the picturesque Bund. A walk along the waterfront past stylish buildings housing banks, hotels and the customs house offers an excellent viewpoint to understand the history of the city. Also visit the arts and antiques of the Shanghai Museum.

In the evening take a cruise on the Huangpu River. From the water you can truly appreciate the differences in styles with the classic and subtly lit architecture of the Bund facing the tall, futuristic buildings of Pudong.

3 - Shanghai - Guilin (Breakfast)

Make your own way to Shanghai airport to board the plane to Guilin (flight times to be confirmed) On arrival into Guilin, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

This area is famous for its cave systems, and one of the best examples is Reed Flute Cave. In the afternoon visit the Caves. Walk through the caverns admiring their improbably shaped stalactites and stalagmites illuminated by coloured lights.

Your accommodation for the night will be the Grand Link Hotel.

4 - Li River Cruise & Yangshuo (Breakfast & Lunch)

A highlight of any visit to Guilin is joining a leisurely cruise down the Li River past limestone hills, tranquil fishing scenes and picturesque villages. Around each curve in the river is another panorama that is equally as beautiful as the last. The journey takes around four hours so there is plenty of time to soak up the scenery and fill your camera's memory card.

Ships can vary in size but usually carry about 80-100 passengers and have two decks. The lower deck is enclosed and provides tables for eating lunch on board while the upper observation deck is open for best appreciating the scenery.

The cruise ends at the countryside town of Yangshuo. Explore the town and stay overnight. In the evening see the Impression Sanjie Lu light and sound show. (Additional cost)

Your accommodation for the evening is Elite Garden Hotel.

5 - Yangshuo – Guilin (Breakfast)

Explore the colourful local markets of Yangshuo and enjoy the afternoon at leisure.
Overnight stay in the Guilin Link Hotel.

6 - Guilin - Xian

This morning transfer to the airport to board your flight to Xian. (Flight times to be confirmed)
On arrival into Xian, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

The city of Xian holds a very special place in Chinese history. Over two thousand years ago Qin Shi Huang unified China, becoming known as the First Emperor, and it is his final resting place that is protected by the Army of Terracotta Warriors.

Accommodation is the Grand New World Hotel for two nights.

7 - Xian (Breakfast & Lunch)

Visit the Terracotta Warriors, one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th century. The figures represent the army of Qin Shi Huang and they were entombed with the emperor to protect him in the afterlife. Each of the warriors was individually made and their unique features can be seen in the intricate detail of their faces and uniforms.

Walk on the ancient city wall of Xian, one of the best preserved city fortifications in China. It was constructed in 1370 and is of grand scale with walls 12 metres high, 8 miles long and featuring 98 sentry buildings from where the soldiers could fire arrows at the enemy.

Xian is located at the eastern end of the Silk Road and this influence lives on in the Muslim Quarter. Explore this bustling area with its narrow lanes, local stalls and Islamic food shops.

8 - Xian (Breakfast)

This morning visit the Little Wild Goose Pagoda and then transfer to the airport for your flight to Beijing.

Stay overnight in the Novotel Peace Hotel for four nights.

9 - Beijing (Breakfast & Lunch)

Visit the Great Wall of China, the most iconic attraction in the country. The section you will visit is at Juyongguan which is well restored and with good facilities but usually does not attract as many people as at some other locations. Be prepared for a stiff climb as your walk can sometimes resemble ascending a staircase.

Visit a Jade Factory here you can watch jade artisans actually carving jade, as well as learn from a jade expert how to tell the difference between real and fake jade, as well as the differences in quality and what to look for when buying jade. Some of the items on display and those that are for sale are truly amazing examples of the art of carving jade.

The Summer Palace is a large recreational area which is noted for its gardens, lake and traditional buildings. Join a boat ride across Kunming Lake. This will take you to the decorative Marble Boat from where you may return via the Long Corridor.

10 - Beijing (Breakfast & Lunch)

Walk across Tiananmen Square past Chairman Mao's mausoleum. Explore the Forbidden City which was originally constructed in the 15th century and consists of almost 1,000 buildings surrounded by defensive walls and a moat. It represented the seat of Chinese Government for about 500 years during the Ming and Qing Dynasties and is said to be the largest collection of traditional Chinese architecture in the world.

Visit the Temple of Heaven which was used by the emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties for ceremonies and prayers. The temple complex is located in extensive grounds containing pavilions, gardens and walkways and is a popular place for the local residents practicing tai chi, dancing and playing badminton.

11 - Beijing (Breakfast & Lunch)

The Hutong districts of Beijing are the original residential areas of the city with old buildings lining narrow streets. See one of the Hutongs using a cyclo-rickshaw with a driver who will pedal you around the area at a relaxed pace. Ride around the car-free alleyways soaking up the atmosphere of a time long past and watch for the local people shopping in the small stores, playing with their children or engrossed in a game of mah-jong.

12 - Beijing (Breakfast)

This morning, you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight.