



THE GRAND TOUR OF CHINA

If you only have two weeks of holidays and it's your first time to China, this is the trip for you. This two-week voyage will give you the very best of China.

Starting in Beijing, we will visit all the classic highlights and have a chance to soak up the special atmosphere of this former imperial capital. No trip to the Middle Kingdom would be complete without climbing the Great Wall of China. We take you to a part of the wall that is also the site of the annual Great Wall Marathon. Here replete with breathtaking panoramic views, we will spend some time exploring this incredible fortification.

After Beijing and the Great Wall, we travel to another imperial capital, Xi'an, home to the magnificent Terracotta Army. Calling in at the Grand Mosque, we'll have ample opportunity to stroll through the Muslim Quarter of the old city and do a bit of shopping and sampling of local delicacies.

From Xi'an, we travel to the idyllic Yangshuo town where we'll spend a couple of days soaking up its rural charm before heading to Hangzhou and the iconic West Lake, the subject of many ancient Chinese poems and writings.

We end our journey in Shanghai where we spend two days exploring this sprawling metropolis and become acquainted with its fascinating past as we visit the Old City and the Bund.

Perfectly combining history, culture and nature, these two weeks will be an unforgettable holiday. Join us!

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ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Day 1: Welcome to Beijing and dinner.

Day 2: Explore Beijing: Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Mao Zedong hall.

Day 3: Discover the Great Wall of China and the Ming Tombs. Visit a local village home.

Day 4: Life, Religion and Art: Temple of Heaven, 798 Art District, and an acrobatics show.

Day 5: Exploring old Beijing: the Drum Tower and hutongs, followed by a Peking duck meal.

Day 6: Welcome to Xi'an. Visit the Terracotta Warriors and the old town's Muslim Quarter.

Day 7: Imperial Xi'an: Shaanxi History Museum Giant Wild Goose Pagoda and old city walls.

Day 8: Cruise on the River Li

Day 9: Relaxing bike ride around charming Yangshuo.

Day 10: Travel to Hangzhou and dinner.

Day 11: Boat ride on the West Lake - Lingyin Temple - Dragon Well Tea Plantations

Day 12: Travel to Shanghai via Wuzhen canal town.

Day 13: Stroll along the Bund, embark on a river cruise and enjoy an acrobatics show.

Day 14: Departure service

THE GRAND TOUR OF CHINA

Day 1: Welcome to Beijing and dinner.

Upon arrival at Beijing Capital Airport, our guide and driver will pick you up and take you on the 1hr drive to your hotel in downtown Beijing. After check-in we will enjoy dinner at a local Chinese restaurant.

Meals: Dinner

Lodging: Qianmen Hotel ****



Day 2: Explore Beijing: Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Mao Zedong hall.

The morning begins at the Beijing Urban Planning Museum where a great model of the inner city of Beijing is on display. A visit here shows visitors the changes that China and Beijing have undergone in the last 30 years. Across from the museum is one the greatest symbols of new China: [Tiananmen Square](#). The 440,000m² square is home to the Memorial Hall of Mao Zedong. Entry requires a valid ID, so please bring your passport if you wish to see Mao Zedong. To the north of the square, lies the [Forbidden City](#) of the Ming and Qing dynasties. We cross over the five famous bridges and Mao Zedong's picture to enter through the city's south gate. There is a short walk before having lunch just next to the city walls.

Entering the Forbidden City and seeing the largest courtyard (Siheyuan) in all of Beijing, is a stunning sight that instantly transports you back to Beijing before 1910. Leaving the Forbidden City, we climb the Coal Hill or Jingshan which means the 'Hill of Scenery' and the character Jing (景) holds the characters for both sun and capital city inside it, meaning the hill from where one can see the sun rise and set over the capital. On our way back to the hotel we visit a silk showroom before enjoying dinner in a cosy, local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Qianmen Hotel ****



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Day 3: Discover the Great Wall of China and the Ming Tombs. Visit a local village home.

Today we'll start in the centre of Beijing and drive through the suburbs into the rural areas of the municipality of Beijing. On our way we will visit a cloissone factory.

In the morning we will climb the Juyongguan section of the [Great Wall](#) which once was one of the most important sections of the Great Wall due to its strategic location between two mountain tops just north of Beijing.

After a good climb we proceed to the Sacred Way which leads into the area of the Ming Tombs. Thirteen emperors were buried in the area and we will visit the only tomb that was excavated, the Ding Tomb. The village is an open and friendly place so we will be allowed to visit a home and see the local supermarket. There will also be time to stroll around and get a glimpse of people's everyday life.

Driving back on the new highway, the tall buildings of Beijing's inner city slowly reappear showing how great construction projects have been always been embedded in Chinese history. The day will end at the Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium in the northern part of Beijing. Outside the Bird's Nest you will be able to see the extension of the north – south axis that runs through Beijing.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Qianmen Hotel ****



Day 4: Life, Religion and Art: Temple of Heaven, 798 Art District, and an acrobatics show.

Depending on the season this will be a fairly early pick-up at the hotel (7:30am summer, 8:30am winter) as we leave for the [Temple of Heaven](#) to experience the outdoor life of Beijing locals. In every corner of the park inside the Temple of Heaven we will see elderly Beijing residents dancing gracefully, exercising and playing "pukepai" which just means playing cards but is based on the phonetics of the English word poker.

After our morning walk in the Temple of Heaven we will visit a traditional Chinese tea house and taste a few of China's many teas.

From ancient China, we move on to the modern art world of Beijing. The [798 art district](#) in the eastern part of Beijing was originally part of the great industrialisation of the larger Chinese urban areas. In and around this joint factory area with the simple name of 798, an innovative and creative art culture arose in the early 1980s. Art shops, studios and galleries emerged in the abandoned factory buildings.

We will have lunch in a nearby restaurant. In the afternoon we watch an impressive acrobatics performance before heading out for dinner at a local Chinese restaurant and have at least one or two dishes coloured by beautiful red chillies.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Qianmen Hotel ****



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Day 5: Exploring old Beijing: the Drum Tower and hutongs, followed by a Peking duck meal.

The Drum and Bell towers stand in the northern part of the old city of Beijing. We climb the Drum Tower and enjoy the view of the old narrow hutong streets that were once home to families close to the Imperial court in the Forbidden City.

We go for a fascinating stroll through the old Beijing and take in the bustle of the old hutongs and eat with a local family and see how they live inside the closed courtyards. We walk west to see Nanluoguxiang, one of the most interesting bar and shopping streets in Beijing.

A holiday in Beijing would not be complete without a trip to Nanluoguxing where trinkets, food, fresh produce, clothes and other products are sold. After a relaxing afternoon in the heart of Beijing, we go to a traditional restaurant to try the delicious Peking Duck - a dish that was once reserved for the emperor.

Note: We will check out of our hotel in the morning as we'll be catching the night train to [Xi'an](#). We recommend that you bring snacks and drinks along for the train journey.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Qianmen Hotel ****



Day 6: Welcome to Xi'an. Visit the Terracotta Warriors and the old town's Muslim Quarter.

We arrive in [Xi'an](#) in the early morning. The local guide will pick us up and take us to the hotel for breakfast and a shower before we start our day of exploration. Today we'll visit the famed [Terracotta Army](#) and pay a visit to the Grand Mosque in the [Muslim Quarter](#). There'll be ample time to wander around the market of the Muslim Quarter and browse through the endless lines of stalls selling everything from jade to clothes and grilled kebabs.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Xi'an Grand New World Hotel ****



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Day 7: Imperial Xi'an: Shaanxi History Museum Giant Wild Goose Pagoda and old city walls.

Today the historic discovery of Xi'an begins. We start off at the [Shaanxi History Museum](#) which houses imperial artefacts from the Zhou dynasty through to the Tang dynasty. The present [city wall](#) was built during the Ming dynasty and is roughly 14km long. It's possible to rent a bicycle on the wall and ride around it. There are restrictions on how tall buildings can be in the centre of Xi'an but not outside the walls, which means that on one side you get a good view of the old Xi'an centre and on the other side the modern metropolis circles the wall. The [Giant Wild Goose Pagoda](#) was built in the Tang dynasty (652) and lies within the walls of the Monastery of Great Maternal Grace. One of its functions was to store Buddhist sutras that the monk Xuanzang brought back from his 17-year overland journey to India. In the afternoon, you will be driven to the airport and catch a flight to [Guilin](#). A local guide will meet you and take you to your hotel.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Guilin Universal Hotel

Day 8: Cruise on the River Li

Cruise from Guilin to the little town Yangshuo. On the way you will pass the karst rock formations that are iconic to the Guilin area.

Meals: Breakfast

Lodging: Yangshuo New Century Hotel



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Day 9: Relaxing bike ride around charming Yangshuo.

Today we'll explore the beautiful surroundings of [Yangshuo](#) by bike. Led by the tour guide, we'll meander our way through rice fields, along the serene [Li River](#) and enjoy the stunning countryside. We'll stop at the famous lookout [Moon Hill](#) for a breathtaking view of the karst mountain scenery.

NOTE: Breakfast will be served at the hotel. For lunch and dinner, you are free to enjoy the many restaurants and cafes in Yangshuo.

Meals: Breakfast

Lodging: Yangshuo New Century Hotel



Day 10: Travel to Hangzhou and dinner.

Today we leave Yangshuo for [Guilin](#) to catch our flight to [Hangzhou](#). We'll have dinner together in the evening after we get settled into our hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Edinburgh Hotel Hangzhou



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Day 11: Boat ride on the West Lake - Lingyin Temple - Dragon Well Tea Plantations

After breakfast, we'll embark on a leisurely boat ride on the famed [West Lake](#). We'll stop off at the Lingyin Temple, the temple of soul's retreat, for a visit. The temple is known as a leading Buddhist centre. The Dragon Well Tea Plantation near the West Lake is our next stop. The famed longjing, or dragon well tea, is cultivated in the region and treasured for its delicate taste and health benefits. Dinner will be enjoyed at a Chinese restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Edinburgh Hotel Hangzhou



Day 12: Travel to Shanghai via Wuzhen canal town.

Bus from Hangzhou to [Shanghai](#) with a stop in one of the many water towns in the area between Suzhou, Hangzhou and Shanghai. Sightseeing in the beautiful Wuzhen canal town.

In the afternoon we arrive at Shanghai and check in at the hotel before dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: New Asia Hotel Shanghai

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Day 13: Stroll along the Bund, embark on a river cruise and enjoy an acrobatics show.

Today, we'll head to Pudong and pay the World Financial Centre a visit. Before lunch, we'll have a leisurely stroll along the Bund, one of the most famous attractions in Shanghai. In the afternoon, we'll embark on a scenic river cruise and get a glimpse of this sprawling city from the river. After dinner, we'll enjoy the acrobatics show.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: New Asia Hotel Shanghai



Day 14: Departure service

After breakfast, we'll check out of the hotel and provide a departure service to the airport for your onward journey.

Meals: Breakfast



DATES AND PRICES

Additional information

Prices do not apply to the Golden Weeks (approx. May 1-7, Oct. 1-7) and the [Chinese New Year](#)

A child is defined as 12 years or younger and below 1.20m in height.

INCLUDED

- Pick up and drop off service at hotel, airport or train station
- Professional local English-speaking guide
- Hotel accommodation
- Transportation according to the programme with car, coach or bus depending on group size
- Meals as stated in the itinerary B = Breakfast. L = Lunch D = Dinner. Breakfast is usually international breakfast buffet combined with local Chinese breakfast. Lunch consists of local Chinese dishes including meat and vegetables. Sometimes lunch is a western-style sandwich if the weather or programme so requires. Dinner is specialised Chinese meals from many different regions in China.
- All entrance fees to the sites mentioned in the itinerary
- All local taxes and required insurances
- Beverages (soft drinks or local beer) within a reasonable limit (2-3 glasses)
- English map of Beijing
- 24hr on-call service in case of emergencies

EXCLUDED

- Anything not in "Included" list above
- Any flights or transportation besides those mentioned in the "Included" list above
- Phone calls or other personal expenses
- Tips - We recommend that the guide receives 2 USD per person per day and 1 USD per person per day for the driver

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

We reserve the right to make improvements and changes to the itinerary due to local circumstances or events outside our control.

Tour starts/ends:

This tour starts in Beijing and ends in Shanghai.

An Albatros Travel representative will meet you at the airport. This tour includes pick-up and departure services. Please let us know your flight details, including flight number, arrival and departure times, in order for us to arrange your transfers.

Type of vehicles used:

For transfers between destinations we use modern and comfortable vehicles that have air conditioning.

Level of ability required:

This tour does not include any strenuous activity so no particular level of ability is required, however please be prepared for some walking. If you have any concerns or questions regarding disability access, please contact us in advance.

Food and dietary information:

If you have any particular dietary preferences or requirements, please make these clear when you make your booking. Most types of diet can be catered for. We will eat at local restaurants. It's not a problem to maintain a vegetarian diet in China.

Breakfast at the hotel is usually an international breakfast buffet.

Health and vaccinations:

In general, tourists do not need any vaccinations. Malaria vaccinations are not necessary in most parts of China. However, we advise you to consult with your doctor before travelling. For more information about health and vaccinations, please look at this [website](#).

Baggage and what to bring:

Baggage

For domestic travel by air, the baggage allowance is 20kg (44lbs) per person. Since we do not provide tours with international air travel, please check your airline's website for luggage weight limits.

Adaptors

Flat two pin outlets are used in China. European round two pin outlets can also be used but don't fit perfectly. A plug adaptor can be purchased in most electronic stores.

Visa requirements:

Most travellers need a tourist visa to China. Please consult the Chinese consulate or embassy in your country of residence for visa application. This [website](#) may be useful in providing information regarding the application procedure.

Cancellations:**If you need to cancel**

We understand that your travel plans sometimes change and we try to be as flexible as possible. However as we have to book accommodation at hotels we are also bound by their cancellation policies. In general, the following rules will apply when cancelling a tour you have booked:

- If cancelling more than 45 days before commencement of our services there is no cancellation fee and we will refund 100% of your money
- If cancelling within 45 to 31 days before commencement of our services: 20 % of the total booking value will be levied
- If cancelling within 30 to 15 days before commencement of our services: 60 % of the total booking value will be levied
- We are unable to offer a refund if cancelling less than two weeks before commencement of our services

For full details of our cancellation terms, please see our general [Terms and Conditions](#).

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Beijing Albatros Travel Service Co. has implemented both the EU 'Law on Package Tours' and the regulations set forth by the China National Tourist Administration. In accordance with these laws, travel agencies must be able to document that they have drawn the attention of the consumer to all possible contingencies: the detailed itinerary, all formalities and expenses, possible changes, and the terms of agreement must be very clear when the tour is booked (i.e. before you confirm your booking by paying a deposit).

It is therefore very important that you have familiarised yourself thoroughly with the terms of agreement for a tour. The terms of agreement comprise the following elements: brochure and/or website information including price list and itinerary, invoice, terms and conditions.

If the tour is booked AND paid for on the Beijing Albatros Travel Service Co. website, chinatoursandholidays.com, the traveller is obliged to read and possibly print all relevant information and documents:

A. Brochure and/or website information including price list and itinerary which contains a detailed description of the tour, current prices and a specification of expected extra expenses, as well as special regulations or information relevant to the specific tour. Flight times, visa requirements, etc., are frequently altered and information regarding these will therefore seldom be found in the printed brochures.

B. The terms and conditions must be seen in context with the other relevant content of the terms of agreement as mentioned above. If there are conditions stipulated in the tour itinerary or practical information relating to the specific tour, these must be included in the information provided in our brochure and/or our website. Otherwise, you may assume that the general terms and conditions for Beijing Albatros Travel Service Co. are valid for your tour.

C. Product liability insurance. In keeping with legislation regarding extended liability for tour operators, we always presume that our customers have familiarised themselves with the content of all of the distributed material.

1. Booking

A booking is binding for both customer and travel agency once the deposit has been paid.

2. Conditions of payment

The following rules apply unless other conditions are stipulated in the tour itinerary or practical information relating to the specific tour on our website.

At the time of booking, a deposit on 25% of the tour's total price per person, though no less than 300 USD, must be paid. The remaining payment must be submitted no later than 75 days prior to departure. If the deadline for the remaining payment is exceeded, there is no guarantee against otherwise unnecessary changes. Please note that some tours have different conditions of payment and often stricter conditions for cancellation, i.e. tours utilising chartered ships or flights. These conditions will be stated in the specific tour terms and conditions on our website.

3. Cancellation

The following rules apply unless other conditions are stipulated in the tour itinerary or practical information relating to the specific tour on our website.

Cancellation by the customer

If the customer cancels a tour up to 76 days prior to departure the deposit is lost. If cancellation is made within 75-15 days prior to departure, a handling fee of 85% of the total price of the tour will be charged. Later cancellations: The customer has no claim to reimbursement.

Should war and life-threatening epidemics break out, or natural catastrophes and similar events occur within 14 days prior to departure, the trip may be cancelled free of charge. This will, however, be on condition that the United Kingdom's Foreign Office directly advises against travelling to the specific area, and that the contingencies have arisen after the booking of the tour.

Cancellation by the travel agency

If the number of participants is insufficient for a scheduled group tour, it may be cancelled up to 14 days before departure. The minimum number of participants for a tour is 10 persons. The tour may also be cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control and which neither our partners nor we could foresee (force majeure). In such cases the customer has no right to compensation beyond a refund of the price of the trip. Should the aforementioned contingencies arise the travel agency will always try to offer an acceptable alternative.

4. Travel documents

If travel documents, other than the invoice, are required, these will be emailed or posted to the participants upon full payment.

Additional travel documents could include detailed flight schedules (if included in the purchase), vouchers and itinerary that include the pre-booked services at your destination. If you are participating in a tour with a guide or in an event described in our programme, you will not normally be given a voucher beforehand.

5. Passport and visa

Unless otherwise specified, obtaining the required passport and visa for travelling is the responsibility of the traveller.

The traveller must ensure he/she has a valid passport and visa and give the travel agency correct information regarding name and nationality, etc. We draw your attention to the fact that the processing of visa may take several weeks. The travel agency cannot be held responsible for travellers who, for whatever reason, may be denied entry at a border. Some countries require the traveller to be in possession of a suitable amount of currency, as well as a valid return ticket.

Please be aware that rules and regulations may change between booking and departure.

Please note that there are also visa requirements when in transit. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after returning from your destination.

6. Vaccination requirements

These should be obtained from your own physician. Information given by the travel agency about vaccination and/or prophylactic measures or other medical subjects should be considered a service that is under no medical liability.

7. Change of traveller

In keeping with legislation, and if practically possible, transferring one's tour (instead of cancelling it) to family or friends on the condition of paying a fee is an option. The size of the fee depends on the character of the tour. The travel agency does not carry out resale of tours already paid for, nor does the travel agency guarantee that a change of traveller can be effectuated.

8. Changes in prices

In accordance with legislation, tour operators may raise the agreed upon price as a result of increased transport costs (including increased fuel prices), altered taxes, tariffs and fees, as well as fluctuating exchange rates. Unfortunately, many sudden price increases occur as a result of fuel surcharges, increased safety taxes or other taxes. On many overseas travels, these extra costs may exceed several hundred USD. Price increases will take place according to the following principles:

1) Airfares, tariffs and taxes will be increased with the exact amount if this exceeds USD 50.

2) Alterations in currency rates with more than +5% or less than -10% in relation to the list price when published. The alteration in price will only include costs regarding the relevant currency and not the entire cost of the package. Please note that we continuously update our price lists, and that a tour will always be sold at the current price even though the customer may be in possession of an outdated price list. The same tour may have been sold at different prices, because we rarely permit price increases to influence the price of tours that have been booked prior to the price increase. General price reductions as a result of, for example, an exceptional reduction in airfares will benefit all customers, regardless of when a tour is booked or paid for.

9. Changes in the itinerary

In accordance with legislation, the travel agency cannot, in principle, make major alterations in the planned tour once it has been booked. It is therefore important that you draw the attention of the agency to any special wishes you may have in connection with the tour you have booked (e.g. hotel with a tennis court, golf, diving, etc.). Such wishes must be included on the invoice. The purpose of this is to guard you against an undesired product. On many of our more 'adventurous' tours, we operate (as far as possible) with late changes in order to create the best possible tour-taking climate, local conditions and events into consideration. Changes due to weather and infrastructure can occur and the traveller must see this as a natural part of the trip. Therefore, no compensation is paid for delays and changes within a 24hr duration.

10. Travel insurance

All travellers should be suitably insured. This is of paramount importance regarding transport in case of illness, as well as home transportation etc. All travellers are responsible for having the appropriate insurance coverage. Participation on a trip presumes responsible and considerate behaviour, and you are expected to comply with the directions of the travel agency and its representatives. It is not advisable for travellers to venture alone into unknown and remote areas especially after nightfall. If you wish to be independent, this should always be in consultation with the travel agency or its local representatives. Should the travel agency not be represented at certain destinations, please consult relevant guidebooks for advice on specific conditions.

11. Taxes and tariffs

A number of taxes and tariffs are levied upon issue of your ticket and are included in the price of the trip. However, a number of local taxes cannot be levied beforehand and must be paid for on the spot. These are often airport taxes, as well as tariffs in some national parks. These expenses will usually be stated in your itinerary for your information. We would, however, like to draw your attention to the fact that tariffs and taxes may be altered between the booking of a ticket and your departure.

12. Your responsibility

As already mentioned, your participation in a trip is subject to your being aware of the above information as well as the information on the website, on the invoice and in the itinerary, and to your following the aforementioned regulations. It is also expected that you seek publicised information about the current political, health, natural and climatic conditions at your destination. People travelling individually must pay attention to the fact that the information material does not mention all circumstances. Especially airline tickets, alteration of these, reconfirmation of itinerary, visa etc. need extra attention.

13. People with disabilities

It will always appear from the itinerary whether special demands on physical ability and health are required for completing the tour. A principal rule is that all travel participants must be self-reliant. Wheelchair users and people with a motor handicap are very welcome on many of our tours, but please consult the travel agency before booking a tour. The travel agency reserves the right to turn away participants who, based on the travel agency's professional opinion, will not be able to complete the tour on their own. The travel agency is not responsible for any such refusal.

14. Claims

Claims regarding shortcomings on a trip must be directed to the travel agency or to its local representative as soon as they are ascertained so that the agency can attempt to rectify the situation. The travel agency is regulated by the China National Tourist Administration. In case of disagreement between the travel agency and the traveller regarding shortcomings on a tour, you may place your complaint with the local China Tourist Administration on this website: <http://en.cnta.gov.cn/>

Any lawsuit or dispute with the travel agency will be ruled upon according to Chinese law.