

# The Essence of China



## EXPLORE TWO WONDERS OF THE WORLD DISCOVER A CULTURAL HERITAGE

### Objectives

- ✓ To provide participants with an opportunity to explore both the old and modern China.
- ✓ To provide participants with a range of activities that put them in touch with the local and unique culture.
- ✓ To introduce participants to amazing Chinese cuisine .



### Features

- Day 1** Arrival and transport to your hotel where you can relax and explore the area after dinner.
- Day 2** Visit Tiananmen Square, walk through the square to the Golden Water Bridge and enter the Forbidden City. Visit the Temple of Heaven and watch a lively Kung Fu show.
- Day 3** Visit the Great Wall at Badaling, pass through the sacred way to Ming Tomb and drive by the Bird's Nest Olympic National Stadium.
- Day 4** Explore the Summer Palace and have a Hutong tour. Fly to Xian and transfer to the hotel. Explore the surrounding area.
- Day 5** Visit the Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum. Visit the Big Wild Goose Pagoda. Attend a show at the Shaanxi Opera Theatre.
- Day 6** Visit Xian's landmark construction, the City Wall. Visit the Provincial History Museum. Fly to Shanghai and transfer to hotel. Explore the surrounding area.
- Day 7** Visit one of the four largest museums in the country, Shanghai Museum. Explore Yuyuan Garden, a famous classical garden. Wander in the famous Bund area and Nanjing Road.
- Day 8** After breakfast at the hotel, transport to the airport for your return flight.

## Essence of China - Tour

The cities reward explorers! This is the best-selling itinerary. It covers the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace in Beijing, the Terracotta Armies in Xian and the modern Shanghai. The three cities highlight the real life of the people and the ancient culture beyond your expectations.

### Day 01 • Arrival in Beijing

Our guide will meet you or your families outside the customs of Beijing International Airport after check-out procedures are fully completed and then transfer you to the Hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to rest or explore. For dinner on your own arrangement, we have some suggestions around our luxury hotel.

Meals: NO meals

Accommodation: Crown Plaza ★★★★★

### Day 02 • Beijing

This morning you will visit the world's largest urban center square, Tiananmen Square, which is a site where many major historical and celebratory events happened. Walk through the square to the Golden Water Bridge, you will enter the largest as well as best-preserved imperial palace complex, Forbidden City. Once the palace of twenty-four emperors from the Ming and Qing dynasties, it not only exhibits the incomparable architecture arts and precious cultural relics, but also shows how the ancient emperors administered the country and lived their lives 600 years ago. After an a la carte lunch of authentic Chinese dishes, you will visit the Temple of Heaven, which is the largest ancient imperial worship architecture group in the world. After the sightseeing tour, our guide will take you to the Red Theater to watch a lively Chinese Kung Fu show. Unlike the traditional Kung Fu Show, this show has brought in a story of dramatic interest, which makes it more interesting and attractive.

Meals: American breakfast, A la carte lunch

### Day 03 • Beijing

Today you will head to the Great Wall at Badaling. As one of the greatest wonders of mankind, the majestic Great Wall is always a must for those visitors to Beijing. Among all the existing sections, Badaling Great Wall is the most famous and developed one. After lunch at a popular local restaurant you will pass through the Sacred Way to visit the Ming Tomb. The Sacred Way is the road leading to the Ming Tomb, which mainly consists of memorial arch way, stele pavilion, ornamental pillar, and 18 pairs of stone statues. The Ming Tomb is a group of mausoleums of the Chinese emperors from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century. On the way back to the downtown area, we will drive by the Bird's Nest (Olympic National Stadium), which is the major venue of the 2008 Olympic Games.

Meals: American breakfast, A la carte lunch.

### Day 04 • Beijing – Xian

Explore the Summer Palace and have a Hutong tour. Reputed as the "Museum of Imperial Garden", the Summer Palace is an imperial garden and temporary dwelling place for the emperors built 260 years ago. It is also a large-scaled natural mountain and water garden. Enjoying the rickshaw riding through Hutongs will be your memorable experience. Here you will feel the special Beijing culture and history by visiting the famous romantic Schichahai classic Yinding Bridge, dazzling Yandaixiejie, grand Bell tower or Drum tower. Around noon you will enjoy an a la carte lunch at a fancy restaurant with delicious food and great atmosphere. Then fly to Xian and our guide will transfer you to the well selected hotel.

Meals: American breakfast, A la carte lunch

Accommodation: Sheraton Hotel ★★★★★

### **Day 05 • Xian**

The highlight of today is the “Eighth Wonder” of the world, Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum, which is a huge underground military museum constructed as an accessory pit Qin Shi Huang Mausoleum. In the museum, you will not only appreciate the amazing warrior figures, but also enjoy the display of Chinese ancient weapons, which exemplify the wisdom of the laboring people over 2200 years ago. After an a la carte lunch of Chinese dishes, you will visit one of the landmarks of Xian, the Big Wild Goose Pagoda. Originally built to collect Buddhist scriptures, now the pagoda has been a symbol of this ancient capital city. Later our guide will take you to the Provincial History Museum, the most comprehensive museum exhibiting ancient China in all aspects. In the evening you will enjoy a marvelous Tang Dynasty Music and Dance Show and Dumpling Dinner at Shaanxi Opera Theatre. The show will take you back 1400 years ago-the dreamy and glorious Tang Dynasty.

Meals: American breakfast, A la carte lunch, Dumpling dinner

Tips: Since the Tang Dynasty Music and Dance Show will be closed in Jan, Feb, Mar and Dec, we do not calculate the price of the show and dumpling dinner for tours starting during this period. Clients will enjoy a free night by themselves

### **Day 06 • Xian-Shanghai**

After breakfast you will pay visit to Xian’s landmark construction, the City Wall. It is the most complete existing urban fortification in China. Cycling on the ancient wall is a special experience that many people like to try (bike rental fee is not included). Then head to the Shaanxi History Museum where you can learn more history about this ancient city through the valuable bronze wares, jade, potteries and murals from the Prehistory Period to the Qing Dynasty exhibited there. You will enjoy an a la carte lunch at a famous local restaurant and then board the flight to Shanghai. Your local guide will pick you up at the airport and transfer you to the hotel.

Meals: Western buffet breakfast, A la carte lunch

Accommodation: Howard Johnson Plaza Shanghai (downtown area) ★★★★★

### **Day 07 • Shanghai**

A day journey will show you the essence of Shanghai. This morning, you will visit one of the four largest museums in the country, Shanghai Museum, which specializes in exhibiting art works from ancient times. Built on the ancient Chinese idea that “ the earth is square and the heaven is round”, the museum has a distinctive appearance and looks like a bronze ware at a distance. After that, explore Yuyuan Garden, a famous classical garden in the south region. The symbol of the Yuyuan Garden is the Nine Zigzag Bridge built of granite and grass-white jade and the quaint, elegant mid-lake pavilion. Afterwards, a farewell a la carte lunch will be served to you at a local restaurant, which specializes in light Shanghai cuisine. In the afternoon, wander in the famous Bund area and Nanjing Road, and then visit an old street in Shanghai. Upon returning to the hotel, our guide will see you into the lobby to say bon voyage.

Meals: Western buffet breakfast, A la carte lunch

### **Day 08 • Shanghai**

After breakfast at the hotel, please find your own way to the airport for your return flight. We suggest that you reserve a taxi at the hotel reception area before to avoid having to wait for one outside. There are two airports in Shaghai, Pudong Airport (PVG) and Hongqiao Airport (SHA). It takes about one hour and fifteen minutes and costs CNY 140-170 to Pudong Airport. Ensure you have at least 30 minutes’ drive time if your flight leaves from Hongqiao. The taxi fare is around CYN 50.

Meals: Western buffet breakfast