

CHINA: THE WILD MIDDLE KINGDOM
ESCORTED GROUP TOUR
13 days/12 nights 21 October – 2 November 2018
From £3,495 per person



The Chinese call their home Zhongguo; it literally translates as the 'Middle Kingdom'. A vast land with a population of roughly 1.3 billion people, China is home to one of the world's oldest civilisations, with human habitation dating back over 1.2 million years. The testaments to the ingenuity and greatness of the achievements of the Chinese can be found in all corners of their world, from the vast undertaking that is the Great Wall, stretching almost fifteen thousand miles, to the incredible funerary display that is the Terracotta Warriors, thousands of individually carved soldiers to guard the Emperor Qin Shi Huang in the after realm.

In partnership with this rich and compelling history, we invite our group to explore some of the most impressive landscapes and national parks China has to offer. Standing in the midst of colossal sandstone giants in Zhangjiajie Forest Park is a simply unforgettable experience, as is the chance to watch the gorges go by and the stars at night on a Yangtze River cruise. The tour finishes in Shanghai; a showpiece of China's recently booming economy and a wonder of the modern world.

What's Included?

- Stroll through the gardens of Beijing's Imperial Forbidden City
- Visit a lesser known section of the Great Wall of China, arguable the world's most impressive engineering feat
- Enter the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang and walk amongst the Terracotta Warriors
- Cruise down the Yangtze River for three days passing through impressive gorges
- Explore the breath-taking walks along rivers and atop mountains in Zhangjiajie National Forest Park, a real Garden of Eden

Highlights

- British Airways flights from London Heathrow to Beijing and return from Shanghai
- 12 nights in good standard accommodation, including 3 night river cruise and 1 night sleeper train
- Daily breakfast, all lunches and evenings meals included
- All excursions and entrance fees
- All overseas transport and English-speaking guides
- Services of a Prestige Holidays Tour Manager

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Sunday 21st October 2018

London / Beijing

Proposed Flights:

British Airways BA0039

Departs London Heathrow 16:30

Arrives Beijing 09:30+1

Duration: 10hr

Overnight flight from London Heathrow into Beijing

Monday 22nd October 2018

Beijing

Land in Beijing, the world's most populated capital city, boasting a history going back three millennia. Continue to our hotel for an early check-in and a chance to rejuvenate after our long journey. This afternoon, stroll to the hub of this megacity, Tiananmen Square. Here we see all the sights, including the Northern Gate, Zhengyangmen Gate, The National Museum of China, and Great Hall of the People.

Spend the afternoon discovering the Forbidden City, seat of the dragon-throned emperor for over 600 years. This is followed by a walk through Jingshan Park.

In the evening we will embark on a brief walking tour of the famous hutong districts, followed by dinner in a top Peking-Duck restaurant.

Accommodation — Hilton Wangfu Jing, Beijing (or similar)

Meals Included — Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Tuesday 23rd October 2018

Wan-Li Qang-Qeng

Spanning fewer than fifteen thousand miles of construction, and in some places as old as 2300 years, one cannot visit China without appreciating Qang-Qeng.

Spend the whole day visiting the Mu Tian Yu region of the great wall, one of the more off-the-beaten-track sections of this mega-structure.

Accommodation — Hilton Wangfu Jing, Beijing (or similar)

Meals Included — Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Wednesday 24th October 2018

Xi'an

Early departure in order to catch the bullet train to Xi'an. Upon arrival, check-in to our hotel. Continue for an afternoon visit to the Terracotta Warriors; lying undisturbed for approximately 2000 years and not discovered until 1974, this really is a testament to mankind's artistic ingenuity. The site is still under excavation and is estimated to span 38 square miles.

Return to our hotel before visiting the Muslim district of Xi'an for our dinner this evening. A walk through this neighbourhood is a spice-laden assault to the senses, with enticing aromas emerging from every quarter.

Accommodation — Grand Noble Xi'an, Xi'an (or similar)

Meals Included — Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Thursday 25th October 2018

Taiping National Park

Spend all day exploring the natural wonders of Xi'an's nearby national park, Taiping. With a total area of approximately 5000 acres, it really is a feast of natural beauty. It is named so because an emperor of the Sui Dynasty (581-618) saw fit to build a summer palace here.

The forest park boasts more than 30 species of animals that fall under national protection, such as golden snub-nosed monkeys, takins, and sylvaticus mikado.

Accommodation — Grand Noble Xi'an, Xi'an (or similar)

Meals Included — Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Friday 26th October 2018**Chongqing / Yangtze River**

Time for our group to jump aboard another high-speed bullet train, this time to Chongqing. Situated in an area crisscrossed by rivers and mountains is the huge mega-city of Chongqing. The Daba Mountains stand to the north, the Wu Mountains to the east, the Wuling in the southeast, and the Dalou Mountains to the south. The whole geographical area slopes downwards towards the famous Yangtze. Upon our arrival take a whistle-stop tour of the main sights of the city, including the ancient quarter of Ciqikou, and the incredibly scenic Hong Ya Dong.

After our evening dinner, embark on board our Victoria Cruise vessel to find our cabins and settle down for the beginning of our Yangtze River cruise.

Accommodation — Victoria Cruise, Yangtze

Meals Included — Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Saturday 27th October 2018**Yangtze River Cruise**

Enjoy a leisurely morning on board our cruise ship as we meander down the legendary Yangtze. Perhaps try your hand at a little Tai Chi, attend a cultural lecture, or simply sit back and enjoy the spectacular scenery.

In the afternoon, take a shore excursion to visit the impressive Shibaozhai Pagoda, before returning to our vessel for the Captain's Welcome Dinner.

Accommodation — Victoria Cruise, Yangtze

Meals Included — Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Sunday 28th October 2018**Yangtze River Cruise**

Rise early for an optional shore excursion to the Baidi Temple. With spectacular views over the Qutang Gorge and the Kuimen Gate, it is famous for many reasons including its depiction on the 10 Yuan note.

Continuing downstream, take in stunning panoramas and the opportunity to take a tour of the 'Lesser Three Gorges', each offering their own distinct charm.

Accommodation — Victoria Cruise, Yangtze

Meals Included — Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Monday 29th October 2018**Yangtze River Cruise / Three Gorges / Yichang**

After an early morning visit to the incredible engineering feat that is the Three Gorges Dam, continue to downtown Yichang.

From here we take an overnight train to Zhangjiajie City in a 1st class soft-sleeper cabin.

Accommodation — Overnight Soft-Sleeper Train

Meals Included — Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Tuesday 30th October 2018**Zhangjiajie**

On arrival at Zhangjiajie continue straight to our hotel for a hearty breakfast before we venture out into the breath-taking Forest Park, for a full day.

Start with a ride up Bailong Elevator, awarded by the Guinness Book of Records as the world's tallest in 2015. From here, step out to admire these colossal stone giants of Zhangjiajie, inspiration for the Hallelujah Mountains in the blockbuster movie 'Avatar'. Transfer to the world's longest and highest glass bridge. At 430 metres long, 6m wide and with a vertical drop of 300m, this structure is a sight to behold. The Forest park boasts breath-taking views which will stay with you for a lifetime.

Accommodation — Pullman Zhangjiajie, Zhangjiajie (or similar)

Meals Included — Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Wednesday 31st October**Tianmen Mountains**

Visit the top of the Tianmen Mountains by cable car (the world's longest and fastest), marvelling over views of the Tianman cave and its 999 steps. Venture along the Guigu wooden walkways and the glass skyways. Don't look down!

Transfer to Zhangjiajie airport for flights to Shanghai.

Accommodation — The One Executive Suites by Kempinski, Shanghai (or similar)

Meals Included — Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Thursday 1st November 2018**Shanghai**

China's largest city, and also the financial hub of this massive country, Shanghai literally means 'Upon the Sea'. It is a true futuristic metropolis; a showpiece of China's recently booming economy and a wonder of the modern world.

Take in all the main sites of Shanghai this morning including a walk along the Bund, a visit to the World Financial Centre (The Bottle-Opener), followed by an afternoon visit to the Yu Garden for some exploration and shopping. There will be free time this afternoon before our special farewell dinner.

Accommodation — The One Executive Suites by Kempinski, Shanghai (or similar)

Meals Included — Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Friday 2nd October 2018**Shanghai / London**

Transfer to the airport for our return flights;

Proposed Flights:

British Airways BA0168

Departs Shanghai 10:55

Arrives London Heathrow 15:55

Duration: 13hr

Meals Included — Breakfast

Prestige Holidays booking conditions apply. Price is based on twin/double occupancy. Single rooms are on request at a supplement of £750 — subject to availability. Itinerary may be subject to slight alterations due to operational restrictions. Hotels are subject to change and a hotel of similar standard in the overnight locations may be provided. Flight times are and subject to change — subject to airline schedules.