



2012 Highlights of China - Deluxe

10 days / 9 nights

Highlights

Beijing, Forbidden City, Great Wall, Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven, Xian, Terracotta Warriors and Shanghai, including the famed Shanghai Acrobats.

Highlights of China

Beijing offers a bewildering array of sites and wonders to explore, and from the awesome Great Wall to the Forbidden City's Gate of Heavenly Peace at the head of Tiananmen Square, you will have the chance to get to know the city that makes this modern powerhouse tick. Then encounter the Terracotta Warriors of Xian, and be blown away by Shanghai's vitality. In just ten days experience the best of the People's Republic.

The quality of accommodation is a real highlight of this trip and includes stays in a mix of China's most historically famous properties and luxuriously designed hotels, with five star facilities and fantastic locations. Where there are no international five-star hotels, we stay in the best hotels available in higher room types. All road travel is in comfortable minibuses or mid-sized coaches. Your journey is escorted by both a Western tour leader, based on a minimum of seven travellers, and a local English-speaking guide in each location. Groups are never more than 16 travellers in size.

Tour grading - Easy

Suitable for travellers with an average level of fitness and independent mobility. The tour involves walking; there are also two domestic flights and one small boat ride. While accommodation is three to four-star or best available, this is not 'sanitised' travel; by day you will walk through markets and villages, meet local people, and sample local food. English is not widely spoken and a degree of patience and appreciation is required for travel through developing cities and stays in Chinese operated hotels.

What's included

- 9 nights accommodation
- Breakfast daily and one lunch
- All transfers and road transport in modern, air-conditioned vehicles
- Two domestic flights
- All sightseeing as specified and entrance fees included
- Expert Western tour leader (group size seven minimum) and local guides throughout
- Tour arrival and departure transfers

Climate

Southern China is hot and humid from May to August, and cool from November to February. Northern China is hot and humid from June to August, cold and dry from November to February, and otherwise pleasant and generally clear.

Itinerary

DAY 1 - ARRIVE BEIJING

Upon arrival in Beijing you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Tonight meet your tour leader (or local guide) for welcome drinks and a tour briefing. **RAFFLES BEIJING - 3 nights**

DAY 2 - BEIJING

Explore Beijing's fascinating hutongs by rickshaw, visit the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and the Drum Tower.

DAY 3 - BEIJING

See the Great Wall at Mutianyu.

DAY 4 - BEIJING TO XIAN

Visit the Temple of Heaven, Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall and Summer Palace before taking a short flight to Xian. **SOFITEL RENMIN SQUARE - 3 nights**

DAY 5 - XIAN

The Terracotta Warriors are Xian's crowning glory, but you will also enjoy the colourful Muslim Quarter, city wall and pagodas.

DAY 6 - XIAN

Visit the extraordinary Army of the Terracotta Warriors outside Xian.

DAY 7 - XIAN TO SHANGHAI

A morning flight to Shanghai. Learn about the ancient practice of Feng Shui and visit the interesting Propaganda Poster Arts Centre. **THE WESTIN SHANGHAI - 3 nights**

DAY 8 - SHANGHAI

Experience the regal Bund, Yu Gardens, Shanghai Museum and Urban Planning Exhibition Centre. This evening, see a spectacular acrobatics performance.

DAY 9 - SHANGHAI

Explore the Old Chinese Quarter with a backstreets walking tour.

DAY 10 - DEPART SHANGHAI

Today transfer from your hotel to the airport for your onward flight.

Hotel brief

Beijing - RAFFLES BEIJING

The most historic address in the capital offers colonial ambience and refined luxury just minutes away from the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square.

Xian - SOFITEL RENMIN SQUARE

The Sofitel Renmin Square is a beautiful property in the heart of Xian. You will enjoy the sophisticated features and modern touches, as well as the lovely spa and pool.

Shanghai - THE WESTIN BUND CENTER SHANGHAI

Chic, modern interiors, wonderful service and an unbeatable location right off the historic Bund make The Westin Shanghai our favourite pick in town.

Visa requirements

All persons entering China require a visa. Travellers need a tourist visa which must be obtained from a Chinese Embassy or Consulate abroad before arrival and is valid for all international points of entry into China. More detailed visa information is available in our pre-departure information. It is your responsibility to make sure that visa requirements are fulfilled.

Health issues

Good medical advice usually recommends vaccinations/prophylactics in advance of travel to China. We suggest that you consult with your doctor to discuss health care needs specific to your holiday.

Travel insurance

You must be comprehensively insured as a condition of travelling with Travel Indochina. Insurance should include cover for personal accident and medical expenses, evacuation and repatriation, baggage loss, and cancellation or curtailment of your holiday. Your booking will not be confirmed if you cannot confirm possession of appropriate insurance, and our ground operations have the right to prevent you from travelling in the event that you cannot present your insurance details at the start of the tour. Your travel agent can organise travel insurance for you.

Recommended reading

- From Rice to Riches: A Personal Journey through a Changing China - Jane Hutcheon
- Life and Death in Shanghai - Nien Cheng
- Red China Blues - Jan Wong
- China Wakes: The Struggle for the Soul of a Rising Power - Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl Wudunn
- Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China - Jung Chang
- The Soong Dynasty - Sterling Seagrave
- Oracle Bones - Peter Hessler
- Bamboo Goalposts - Rowan Simons

A responsible Travel Indochina

Travel Indochina practices a thorough, realistic responsible travel policy, full details of which can be found on our website. Our policy includes our downloadable 'Tread Lightly' booklet, full of useful pointers which will make you a more 'responsible' traveller in Asia.

Pre and post tour arrangements

If you would like to book pre or post tour hotel arrangements or are interested in doing additional quality touring before or after your Small Group Journey, either contact Travel Indochina or your local travel agent.

What next

Once your booking has been confirmed and you have paid in full you will receive a detailed itinerary for this tour, detailing day by day arrangements, as well as a pre-departure guide containing valuable information designed to help you get the most out of your holiday.

About Travel Indochina

Travel Indochina has been operating Small Group Journeys to Asia since 1993. Based in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, our idea is simple - escape the tourist traps to explore the essence of Asia's history, culture, natural beauty and most importantly, Asia's people. Another feature is the quality, character and location of our accommodation. Our travellers enjoy the combination of well thought out itineraries, tasteful accommodation, insightful Western and local leaders, value for money, and our experience and base in the region.

Disclaimer

Information in this document was correct at the time of its preparation. Travel Indochina reserves the right to make itinerary changes as operational or other circumstances require.