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QIN - GOLDEN ROUTE

Explore China's iconic historical, cultural, and natural attractions in Beijing, Xi'an, Guilin, and Shanghai

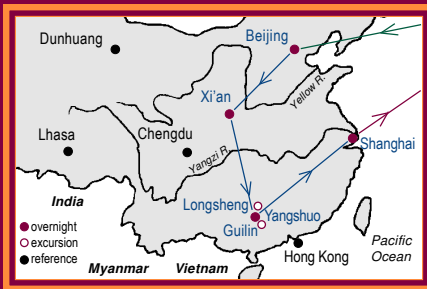
In 221 BC, the king of Qin State defeated the other six feudal states with his formidable army and proclaimed himself the First Emperor of the Qin Dynasty (Qin Shi Huang Di). This unification marked the beginning of Imperial China, a period which lasted over 2,000 years until the fall of the Qing (Manchu) Dynasty in 1911 AD.

The first emperor of China unified the country by force, yet contributed civic achievements such as building the Great Wall and standardizing writing, weights, and measurements throughout his empire. Although the Qin Dynasty existed for only 15 years, it left an enduring legacy of a centralized and bureaucratic state that was emulated by successive dynasties.

The Qin Dynasty encompassed a population of over 40 million people (more than the contemporary Roman Empire). Qin is pronounced as "Ch'in" outside the country, which is where the name China originated.

13 Days (Tour Code-HGR)

This tour departs on Sundays and returns on Fridays. There are six departures during the year in the months of April, May, June, September, October, and November. Please refer to the [Dates & Prices](#) or [Access China Tours](#) website for 2012 "Tour Dates", the current "Tour Land Price", "Single Supplement Cost", and "International Air Cost". Call 1-800-788-1399 for more details.



Day 1 Depart North America

Fly to China from your nearest airport and via the best routing. We can book your international air individually for your convenience.

Day 2 Arrive Beijing

Arrive at Beijing Capital Airport, one of the world's largest and most modern. You are met by Access China Tours service staff and transferred by vehicle to your downtown luxury hotel. Meet your fellow travelers and tour manager at the Evening Reception and learn more about the upcoming sightseeing and activities.

<Evening Reception>

The Peninsula Beijing

Day 3 Beijing

After breakfast, our exploration in Beijing starts from **Tiananmen Square** – the world's largest. Visit the ultra-modern 'Egg' - **National Performing Arts Center**. Next, visit the **Forbidden City**, magnificent imperial palaces of Ming and Qing dynasties for almost 500 years.

After lunch, explore by pedicab ride some of Beijing's old **Hutongs** (alleyways) and the traditional **courtyards**. Climb up the nearby **Drum Tower** and **Bell Tower** for a great aerial view of the traditional neighborhood, and also visit the private home of a local resident to hear their life stories.

Return to hotel for relaxation. Enjoy a welcome banquet featuring Peking Duck this evening.

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The Peninsula Beijing

Day 4 Beijing

Visit the **Temple of Heaven** early this morning. Observe Beijing residents doing traditional Taichi and other exercises in the well maintained park. Behold the beautiful Hall of Prayers, an ornate structure built of wood without using a single nail or adhesive.

Stop by the lively **Silk Market**, a bustling place where buyers and vendors bargain hard over clothes, accessories, bags, traditional arts and crafts.

After lunch, go to visit the enchanting **Summer Palace**, a renown imperial retreat of the Qing dynasty royal family and retinue. The Long Corridor, Marble Boat, Seventeen-Arch Bridge, and Longevity Hill are all structures of grace and beauty. Enjoy a boat ride

on the vast Kunming Lake.

For tonight's dinner, we invite you to enjoy in a courtyard restaurant the famous Imperial Cuisine that was favored by the Ming and Qing Emperors .

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The Peninsula Beijing

Day 5 Beijing

Put on your hiking shoes for an excursion to the extraordinary **Great Wall** of China. Out in the hills, we visit the rugged and scenic Mutianyu section which better exemplifies the fine Ming dynasty era construction. Stop by a small **mountain village** for lunch and meet local rural residents.

Return to hotel. Rest of the day is free for you to discover more of Beijing's treasures or just relax.

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The Peninsula Beijing

Day 6 Beijing → Xi'an

This morning, transfer to the airport. Visit the trendy **798 Art Complex** on the way to view some Chinese modern art created by Beijing's artisans. Fly to Xi'an, the ancient capital of the Qin Dynasty and many of the subsequent dynasties.





After refreshing in hotel, go to visit the massive ancient **City Walls** and a nearby city market.

This evening, enjoy a special Xi'an Cuisine Dinner in an elite local restaurant.

<B-L-D> **Sofitel on Renmin Square**

Day 7 Xi'an

Take an excursion to see the extraordinary 2,200-year-old **Terracotta Warriors** of China's first Emperor - Qin Shihuang, discovered in 1974 by farmers while digging a well. This archaeological excavation site is a stunning exhibit of more than 7,000 ancient terracotta life-size statues of soldiers, officers, horses, chariots, and other artifacts.

Upon returning to the city in the afternoon, visit the elegant **Big Goose Pagoda** which has survived over a millennia of war and earthquakes. Tour the exquisite **Xi'an History Museum** for its wonderful collection of relic items spanning almost 3000 years.

Tonight, a Special Dumpling Dinner is followed by an elaborate **Tang Dynasty Stage Show** recalling the days when Xi'an was the largest city in the world.

<B-L-D> **Sofitel on Renmin Square**

Day 8 Xi'an → Guilin

Transfer to airport for a noon flight to Guilin. On the way, visit the **Yangling Archaeological Site & Museum** that displays priceless antiquities found in this imperial tomb of the Han Dynasty.

Upon arrival in Guilin, one of China's most scenic

cities, transfer to hotel and refresh. Later, follow your guide on a city tour that includes an evening cruise through urban lakes featuring lights and bridges.

<B-D> **Shangri-La Hotel Guilin**

Day 9 Guilin ↔ Longsheng

Guilin is home to some of China's most beautiful landscapes, its jagged and lush limestone peaks and tranquil rivers create endless panoramas.

After breakfast, travel by vehicle to mountainous Longsheng for a full-day excursion to see beautiful **Rice Terraces** and to visit **villages of ethnic Dong and Yao peoples**, two of China's fifty five ethnic minorities. Some moderate climbing is involved so you will need comfortable walking shoes. Those who cannot hike can still enjoy the scenery utilizing sedan-chair service.

Return to Guilin by late afternoon. Enjoy a Sichuan Cuisine Dinner in a local restaurant.

<B-L-D> **Shangri-La Hotel Guilin**

Day 10 Guilin → Yangshuo → Shanghai

Today, board a cruise boat for a stunning four-hour **Li River Cruise**. The cruise will give you an opportunity to savor the unique and scenic views of the area's extraordinary landscape of sheer limestone peaks and tranquil waters that have inspired thousands of famous Chinese scroll paintings.

Get off the boat in **Yangshuo**, a lovely and tourist-friendly small town with streets lined with boutique hotels, countless souvenir shops selling traditional

ornaments, jewelry and paintings, and restaurants serving international foods. Explore the lively street market and also visit a **farmer's village home** nestled in the panoramic landscape.

Return by bus to Guilin and take a late afternoon flight to Shanghai. Transfer to hotel upon arrival.

<B-L> **Four Seasons Hotel Shanghai**

Day 11 Shanghai

After breakfast in your hotel, head out to visit the exquisite **Yuyuan Garden** constructed in 1559 and the European Art-Deco architecture of the **Bund**. Gaze across the Huangpu River at the towering structures of the ultra-modern Pudong district.

In the afternoon, visit the marvelous **Shanghai Museum**, whose well organized galleries contain world-class collections of ancient art and artifacts dating back millennia. The Bronze Gallery is probably the world's finest, a must-see section.

Then, wander in the former **French Concession**, represented by the leafy **Fuxing Park** and colonial era architecture. Stop at **Xintiandi**, a redeveloped old neighborhood now occupied by trendy pubs, coffee shops, chic restaurants, and fashion stores.

After dinner, go to a Shanghai theater to enjoy a stunning **Acrobatic Performance**.

<B-L-D> **Four Seasons Hotel Shanghai**

Day 12 Shanghai

In the morning of your last day in China, you will first visit the **Jinmao Building** in Pudong District, the 7th tallest building on earth. Stop by **Ohel Moshe Synagogue** in the "old ghetto" to reflect upon the scarcely reported history of Jews living in China. Later, visit **Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Center** for a peek at the planner's perspective on the city's future development.

Afternoon is free to explore dynamic Shanghai on your own. Tonight, fellow travelers all get together to enjoy a special farewell Shanghai Cuisine Dinner in an elite local restaurant.

<B-D> **Four Seasons Hotel Shanghai**

Day 13 Return Home

Enjoy breakfast in your hotel. Later transfer to the airport and board your homebound flight. Arrive in North America on the same day.

