

# The Middle Kingdom

Discover the wonderful variety of landscapes, people and cultures of China in  
Beijing, Xi'an, Urumqi/Turpan, Chengdu, Lhasa, Kunming, Guilin/  
Yangshuo, Longsheng, and Shanghai

21 Days / 19 Nights

Departures: May 07 - 17, 2017 September 10 - 30, 2017



ACCESS CHINA TOURS



Group and Private Fine Touring in China and Asia

## Tour Program Summary

China is a land of history and refinement unparalleled in the world. Attentive visitors are immersed in a sea of visual and cultural experiences unlike any other they may have had elsewhere. Each geographic area in China teems with its own identity as an energetic variation on the great theme of Chinese civilization. You will be amazed at how regions differ vastly yet express similar values and ideas.

Your grand China tour starts in **Beijing**, 800-year capital of the country. Enjoy an exploration of the beauty of the imperial city and meetings with urban Chinese residents. Discover the splendor of China's glorious past: the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, and Great Wall; also witness the dynamic and ever-changing life pace in today's capital of China.

Travel by air to **Xi'an**, once the largest city in the world. Visit and explore the Terracotta Warriors Museum in homage to Qinshihuang. It is considered China's preeminent archaeological discovery. Tour other important historic sites in the ancient Tang Dynasty capital.

Then, wing on to the far west of China and start your exploration of the **Silk Road** - where East and West first met more than 2,000 years ago, China's only major connection to the outside world at that time. The Silk Road region is vast and empty, populated by nomads, oasis farmers, and wild camels. The towns are remote, marked by mosques more than temples, inhabited mostly by Uygur Muslims, Kazaks, Uzbeks, Mongolians and other minorities. The Silk Road winds through a lost world, an alien landscape of howling sand dunes and silent snowy peaks. It is a part of China most visitors have yet to see. Traveling westward on the Silk Road to visit **Urumqi's** fascinating alpine scenery and intriguing museum displays; explore **Turpan's** ancient city ruins.

The next stop of our tour is **Chengdu**, a place of color, spirit and fiery food. A visit to the Giant Panda Breeding Center will prove to be a thrill. Watch the marvelous face-changing show and relax in a local restaurant for a taste of the genuine Sichuan cuisine.

Wing on to **Lhasa**, the holy city and capital of Tibet. The Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple, Norbulingka Park, and Sera Monastery house the sacred treasures, some of which date back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. You will spend time exploring the old market place "The Barkhor".

Then, fly to **Kunming**, the "City of Eternal Spring" and capital of Yunnan Province. Comfortable climate, relaxed life, and friendly inhabitants make Kunming one of the most desirable cities in China. Visit the famous Stone Forest and the Sani villages nearby.

A short flight brings you to **Guilin**. Together with **Yangshuo** and **Longsheng**, this south China region sports picturesque karsts mountains rising from rice paddies and magnificent rice terraces cultivated by ethnic minorities. This is one of the most idyllic landscapes of China, and your cruise down the Li River will reveal its beauties at each bend of the river.

Continue your journey with a flight to **Shanghai**, China's most populous city and economic powerhouse. The European Bund still retains the glamour of the colonial era; modern western pubs and bars and boutiques scatter all around the center of Shanghai. Visit the traditional Yuyuan Garden and spend some time exploring Shanghai Museum, the best in the country.

Fly back home from Shanghai.

# Tour Daily Itinerary

- Day 01 → depart Fly from North America to Beijing, China on a cross-Pacific flight.
- Day 02 **Beijing** Arrive at Beijing Capital Airport and met by ACT service staff and private transfer to your hotel in downtown [Regent Beijing](#) for check-in and relaxation; rest of the day and evening is free for your own leisure.



- Day 03 **Beijing** After breakfast in the hotel, our exploration in Beijing starts from [Tiananmen Square](#), the largest public square in the world; next, visit the [Forbidden City](#), imperial palaces for Ming and Qing Dynasties.

After **lunch** at a local restaurant, explore by a pedicab ride some of Beijing's old "[Hutongs](#)" – the traditional courtyard residences cut into blocks by narrow alleyways; climb up the nearby [Drum and Bell Towers](#) for a great aerial view of the old traditional neighborhood, and also visit a [private home](#) of local a resident to hear their life stories.

Return to the hotel for relaxation. This evening, enjoy a **Welcome Banquet** featuring 'Peking Duck' at *Dadong Restaurant*. <B-L-D>

- Day 04 **Beijing** Breakfast in the hotel; visit the [Temple of Heaven](#) in the morning; observe Beijing residents practicing *Taichi* and examine the beautiful structure of the [Hall of Prayer](#); stop by the lively [Panjiayuan Market](#).

After **lunch**, take an excursion to the extraordinary [Great Wall of China at Mutianyu section](#), where the Wall winds across the wooded green mountains; return to the city and enjoy the famous **Imperial Cuisine Dinner** in an elite local restaurant tonight. <B-L-D>



- Day 05 → **Xi'an** After breakfast in the hotel, transfer to airport and fly **MU2016 (1055-1255)** to Xi'an; met by your guide upon arrival and transfer to the hotel.

After your own lunch and refreshing in the hotel, visit the massive [Ancient City Wall](#); also visit the [Great Mosque](#) and the [Muslim Market](#) in an old neighborhood dating back to the Silk Road era; enjoy a special **Xi'an Cuisine Dinner** in an elite local restaurant; stay at [Hilton Xi'an](#). <B-D>

Day 06 **Xi'an**

Breakfast in the hotel; take a morning excursion to the Terracotta Warriors of China's first Emperor – Qin Shihuang; upon returning to the city, visit the elegant Big Goose Pagoda and then tour the Xi'an History Museum for its wonderful collection of ancient relics.

In the evening, you will enjoy your own dinner in hotel; then, escorted by guide to a local theater for an elaborate Tang Style Evening Show. Transfer back to hotel after the show. <B-L>



Day 07 **→ Urumqi**

Breakfast in the hotel; transfer to airport for a flight to Urumqi; on the way, visit the remarkable Yangling Archaeological Site Museum.

Upon arrival on **CA1265 (1140-1520)**, met and transferred to the city and visit Xinjiang Museum; later stop by the busy Erdaoqiao Uygur Market, an indoor bazaar reminiscent of the Arabian nights.

Check into the hotel and enjoy a characteristic Uygur Cuisine Dinner with music and dance this evening; stay at Sheraton Urumqi Hotel. <B-D>

Day 08 **Urumqi ⇄ Turpan**

Breakfast in the hotel; take a full-day excursion to **Turpan**, an oasis in a land depression; first visit the site of ancient Jiaohe City followed by a tour of the 200-year-old Emin Minaret, towering 44 meters next to a Muslim cemetery.

After **lunch**, continue sightseeing at the Gaochang Ruins, dating back to the 14th century. A visit to Grape Valley is a pleasant experience; stop by farmer's homes, and go deep underground to see the Karez Wells underground irrigation system. Return to your Urumqi hotel by the evening for your own relaxation and dinner. <B-L>



Day 09 **→ Chengdu**

After breakfast in the hotel, take a half-day excursion to the scenic Heavenly Lake set among towering alpine peaks of the Tianshan Mountains; visit the yurt homes of the local Kazakh herdsmen.

Transfer to Urumqi Airport in the afternoon for flight **CZ3694 (1420-1730)** to Chengdu; met upon arrival and transfer to hotel for check-in and your own relaxation in the evening; stay at The Ritz Carlton Chengdu. <B-L>

Day 10 **Chengdu**

Breakfast in the hotel; start out early for a special visit to the Giant Panda

Research and Breeding Center for a closer look at the lovely bears and learn about the preservation effort taken by scientists.

Next, travel to Guanghan county to visit the magnificent Sanxingdui Archaeological Museum & Site. Return to the city in the afternoon and visit Wenshuyuan Buddhist Temple, Kuanzhai Alley - a traditional neighborhood, and a local tea house to mingle with Chengdu residents.

In the evening, enjoy a very tasty Sichuan Cuisine Dinner followed by a fabulous Face-Changing Show at Shufengyayun Theater. <B-L-D>



Day 11 → **Lhasa** After breakfast in the hotel, transfer to airport and fly **MU5473 (1000-1210)** over high mountain ranges to Lhasa in Tibet.

Upon arrival, transfer to the city and have **lunch**. Check into your luxury hotel and balance of the day is free for adjusting to the high altitude; dinner is in your own tonight; The St. Regis Lhasa Resort. <B-L>

Day 12 **Lhasa** Breakfast in the hotel; begin your Tibet exploration with a visit to the magnificent Jokhang Monastery; coming out of the Jokhang, you are right in the center of fascinating Barkhor Market area. Walk around the pilgrim's circuit and have **lunch** in a local restaurant.

Move on to visit Sera Monastery to see young monks practicing religious debating; then, visit a Tibetan family later in the day; enjoy a special **Tibetan Cuisine Dinner** in the evening. <B-L-D>

Day 13 **Lhasa** Breakfast in the hotel; your visit to the monumental Potala Palace is the highlight of your trip to Tibet. Get a great view of Lhasa from the top.  
After **lunch**, visit Norbulingka, summer retreat for the Dalai Lamas in the old days; also visit the bustling Muslim Quarters in old town Lhasa to meet local residents; return to hotel and balance of the day and evening are free for your own relaxation and your own dinner. <B-L>



Day 14 → **Kunming** After breakfast in hotel, transfer to the airport and fly **MU5940 (1135-1500)** to Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province; met upon arrival and transfer to hotel for check-in and refreshing.

In the evening, enjoy a delicious **Yunnan Cuisine Dinner** in an elite

local restaurant followed by an incredible ethnic stage show --- [Dynamic Yunnan](#). Transfer back to hotel - [Green Lake Hotel Kunming](#). <B-D>

Day 15 → **Guilin**

Breakfast in hotel; today's sightseeing begins with a visit to the thousand-year-old [Yuantong Temple](#), Yunnan's major Buddhist site and an active place of pilgrimage and worship.

Then travel out of the city and visit the [Golden Temple](#) built in the 17th century; then, continue on for an excursion to the [Stone Forest](#), a geological wonder about 90 kilometers in the rolling hills southeast of Kunming. Also explore the [local markets](#) and [villages](#) of ethnic *Sani* people.

Late afternoon, transfer to Kunming Airport and wing on [CZ3248 \(1810-1930\)](#) to Guilin; transfer and check in hotel for your own relaxation. Stay at [Shangri-La Hotel Guilin](#). <B-L>



Day 16 **Guilin** ↔ **Yangshuo**

Breakfast in the hotel; board a late morning luxury cruise boat for a relaxing four-hour Li River Cruise with lunch on board. Disembark the boat in Yangshuo; explore the lively [West Street Market](#) and also hike on the country trails and visit [farmers' village homes](#) nestled in the panoramic landscape before enjoying a [Local Cuisine Dinner](#) in Yangshuo.

This evening, enjoy a fantastic sound and light show - [Impressions Liusanjie](#), created by famous film director and 2008 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony choreographer *Zhang Yimou*. Return to Guilin by vehicle. <B-L-D>

Day 17 🏠 **Longsheng**

Breakfast in hotel. Travel by vehicle to the mountainous Longsheng County - to see beautiful [Rice Terraces](#) cultivated through centuries and visit [villages of ethnic Dong and Yao minority people](#).

Capture the splendid [View of Sunset](#) over the rice terraces with your camera. Stay overnight in the charming mountain top [Li'An Lodge](#) and enjoy [dinner](#) in the lodge restaurant this evening. <B-L-D>

Day 18 → **Shanghai**

Get up early today and take a morning [Sunrise Walk on the rice terraces](#), a mesmerizing experience. Return to lodge for breakfast and check out.

Transfer to Guilin Airport for a noon flight [FM9380 \(1210-1420\)](#) to Shanghai; upon arrival, met by your private guide and transfer to hotel.

Enjoy an evening walk on the [Bund](#) to see the European Art-Deco architecture of the early 20th century. Tonight's dinner is the city's signature dish [Shanghai Steamed Soup Dumplings](#) in *Dingtaifeng Restaurant*; stay at [Fairmont Peace Hotel Shanghai](#). <B-D>

Day 19 **Shanghai**

Breakfast in the hotel; meet your guide in hotel lobby and go to visit the exquisite traditional [Yuyuan Garden](#) and the marvelous [Shanghai Museum](#)

this morning; stop for **lunch** at Xintiandi, a redeveloped, chic old neighborhood with trendy pubs, cafes, restaurants, and shops frequented by Shanghai's new wealthy citizens and tourists from around the world.

In the afternoon, wander around in the former French Concession, represented by the leafy Fuxing Park and the colonial architecture in the area. Stop by Ohel Moshe Synagogue building in the "Jewish Quarter" district to learn about the scarcely reported history of Jewish people in China; dinner is on your own tonight. <B-L>



Day 20 **Shanghai** Breakfast in hotel; today is free for your own exploration or shopping in wonderful Shanghai. An [optional excursion to garden city Suzhou](#) is available *at additional cost*.

This evening, enjoy a farewell **Shanghai Cuisine Dinner** in an elite restaurant followed by a stunning **Acrobatic Performance**. Transfer back to hotel after the show. <B-D>

Day 21 **→ return** Breakfast in the hotel; transfer to the airport and board your homebound flight; arrive in North America on the same day. <B>

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**Changes to Itinerary:** *Access China Tours has made all possible attempts to ensure the accuracy of tour itineraries. Circumstances beyond our control may occur. We reserve the right to change itineraries, sightseeing activities, and common carriers, and to substitute hotels when necessary. Service of a similar category and standard will be maintained if such changes are made. The Service Voucher in your last pre-departure packet will provide the operational itinerary summary, final transport and hotel information.*

## Luxury, Deluxe and Boutique Hotels Selected for Your Tour



Regent Beijing



Hilton Xi'an



Sheraton Urumqi Hotel



The Ritz Carlton Chengdu



The St. Regis Lhasa Resort



Green Lake Hotel Kunming

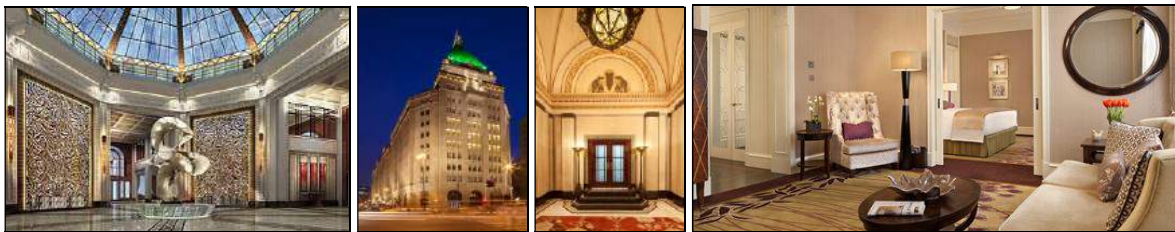




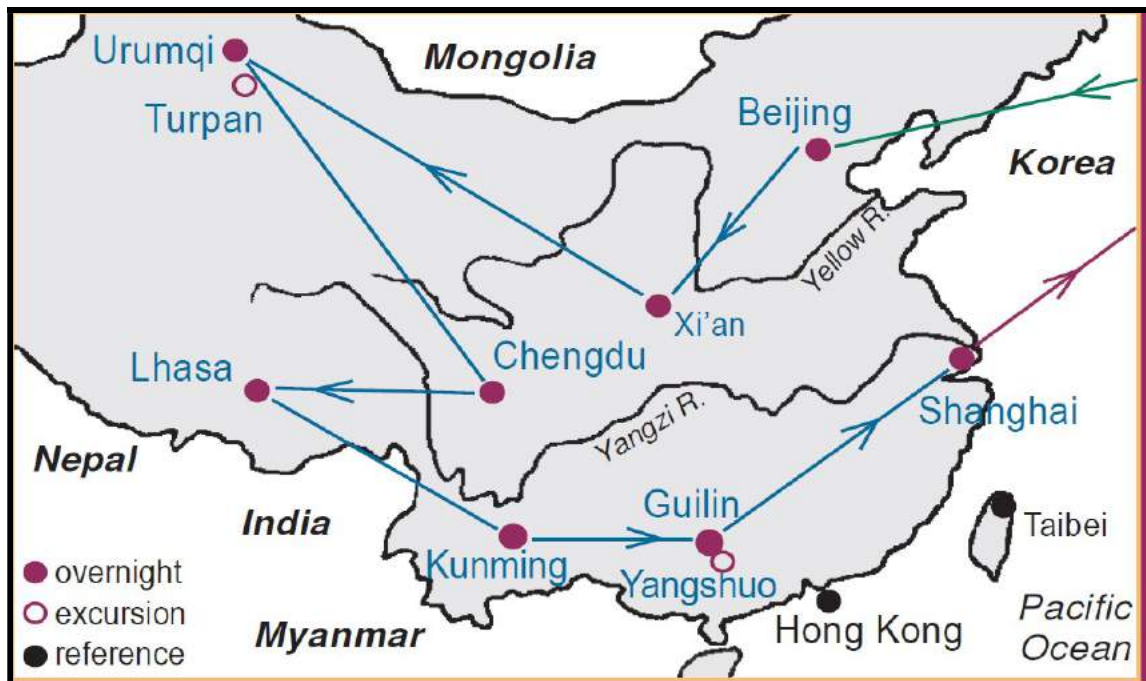
Shangri-la Hotel Guilin



Li'An Lodge Longsheng



Fairmont Peace Hotel Shanghai



## Tour Land Price Inclusions & Exclusions

**Tour Land Prices:**           **\$8,980 USD** per person, double occupancy (for a group of 2-5 travelers)  
  **\$8,730 USD** per person, double occupancy (for a group of 6-9 travelers)  
  **\$8,480 USD** per person, double occupancy (for a group of 10-16 travelers)

**Single Supplement Cost:** **\$3,190 USD** for single occupancy in hotels throughout the tour

### **What's Included in 'Tour Land Prices'**

- Luxury/deluxe class and boutique hotel double occupancy accommodations with breakfast
- Coach class China domestic air tickets and first class seats on high speed train
- Air-conditioned motor coach ground transportation
- All tour related Chinese domestic taxes and 'Tibet Travel Permit' processing
- Arrival and departure transfers on tour dates
- Transfers and luggage (1 piece of 45 pounds per person for domestic flights) handling
- Pre-departure information packets
- All sightseeing, visits, cultural events, and activities listed in the itinerary
- All meals (*all breakfasts, 13 lunches, and 11 dinners*) as specified in the itinerary
- Service of a private English-speaking Tour Manager/Escort (*for a group of 10 or more travelers*)
- Service of a private English-speaking local guide in each city
- Private, clean, and newer motor coach with air-conditioning and a professional driver
- Gratuities to local guides, drivers, and porters (*for a group of 10 or more travelers*)

### **What's Not Included in 'Tour Land Prices'**

- International air tickets (*will quote separately if requested*)
- Chinese visa processing ([www.mychinavisa.com](http://www.mychinavisa.com) or [www.mychinavisa.ca](http://www.mychinavisa.ca))
- Trip cancellation, baggage, accident, and medical insurance
- Meals not indicated as included and optional activities and events
- Gratuities to your Tour Manager/Escort; tipping for local guides and drivers (*for 2-9 travelers*)
- Items not listed and/or specified as included in the itinerary

**Cancellation Policy:** **\$600 USD pp deposit is required at sign up.** All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of receipt by *Access China Tours*. We assess cancellation fees of all tours according to the following schedule:

90 days or more prior to departure .....	\$300 per person *
89 to 60 days prior to departure .....	\$600 per person *
59 to 30 days prior to departure .....	\$900 per person *
29 to 15 days prior to departure .....	\$1200 per person *

\* Plus any charges assessed by government agencies, land suppliers, cruise companies and airlines.

Within 14 days of departure .....100% forfeiture of the tour price per person

*Access China Tours* will not grant partial refunds for any unused trip arrangements after the trip has commenced or any refunds to participants who do not complete any portion of the itinerary. Any airline tickets issued are subject to the carrier's refund and cancellation policy. **We strongly recommend you purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance to protect your travel investment.** If a tour is forced to be cancelled due to government's travel warnings, declared or undeclared wars, hostilities, civil disturbances, strike, riot, epidemic, and quarantines, *Access China Tours* will refund all participants' payment less any irretrievable expenses and loss (visa fees, airline penalties, communication cost, and non-refundable booking cost, etc.). However, *Access China Tours* will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by tour participants (e.g., non-refundable "advance purchase" air tickets, insurance & medical expenses, passport and visa expenses, etc.).