

China Discovery

Exploring natural wonders, historic treasures, cultural heritage, and culinary delights in Beijing, Mutianyu, Xi'an, Zhangjiajie National Park, Guilin, Yangshuo, Longsheng, and Shanghai

16 Days / 14 Nights

Specially Designed Small Group Tour (maximum 18 travelers), May 06 -21, 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. This tour features many special sites and activities, which makes it a bit more adventurous than your average China tour and all the more exciting.

Beginning in **Beijing**, the longtime imperial capital of China, center of government and home to an amazing six UNESCO World Heritage Sites. You'll explore the beauty of the imperial city and discover the splendor of China's glorious past. Your tour includes the 9,000-room Forbidden City, nearby Jinshan Park, Tiananmen Square, the tranquil parklands of the Temple of Heaven, the serene Summer Palace, and tours of ancient hutong neighborhoods and modern architecture. A two-hour drive from Beijing takes you to **Mutianyu**, a remote and rugged location of the Great Wall not seen by most tourists. You will spend the night in a charming guesthouse in a quiet village at the foot of the wall, providing you with time to explore the Great Wall as you wish.

Travel by high-speed train to **Xi'an**, once the largest city in the world. This ancient capital in Shaanxi Province was the beginning of the fabled Silk Road. Explore the amazing Terracotta warriors, horses and chariots, considered China's preeminent archaeological discovery. Xi'an is the largest city in China to still have its city walls at 8.5 miles around and 40 feet high. Weather permitting, ride a bicycle along these ancient battlements. Tour other important historic sites such as the Muslim Bazaar and Mosque, Shaanxi Provincial Museum, and the Big Wild Goose Pagoda.

A short flight brings you to **Zhangjiajie**, one of China's best national parks, where you'll see the scenery that inspired the creation of the floating Hallelujah Mountains in the Hollywood movie **Avatar**. Explore the magnificent landscape with countless jaw-dropping vistas and charming local culture, including the world's longest glass bridge, which opened to the public in 2016.

Fly direct 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. It is here where landscapes of limestone peaks covered with green vegetation thrusting upward from tranquil blue rivers and bamboo groves have inspired thousands of Chinese scroll paintings. You may experience these fairyland like landscapes by cruise boat, bicycle, or on foot. Also, take a fun-filled cooking class in Yangshuo.

The last stop of your journey is **Shanghai**, the cosmopolitan financial center of China. Although just a small fishing village 175 years ago, Shanghai has evolved into one of the world's largest cities with ultra-modern architecture and some of the world's tallest buildings. Though short on history, Shanghai is rich in art and culture. Your full-day tour of Shanghai features the Bund, Yuyuan Garden, Fuxing Park, Tianzifang Market, and the Ohel Moshe Synagogue, which was the center of the Jewish community that lived in Shanghai during World War II. Your final night in China features dinner at Xianqiangfang Restaurant followed by an incredible acrobatic show.

Tour Leader & Escort: ACTs' sales manager & tour leader **Mr. Daniel Pliske** will be leading this tour when there are 10 or more travelers in the group. Daniel holds a Master's Degree in Tourism Management from Colorado State University. His passion for Asia developed at a young age, and he has traveled extensively in most East Asian and South East Asian countries and to China multiple times.



Tour Daily Itinerary

May 06 → depart
Day 01

Fly from New York, USA or another gateway city in North America to Beijing, China on *your own booked flight*.

May 07 **Beijing**
Day 02

Arrive in Beijing today; meet your private English-speaking tour guide at the airport and transfer to [Park Plaza Hotel Beijing \(superior room\)](#) for check-in and rest; *evening is free at your leisure; dinner is on your own*.



May 08 **Beijing**
Day 03

Breakfast in hotel; meet your guide in the lobby at **8:00am**; set out for a full-day city sightseeing tour, visiting [Tiananmen Square](#), world's largest public Square, and the "[Egg](#)" - National Performing Arts Centre (exterior) followed by the [Forbidden City](#), imperial palaces for the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) Dynasties; afterwards, stop by [Jingshan Park](#) for a panoramic view of the Forbidden City.

After **lunch** at a *local restaurant*, take part in a pedicab "[Hutong & Courtyard](#)" tour to explore the old neighborhood of the city through narrow alleyways; transfer back to your hotel for a relaxation.

This evening, set out with your guide for a welcoming **Peking Duck Dinner** at *Dadong Restaurant*. <B-L-D>

May 09 **Beijing**
Day 04

Breakfast in hotel; start the day a bit early at **7:30am**; meet your guide in the hotel lobby and set out for a full-day city sightseeing tour; visit the [Temple of Heaven](#) in the morning to see the locals doing various morning exercises such as Taichi and Kungfu; also visit [Hall of Prayer for Harvest](#) in the park; stop by [Hongqiao Market](#) for a visit before heading to **lunch** at a *local restaurant*.

In the afternoon, travel by vehicle to the [Summer Palace](#) with a *boat ride on Kunming Lake (weather permitting)* for an exploration of this huge imperial park; afterwards, stop by the [2008 Olympic Park](#) for exterior views of the [Birds Nest & Water Cube](#); transfer back to your hotel in the late afternoon; *evening is free at your leisure; dinner is on your own*. <B-L>



May 10 **Mutianyu**
Day 05

Breakfast in hotel; meet your guide in the hotel lobby and take an excursion to the [Great Wall at Mutianyu](#); tour the wall on top of the mountain from

one watch tower to the next, *with round-trip cableways*; afterwards, enjoy **lunch** at *The Xiaolongpu Restaurant*.

In the afternoon, transfer to [Brickyard Eco Retreat \(premier room\)](#) for check-in; **remainder of the day and evening are free at your leisure** in this charming hotel in a quiet village. *Optional Foot Massage is available either in the city or at the retreat and to be paid on spot.* **Dinner is on your own.** <B-L>



May 11  **Xi'an**
Day 06

Breakfast in hotel; transfer to Beijing Train Station and take high-speed train **G659 (12:07pm – 5:40pm; first-class seats)** to Xi'an; meet your English-speaking guide & driver upon arrival and transfer to [Grand Mercure Xi'an on Renmin Square Hotel \(superior room\)](#) for check-in; **evening is free for your exploration and/or relaxation; dinner is on your own.**

May 12 **Xi'an**
Day 07

Breakfast in hotel; meet your guide in the hotel lobby at **8:00am** and take a morning excursion to the [Terracotta Warriors Site & Museum](#) for an exploration; return to the hotel for a brief rest and **lunch is on your own.**

In the afternoon, tour the massive [Ancient City Wall](#), built in the Ming Dynasty; bike the entire wall (8.5 miles) if you would like - weather permitting; also visit the [Big Wild Goose Pagoda](#); have a brief rest at your hotel before setting out for a **Local Cuisine Dinner** at *Folk's Kitchen Restaurant*; return to your hotel after dinner. <B-D>

May 13  **Zhangjiajie**
Day 08

Breakfast in the hotel; enjoy the **morning free at your leisure (explore or relax) and lunch is on your own**; check out of the hotel by noon and store your luggage with the hotel concierge.

In the afternoon, met by your guide in the hotel lobby and set out to visit the [Shaanxi Provincial Museum](#) as well as the [Great Mosque](#) and nearby bustling [Muslim Market](#); enjoy **dinner** in a local restaurant.

Transfer to the airport for flight **JD5107 (8:10pm – 9:35pm)** to Zhangjiajie. Upon arrival, meet your guide and transfer to [Pullman Hotel Zhangjiajie \(superior room\)](#) for check-in and rest. <B-D>



May 14 **Zhangjiajie**
Day 09

Breakfast in the hotel; meet your guide in the hotel lobby to begin your exploration of the beautiful natural scenery in Hunan Province; visit the

Tianzishan Natural Reserve with waterfalls, bridges, stone forests, and caves found throughout the mountain park; enjoy **lunch** in a *local restaurant*.

In the afternoon, visit the Yuanjiajie, which is famous for the exciting visual angles and also another great hiking site of the Zhangjiajie Scenic Area. The Enchanting Platform nearby has the best spot from which to view the cloudscape down the 100-metre valley. If time permits, we can continue visiting the Ten-Mile-Gallery Valley.

Enjoy **dinner** at the *hotel or a local restaurant*. Transfer back to your hotel and the **evening is free at your leisure**. <B-L-D>



May 15 **Zhangjiajie**
Day 10

Breakfast in the hotel; meet your guide in the hotel lobby and set out for a full-day exploration of Zhangjiajie National Forest Park Huanglong (Yellow Dragon) Cave; enjoy a wonderful tour of the karst cave; next, visit Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon and the world's longest glass bridge for an thrilling experience; enjoy **lunch** in a *local restaurant*.

Return to your hotel in the late afternoon; **remainder of the day is free at your leisure; dinner is on your own**. <B-L>

May 16 **→ Guilin**
Day 11

Breakfast in hotel; meet your guide in the hotel lobby and transfer to Tianmen Mountain, take the world's longest cable car up the mountain and experience the glass skywalk and the Tianmen - Gate to Heaven, which is a giant natural hole in the mountain; enjoy **lunch** in a *local restaurant*.

In the afternoon transfer to the airport for flight **BK2759 (3:30pm – 5:15pm)** to Guilin; met by your private guide upon arrival and transfer to Guilinyi Royal Palace Hotel (garden view room) for check-in; **evening is free at your leisure and dinner is on your own**. <B-L>



May 17 **Guilin → Yangshuo**
Day 12

Breakfast in hotel; drive to the pier and board a cruise boat for a 4-hour breathtaking Li River Cruise from Guilin to Yangshuo with **boxed lunch served on-board**. Disembark in Yangshuo.

In the afternoon, tour the West Street Market and the beautiful countryside by visiting a farming village; afterwards, visit a cooking school for a culinary arts lesson, begin by purchasing ingredients from the local market; learn how to make 2-3 local dishes and enjoy them for **dinner**; after

dinner transfer back to Guilin by private vehicle. <B-L-D>

May 18 🚗 **Longsheng** Breakfast in hotel; meet your English-speaking guide in hotel lobby and travel by vehicle to the mountainous Longsheng County (*you must pack an overnight bag and your guide will store your luggage for the night*); to see beautiful Rice Terraces and visit villages of ethnic Dong and Yao minority people; enjoy **lunch** in a local restaurant.

Day 13

Walk up the hill through the terraced fields to the pedestrian only village and arrive at Li'An Lodge Longsheng (terrace or hill view room) for check-in and a rest; enjoy some hiking and **free time at your leisure**; enjoy **dinner** in the hotel restaurant. <B-L-D>

May 19 ➔ **Shanghai** Breakfast in hotel; enjoy the **morning free at your leisure** for relaxation or continue exploring the village and rice terraces; enjoy **lunch** in the hotel restaurant; meet your guide in the lobby and transfer to Guilin Airport for flight **CZ3251 (4:30pm – 6:50pm)** to Shanghai; meet your guide and driver upon arrival; transfer to Shanghai Grand Central Hotel (deluxe room) for check-in; **evening is free at your leisure and dinner is on your own.** <B-L>

Day 14



May 20 **Shanghai** Breakfast in hotel; meet your guide in the hotel lobby and set out for a full-day city tour; visit the Bund and Yuyuan Garden in the morning; enjoy a **Steamed Soup-filled Dumpling Lunch** at *Din Tai Fung Restaurant*.

Day 15

In the afternoon, tour the old Jewish Quarter of the city with a visit To the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum (admission allowed by 4:30pm); afterwards, visit Fuxing Park in the French Concession Area and tour Tianzifang Market (if time allows); enjoy a local **Shanghai Cuisine Dinner** at *Xianqiangfang Restaurant* followed by a stunning **Acrobatic Performance**.

Return to your hotel after the show for relaxation. <B-L-D>

May 21 ➔ **return** Breakfast in the hotel; meet your guide in the hotel lobby and transfer to the airport for your homebound flight. Service ends.

Day 16

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.

First-Class and Boutique Hotels Selected for Your Trip



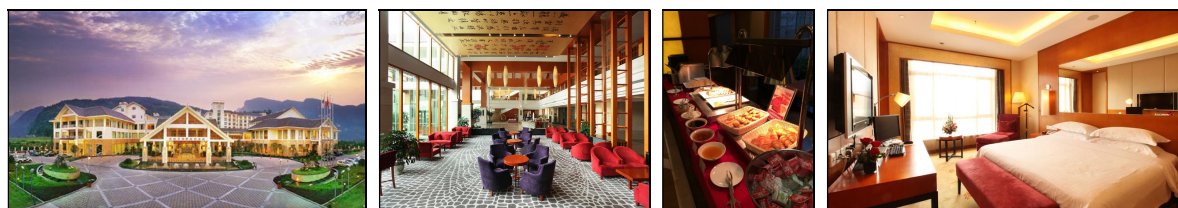
Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing



Brickyard Eco Retreat Mutianyu



Grand Mercure Xi'an Hotel on Renmin Square



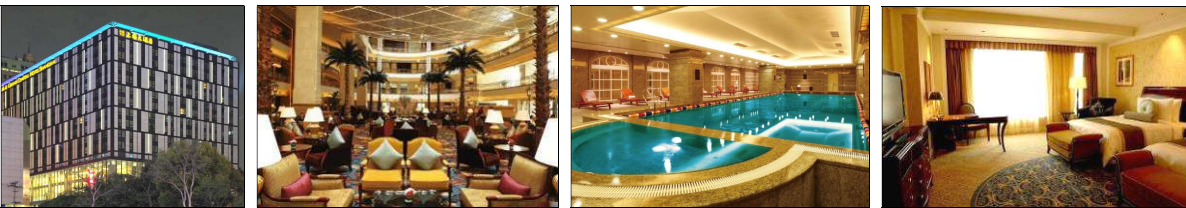
Pullman Hotel Zhangjiajie



Guilinyi Royal Palace Hotel



Li'An Lodge Longsheng



Grand Central Hotel Shanghai

Tour Land Price and Inclusions & Exclusions

Tour Land Prices:

- \$5,190 USD** per person double occupancy (for a group of 2 travelers)
- \$4,980 USD** per person double occupancy (for a group of 3-5 travelers)
- \$4,670 USD** per person double occupancy (for a group of 6-9 travelers)
- \$4,350 USD** per person double occupancy (for a group of 10 + travelers)

Single Supplement: **\$1,130 USD** per person

What's Included in Tour Land Prices:

- Designated first-class hotel accommodations, double occupancy
- All China domestic flight, high-speed train and ground transportation while on tour
- All tour related hotel and transportation taxes

- Arrival and departure transfers on tour dates
- Transfers and luggage (1 piece of 50 pounds per person) handling
- Pre-departure information packets
- All meals specified in the itinerary (14 breakfasts , 10 lunches <L>, and 7 dinners <D>)
- ACT's private English-speaking local tour guide in each city
- All sightseeing, activities, and cultural events as listed in the itinerary
- Private and clean vehicles with air-conditioning and professional driver
- **IF the group size is 10 travelers or more**, tour leading service by Mr. Daniel Pliske and the gratuities to local guides and drivers will be included as well

What's Not Included in Tour Land Prices:

- International air tickets (*will quote separately if requested*)
- Chinese visa application (<http://www.mychinavisa.com/>) -- Use **Group Code ACT2016** to receive your \$20 dollars per person discount
- Meals that are not listed in the itinerary
- Trip cancellation, baggage, accident, and medical insurance
- Gratuities to your local guides and drivers (***group size is under 10 travelers***)
- Gratuity to your tour leader (***for a group of 10 and more 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 departure100% 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.)