

THE CHINA TRAVEL COMPANY

"We regard each and every trip we organise as a trip of a lifetime."

BT-09 | CULTURAL EXPLORER



★ **ITINERARY PAGE 9**

★ **PRICING & INCLUSIONS PAGE 33**

 **ABTA**
The Travel Association



**Safe
travels**

by

 **WORLD
TRAVEL &
TOURISM
COUNCIL**

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ABOUT OUR COMPANY

Established as one of the UK's leading, independent and family owned China tour specialist our focus is on well thought through private and tailor made rail adventures. Our emphasis is very much on creating the right trip for you and we work closely with you in order to achieve this. We regard the China as a trip of a lifetime and use our experience and knowledge to make it that for you.

ALL TOURS ARE FINANCIALLY PROTECTED

We are members of **ABTA** (Y1699) and our tours are **ATOL** protected (license 10287) giving you full peace of mind when booking with us both for monies paid to us as well as the code of conduct and high standards we are both delighted to and required to uphold.



BEIJING • DATONG • PINGYAO • XIAN • LUOYANG • KAIFENG • QUFU • TAI SHAN • BEIJING



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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK : BT-09 CULTURAL EXPLORER

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find full details of this itinerary in this dossier. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,
The China Travel Company.

THE CHINA TRAVEL COMPANY

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- ABTA member Y1699
- ATOL License 10287



15 NIGHT / 16 DAY PRIVATE TOUR VISITING :

🇨🇳 BEIJING

China's Capital - an eclectic mix of Imperial splendour & 21st Century Asia.

🇨🇳 DATONG

City includes the highlights of the Hanging Monastery and Yungang caves.

🇨🇳 PINGYAO

Ming Dynasty walled city that used to be China's banking centre.

🇨🇳 XIAN

China's Tang Dynasty Capital & home to the extraordinary Terra Cotta Army.

🇨🇳 LUOYANG

Home to the Longmen Grottoes and the Shaolin Monastery complex.

🇨🇳 KAIFENG

One of China's ancient capitals full of history but off the beaten track now.

🇨🇳 QUFU

The home town of Confucius and still a place of pilgrimage for many.

🇨🇳 TAI SHAN

One of the five sacred mountains of Taoism for the last 3,000 years.



DAY

- 1 • BEIJING**

Arrival in China's capital of Beijing with free time to relax at the hotel.

Double Happiness Courtyard ★ ★ ★ [Learn more...](#)
- 2 • BEIJING**

Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Jingshan Park & the ancient residential Hutongs.

Double Happiness Courtyard ★ ★ ★ [Learn more...](#)
- 3 • BEIJING**

The Beautiful Temple of Heaven and the Great Wall at stunning Mutianyu.

Double Happiness Courtyard ★ ★ ★ [Learn more...](#)
- 4 • DATONG**

The UNESCO recognised Yungang Caves & gravity defying Hanging Monastery.

Garden Hotel ★ ★ ★ ★
- 5 • PINGYAO**

Day train across rural Northern China to the Ming Dynasty walled city of Pingyao.

Pingyao Yide Hotel ★ ★ ★ [Learn more...](#)
- 6 • KASHGAR**

Walking Tour of the Old City including Merchants Houses & the City Walls.

Pingyao Yide Hotel ★ ★ ★ [Learn more...](#)
- 7 • XIAN**

Free day to explore Pingyao before a Bullet Train to Xian & an evening Tang Dynasty Show.

Atour Hotel Xian ★ ★ ★ ★ [Learn more...](#)



DAY

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------|--|
| 8 | • XIAN | <p>The Terra Cotta Army, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, City Walls & vibrant Muslim Quarter.</p> <p>Atour Hotel Xian ★ ★ ★ ★ Learn more...</p> |
| 9 | • LUOYANG | <p>Bullet Train on to the 100,000 Buddhist Carvings at the Longmen Grottoes near Luoyang.</p> <p>Christian's Hotel ★ ★ ★ ★ ★</p> |
| 10 | • KAIFENG | <p>The world renown Shaolin Temple complex & their Martial Art Training Schools.</p> <p>Zhongzhou Hotel ★ ★ ★ ★</p> |
| 11 | • KAIFENG | <p>Highlights of Ancient Kaifeng including Dragon Pavilion & the ancient Palace.</p> <p>Zhongzhou Hotel ★ ★ ★ ★</p> |
| 12 | • QUFU | <p>Bullet Train to Qufu, Home town of China's Most Famous Sage, Confucius.</p> <p>Queli Hotel ★ ★ ★ ★</p> |
| 13 | • TAISHAN | <p>Free time to explore the home of Confucius before an onward transfer to Taishan.</p> <p>Four Points Sheraton ★ ★ ★ ★</p> |
| 14 | • TAISHAN | <p>A day exploring the dramatic scenery & Temples of Sacred Taishan.</p> <p>Four Points Sheraton ★ ★ ★ ★</p> |



DAY

15 • BEIJING

Depart Taishan back to Beijing by Bullet Train with free time at the hotel on arrival.

Double Happiness Courtyard ★ ★ ★ [Learn more...](#)

16 • END

Depart China with a wealth of memories of this unique destination.

N/A



YOUR DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

The following pages detail your itinerary day by day. All our trips are tried and tested and, between us, we have visited all destinations and accommodation and travelled on modes of transport. We like to offer our clients the greatest flexibility possible with their trip so if there is anything you would like to change please contact us.

JUST ASK US IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ANY CHANGES

"We returned to the UK yesterday, completing our 3 weeks in China. Thanks very much for organising our itinerary. Everything went like a dream. Being met at each destination was a real boost and each of these guides were extremely helpful. Accommodation was all good and transport/ tickets all went smoothly. Would have been difficult to do this trip without your organisational help. Thank you!"

Simon & Helen Randfield



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1

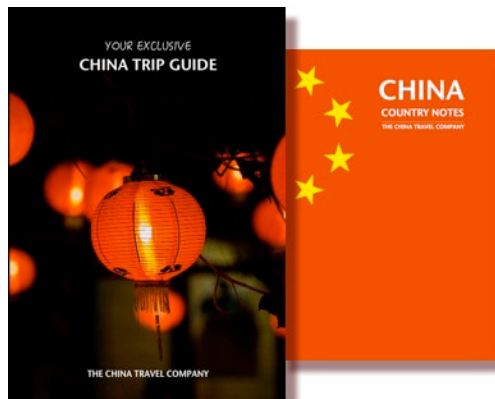
DATE TBC

BEIJING

ARRIVAL IN BEIJING WITH TIME TO RELAX AT THE HOTEL

Welcome to Beijing, China's cultural and political capital and a real highlight with its extraordinary blend of ancient and modern sights. Your guide will greet you at the airport with a transfer by private car to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax from the long flight or start to explore the city with the help of your personalised and exclusive Trip Guidebook we send you before the trip. The area around your centrally located hotel is perfect for an introductory walk.

 **Meals Included:** None Today.



YOUR EXCLUSIVE TRIP GUIDEBOOK

Tap in to our knowledge of China with our exclusive guidebook personalised to your trip. These books are packed full of tips about the country, what to take, currency, destination guides and much more. The perfect way to prepare for and get the most out of your China experience with us!

OVERNIGHT

DOUBLE HAPPINESS COURTYARD



A slice of traditional Beijing with a few modern comforts in this charming and well regarded courtyard style hotel - a top Beijing experience!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



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YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 2

DATE TBC

BEIJING

TIANANMEN SQUARE, FORBIDDEN CITY, JINGSHAN PARK & THE HUTONGS

Start today with vast Tiananmen Square, the largest city square in the world and home to the Mao Mausoleum and Monument to the People's Heroes. To the north of the square is the equally huge palace complex of the Forbidden City. We will walk up the middle axis from south to north taking in the splendour of the most important central buildings before finishing in the ancient garden by the north gate. Directly north of the Forbidden city is Jingshan park where we climb beautifully landscaped "Coal Hill" for one of Beijing's best views.

In the afternoon step back in time with a trip by cycle rickshaw through the narrow lanes and alleys of Beijing's ancient residential Hutongs - the traditional Chinese city homes. There is also luxury in the Hutongs and we will visit Prince Gong's Mansion, an extravagant residential complex of gardens and pavilions built in 1777.

Return to your hotel with the rest of the evening free or just ask us for suggestions of shows or cultural activities.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Restaurant Lunch.

OVERNIGHT

DOUBLE HAPPINESS COURTYARD



A slice of traditional Beijing with a few modern comforts in this charming and well regarded courtyard style hotel - a top Beijing experience!

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"China's top destination
blending ancient &
modern culture."



Averages	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	2	4	11	20	26	30	31	30	26	19	10	3
Min temp °C	-10	-7	-1	7	13	18	22	20	14	7	-1	-7
Rainfall mm	3	6	9	26	29	71	176	182	49	19	6	2

FORBIDDEN CITY



THE GREAT WALL



PEKING OPERA



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 3

DATE TBC

BEIJING

THE BEAUTIFUL TEMPLE OF HEAVEN, THE GREAT WALL AT STUNNING MUTIANYU

Today's tour starts with the Temple of Heaven considered by many to be the most beautiful building in China. Perfectly symmetrical, its primary purpose was as a prayer hall the Emperors visited to ask the Gods for good harvests. Set inside a large park popular with Beijingers, you are likely to see cultural activities such as kite flying, Tai Chi classes, singing and ballroom dancing.

Next we will be showing you one of China's most famous sights - the Great Wall. We visit the dramatic and less crowded Mutianyu section 70 km from Beijing set amongst spectacular mountain scenery. Dating back to the 6th Century and largely rebuilt in the 16th century during the Ming Dynasty, it is one of the best preserved sections of the wall largely due to the high standard of construction.

Return to your hotel with the rest of the evening free or just ask us for suggestions of shows or cultural activities.

TOP TIP: Bring decent shoes, sunglasses and hat for the trip to the Wall and remember that it is always a good 5 degrees centigrade cooler at the wall than in downtown Beijing.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Restaurant Lunch.

OVERNIGHT

DOUBLE HAPPINESS COURTYARD



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DAY 4

DATE TBC

DATONG

UNESCO RECOGNISED YUNGANG CAVES & GRAVITY DEFYING HANGING MONASTERY

Early morning transfer to the airport for your flight with a mid-morning arrival in Datong with a full day tour of the fabulous Yungang Caves and gravity defying Hanging Monastery. The 5th Century Buddhist Yungang Caves are Datong's prime draw with an array of carvings and paintings that still attract religious devotees today.

The Hanging Monastery is an hour's drive out of town but is well worth the trip! Not a trip for those prone to vertigo, this extraordinary monastery is built into a cliffside on the pass that leads into the grasslands of Inner Mongolia. Free time at your hotel in the evening.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Restaurant Lunch.

OVERNIGHT

DATONG YUNZHONG INN



The most characterful hotel in Datong and a popular option with high standards and located in the Old City area.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



"Hanging Monastery is one of China's most unusual buildings."



Averages

Max temp °C

Min temp °C

Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	-4	2	8	17	23	27	29	27	22	15	6	-1
Min temp °C	-17	-13	-6	1	8	14	17	15	9	1	-7	-14
Rainfall mm	2	3	10	24	35	63	110	92	81	21	12	2

HANGING MONASTERY



YUNGANG GROTTOES



CITY WALLS



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 5

DATE TBC

PINGYAO

DAY TRAIN ACROSS RURAL CHINA TO THE ANCIENT WALLED CITY OF PINGYAO

After an early breakfast a transfer for the day time train to Pingyao. Mid afternoon arrival in Pingyao, an intact Ming Dynasty city and once a centre of banking in China with the only complete city wall of that era left in China. Pingyao also holds an International Photography Festival every September which draws in entries from all over the world providing stark contrast to the ancient architecture. Transfer to your hotel.

The rest of today is free to start exploring this ancient and easily navigated city with the help of your trip Guidebook. Alternatively, this characterful traditional style courtyard hotel is an ideal place to relax.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

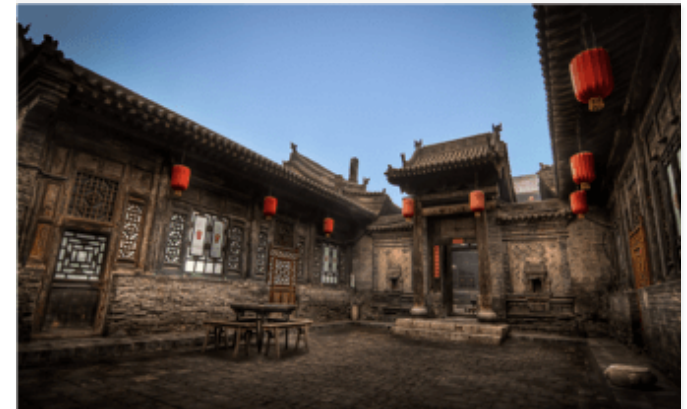
OVERNIGHT

PINGYAO YIDE HOTEL



A well regarded hotel in Pingyao that gets you right in the Pingyao vibe with its beautiful traditional Chinese architecture and setting.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



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YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 6

DATE TBC

PINGYAO

WALKING TOUR OF THE OLD CITY INCLUDING MERCHANTS HOUSES & THE CITY WALLS

Today you have a full day private walking tour of Pingyao's old city within the walls. Visit a selection of the merchant and banking houses which have been converted into museums. You also have the opportunity to see the Confucius Temple and spend time walking up on the city's most impressive structure, the Ming Dynasty Walls which completely enclose the old city.

The tour will finish back at your hotel with a free evening to relax in the courtyard or walk the lantern lit streets.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

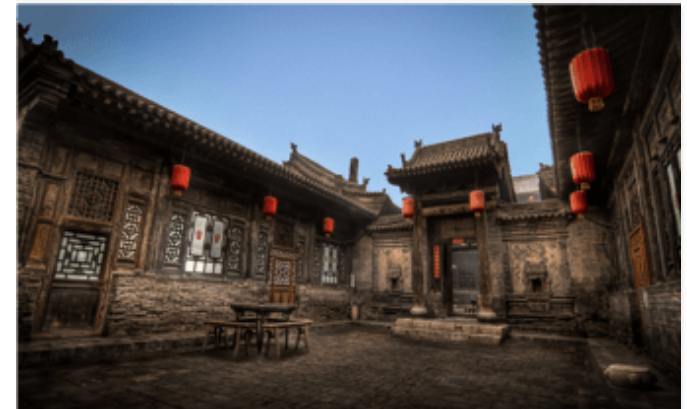
OVERNIGHT

PINGYAO YIDE HOTEL



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*"Must see Ming Dynasty
walled city full of
character and history."*



Averages

Max temp °C

Min temp °C

Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	2	5	11	20	25	29	29	28	24	18	10	3
Min temp °C	-12	-8	-2	5	11	15	18	17	11	4	-3	-9
Rainfall mm	8	12	20	44	79	107	225	201	119	35	16	5

CENTRE AT NIGHT



CITY WALLS



FRIENDLY LOCALS



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 7

DATE TBC

XIAN

FREE DAY TO EXPLORE PINGYAO BEFORE A BULLET TRAIN TO XIAN & TANG DYNASTY SHOW

Today is free to further explore the old city of Pingyao before a lunch time transfer to the bullet train station for your onward journey. Late afternoon Arrival in Xian, the once golden city of Emperors, soldiers, arts, culture and the capital of the prosperous Tang Dynasty. Your guide and driver will meet and transfer you to your hotel.

The rest of today is free to start exploring this giant of Chinese history with the help of your trip Guidebook. Alternatively, this comfortable hotel is an ideal place to relax.

This evening a trip to the lavish Tang Dynasty show performed in a beautiful theatre. The show itself highlights Chinese culture from this Dynasty, considered a golden age in China's long history. Music, singing and dance with a traditional orchestra and colourful costumes makes this a visual feast for all ages!

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

OVERNIGHT

EASTERN HOUSE BOUTIQUE



Gaining a good reputation, this centrally located hotel has friendly staff and does well to make guests feel comfortable.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



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YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 8

DATE TBC

XIAN

THE TERRA COTTA ARMY, BIG WILD GOOSE PAGODA, CITY WALLS & MUSLIM QUARTER

Today visit one of China's most extraordinary sights, the Terra Cotta Army built by China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang in 246 BC. Several thousand of the life-sized soldiers are on display and, with no two soldiers looking alike, make for a truly impressive spectacle.

We also visit a relic of the Tang Dynasty, the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, home to some of the most famous Buddhist scriptures in China. It is possible to climb the pagoda - you will need to buy a ticket locally if you wish to do this - for views over Xian. Continue to the 14 km Ming Dynasty City Walls which are up to 18 meters thick at the base and 12 meters in height. It is possible to hire bicycles and ride some sections of the wall - local rental payment required.

Finish the day with a wander through Xian's vibrant Muslim quarter, including a visit to the Great Mosque, unusually built entirely in the Chinese architectural style. This area is an excellent place to souvenir shop.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

OVERNIGHT

EASTERN HOUSE BOUTIQUE



Gaining a good reputation, this centrally located hotel has friendly staff and does well to make guests feel comfortable.

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"Offers much more than just the Terra Cotta warriors."



Averages

Max temp °C

Min temp °C

Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	5	8	14	21	26	31	32	31	25	20	12	6
Min temp °C	-4	-1	4	10	14	19	22	21	16	10	3	-3
Rainfall mm	7	10	29	43	60	54	99	71	92	60	24	6

TERRA COTTA ARMY



CITY WALLS



NIGHT MARKET



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 9

DATE TBC

LUOYANG

BULLET TRAIN TO THE 100,000 BUDDHIST CARVINGS AT THE LONGMEN GROTTOES

Transfer to the station for a bullet train to Luoyang, the perfect base for visiting the fabulous Longmen Grottoes and the impressive Shaolin Temple complex up in the Song Mountains.

Transfer on arrival directly to the important Longmen Grottoes, a UNESCO recognised masterpiece of Buddhist rock carving 13 km south of Luoyang. The carvings date from around AD 500 when Luoyang was the capital of China. Over 100,000 were sculpted from tiny buddhist statues just centimetres high to the 17 meter high statue of Buddha in the Ancestor Worshipping Temple, the face of which was supposedly modelled on that of Empress Wu Zetian of the Tang Dynasty who happened to pay for this temple! Continue on to your hotel with free time in the evening.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Restaurant Lunch.

OVERNIGHT

CHRISTIAN'S HOTEL



By far the best hotel in Luoyang in our opinion with superb service, themed decor and well thought out rooms. Very unusual for a smaller Chinese city.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



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"Rewarding off the beaten track martial arts mecca!"



Averages

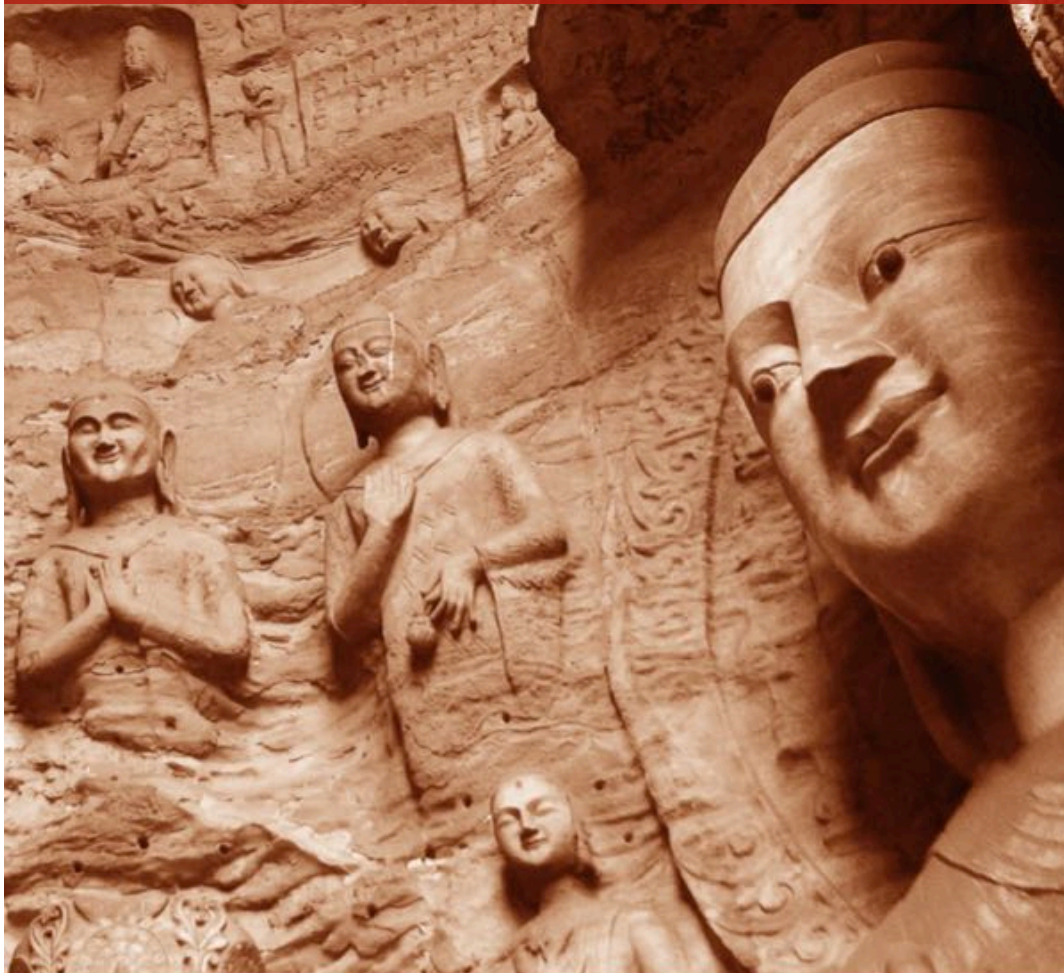
Max temp °C

Min temp °C

Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	6	8	14	21	27	32	32	31	26	21	14	8
Min temp °C	-5	-3	3	9	15	20	23	22	16	10	3	-3
Rainfall mm	9	16	26	37	50	63	140	97	84	45	20	12

LONGMEN GROTTOES



MARTIAL ARTS



SHAOLIN MONASTERY



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 10

DATE TBC

KAIFENG

WORLD FAMOUS SHAOLIN TEMPLES & THEIR MARTIAL ART TRAINING SCHOOLS

Today leave Luoyang for a full day tour up into the Song Mountains to the Shaolin Monastery Temple complex, famous the world over for the practice and teaching of martial arts. The Monastery was founded in AD 497 to teach the Mahayana branch of Buddhism. Since then it has been destroyed and rebuilt several times. We visit the main temples, will see a martial arts display and explore the unusual Forest of Pagodas.

Drive on to Kaifeng arriving at the hotel early evening. One of the Seven Ancient Capitals of China, Kaifeng is located along the southern bank of the Yellow River. Around 1,000 years ago, when capital of the Song dynasty, Kaifeng was the most prosperous city in China and this prosperity and its proximity to the Silk Road gave it a sizeable expat population of Arabs, Persians and Jews.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Restaurant Lunch.

OVERNIGHT

ZHONGZHOU HOTEL



Considered one of the best hotels in the ancient capital of Kaifeng with comfortable clean rooms and helpful staff - solid 4* rather than 5*.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



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DAY 11

DATE TBC

KAIFENG

HIGHLIGHTS OF ANCIENT KAIFENG INCLUDING DRAGON PAVILION & THE PALACE

Today we discover the highlights of ancient Kaifeng's glorious past including Kaifeng Palace also known as Daxiangguo Temple first built in AD 555 during the Qi Dynasty and since added to in 1661 and 1766.

The entire complex has 64 temples but the three main halls of Tathagata, Arhat and Tripitaka are of the most interest. On to Dragon Pavilion, site of the Ming dynasty palace of Prince Zhou.

The area around here has many old and restored buildings. We also see Iron Pagoda Park and its centrepiece 13 story octagonal pagoda built in 1049. Return to your hotel with free time or we recommend trying out some of the city's popular eating areas for dinner.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Restaurant Lunch.

OVERNIGHT

ZHONGZHOU HOTEL



Considered one of the best hotels in the ancient capital of Kaifeng with comfortable clean rooms and helpful staff - solid 4* rather than 5*.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



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*"A must stop for those
interested in China's
Jewish history."*



Averages

Max temp °C

Min temp °C

Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	5	8	13	22	27	31	31	31	27	21	14	7
Min temp °C	-4	-2	3	10	15	20	23	22	17	10	3	-2
Rainfall mm	9	16	26	37	50	63	140	97	84	45	20	12

OLD TOWN



NIGHT LIGHTS



NIGHT MARKET



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 12

DATE TBC



EXPRESS TRAIN TO QUFU, HOME OF CHINA'S MOST FAMOUS SAGE, CONFUCIUS

Free time before a transfer to the station for an express train to Qufu taking around 4 hours.

"Is it not a joy to have friends come from afar?" asked Confucius, and indeed it is to the people of this small town, the legendary birth place of the great sage who's teachings continue to heavily influence the Chinese to this day.

Recognised as a World Heritage Site, the walled town of Qufu is a huge attraction and it is unlikely that you will get to contemplate his wisdom in much peace.

Transfer on arrival to your hotel with free time to relax or start to explore the city.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

OVERNIGHT

QUELI HOTEL



The hotel is located in the centre, with the Confucian Temple to its right and The Confucian Mansion at its rear. Best all round in Qufu.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



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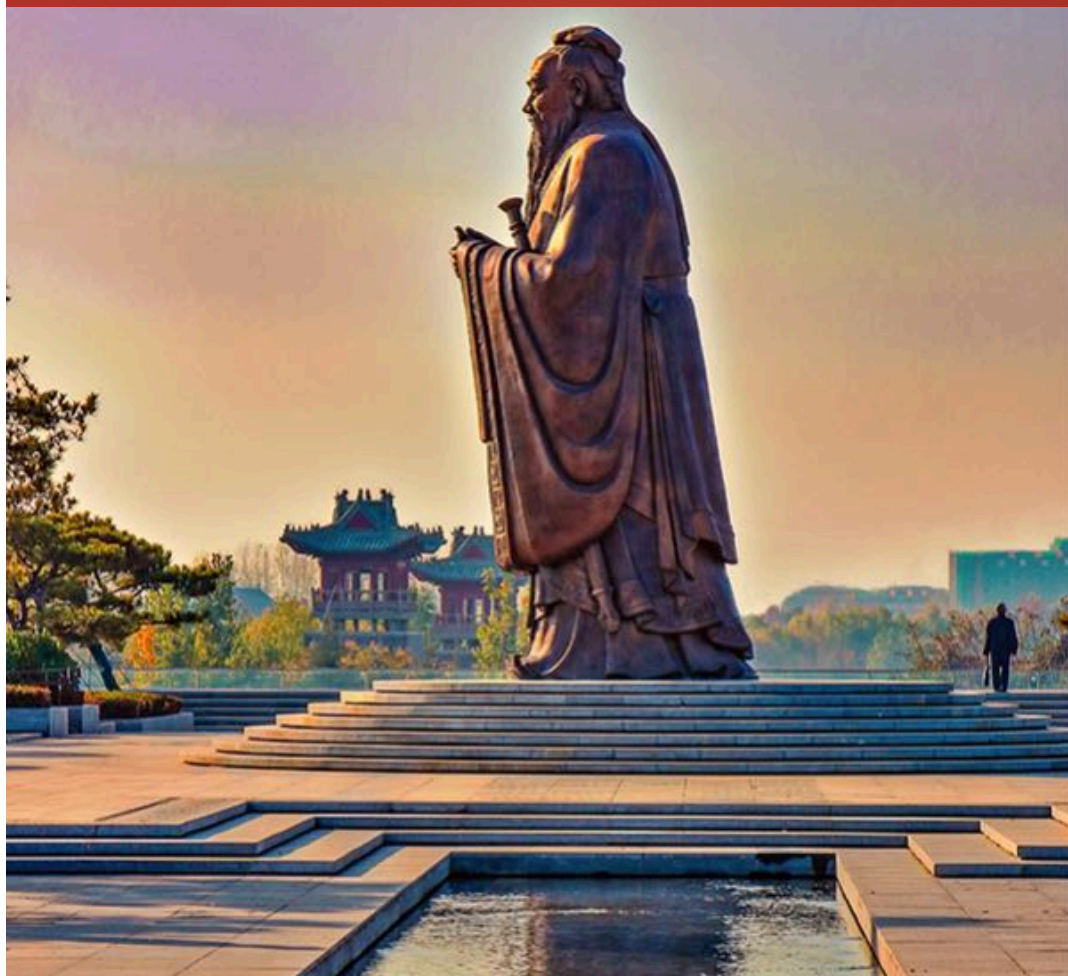


"A visit is vital to understand ancient Chinese culture."



Averages	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	5	9	14	21	26	31	32	31	27	22	14	7
Min temp °C	-6	-4	2	8	13	19	22	21	15	9	1	-4
Rainfall mm	9	14	25	33	64	110	204	176	78	40	28	10

CONFUCIUS



CONFUCIUS TEMPLE



KONG FAMILY MANSION



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 13

DATE TBC

TAISHAN

FREE TIME TO EXPLORE THE HOME OF CONFUCIUS BEFORE ONWARD TRANSFER TO TAISHAN

Today you absorb yourself in Confucian culture starting with the Confucius Mansions, the houses of the important Kong family dating back to the 16th Century during the Qing Dynasty.

The Confucius Temple is a huge complex of exceptional architectural quality. It is said that the craftsmen carved the 10 dragon-coiled columns so expertly that they had to be covered with red silk when Emperor Qianlong visited in case he felt that the Forbidden City's Hall of Supreme Harmony paled in comparison! We also wander the large Confucius forest, home to an estimated 100,000 Cypress trees and is also the largest and best preserved cemetery in China.

After the tour we drive the 80 km to your hotel in Tai An city, the base for visiting Mount Tai Shan.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Restaurant Lunch.

OVERNIGHT

FOUR POINTS SHERATON



Part of the well known International chain and one of the best quality options in Tai An with large comfortable rooms.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



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YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 14

DATE TBC

TAISHAN

EXPLORING THE DRAMATIC SCENERY & TEMPLES OF SACRED TAISHAN

Tai Shan is one of the 5 sacred mountains of Taoism and an UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is associated with sunrise, birth, and renewal, and is often regarded as the foremost of the 5. The temples on its slopes have been a destination for pilgrims for 3,000 years. Visiting the mountain you join an illustrious list including the first Chinese Emperor, Confucius and Mao Zedong. While watching the sun rise, Confucius was quoted as saying “the world is small” and Mao as saying “the East is red.”

The journey up the mountain is all part of the experience, all 6,293 steps up to the 1,545m peak! If you prefer we can also take the cable car. If choosing to walk there are plenty of places to stop along the way and no shortage of opportunities to by food and drink. Return to your hotel in the evening for a well deserved rest and hopefully a sound night's sleep!

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast & Restaurant Lunch.

OVERNIGHT

FOUR POINTS SHERATON



Part of the well known International chain and one of the best quality options in Tai An with large comfortable rooms.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



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"Little visited but rewarding sacred mountain."



Averages

Max temp °C

Min temp °C

Rainfall mm

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Max temp °C	0	3	10	18	25	29	29	29	25	18	9	2
Min temp °C	-10	-7	0	7	14	18	22	21	14	8	0	-7
Rainfall mm	0	3	6	18	24	66	114	84	30	12	3	3

STUNNING VIEWS



TAISHAN SUMMIT



STEEP STAIRS



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 15

DATE TBC

BEIJING

DEPART TAISHAN BACK TO BEIJING BY BULLET TRAIN

After breakfast a transfer to the station for a bullet train back to Beijing. Early afternoon arrival in Beijing with a transfer to your hotel.

The rest of the day is free day to explore the wealth of sights Beijing offers. Besides the must sees the city offers ample opportunity to shop in markets such as Hongqiao, the Silk Market or our favourite, the vast Panjiayuan antique market.

For something a bit more sedate we recommend Hou Hai lake and its ancient residential Hutongs which offer a great opportunity to absorb local culture combined with many small cafes, bars and restaurants.

For a more contemporary experience the 798 district to the east of the city offers an impressive array of galleries, cafes and restaurants.

 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.

OVERNIGHT

DOUBLE HAPPINESS COURTYARD



A slice of traditional Beijing with a few modern comforts in this charming and well regarded courtyard style hotel - a top Beijing experience!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Photos for guidance only & not necessarily the room booked



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DAY 16

DATE TBC

🇨🇳 END

DEPART CHINA WITH A WEALTH OF MEMORIES OF THIS UNIQUE DESTINATION

Free time for any final sightseeing or last minute shopping for souvenirs if time. Your local guide will have arranged a time to meet in the hotel lobby for a transfer to the airport in good time for your flight out of China.

We sincerely hope that you have had a fantastic China experience full of all the memories which make this country such a fascinating destination that continues to inspire us!

🍴 **Meals Included:** Hotel Breakfast.



Dawn Collins & Family

"I cannot praise the company and the team enough for the help we got planning this trip - right down to the finer details.

I have never received the customer service of this level from another tour operator, and would have no reservations about recommending your company."

[VIEW MORE FEEDBACK](#)



• Price guide* per person based on 2 people travelling: **UK £ 4,095 / US\$ 5,120**

** Prices vary by date, availability and the number of people in your party. Please contact us for a firm quote.*

A full list of what is included in this price can be seen on the following pages. Note that this does not include any international flights or visas.

• Booking and payment terms:

Once we receive completed booking forms we will book and confirm services for you and send an invoice for the deposit payment of 20% per person (plus any international flights we are booking) with full payment due 60 days before departure. All payments to us are protected under our ATOL or ABTA licenses and we accept payment by Credit Card, Debit Card (no fee) or bank transfer. [Click here to read our Booking Terms & Conditions.](#)

• Our pricing policy:

We believe that the the pricing for this tour offers excellent value for the services and standards we operate and we frequently check our pricing against that of other operators. If you feel you have a similar quote that is of a lower price we are happy to reconsider our pricing for you if you can forward the other quote so we can fairly compare. We would add that in our experience we usually find some differences that, although they may appear subtle, make both a significant difference to the price and, more importantly, the quality of the trip experience.



INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS FOR THIS ITINERARY

Here you will find the inclusions and exclusions for this itinerary. We guarantee you will receive the services below although on very rare occasions one service may need to be replaced with another similar one as there are a lot of complex logistical elements to a trip like this.

■ INTERNATIONAL PLANE TICKETS: Tickets for flights the start and finish of the above trip

✈ International flight tickets are NOT included in this itinerary. We CAN arrange these for you.

■ TRAIN TICKETS: Click here to learn more about the trains - ask us about possible upgrades

- ✓ Beijing to Datong first class (2 hour bullet train)
- ✓ Datong to Pingyao first class (3 hour bullet train)
- ✓ Pingyao to Xian second class (3 hour bullet train)
- ✓ Xian to Luoyang first class (2 hour bullet train)
- ✓ Kaifeng to Qufu first class (4 hour bullet train)
- ✓ Tai An to Beijing first class (2 hour bullet train)

■ ACCOMMODATION: Let us know if you have your own hotel preferences or wish to upgrade

- ✓ 3 nights Beijing - Double Happiness courtyard Hotel 3* (deluxe room with breakfast)
- ✓ 1 night Datong - Datong Yunzhong Inn 4* (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 2 nights Pingyao - Pingyao Yide Hotel 3* (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 2 nights Xian - Eastern House Boutique Hotel 4* (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 1 night Luoyang - Christian's Hotel 5* (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 2 nights Kaifeng - Zhongzhou International Hotel 4* (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 1 night Qufu - Queli Hotel 4* (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 2 nights Tai An - Four Points by Sheraton 4* (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 1 night Beijing - Double Happiness courtyard Hotel 3* (deluxe room with breakfast)



INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS FOR THIS ITINERARY

■ TRANSFERS: Private with driver and an English speaking guide (except where stated)

- ✓ Beijing - Airport to Hotel
- ✓ Beijing - Hotel to Bullet Train Station
- ✓ Datong - Bullet Train Station to Hotel
- ✓ Datong - Hotel to Train Station
- ✓ Pingyao - Train Station to Hotel
- ✓ Pingyao - Hotel to Bullet Train Station
- ✓ Xian - Bullet Train Station Hotel
- ✓ Xian - Hotel to Bullet Train Station
- ✓ Luoyang - Bullet Train Station to Hotel
- ✓ Luoyang - Hotel to Hotel in Kaifeng
- ✓ Kaifeng - Hotel to Bullet Train Station
- ✓ Qufu - Bullet Train Station to Hotel
- ✓ Qufu - Hotel to Hotel in Tai Shan
- ✓ Tai An - Hotel to Bullet Train Station
- ✓ Beijing - Bullet Train Station Hotel
- ✓ Beijing - Hotel to Airport

■ TOURS: All our tours include entrance fees and use professional, licensed guides

- ✓ Beijing - Full day private tour to Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, Jingshan park and the ancient Hutongs by Rickshaw
- ✓ Beijing - Full day private tour to the Temple of Heaven, Olympic sites (outside only) and Great Wall at Mutianyu including cable car up and down.
- ✓ Datong - Full day private tour to the Yungang Caves and Hanging Monastery.
- ✓ Pingyao - Full day private walking tour of Pingyao walled city.
- ✓ Xian - Full day private tour to the Terra cotta Warriors, Wild Goose Pagoda & City Walls.
- ✓ Xian - Evening Trip to the Tang Dynasty Show with return transfers.
- ✓ Luoyang - Half day private tour to the Longmen Grottoes.
- ✓ Luoyang - Full day private tour to the Shaolin Monastery complex.



INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS FOR THIS ITINERARY

- ✓ Kaifeng - Full day private tour including the Dragon Pavilion the Iron Pagoda Park and Kaifeng Palace (Daxiangguo Temple).
- ✓ Qufu - Full day private tour to the including the Confucian Mansion, Confucian Temple and Confucian Forest.
- ✓ Tai Shan - Full day private including cable car fees and Daimiao Temple in the city.

■ OTHER INCLUSIONS: Also included in this trip

- ✓ Meals - As indicated in the itinerary.
- ✓ Visa Paperwork - Confirmation documentation you need in order to get the visas.
- ✓ Support - Emergency numbers and contacts for each destination.
- ✓ Guidebook - Our exclusive Trip Guidebook personalised to your trip.
- ✓ Financial Peace of Mind - All monies paid to us are legally protected under UK law.

■ NOT INCLUDED IN THIS TOUR

- ✗ International Airfare to / from the start / finish of your trip - we can book these flights on request.
- ✗ The Chinese visa - we can advise and partner with [VisaCentral](#).
- ✗ Travel insurance to cover any medical treatment - we recommend [Citybond Suretravel](#) (UK residents only).
- ✗ Discretionary gratuities to drivers and guides.

■ END





"A fantastic, once in a lifetime trip, arranged by real experts – thank you. We saw and experienced so much in the space of a few weeks and have so many memories to look back on."

Jill Morris



"This holiday was one of the best we have had, thanks to everyone who made it possible. I've done the google review, it's important that people can see how good you are. Many Thanks for your help."

Tim Ellis



"Absolutely awesome time! I think we have seen as many of the iconic sights of China that you could possibly fit into 2 weeks and all done in comfort and style. Thank you so much."

Susan Rutherford



"I cannot praise the company and the team enough for the help we got planning this trip. I have never received the customer service of this level and would have no reservations about recommending your company."

Dawn Collins



"The trip exceeded my expectations. It was well organised, we felt really well supported, the guides made us feel very welcome and well looked after and we were very pleased with the hotels."

Fiona Nicolle & Family



"It was an excellent, well organised trip to many areas of China which we wouldn't have been able to do without your expertise. Thank you for a trip of a lifetime from myself and my family."

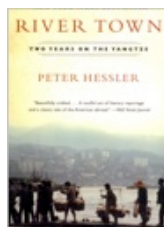
Lily O'Hara & Family

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW MORE FEEDBACK ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



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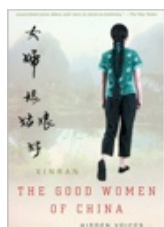
RIVER TOWN PETER HESSLER

Set in the remote town of Fuling in the Yangtze River Valley this best selling book charts the experiences of the author as a Peace Corps volunteer at a time when China was embarking on the immense changes of reform and opening up.



MAO: THE UNKNOWN STORY JUNG CHANG

Well researched and based on interviews with those who knew and dealt with him. The book doesn't flinch from exposing the brutality of Mao but is also charts his rise to power and the methods he employed to maintain.



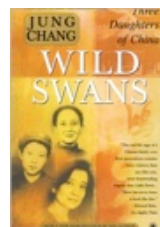
GOOD WOMEN OF CHINA XINRAN

This unforgettable book is the story of how Xinran negotiated the minefield of restrictions imposed on Chinese journalists to reach out to women across the country.



RED CHINA BLUES JAN WONG

An excellent book that covers the authors experiences in China in the 1970s when she moved there from Canada as a supporter of Mao's Cultural Revolution. The book charts her initial enthusiasm for Mao until her eventual disillusionment.



WILD SWANS JUNG CHANG

20th Century history told through the the story of three generations of the same family. There are few books on China which bring the history to life and feel so personal with such ease and readability.



CHINA ROAD ROB GIFFORD

Running 3,000 miles from Shanghai to the border of Kazakhstan in the north-west, Route 312 - China's 'Route 66' - is a road that Rob Gifford has always wanted to travel. Part pilgrimage, part reportage - this book illuminates a country on the move.



RED DUST MA JIAN

A travel book set over the authors three years of journeying through remote parts of China in the 1980s which was partly an escape from the surveillance and disapproval of his life by the authorities in Beijing.



WOLF TOTEM JIANG RONG

This is a compelling story set during the cultural revolution about a Beijing intellectual who volunteers to live in a remote and idyllic area of Inner Mongolia. His simple life here is shattered as people swarm into the region upsetting the environment.



ESSENTIAL CHINA INFORMATION, TIPS & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW FAR IN ADVANCE DO I NEED TO BOOK?

We suggest a minimum of 3 months but most people book further ahead than that to take advantage of competitive international flight pricing which tends to be cheaper the further in advance you book. For some of the smaller and popular boutique style hotels in China you will often need to book at least 6 months in advance to ensure availability.

WHAT HAPPENS ONCE I BOOK?

On completing our booking forms we will make all the necessary reservations and confirm availability with you and issue an invoice for the deposit payment (or full payment if it is less than 60 days before your trip start date). About 1 month before your trip starts we send you our Trip Guidebook which covers all the information you need to know about your trip including emergency contact numbers and hotel details.

WHAT ARE YOUR PAYMENT TERMS & CONDITIONS?

On receipt of a booking confirmation from us we require a deposit payment of 20% per person plus any international airfares. 60 days before departure we require the balance to be settled. You can read our full booking terms and conditions by [clicking here](#). We accept credit card payment and debit card as well as bank transfers.

WHAT CLOTHES SHOULD I BRING?

This is dependent on the time of year. In the summer it is hot almost everywhere so light and well ventilated summer clothing is essential as well as protection from the sun - sunglasses and a hat. Autumn and spring can be a bit unpredictable but if the weather is good it will be the same as you would wear on a good summers day in the UK. Winters are cold and layers of warm clothing are the way to go. China is not so formal for dress although respect should be shown in temples.

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT CHINA?

It is generally considered that the April May and September October periods off the best weather and best chance of clear skies. This doesn't stop many people visiting in the summer months or winter though. China is so big that it has something for any time of the year.

DO YOU OFFER GROUP TOURS IN CHINA?

Very rarely will we offer group tours (the exception are the Li River and Yangtze Cruises as these are by their very nature group trips). Group tours (even small group tours) have quite a bad reputation in China for wasting your precious time on what we call "shopopportunities" (unwanted shopping stops) making private tours a far better option.

DO I NEED A VISA?

Almost all nationalities including US, UK, Australian, Canadian and European citizens. [Click here](#) to see more information on the visas.

IS MY MONEY PROTECTED IF I BOOK WITH YOU?

Yes, all trips booked with us have financial protection through our ATOL license (10287) or insurance we have to cover non-flight bookings. We are also members of ABTA (Y1699) and abide by their code of conduct.

HOW MUCH SPENDING MONEY DO I NEED?

With a full touring program, hotels, transport and transfers booked through us you won't need that much spending money. We generally advise a minimum of £20 a day per person to cover drinks, and an evening meal if that isn't included. You can, of course, spend much more with top restaurants having close to international pricing. Then there are souvenirs and shopping to consider!



ESSENTIAL CHINA INFORMATION, TIPS & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IS CHINA SAFE?

China is one of the safest countries to visit and in many respects safer for tourists than Western European or North American destinations. Crime against foreigners is very rare and providing common sense is used you should not have any problems. Of course, keep an eye on your pockets and bags in crowds.

WHAT CURRENCY SHOULD I BRING?

Euros, US Dollars and UK Pounds are all accepted for exchange in China although avoid Travellers Cheques as these are hard to exchange. Most people will make use of ATMs which are easy to find and increasingly, you can obtain Chinese yuan before your trip in airports or Post Offices and currency exchange booths. More details on Chinese money and costs can be found by clicking [here](#).

CAN YOU BOOK INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS ?

Yes, as we hold an ATOL license (number 10287) we are permitted by the Civil Aviation Authority in the UK to book flights on behalf of our clients. We are a British Airways preferred operator but also book with other airlines to get the best deals and routes for our clients.

ARE YOUR TRIPS SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN

China can be a rewarding experience for children. We can advise in more detail what we feel would be the most suitable options depending on the ages of your children and your particular circumstances. We also offer family specific trips you can [view here](#). For pricing purposes anyone 12 years and over at the time of the end of their trips with us is considered an adult.

MEDICAL ADVICE & VACCINATIONS

Our trips are designed for anybody with a reasonable standard of fitness. Where we believe there are special requirements this is mentioned in the trip information. We can cater for clients with disabilities and adapt trips accordingly and we can also cater for different dietary requirements if informed at the time of booking. There are no specific vaccinations required to enter China but you are advised to contact your local travel clinic or doctor as there may be requirements in certain cases that are dependent on your own medical history. A good resource to check requirements is [NHS Fit For Travel](#).

DO YOU SELL TRAVEL INSURANCE?

As a booking condition we require all clients taking our trips to have their own insurance against all possible medical costs whilst abroad. We recommend Citybond Suretravel travel insurance which you can get a quote for by [clicking here](#). Note that we get a small commission on each policy taken out.

PLUGS, ELECTRICITY, INTERNET & WIFI

Voltage in Mainland China is 220V, 50 Hz. A variety of electrical outlets can be found in China and can accept the standard Type A and common Type I plugs as well as Type C plugs. Most hotels will have WiFi in public areas and paid internet in rooms.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD BE ASKING?

Almost certainly! We fully expect you will have many more questions and we are here to answer them so please do not hesitate to [contact us](#) as, after all, that is what we are here for!

