

China Singles Tour

Beijing / Xian / Shanghai
08 nights - April 2009



Cost: \$ **1,590** per person sharing twin room
\$ **565** single supplement
US DOLLARS

Day 01- April 3rd Arrive Beijing

On arrival proceed to hotel. The rest of the day/evening is at leisure to unwind from your flight.

Beijing, the capital of the People's Republic of China, is the political and cultural heart of China. Beijing is an extraordinary place with one of the world's oldest civilizations. It has been in existence as a settlement for over 3,000 years and the capital of the nation over many centuries, yet it is now a vibrant metropolis that is moving toward the future at hyper-speed and home to 11 million citizens. Some of China's most stunning sights can be found in Beijing: the Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven, the Lama Temple and the Great Wall, etc.

Overnight stay at Qian men hotel or similar

Day 02 April 4th Beijing (B/L/D)

This morning we will have a welcome briefing and introductions during breakfast at the hotel.

After start by visiting **Tiananmen Square**, the world's largest and most famous square, followed by a visit to the **Forbidden City**, where exquisite architecture and a vast glimpse of the staggeringly opulent lifestyles of the Chinese Emperors can be found.

Tiananmen Square - With a total area of 440,000 square meters, the Tiananmen Square is the largest of its kind right in the center of Beijing. Over hundred years, many ceremonies and demonstrations have been held at Tiananmen Square. Found here are the Museum of the Chinese Revolution, the Museum of Chinese History, the Monument to the People's Heroes and most popular with the Chinese, the remains of Chairman Mao in the Memorial Hall.

Forbidden City - Located just half a mile from Tiananmen Square is the 250-acre imperial palace of the Ming and Qing dynasties. It is also called the Palace Museum and known to be the world's largest palace with over 9000 rooms. It was closed to the common people for many years and only opened to the public in 1949.

After lunch, visit the picturesque **Summer Palace** located 9 miles from Beijing; the Summer Palace is the largest and best-preserved royal garden in China, with a history of over 800 years.

Dinner at a local restaurant and overnight stay at Qian men hotel or similar

Day 03 April 5th Beijing (B/L/D)

Today explore a part of the great wall, which is not frequently visited by visitors.

You will have the unique opportunity to trek a part of the Great Wall which is not commonly used by general tourists. Your guide will drop you at one end of the wall where will start your trek which is approximately 4 hours. This trek will take you through parts of the wall which are broken and remain in their original state and where you will not run into many visitors. (The trek is strenuous and only fit for those with stamina, thus we offer an option to visit this part of the wall and return to your coach which will drive to meet the rest of the group arriving from the trek).

Great Wall - The highlight of your stay in this ancient city is a visit to the Great Wall, built 2300 years ago and extends 3,750 miles. It's a must see for every visitor.

Dinner at a local restaurant

Overnight stay at Qian men hotel or similar

Day 04- April 6th Beijing (B/L/D)

Today visit the **Temple of Heaven**, where the former emperors prayed for good harvest.

Thereafter continue your visit of Beijing by taking a rickshaw ride in the "**Hutongs**" – the alleys which run through shops and courtyards which are residences to the older generation.

Dinner at a local restaurant

Overnight stay at Qian men hotel or similar

Day 05- April 7th Beijing / Xian (B/L/D)

This morning transfer to the airport for your flight to Xian.

Xian is one of China's six historic capital cities. From 1027 BC onwards eleven dynasties chose it as their seat of government. It probably possesses more items of archaeological interest than any other town or city in China, the most important, of course being the world famous Terra Cotta Warriors.

Met on arrival at Xian airport and proceed on a city tour of Xian with visits to the **Wild Goose Pagoda**, one the famous Buddhist pagodas in China, followed by a visit to the ancient **City Wall**.

Big Wild Goose Pagoda, situated in the Da Ci'en Temple, is one of the famous Buddhist pagodas in China. Originally built in 589 A.D. in the Sui dynasty, the temple was named Wu Lou Si Temple till 648 A.D. when Emperor Li Zhi, (then still a crown prince), sponsored a repair project on the temple. This was a symbol of thanksgiving to his mother for her kindness, after she had suffered an early death.

City Wall of Xian is an extension of the old Tang dynasty structure and the building was built by Zhu Yuanzhang, the first emperor of Ming dynasty (from 1370 A.D. - 1375 A.D.). After the enlargement the city wall stands 40 feet high and 40-46 feet across the top. It is 50-60 feet wide at bottom and 8.5 miles in length with deep moats surrounding the wall. It boasts to be the most complete city wall to have survived through China's long history.

Dinner at a local restaurant

Overnight stay at Xian Aurum international hotel or similar

Day 06 - April 8th Xian (B/L/D)

This morning visit the burial site of an incredible army of 8000 lifelike **Terra-cotta Warriors**, horses, and chariots. Afterwards visit the **History Museum**.

Terra Cotta Warriors - In 1974 a group of peasants digging a well, made what was to become the greatest archaeological find of the 20th century when they unearthed fragments of a life sized Terra Cotta Warrior. Excavation of the vault revealed thousands of warriors and their horses, an entire army designed follows its emperor into eternity.

This evening enjoy a traditional **Tang Dynasty Dinner Show**.

Overnight stay at Xian Aurum international hotel or similar

Day 07- April 9th Xian / Shanghai (B/L/D)

This morning transfer to the airport for your flight to Shanghai.

Shanghai - was a small town supported by the fishing and weaving industry before the first Opium War. Late in 1990 when the central government starting developing the area, the city's economy boomed and today it is a scintillating city boiling with rapid cultural change. Since market restrictions were lifted, Shanghai has embraced the forces of business and design and rewritten its rulebook shaping a fresh, new city that is sophisticated, innovative, and living a life it has never lived before.

This afternoon proceed on a tour with visits to the Bund the former foreign settlement, ranged along with imposing buildings of the colonial period. The **Bund** offers views of the colorful traffic on the Huangpu River with colonial buildings built by the Europeans during the 19th and early 20th century. It's a beautiful place to walk in the evenings

Thereafter visit the **Jade Buddha Temple** - the most famous Buddhist temple in Shanghai, located in the western part of the city. In 1882, a monk named Huigen left two of five jade Buddha statues (brought from Burma) in Shanghai and built a temple to keep the statues. In 1918, the old temple was burned down and a new one was built at the present site and now named Jade Buddha Temple.

Dinner at a local restaurant

Overnight stay at Longmen Shanghai hotel or Similar

Day 08 - April 10th Shanghai (B/L/D)

This morning visit **Yu Garden**, characteristic of the architectural style of the Ming Dynasty and used to be a private garden with a 400 year history. Yu Garden maybe the most celebrated classical Chinese garden in Shanghai, located in the northeast part of the old town with an area of fives acres. In 1559, a Ming official named Pan Yunduan launched the construction of this private garden for his father. The construction lasted for 19 years. Later, due to the decline of the Pan family, the garden gradually fell into oblivion. Furthermore several civil conflicts in the mid 19th century caused great damage to it. After several large-scale re-constructions since 1949, Yu Yuan was finally opened to the public in 1961.

The garden attracts countless visitors from China and overseas. Built in the Suzhou style, Yuyuan garden is characterized by its exquisite layout, beautiful scenery and the artistic architecture. Each pavilion, hall, stone and stream in the garden can express the quintessence of South China's landscape designed from the Ming and Qing dynasties.

Afterwards visit and stop at **Nanjing Road** for some shopping.

Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight stay at Longmen Shanghai hotel or Similar

Day 09- April 11th Depart Shanghai (B)

At leisure until departure transfer to the airport for your flight back home.

Land cost includes:-

- ♦ Accommodation at hotels specified or similar on sharing basis
- ♦ Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B-breakfast at hotel, L-lunch & D-dinner at local Chinese restaurants)
- ♦ Tang Dynasty dinner show in Xian
- ♦ Coach class air ticket for travel Beijing / Xi'an / Shanghai inclusive of airport taxes (please note check-in luggage restricted to 20 kg / 44 lbs per person in total).
- ♦ Transportation and sightseeing using air-conditioned vehicles with English speaking local guides.
- ♦ All airport transfers for the domestic flights within China
- ♦ Entrance fees for the tours included in the trip
- ♦ National Guide/Host with 15 or more passengers

Land cost does not include:-

- ♦ International tickets (USA / Beijing & Shanghai / USA) with applicable departure taxes.
- ♦ Applicable visa fees.
- ♦ Extra visits and meals not indicated.
- ♦ Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, laundry, beverages etc.
- ♦ Porterages, tips and gratuities to staff and guides.
- ♦ Personal medical and travel insurance.

DEPOSIT INFORMATION

Deposit Early, as when all spaces filled then you will be out of luck

Non Refundable deposit of \$500.00 + cost of Mandatory Insurance..Is due when booking and the final

non-refundable payment

Please e-mail Travel Buddies at travelbuddies@shaw.ca with the following details and I will contact by phone for

your payment.

Full legal name (as it appears on your passport)

Address... Phone Number Date of Birth

Or phone at 1-800-998-9099 or 604-534-5602