

## Cultural & History Program

### CN9 - Embracing Sichuan's Natural Wonders – 12Days



#### Detailed Day by Day Itinerary

##### Day1,MondayArriveBeijing

Arrive Beijing Capital Airport. Welcome to China! Pick up and transfer to downtown hotel. Our journey into Ancient Of China start at 4:00 pm with a visit to Ri Tan Park, one of the old imperial parts. After strolling around the park, we will have our trip orientation while drinking Chinese green tea under the shade of trees. Tonight, we gather over a Peking duck dinner at 6:00 pm and then retire early. Our first three nights in China will be at the Oriental Garden or a similar four star hotel, located in central Beijing.

Overnight at Guxiang #2 Hotel.

Meals Provided: D

##### Day2,TuesdayBeijing

This morning we will walk from the hotel to the magnificent **Forbidden City**. We spend the morning on a guided tour of this vast palace. After lunch, at the Da San Yuan Restaurant, we will transfer to the **Temple of Heaven**. Constructed during the Ming Dynasty, its harmonious proportions and bold colors make it a masterpiece of Chinese architecture. The highlight of the Temple of heaven is the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests. Built without a single nail, the Hall is where emperors once prayed for a good harvest, making offerings of grain, silk and animals.

In the late afternoon, wetake a tour of Old Beijing. Riding in a pedicab, we explore the city's traditional neighborhoods, called **hutongs** (literally, alleyways). We will get an idea of what the entire city once looked like, and experience the 'old' way of life.



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Amongst the hutongs we observe elders whiling away the night with a game of Chinese chess or mahjong, shopkeepers selling traditional snacks like jian bing (pancakes) and baozi (steamed buns), and hear calls announcing the arrival of the knife sharpener or cardboard collector. We will eat at a Buddhist vegetarian restaurant

Tonight after dinner, we have an optional program of an **acrobatics show** for those still with energy (not included in tour price).

Overnight at Guxiang #2 Hotel.

Meals Provided: B L D

### **Day 3, Wednesday, Great Wall/Beijing**

Today we will visit the **Great Wall**. There will be two different hiking routes for visiting the Great Wall, Mutianyu or Jinshaling. You can either take a short walk along the most beautiful parts of Mutianyu, or take a longer (5-hour) more strenuous hike along the unreconstructed part of the Wall from **Jinshanling to Simatai**.

For people who take the **Mutianyu** route, we'll return to Beijing in mid-afternoon to visit the Yong He Gong Tibetan temple and the nearby Temple of Confucius and National Academy. For people who take the Jinshanling route, we will meet the rest of the group at our hotel and walk together to have a buffet dinner in the neighborhood.

Overnight at Guxiang #2 Hotel.

Meals Provided: B L D

### **Day 4, Thursday, Xian**

This morning, after an early breakfast, we catch a flight to the ancient capital of Xian (known in ancient times as Chang An).

From Xian we shall travel by coach straight to the site of the **Terra Cotta Army**, stopping on the way for lunch. After lunch, we shall visit the Terra Cotta Army, which was made to guard the tomb of Qin Shihuang, the first emperor to unite China. This major archaeological discovery, unearthed in 1974 by local peasants, consists of three underground vaults. The first vault, which measures 200 m x 60 m (656 ft x 196 ft), contains a collection of more than 8,000 terracotta figures of warriors and horses, each differing in features and facial expressions. The second and third vaults are smaller, and contain 1,000 figures and 68 figures, respectively. Archaeologists believe that more vaults exist nearby, yet to be unearthed.

Late afternoon, we transfer into Xian, check into the Hyatt Regency Hotel located within the city's ancient walls and close to the major sites. Returning to Xi'an, we stop to stroll along the **Ming Dynasty City Walls**. This evening we will eat a local Xian dinner, featuring lamb, at the Lao Xun Jia Restaurant, which has been in operation for many

decades.

Overnight Gloria Hotel.

Meals Provided: B L D

### **Day5, Friday, Chengdu**

After checking out of the hotel, we will visit the **Shaanxi History Museum** to spend two hours studying the treasures which have been unearthed from the more than 1,000 years that Xian served as the ancient capital of China. After lunch on the way to the airport, we shall take a flight to Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan Province. Despite the recent economic development, the older parts of Chengdu have kept their charm. The streets are narrow, lively and lined with trees and old houses, providing the perfect setting for leisurely tea houses and flower shops. There will be some free time to refresh or take a short walk around the hotel before a dinner of spicy Sichuan food at the Da Rong He Restaurant.

Overnight Yinhe Dynasty Hotel

Meals Provided: B, (self arrange Lunch), D

### **Day 6, Saturday, Chengdu / Jiuzhaigou**



This morning we will catch an early flight to Jiuhuang Airport, from which we will drive to the **Jiuzhaigou National Park** directly. We will walk with a Tibetan forest ranger for two hours down from Rhinoceros Lake, past six other lakes and two waterfalls to Potted Lake. This gentle route is less walked by other tourists, and so will offer us a more tranquil introduction to Jiuzhaigou than other areas. We will have a picnic lunch, followed by a

visit to a Tibetan temple in the park, and then one hour in the natural history museum by the gate. We will check into our hotel in the late afternoon, freshen up and rest before dinner. Our dinner will be in the hotel for buffet.

Overnight Sheraton Hotel

Meals Provided: B L D

### **Day 7, Sunday, Jiuzhaigou**

We continue our exploration of **Jiuzhaigou**. Today, we will walk down from Grass Lake, passing several lakes and waterfalls. We picnic lunch in a meadow on the way, then pass Mirror Lake and finish at Rhinoceros Lake (starting point of previous day). Anyone who gets tired can easily walk to the road, which parallels the walking path no more



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than a few hundred meters away, and take the park bus back to the park entrance and then return to the hotel to rest.

Overnight Sheraton Hotel

Meals Provided: B L (**Optional Dinner**)

### **Day8,Monday, Jiuzhaigou/Maoxian**

We depart Jiuzhaigou in the morning and head to **Maoxian**, a 300 km (192 mi) journey which will take 6 hours. Enroute we visit a Tibetan village where we sample butter tea in a **Tibetan village** home, and visit the old Qing Dynasty garrison town of Songpan. Enroute, we pass the mighty Min River and enjoy spectacular views of the rushing waters from the mountains. We will get to Maoxian by late afternoon in time for some rest before dinner.

Overnight at Mao Xian International Hotel

Meals Provided: B L D

### **Day9,Tuesday,Wolong**



After breakfast at our hotel, we visit Tao Ping. **Tao Ping** is a wonderful **Qiang** ethnic group **village**, the origins of the village date back 2,000 years. We will enjoy a Qiang people's lunch with a local family. After lunch we will leave for **Wolong Nature Reserve**. We will arrive at Wolong in the late afternoon. Before checking into the hotel, we will visit the Panda Museum and hear a lecture from one of the Panda conservation directors. Tonight's dinner will be at our hotel.

Overnight at Panda Inn.

Meals Provided: B L D

### **Day 10, Wednesday, Wolong / Chengdu**

We will visit the **Wolong Nature Reserve**, where we shall be taken around by a Chinese expert. Set up in 1979, this reserve became synonymous with giant pandas. It was later designated as an international biosphere reserve. The reserve is a key area designed mainly to protect and reproduce pandas. The reserve, covering 200,000 hectares, is also home to 3,000 to 4,000 species of plants. Nowadays, it is no longer possible to view pandas in the wild, but we can get a close up look at pandas living close to nature. The whole morning we can observe pandas feeding and photograph pandas. After lunch in the hotel, we will head back to Chengdu. After checking in at our hotel, we will have dinner in a local restaurant.



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Overnight Yinhe DynastyHotel  
Meals Provided: B L (**Optional Dinner**)

**Day11,Thursday,Chengdu**

Early morning, we head for the first **Giant Panda Breeding Research** Base in Chengdu. The panda families are just waking up, and some of them are already enjoying their breakfast. A guided walk through the center will help to understand some of the living habits of these lovely mammals. Our lunch will be at a superb vegetarian restaurant by **Wenshu Temple**, and then we will visit Wenshu Temple itself, which is the most beautiful Buddhist temple in Chengdu. Afterwards, we will take a walk in Wangjianglou Park to see 100 different species of bamboo and enjoy afternoon tea in the park. Here our local expert will join our tea break and share his knowledge of Buddhism. We will check in at our hotel in the late afternoon. Tonight's farewell dinner will be at Yinxing Restaurant, one of the top Sichuan restaurants in Chengdu.

Overnight Yinhe Dynasty Hotel  
Meals Provided: B D

**Day 12, Friday, Fly Home**

Early this morning, we will transfer to the airport and catch our flights back home.  
End of services.



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### Quotation for Group (more than 4pax, guaranteed group departure)

**2008**

**Land Prices (CAD)**

Dates	06-17Apr	11-2May	12-3Sep	07-18Oct
Land cost: 4-22pax	3,066	3,066	3,066	3,066
Single supplement	1,270	1,270	1,270	1,270

#### Flights

Call for international air.

Call our tour expert for individual departure and customize your private journey

#### Triple Discount

Additional discount of \$200 applies for children under 12 sharing a triple with two adults.

Additional discount of \$100 applies for traveler who chooses half-board service, see detail meal arrangement listed

#### Price includes:

- Domestic economy flights and airport taxes.
- Land transfers for whole trip
- All accommodations on a twin-sharing basis, at the hotels specified in the itinerary where available
- All admissions and activity expenses as noted on itinerary
- Meals, drinking water, and soft drinks during meals as program indicates
- All programs as per itinerary
- Private tour guide and driver
- Tour leader service along the whole trip when group size is bigger than 10pax.

#### Price excludes:

- Discretionary gratuities for drivers, local guides, and staff
- Expenses of personal nature, e.g. mini-bar, laundry, telecommunications, alcoholic beverages etc.
- Travel insurance
- Excursions not included in the itinerary
- International flights and airport taxes
- GST