



"See World Differently"

Family & Fun Program

CN2 - Chinese Art – Great Wall, Martial Art, Calligraphy, Painting and Pandas---14days

Detailed Day – by-day Itinerary

Day 1: US to Beijing

After arriving at the Beijing Capital Airport, we are met by our guide and transfer to the hotel downtown. Tonight, we enjoy a welcome dinner featuring delicious Peking duck and listen to a briefing on our trip by our guide.

Overnight at Lvsongyuan Courtyard or Guxiang #20 Hotel (equal to three star)

Meals Provided: D

Day 2: Beijing

Today, we walk across **Tiananmen Square**, the largest public square in the world and the symbolic center of China. There, we take in the view of the late Chairman Mao's mausoleum, the State Museum of China and the Great Hall of the People in the distance. Standing in this public square, seeing the local Chinese crowds who have come from across China, we get a real sense for the history of this historical monument. Next, we visit the magnificent **Forbidden City** directly north of the Square.

After lunch, we visit the **Children's Palace** located in the rear part of the Jingshan Park. Chinese kids from across Beijing come to the Children's Palace after school hours to learn painting, singing, dancing, calligraphy and even Peking Opera performances. The Children's Palace is an excellent place for kids to play and interact with their peers. We'll enjoy students dancing and painting and also join in the festivities ourselves.

Then, we enjoy a biking tour of the old Beijing **Hutongs** (literally, alleyways). Here, we can get an idea of what the entire city once looked like and experience the traditional Beijing way of life. Amongst the Hutongs, we can 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. Our dinner will be at a Hakka restaurant near Beijing's Houhai Lake. During the dinner, we will invite one of the young volunteer social workers to join the dinner with the families. Our young expert will introduce some interesting NGO projects and present how Chinese try to protect Chinese Heritage.

Following dinner, we watch the city's famous **acrobatic show**.

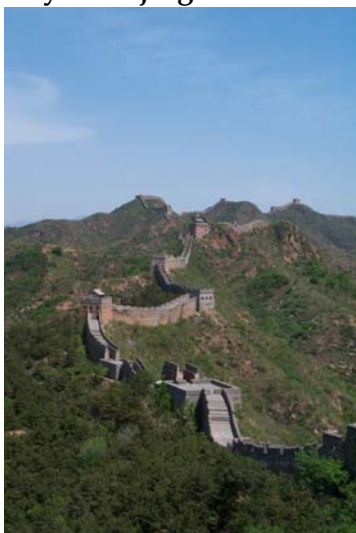
Overnight at Lvsongyuan Courtyard or Guxiang #20 Hotel (equal to three star)

Meals Provided: D



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Day 3: Beijing



Today, we drive for 1.5 hours out of the city, to visit the **Great Wall at Mutianyu**. There you will see the highest foliage coverage in the surrounding mountains of Beijing. After a refreshing walk on top of the wall, we proceed to a farmer's house and have lunch there, visiting his peach orchard in the afternoon. We spend time talking to him and learning about rural life in China, in contrast to larger modern cities such as Beijing. Moreover, what better way for the kids to learn about the secret of orchard management than from the expert himself!

We return to the city in the afternoon and tour the **Beijing Aquarium**, which makes for a fun family activity. There are thousands of freshwater and saltwater fish from around the world, including kid favorites like sharks. As well, there is an enormous tank containing an entire coral reef And several exciting shows featuring seals and dolphins.

Tonight we have dinner at a traditional Chinese restaurant.

Overnight at Lvsongyuan Courtyard or Guxiang #20 Hotel (equal to three star)

Meals Provided: D

Day 4: Beijing to Zhengzhou

We will catch the morning flight to Zhengzhou today.

Upon arrival in Zhengzhou, we transfer to Dengfeng by coach for 1.5 hours, and explore the famous **Shaolin Temple**. Shaolin Temple is probably the most famous temple in China, not only because of its long history and its role in Chinese Buddhism, but also because of its martial arts or Wushu. It was established in 495, during the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534), and got its incomparable reputation for its legendary tale stating that the monks of Shaolin Temple had saved Emperor Li Shimin of the Tang Dynasty. A movie named *Shaolinsi* (Shaolin Temple), starring Jet Li, has helped the temple to draw the attention of Kung Fu enthusiasts across the world. Tonight, we will watch a marvelous performance of **Zen Music Shaolin Grand Ceremony**, composed by Mr. Tan Dun an Oscar and Grammy Best Original Music Winner. This is the biggest sightseeing show in China, you have never seen such an unforgettable performance ever before!

Overnight Shaolin International Hotel (Four star)

Meals Provided: B L D

Day 5: Dengfeng to Luoyang (1 Hour Bus Trip)



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This morning after breakfast, we meet our pen pal and have a **hands-on practice** with the martial arts school students. We organize a morning exercise where we can interact with local students from the martial arts schools. Activities include martial arts training, where we learn some basic steps and movements and learn more about the rigorous lives of martial arts students here. Then, we watch a breath-taking Martial Arts Show and after

lunch, we drive from Dengfeng to Luoyang a well-known ancient capital in Chinese history. In the afternoon, we'll visit the famous **Longmen Grottoes** a great treasure house of ancient art.

The Longmen Grottoes, located 12 km south of Luoyang, spans over a length of 1,000 meters on the hillsides along the Yi River. It contains the largest and most impressive collection of Chinese art of the late Northern Wei and Tang Dynasties (316-907). These works, entirely devoted to the Buddhist religion, represent the high point of Chinese stone carving. The Longmen Grottoes, together with the Mogao Caves in Dunhuang and the Yungang Grottoes, are reputed to be the three greatest stone sculpture treasure houses in China. In the year 2000, the Longmen Grottoes was listed by UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage Site.

Overnight Luoyang Yaxiang Jinling Hotel or similar. (Five star)

Meals Provided: B L D

Day 6: Luoyang/Xi'an by TRAIN K617 (0929/1431)

After breakfast, we take the train from Luoyang to Xi'an. Upon arrival and after checking into the hotel, we will stroll along the **Ming Dynasty City Walls** or bike along the walls that still encircle the old city. We then continue our exploration of Xi'an cuisine at a local restaurant for dinner. After enjoying a distinctively Xi'an dinner, featuring lamb at the Lao Sun Jia Restaurant which has been in operation for many decades, we mingle with local people and visit shops that remain open until late in the evening.

Overnight Bell and Drum Hotel (Three star)

Meals Provided: B L D

Day 7: Xi'an

This morning after breakfast, we visit the **Forest of Stone Tablets**, which contain China's finest collection of calligraphy by famous ancient masters. Here, not only can one find samples of the works of the most famous calligraphers, but also samples of each of the major calligraphic scripts. Then, we drive to the magnificent **Terra Cotta Army**, made to

guard the tomb of Qin Shihuang the first emperor to unite China. Later this afternoon we drive back to Xi'an. This evening we eat a local Xi'an dumpling dinner, famous for its great variety. After dinner, we spend some time visiting the night market near the Muslim neighborhood taking in the local atmosphere.

Overnight Bell and Drum Hotel (Three star)

Meals Provided: B L D

Day 8: Xi'an to Chengdu



Early this morning, we practice some Taichi in a park nearby our hotel, after which we drive to Huxian about 1.5 hours out of Xi'an. Here, the local farmers continue their time-honored folk tradition of painting. We visit the **Huxian Painting** Exhibition, where we see the farmer's paintings on display. We learn to paint in the style as well, before taking a meal in a farmers' home learning how to **make dumplings** together with a local

family. After the experience, we are sure to have a deeper understanding of life in rural Xi'an. In the afternoon, we drive back to Xi'an and catch an evening flight to Chengdu. We can explore the city on our own. Tonight we have a western buffet for dinner at the hotel.

Overnight Yinhe Dynasty Hotel (Four star)

Meals Provided: B L D

Day 9: Wolong



Early in the morning, we head to the **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 us understand some of the living habits of these lovely mammals. We depart Chengdu and reach **Wolong** by mid-afternoon, with lunch on the way. We spend an hour in the excellent panda museum at Wolong and then meet with a scientist from the park office prior to dinner.

Overnight Wolong Hotel (four star)

Meals Provided: B L D

Day 10: Wolong to Chengdu



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After breakfast at our hotel, we visit the **Wolong Nature Reserve** where a Chinese expert takes us around. 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 look at pandas living close to nature. The whole morning we can observe pandas being fed and photograph pandas. After lunch we travel back to Chengdu. Tonight we have a western buffet for dinner.

Overnight Yinhe Dynasty Hotel (Four star)

Meals Provided: B L D

Day 11: Chengdu to Guilin

After lunch, at a Chengdu spicy restaurant, we fly to Guilin where we have some free time upon arrival. With stunning Karst rock formations (with fantastic names like Elephant Trunk and Solitary Beauty Peak) Guilin's landscape has inspired poets and artists for centuries. The sight of limestone peaks rising through the mist and the sleepy settlements along the Li River have been eulogized in numerous poems and paintings throughout China's history.

Optional program in the evening: **cormorants fishing performance** if available.

Overnight Bravo Guilin (Four star)

Meals Provided: B L D

Day 12: Guilin to Yangshuo



In the morning, we take a leisurely boat ride to **Xinping**, an ancient **town** near Yangshuo. As we sit on the deck of the boat, it will seem as if we are viewing one scroll painting after another. This is territory that has inspired Chinese artists of all sorts for thousands of years. Along the way, we may even see local villagers prowling the river in their traditional boats and employing cormorants for an unusual way of fishing. Upon arrival in Xinping, a town with a history of over 1,000

years, we visit a rice noodle mill to see how the most favored food of Guilin people is made. Then we drive along the Old Chinese "Pony Express Road" to the **town of Fuli**, where many of the local residents still make painted fans and umbrellas. We arrive in Yangshuo in the early evening.



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Yangshuo is a small, charming town, especially popular with backpackers. On West Street one can find many nice cafés, restaurants and CD shops. The real appeal of Yangshuo lies in the surrounding countryside, where one can find opportunities for great bike riding or gentle hiking.

Option tonight: Impression of Liu Sanjie, a stage performance by famed director Zhang Yimou (director of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*).

Overnight at Paradise Hotel (Four star)
Meals Provided: B, L, D

Day 13: Yangshuo

After breakfast in the hotel, we start the fabulous and fun biking of today to explore the beautiful, relaxing countryside nearby. **Bike** through the old road via Aishan, passing by picturesque villages, tucked among subtropical plants and stretched in between rice paddies. The ride one-way covers 13 kilometers on well-paved roads and should take up to one hour. If you have more energy, climb 819 steps to get to the top of **Moon Hill** for a bird's-eye-view of the surrounding hills and have a close look of the "Moon" which used to be an underground river canal. Have lunch at a local farmer's house in Moon Village. In the afternoon, keep biking on the path to the Yulong River and back to Yangshuo via Chaoyang Village. If you prefer an easier trip, just take the bus or cycle back to Yangshuo from the Moon Hill. After freshening up in the hotel, we can stroll West Street to enjoy the lazy and happy time there.

Overnight at Paradise Hotel (Four star)
Meals Provided: B, L, D

Day 14: Guilin to Home

In the morning, we depart Yangshuo by bus and drive to the Guilin airport for connecting flights home.

Meals Provided: B



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Quotation for Group Departure: Land Cost base on 4-20pax:

2008

Land Prices (CAD)

Dates	Adults	Teens 12-17	Children Under 12	
17May – 30May, 08	3,080	2,980	2,880	
28June-11July, 08	3,080	2,980	2,880	
05July-18July, 08	3,080	2,980	2,880	
06Sep - 19Sep, 08	3,080	2,980	2,880	
Single supplement	840	840	840	

Flights

Call for international air.

Call your tour expert for tailor-made your private journey

Triple Discount

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

The discount is for the child only.

Price includes:

- Domestic economy flights and airport taxes.
- Land transfers for whole trip (Including train ride from Luoyang to Xi'an on soft sleeping bed)
- 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 once group size is bigger than 12pax

Price excludes:

- Discretionary gratuities for drivers, local guides, and staff
- Expenses of personal nature, e.g. mini-bar, laundry, telecommunications, alcoholic beverages etc.



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- Travel insurance
- Excursions not included in the itinerary
- International flights and airport taxes
- GST