

# Best of China

## 13 day tour to Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Long Sheng Rice Terrace, Li River & Guilin

Guilin is considered to be the pearl of China's thriving tourist industry on account of the natural beauty and historic treasures. The boat trip down the Li River will allow you to experience gorgeous scenery including various Karst mountain peaks, wildlife, rural villages and performers. The Longsheng Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces are the culmination of both the profound wisdom and strenuous labour of local minority Zhuang people.

### Day 1 Australia ✈ Beijing

Depart on your flight to Beijing. Your tour guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel.

### Day 2 Beijing

Meal: B/L/D

Today's visit includes Tiananmen Square, the largest city square in the world. From Tiananmen Square enter the Forbidden City. This massive complex was the centre of the Ming and Qing dynasties. With almost 10,000 rooms, this well-preserved imperial palace is the largest in the world. After lunch, you will visit the Temple of Heaven, where emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties would make offerings to heaven and pray for good harvests.

### Day 3 Beijing

Meal: B/L

Today you experience the splendour of the Great Wall, the pride of China and one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It is an amazing manmade structure built over 2000 years ago to protect China from northern invaders. In the afternoon visit Summer Palace, the largest and best preserved of all imperial palace gardens. Be amazed with fascination at the Marble Boat and the ornately painted Long Corridor.

### Day 4 Beijing

Meal: B

Today is at leisure. You can explore more of Beijing at your own pace.

### Day 5 Beijing - Xian

Meal: B/D

This morning you are transferred to the train station and take high speed train to Xian. You will experience the high speed train which runs 300 km per hour and takes around 4.5 hours for this 1,216 kilometer long journey. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel. Xian is the most historic city in China and the capital of ancient China for 11 dynasties.

### Day 6 Xian

Meal: B/L

Today's touring is to the vast treasure of the underground army of the Terracotta Warriors. They are to be found at an archaeological site which so far has yielded some 8000 ancient terracotta soldiers and horses, each a unique, finely detailed sculpture. This afternoon, you visit the ancient city wall which is one of the best preserved in China.

### Day 7 Xian - Shanghai

Meal: B

This morning, you are transferred to the train station and take high speed train to Shanghai. It takes around 6 hours for this 1,503 kilometer long journey. Shanghai, one of the largest city in China where east meets the west. Transfer to hotel. Overnight in Shanghai.

### Day 8 Shanghai

Meal: B/L

After breakfast, the day begins with a grand city tour of Shanghai – the classical Ming Dynasty Yu Yuan Gardens with pavilions, towers and terraces and Pudong, the new economic district across from the Bund. The tour continues after lunch with a stroll along the spacious promenade of the Bund and some window shopping along bustling Nanjing Road; then followed by a visit to Xintiandi, where “yesterday meets tomorrow in Shanghai today.” As a re-creation born out of the sprawls of Shikumen housing, which is the architectural symbol of Shanghai in the 20th century, Shanghai Xintiandi, “the City's Living-room” is a place to unwind and relax after a long day. You can enjoy your shopping at the local market.

### Day 9 Shanghai ✈ Guilin

Meal: B

This morning is at leisure. You will fly to Guilin in the afternoon. Check in at hotel for 3 nights.

### Day 10 Guilin -Yangshuo

Meal: B/L/D

The highlight of Guilin is the Li River cruise, a 5-6 hour cruise from Guilin to Yangshuo passing through various strange and wonderful mountain formations. Upon arrival Yangshuo you will have time to roam the local market.

### Day 11 Guilin- Longsheng

Meal: B/L

Day excursion to Longsheng. Longsheng is located in the mountainous region on the north eastern part of Guilin. The natural beauty and the colourful ethnic Chinese cultures and customs attract people from all over the world. You visit old Zhuang village, and the beautiful terrace rice fields on summit of Longji (Dragon's backbone), which are built along the slope winding from the bottom of the valley to the mountain top, with the highest place of an elevation of 885m and the lowest 380m. Return Guilin in the late afternoon.

### Day 12 Guilin ✈ Australia

Meal: B/L

This morning, you tour the Reed Flute Cave, a wonderful limestone cave with a dazzling variety of stalactites and stalagmites and Fubo Hill. After Lunch, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Hong Kong then take connecting flight bound for Australia.

### Day 13 Australia

Arrive in Australia in the morning.