

# Fine China 13 days



Climb the Great Wall, enter the Forbidden City, inspect a grotto, challenge the Warriors at Xi'an and cruise the River Li at scenic Yangshuo. We top off your Eastern feast with a choice of sparkling Shanghai or dazzling Hong Kong.

## TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Beijing / Ends in: Hong Kong or Shanghai
- Departs: Saturday - March to October
- No local payment required
- Breakfast: 11, Lunch: 3, Dinner: 2
- Hotel Rating: 3 - 4 star
- Tour Guide: Yes (for groups of 6 or more)

## ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - [click here](#)
- To book this trip - [click here](#)
- To enquire about this trip - [click here](#)

## TOUR MAP:



## QUICK WEB LINKS

China Prices ::: Why Us for China? ::: China Reviews ::: Our China Blog ::: Top Spots in China ::: Festivals & Events ::: Hotels in China ::: China - Useful Info ::: FAQs on China ::: China Visas ::: China Gallery

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## Day 1: Beijing

Saturday. Huan ying, welcome to China and the start of your holiday! Airport arrival transfer and hotel check in. Overnight - [Beijing](#)

## Day 2: Forbidden City

Today, we embark on a tour of the nation's capital. The famous portrait of Mao Zedong, China's communist father still looks out over gargantuan Tiananmen Square from the Gate of Heavenly Peace. On the square you can not miss Mao's mausoleum, an austere behemoth in granite where he lies in state in his crystal coffin. We take a stroll on the square all under the watchful eye of the dutiful guards. A vision in grandeur with its imperial yellow roofs and vermilion walls, the Forbidden city, once forbidden to all those except on imperial business until 1911, when the last emperor, Puyi, was turfed off his throne. We enjoy a guided walk through the city's many temples, grand halls and courtyards. The Forbidden city boasts 9999 rooms! Afternoon rickshaw ride through the Hutongs of Beijing and Peking Duck dinner at a city restaurant. Overnight - [Beijing](#)

## Day 3: The Great Wall

Today, we travel beyond Beijing to Badaling, where we take a walk along the famed Great Wall. No matter how many pictures you've seen, the Great Wall of China is very impressive. Following a ridge of barren hills through northern China, it stretches as far as the eye can see - at least 6,700 kilometres. Continuing, we visit a cloisonne workshop of decorative metal and enamel sculpture. Tonight, an eye boggling Chinese acrobatic performance. Swinging ropes, juggling hoops, spinning plates and 8 story human pyramids are just a few tricks these showstoppers pull out. Overnight - [Beijing](#)



## Day 4: Summer Palace

Beijing - Luoyang. A chance to cross a few palms with silver at Silk Alley markets, where even the most hardened non-shoppers manage to walk away with something they really desire! The Summer Palace is set on picturesque Lake Kunming. Perhaps most famous of all the structures at the palace is the wonderful Long

Corridor, a covered walkway 730m long extraordinarily hand-painted with scenes from Chinese history, legend and literature. Tonight, we travel to Luoyang, en route we view the massive Beijing 2008 Olympic Stadium and aquatic centre. Overnight - Sleeper Train to Luoyang

## Day 5: Longman Caves

Today we explore the UNESCO world heritage listed 6th Century Longman Caves, etched into the cliffs along the Yi River. The 1300 caves (grottoes) were carved out by hand during the Northern Wei Dynasty and are adorned with more than 100,000 statues and images of Buddha and his disciples. Later we tour the first Buddhist temple in China - White Horse Temple. Overnight - [Luoyang](#)



## Day 6: Luoyang

Luoyang - Xi'an. In the wee hours of the morning we set out on foot to Peony Square to watch or partake in a little exercise. Hundreds of Chinese take their daily exercise by practising ballroom dancing, performing tai chi, sword fighting and play sports like badminton and hacky sack at the break of dawn. After free time we board the new high speed express train to Xi'an (journey time approximately 2 hours). Overnight - [Xi'an](#)

## Day 7: Terracotta Warriors

Most famous for the Terracotta Warriors, perhaps the find of the 20th century and only just usurped by the discovery of King Tut's gold-laden tomb in Egypt, the Terracotta Warriors comprise more than 7,000 life-sized soldiers which stand in military formation in excavated pits under the cover of a modern protective hanger. Made of local clay, no two faces are alike, each is said to be an individual portrait. We visit the Terracotta Warrior archaeological site and a workshop where warrior figurines are made. This evening, On Broadway - Chinese style we can attend a Tang Dynasty dinner and performance with Chang'an music and dance originally performed for the illustrious Tang emperors. Overnight - [Xi'an](#)

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## Day 8: Big Wild Goose Pagoda

Xi'an - Yangshuo. Today, we visit Xi'an's city symbol, the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, first built in AD652 to hold sutras collected in India by a wandering monk. An awesome sight, the City Wall is over 15 km in perimeter and we embark on a bike ride (solo or tandem). A legacy of the Silk Road, we visit the Muslim Quarter and later fly south to Guilin. Onward transfer to Yangshuo (approx 1.5hrs drive). Hot pot lunch, late evening hotel check in. Overnight - [Yangshuo](#)

## Days 9 - 10: Guilin & Yangshuo

Yangshuo - Guilin. Renown for it's striking scenery: vast areas of karst limestone outcrops that rise up from flat rice paddy fields, Guilin and Yangshuo are often the subject of many Chinese paintings. Today, we take a 2 hour rafting cruise along the calm clean waters of Yu Long River. As our captain punts (propels us forward by pushing against the river bed with a long pole) our flat bottom boat along the shallow waters endless photo opportunities arise. The remainder of our time in Yangshuo is spent at leisure. Choose to hike, hire a bicycle or motorbike and head off on one of the many mountain trails or stop to watch the local fishermen use their trained cormorants to catch fish - a centuries old tradition, though somewhat commercialised these days. Time can also be spent exploring West Street. The ancient alley is laden with quirky shops, tea shops, antiques, calligraphers and art studios. Maybe take a beginners art class with a local painter or enjoy a morning class at the 'Cloud 9' cooking school. By nightfall, sit in any of the al fresco cafes, pubs or bars serving cold beer and delicious speciality foods from the region, catch a film at any of the outdoor cinemas or attend the nightly 'Impression Liu Sanjie' musical, with a cast of 500 singers and dancers. In the late afternoon of day 10 we return to Guilin. Overnight - Yangshuo (1), Guilin (1)



## Day 11:

Yangshuo - Longsheng - Guangzhou. A 90 minute drive leads us to Longsheng, to walk the rice terraces of the Dragon's Backbone. Beginning at the base of Mt Longji the verdant green rice fields coil up the steep mountain, layer upon layer, climbing to its summit. Taking a walk along the stone paths no more than a metre wide, we'll pass many of the Yao and Red Yao minority women, baskets on their backs, who are also climbing skyward. Reaching the 'Seven Stars accompanying Moon' lookout, soak up the spectacular views. The full panorama offers thousands of ribbon like terraces cascading to the meandering streams and valley floor beneath. Returning to Guilin, we travel onward to Hong Kong OR fly to Shanghai (see 'Onward to Shanghai' itinerary below). If heading for Hong Kong, later tonight we board the express sleeper train to Guangzhou. Overnight - Sleeper Train to Guangzhou

## Day 12: Hong Kong

Guangzhou - Kowloon/Hong Kong. Arrive Guangzhou and transfer by train to Hong Kong and onward to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free for you to explore, maybe head over to Victoria Peak, Stanley Markets or Aberdeen Harbour.

Note: Touring arrangements from here forward exclude the services of a tour guide, although local representatives will be on hand to assist with your arrival into Kowloon. Overnight - [Hong Kong](#)



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## Day 13: Hong Kong

Thursday. Tour ends after breakfast and hotel check out at 12noon. Hong Kong International airport is a quick 24min journey on the Airport Express train running at 12 minute intervals. The train ride is not included as part of your itinerary.

### WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

### Trip Highlights

- Beijing - Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, UNESCO listed Emperor's Summer Palace, Silk Alley markets, Cloisonne Factory, Hutong area of Beijing, Chinese Acrobatic Show
- Badaling - UNESCO listed Great Wall of China
- Luoyang – UNESCO listed Longman Caves and stone carvings, White Horse Buddhist Temple, Peony Square activities
- Xi'an - UNESCO listed Terracotta Warriors, Clay warrior workshop, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, City Wall and bike ride, Muslim Quarter, Great Mosque and market.
- Guilin/ Yangshuo – karst landscape, riverside villages and lush scenery, cruise along the peaceful River Li
- Longsheng – the Dragon's backbone rice terraces
- Hong Kong – city and free time to explore Victoria Peak, Stanley Markets, Aberdeen Harbour and more!

OR

**Shanghai** – city and free time to explore the Jade Buddha Temple, Yuyuan Garden, The Bund and Old Shanghai.

### What's Included

- 11 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners including a Traditional Chinese meal in Beijing
- 10 nights 3-4 star hotels
- 2 overnight trains - (soft sleeper cabin) if taking Hong Kong option. 1 overnight train and 1 night 3 star hotel if taking the Shanghai option.
- Chinese acrobatic performance
- Rickshaw ride through Beijings' Hutongs
- Xi'an - bike ride on medieval City Wall
- Raft/cruise excursion on the Yu Long River
- Economy class flight - Xi'an – Guilin
- Touring of Beijing, Badaling, Luoyang, Xi'an, Guilin, Yangshuo and Longsheng
- Tour leader escorted for groups of 6 or more
- English speaking specialist guides at local sights

- All relevant transfers and transportation
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 13 (departure transfer Shanghai only not Hong Kong)

### What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$3 - 5 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture
- Entrance Fees: \$100 USD
- Tipping Kitty: \$70 USD

### BOLT-ONS:

Make the most of your time away! Listed below are the optional activities that are available on this trip. Please note that you will need to book these prior to travel as we cannot always guarantee availability of these activities once you are on holiday.

#### Tang Dynasty Dinner Show - USD \$89

The Tang Dynasty Show is a performance of Chang'an music and dance that originated during the time of the illustrious Tang Dynasty. Colourfully choreographed according to various historical records of the ancient arts with a host of singing, dancing and musical instrument playing performers, coupled with simple backdrops and props, this is entertainment that was once fit for a Tang emperor!

#### Datong - 4 days - USD \$599

Datong is an ancient cultural city dating back more than 2,000 years, the region's biggest attraction is the UNESCO-listed Yungang Caves. Built more than 1,500 years ago, the 53 caves are a treasure trove of ancient Buddhist art comprising a fine collection of carved-sandstone Buddhist figures. The 'Hanging Temple' also located outside of Datong was constructed some 1,500 years on a precipitous rockface. Literally hugging the cliff, the temple is a total spectacle.

#### Nanjing - 3 days - USD \$569

Nanjing, capital of imperial China under the early Ming dynasty, offers an fascinating mix of imperial and revolutionary history. Famed for it's City Wall (one of the worlds longest), Nanjing has mant sites of interest including the Mausoleum of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the great pioneer of the Chinese Revolution, the ruins of the Ming Palace, the Tomb of Zhu Yuanzhang, the first Ming Emperor and the Yangtze River Bridge.

#### Suzhou - 3 days - USD \$589

Suzhou, a 2,500 year-old cultural city is located in an area of rivers that crisscross the Yangtze River Delta of southeastern China. In

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the city, boats bob along waterways interwoven with small bridges that run parallel to the streets and traditional houses built along them. Coupled with a stunning collection of UNESCO-listed gardens and famed for its silk, Suzhou is an oriental treasure!

## PRICES AND DATES: from USD \$2,769

Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged provided there is another single traveller booked on the tour date of your choosing.

### 2012

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
26 MAY - 07 JUN	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
09 JUN - 21 JUN	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
23 JUN - 05 JUL	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
07 JUL - 19 JUL	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
21 JUL - 02 AUG	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
04 AUG - 16 AUG	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
18 AUG - 30 AUG	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
01 SEP - 13 SEP	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
15 SEP - 27 SEP	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
29 SEP - 11 OCT	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
13 OCT - 25 OCT	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
27 OCT - 08 NOV	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
10 NOV - 22 NOV	USD \$2,769	USD \$729

### 2013

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
16 MAR - 28 MAR	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
30 MAR - 11 APR	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
13 APR - 25 APR	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
27 APR - 09 MAY	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
11 MAY - 23 MAY	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
25 MAY - 06 JUN	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
08 JUN - 20 JUN	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
22 JUN - 04 JUL	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
06 JUL - 18 JUL	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
20 JUL - 01 AUG	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
03 AUG - 15 AUG	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
17 AUG - 29 AUG	USD \$2,769	USD \$729

31 AUG - 12 SEP	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
14 SEP - 26 SEP	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
28 SEP - 10 OCT	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
12 OCT - 24 OCT	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
26 OCT - 07 NOV	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
09 NOV - 21 NOV	USD \$2,769	USD \$729
23 NOV - 05 DEC	USD \$2,769	USD \$729

### Supplementary Prices

	Price/Person	Single Supp.
Beijing - Pre-tour accommodation	USD \$55	USD \$44
Shanghai - Post-tour accommodation	USD \$55	USD \$54
Arrival Car Transfer - Beijing	USD \$125	USD \$0
Departure Car Transfer - Shanghai	USD \$145	USD \$0

## POSTCARDS:

Here's what some of our past travellers have written in to us and said about their experiences on this trip.

*Dear Ryan Just to let you know I really enjoyed the Fine China tour. I'd never done a tour before so came without preconceptions. The itinerary was very well-thought out and with about the right amount of free time, especially on the first day. The guides were all great, ditto drivers, hotels very good too. I also liked being with a small group (11) from different countries, which gave it less of a package tour feel & more like-minded travellers. Also appreciated your efficiency before the trip, everything was very well organised. The only downside was the massive number of other tourists everywhere we went, partly because the first Wednesday was Tomb Sweeping Festival, which meant a 5-day holiday starting at the weekend. So it was a real Chinese holiday experience! Felt like royalty when only 2 of us headed south to Guilin & Yangshuo - both brilliant, anyone who has time & funds should go there. We left for Guilin in the morning of day 10 so had time to explore there too - a good idea as it's a nice town and well worth a visit in its own right. All the guide's suggestions were great so saw loads over and above the tour itinerary, like the brilliant Impressions show directed by film director Jiang Yi Mou (of Olympic fireworks display fame), caves with back lit stalagmites & stalactites (Yangshuo), tea plantation visit with tea processing demo, cable car ride up the mountain, which turned out to be a chair lift (not for the nervous, we were terrified going up, not so bad coming down), Guilin river & lakes cruise... Also spent a pleasant evening exploring Guilin's Sun and Moon pagodas & listening to music drift over the lake from the cafe opposite... Also loved Shanghai, would recommend booking the latest flight available on the final day, or doing what I did and*

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*staying an extra night. I'm not that devoted to museums, but Shanghai museum was fantastic. Then there's the old town and market, Yuyuan gardens, Pudong financial district (spectacular modern architecture), the 3 hour river cruise (leaves 2pm) to the mouth of the Yangtse... I will definitely be recommending otg to others Thanks for everything*

Christine Barnard, May 2012

*Hi Charlie I had a fantastic time in China. Everything ran really smoothly and I liked the way the different tours fitted together - the pick ups and organisation for each stage of the tour was great. The tour group was a really nice mix of ages and everyone was very nice and always early for everything! I just wanted to say a big thank you to Mandy. She was an excellent and knowledgeable and kind guide who took care of us and made sure everything ran smoothly. I loved all the places I visited. I was particularly proud of myself for cycling around Xi'an city walls. I would love to go back again to China when it was not so hot! I had a fantastic time and would like to travel with On the Go again.*

Jacqueline Mordue , Aug 2011

*I loved the trip to Guilin and Yangshuo. It was beautiful and nice to have some free time. I liked the time we spent exploring the rice fields - this was definitely one of the highlights and I would surely come back to this part of China.*

Catherine S., May 2011

*We (as a family) had an incredible time in China. Every day was a special day and it exceeded our expectations. We have some fantastic memories and met some terrific travelling companions on the journey. Of particular mention were the visits to X'ian and Guilin, we would love to return. Thank you again to all the staff of on the go who helped make this tour so unforgettable as they were terrific hosts/hostesses. Best regards,*

Joy, Bill, Jamie & Christina Burr, Jul 2010

*Thankyou 'On The Go' for an unforgettable and memorable tour in China. We would like to say how impressed we were with our 1st guide Feong who met us at the airport and was with our group through until day 8, her social skills together with her in-depth knowledge of the country impressed all on the tour, we were also impressed with her ability to make everyone feel included, this is not to say that the other guides were not also good but we do feel that Feong deserves a special mention. The itinerary we felt was a good mix of history, scenery and relaxation with good hotels in central locations. The planning that must have gone into the tour proved to be time well spent.*

Martin Myers, Nov 2009

*I have learnt so much on this trip through our excellent guides, what a fascinating and breathtakingly beautiful country - I'm really pleased I chose this trip and got to see Guilin and Yangshuo, it's incredible. I'll be recommending this trip to my friends and family so thanks for making it such a special first visit to China.*

Bernice Miller, Sep 2009

*Guilin would have to be one of the most inspiring places I have visited and the Dragon's backbone is not far behind that. I would recommend this tour to anyone, especially those interested in painting as this is an artists dream. I look forward to returning to see more of this incredible landscape. It was a brilliant tour, with a super guide and lovely like-minded travelling companions.*

Belinda Johnson, Jul 2009