

# Mystical CHINA

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

**Day 1:** Flight to **Beijing**.

**Day 2:** Beijing, once called Peking, is the capital of the People's Republic of China and is the most developed city in China and recognized as the political, educational, and cultural center renowned for its opulent palaces, temples, and huge stone walls and gates. Its art treasures and universities have long made the city a center of culture and art in China.

**Day 3:** Stroll **Tiananmen Square** – the largest square in the world and reach the **Forbidden City**. Visit the home of China's emperors from the 15th - 20th centuries, a palace of 999 rooms full of priceless treasures. Depart for Temple of Heaven, a circular temple that the emperor used to pray for good crops. Tonight attend a **Peking Opera performance**.



**Day 4:** Full day to the **Great Wall and the Ming Tombs**. The Great Wall stretches 4000 miles across northern China and is said to be the only man-made structure visible from space. Climb the best preserved portion of the wall! After a spicy Sichuan lunch, take a scenic ride to the Ming Tombs on the way back to Beijing. Go underground and explore these ancient tombs of emperors. Enroute back, drive by the Bird's Nest (Olympic National Stadium).

**Day 5:** Today, after visiting the **Summer Palace**, the summer retreat on a manmade lake for the emperor to escape from the heat of summer, and the Lama Temple, a working Buddhist Temple, depart by air for **Xian**.

**Day 6:** Visit the **Terracotta Soldiers Museum**. This army, buried for more than 2000 years consists of thousands of figures thought to represent a force guarding the ancient imperial tomb of Emperor Qin Shihuang. Visit the **Big Wild Goose Pagoda**, a Buddhist pagoda built in 652. Continue on city tour. Tonight attend a Dumpling Banquet and Tang Dynasty Music and Dance performance.



**Day 7:** Visit the **Shaanxi History Museum**. Shaanxi was the ancient imperial capital of China and is rich in cultural relics, holding over 370,000 precious relics including bronze wares, pottery figures, and mural paintings in Tang tombs. Visit **The Great Mosque**. Fly to **Guilin** to enjoy the top landscape area of China.

**Day 8:** Highlights include a cruise excursion along the **Li River**, one of the most spectacular places on earth. Marvel at the sheer limestone pinnacles covered in lush tropical growth that the area is famous for, and see the rural lifestyle of the villages that line the river. Arrive in Yangshuo in the afternoon, stroll along the West Street and have a short cycling trip around the village. Pay a visit to a villager's home. Enjoy a scenic coach ride back to Guilin.

**Day 9:** Drive to Longsheng to see the most amazing rice terraces in China, the spectacular **Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces**. The terraced fields are built along the slope winding from the riverside up to the mountain top. The terraced fields were mostly built during the Ming Dynasty, and received their name because the rice terraces resemble a dragon's scales while the summit of the mountain looks like the backbone of the dragon. Have a chance to have a close visit to the Villages of Zhuang Minority People and the Yao Minority People and see the Suspension Bridge in small size.



**Day 10:** Full day excursion to the **Reed Flute Cave**, Seven Star Park and the **Elephant Trunk Hill**. Reed Flute Cave is actually a series of spectacular caves; Seven Star Park takes its name from its seven peaks which are laid out like the Big Dipper constellation. Elephant Trunk Hill on the western bank of the Li River in the shape of a huge elephant drinking water from the river. Fly to **Hangzhou**, one of the most prosperous regions of the country.

**Day 11:** Visit the Buddhist Lingyin Temple, one of the largest and wealthiest temples in China, containing numerous pagodas and Buddhist grottoes. See West Lake and the Red Carp Pond, a large freshwater lake surrounded by hills and gardens, its banks dotted with pavilions and temples. Visit to the Traditional Chinese Medicine Museum.

**Day 12:** Transfer to **Suzhou** to visit 2 of the magnificent Suzhou Gardens. Gardening in Suzhou reached its height during the Ming and Qing dynasties. Sixty-nine gardens in and around Suzhou are preserved as important national cultural heritage sites. Today we visit The Humble Administrators Garden and the Garden of the Master of the Nets.

**Day 13:** Today visit Tiger Hill, a popular tourist destination known for its natural beauty as well as historical sites. The hill is said to look like a crouching tiger. Continue to Shanghai with a visit to **Zhujiajiao Water Village** to see well preserved Ming and Qing architectures, ancient stone bridges, and ancient streets. Zhujiajiao, known as “the Venice of Shanghai”.

**Day 14:** **Shanghai** is the largest city in China. Originally a fishing and textiles town, Shanghai grew to importance in the 19th century due to its favorable port location and as one of the cities opened to foreign trade by the 1842 Treaty of Nanking. Today the city is a tourist destination and has been described as the showpiece of the world’s fastest growing economy. Today enjoy a whole day excursion which includes the Shanghai Museum, the Yuyuan Garden and the famous Shanghai Bund area along the Huangpu River. The Bund boomed at the end of the 19th Century with dozens of historical buildings. These buildings once housed numerous banks and trading houses from Britain, France, the US, Russia, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and Belgium. Tonight an Acrobatic Show.

**Day 15:** Visit to Imperial China ends today.

## TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare – Beijing and return from Shanghai
- One way air Beijing - Xian
- One way air Xian – Guilin
- One way air Guilin - Hangzhou
- All airport transfers
- All coach transfers according to the itinerary
- 13 nights accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- Entrances to
  - o Forbidden City
  - o Temple of Heaven
  - o Great Wall
  - o Ming Tombs
  - o Summer Palace
  - o Lama Temple
  - o Terra Cotta Museum
  - o Big Goose Pagoda
  - o Shaanxi History Museum
  - o Great Mosque
  - o Li River Cruise
  - o Cycling in Yangshou
  - o Villagers home Yangshou
  - o Entrance and visit to Longsheng Rice fields
  - o Reed Flute Cave, Seven Star Park, Elephant Trunk Hill
  - o Lingyin Temple
  - o Traditional Chinese Medicine Museum
  - o The Humble Administrators Garden and the Garden of the Master of the Nets in Suzhou
  - o Zhujiajiao Water Village
  - o Shanghai Museum
  - o Yuyuan Garden
- Performances
  - o Peking Opera
  - o Dumpling Banquet and Tang Dynasty Music and Dance performance
  - o Acrobatic show

