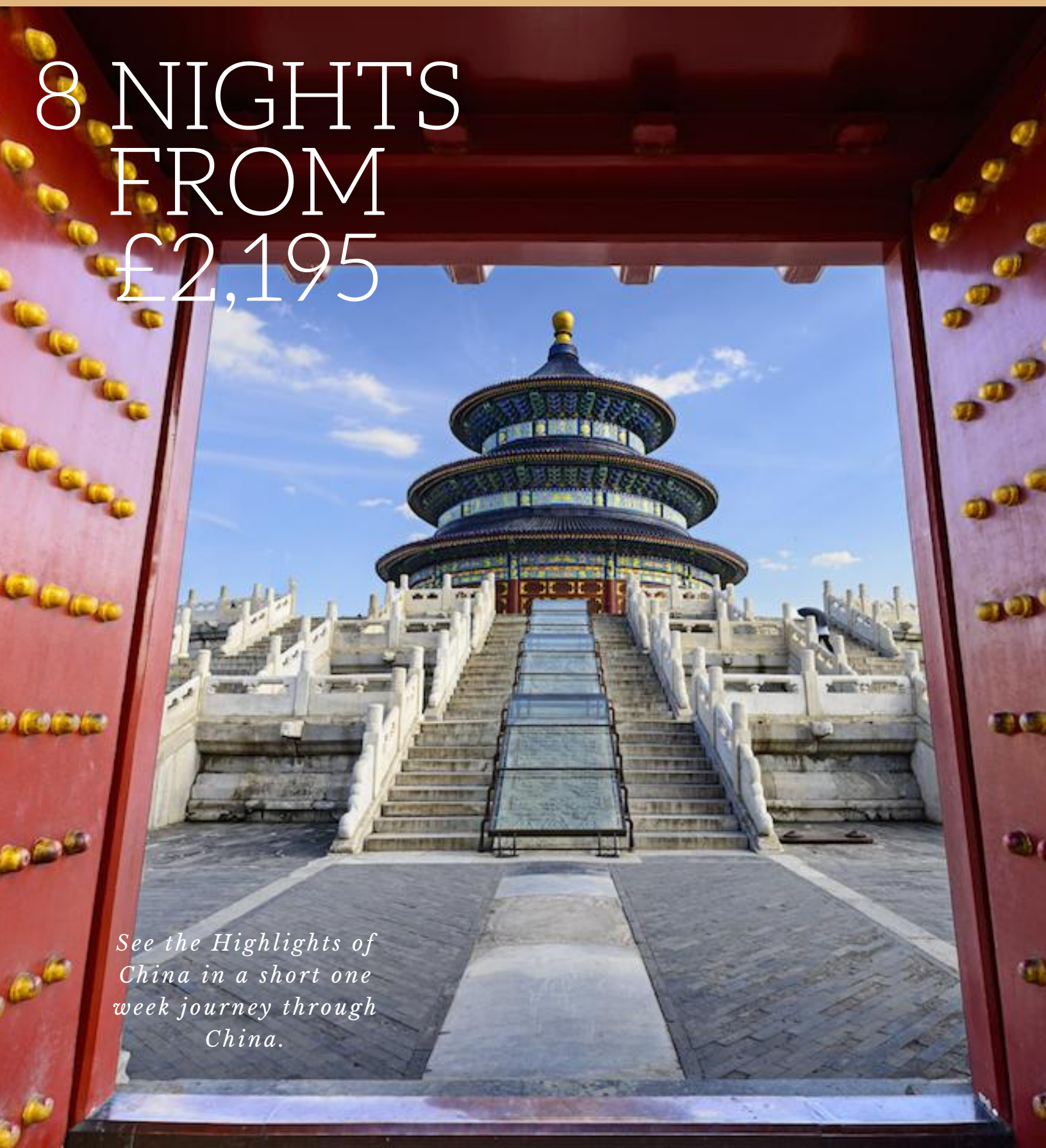


HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA

8 NIGHTS
FROM
£2,195

*See the Highlights of
China in a short one
week journey through
China.*



HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA

Day 1: Shanghai

Overnight flight from the UK to Shanghai.

Day 2: Shanghai

On arrival you will be met and transferred to your chosen hotel in Shanghai.

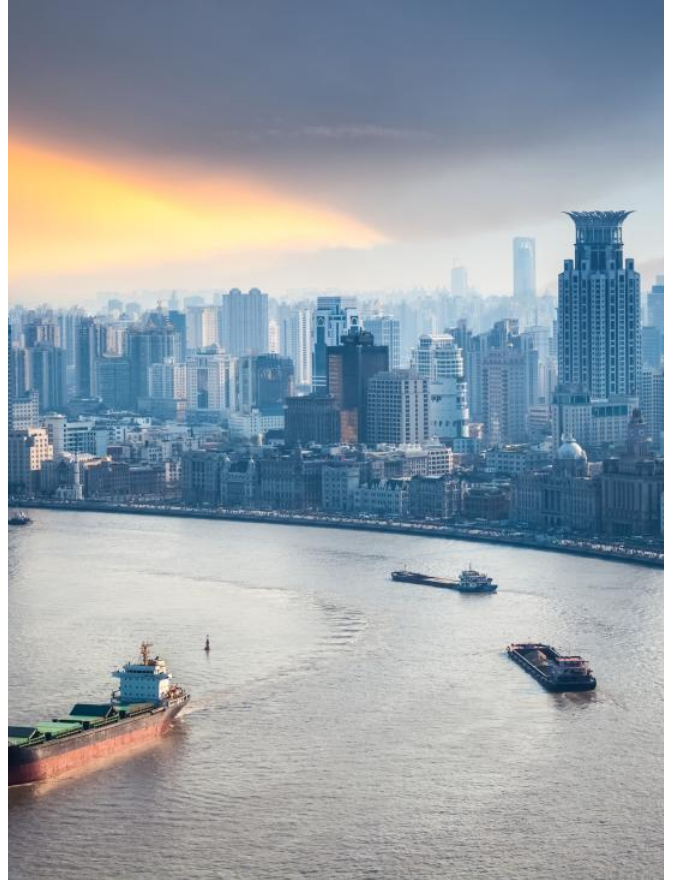
Overnight: Shanghai

Meals: Breakfast included

Day 3: Shanghai

Enjoy a full day tour of Shanghai, visiting some of the most important landmarks and locations in Shanghai, including the Jade Buddha Temple, the Bund, Yu Yuan Gardens, Shanghai Old Street, the French Concession and Xintiandi.

The Jade Buddha Temple is an active temple, with 70 resident monks, and the centerpiece is a sitting Buddha carved out of white jade and encrusted with jewels, measuring over two meters tall and rumored to weigh over 1000 kilograms.



Shanghai is China's most dynamic and commercial city with some of the world's tallest buildings.



Shanghai is China's economic power house – where China is most blatantly heading full tilt into the new millennium. Monumental new skyscrapers, glittering department stores, buzzing nightlife – it's all happening in Shanghai, making it China's most exciting city by far...

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA



Day 3 cont: Shanghai

From the Jade Buddha, head over to the Yu Yuan Gardens, a classic creation of the Ming Dynasty. Nearby is Shanghai Old Street which had its origins in the Qing Dynasty.

After a Shanghainese lunch at a local restaurant, visit the Bund, Shanghai's waterfront, known for its grand display of colonial-era architecture and the wonderful views of both sides of the Huangpu River.

Visit Xintiandi, a stylish nightlife district with many boutiques, pubs, and restaurants and on to Shanghai's Art District. Xintiandi is a good place to return to for dinner this evening.

Finally visit the Shikumen Open House Museum, a well-preserved Shikumen house from the 1920's that displays furniture and articles for daily use during that time.

Overnight: Shanghai

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch included



HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA

Day 4: Shanghai - Suzhou

Today enjoy a full day in Suzhou. You will be collected from your hotel by your driver and guide for a private excursion to Suzhou, one of China's famous water towns.

Visit the Garden of the Master of the Nets, the smallest of the Suzhou residential gardens, yet the most impressive because of its use of space and the feeling of tranquility and harmony that it instills on visitors.

After lunch visit the Suzhou Institute of Embroidery and see some of the most valuable pieces of embroidery ever made, including several priceless court gowns.

Finally visit the superb Suzhou Museum, itself an architectural masterpiece, containing over 15,000 ancient pieces in its collection, including paintings, ceramics & calligraphy.

Overnight: Shanghai

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch included



*Explore the magnificent
city walls of Xian.*



Visit the city of Xian, see the famous Terracotta Warriors
and explore this famous city at the start of the great Silk
Road, famous for its colourful Old Quarter & grand
pagodas...

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA

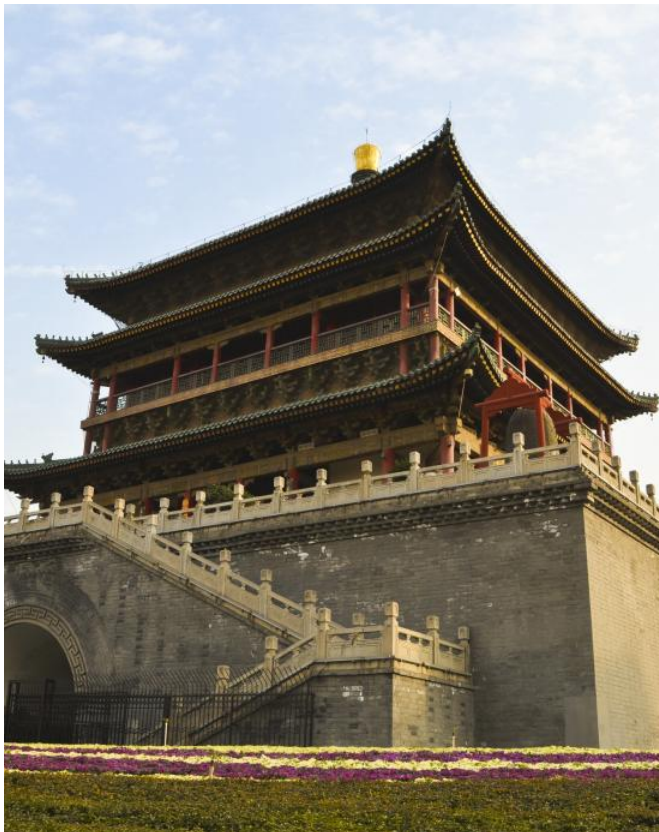


Day 5: Shanghai - Xian

Enjoy the morning for some independent explorations of Shanghai before transferring to the airport for your afternoon flight to Xian where you will be met and transferred to your chosen hotel.

Central Xian is fairly compact and we recommend a visit to the old Muslim Quarter in the centre of town.

Enjoy a stroll around the busy streets, great for people watching, photography and for getting a taste of this great city at the start of the famous Silk Road.



Sample some of the many exotic dishes on offer in the various food stalls lining Huimin Street.

Overnight: Xian

Meals: Breakfast included

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA

Day 6: Xian

One of the world's greatest archaeological finds, the Terracotta Warriors were discovered quite by chance in 1974 by a group of peasants digging a well outside of Xian.

These sculptures of soldiers, chariots and horses were funerary statues made to accompany China's first emperor to the afterlife over 2100 years ago.

Legend has it that it took 100,000 men 38 years to create the soldiers, which all vary in rank, posture, height, uniform and facial features.

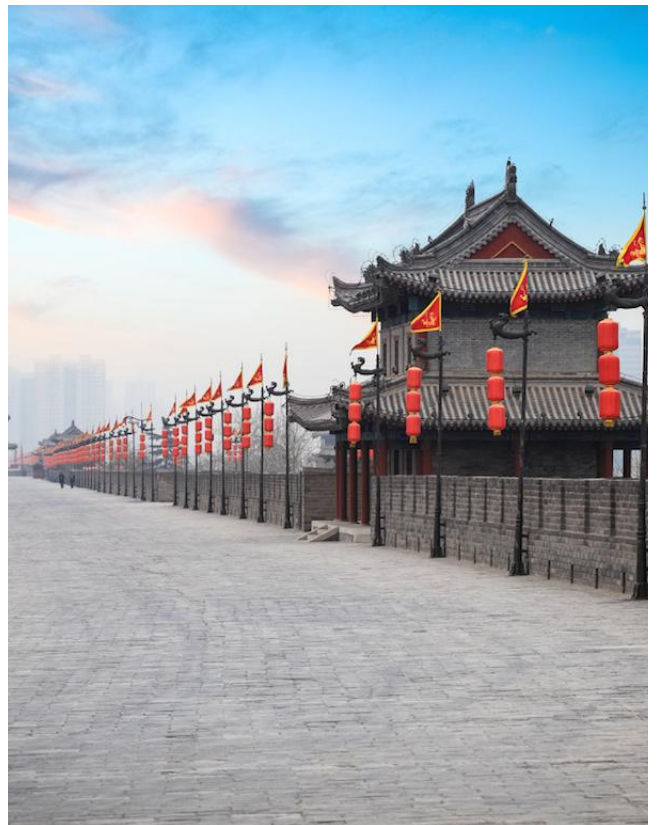
Spend the morning on a visit to the Terracotta Warriors and after lunch transfer back to Xian.

In the afternoon there will be the chance to explore Xian's City Walls which are easily done independently.

A great way to experience the City Walls is to rent bicycles and cycle the circuit.

Overnight: Xian

Meals: Breakfast included





With iconic sights such as the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace and the Temple of Heaven, it is no wonder that Beijing tops most people's lists on a tour of China...

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA



Day 7: Xian - Beijing

Enjoy the morning for some independent explorations of Xian - perhaps to see the Big and Small Wild Goose Pagodas.

Transfer to the airport for your afternoon flight to Beijing where you will be met and transferred to your chosen hotel with the rest of the day free in Beijing.

An interesting way to spend the evening is to take a stroll down Wangfujing Street, one of the most famous shopping streets in China where international brand outlets stand close to traditional exotic street food stalls.

Overnight: Beijing

Meals: Breakfast included



HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA

Day 8: Beijing

Enjoy a full day privately guided tour of Beijing.

Visit Tiananmen Square and prepare to be overwhelmed by the sheer size of one of the world's largest public squares. Pass several monuments, including Chairman Mao's mausoleum on the way to the entrance the Forbidden City.

The Forbidden City was completed in 1420, and was home to 24 emperors, the last of which left Beijing in 1924. Stroll through what is arguably the best-preserved example of classical Chinese architecture in the world.

Enjoy an easy walk up Jingshan Hill, for a birds-eye view of the Forbidden City.

Finally, recapture the feeling of Beijing's past from the wooden seat of a traditional rickshaw, and visit a local family's courtyard home along the way during a tour of Beijing's traditional Hutong district.

Overnight: Beijing

Meals: Breakfast included



HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA



Day 9: The Great Wall

The Great Wall of China is the longest man-made structure in the world.

Explore the much quieter Mutianyu section of the Great Wall, which was first begun in the Northern Qi Dynasty (550-557) and finished in the 17th century.

The 2.5-kilometer stretch of the Wall allows you to walk along its storied length for over an hour and visit twenty-two watchtowers, should you so choose.

Also enjoy a cable car ride to the top.

Once a complex that manufactured electronics, Factory Number 798 was divided, rented out, and converted into galleries, artist studios, design companies, restaurants and bars at the turn of the 20th century.

Pay a visit to this art district of Beijing where Maoist slogans still adorn the walls, to experience a different side of Beijing.

Overnight: Beijing

Meals: Breakfast included



HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA

Day 10: Beijing - UK

Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the UK.

Day 11: UK

Arrive back in the UK (or on day 10 depending on flight schedule).



A Journey Into China

Travelling to China

China's development in the last two decades has been nothing short of astonishing and travel to China has opened up considerably.

A first time tour of China should certainly include the highlights – Beijing, Xian, & Shanghai - the Great Wall, Tiannanmen Square, The Terracotta Warriors and the Bund.

For China's great landscapes, consider adding on a visit to Yunnan, Yangshuo, a Yangtze River Cruise or a trip to Sichuan for the superb cuisine and to see the Giant Pandas.

Begin your Highlights of China adventure in Shanghai, China's most commercial city, with echoes of the British colonial era alongside some of the world's tallest buildings. Visit Suzhou, one of China's famous old water towns, with its willow-lined canals and superb gardens and museum.

Fly to Xian, at the start of the Silk Road and see the Terracotta Warriors and explore the magnificent City Walls.

Your Highlights of China journey culminates in Beijing with Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, a cyclo tour of the Hutong District and a spectacular visit to a quieter section of the Great Wall.

Accommodation in China ranges from uber-luxurious to far more simple local style hotels. Although China is dominated by larger hotels catering to big groups, we try to suggest more boutique style hotels in most of our itineraries but the choice of accommodation for your trip can be totally guided by you.

Beijing in particular has a good selection of traditional courtyard style hotels which can be a great way to experience something of the ambience of old-style China. Rooms are usually set around a small courtyard, with 4 poster beds and traditional Chinese furnishings.

The Duge Boutique Hotel in Beijing adds a bit of luxury and modernity to the traditional Courtyard Hotel style in Beijing.



China is the fourth largest country in the world and covers an enormous area. China's aviation industry has grown enormously over the last 2 decades and flying is an excellent way of travelling around China. The advent of Low Cost airlines and fares has made flying even better value in recent years.

China also has an increasingly comprehensive high-quality high-speed rail network making rail travel an attractive option, particularly between Shanghai, Beijing and Xian. The fastest train in the world is the Maglev service from Shanghai Airport into the city, travelling at 460 km-h.



Spring and Autumn can be excellent times of year to visit China with temperatures more reasonable in Beijing, Shanghai and Xian. Winters can be very cold in Beijing and Xian and July and August can be hot, humid and rainy in Shanghai.

A visa is required for all UK passport holders travelling to China. These can be obtained easily and in a few days from the Chinese Visa Service Centre in London via post or in person - we can assist by providing details.

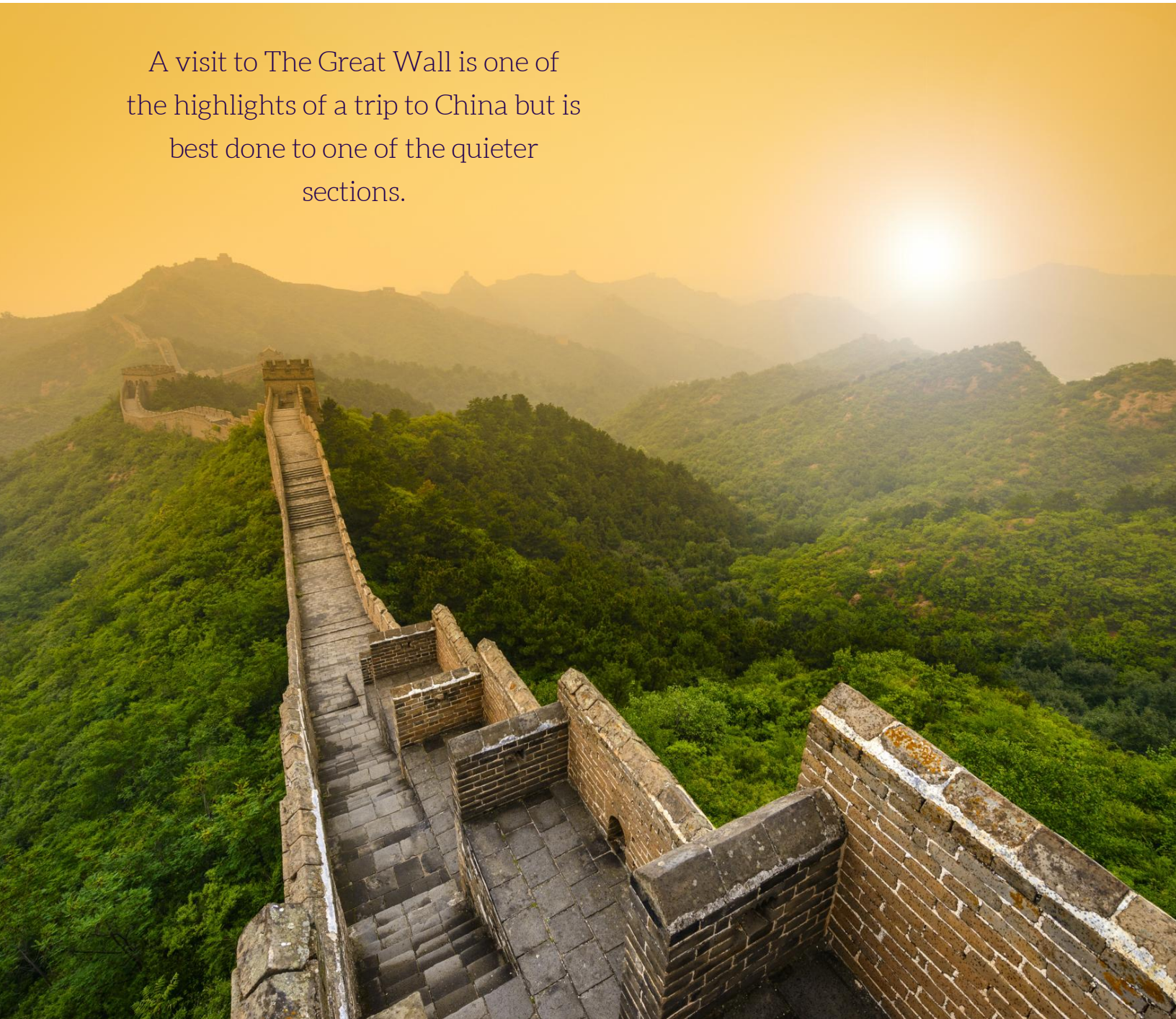


Beijing is considered as perhaps the highlight of a journey to China.

We suggest consider staying in one of Beijing's traditional courtyard style hotels, at least for one night in order to experience something of the old-style of Beijing.

When visiting the Great Wall it's important to consider which part of the wall to visit. Mutianyu is the grandest and most well-restored section (normally our preferred option). Jinshanling is ideal for hikers whilst Badaling is great if you prefer the scrum of 1000's of local visitors.

A visit to The Great Wall is one of the highlights of a trip to China but is best done to one of the quieter sections.



EXTEND YOUR TRIP



EXPERIENCE MAJESTIC CHINA

ADD ON YANGSHUO

3 nights from
£375 pp

Dramatically located amongst a landscape which could be straight out of a traditional Chinese water-colour painting, Yangshuo is one of the most scenic locations in China.

Yangshuo's mist-covered limestone mountains are cut by the ribbon like green of the Li River, which provides the opportunity for boat journeys through this mystical Chinese landscape.

Yangshuo is the perfect place to chill out for a few days in enchanting surroundings, and for the energetic there are plenty of activities on offer.

EXTEND YOUR TRIP



DISCOVER THE FRAGRANT
HARBOUR

ADD ON HONG KONG

3 nights from
£345 pp

Hong Kong is one of Asia's most exciting and vibrant cities with bustling street markets, towering skyscrapers and shopping and restaurants galore.

Built around one of the world's great harbours (Hong Kong means 'fragrant harbour'), Hong Kong is compact enough to allow visitors to get around quickly, from the shopping malls of Hong Kong Island to the soaring heights of Victoria Peak or the markets of Kowloon.

Surprisingly Hong Kong offers plenty of opportunity to get active, including hiking on some of the outer islands. Hong Kong is a great option for a family stopover, with plenty to keep the Kids enthralled, including popular Ocean Park.

DATES & PRICES

Travel Dates Guide Price

Jun, Sep - Dec:	from £1,695 pp
Jul - Aug:	from £1,895 pp
Jan - May:	from £1,750 pp

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Please contact us for confirmed prices as prices are all subject to change, dates and availability. Remember that all of our China Holidays can be tailored to suit your interests and dates.



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