

CLASSIC CHINA

*See the Best of China -
Shanghai, Beijing,
Xian and Guilin on a
Classic China Tour.*

11 NIGHTS
FROM
£2,495



This private Classic China Tour covers Beijing, Xian, Guilin & Shanghai and is a great option for a first time tour of China where time is relatively short.

Flying between destinations means being able to make the most of the time to experience the iconic sights of China.

All touring is done accompanied by a private guide, not in a group, which means your schedule is flexible and can be adjusted entirely for you.

As with all of our China Tours, this one can be tailored to suit your interests & budget so just let us know your preferences.



CLASSIC CHINA

Day 1: Beijing

Overnight flight from the UK to Beijing.

Day 2: Beijing

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





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...

CLASSIC CHINA

Day 3: 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 bird's-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



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Day 4: 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-kilometre 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.

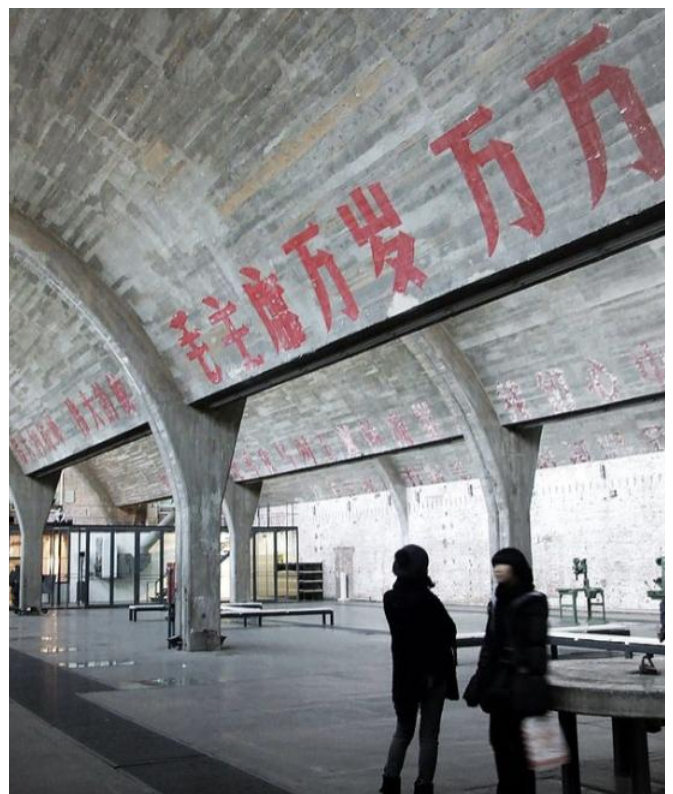
Also enjoy a cable car ride to the top.

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



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Day 5: Beijing - Xian

Enjoy a morning tour to Beijing's Summer Palace.

The Summer Palace is one of the largest and most well-preserved imperial gardens in the world.

In the 18th century, Emperor Qianlong enlarged and embellished it, only to abandon it a few years later.

The grounds today are stunning, as is the lovely Kunming Lake, which occupies more than three quarters of the total area.

Enjoy a boat ride before walking the Long Corridor, a 728-metre hall featuring 8,000 paintings collected by the Emperor during his travels around the country.

Return to your hotel to freshen up and have some lunch (not included).

Check out of your hotel and enjoy an afternoon tour of the Temple of Heaven.



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Day 5 cont: Beijing - Xian

This tranquil park where the Temple of Heaven is located is a favourite stop for visitors to Beijing, as it provides an authentic look into local life - it's a great place to people watch.

On any given day, you're likely to see enthusiastic groups of locals practicing Tai Chi, playing traditional instruments or singing Peking Opera.

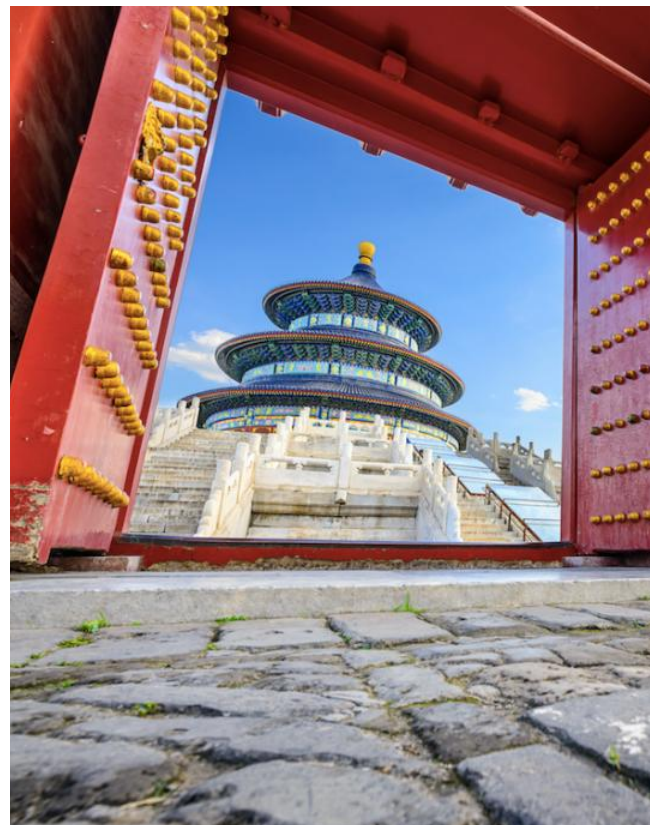
The grounds consist of a sequence of buildings and altars set in beautiful groves of cypress trees.

Learn more about the fascinating history behind this massive, circular structure and see local life unfold before your eyes in this very special visit to the Temple of Heaven.

Afterwards, transfer to the airport for your evening flight to Xian, where you will be met and transferred to your chosen hotel.

Overnight: Xian

Meals: Breakfast 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...

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Day 6: Xian

Enjoy a full day tour to the Terracotta Warriors.

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 2,100 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.

Enjoy the rest of the day in Xian on your own.

Overnight: Xian
Meals: Breakfast included



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Day 7: Xian - Guilin

Today enjoy a full day tour of Old Xian.

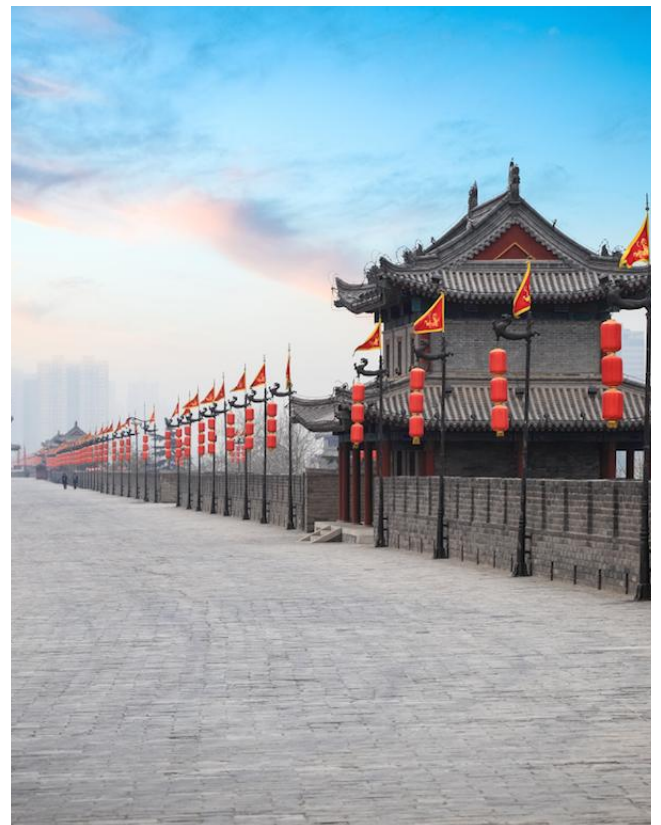
The city walls of Xian are some of the oldest and best preserved in all of China, dating back to the 2nd century BC, when Xian was the capital of the country.

The existing walls were completed in 1370, and are about 14 km in length and are still surrounded by a deep moat to this day.

The Small Wild Goose Pagoda was built in 707 and was named after the already existing Big Wild Goose Pagoda, due to its remarkable likeness.

In the lower level of the pagoda, explore the precious artifacts and historical objects housed inside the Xian Museum.

Enjoy a traditional Dumpling lunch at De Fa Chang and head on to see the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, built in 652 AD during the Tang dynasty and housing some of the most important Buddhist figurines in China.



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Day 7 cont: Xian - Guilin

Xian's Hui ethnic group trace their roots back to Persian and Arabic traders, who settled here at the eastern end of the Silk Road.

Stroll through this unique and fascinating area of the city, and see how Central Asia has influenced the development of Mainland China.

Visit the Great Mosque and the 300-year-old Gaoyue Song Folk House where you can enjoy a local shadow puppet show.

Transfer to the airport for your evening flight to Guilin where you will be met and transferred to your chosen hotel.

Overnight: Guilin

Meals: Breakfast included



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Day 8: Guilin - Yangshuo

Enjoy a cruise on the Li River from Guilin to Yangshuo where every bend in the river brings a new and even more beautiful sight into view.

There will be an opportunity to disembark at a small village, where you will have the chance to visit a local family's home.

After lunch on board, disembark and enjoy a walk through West Street in Yangshuo before transferring back to your hotel.

Overnight: Guilin

Meals: Breakfast included

Day 9: Guilin - Dazhai

Located nearly 100 km north of Guilin in a remote mountainous region, Dazhai is inhabited by an ethnic minority group called the Red Yao.

Spend the morning touring the village and meeting the locals, who may invite you into their homes to have a look around and taste their homemade rice wine. Be careful—it's strong!



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Day 9: Guilin - Dazhai

The village homes are beautiful wooden constructions and the villagers still dress in colourful local attire.

Local women don't cut their hair until they are 18, so you will see many girls with hair over a metre long.

The women who have yet to give birth cover their hair with cloth, and those who have given birth wear it down and uncovered.

The women of the Red Yao are easy to identify from their embroidered pink jackets and black folded skirts.

Enjoy a traditional lunch in the village before transferring back to Guilin or Yangshuo.

** Note if you are travelling in June, your visit may coincide with the Cloth Drying Festival which can be an exciting time to travel.

Overnight: Guilin
Meals: Breakfast included



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...

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Day 10: Shanghai

Enjoy the morning at leisure before transferring to the airport for your flight to Shanghai where you will be met and transferred to your chosen hotel with the rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight: Shanghai

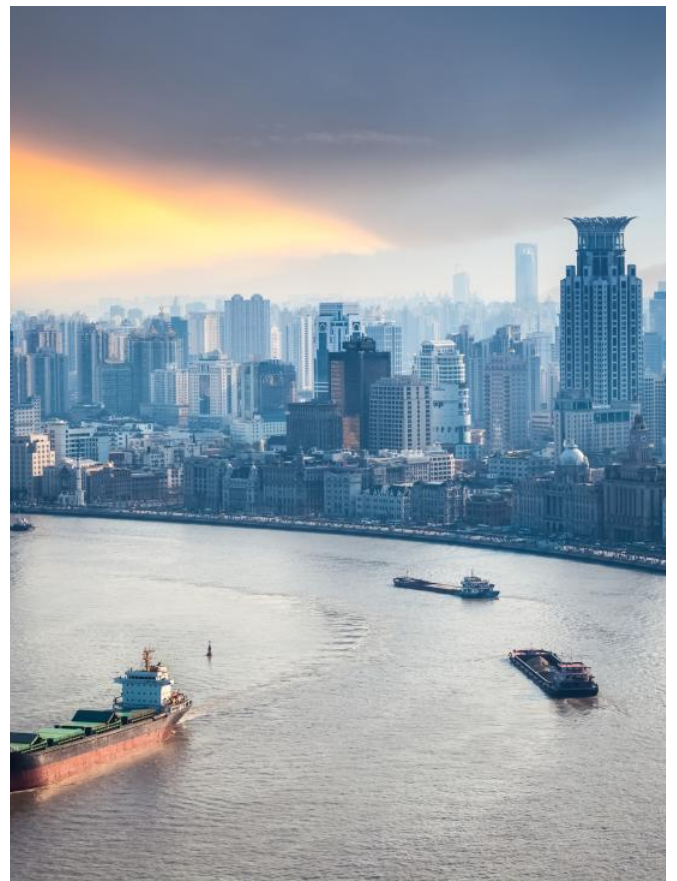
Meals: Breakfast included

Day 11: 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 metres tall and rumoured to weigh over 1000 kilograms.

From the Jade Buddha, head over to the Yu Yuan Gardens, a classic creation of the Ming Dynasty.



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Day 11 cont: Shanghai



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

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Day 12: 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



CLASSIC CHINA



Day 13: Shanghai - UK

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

Day 14: UK

Arrive back in the UK (or on day 13 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.

This private Classic China Tour covers Beijing, Xian, Guilin & Shanghai and can be tailored to suit your interests & budget.

Begin your Classic China Journey in Beijing with Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, a cyclo tour of the Hutong District and a spectacular visit to a quieter section of the Great Wall.

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

Your Classic China journey continues in Guilin with a scenic cruise down the Li River to Yangshuo. This is China at its scenically most inspiring. Also visit an ethnic Red Yao village.

Your China journey culminates in Shanghai, China's most commercial city, with echoes of the British colonial era alongside some of the world's tallest buildings.

Finally visit Suzhou, one of China's famous old water towns, with its willow-lined canals and superb gardens and museum.

For those with more time, a visit to Hong Kong is easily added to this trip or perhaps a stop in Chengdu to visit the Giant Panda Research Centre.

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 Nuo Hotel in Beijing is a great option for a bit of luxury with great value.



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, Chengdu 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.

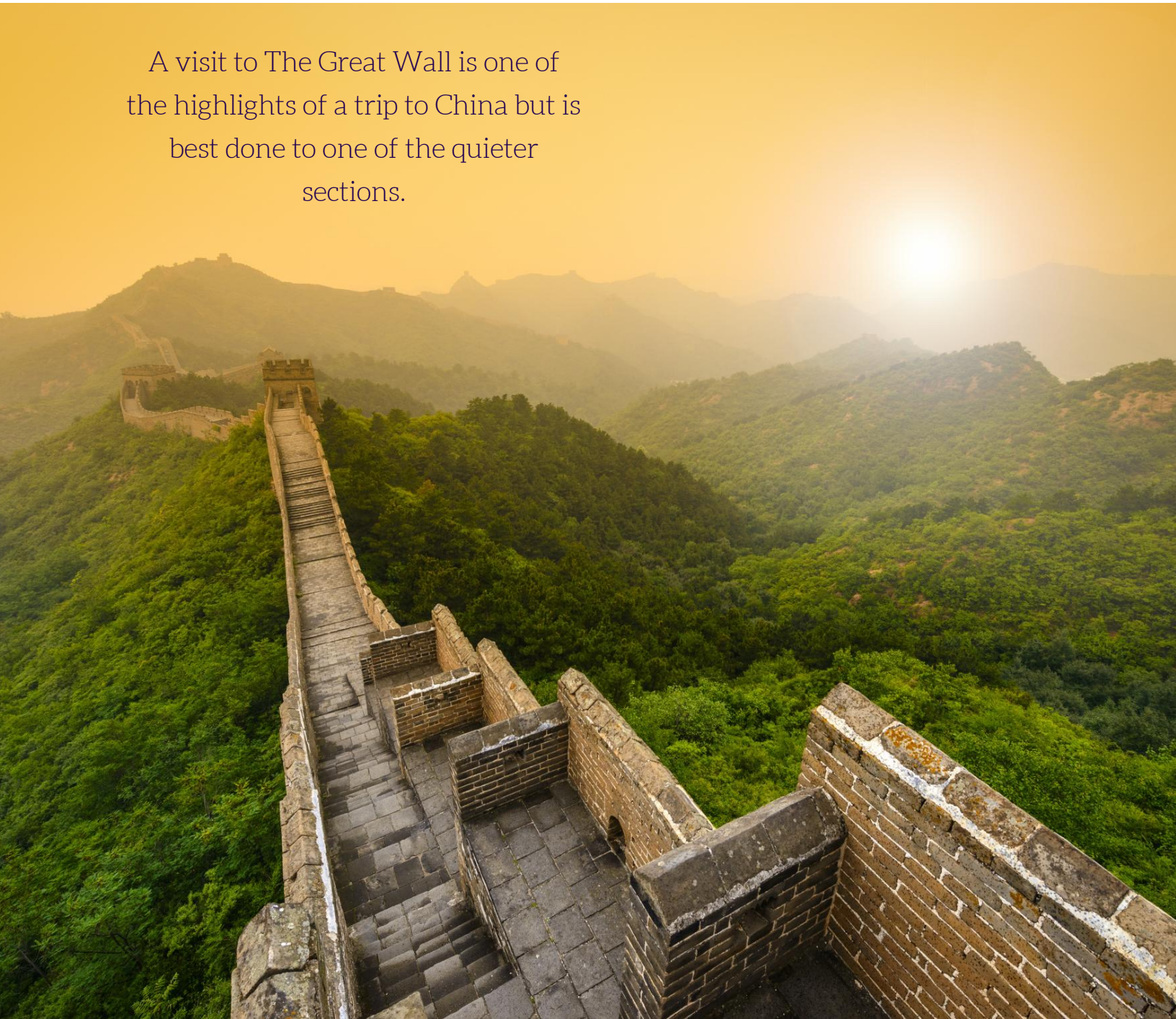


Beijing is considered as perhaps the highlight of a journey to China.

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 jostling through 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



SEE GIANT PANDAS

ADD ON CHENGDU

2 nights from
£345 pp

Chengdu is probably most well-known for the Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding Centre which offers an amazing chance to see these endangered animals up close and learn about efforts to keep the species alive.

Chengdu is also famous for its tea-houses, always alive with the sound of Mahjong table. 'Mala' is the flavour of Chengdu - meaning 'tingly-hot' - reflecting the pepper and chili, which form the base of Sichuan cuisine.

Discover the best of Chengdu including a visit to the Giant Panda Breeding Centre on this 2 day Classic China extension.

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

Call us Today

0333 7000 747

Jun, Sep - Dec: from £2,495 pp

Jul - Aug: from £2,695 pp

Jan - May: from £2,555 pp

9 until 6 Mon - Sat

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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