

# MAGNIFICENT CHINA

19-night Escorted Tour

escape  
WORLDWIDE

**BEIJING • XIAN • YANGTZE RIVER • CHONGQING • CHENGDU • LESHAN • GUILIN • LI RIVER • SUZHOU • SHANGHAI**

Take an in-depth look at the best of China on one of our most popular tours. All the famous sights are covered along with some special treats. Gaze in awe at the Grand Buddha in Leshan, visit the traditional gardens of Suzhou and admire the magnificent Giant Pandas in Chengdu.

## FULLY INCLUSIVE TOUR

Tour prices include international flights, departure taxes, current fuel surcharges, domestic transportation, accommodation, all meals, daily tours, entrance fees, guides and visa fees for UK passport holders.

All you'll have to pay for locally is the compulsory tipping and personal expenditure such as souvenirs, drinks and any optional shows and excursions that aren't included in your itinerary. We pride ourselves on having 'no hidden extras'.



## Days 1-2 : UK – Beijing

Fly overnight to Beijing, China's capital City.

## Day 3 : Beijing

Sightseeing today includes a stroll through Tiananmen Square, past Chairman Mao's Mausoleum to the treasure-filled Forbidden City, which has the largest and best preserved collection of ancient buildings in China. We also take a rickshaw ride through the traditional Hutong areas. Our evening meal includes the local delicacy, Peking Duck.

## Days 4-5 : Beijing

Walk on the Great Wall to reflect on 2,000 years of history and then visit the unique Temple of Heaven. The next day, indulge in some shopping at the bustling markets and tour the exquisite Summer Palace. Enjoy a fascinating Chinese Acrobatic show in the evening.

## Day 6 : Beijing – Xian

Fly to the former ancient capital of Xian and visit the Shaanxi Museum which is home to thousands of priceless relics. In the evening we will enjoy a traditional Shui Jiao dumpling meal followed by a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

## Day 7 : Xian

Visit one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th Century – the Terracotta Warriors, followed by a walk along the Ancient City Wall. We also stroll through the lively Muslim Quarter, past the Great Mosque to explore the Islamic food markets.

## Day 8 : Xian – Yichang - Yangtze River Cruise

Visit the Little Wild Goose Pagoda before flying to Wuhan and transferring by coach to Yichang (approx 4.5 hours) to board our Yangtze River Cruise vessel for the next four nights.

GREAT WALL OF CHINA



## Days 9-11 : Yangtze River Cruise

Enjoy a tour of the Three Gorges Dam before cruising upstream through some of the most dramatic scenery in the world. Over the next three days, we will take a side-trip to the striking Shennong Stream in a pea-pod boat or visit the Lesser Three Gorges and enjoy various shore excursions along the way.

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## Day 12 : Chongqing – Chengdu

Disembark from our cruise vessel this morning and transfer to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province. The area is renowned for its lush landscapes and cuisine. Enjoy a delicious Sichuan meal in the evening.

## Day 13 : Leshan day tour

Travel to Leshan to visit the remarkable Grand Buddha, the world's largest stone-carved Buddhist statue. We take a short boat trip to view the statue from the river. The carving of the Buddha into the side of Lingyun Mountain began in 713AD and was completed in 803AD. Return to Chengdu, visiting the old town of Huanglongxi en-route.

GRAND BUDDHA, LESHAN



## Day 14 : Chengdu – Guilin

Visit the famous Panda Reserve to see these adorable animals being reared in wooded surroundings reminiscent of their natural habitat. Later, fly to the beautiful city of Guilin and visit Mt Diecai for spectacular views of the surrounding karst landscape.

## Days 15-16 : Li River Cruise – Guilin

Cruise the stunning Li River and enjoy the breathtaking landscape of beautiful limestone hills, tranquil fishing scenes and picturesque villages. We continue downstream to the town of Yangshuo set in the lush green rice paddies of Southern China. The next day, explore the colourful local markets, walk along the cobblestone streets and soak in the atmosphere of this charming town before returning to Guilin to visit the colourful Reed Flute Caves. We also see the cormorant fishermen.

## Day 17 : Guilin – Suzhou

Fly to cosmopolitan Shanghai and transfer to the charming city of Suzhou, also known as the 'Paris of the East'.

REED FLUTE CAVES, GUILIN



## Day 18 : Suzhou – Shanghai

Visit two of the finest oriental gardens: the Humble Administrator's Garden and the Garden of the Master of the Nets, a local silk mill still in operation today and enjoy a cruise on the ancient Grand Canal. Travel by coach to the cosmopolitan city of Shanghai also known as the 'Paris of the East'. Our dinner this evening will be of traditional Shanghai cuisine.

## Days 19-20 : Shanghai

Sightseeing today includes a stroll through the beautiful Yu Gardens and the Old Town as well as a visit to the Shanghai Museum. We also walk along the famous Bund with its colonial architecture. The next day, visit the modern Pudong area and explore the restored Xintiandi area with its unique 1920's style shikumen buildings. In the evening, enjoy a cruise on the panoramic Huangpu River.

## Day 21 : Shanghai – UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home later the same day or the following morning depending on airline chosen.

### ESCORTED TOUR

One of the very special features about this tour is the constant presence of the National Escort and Local Guides. They will meet you at the airport on arrival and will be with you throughout your tour right up to your departure. The Escort will be with you throughout the tour, while a Local Guide will be in individual locations to share their expert knowledge with you. All of the guides are knowledgeable and proud to show off their English skills - they are completely dedicated to making every minute of your stay in their country an enjoyable one.



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## EXTENSIONS

Your tour can be extended with a few nights in one of a number of destinations, depending on the airline you choose. Stopovers in the Middle East are popular, with Dubai and Abu Dhabi being possible when flying with Emirates. Hong Kong also works well, with itineraries taking in Lantau Island or Macau also being possible. We can also arrange a beach extension in Sanya, or a visit to Japan taking in Tokyo, Mt Fuji and a ride on the Bullet Train!

Here's a few ideas for extensions to this tour:

### TOKYO

3 nights from £470 per person



Spend 3 nights in Tokyo, including a full day tour of the Japanese capital including Meji Jingu Shrine, Nakamise Street and the Ginza entertainment area.

3\* Tokyo Prince Hotel from £470 per person

4\* Prince Park Tower from £620 per person

5\* Hotel Nikko Tokyo from £770 per person

Prices exclude connecting flights from the tour and are subject to seasonal variations

### HIANAN ISLAND & HONG KONG

6 nights from £799 per person



Combine the beaches of Sanya with vibrant Hong Kong, with three nights relaxing on the beach followed by 3 nights in the city, with a half day Island tour included.

Combine the 5\* Crowne Plaza Sanya with...

3\* BP International from £799 per person

5\* Intercontinental Grand from £999 per person

Prices exclude connecting flights from your tour and are subject to seasonal variations

## Meals

All meals (excluding beverages) are included in the fully inclusive group tours. Breakfast is a mix of local and western food, usually served in a buffet style. Lunches and dinners consist of traditional local cuisine, with a wide range of dishes to choose from so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked. Meals on group tours start with lunch on the normal day of arrival and finish with lunch on the normal day of departure. As we offer a range of flight options, passengers may arrive and depart at different times during the day.

## Hotels

All of the hotels used in China are of international four-star or three-star superior standard. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. The hotels are selected for their comfort, convenience of location and character.

## Group Sizes

All group tours are guaranteed to run subject to a minimum of 8 passengers. A National Escort will accompany the group subject with a minimum of 10 passengers. The maximum group size varies depending on the tour, but is never more than 28 passengers.

## Tipping

As with most countries, tipping is a way of life in China. For our passengers' convenience we ask for a compulsory amount to be paid at the beginning of our group tours to cover tipping for guides, drivers, restaurant staff etc. For this itinerary, tips of approximately US\$75 per person is required. Exact tipping amounts will be stated in your final documentation pack.



Tour details are correct to the best of our knowledge, however, they are provided for guidance purposes only. Please check the details of any features that are important to you at the time of booking.

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