



China

Land & Language

Beijing • Xian • Shanghai



Day 1 • Departure

Our journey begins as we board our international flight bound for Beijing, China.

Day 2 • Beijing

Upon arrival at the Beijing airport we meet our tour guide and motor coach and transfer to our hotel. *[Dinner included unless served on plane. Accommodations at Beijing Jlangxi Hotel or similar.]* **D**

Day 3 • Beijing

Our first full day is an exciting one! First we hike along the **Great Wall**, construction of which began in the 7th Century B.C. It is the only man-made object visible from the moon. Our sightseeing today also includes a tour of the **Summer Palace**, whose Qing architecture, immense park, and beautiful lake make it one of the most impressive sites in Beijing. This evening we enjoy a welcome dinner. **B/L/D**

Day 4 • Beijing

This morning we begin our Chinese classes at the International Culture Exchange College, where we have lunch with local students. In the afternoon we spend some time on **Tian'anmen Square**, considered the largest in the world, where on October 1, 1949 Chairman Mao Zedong proclaimed the birth of the Peoples' Republic of China before one million people. We also visit the **Imperial Palace**, commonly called the Forbidden City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Tonight we enjoy a dinner of Peking Duck at a local restaurant. **B/L/D**

Day 5 • Beijing

Our morning language classes continue at the International Culture Exchange College. Lunch is with local students. An afternoon excursion takes us to the **Temple of Heaven**, the pinnacle of Ming and Qing architecture, where the emperors worshiped and prayed. The temple grounds, filled with the fragrance of old cypress trees, is one of the best places to watch ordinary Chinese relax. Many prefer to practice martial arts in this magnificent outdoor setting. Dinner tonight is at an outdoor restaurant. **B/L/D**

Day 6 • Beijing

Our morning language classes continue at the International Culture Exchange College. This afternoon we visit two familiar sites associated with the recent Olympic games, the **Bird's Nest Stadium** and the **Water Bubbles Water Sports Center**. We also take a stroll along the ancient Qianmen Avenue, where we can practice our Chinese with the locals. Dinner is at a local restaurant. **B/L/D**

Day 7 • Beijing

Our morning language classes continue at the International Culture Exchange College. Later we visit an artists' village where we see many modern Chinese artists and their studios. We practice the ancient art of Chinese calligraphy as well as "opera face" drawing. Dinner is at a local restaurant. **B/L/D**

Day 8 • Beijing

Our morning language classes continue at the International Culture Exchange College. This afternoon we transfer to **Old Beijing** to spend an afternoon visiting a family in their home. Family members teach us how to make dumplings, and then we enjoy a meal together. Dinner is at a local restaurant. **B/L/D**

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Day 9 • Beijing

Our morning language classes continue at the International Culture Exchange College. We make an afternoon visit to a famous sports academy and learn about Chinese methods of training world-class athletes, beginning at a very young age. Dinner is at a local restaurant. **B/L/D**

Day 10 • Beijing

This morning we conclude our language study at the International Culture Exchange College with a “graduation luncheon.” Each student is to make a presentation in Chinese, with the best speaker receiving an award. The afternoon is at leisure to explore the city on our own and practice our newly acquired language skills. Dinner is at a local restaurant. **B/L/D**

Day 11 • Xian

After breakfast we transfer to the airport and board a domestic flight to Xian, located in the Yellow River Basin in the interior of China. Xian is the birthplace of the Chinese civilization and ranks with Cairo, Athens, and Rome as a world cultural capital. Upon arrival we visit the **City Wall**, built in the 14th century as a castle by the first emperor of the Ming Dynasty. It is the largest Ming castle in existence. Dinner is at a local restaurant. *[Accommodations at Xian Grand New World Hotel or similar]* **B/L/D**

Day 12 • Xian

A full day of sightseeing begins with a visit to one of the most spectacular sites in China, the **Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses Museum**, a massive underground display of life-sized figures in battle formation which date from the Qui Dynasty (3rd Century B.C.). They were created as “protection” for the emperor within a huge tomb. Later we visit the **Large Wild Goose Pagoda**, an impressive example of Buddhist architecture and considered the symbol of Xian. From the top of this 7-story structure we have a marvelous view of the surrounding **Da’cien Temple**. This evening we explore the night market with its many food stalls featuring local cuisine. **B/L/D**

Day 13 • Shanghai

After breakfast we transfer to the airport and board a domestic flight to Shanghai, a bustling metropolis which has grown into a cultural, commercial, and research center rivaling New York and Paris. After our arrival we visit local families to experience life among the Shanghainese. We also visit a local hospital and market. *[Accommodations at Shanghai Galaxy Hotel or similar]* **B/L/D**

Day 14 • Shanghai

The final day of our tour is filled with sightseeing. Our first visit is to the **Yu Garden**, the largest and most beautiful of Shanghai’s ancient gardens with architectural styles from the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Next we visit the **Bund**, the “birthplace” of Shanghai and its most popular area. Early 20th century European influence is evident in the architecture of many of its large buildings and the area is a favorite gathering place in the evenings. At the **Shikumen Museum** we gain an understanding of middle-class life in the 1920’s in this meticulously restored, 7-room home filled with fascinating artifacts. This evening we enjoy a farewell dinner. **B/L/D**

Day 15 • Return

Our journey of discovery and learning comes to an end as we transfer to the Shanghai airport to board our homebound flight. We return with sharpened language skills and a wealth of knowledge of this ancient yet dynamic land, its people and its culture. *Zàijiàn!* **B**

Abbreviations for Meals: B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

Cost of tour: \$2,589*

Land portion only

**Based on minimum of 20 paying participants*

<u>Included</u>	<u>Not included</u>
<p>Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach • China domestic flights including taxes <p>Accommodations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-bedded superior tourist class and first class hotels <p>Meals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily <p>Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission to all activities as indicated in itinerary • Language school <p>Tour Guides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional tour director • Local guides for city tours and major attractions <p>Taxes and Tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All taxes and tips for provided services except for end of tour tip for driver and tour director <p>Complimentary Tours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One tour per 10 paying participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtrip air transportation • China visa fee • Meals not indicated in the itinerary • Beverages, except with breakfast • End of tour tip for driver and tour director • Items of a personal nature such as passport fees • <i>Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date</i> • Travel Insurance <p>This tour can be customized to your specifications.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tour Code: SPXL10</p>

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