



CHINA: BEIJING, YUNNAN & GUANGXI



*Educational
Tours*

→ **Discover the Global Classroom**

10 or 12 DAYS

China: Beijing, Xi'an & Yangshuo

China



Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be reversed.



Get a glimpse of the friendly faces in Yangshuo before taking a boat cruise along the lovely Li River.

Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 8 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (10 with extension)
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily; breakfast and dinner plus 1 lunch with extension
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 3 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: Beijing • Xi'an • Yangshuo
- 2 sightseeing tours led by your tour director: Beijing Zoo • Great Wall of China
- 2 walking tours: West Street • Shanghai
- 10 visits to special attractions: Summer Palace • Taiji lessons • Forbidden City Tiananmen Square • Beijing Zoo Great Wall of China • Big Wild Goose Pagoda Terra-Cotta Warriors and IMAX Li River bamboo raft • Moon Hill Climb

OPTIONAL:

Tang Dynasty show and dinner

WITH EXTENSION:

- All of the above PLUS:
- 1 sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide: Hangzhou
- 5 visits to special attractions: Yu Yuan Garden • Chinese cooking class Children's Palace • Silk Museum National Tea Museum and Plantation
- Optional: Acrobatics show

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight • Your adventure begins as you fly through the night to China.

Day 2 Beijing

Arrival in Beijing • Touch down in Beijing. It was in this city that Chairman Mao proclaimed the People's Republic of China in 1949. Meet your tour director, who will remain with you throughout your stay, then transfer to your hotel.

Day 3 Beijing

Guided sightseeing of Beijing • An expert local guide introduces you to the Chinese capital, a treasure chest of imperial monuments. This ancient city first received its modern name when it became the capital for the second time in Chinese history in 1402 ("Beijing" means "Northern Capital"). Traverse an otherworldly landscape of gardens and palaces at the Summer Palace, where you will also participate in a taiji lesson. See Tiananmen Square (the Gate of Heavenly Peace), the largest public square in the world. Visit the Forbidden City (Gugong), accessible only to members of the imperial court until as late as 1949. Get a close-up look at the golden-roofed Imperial Palace, one of the world's greatest architectural achievements. Hundreds of thousands of workers labored on the construction of this palatial complex during the Ming Dynasty (1403-24). It was renovated during the 18th century (Qing Dynasty). Although situated in the heart of Beijing, the Forbidden City is surrounded by both a moat and a protective wall. The emperors who once resided here often spent their entire lives within the complex.

Peking Duck dinner • Tonight, you'll be treated to northern China's most famous dish: Peking duck! During this special feast, learn about the ritual preparation and savory side dishes that accompany this regional specialty.

Day 4 Beijing

Visit to the Beijing Zoo • See the wild and rare animals that are native to China as you visit the impressive Beijing Zoo today. In addition to housing some of the most exotic animals in the world, the zoo is also a center of zoological research. Be sure to check out the incredibly popular Giant Panda exhibit. Other attractions include the Sichuan golden snub-nosed monkey, Manchurian tigers, Australian kangaroos and so much more. Take a stroll through the beautiful grounds, which combine cultivated flower gardens with dense groves of trees, grassland, a stream, lotus pools and hills dotted with pavilions and halls.

Excursion to the Great Wall of China at Mutianyu • Travel to Mutianyu to view one of the wonders of the world: the Great Wall of China. Its construction began in the 5th century B.C. as a defense against the Mongols. A total of 300,000 people (many of whom are buried in the wall) labored on it over several centuries. The wall extends across mountains and valleys for more than 3,000 miles—perhaps only a tenth of its former length. The well-preserved section at Mutianyu, known for its unique fortifications, is more than 2,000 meters long.

Day 5 Beijing • Xi'an

Flight to Xi'an • Transfer to the airport for your flight to Xi'an (pronounced Shi-ahn), one of China's most extraordinary cities. Xi'an was once the largest city in the world and the capital of 11 dynasties.

See the Ancient City Wall • Walk along Xi'an's ancient City Wall.

Stop at the Bell Tower • Stop for a picture at the famous Xi'an Bell Tower, an imposing structure that was built in 1384 by Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang as a way to dominate the surrounding countryside and provide early warning of attack by rival rulers. The wooden tower, which is the largest and best preserved of its kind in China, is 118 feet high. Intricate engravings on the tower doors showcase the decorative fashion of Ming and Qing Dynasties, which recount popular stories of ancient China.

Optional Tang Dynasty show and dinner • Opt to experience the history and culture of the Tang Dynasty (A.D. 618-907) at a world-class theater restaurant featuring famous Cantonese cuisine. Performers at the restaurant have studied historical records and cultural traditions to create a show that exemplifies the artistic heritage of the Xi'an province. Many of the dances you'll see originated from rituals or prayers, but have since been influenced by cultural practices from various regions of China to create a unique art form. You're sure to see why the complex has accommodated more than 2.5 million guests from around the world—both tourists and dignitaries alike—who often proclaim it a favorite part of their Chinese journey.

Day 6 Xi'an

Guided sightseeing of Xi'an • Follow in the footsteps of Marco Polo during guided sightseeing (Xi'an was located at the eastern end of the Silk Road, the route the famous traveler followed). See the 7th-century Big Wild Goose Pagoda (built upon the orders of Xuan Zang, the monk who introduced Buddhism to China), the city walls, the 118-foot-high Bell Tower and the Great Mosque (one of China's oldest Muslim temples).

Visit to the Museum of the Terra-Cotta Army • Visit the intriguing Museum of the Terra-Cotta Army, which exhibits the amazing collection of figures discovered by peasants digging for water in 1974. The army's 6,000 painstakingly modeled life-size warriors and horses—of which no two are alike—were sculpted to protect the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi, founder of the Qin Dynasty (221–206 B.C.) and the first ruler to unify China.

Day 7 Guilin • Yangshuo

Transfer to Yangshuo • Fly to Guilin and then continue on to Yangshuo, founded in A.D. 590 during the Sui Dynasty.

Walking tour of West Street • Walk through more than 1,400 years of history as you make your way down West Street, the most upscale shopping street in Yangshuo. Paved in marble, West Street is a blend of ancient Chinese and modern foreign cultures. Cafés and restaurants serving anything from traditional Chinese beer fish to Parisian croissants attract locals and visitors alike. Among the calligraphy, painting, craftwork and antique shops, you just might find the perfect souvenir!

Day 8 Yangshuo

Guided sightseeing of Yangshuo • Admire the fantastic scenery, complete with rolling hills, dramatic cliffs and caves, during your bamboo raft excursion along the Li River. Then trek to see one of Yangshuo's most visited sites: Moon Hill. The 380-meter tall limestone structure is pierced through the middle with a moon-shaped hole. Make your way up more than 800 marble steps to the cave. From here and other points in the cave, you will be able to view the "moon" in its many shapes: crescent, half moon and full moon. Finally, travel out to neighboring caves, where you will receive the warm welcome of villagers as you visit Black Buddha Cave, New Water Caves and Dragon Cave.

Day 9 Shanghai

Flight to Shanghai • Transfer to the Guilin airport and fly to Shanghai, China's largest and most cosmopolitan city. Shanghai (meaning "up from the sea") has been an important port since the Opium War. Recall that it was in Shanghai that China's Communist Party—and later the Cultural Revolution—first originated.

Walking tour in Shanghai • Shanghai's unique history and culture come alive on a walking tour of this intriguing city. Your tour follows the path of Nanjing Road, Shanghai's main shopping street whose history dates back to 1851. This pedestrian-only road lined with shops and department stores stretches from People's Square to the Bund. Your tour director introduces you to People's Square, the city's largest public square as well as its political and cultural center. You'll see many historically significant buildings here, such as the Shanghai Government Building, the Shanghai Museum and the Shanghai Theater. Then stroll along the Bund, the famous waterfront promenade, which once served as the financial heart of colonial-era Shanghai. View the Western-style buildings erected in the 1920s, when Shanghai prospered as Asia's commercial hub.

Day 10 Home

Return home • Transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

Until 1949, commoners were separated from the Forbidden City by a 26-foot high wall and 170-foot-wide moat.



EXTENSION

Day 10 Shanghai

Visit to Yu Yuan Garden • Enjoy a visit to the beautiful Yu Yuan Garden, a showplace of classical Chinese landscaping dating back to 1537. The Chinese consider gardening a complex art form in which the challenge is to construct an entire world in miniature, using minerals, plants and animals in a limited space.

Chinese cooking class • Learn to make Chinese dumplings, small portions of food that can be made from meat, fish vegetables or sweets. Dumplings, also called *jiaozi*, are crescent shaped pillows of dough that are usually filled with meat and vegetables and can be served with ginger dipping sauce. Dumplings are commonly eaten at the start of the New Year for good fortune.

Visit to the Children's Municipal Palace • Get a unique look at Chinese life when you visit the Children's Municipal Palace. Children's palaces were created with the intention of providing gifted children with after-school, academic enrichment. Students attend children's palaces to hone their skills in science, art and sports, among other academic areas. During your visit, you'll have the opportunity to observe children in the classroom and engage them in discussions about the similarities and differences between the American and Chinese school systems.

Optional acrobatics show • Witness a thrilling display by talented performers during today's acrobatics show. The Chinese have been enjoying this entertaining sport for 22 centuries.

Day 11 Shanghai

Excursion to Hangzhou • Today, enjoy an excursion to Hangzhou, founded 2,200 years ago during the Qin Dynasty. Listed as one of the Seven Ancient Capitals of China, today Hangzhou is considered one of the most important tourism areas in the country. On your guided tour, you will visit West Lake, known for its beautiful scenery, and the Qinghefang Old Street. This vibrant street built in the Qing Dynasty style is known for its puppet theaters, traditional medicine shops and merchants selling unique wares, such as bronze and silk products. You'll also take a tour of the Silk Museum, the largest in the world, where you'll learn about China's 5,000-year-old silk culture. Next, explore the history of tea at the National Tea Museum in nearby Longjing (Dragon Well) Village, which is a tea growing area south of the West Lake. The museum has no external walls but is enclosed by vegetation. Here, you'll learn about the history of tea, the best varieties and the etiquette of tea drinking in China. The tea plantations are very picturesque and there are opportunities to pick tea and taste a fresh brew.

Day 12 Home

Return home • Transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.



ITN0609BYG/X
Itinerary subject to change.

Discover the Global Classroom



Educational Tours

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