

DAY 1: BEIJING, CHINA

Arrive at Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) and transfer to your hotel, located in the heart of the capital. Meet your fellow Travelers at a welcome reception this evening.

Accommodations: The St. Regis Beijing

DAY 2: GREAT WALL / BEIJING

Start your day with a tai chi session led by a master practitioner. Then step back in time at the less visited Jinshanling section of the Great Wall, which retains the fortification's original character. Later, meet with National Geographic Grant Recipient Zhang Boju from Friends of Nature, China's oldest environmental organization, to hear about his latest conservation efforts in the capital city. This evening, enjoy a delicious meal with your fellow Travelers.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: The St. Regis Beijing

DAY 3: BEIJING

Stroll the vast and historic Tiananmen Square and then navigate the Forbidden City with its 900 buildings and temples. Enjoy lunch before heading to a traditional hutong neighborhood for a rickshaw tour. Delve into imperial Beijing at the Temple of Heaven, a UNESCO World Heritage Site surrounded by gardens.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: The St. Regis Beijing

DAY 4: BEIJING / XI'AN

Fly from Beijing to Xi'an, once the eastern terminus of the Silk Road and the capital of China. On a special behind-the-scenes visit to the Institute of Archaeology—normally closed to the public—learn about the latest excavations and view artifacts up close. This evening, gather for dinner at a restaurant in the city's colorful Muslim Quarter.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Sofitel Xi'an on Renmin Square

DAY 5: XI'AN

After breakfast, view the legendary terra-cotta army, composed of thousands of soldiers that were buried around 210 BC with China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, to protect him in the afterlife. Later, walk or ride a bike atop the massive city wall and enjoy time on your own to browse the maze of markets and sites in the Muslim Quarter.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Sofitel Xi'an on Renmin Square

DAY 6: YICHANG / YANGTZE RIVER

Fly to Yichang and board a luxurious riverboat for a 4-night voyage on the Yangtze through the breathtaking Three Gorges region.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Yangzi Explorer

DAYS 7-9: YANGTZE RIVER

Marvel at the world's largest engineering project at the Three Gorges Dam and venture into narrow tributaries by local sampan boat, taking in the gorgeous scenery. In Fuling, choose between visits to the 816 Underground Project, the world's largest artificial military cave, or the Baiheliang Underwater Museum. Back on the ship, learn about traditional healing and local crafts, enjoy morning tai chi and gaze at the dramatic gorges as you continue down the Yangtze.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations Yangzi Explorer

DAY 10: CHONGQING / CHENGDU

Disembark this morning and travel to Chengdu, stopping along the way to visit the Dazu Grottoes, a World Heritage Site where centuries-old rock carvings depict Buddhist, Confucian and Taoist themes, as well as scenes of ordinary life during the Tang Dynasty. Arrive in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: The St. Regis Chengdu

DAY 11: CHENGDU

Spend the day at the Dujiangyan Giant Panda Base, overseen by the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda. You'll have the chance to prepare meals, feed the pandas, help clean the enclosures and hear about conservation efforts. For dinner this evening, savor a hot pot, a Sichuan favorite.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: The St. Regis Chengdu

DAY 12: CHENGDU / GUILIN

This morning, settle into your first-class seat on the high-speed train to Guilin, known for its surreal landscape of mist-shrouded jagged mountains. Upon arrival, enjoy an optional walk to Elephant Trunk Hill for panoramic views of the surrounding stone peaks.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Shangri-La Hotel Guilin

DAY 13: GUILIN AND YANGSHUO

Embark on a cruise down the Li River. Glide beneath limestone pinnacles and terraced rice fields that have inspired Chinese artists for generations and stop to browse at a local market. Return to Guilin for the evening to explore on your own.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Shangri-La Hotel Guilin

DAY 14: GUILIN / SHANGHAI

This morning, fly to bustling Shanghai. Over lunch, meet with conservationist and wildlife photographer Jing Li, a National Geographic Grantee working to conserve critically endangered birds in the greater Shanghai area. After lunch, visit the observation deck of China's tallest building, Shanghai Tower, for sweeping views of the skyline. Stroll neon-lit Nanjing Road and the historic Bund waterfront during the evening on your own.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Fairmont Peace Hotel

DAY 15: SHANGHAI

Begin the day among the pavilions, ponds and zigzag bridges of Yu Garden, Shanghai's celebrated classical Chinese garden that dates back to 1559. Peruse an intriguing range of antiques and goods at the Old Bazaar. This evening, enjoy dinner with your fellow Travelers at a local restaurant.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Fairmont Peace Hotel

DAY 16: SHANGHAI

After breakfast, transfer to the Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG) and catch your flight home.

Meals Included: Breakfast