

Best of China: Exploring Beijing, Xian, Guilin & Li River, Shanghai, Suzhou - 11 Days

CN-05



Discover China's diverse facets beyond its bustling metropolises with our captivating tour. While the vibrant eastern coastal cities showcase the modern face of China, this journey takes you beyond the urban landscape. Experience the tranquility of natural beauty, offering a refreshing contrast to the excitement, retail therapy, and cultural immersion of mega-cities. Delve into the best of both worlds with visits to iconic cities, a serene cruise along the majestic Li River, and an exploration of the charming garden city of Suzhou.

DEPARTURE DATES:

04.05.2024; 11.05.2024; 18.05.2024; 25.05.2024; 01.06.2024; 08.06.2024; 15.06.2024; 22.06.2024; 29.06.2024; 06.07.2024; 13.07.2024; 20.07.2024; 27.07.2024; 03.08.2024; 10.08.2024; 17.08.2024; 24.08.2024; 31.08.2024; 07.09.2024; 14.09.2024; 21.09.2024; 28.09.2024; 12.10.2024; 26.10.2024; 09.11.2024; 23.11.2024; 07.12.2024; 21.12.2024; 28.12.2024.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Beijing

Arrival and hotel transfer are facilitated by one of our drivers. We commence our journey by immersing ourselves in the historical charm of old Beijing, exploring a 'Hutong' neighborhood adjacent to Shichahai Lake via a rickshaw ride. Hutongs, characterized by their narrow streets or alleys, provide a glimpse into the traditional way of life. During this guided rickshaw excursion through the intricate pathways, you'll witness the bygone lifestyle of the local inhabitants from years past. (D)

Day 2 - Beijing

Symbolising China's capital in numerous aspects, Tiananmen Square stands as the world's fourth-largest city square, spanning an impressive 440,000 square meters. Marvel at its vast expanse and grandeur, reflecting on the pivotal events that have shaped modern Chinese history, including the government's intervention against pro-democracy protesters in 1989. Following this, your journey continues to the renowned Imperial Palace, now the Palace Museum, housing over a million treasures within its rooms. Our seasoned guide will expertly direct you to the most captivating pieces. Subsequently, explore the Summer Palace, offering a glimpse into the artistry of Chinese landscape garden design. Conclude the day with an authentic Beijing dinner, immersing yourself in the local culinary delights. (B, L, D)

Day 3 - Beijing

A quintessential emblem of Chinese civilization, the Great Wall stands as the most renowned tourist attraction in China. Your exploration will lead you to the Badaling section, constructed during the Ming dynasty in the 16th century. Following this historical marvel, you'll proceed to the site of the iconic Olympic Green and Olympic Park from 2008. Admire architectural wonders such as the 'Bird's Nest' Beijing National Stadium, the Aquatics Centre known as the "Water Cube," the Green Hockey Field, and

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included

International flights
Domestic flights in China
Accommodation
Full board meals
High-speed day train
English - speaking guides
Guided tours & entrance fees
Airport & railway transfers

Not included

Personal travel insurance
Optional excursions
Meals on the train

Practical information

Chinese visa procedure
Book with Confidence - Covid FAQs

other notable structures. As the day unfolds, treat yourself to the spectacle of one of Beijing's premier Acrobatic Shows in the evening. (B, L, D)

Day 4 - Beijing - Xian

Embarking on the next leg of your journey, you'll board the new morning bullet train from Beijing to Xian, covering a distance of 711 miles in just 4 hours and 40 minutes. Arriving in Xian, a city steeped in history as one of China's four ancient capitals, your city tour unfolds with visits to key landmarks. Explore the Big Goose Pagoda, a seven-story Buddhist temple, and the Little Goose Pagoda. Traverse the City Wall, witness the Bell Tower announcing the dawn and the opening of city gates, and explore the Great Mosque, among the earliest mosques erected in China. Indulge in a local lunch, and as the day concludes, experience the renowned Tang Dynasty Singing and Dancing Show, featuring performances inspired by Chinese folklore. (B, L, D)

Day 5 - Xian - Guilin

Undoubtedly a highlight for many, the Terracotta Army stands as one of China's most thrilling tourist attractions. Currently, three pits are accessible to the public, revealing thousands of terracotta statues portraying warriors and horses, a remarkable depiction of the First Chinese Emperor's army. The stone army comprises over 8,000 soldiers, 520 horses, and 130 chariots. Explore the pits closely, and ascend the burial mound of the emperor for a comprehensive experience. Your knowledgeable guide will provide detailed insights into the sites and excavation works, addressing all your inquiries. Subsequently, you'll be transferred to catch your onward flight to Guilin, where you'll be warmly welcomed upon arrival. (B, L, D)

Day 6 - Cruise along Li River

Today offers a different perspective of China as you embark on a river cruise along the picturesque banks of the Li River. Over the course of five captivating hours, you'll be treated to breathtaking views of the iconic karst peaks. Your guide will highlight notable landmarks such as Elephant-Trunk Hill and Pagoda Hill, while sharing intriguing anecdotes about the charming small towns you pass along the way. The cruise concludes in Yangshuo, a quaint and picturesque town. Take the opportunity to immerse yourself in the surroundings by renting a bike for exploration or simply savor a cup of tea on West Street. In the afternoon, the journey continues with a transfer back to Guilin. (B, L, D)

Day 7 - Guilin - Shanghai

Embark on a morning city tour of Guilin, beginning with a visit to Seven Star Park, celebrated for its limestone cave, zoo, and the picturesque Flower Bridge. Explore the natural beauty of Elephant Trunk Hill, whose unique formation resembles an elephant gracefully drinking water. Next, venture to Diecai Hill, an enchanting spot along the river adorned with beautiful caves, pavilions, and intricate stone carvings. Following your exploration, our driver will await you in the hotel lobby. You'll be chauffeured to the airport for your flight to Shanghai.

Upon arrival, a warm welcome awaits, and you'll be smoothly transferred to your hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 8 - Shanghai

Shanghai, the largest and most vibrant city in China, pulsates with energy and rapid-paced excitement. Your exploration of its top attractions begins at the iconic People's Square, situated in the city's heart. Delve into the rich cultural offerings at the Shanghai Museum and then proceed to the renowned Bund, a sprawling mile-long riverside promenade. Along this waterfront, marvel at the architectural grandeur featuring Baroque and Neo-Classical designs. Immerse yourself in the lively atmosphere, capturing the essence of the city, and capture memorable moments with photographs along the river. (B, L, D)

Day 9 - Shanghai

Today's tour encapsulates the essence of old, present, and future Shanghai. Begin your journey in old Shanghai with a visit to a serene garden adjacent to the City God Temple. Immerse yourself in the beauty of traditional Chinese gardens, featuring elements such as a rockery, a chamber of ten thousand flowers, multiple halls, ponds, pavilions, and towers. Transition to the modern skyline with a visit to the striking Oriental Pearl TV Tower, boasting 11 spheres and a towering height of 468 meters, equipped with 15 viewing levels. From this vantage point, witness panoramic views of the city's evolving landscape. Conclude the day at Nanjing Road, Shanghai's bustling main shopping street that magnetizes over a million visitors daily. Experience the vibrant energy of this commercial hub, where past and present seamlessly coexist. (B, L, D)

Day 10 - Shanghai - Suzhou - Shanghai

Experience a change of scenery today as you journey to Suzhou, often referred to as the 'Eastern Venice' owing to its enchanting gardens and watery landscapes. Take a leisurely pace to absorb the tranquility and peace that permeate the city. Explore some of Suzhou's renowned gardens, each a masterpiece of design and serenity. Following your garden exploration, embark on a boat trip along the Grand Canal, gaining a unique perspective of the city from its waterways. Conclude your Suzhou tour with a visit to a Silk Factory, offering an educational and hands-on experience to learn about the intricate art of silk production. If time allows, seize the opportunity to visit one of Suzhou's Tea Houses and further immerse yourself in the local culture. In the evening, transfer back to Shanghai, reflecting on the day's cultural richness. (B, L, D)

Day 11 - Shanghai

As your journey comes to a close, our dedicated driver will be ready to meet you in the hotel lobby, He will then escort you to the airport, ensuring a smooth and comfortable transition for your flight back home. (B)

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

PREMIUM - 4* PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
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04/05/2024 - 14/05/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
11/05/2024 - 21/05/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
18/05/2024 - 28/05/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
25/05/2024 - 04/06/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
01/06/2024 - 11/06/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
08/06/2024 - 18/06/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
15/06/2024 - 25/06/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
22/06/2024 - 02/07/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
29/06/2024 - 09/07/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
06/07/2024 - 16/07/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
13/07/2024 - 23/07/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
20/07/2024 - 30/07/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
27/07/2024 - 06/08/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
03/08/2024 - 13/08/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
10/08/2024 - 20/08/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
17/08/2024 - 27/08/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
24/08/2024 - 03/09/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
31/08/2024 - 10/09/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
07/09/2024 - 17/09/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
14/09/2024 - 24/09/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
21/09/2024 - 01/10/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
28/09/2024 - 08/10/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
12/10/2024 - 22/10/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
26/10/2024 - 05/11/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
09/11/2024 - 19/11/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
23/11/2024 - 03/12/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
07/12/2024 - 17/12/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
21/12/2024 - 31/12/2024	£2345	£3245	£275
28/12/2024 - 07/01/2025	£2345	£3245	£275

ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organised group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday arrangement or an extension to a regular "Go Russia" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please [contact us for a quote](#).

Based on your chosen tour we believe you might be interested in alternative trips listed below:

- > [Visa-Free Beijing: Explore Beijing in a Short Stopover - 3 Days \(CN-01\)](#), Price from £395, 3 days
- > [China's Golden Triangle: Unveiling the Wonders of Beijing, Xian and Shanghai - 8 Days \(CN-03\)](#), Price from £1,545, 8 days
- > [Great Chinese Discovery with Majestic Yangtze River Cruise - 12 Days \(CN-06\)](#), Price from £2,495, 12 days
- > [Classical Trans-Mongolian: Moscow - Irkutsk - Baikal - Mongolia - Beijing \(TS-01\)](#), Price from £2,795, 17 days

INFORMATION ABOUT VISAS

Go Russia provides assistance in processing visas and visa fees are included in the cost of most of our trips as detailed in the tour dossier. The visa application process is very straightforward. We have years of practical experience in dealing with tourist visas, and our in-house visa team provides assistance with completing the forms and checking the documents before consular submission. Please do not worry that your application will be unsuccessful (unless you have had any immigration issues with the relevant authorities in the past). All our tourists get their visas.

All nationalities require a full passport valid for at least six months beyond the intended length of stay. Please also make sure there are enough blank pages in your passport: Russian consulate requires minimum two blank pages.

UK, USA, Germany, France, Spain residents

We have in-house visa teams in the UK, USA, Germany, France and Spain. Upon your booking we will email you detailed guidance notes how to fill in the visa forms and what additional documents depending on nationality and your immigration status will be required. You will need to post your application pack to our visa processing office including your original passport. Please allow about two - three weeks for each visa application to be processed. The actual visa processing times are published on our website. Please advise us if you require your passport urgently, we can arrange urgent processing for an additional charge.

Non-UK, USA, Germany, France, Spain residents

If you are not resident in the above countries, we will issue official paperwork and email the required documents to you. You will need to apply for your visa at the local consulate. The process is very straightforward and we can assist you with completing the visa forms. You will have to pay the correct visa fee at the consulate in the country of your residence.

You can read more information about visa, processing times and application forms on our website:
www.justgorussia.co.uk/en/visa_services.html

HOW TO BOOK

Step 1 - Choose Your Holiday & Departure Dates

It is important that you choose a trip that is well suited to your interests, capabilities and experience. All our staff has first hand experience of a range of Go Russia holidays and will be happy to talk to you about your chosen trip, enabling you to assess its suitability. We also recommend that you read the descriptions of the relevant region, general information about our services, booking conditions, and trip dossiers carefully. Once you know what tour is right for you, as well as your departure dates, you can start your booking.

Step 2 - Complete the Booking Form

Online: log on to www.justgorussia.co.uk and open the tour you wish to book and click "Book now". To provide you with a more personalised and relevant experience in all your contact with Go Russia, when you book online we ask you to register on our system. Once registered you can retrieve your bookings, brochure requests, update newsletter subscriptions, passenger and emergency contact details, submit special dietary requests, view invoices and receipts, download trip documents.

Email: alternatively, you can book your tour per email - info@justgorussia.co.uk, or

Phone: call us on +44 (0)20 33 55 77 17

When booking by email or over the phone please confirm your personal details (full name and address), chosen tour, departure date, package type (hotel / cabin category), and available upgrades.

Step 3 - Confirmation of your booking

On receipt of your booking form, we will make any necessary reservations for you and send you confirmation invoice, including the flight details, and additional information about your destination: advice on visas, vaccinations and what to take. The invoice will also show you the exact due date of the payment.

Step 4 - Payment

Please note, if your departure date is more than 56 days you will need to pay the deposit, which should cover the full cost of the flight (if applicable), plus 10% of the land-only arrangements (minimum £100) per person towards your tour. The outstanding payment must be made 56 days prior to departure. If you book less than 56 days before departure, full payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer, debit or credit card, cheque, bankers draft or postal order. You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

