

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

CN-05



Indeed, China's eastern coast is often synonymous with its bustling and vibrant cities, which leave a lasting impression on visitors. However, the country's allure extends beyond its urban landscapes, showcasing a wealth of natural beauty. This tour beautifully balances the excitement, retail therapy, cultural immersion, and buzz of China's mega-cities with a serene and quieter side, revealing the country's diverse facets.

From exploring the best cities to cruising on the majestic Li River and visiting the garden city of Suzhou, this tour offers a comprehensive and enriching experience that captures the essence of both urban dynamism and natural tranquility in China. It's a journey that allows you to witness the dynamic contrast that defines this vast and multifaceted nation.

DEPARTURE DATES:

05.04.2024; 05.11.2024; 05.18.2024; 05.25.2024; 06.01.2024; 06.08.2024; 06.15.2024; 06.22.2024; 06.29.2024; 07.06.2024; 07.13.2024; 07.20.2024; 07.27.2024; 08.03.2024; 08.10.2024; 08.17.2024; 08.24.2024; 08.31.2024; 09.07.2024; 09.14.2024; 09.21.2024; 09.28.2024; 10.12.2024; 10.26.2024; 11.09.2024; 11.23.2024; 12.07.2024; 12.21.2024; 12.28.2024.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Beijing

Upon your arrival, our driver will be at the ready to transfer you to the hotel. To kick off your exploration, we'll take a trip back in time with a visit to an old Beijing district via a rickshaw ride. This district is a 'Hutong' neighborhood situated by Shichahai Lake. Hutongs typically consist of narrow streets or alleys, and you'll have the opportunity to enjoy a guided rickshaw ride through these charming lanes, gaining insights into how locals lived many years ago. (D)

Day 2 - Beijing

Tiananmen Square, in many ways the symbol of China's capital, is the fourth largest city square globally, covering an expansive 440,000 square meters. Take a moment to appreciate its size and grandeur, reflecting on the key events in modern Chinese history that have unfolded here, including the government troops intervening in the pro-democracy protests of 1989. Next, your journey takes you to the famous Imperial Palace and the Forbidden City. Transformed into the Palace Museum, its rooms house over a million treasures, and your experienced guide will expertly direct you to the most intriguing pieces. Following this, explore the Summer Palace, offering a glimpse into Chinese landscape garden design. As the day concludes, indulge in a typical Beijing dinner, savoring the local flavors. (B,L,D)

Day 3 - Beijing

The Great Wall, a symbol of Chinese civilization and the most renowned tourist attraction in China, awaits your visit. Today, explore the Badaling section of the Great Wall, constructed during the Ming dynasty in the 16th century. Marvel at the grandeur and historical significance of this remarkable structure. Following your visit to the

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included

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

Great Wall, your journey takes you to the site of the famous Olympic Green and Olympic Park from 2008. Witness iconic structures such as the 'Bird's Nest' Beijing National Stadium, the Aquatics Centre known as the "Water Cube," the Green Hockey Field, and many other architectural marvels associated with the 2008 Summer Olympics. In the evening, treat yourself to one of Beijing's finest Acrobatic Shows, showcasing incredible feats and performances. (B,L,D)

Day 4 - Beijing - Xian

Embark on a new adventure as you travel to Xian on the morning bullet train, covering an impressive 711 miles from Beijing to Xian in just 4 hours and 40 minutes. Your Xian city tour will introduce you to this captivating city, known as one of the four ancient capitals of China. Explore key sights, including the Big Goose Pagoda, a seven-storey Buddhist temple, the Little Goose Pagoda, the City Wall (the most intact city wall in all of China), the Bell Tower (which signaled the city gates opening at dawn), and the Great Mosque, one of the earliest mosques built in China. Enjoy a local lunch, and in the evening, immerse yourself in the famous Tang Dynasty Singing and Dancing Show, featuring dances and songs adapted from Chinese folklore. (B,L,D)

Day 5 - Xian - Guilin

The highlight of your journey awaits as you visit one of China's most exciting tourist attractions-the Terracotta Army. Currently, three pits are open to the public, showcasing thousands of terracotta statues depicting warriors and horses that form the army of the First Chinese Emperor. This remarkable stone army is estimated to consist of over 8,000 soldiers, 520 horses, and 130 chariots. During your visit, you'll have the opportunity to closely examine the pits and ascend the burial mound of the emperor. Your guide will provide detailed information about the sites and excavation works, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of this archaeological wonder. After your exploration, you will be transferred to catch your onward flight to Guilin, where you'll be met upon arrival. (B,L,D)

Day 6 - Cruise along Li River

Embark on a journey to discover another enchanting side of China today. A river cruise along the banks of the Li River awaits you, offering over five hours of breathtaking views of the karst peaks. Your guide will point out famous hills along the way, such as Elephant-Trunk Hill and Pagoda Hill, while sharing insights about the small towns you pass. The cruise concludes in Yangshuo, a charming and picturesque town. Here, you have the option to hire a bike and explore the scenic surroundings or simply enjoy a cup of tea on West Street. In the afternoon, you'll transfer back to Guilin, reflecting on the natural beauty and tranquility experienced along the Li River. (B,L,D)

Day 7 - Guilin - Shanghai

Embark on a city tour around Guilin in the morning, exploring the highlights of this picturesque area. Visit the Seven Star Park, celebrated for its limestone cave, zoo, and the charming Flower Bridge. The tour continues with

a stop at the iconic Elephant Trunk Hill, a natural rock formation resembling an elephant drinking water. Next, visit Diecai Hill, a scenic hill along the river adorned with beautiful caves, pavilions, and stone carvings. After this delightful exploration, our driver will meet you in the hotel lobby and transfer you to the airport for your flight to Shanghai. Upon arrival, you'll be greeted and transferred to the hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 8 - Shanghai

Shanghai, the largest and busiest city in China, awaits your exploration. Immerse yourself in its thrilling and fast-paced atmosphere as you visit its top sights. Begin at the People's Square, situated in the heart of the city, before delving into the treasures housed at the Shanghai Museum. The tour continues to the famous Bund, a mile-long riverside promenade adorned with examples of Baroque and Neo-Classical design. Soak up the vibrant energy of the city and capture memorable pictures along the river. (B,L,D)

Day 9 - Shanghai

Today's tour encapsulates the essence of past, present, and future Shanghai. Begin your journey in old Shanghai, where you'll explore a serene garden nestled next to the City God Temple. Admire the examples of traditional Chinese gardens, featuring a rockery, a chamber of ten thousand flowers, multiple halls, ponds, pavilions, and towers. Transition into the future with a visit to the striking Oriental Pearl TV Tower, boasting 11 spheres and an impressive 468-meter tower height. Explore its 15 viewing levels for panoramic perspectives of the city. Conclude the day's exploration on Nanjing Road, Shanghai's main shopping street, attracting over one million visitors daily. Immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere and indulge in some retail therapy in this bustling city hub. (B,L,D)

Day 10 - Shanghai - Suzhou - Shanghai

Today brings a different flavor as you journey on to Suzhou, often referred to as the 'Eastern Venice' owing to its gardens and watery setting. Take your time to contemplate and soak in the atmosphere of tranquility and peace as you explore some of Suzhou's renowned gardens. These meticulously designed landscapes offer a unique glimpse into traditional Chinese garden artistry. Continue your exploration with a boat trip on the Grand Canal, providing a different perspective of the city's charm. The tour concludes with a visit to a Silk Factory, offering an educational and hands-on experience to understand the intricate process of silk production. If time permits, consider a visit to one of Suzhou's Tea Houses to further immerse yourself in the local culture. In the evening, transfer back to Shanghai. (B,L,D)

Day 11 - Shanghai

Our driver will meet you in the hotel lobby and take you to the airport to catch your flight home. (B)

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

PREMIUM - 4* PACKAGE

Dates	Tour Price	Single suppliment
05/04/2024 - 05/14/2024	\$2695	\$395
05/11/2024 - 05/21/2024	\$2695	\$395
05/18/2024 - 05/28/2024	\$2695	\$395
05/25/2024 - 06/04/2024	\$2695	\$395
06/01/2024 - 06/11/2024	\$2695	\$395
06/08/2024 - 06/18/2024	\$2695	\$395
06/15/2024 - 06/25/2024	\$2695	\$395
06/22/2024 - 07/02/2024	\$2695	\$395
06/29/2024 - 07/09/2024	\$2695	\$395
07/06/2024 - 07/16/2024	\$2695	\$395
07/13/2024 - 07/23/2024	\$2695	\$395
07/20/2024 - 07/30/2024	\$2695	\$395
07/27/2024 - 08/06/2024	\$2695	\$395
08/03/2024 - 08/13/2024	\$2695	\$395
08/10/2024 - 08/20/2024	\$2695	\$395
08/17/2024 - 08/27/2024	\$2695	\$395
08/24/2024 - 09/03/2024	\$2695	\$395
08/31/2024 - 09/10/2024	\$2695	\$395
09/07/2024 - 09/17/2024	\$2695	\$395
09/14/2024 - 09/24/2024	\$2695	\$395
09/21/2024 - 10/01/2024	\$2695	\$395
09/28/2024 - 10/08/2024	\$2695	\$395
10/12/2024 - 10/22/2024	\$2695	\$395
10/26/2024 - 11/05/2024	\$2695	\$395
11/09/2024 - 11/19/2024	\$2695	\$395
11/23/2024 - 12/03/2024	\$2695	\$395
12/07/2024 - 12/17/2024	\$2695	\$395
12/21/2024 - 12/31/2024	\$2695	\$395
12/28/2024 - 01/07/2025	\$2695	\$395

ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organized 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 \$445, 3 days
- > [China's Golden Triangle: Unveiling the Wonders of Beijing, Xian and Shanghai - 8 Days \(CN-03\)](#), Price from \$1,795, 8 days
- > [Great Chinese Discovery with Majestic Yangtze River Cruise - 12 Days \(CN-06\)](#), Price from \$2,895, 12 days
- > [Classical Trans-Mongolian: Moscow - Irkutsk - Baikal - Mongolia - Beijing \(TS-01\)](#), Price from \$3,195, 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.

USA, UK, Germany, France, Spain residents

We have in-house visa teams in the US, UK, 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 weeks for each visa application to be processed. Please advise us if you require your passport urgently, we can arrange urgent processing for an additional charge.

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

If you are not resident in the USA, UK, Germany, France or Spain, 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 and application forms on our website:

www.justgorussia.com/us/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.com 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, lecture participation, 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.com, or

Phone: call us on +1 (917) 259 13 33

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 \$250) 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 or credit card (2% surcharge applies for credit card payments). You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

