

## **CHINA & HONG KONG 12 days & 3 days optional extension**

### **Itinerary:**

#### **Day 1 : Arrive Beijing**

Upon your arrival in Beijing transfer to hotel.

**Lodging:** Peninsula Hotel



#### **Day 2 : Beijing - City Tour (B / L)**

After breakfast start your tour first is Coal Hill from where you have a nice birds eye view over Beijing before you stroll around Tian An Men Square in the city center near the Tiananmen Tower. Next visit the Forbidden City, the former residence of the Ming and Qing emperors. During lunch at the Roayl Temple restaurant you can try some vegetarian sausages. After lunch see the Temple of Heaven with its outstanding round shape, covered by an exquisite triple roof of blue tiles. This is where the Emperor used to pray for good harvests.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch    **Lodging:** Peninsula Hotel

#### **Day 3 : Beijing - Great Wall (B / L)**

After breakfast this morning you visit the Great Wall, the Mutianyu section is located in Huairou county in the suburbs of Beijing 70 km from Beijing city center. Later continue your tour visiting the Chang Ling of the Ming Tombs, the chief of the Ming Tombs which is the largest in scale and completely preserved. Walk along the Sacred Path leading to the necropolis and giant tortoises, along the path are bizarre mythical stone monster standing guard.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch    **Lodging:** Peninsula Hotel

#### **Day 4 : Beijing - Xian (B / L)**

In the morning after breakfast walk inside the Summer Palace gardens and explore such beautiful named areas as the Ordinate Clouds and the Jade Wave. Stroll under the covered gallery winding tis way along the north shore of Kunming Lake. In the afternoon visit Lama Temple, both of which are located in a well-maintained part of Beijing's old town. Then take a Hutong tour by rickshaw. Visit local residents home and chat with the owners of the house. Climb the drum tower and see a bird view of the old quarters of Beijing city and watch the Drum Ceremony show. Later in the afternoon transfer to the train station for an express train to Xia'an where you are accommodated in a sleeper compartment.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch    **Lodging:** Train

#### **Day 5 : Xian (B / L)**

Arrive in Xian in the morning and have breakfast at a local restaurant. Next discover the famous Terra Cotta Army of Qinshihuangdi, the first Emperor of China. This is one of the most significant archeological excavations of the 20th century. Return to town where you enjoy a walk along the old city wall which is a major landmark and the best preserved as well as the oldest

and largest city defense systems in China. Later visit the old quarters around the Drum Tower, the tower was originally built in the Yingxiang Temple in 1384 at the intersection of West and Guangji street. Located beside the Drum Tower is Muslim street running 500 meters from south to north. See an ancient-style folk house of Gao Yue Song's, who was an high rank official during the Ming Dynasty. The house won the UNESCO Prize for Cultural Heritage Protection in the Asian Pacific Area. Here you enjoy a local shady play before returning to your hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Sofitel Hotel

### **Day 6 : Xian - Chongqing (B / L / D)**

After breakfast visit the Big Wild Goose Pagoda situated in the Da Ci'em Temple known as the best preserved Buddhist Temple complex. Later transfer to the airport for your domestic flight to Chongqing. After you arrive take a tour to visit the Pandas at Chongqing Zoo. In the evening board the cruise ship.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner **Lodging:** Yangtze 2 cruise

### **Day 7 : Yangtze cruise (B / L / D)**

Enjoy breakfast on your cruise on the Yangtze River, there are stops at Gendu, the City of Ghosts and many more interesting things to see while cruising along the river.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner **Lodging:** Yangtze 2 cruise

### **Day 8 : Yangtze cruise (B / L / D)**

Today your cruise continues. Cross the Qutang Gorge and board a small boat on the Daning River where you catch a glimpse of the three small gorges. Return to the cruise ship. In the afternoon cross Wu Gorge.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner **Lodging:** Yangtze 2 cruise

### **Day 9 : Yangtze cruise - Yichang - Shanghai (B / L)**

Continue your cruise on the Yangtze river. Cross Gezhouba Dam after passing the last gorge, Xiling Gorge. The cruise ends in Yichang. After disembarkation transfer to the airport for your flight to Shanghai. Upon arrival in Shanghai transfer to your hotel to relax from the flight.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Hyatt on the Bund Hotel

### **Day 10 : Shanghai - Suzhou (B / L)**

After breakfast in the morning visit the Shanghai Museum where you discover a beautiful collection of bronze, china, porcelain, sculptures and calligraphy. Get a glimpse of the famous Opera before you visit the Jade Buddha Temple, which hosts two jade Buddha statues and displays the architecture typical of the lower Yangtze area. Continue to visit the Mandarin Yu Garden which was created in the 16th century. The garden is located in the heart of old Shanghai, where the narrow streets busting with activity.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Hyatt on the Bund Hotel

### **Day 11 : Shanghai - Suzhou (B / L)**

After breakfast drive to Suzhou. Laced by canals and stone bridges, Suzhou is a UNESCO Cultural Heritage site and famous worldwide for its luxury silk and the beautiful gardens built by scholars. Discover prestigious gardens such as the Master of Nets and the Humble Administrator. Walk through the old streets along the canals and visit a silk work shop.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch    **Lodging:** Shangri-La Hotel

### **Day 12 : Shanghai - Departure or OPTIONAL extensions Hong Kong (B)**

After breakfast in the morning depart to Zhouzhuang village, a typical small city of the area built on a dense network of canals. Some of the old mandarin and merchants residences can be visited here. Later transfer to Shanghai airport for your international return flight or OPTIONAL extension flight to Hong Kong. Upon arrival in Hong Kong transfer to hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast    **Lodging:** Peninsula Hotel

### **Day 13 : Hong Kong - City Tour (B)**

After breakfast drive to Victoria peak, Repulse Bay and Stanley market. In the afternoon visit the Aberdeen fishing village. You have the opportunity for factory shopping before touring Kowloon city, Wo Tai Si Temple, Jade and Bird market are also on the program.

**Meals:** Breakfast    **Lodging:** Peninsula Hotel

### **Day 14 : Hong Kong (B)**

After breakfast enjoy a day free at leisure to discover more of this fascinating city.

**Meals:** Breakfast    **Lodging:** Peninsula Hotel

### **Day 15 : Hong Kong - departure (B)**

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your international departure.

**Meals:** Breakfast

