

[Tour code: GW-ASX-002] Beijing, Chengde, Datong, Pingyao, Xi'an, Shanghai (13 days)

Day01 Arrive in Beijing

Arrive in Beijing, the capital of China. Meet your guide upon arrival and be transferred to your comfortable hotel. (D)

Day02 Beijing

Begin the day's activity with a visit to **Tian'anmen Square**, the largest urban square in the world. Then, move on to visit the Imperial Palace, also known as the "**Forbidden City**", the biggest palace complex in the world. In the afternoon, visit **Temple of Heaven** where the emperors of Ming and Qing Dynasties worshipped heaven and prayed for good harvest. A **Peking Duck Dinner** concludes your first full day activities in China. (B-L-D)



Day03 Beijing

Visit the enchanting **Summer Palace**, one of China's largest and best-preserved royal gardens, where you can have a walk along the famous Long Corridor. In the afternoon, you will visit the **Yonghe Lama Temple**, the biggest Tibetan Buddhist Lama Temple in Beijing, and the most renowned in China (outside Tibet itself). (B-L-D)

Day04 Beijing-Chengde

Drive to Chengde, a famous cultural city with about 300 years history and used to be the second political center in the Qing dynasty. And visit the **Jin Shan Ling Great Wall**, 10km (6.25 miles) east of Gu Bei Kou (Old Northern Pass), through which Qing royalty passed on the way to their summer retreat at Chengde. You will also visit **Putuozongsheng Temple (Small Potala Palace)** that is the largest and most impressive of the Chengde palaces was built in 1790 by Qianlong Emperor for his 60th birthday. (B-L-D)

Day05 Chengdeu-Datong

Begin today's sightseeing with visiting **Summer Resort**, also called Bishushanzhuang, in 1703 the Qing Emperor Kangxi built a summer palace and gardens, calling his summer residence Bishushanzhuang (fleeing-the-heat mountain hamlet). Then, visit some of famous Eight Outer Temples --- **Puning Temple (Temple of Universal Peace)** and **Pule**

Temple. The lofty and brilliant Puning Temple has a Buddha with thousand arms and thousand eyes. The Pule Temple is just like a round pavilion from the appearance. And also some people say it is really another Temple of Heaven. Take an overnight train to Datong with soft sleeper (the first class in China, 4 persons sharing one cabin). (B-L-D)

Da06 Datong

Arrive in Datong and be transferred to your hotel. (Official check-in time is at 13:00, we could not guarantee that you could get in the room in the morning.) Then, you will visit the **Huayan Temple** which was named after the Huayan sect of Buddhism, and **Nine Dragons Screen**, one of the three antique royal Nine Dragons Screens. (L-D)

Day07 Datong-Pingyao

Today's highlights are to visit **Yingxian Wooden Pagoda**, Yungang Grottoes and Shanhua Monastery. Yingxian Wooden Pagoda was built in 1056 and is the oldest wooden Buddhist pagoda in existence and is located in the town of Yingxian 75km (47 miles) south of Datong. At a height of 67 meters (220ft), the pagoda is a 9 story octagonal

building and was constructed without using any nails. The Yungang Grottoes, with their 252 caves and 51,000 statues, represent the outstanding achievement of Buddhist cave art in China in the 5th and 6th centuries.



Shanhua Monastery contains more than thirty Buddhist statues sculptured during the Liao and Jin dynasties, the most noteworthy being covered in gold leaf. Take an overnight train to Pingyao with soft sleeper (the first class in China, 4 persons sharing one cabin). (B-L-D)

Day08 Pingyao-Xi'an

Our guide will pick you up at the railway station in early morning. And transfer you to a restaurant for breakfast. Today you will visit **Qiao Family's Compound**, **Shuanglin Monastery**, the **City Wall** and the **Ming-Qing Street**. Take an overnight train to Xi'an with soft sleeper (the first class in China, 4 persons sharing one cabin). (B-L-D)

Day09 Xi'an

Arrive in Xi'an and be transferred to have breakfast. Begin the day's activity with an once-in-a-lifetime viewing of the extraordinary 2,200-year-old **Terracotta Warriors** of China's first feudal Emperor, Qin Shihuang. On your way back to the city, stop at a

mountain village and meet local residents. After lunch, visit the superb **Shannxi History Museum**, the best of its kind in China. Visit to **Big Wild Goose Pagoda** which was built in 652 A.D. It contains a large volume of Buddhist scriptures which were obtained from India by the eminent monk of Xuanzang. Enjoy a characteristic **dumpling dinner** at a local restaurant. (B-L-D)

Day10 Xi'an-Shanghai



Climb the ancient **City Wall** and visit **Forest of Steles Museum** where precious stone carvings and sculptures are kept. Then, visit the **Great Mosque** built primarily in the Ming Dynasty when Chinese architectural elements were synthesized into mosque architecture, and it is the largest and best-preserved one of

the early mosques of China. Take an overnight train to Shanghai with soft sleeper (the first class in China, 4 persons sharing one cabin). (B-L-D)

Day11 Shanghai

Arrive in Shanghai around noon. Shanghai is known as "Paris in the East". Visit **the Bund**, at the west shore of the Huangpu River, the Oriental Pearl TV Tower and the Jin Mao Tower can be seen on the opposite side. The splendid row of early 20th century Europe buildings remains the quintessential Shanghai sight. Visit fascinating **Yuyuan Garden**, a well-restored Suzhou-style garden, and take a walk through the Old Town filled with antique markets and specialty stores. (L-D)

Day12 Shanghai

This morning you will visit marvelous **Shanghai Museum**, a leading attraction of the city since it opened in 1994, containing some priceless collections of paintings, porcelains and bronzes. Move on to check out the **St. Ignatius Cathedral** (Xujiahui Cathedral) built in 1846. Wander around the former French Concession represented by the leafy **Fuxing Park** and the architecture in the area. Then pay a visit to the **Jade Buddha Temple** where two rare jade statues of Sakyamuni Buddha are treasured. A fabulous **Acrobatic Show** concludes your full day sightseeing. (B-L-D)

Day13 Depart from Shanghai

Be transferred to the airport, and prepare for boarding on your homebound flight. (B)