

Classic China 20 days

Day 1: CANADA – BEIJING (Served on plane)

Depart from Canada to Beijing by international flight.

Day 2: ARRIVAL BEIJING (D)

Arrive at Beijing airport in the afternoon. Meet your local guide and transfer to hotel and have the rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight in Beijing Luxury Hotel

Day 3: BEIJING (B/L/D)

In history of China, Beijing was the capital for around 900 years (since Jin Dynasty, 1115-1234 AD) till 1911 and has been resumed as the capital of the People's Republic of China since 1949, and therefore is home to tremendous historical and cultural heritages. Of those, most famous ones are Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall, Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven and Ming Dynasty Tombs, most of them recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Also, Beijing, the second biggest city behind Shanghai in China, has become a world-class political, economic, cultural and educational center, with a population of 21.7 million (2017). In 2008, Beijing hosted the 29th Olympics Games and built some extremely brilliant architectures, such as Bird's Nest National Stadium and Water Cube. Nowadays, Beijing has become the most visited place in the world, receives hundreds of millions of visitors every year.



After breakfast, visit the **Tiananmen Square** (meaning the Square of Heavenly Peace in Chinese), it is the world's largest inner-city square, significantly enlarged in 1959 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the People's Republic of China. Tiananmen Square covers 440,000 square meters and can hold one million people. Also, every day, there are National Flag-raising

Ceremony and Flag-lowering Ceremony on Tiananmen Square, at the times of sunrise and sunset.

After Tiananmen Square, then visit **the Forbidden City**. The Forbidden City, also known as the Imperial Palace, is China's and World's greatest Imperial Palace. It was originated back to the Yuan Dynasty (13th century), and significantly re-built and enlarged by the Third Ming Dynasty Emperor (between AD 1406 and 1420), and



continuously maintained by following Ming and Qing Dynasties. The Forbidden City covers 720,000 square meters and has been home to 24 Emperors in Ming Dynasty (AD 1368-1644) and Qing Dynasty (AD 1644-1912), where Emperors were living and ruling their empires. The Imperial Palace has been called the Forbidden City since ordinary citizens weren't never allowed to access; it is surrounded by a 10-meter-high wall with watch towers in the four corners (with guiding soldiers on the wall 24 hours a day in empire times) and a 50-meter-wide moat. Today, the Forbidden City has been turned into a Palace Museum with the world's largest collection of Chinese traditional architectures, wooden furniture, treasures and artworks, and welcomes around 17 million of visitors a year, and is recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After lunch you will have the chance to explore the old town of Beijing, on a Pedicab Ride through **the Hutongs and Siheyuan**.

In Beijing, hutongs are alleys formed by lines of Siheyuan, the traditional courtyard residences of civilians in North China for past hundreds of years. Many neighborhoods were formed by joining one Siheyuan to another to form a hutong, and then joining one hutong to another. The word hutong is also used to refer to such neighborhoods.

Since the mid-20th century, many Beijing hutongs were demolished to make way for new roads and buildings. More recently, however, many hutongs have been designated as protected, to preserve this aspect of Chinese cultural history. Hutongs were first established in the [Yuan dynasty](#) (1206–1341 AD) and then developed in the [Ming](#) (1368–1628 AD) and [Qing](#) (1644–1908 AD) dynasties.

After Hutongs and Siheyuan, you have the chance to watch a tea making performance, and in meanwhile, learn Beijing Opera Mask painting.

In the evening, enjoy a delicious **Peking Roast Duck Dinner** at the most famous restaurant – Quanjude.
Overnight in Beijing Luxury Hotel



Day 4: BEIJING (B/L/D)

Today, we take time to explore one of the most impressive architectural wonders in world's history, **the Great Wall**. The Great Wall is a defense system consisting of a series of fortifications made of stone, brick, tamped earth, and wood, along the historical northern borders of China to protect various Chinese empires from the invasions of Nomadic tribes in the North. The Great Wall, initially started in 220–206 BC by Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China (little of which remains), and has been significantly rebuilt, maintained, and enhanced in Ming Dynasty (1368–1644 AD) stretching for more than 5,000 miles. Today, the majority of the existing Great Wall is from the Ming Dynasty, and is recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Site.

For sightseeing of the Great Wall Tour, you will visit the Badaling Great Wall, it is the best preserved and most representative section of the Great Wall, and therefore the most visited Great Wall section.



Afternoon, you have the chance to visit Jade store to purchase some Chinese traditional crafts.

Golden Mask Dynasty show is a stage show, inspired by and based on a very old Chinese civilization – Sanxingdui Civilization, which was an unconfirmed Bronze Age culture (about 5000 – 3000 BC) and was only speculated by some excavated remarkable artifacts, such as the Golden Mask. The show is to describe Golden Mask Queen established a glorious dynasty with wisdom, tolerance, trust and love, epically reappearing a magnificent time of the Chinese civilization.

Golden Mask Dynasty show
Overnight in Beijing Luxury Hotel

Day 5: BEIJING – ZHENGZHOU (B/L/D)



After breakfast, visit **Temple of Heaven**. The Temple of Heaven is an imperial complex of religious buildings situated in the southeastern part of central Beijing. The complex was visited by the Emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties for annual ceremonies of prayer to Heaven for good harvest. The temple complex was constructed from AD 1406 to 1420 during the reign of the Yongle Emperor in Ming

Dynasty, who was also the one constructed the Forbidden City in Beijing. The Temple of Heaven was listed as UNESCO world Heritage Site in 1998.

After Lunch, we will take high-speed train to Zhengzhou (G87 14:00-16:28).

Overnight in Zhengzhou Luxury Hotel

Day 6: ZHENGZHOU (B/L/D)

After breakfast, today we drive to Dengfeng, visit **Shaolin temple** and have an enjoy of Kungfu-show. Shaolin Temple, also known as Shaolin Monastery, was established in 495 AD and greatly developed in Tang Dynatsty, and has been deemed the origin of Chinese Buddhism and Chinese Kungfu.

Shaolin Temple and its Pagoda Forest were listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2010.



After Shaolin Temple, drive to Gongyi and visit **Kang Bai-wan's Mansions** (Bai-wan means millionaire in Chinese), which is a representative of block-style building complex in north china in the 17th and 18th centuries. It was built by Kang Family, one of the top three rich man in China at

that time, in late Ming Dynasty and early Qing Dynasty, covering a floor area of 64300 square meters, with 33 courtyards, 53 buildings, and more than 1,300 rooms. This mansion is famous for the brick, stone and wood sculptures.

Overnight in Zhengzhou Luxury Hotel



Day 7: ZHENGZHOU – LUOYANG – XI'AN (B/L/D)

After breakfast, you will visit **the Longmen Grottoes** after early lunch. The Longmen Grottoes, or called Dragon's Gate Grottoes, are some of the most significant and exquisite representations of ancient Chinese Buddhist and stone carving arts. The Longmen Grottoes, with 100,000 statues within the 2,345 caves ranging from 1 inch (25 mm) to 57 feet (17 m) in height, have been carved into the steep cliffs of Mount Longmen and Mount Xiang, over approximately five centuries (started in 493 AD). These grottoes, along with the statues and inscriptions, provide a fascinating window into the political, cultural, and artistic circumstances of China in the late Northern Wei and Tang dynasty times. Longmen Grottoes was listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000.

After Longmen Grottos, We will take high-speed train (G96/G97 14:39 - 16:31) to next city-Xi'an.



Overnight in Xi'an Luxury Hotel

Day 08: XI'AN (B/L/D)

Today, after breakfast, we are visiting **Terra-Cotta Warriors**. Xi'an is the most important city in Western China. Xi'an is also one of the oldest cities in China, with more than 3,000 years of history,



and was being the capital for several of the most important dynasties in Chinese history, including Western Zhou (1046 BC – 771 BC), Qin, Western Han (202 BC – 8 AD), Sui, and Tang (618 – 907), for more than 1000 years. Xi'an is home to the Terracotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang, and the starting point of the Silk Road. Silk Road, initiated in Western Han, is an ancient network of trade routes and cultural interaction for centuries, from Xi'an through Eurasia to the regions of Mediterranean.

The Terracotta Army is a collection of terracotta sculptures depicting the armies of Qin Shihuang, the first Emperor of China. Trace back to the time of 2,000 years ago, 246 BC, soon after Qin Shihuang enthroned, his mausoleum project began, eventually involved 700,000 workers and lasted 39 years. Terracotta warriors were part of Qin Shihuang Mausoleum project, with more than 8,000 life-sized statues/soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses and 150 cavalry horses, the majority of which remained buried in the pits nearby Qin Shi Huang's mausoleum. It is a form of funerary art, with the Terracotta Army buried with the First Emperor to protect the emperor and his empire in his afterlife. Terracotta soldiers were made to real Qin soldiers with individual personalities and arranged according to battle arrays of the real Qin armies.

Terracotta Army is another most impressive man-made wonders in world's history and was listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.

In the afternoon, visit **Muslim Quarter of Xi'an**. The history of the Muslim Quarter can be traced back to the Tang Dynasty (618 – 907), when Muslim merchants came via the Silk Road to Chang'an (today's Xi'an), and Muslim food later developed its special characteristic of mainly using beef and mutton, complementing with pastry.



Today, the Xi'an Muslim Quarter is famous for its traditional foods and cultural activities. The traditional foods consist of a lot of delicious local Xi'an delicacies and typical Shanxi snacks, such as paomo, sour soup dumplings, soup with pepper, fried dough twist (mahua) and so on. Xi'an Muslim Quarter, also called Muslim Street, a featured stone-paved old street, has become a favorite place for locals and visitors because of the tastiest foods and leisure atmosphere.

Overnight in Xi'an Luxury Hotel

Day 09: XI'AN-CHENGDU (B/L/D)



After Breakfast, tour **the ancient City wall of Xi'an**. Xi'an City Wall was initially built in Ming Dynasty (1374 AD – 1378 AD) and significantly refurbished a few times since then. Today, Xi'an city wall remains the most complete ancient city wall in China and one of the largest ancient military defensive systems in the world. The City Wall now stands 12 meters (40 feet) tall, 12-14 meters (40-46 feet) wide at the top and 15-18 meters (50-60 feet) wide at the bottom and covers 13.7 kilometers (8.5 miles) in length with a deep moat surrounding it.

After lunch, take high-speed train to Chengdu (G1709 14:21 - 18:06).

Overnight in Chengdu Luxury Hotel

Day 10: CHENGDU (B/L)

Chengdu is the capital of Sichuan province and one of most important cities in Western China, with history back to 4th Century BC, and was the capital of Shu Kingdom (one of the Three Kingdoms in Chinese history, 220 – 280 AD). Chengdu is now renowned for its Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, where visitors get chance to view endangered giant pandas closely in a place very close to Giant Panda's natural habitat.

After breakfast, visit the Research **Base of Giant Panda Breeding**. This research base was created to imitate natural habitats of wild giant pandas to provide pandas the best environment for living and breeding.



The giant pandas are a bear native to Chinese bamboo forest. Though it belongs to the order Carnivora, the giant panda's diet is over 99% bamboo. Due to very low fertility rate and decreased habitat as a result of farming, deforestation, and other development, giant panda was significantly endangered. Nowadays, giant panda is China's national treasure with a quantity in the wild of less than 2,000, mainly living in a few mountain ranges in south central China (Sichuan province).

By end of 2015, there are about 400 giant pandas living in captivity in the world, and Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding is one of four largest bases or zoos (all in China) with more than 10 giant pandas. Therefore, when visitors from home and abroad come to Chengdu, Sichuan, one of their main objectives will be to see this lovely giant panda.

After lunch, have a sightseeing and relaxation at **Wide and Narrow Alley**. Wide and Narrow Alley, as its name suggests, consists of two ancient alleys, wide alley and narrow alley. It was



constructed in Qing Dynasty (1644 - 1911 AD) with 45 courtyards along and was the most luxury

residential area mainly for the upper class of old Chengdu city. Wide and Narrow Alley is the only and most important part well preserved from old Chengdu city and is now a microcosm of the city's history, as well as a deep mark in local people's memory. Nowadays, Wide and Narrow Alley becomes a popular entertainment and nightlife block for locals, as well as a famous tourist site, with lots of restaurants, pubs, teahouses, and stores selling featured souvenirs. It is worth a visit for sightseeing and leisure, walking in the street, relaxing and having a coffee. After free time, back to hotel by taxi.

Overnight in Chengdu Luxury Hotel

Day 11: CHENGDU-CHONGQING (B/D)

Cruise day 1

Free morning to relax. After Lunch, take the high speed to Chongqing (G8511 14:33-16:06). After dinner board cruise ship to YANGTZE RIVER, depart from Chongqing.

Overnight on Cruise

Day 12: CRUISE (B/L/D)

Yangtze River is the longest river in China (6,380 KM) and the third in the world, after the Nile and the Amazon. The most impressive part of the Yangtze River is the Three Gorges where our Yangtze



River cruise will be sailing, stretching from Yichang to Chongqing for 193 KM.

7:15-8:15 Breakfast provided by buffet

7:30 Taichi exercise by ship's Dr. Taichi, one of Chinese martial arts (Kung Fu) was initially created for both defense/fighting and health benefits and has now been developed into a physical exercise for body fitness. (not mandatory to join)

8:15-10:45 Optional: Fengdu — Ghost City (by coach, ab 2.5h)

12:00 Lunch

16:00-18:00 Shore excursion to Shi Bao Zhai Temple. Shibaozhai (meaning precious stone village) was an ancient village built about 400 years ago on top of a steep and craggy hill (660 feet tall) as a fortress by a group of rebels in middle 17th century. In early 18th century, a Buddhist temple was built on the hill. In early 19th century, a 9-story wooden pagoda was built against the hill cliff to aid prayers and visitors in getting to Buddhist temple. In 1956, three more stories were added on top of the wooden pagoda, to the current 12 stories.



18:15 Captain's Welcoming Banquet

20:30 Captain's Welcoming Dancing Party in Ball Room

Optional Excursion Fengdu: RMB260.00. Pay on board Overnight on Cruise

Day 13: CRUISE (B/L/D)

7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast provided by buffet

7:00 Taichi exercise by ship's Dr.



7:50 – 10:30 Optional tour Shore excursion to White Emperor City. White Emperor City, a quite small ancient town, has been very famous for its involvement in a historic event (223 AD) when an emperor lost an important war and had to entrust his young successor and

empire to his Prime minister when he was dying. It is not a wonderful scenery spot and might not be worthy visiting if you have no background of Chinese history.



10:45 – 11:15 Passes through the 1st gorge – Qutang Gorge

11:45 Lunch

12:30 – Passes through the 2nd gorge – Wu Gorge

15:00 – 18:30 Boat excursion to Shennong Stream. Disembark from your Cruise and switch to a smaller ferry boat, which will sail about 20 minutes to Shennong Stream landing,

and then transfer to traditional sampans (small wooden boats that hold approximately 12 passengers and 6 boat men and boat trackers), called "peapod boats" because of their appearance.

If lucky to have a local Tujia minority guide, you can ask the guide to sing some traditional folk songs or sweet love songs, while passing narrow gorges and seeing beautiful scenery. When boat going through shallow areas or getting stuck, boat trackers will get out of boat and pull the boat manually with rope on their backs. You don't need to be guilty for this, most boat trackers are from undeveloped areas and are happy to have this job to support their families. This shore excursion must be one of your unforgettable memories.

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Night on the Yangtze River – crew's performance

22:30 Sail through the 5 steps ship lock of the Three Gorges Dam

Optional Excursion White Emperor City: RMB260.00. Pay on board Overnight on Cruise



Day 14: CRUISE (B/L/D)

7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast provided by buffet.

8:00 – 10:30 A shore excursion to the worksite of The Gorges Project. Three Gorges Tribe is a good place to view the wonderful natural landscapes and explore the unique culture and custom of the Tujia ethnic minority (one of China’s minority groups). You will find yourself in a natural scenery painting: blue sky, green mountains, crystal-clear water, boats floating quietly, and waterwheels rotating slowly. Moreover, you may enjoy some amazing folk shows and acrobatics, and the wonderful song and dance performances by Tujia girls and boys.

11:00 – 11:30 Passes through the 3rd gorge –Xiling Gorge

11:30 – 12:30 Disembarkation at Yichang, after Lunch, transfer to Wuhan.



Optional Excursion Three Gorges: RMB260.00. Pay on board Overnight in Wuhan Luxury Hotel

Day 15: WUHAN-SUZHOU (B/L/D)

After breakfast, visit **Hubei Museum**. After Lunch, take High speed train (G675/G678 13:35 - 17:36) to Suzhou, an ancient city with over 2,500 years of history, with 42% area of the city covered by water (rivers, waterways and ponds), is praised as the “Venice of the Orient” and renowned of its classical gardens, waterways and silk industry.

Overnight in Suzhou Luxury Hotel



Day 16: SUZHOU (B/L/D)

After breakfast, we visit some most **famous classic gardens**, such as Humble Administrator’s Garden, Couple’s Retreat Garden, all recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

After Lunch, transfer to Tongli, an **ancient water town**, started in Song Dynasty (AD 960 -1279). Water town in China means a town with a lot of rivers crossing or surrounding, therefore, you will see small rivers, old bridges, stone paved valleys and streets, as well as many old residences in the small town. The most famous residence, called “The Retreat & Reflection Garden”, built in 19th century by an official in Qing Dynasty (AD1885), is now a notable classical garden in China and recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Later afternoon, before back to hotel, we will drop by the silk factory to see silk making, and, at your freedom, to shop some good silk products.

Overnight in Suzhou Luxury Hotel

Day 17: SUZHOU-SHANGHAI (B/L)



After breakfast, take bus to Shanghai. Since 19th century (after First Opium War, 1840 AD), Shanghai has become a major financial city in Far East, which has led to a European building boom at the Bund (the Riverside Park) of Huangpu River, with the presence of Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architectures. In the past 40 years, with rapid economic

development, Shanghai has again become the biggest and most developed city in China, with a population of 24 million (2017), playing significant roles in finance, economy, technology, and fashion.

After Lunch, take your free time in Shanghai.

Overnight in Shanghai Luxury Hotel

Day 18: SHANGHAI (B/L/D)

Since 19th century (after First Opium War, 1840 AD), Shanghai has become a major financial city in Far East, which has led to a European building boom at the Bund (the Riverside Park) of Huangpu River, with the presence of Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architectures. In the past 40 years, with rapid economic development, Shanghai has again become the biggest and most developed city in China, with a population of 24 million (2017), playing significant roles in finance, economy, technology, and fashion.

Today, after breakfast, visit **Shanghai Museum**. we visit the Town God Temple, originated from Ming Dynasty (1403 AD), where residents pray for good fortune and peace, and with the surrounding streets being turned into a busy marketplace. Then we explore the Bund (the Riverside Park) to see those historical Western architectures remained from 19th century.



Afternoon, we enjoy shopping in Shanghai’s most bustling shopping street – **Nanjing Road**.

Later afternoon, we visit most famous building in Shanghai, **the TV tower**, also called The Oriental Pearl, we will go up to the 2nd ball, look down upon the whole city, and most important, enjoy your dinner in the revolving restaurant buffet. After dinner, we will have **an evening boat ride** on the Huangpu River to wrap up this wonderful day.



Special Dinner: Revolving restaurant buffet

Overnight in Shanghai Luxury Hotel

Day 19: SHANGHAI (B /D)

After breakfast, visit **Jade Buddha Temple** to learn about the Buddhism, the most popular religion in China.



And then go to **Tianzifang & Xin Tian Di**. Tianzifang is a touristic arts and crafts place that has developed from a renovated traditional residential area (in the French Concession area of old Shanghai city) and is now home to boutique shops, bars and restaurants. You may have a peaceful walk and enjoy a coffee.

Xin Tian Di, a place also called “New World of Shanghai”, was started in the early 1900’s and has become a top tourist spot in Shanghai due to its uniqueness of combining exotic and oriental buildings and culture. On one hand, there exist Shanghai traditional architectures, stone-arched gates, lanes and old residential houses, with presence of antique walls, tiles and exterior; but on the other hand, interior of these architectures show a totally different modern style. It is a fashionable pedestrian street with international gallery, bars and cafes, boutiques and restaurants, and have a perceiving of both the old Shanghai in the 1900’s and the modern Shanghai of the 21st century.



You will take a free time for your lunch there.

*After dinner, enjoy acrobatics show.
Overnight in Shanghai Luxury Hotel*



Meet Asia Travel Experts around you

Day 20: SHANGHAI-CANADA (B)

After breakfast, transfer to airport for flight back to Canada.