

## WESTERN CHINA TOUR

Itinerary prepared for distinguished guests
11 DAY WESTERN CHINA TOUR



## YOUR ROUTE



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day	1	Shanghai	VIP Airport Pick-up	Transfer to Peninsula Hotel
Day	2	Shanghai Huangshan	Airport Transfer Transfer to Banyan Tree Huangsha	Fly to Huangshan n
Day	3	Huangshan	Yellow Mountain Visit	
Day	4	Huangshan Hangzhou	Hong Cun & Wan Cui Lou Transfer to Four Seasons	Fly to Hangzhou
Day	5	Hangzhou	Taichi Lesson & West Lake	Temple District
Day	6	Hangzhou Chengdu	Tea Fields & Five Disciplines Transfer to Temple House Hotel	Fly to Chengdu
Day	7	Chengdu	Panda Research Institute	Sanxingdui Museum
Day	8	Chengdu Lhasa	Airport Transfer Transfer to Shangri-La Hotel	Fly to Lhasa
Day	9	Lhasa	Lecture, Jokhang Temple, Barkhor	Norbulingka Palace
Day	10	Lhasa	Potala Palace	Ganden Monastery
Day	11	Lhasa	Airport Transfer	Fly to Chengdu









## SHANGHAI

DAY1

Upon arrival at Shanghai International Airport, you will be met at the gate by airport VIP staff who will whisk you through the airport's Diplomatic Channel. Your China Host will then meet you after you have claimed your luggage and passed through customs. The China Host will accompany you during the remainder of your stay in China. Since the early 1980's Shanghai has been growing like no other city, with the skyline becoming as iconic as Manhattan or Hong Kong.



SHANGHAI HUANGSHAN DAY 2

B/L/D

After spending the morning at leisure in Shanghai in the early evening you will fly to Huangshan City, where you will check into its finest five-star hotel.



### HUANGSHAN DAY3

B/L/D

With an early start, to take full advantage of your day on the Yellow Mountain, you will be driven from Huangshan City to the mountain itself. Once we have ascended the rugged mountain ridge by cable car, we will hike for almost an hour along its circuitous trail to our lunch spot. Depending on the weather, you might see granite peaks piercing through the mist, or it it's clear, you will be delighted by the seas of pink-tinged clouds floating between Huangshan's jagged ridges. In the afternoon, you'll walk along the summit trail for a couple more hours, crossing to the other side of the ridge for dramatic views of its canyons.



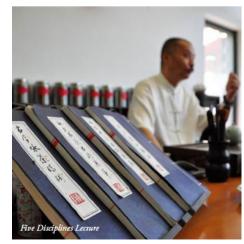
## H U A N G S H A N H A N G Z H O U DAY 4

B/L/D

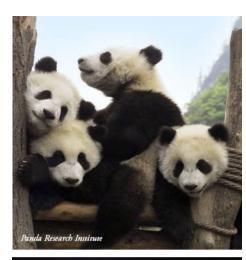
In the morning you will tour some ancient, picturesque villages for which the areas is famous. The visit will be a rare opportunity for you to experience first-hand the design and architecture of the affluent Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) villages. In the early afternoon, you will be driven to your hotel in Hangzhou.



**H A N G Z H O U** DAY 5 B/L/D The day will begin with a serene taichi session overlooking the beautiful West Lake. Later, as did Marco Polo, you will travel in a private gondola across the scenic West Lake, surrounded by pagodas, causeways and islands. You will also go to the wooded valleys northwest of the lake known as Hangzhou's Buddhist temple district. After touring one of the loveliest of temples, you will decend a nearby hill past *The Cliff that Flew From Afar* to marvel at over three hundred ancient Buddhist statues carved into the limestone rock face from the 10th to the 14th century.



H A N G Z H O U C H E N G D U DAY 6 B/L/D You will begin the day with a drive through the tea plantations where China's most famous green tea is cultivated. Later, we will take you to a classical Chinese garden where you will experience the arts of the Five Disciplines – calligraphy, music, incense, flower arranging and tea, all of which the gentleman scholar of the past was expected to be proficient in. This is a chance for you to try your hand at some of these quintessentially Chinese arts. Later, you will be transferred to the airport in time for your flight to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province. Prepare yourself for mouth-watering Sichuan food, wonderful cultural sites and, of course one of the rarest bears on our plant, the panda.



### **C H E N G D U** DAY 7 B/L/D

Early in the morning we will take you to the Panda Research Institute, set within a spacious parkland, where you will be able to watch pandas being fed a breakfast of bamboo shoots in their lush green pens. After the panda feeding, we will drive an hour outside of the city to visit one of the most mysterious archaeological discoveries of the 20th century - Sanxingdui. This site is believed to date from the third millennium BCE.



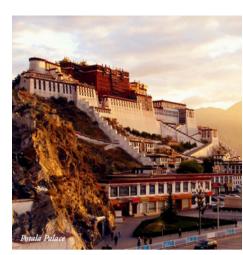
## CHENGDU LHASA DAY 8 B/L/D

You will be transferred to the airport in time for your departure to Lhasa, Tibet. Upon arrival you will be met by an Imperial Tours local guide who will take you to your hotel. The altitude in Lhasa is 3,357 meters or 12,000 feet, approximately 4,500 feet higher than Colorado's Grand Canyon. The remainder of the day will be at leisure to allow you to acclimatize. If you feel up to it, you can start your exploration of Lhasa today.



**L H A S A** *DAY 9 B/L/D*  To best appreciate Lhasa's palaces, temples and society, we have arranged for a morning lecture to familiarize you with the main themes, characters and symbols of Tibetan art and religious life. After lunch we will head to Jokhang Monastery, the center of Lhasa's religious life. After wards, you will stroll on the Barkhor. This is a kora, or the pilgrimage route around the Jokhang Temple's circumference. As you amble clockwise, you will be surrounded by pilgrims, and by novel sights, sounds and wonders. Exploring the local Tibetan markets, you will encounter traditionally dressed clansmen from Tibet's outlying regions and the enticing wares of the many antique and thangka shops on this marvelous circuit. After lunch, you might wish to rest. Those who would like to learn more about Tibetan life will continue with a visit to Braille without Boarders, a local NGO that has developed braille for the Tibetan language, thus improving the lives of many blind Tibetan Children. We end the first day with a visit to the charming Norbulingka Palace which used to be the summer residence of the Dalai Lama. Now it is a museum in the midst of a lovely park.

IMPERIAL TOURS | WESTERN CHINA TOUR



**L H A S A** *DAY 10 B/L/D* 

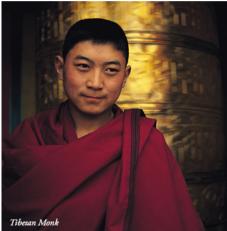
LHASA

*DAY11* 

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CHENGDU

After yesterday, the bar is now high. This morning you will visit the Potala Palace - the trapezoidal, red and white Winter Palace that overlooks the city. The Potala Palace expresses the remoteness, spirituality and former might of Tibet. The elaborate golden tombs of past Dalai Lamas are inestimable beauty, value and mystery. In the afternoon you will go to Ganden Monastery, an hour and a half drive from Lhasa, to see the rural and mountain areas of Tibet. A visit to Ganden is incomplete without walking its kora. Around the backside of the mountain ridge, there are breath-taking views of the river plain thousands of feet below, as well as of the towering, snow-topped mountains thousands of feet above. In the late afternoon we return to Lhasa for a last opportunity to view the Jokhang Monastery and Barkhor and to enjoys its atmosphere.



Today you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to Chengdu.

## HOTELS

#### PENINSULA HOTEL SHANGHAI

The Shanghai Peninsula evokes the Art Deco era. Comfortable rooms are equipped with the latest room technology featuring low cost, IP telephone calling and free internet service.

IMPERIAL AMENITIES American breakfast for two, In-room wifi access, Long distance calls via VOIP, Afternoon high tea for two when booking two Peninsula Hotels in China

LOCATION North end of the Bund

ROOMS 235 www.peninsula.com





### BANYAN TREE HUANGSHAN

This newly opened scenic resort has luxurious private suites and villas that follow the design of local architecture.

LOCATION Near Hongcun and Xidi Unesco listed ancient villages. ROOMS 20 suites and 56 villas

#### www.banyantree.com





### FOUR SEASONS HANGZHOU

Located near West Lake, Four Seasons' second hotel in China draws on Hangzhou's architectural heritage to accommodate guests in Ming-style pavilions set within a traditional Chinese garden.

IMPERIAL AMENITIES Buffet breakfast for two, In-room wifi access

LOCATION On the Western shores of West Lake.

ROOMS 78

www.fourseasons.com





#### **TEMPLE HOUSE**

This hotel is inspired after Chengdu's heritage and landscapes. Named after the nearby Daci Temple, The Temple House also honors the historic buildings of Chengdu with Bitieshi, a remarkable restored Qing dynasty courtyard that inspired elements of our third hotel's contemporary design.

LOCATION Located in the Chunxi Road Commercial District in the heart of Chengdu.

ROOMS 100

www.thetemplehousehotel.com





### SHANGRI LA LHASA

The newest luxury hotel in Lhasa with views over the Himalayas.

IMPERIAL AMENITIES Buffet breakfast for two, In-room wifi access

LOCATION At the edge of the Tibetan quarter near the Norbulinka. ROOMS

279 www.shangri-la.com

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