

International Horticulture Exposition 2011 Xi'an TOUR

(HEX-002) Beijing-Xi'an-Chongqing-Yangtze River-Yichang-Shanghai (15 days / 14 nights)

International Horticultural Exposition 2011 Xi'an will be held in the Chan-Ba Ecological District, Xi'an from April 28 to October 22 with the theme of "eternal peace & harmony between nature & mankind, nurturing the future earth". Landmarks of International Horticulture Exposition 2011 Xi'an Park include Chang'an Tower, Theme Pavilion, Greenhouse and Guangyun Entrance.

This tour focuses on attending Xi'an Horticulture Exposition 2011, also visit the classical cities of Beijing and Shanghai, as well as a relaxed and comfortable cruise on Yangtze River, the longest river in China and the third longest waterway in the world. The Three Gorges: Qutang, Wu and Xiling Gorges, the most spectacular section of the Yangtze River, are filled with breathtaking sceneries.

Day01 Arrive in Beijing

Arrive in Beijing, the capital of China. Meet your guide at the airport and transfer to the hotel. (D)

Day02 Beijing

Begin the day's activity with a visit to **Tian'anmen Square**, the largest urban square in the world. Tian'anmen was built in 1417 and served as the entrance gate to the Imperial Palace. Move on to visit the Imperial Palace, well-known as **Forbidden City** which is the large scale construction of the palace extended from 1406 to 1420. It was the imperial palace during the Ming and Qing dynasties. 24 emperors lived and ruled China from here. In the afternoon, visit **Temple of Heaven**, built in 1420 A.D., which was originally the platform to offer sacrifices to Heaven during Ming and Qing Dynasties. The buildings and parklands reflect an ancient Chinese thought of "the Heaven is round and the earth is square". Enjoy **Peking Duck** for Dinner. (B,L,D)

Day03 Beijing

Today's highlight is the visit to the **Great Wall** (Badaling or Juyongguan Section, excluded cable car), one of the "Seven Wonders of the World" and a symbol of Chinese civilization. Just like a gigantic dragon, the Great Wall winds up and down across mountains. Then, drive to visit the statue-lined **Shenlu (Spirit Road)** leading to the Ming Tombs, here you can see some marvelous stone sculptures. The Ming Tombs area is for 13 deceased emperors of the Ming Dynasty. Visit the **Changling Tomb** which is the largest of the 13 as you can imagine it is quite impressive. On the way back to the hotel, stop at **Olympic Park** and **outside view** the National Stadium (Bird's Nest, no entry) and the National Aquatics Center (Water Cube, no entry), which are the main stadium of the 29th Olympiad in 2008. You could have your pictures taken by these marvelous buildings! (B,L,D)

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Day04 Beijing

After breakfast, visit the enchanting **Summer Palace**, the largest and best-preserved imperial garden in China. As a masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design, it integrates the natural landscape of hills and open water with manmade features such as pavilions, halls, palaces, temples and bridges into a harmonious and aesthetically exceptional whole. Then, visit the **Yonghe Lama Temple**, the largest and most perfectly preserved Tibetan Buddhist Lama Temple outside Tibet. It was built in 1649 as the residence of Prince Yong of Qing Dynasty, and was converted to a temple after he became Emperor moving to Forbidden City. Walk along **Nanluogu Lane** (Nannluoguxiang) where has a history of over 700 years dating back to Yuan Dynasty in 13th and 14th century. Running from north to south, this lane is about 800 meters long with 16 hutongs - 8 hutongs on each side of the lane. The lane is now famous for the cafes and bars and clothing and handcraft shops that line its hutong laneways as well as its traditional hutong and courtyards (Siheyuan). (B,L,D)

Day05 Beijing-Xi'an



Take a morning flight to Xi'an. Climb the ancient **City Wall**, actually built on the fortifications of Tang Forbidden City, standing 12 meters high, 12-14 meters across the top, 15-18 meters thick at the bottom, 13.7 meter in length with a deep moat surrounding it. It is the most complete city wall that has survived in China, as well being one of the largest ancient military defensive systems in the world. Then, pay a visit to 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. Walk around **Bell & Drum Tower Square**, here marks the geographical center of the ancient capital, the East, South, West and North Streets cross here. (B,L,D)

Day06 Xi'an

Visit the expo site. (B,D)

Day07 Xi'an

Visit the expo site. (B,D)

Day08 Xi'an

After breakfast, visit **Shaanxi History Museum**, the first huge state museum with modern facilities in China, and given the reputation of "bright pearl of ancient city, treasure house of China". Then, visit once-in-a-lifetime viewing of the extraordinary **Terracotta Warriors and Horses**,

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2,200-year-old underground army of the first feudal Emperor, Qin Shihuang. Life size terracotta figures of warriors and horses arranged in battle formations are the star features at the museum. Drive back to the city and pay a visit to **Big Wild Goose Pagoda**, originally built in 652 A.D. in Tang Dynasty (618-907A.D.), it functioned to collect large volume of Buddhist scriptures that were taken from India by the eminent monk of Xuanzang. Have a characteristic **Dumpling Dinner** and enjoy **Tang Dynasty Show** in the evening. (B,L,D)

Day09 Xi'an-Chongqing-Yangtze River Cruise

Take a morning flight to Chongqing, situated in the upper reaches of Yangtze River at the confluence of Yangtze River and Jialing River in southwest of China. Visit **People's Hall**, an architectural symbol of Chongqing, designed in the traditional symmetrical and beautiful-proportioned style of Ming and Qing dynasties. Then, view **Eling Park** where provides a panoramic view of Chongqing city proper. Embark on your deluxe Yangtze River Cruise in the evening. (B,L,D)

Day10 Yangtze River Cruise

Yangtze River Cruise

Day11 Yangtze River Cruise

Yangtze River Cruise

Day12 Yangtze River Cruise-Yichang-Shanghai

Yangtze River Cruise ends in Yichang around noon. Disembark and transfer to the airport. Take an afternoon flight to Shanghai, known as "Paris in the East". Transfer to the hotel on arrival. (B,L,D)

Day13 Shanghai

Visit **the Bund** in the morning, at the west shore of the Huangpu River, the splendid row of early 20th century Europe buildings remains the quintessential Shanghai sight. Travel by double-decker elevators to the second ball of **Oriental Pearl TV**, 468 meters high (1,536 feet), the world's third tallest TV and radio tower, have the panoramic view of Pudong area. Then, pay a visit to **Yuyuan Garden**, a well-restored Suzhou-style garden, which was specially built for Pan's parents as a place to enjoy themselves a tranquil and happy time in their old age. The pavilions, halls, rockeries, ponds and cloisters are unique characteristic. And also take a walk through **Chenghuangmiao** (known as Yuyuan Garden Market) built in the fifteenth century during the Ming Dynasty. It filled with antique markets and specialty stores. Enjoy a fabulous **Acrobatic Show** in the evening. (B,L,D)

Day14 Shanghai

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This morning, you will visit **Shanghai Museum** (excluded audio guide), a leading attraction of the city since it opened in 1994, containing some priceless collections of paintings, porcelains and bronzes. Then, visit **Jade Buddha Temple**, built in 1882 to keep two jade Buddha statues which had been brought from Burma by a monk named Huigen. The two precious jade Buddha statues, one sitting Buddha and one Recumbent Buddha, are carved with whole white jade. Move on to check out **Xujiahui Cathedral (St. Ignatius Cathedral)**, Shanghai's great cathedral, opened by the Jesuits who'd had a church here as early as 1608 (today's structure dates to 1910). Walk around **Shanghai French Concession**, the area of Shanghai once designated for the French since the mid-19th century, which now is a busy shopping street where the combination of leafy, tree-lined avenues, European-blended-with-Chinese architectures and shopping boutiques is unique. (B,L,D)

Day15 Depart from Shanghai

Transfer to the airport and prepare for boarding on your homebound flight. TOUR ENDS! (B)

Note: B-Breakfast L-Lunch D-Dinner

Hotel list (or the same standard):

Standard A: 3-star

Beijing: *** Ping An Fu Hotel Beijing

Xi'an: *** Wan Nian Hotel Xi'an

Yangtze River Cruise: Victoria Series of Yangtze River Overseas Company

Shanghai: *** New Asia Hotel Shanghai

Price in 1/2 double room: RMB--pp

	≥10pax	Single Supplement	6-9pax	Single Supplement	2-5pax	Single Supplement
Apr, May, Sep & Oct	10350	3605	12625	4070	14645	4070
Jun, Jul & Aug	10070	3325	12310	3755	14330	3755

Standard B: 4-star

Beijing: **** Qianmen Jian Guo Hotel Beijing

Xi'an: **** Bell Tower Hotel Xi'an

Yangtze River Cruise: price based on President No. 1

Shanghai: **** Best Western New Century Hotel Shanghai

Price in 1/2 double room: RMB--pp

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	≥10pax	Single Supplement	6-9pax	Single Supplement	2-5pax	Single Supplement
Apr, May, Sep & Oct	11500	4675	14020	5495	16040	5495
Jun, Jul & Aug	10820	3995	13365	4835	15385	4835

Included:

- Twin sharing accommodation with buffet breakfast
- Domestic flights in economic class and its airport tax: Beijing-Xi'an, Xi'an-Chongqing, Yichang-Shanghai
- Lunch and Dinner as mentioned in the itinerary in good local restaurant including Peking Roasted Duck in Beijing and Dumpling Dinner in Xi'an. A glass of soft drink or beer is included in the mainland China
- (first) Entrance fee mentioned above
- English speaking accompanying guide through out program on all days with excursions
- All Transfers specified in the itinerary by air-conditioned vehicle

Excluded:

- International Flight and airport tax
- Tips, personal expenses
- Transfer for "day at leisure"
- Guide Service during the plane and train