

Beijing Great Wall Int'l Travel Agency

Tel:(+86)10-8446 6033 / 8446 6213 / 8446 6032 ext .801,802 ,803 Fax:(+86)10-8446 6212

International Horticulture Exposition 2011 Xi'an TOUR

(HEX-004) Shanghai-Xi'an-Lhasa-train to Beijing (16 days / 15 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 Shanghai and Beijing, as well as the "Roof of the World" - Tibet. Experience the highest railway in the world - Qinghai-Tibet Railway.

Day01 Arrive in Shanghai

Arrive in Shanghai, known as "Paris in the East". Meet your guide at the airport and transfer to the hotel on arrival. (D)

Day02 Shanghai

After breakfast, 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. Move on to visit **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. Then, take **one hour cruising** on Huang Pu River. ... (The one-hour night cruise provides the most dramatic views of Shanghai, both old and new. The granite offices, banks, consulates, and hotels of Shanghai's past colonial masters form a stately panorama along the Bund, while the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, the Jin Mao Tower, and the new skyscrapers form the tallest and most expensive new building project in the world on the Pudong side. There's the river traffic, too, to keep your eyes from ever resting.) (B,L,D)

Day03 Shanghai

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. Pay a visit to **Shanghai Xintiandi**, located in the center of Shanghai city south of Huaihai Zhonglu. For its concept of constructions, Xintiandi become an urban tourist attraction, a fashionable pedestrian street composed of Shikumen and modern architecture style. It retains the old walls, tiles and

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exterior of the Shikumen housing of old Shanghai. On the other hand, its interior appears a totally different world of international gallery, bars and cafes, boutiques or theme restaurants. Visit **Tianzifang** nearby, known as "Creative Art Park", it is developed from the local residence area. Take some free shopping on **Nanjing Road**, a must-see metropolitan destination attracting thousands of fashion-seeking shoppers from all over the world today. (B,L,D)

Day04 Shanghai-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)

Day05 Xi'an

Visit the expo site. (B,D)

Day06 Xi'an

Visit the expo site. (B,D)

Day07 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**, 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)

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Day08 Xi'an-Lhasa

Take a morning flight to Lhasa, rightly one of the most featured and dreamt-about cities in the world, not only limited accessibility for its remoteness and its high altitude at 3,650 meters, but also the mysterious Tibetan religion. In Tibetan, Lhasa means the Holy Land or the Buddha Land. The guide will meet you at Konggar Airport, and transfer you to Lhasa city with about 1.5 hours' driving (90km). On the way, you'll be greeted with Nie Tang Buddha - a Buddha image engraved in the mountain face. Upon arrival, rest and acclimatize yourself to the local time and altitude. (B,D)

Day09 Lhasa

The first day of sightseeing starts from Lhasa's cardinal landmark - **Potala Palace**, an awe-inspiring Tibetan architectural complex. The stone-and-wood-structured Potala Palace consists of the White Palace and Red Palace. The White Palace, comprising halls, temples and courtyards, serves as the living quarters of the Dalai Lama. The Red Palace includes various chambers for worshipping Buddha and chambers housing the eight stupa that contain the remains of fifth through thirteenth Dalai Lama. All the stupas are covered with gold foil. Some 2km to the east of the Potala is the most revered religious structure and the holiest temple in Tibet - **Jokhang Temple**. Bustling with worshippers and redolent with mystery, the Jokhang is an unrivalled experience. A golden statue of the young Buddha Sakyamuni at age 12 brought to Tibet by Princess Wen Cheng from Chang'an, capital of the Tang Dynasty, is enshrined in the center of the main hall. The quadrangle of streets surrounding the Jokhang is the **Barkhor Market** - Lhasa's most interesting pilgrimage circuit. This area of the Old Town is both the spiritual heart of Lhasa and the main commercial district for Tibetans. The rest of day is free. (B,L,D)

Day10 Lhasa

Today's highlight is the sightseeing of Drepung Monastery, Norbulingka and Sera Monastery in Lhasa. **Drepung Monastery**, known as the most important monastery of Gelugpa in Tibetan Buddhism. The monastery was established in 1416 by Tsong Khapa's disciple Jamyang Qoigy, and under the patronage of plutocrats, it developed as the richest monastery of Gelugpa and became the mother temple of Dalai Lamas. **Norbulingka Park** (Treasure Garden) was built in the 1740s during the reign of the seventh Dalai Lama. Later it was renovated and enlarged and became the Dalai Lama's Summer Palace, where they handle political affairs, practiced religious activities and spent holidays. **Sera Monastery**, located a few miles to the north of Lhasa, is one of three famous monasteries in Lhasa along with the Drepung Monastery and the Ganden Monastery. The debating traditions in the Sera Monastery are unique among the three famous monasteries in Lhasa. Debates are conducted by the lamas in the monastery every day beginning at 3:00pm. In a battle of words, they supplement their efforts by using a variety of gestures including clapping their hands, pushing their partners for an answer, or plucking their prayer beads to win the virtue of the Buddha. (B,L,D)

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Day11 Lhasa-Beijing

Transfer to the railway station, and take a train to Beijing. (B)

Day12 On the train

On the train. (NO meal)

Day13 Arrive in Beijing

Arrive in Beijing in the morning, the capital of China. Transfer to the hotel for breakfast (No guarantee of early check-in). 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". (B,L,D)

Day14 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)

Day15 Beijing

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. Then, move on to **Confucius Temple**, the place where people paid homage to Confucius during the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasty. Now the temple houses the Beijing Capital Museum. You take a rickshaw through some old "**Hutongs**", lanes or alleys formed by lines of Siheyuan (a compound with houses around a courtyard). 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,

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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). Enjoy **Peking Duck** for dinner. (B,L,D)

Day16 Depart from Beijing

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

Shanghai: *** New Asia Hotel Shanghai

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

Beijing: *** Ping An Fu Hotel Beijing

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

	≥10pax	Single Supplement	6-9pax	Single Supplement	2-5pax	Single Supplement
Apr, May, Sep & Oct	11380	2475	13561	2960	16105	2960
Jun, Jul & Aug	11310	2400	13456	2850	16000	2850

Standard B: 4-star

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

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

Beijing: **** Qianmen Jian Guo Hotel Beijing

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

	≥10pax	Single Supplement	6-9pax	Single Supplement	2-5pax	Single Supplement
Apr, May, Sep & Oct	12085	3175	14465	3860	17010	3860
Jun, Jul & Aug	11750	2840	14150	3545	16695	3545

Included:

- Twin sharing accommodation with buffet breakfast

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- Domestic flights in economic class and its airport tax: Shanghai-Xi'an, Xi'an-Tibet
- Train ticket (soft sleeper): Lhasa-Beijing
- 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
- Travel Permit to Tibet

Excluded:

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