

11 Days Beijing - Xian - Guilin - Shanghai Tour

Code: LCT-BXGS-11D -01

Duration: 11 Days

Attractions: Mutianyu Great Wall, Forbidden City, Terracotta Warriors Museum, City Wall, Li River Cruise, Yangshuo Biking Tour, West Street, Shanghai World Financial Center, Yuyuan Garden, Huangpu River Cruise.

Overview: This trip not only covers three triangle cities Beijing, Xian and Shanghai, but also a picturesque wonder - Guilin. Arrive in Beijing, visit the most popular sites like Forbidden City and Mutianyu Great Wall. Take a high-speed train to Xian and see the world heritage site - Terracotta Warriors Museum. Then, take a flight to Guilin, have a leisure time on the Li River by taking a cruise. Disembarking the cruise, you will head for Yangshuo and wander in the famous West Street. In the next day, drive to Longji Terraces and visit a Miao minority family. The last stop would be Shanghai, another metropolis. You will visit the representative Jiangnan -style garden - Yuyuan Garden. Get on the third tallest building - World Financial Center and have a towering look of the whole city. At night, take a Huangpu River Cruise and enjoy the beautiful night view.

Highlights:

1. Avoid the crowds and visit the newly discovered section of Great Wall - Mutianyu Great Wall.
2. Go inside the hidden parts of the Forbidden City and uncover their mystery.
3. Make clay warriors of your own at a shop nearby Terracotta Warriors Museum if you like.
4. Visit a local family and learn how to make authentic Chinese cuisine.
5. Take a cruise on Li River and enjoy the bank views.
6. Ride a bike in the Yangshuo countryside and do some rafting.
7. Take a Huangpu River Cruise and see the charm of night Shanghai.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Beijing

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Upon arrival at Beijing Capital International Airport, you will find our local driver waiting outside the customs. Be transferred to the hotel.

Day 2: Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Jingshan Park

09:00 a.m: Meet your Beijing tour guide and start your China tour.

09:30-10:30 a.m: Visit the **Tian' anmen Square**. It' s a rectangular square with an area of 440,000 sq meters. To some point, the Tian' anmen Square echoes the layout of the Forbidden City. It also displays the major concept of China politics in ancient times- centralism. There were so many historic things took place here , of which the most famous one is the Tian' anmen Incident. Now, it' s just a symbol.

10:45 - 13:00 p.m: Visit the magnificent **Forbidden City**, the largest Imperial Palace in the world. We' ll spend a couple of hours wandering around this amazing example of Imperial architecture and learning about the history of the palace. Surrounded by a long scarlet walls longing 3.5km, UNESCO-listed Forbidden City is the very central power in Ming and Qing Dynasty. This large palace witness the prosperity and the decline of feudalism. From here, you will have a direct experience how royals lived and how they rule.

13:00 - 14:00 p.m: Enjoy a local food in a nice restaurant Beijingers always visit, please pay on moment based on what you have.

14:00 - 15:00 p.m: Visit the **Jingshan Park** and have a bird-eye view of the whole Forbidden City. It was originally an imperial garden in Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties. Nowadays, it's just a public garden for people to take a leisure time.

15:20 - 16:30 p.m: Head for **Temple of Heaven**. Situated in the southeast of central city, the Temple of Heaven was originally constructed in the eighteenth year of Yong Le (1420) in Ming Dynasty for Ming and Qing emperors to conduct annual ceremonies of praying to Heaven for good harvest. It combines the architectural technology of Ming and Qing Dynasties together, which makes it a rare Chinese ancient architecture and the largest sacrifice complex in the world. Charmed by its size, colorful meaning and importance in China's history, the site was classified into the "Directory of World Heritage" by UNESCO in 1998.

17:00 p.m: Finish your day tour and get back to hotel.

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Recommended evening activity: Acrobatic Show at Chaoyang Theater.

Day 3: Mutianyu Great Wall, Bird Nest and Water Cube

07:30 a.m: Greeted by your tour guide in your hotel lobby and commence your day tour.

09:00 - 12:30 p.m: Drive around 1.5 hours to the **Mutianyu section Great Wall** and you will take a rest and lunch at the Subway down the foot of the Mutianyu Wall. This is a one of the most famous and ideal sections of the Great Wall. You will have your choice of taking the cable car or chair lift up the breathtaking wall and spend a leisurely 1 to 2 hours hiking up and down the various sections exploring the Watch Towers and marveling at the construction and beauty of the renown and legendary Wall. You then have the option of an exhilarating toboggan ride back down or simply return the way you came with cable car.

12:30 - 13:30 p.m: Enjoy a typical Beijing lunch nearby the Mutianyu Great Wall (pay on moment).

14:30 - 15:30 p.m: You will head back to the city to visit the National Stadium and National Aquatics Center, also called **Bird Nest and Water Cube**. They were used for the 2008 Beijing Olympics Game. In most times, they are not open for public. You can only take some pictures outside.

16:00 p.m: You will be back to your hotel for rest.

Day 4: Summer Palace, Beijing Hutong, take high-speed train to Xian

09:00 a.m: Greeted by your Beijing tour guide and begin your last day in Beijing.

09:30 - 11:00 a.m: Visit the **Summer Palace**. As the largest imperial garden in China, the Summer Palace has been a summer resort for royal families. There are huge lakes, bridges, corridors, pavilions, and various kinds of flowers and lots of rooms fully radiating the natural beauty and the grandeur of imperial gardens. With arched bridges and glittering ripples, pretty promenades and flowers in blossom, decorated corridors and ancient doors, and "breezeways" (a kind of hallway that allows the passage of a breeze between structures), all these can bring tourists into an enchanting and ever-changing scenery.

11:00 - 12:00 p.m: Walk in the tranquil **Hutongs**. In those interlaced Hutongs, one can experience the life of the ancient Beijing people. With bathrooms and public toilets usually being found, shops

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and vendors selling all kinds of goods that satisfy the local people's daily needs, and people gossiping along the lanes to strengthen their relationship, one can walk through the history and savor the unique culture. Thus, we can say that where there is such a lane, there is a story.

12:00 - 13:00 p.m: Enjoy a local food in a nice restaurant Beijingers always visit, please pay on moment based on what you have.

14:00 p.m: Drop off at Beijing West Train Station and you will take the high-speed train (G349, 15:13 - 19:45) to Xian.

19:45 p.m: Your Xian driver will hold a welcome sign with your name on and wait for you upon your arrival. Please find your driver at the Information Desk” (问询台/信息台) . Then, he will take you safely back to your Xian hotel.

Day 5: Terracotta Soldiers Museum, City Wall, Muslim Quarter

09:00 a.m: Met by your Xian tour guide at your hotel lobby at an appointed time, you will spend your whole day experiencing the profound culture and history of the city.

09:50-12:00 p.m: Firstly, you will head for the world-famous **Terracotta Warriors Museum**. Established in Qin Dynasty, Terracotta Warriors Museum has witnessed the prosperity and decline of the dynasty. The large architectural structure and the masses of clay soldiers and horses signified the strength and power of Qin Shi Huang and his realm. At the same time, it showed the intelligence of our ancestors.

12:00 - 13:00 p.m: Lunch at your own arrangements under our tour guide’ s recommendations. If you are interested in cooking, we can arrange you to visit a local family while learn how to make authentic Chinese cuisine. You will have what you made for lunch.

14:00 - 16:00 p.m: Visit **City Wall**. Standing in the city for over 600 years, City Wall is the best preserved and most complete wall. It has survived through the long history of China. It is about 12 meters high, 12 to 14 meters wide across the top and 15 to 18 meters thick at the bottom. The entire circumference is about 13.7 kilometers. You can also take a golf car or ride a bike. This will be quite a fun experience.

16:00 - 17:00 p.m: Stroll in the Muslim Quarter. Get off the City Wall and proceed to have a stroll in **Muslim Quarter**. Learn about all kinds of folk art and taste various snacks here. As a block

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famous for its various food, although the Muslim Quarter is regarded as a tourism spot for the tourists coming from other places, the locals considered it as the place for snacks and entertainment. Especially in summer, you can find tons of local people having snacks and amusing themselves there. Besides the Beiyuanmen Street, Daxuexi Street and Xiyangshi, there are also a large area including Dapiyuan, Dongyangshi, Beiguangji Street and Qiaozikou. Old Xian people call these areas as “ Fangshang ” . In here, you can find the true Xian lifestyle. However, these places need your further discovery.

17:20 p.m: Hotel drop off for rest.

Recommended activity: Gourmet Food Tour

Day 6 Big Wild Goose Pagoda, Hanyangling Museum, take flight to Guilin

09:00 a.m: Meet your Xian tour guide and start your Xian day tour.

09:20 - 12:00 p.m: Visit **Big Wild Goose Pagoda**. Built in Tang Dynasty and under through several renovations, Big Wild Goose Pagoda has become the typical evidence of the ancient Indian architecture style being brought into China along with the spreading of Buddhism. Our guide will fill you in with loads of Tang Dynasty history and Buddhism development in China, especially in Xian. You will also know the famous monk named Xuan Zang and get to take pictures in front of his statue.

12:00 - 13:00: Have lunch as a local restaurant at your own expense.

13:50 - 16:00 p.m: Head for **Hanyangling Museum** (Jingdi's Tomb). It's probably the most underrated site in Xian. It's a mausoleum for Emperor Jing in West Han Dynasty and his express Wang Zhi. There are lots of priceless terracotta figurines of servants, eunuchs, instructions as well daily tools excavated, indicating a Han Dynasty court. Most of the figurines are naked. The fact is they were all clothed upon burial. However, upon discovery, all the clothing got corroded. From this mausoleum, you will learn about the Han Dynasty funerary system.

16:30 p.m: Drop you off at the airport for flight MU2307 (18:30 - 20:40).

20:40 p.m: Greeted by your Guilin driver, you will be dropped off at Guilin hotel for rest.

Day 7 Longji Terraces

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07:30 a.m: Meet your tour guide and head for Longji Terraces Rice Fields.

09:30 a.m - 15:00 p.m: Enjoy the amazing natural views of Longji Terraces and taste the authentic Zhuang nationality food. Situated about 27 kilometers southeast of Longsheng County, there is a vast region of rice terraces stretching layer upon layer. It is Longji Rice Terraces (Dragon Backbone's Rice Terraces), an grand terrace in China! Since the construction in Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), the terrace was completed till the early Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). It represents a great accomplishment of profound wisdom and strenuous labor of minority people in South China. With the passage of four different seasons, the terrace shows people various kinds of sceneries, displaying a grandeur of great nature. In spring, with the irrigation, the terrace presents a picture of chains or ribbons hung on the hillsides. With the coming of Summer, massive green shadows upon the terrace from the heaven. With the commencement of Autumn, ripened millet blends the stems, giving people hope of harvest. In winter, the whole terrace is covered with white snow like a playful dragon.

Wondering in the terrace, one can not only enjoy the natural beauty, but also experience the unique culture of ethnic minorities. There are several minorities, including Zhuang, Miao and Yao. One can visit their wooden buildings, learn their beautiful dances and appreciate their costumes and Longji tea.

17:00 p.m: Guilin Hotel drop off at the tour end.

Day 8 Li River Cruise, West Street and Yangshuo countryside

09:00 a.m: Meet your tour guide and start your Guilin hotel.

09:00 - 13:00 p.m: Coming to Guilin, **Li River Cruise** is an activity you simply can't miss. Surrounded by the stretching mountains in both sides, Li River is meandering through slowly and quietly. You will aboard the ship prepared for you and enjoy the picturesque natural views. With the swimming ducks, napping fisherman on the bank, and buffaloes eating green grass, you will feel like wandering in the fairyland. The ship will lead you to Yangshuo.

Please be aware that your lunch is included in the cruise.

14:30 - 16:00 p.m: Disembarking the ship, you will find yourselves into a splendid picture. Brooks are gurgling on the ground. Verdurous trees are erecting on both sides and dancing

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with the wind. Birds are singing. Mountains are fading into distance. Being in such a relaxing and picturesque place, you can ride a bike going down the paths. With the guidance of our representative, you can also learn some facts and history of Yangshuo.

16:00 - 17:00 p.m: Wander in West Street. West Street is a street featured with western style. It's an unique cultural symbol in Yangshuo. Because of its existence, every foreigners feel welcomed and like home. As the first western-style street, West Street has been a model for other tourist cities to clone from. Coming here, you will see various kinds of western stores and shops selling traditional Chinese decorates like small embroidery pouch, Chinese knots, and lucky bag.

17:00 p.m: After the tour, you will be transferred back to Guilin hotel to prepare for another amazing day.

Day 9: Reed Flute Cave, Elephant Trunk Hill. Fly to Shanghai.

09:00 a.m: Greeted by your tour guide and head for the most famous site in Guilin city - Reed Flute Cave.

09:20 - 12:00 p.m: Visit **Reed Flute Cave**. This name came from the fact that Reed grows near the cave, which is said can be made into flute. Coming into the Reed Flute Cave area, you will see the luxuriant flowers and trees immediately. On the left, there is a pond surrounded by the restaurants, shops, tea houses, pavilions and bridges. Inside the cave, you will be intoxicated by the various stalactites, stalagmites and columns. Under the shower of different lights, all the stones are bizarre and motley.

12:00 - 13:00 p.m: Have a typical Guilin lunch at a local restaurant at your own expense.

13:20 - 14:00 p.m: Your last site in Guilin would be **Elephant Trunk Hill**. From the name, you can guess what you will be looking at. As the city symbol, Elephant Trunk Hill is the typical representation to Guilin mountains and water. Coming inside the site, you will see some stone carvings of elephants. Keep moving, the hill looks like an elephant trunk will come into your eyes. On the hill, all the rivers and views are right in front of you. There are small Love Island, standing tower, drifting rafts waiting for guests and sea eagle ready for catching fish.

14:30 p.m: By now, your Guilin tour draws a conclusion. Your driver will take you to Guilin airport for the flight (CZ3251, 16:25 - 18:50) to Shanghai.

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18:50 p.m.: Met by your Shanghai driver in Shanghai PVG airport, you will be transferred to Shanghai hotel for a good rest.

Day 10: Shanghai Museum, Yuyuan Garden, Huangpu River Cruise, the Bund.

09:00 a.m.: Greeted by your tour guide at your hotel lobby, you will set out for Shanghai Museum.

09:20 - 12:00 p.m.: As one of the renowned ancient art museums, **Shanghai Museum** has collected about 140,000 cultural relics. There are 10 classes of relics displayed now. To appreciate the most spectacular relics in such a limited time period, our tour guides will introduce to you some of the historic ones. You will see ceremonious wares like battle-axe and tripod, daily necessities in ancient life like pottery and porcelain, calligraphy works like Oracle, and various jade ornaments.

12:00 - 13:00 p.m.: Lunch at your own arrangements under the recommendations of our tour guide.

13:00 - 14:30 p.m.: After lunch, you will visit the **Yuyuan Garden**. Dating back to 400 years ago, Yuyuan Garden was a private garden. It was built as most of the classic Jiangnan gardens. You will see Yu Linglong - a unique stone listed as one of the 3 famous stones in Jiangnan. The other two refers to Guan Yunfeng in Liu Garden of Suzhou and Zhou Yunfeng in Zhusu Garden of Hangzhou. Our guide will also brief you about the local gourmet you will run into.

14:50 - 15:20 p.m.: Our guide will take you to “climb” the **Shanghai World Financial Center**. With the height of 492m, Shanghai World Financial Center is ranked as the 3rd tallest tower in the world. You will view all city standing on the tower.

15:40-16:40 p.m.: Visit the **Bund**. Located at the west bank of Huangpu River in Shanghai, the Bund was originally a pathway for boatmen and hard laborers; while nowadays, the Bund becomes the most characteristic view and the most recognized symbol in the city with rich cultural connotations for hundreds of years. For the Europeans, it was like the Wall Street in the east, where prosperous trading was proceeded and massive fortunes were made and lost. In the opposite side of the Bund, it faces other marks of Shanghai City - Oriental Pearl TV Tower and Jinmao Tower. Therefore, it is a must in your tour in Shanghai.

17:00 p.m.: Your tour comes to an end by now, you will be transferred back to your hotel.

Recommended activity: Huangpu River Cruise

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In the evening, you are suggested to enjoy the Huangpu River Cruise. All the Shanghai essences are unfolded along the Huangpu River. Taking this cruise will be the most memorable experience for you! You will take a 3-floor cruise ship built as a typical ancient Chinese boat with two magnificent dragon heads standing upright on the stem. Under the explanation of the guide, you will enjoy the mild wind, smell the unique water, and view the colorful buildings aside the river, while listening the old Shanghai stories.

Day 11 Departure from Shanghai

Hotel-airport transfer & see you off. A nice journey home! Your driver will pick you up 3 hours before your flight and transfer to airport.

What's Important:

What's included:

Air-conditioned vehicles with experienced driver.

Licensed Chinese- English bilingual speaking tour guide.

Entrance fee for sites mentioned, including cable car up and tobaggon down the Great Wall.

Bottled water.

2nd class train tickets between Beijing and Xian.

Economic class air tickets listed above.

What's not included:

Meals

Personal expenses or private entertainment items in sites.

Tips or gratuities for guide and driver if we did a good job(recommended)

Accommodations

What to take: smile and a relaxing heart.

Good to know:

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1. As our customer, your time is very valuable to us. We will never take you to any factories or the shops for shopping.
2. For lunch, we will take you to a nice local restaurant, where you can enjoy the local food with a fair price. Please inform us about your food preferences in case you have any allergies.
3. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours. If you want a tour with a duration exceeding the working period of our tour guide and driver, we need to charge you for your extra hours with the standard of 100 RMB per hour.
4. The tour we provide you are based on days, not the hours. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours. In case you only need our service for over 6 hours yet less than 8 hours in one day, we will consider it a day tour.
5. Please be aware that your itinerary is changeable anytime. Whenever you want to adjust it, we will help you with that.
6. What we provide are high-quality private tours, you will be only with your families or friends. There are no other people joining your tour.
7. Wheelchairs are accessible, please advise prior to your trip in case you need any.
8. Please advise in advance in case you want to enjoy the Acrobatic show or Kungfu Show.
9. Please advise prior to your trip if you want to do some activities such as painting, calligraphy, exercising Tai Chi, watching opera, paper cutting, etc..
10. Please advise in advance if you want to take high-speed train to Shanghai from Xian instead.

FAQ

1. I saw there are different cruises on Li River?

Re: Yes, there are different-sized cruises on Li River due to the regulation problems. However, don't worry, we provide the 4 -star big cruise at least.

In case you want to visit Li River on your own, please do not hire the small boats that only goes part of the Li River. It's cheap but is privately arranged with no safety guarantee. You must book tickets for big cruise that lasts for 4 hours covering the whole Li River.

2. Does my tour guide aboard the cruise with us?

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Re: No, your personal tour guide will not accompany you to the cruise. There are professional tour guide on the ship, who will explain to you. If you do want to invite your tour guide on the cruise, you need to pay for his/her cruise ticket. I don't suggest this.

3. When would the cruise end?

Re: The cruise ends around 14:00 p.m..

4. I may need to arrange dinner reservation, when does the tour end each day?

Re: The tour ends around 17:30, which will leave you plenty of time enjoying your dinner.

5. What kind of car will I have?

Re: It depends on your group size. For group size of 1-2 people, you will be offered with a sedan car. For group size of 3-4 people, you will enjoy a van with 7-seat. While 14-17-seat van will be in service if there are 5-8 of you. When your tour group size is larger, 33-seat coach or bigger will be offered.

6.Can you help me booking the train tickets?

Re: Sure, we can help you to book all the train tickets or flight tickets. This is one of our service features. After booking the tickets, your paper train tickets would be expressed to your Beijing hotel before you can use.

7.How can I book internal train tickets online?

Re: There are several ways to book train tickets or flight tickets on your own.

The traditional way would be get to the train station or airport to buy tickets on spot.

If you book online, the official booking system 12306.com is unavailable for foreigners right now.

You can try Ctrip.com. This website can help you book train tickets and air tickets.

8.Can I confirm this is a private tour?

Re: Yes, this is a private tour just for your group. No other people will join you.

9. Can the tour guide accompany us to have dinner and help us order?

Re: The working time for the tour guide and driver are 8-9 hours. If you finished your tour rather early, our tour guide can certainly help you until you get to dinner. Otherwise, you will need to pay extra for their overtime work.

10. Is there anything we should be aware of in Longji Terraces?

Re: I. Please be aware that Longji Terraces are located in a minority residences, please be respectful to their culture and customs.

II. When you are interested in some performances in the village, please check with your guide if they charge or free.

III. When you hike on your own, you may encounter some local people offering bag carriage service. Please settle the price first before accepting their help.

IV. Best time to visit: 15 days after the lunar April 15th and 15 days after the Mid-Autumn holiday when local people starts irrigate the rice fields.

Cancellation policy:

No less than 2 weeks, you will lose your deposit;

Within 7 days - 13 days, loss of 50% of your payment or just the deposit.

Within 6 days, loss of full payment or just the deposit.

Please bear in mind that your deposit is still available for your next trip with us. You may also offer this deposit to someone else as their tour deposit with us.