



# THE CHINA TRAVEL COMPANY

DISTINCTIVE SELF-GUIDED, PRIVATE & TAILOR MADE CHINA TOURS

## SPECIALIST PINGYAO PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL TOUR

Beijing - Pingyao - Xian - Shanghai

Dear Sir / Madam,

Thank you for downloading this trip's dossier. We hope it inspires you and if you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,  
The China Travel Company Team.

### The China Travel Company

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### Tour Introduction

**A great option for those short on time or on a first visit to China and who would like to combine some of China's best sights with the Pingyao Photography Festival.**

The trip starts in China's imperial capital of the past and current capital of a very different new China, **Beijing**. Of all China's many destinations Beijing is probably the highlight with so much to see both from the past to the monuments of the present. The Great Wall, Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Temple of Heaven and Summer Palace are all tried and tested favourites.

Onto **Pingyao** for the International Photography Festival. Pingyao on its own is well worth a visit but is particularly good during the festival which is becoming increasingly popular and booking well in advance is necessary.

Onto **Xian**, the capital of Tang Dynasty China, traditional end of the famed Silk Road and famous these days as the home of the extraordinary Terra Cotta warriors. Xian has a different feel than Beijing and a highlight to many is an evening spent stepping back in time and wandering and eating in the vibrant muslim quarter.

There is no better place to round off your China experience than in **Shanghai** with its neon skyline and cosmopolitan bustle. This vast city, in many respects an expression of China's future, no more so than on your Maglev journey to the airport where we sadly finish up but there is a very good chance that you will be back to see some more of China!





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## SPECIALIST PINGYAO PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL TOUR

| DAY | DETAILED ITINERARY  | MEALS |
|-----|---|-------|
| 1   | <b>Arrival Beijing:</b> Welcome to Beijing! We will be meeting you at the airport from where you will be transferred by private car and English speaking guide to your hotel. Assistance with checking in and time to ask you guide any initial questions you might have. Free time for the rest of the day to relax from the flight or start to explore the city with the help of your personalised Trip Guidebook we send you before the trip. Overnight hotel.   | - -   |
| 2   | <b>Beijing:</b> After breakfast start a full day excursion to the Great Wall at Mutianyu, perhaps China's most famous landmark. After visiting the Wall drive to the Ming Tombs along the Sacred Way lined with giant marble figures and animals guarding the tomb area for deceased Emperors of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644AD). In the evening a delicious Peking Duck dinner to warm you up and satisfy the appetite you will have built up today. Return to the hotel and overnight.   | B L D |
| 3   | <b>Beijing to Pingyao:</b> A full day private tour visiting three of Beijing premiere attractions. You will be collected from your hotel by your guide and driver for the day visiting the vast palace complex of the Forbidden City, the beautiful Temple of Heaven set inside a huge park and the Summer Palace - the emperor's former playground set out to the west of the city where you may even be able to ice skate on the lake. After the tour a transfer to the station to catch an overnight train to Pingyao in comfortable soft sleeper class. | B L - |
| 4   | <b>Pingyao:</b> Early morning arrival in Pingyao with a transfer to your hotel and breakfast. During the morning a half day orientation tour of this ancient walled city to familiarize yourself with the layout and venues for the photography festival. Free time in the afternoon to further explore the city and festival. Overnight hotel.   | B L - |
| 5   | <b>Pingyao:</b> Free day in Pingyao to further enjoy the photography festival and the city itself. Overnight hotel.   | B L - |
| 6   | <b>Pingyao to Xian:</b> After breakfast some free time before a transfer by minibus to Taiyuan stopping of at Jin Si with time to view and photograph this wonderfully atmospheric temple. Continue on direct to Taiyuan airport for the short flight to Xian, a Tang Dynasty city at the Eastern end of the Silk Road. Free time in the evening and overnight hotel.   | B L - |
| 7   | <b>Xian:</b> After breakfast start a full day tour to the Terra-cotta warriors and a city tour including the city walls. You will also visit the Wild Goose Pagoda built in 652 AD containing a large volume of Buddhist scriptures which were obtained from India by the eminent monk Xuanzang. In the evening a warming dumpling dinner banquet before returning to the hotel to overnight.   | B L D |
| 8   | <b>Xian to Shanghai:</b> Free morning in Xian to further explore such sights as the Drum and Bell Towers located by your hotel. Mid afternoon transfer to the station for the overnight train to Shanghai in comfortable soft sleeper class.  | B L - |
| 9   | <b>Shanghai:</b> Early morning arrival in cosmopolitan and bustling Shanghai. Transfer to your hotel, breakfast and time to freshen up before a full day tour of the Yuyuan Garden, Old Shanghai, the excellent Shanghai Museum and a stroll along the lively waterfront, known as the "Bund". Round off the day with a visit the world famous Chinese Acrobats before a transfer back to your hotel to overnight.  | B L - |
| 10  | <b>Departure Shanghai:</b> Free time until a transfer to the Maglev station for a ride on the world's fastest train to Pudong airport to catch your flight out of China. Your transfer guide will buy a standard class Maglev ticket for you and make sure you get on the train which takes just 8 minutes to cover the 30km to the airport reaching a top speed of 430 km/hour. End of services.   | B L - |

**Not quite what you need? We can tailor any itinerary to meet your requirements!**



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## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS FOR THIS TRIP

### Trip Inclusions

**Train Tickets:** [Click here to learn more about train classes](#) - ask us about upgrading to sole occupancy

- ✓ Beijing to Pingyao soft sleeper class (overnight trip) 1 berth each in a 4 berth compartment
- ✓ Xian to Shanghai soft sleeper class (overnight trip) 1 berth each in a 4 berth compartment
- ✓ Maglev ticket to Pudong airport standard class (8 minutes reaching 430km/hour)

**Internal Plane Tickets:** *Tickets for flights within China*

- ✓ Taiyuan to Xian economy class

**Accommodation:** *Just let us know if you have your own hotel preferences or wish to upgrade*

- ✓ 2 nights Beijing - Lu Song Yuan 3\* (Chinese Traditional Style) (special standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 1 night overnight sleeper train Beijing to Pingyao (shared 4 berth soft sleeper cabin)
- ✓ 2 nights Pingyao - Hongshanyi Hotel 3\* (Chinese Traditional Style)
- ✓ 2 nights Xian - Bell Tower Hotel 4\* (standard room with breakfast)
- ✓ 1 night overnight sleeper train Xian to Shanghai (shared 4 berth soft sleeper cabin)
- ✓ 1 night Shanghai - Astor House Hotel 3\* (deluxe room with breakfast)

**Transfers:** *Private with driver and English speaking guide*

- ✓ Beijing - Airport to Hotel
- ✓ Beijing - Hotel to Train Station
- ✓ Pingyao - Train Station to Hotel
- ✓ Pingyao - Hotel to Taiyuan Airport with time at Jin Si Temple on the way
- ✓ Xian - Airport to Hotel
- ✓ Xian - Hotel to Train Station
- ✓ Shanghai - Train Station to Hotel
- ✓ Shanghai - Hotel to Maglev Train Station

**Tours:** *All our tours use professional, licensed guides, experts in their particular areas*

- ✓ Beijing - Full day private tour to the Great Wall at Mutianyu and the Ming Tombs. Peking Duck dinner in the evening.
- ✓ Beijing - Full day private tour to Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven and Summer Palace.
- ✓ Pingyao - Half day tour orientation tour of the old city and festival venues including the entrance fee to the city.
- ✓ Xian - Full day private tour to the Terra cotta Warriors, Wild Goose Pagoda and City Walls. Dumpling dinner in the evening.
- ✓ Shanghai - Full day private tour to the Yuyuan gardens, Shanghai Museum, Old City and Bund - Acrobats in the evening.

**Meals:** *As indicated on itinerary above (B = breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner)*

**Other Items:** Our exclusive Trip Guidebook personalised to your trip. This 100+ page document covers all the destinations you visit as well as sections on language, food, history and practical information about China and your trip.



[Click here to learn more about our Trip Guidebook](#)

### Trip Exclusions

- ✗ International Airfare to and from China (we can book these flights on request)
- ✗ The Chinese visa (we can advise as to how best obtain this visa)
- ✗ Travel insurance to cover medical treatment in China
- ✗ Discretionary gratuities to drivers and guides

**Not quite what you need? We can tailor any itinerary to meet your requirements!**



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## HOTELS NORMALLY USED FOR THIS TRIP

**Please just let us know if you have particular preferences or wish to upgrade.**  
*We can offer singles, doubles, twins, triples, suites, smoking and non-smoking options for most hotels*

### BEIJING

#### LU SONG YUAN HOTEL 3\*



**Description:**

- Chinese courtyard hotel that used to belong to a Prince. Long time favourite of travellers wanting to get the real feeling of being in China's imperial capital.

**Reviews:**

- *"Good location in an interesting traditional neighborhood so you really feel you are in China. Beautiful building all in traditional Chinese style - loved it"*

### PINGYAO

#### HONGSHANYI HOTEL 4\* (Chinese Traditional Style)



**Description:**

- Wonderful Ming Dynasty style hotel well located within the walls of the old city offering a traditional Chinese experience which is what Pingyao is all about.

**Reviews:**

- *"Good location within the walled city. Excellent staff - very helpful. English somewhat limited, but they were always willing to help."*

### XIAN

#### BELL TOWER HOTEL 4\*



**Description:**

- Old favourite in Xian and continues to be a popular choice for it's unbeatable location between the Drum and Bell Towers and decent all round standards.

**Reviews:**

- *"It is the old adage of location, location, location - just brilliant and we loved being close by to the old Muslim district which came alive at night."*

### SHANGHAI

#### ASTOR HOUSE HOTEL 3\*



**Description:**

- A famous Shanghai Bund hotel from the colonial era and as popular today as it was then. One of the few options of character in this modern metropolis.

**Reviews:**

- *"The location is great, 3 minute walk from the Bund. Very charming and perfect if you like historic but comfortable hotels. Rooms very large and clean."*

**Note that hotels in China have a check-in time of 12 noon. If you arrive earlier than this hotels will usually permit early check-in if they have a room available but this cannot be guaranteed.**



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## ✓ SIX GOOD REASONS TO TRAVEL WITH US

### 1 A very personalised approach to service

We offer a personal and friendly service based on excellent knowledge and passion for the destinations offer. We listen to what you want and only include in your trip what we believe is right for you. We do not work on commission, and our advice is impartial. Because of all these factors we receive a very high client satisfaction rating as can be seen in the testimonials section of our website.

### 2 Complete flexibility in tailoring your itinerary

All our trips are private tours - we do not operate group tours - and this allows us to tailor any of our itineraries to your exact requirements and your style of travel. Our trips can start on any date (subject to some seasonal options such as the Yangtze river cruises) and we can add and remove nights and destinations and change hotels to fit the amount of time and the budget you have.

### 3 24 hour emergency back up whilst in China

We provide you with both landline and mobile 24 hour emergency contact names and numbers for each destination in China. You will also have a contact details of our China operations manager based in Beijing. If you have any issues at all in China you can call these numbers at any time and our colleagues will be there to assist.

### 4 Our exclusive Trip Guidebook

Our exclusive Trip Guidebook is personalised to your trip. This 100+ page document covers all the destinations you visit as well as sections on language, food, history and practical information about China and your trip including 24 hour emergency numbers.



*Click here to learn more*

### 5 All our trips come with 100% financial protection

All payments to us come with 100% financial protection against the unlikely event of our financial failure giving you peace of mind however far in advance you choose to book your holiday with us. Our membership of **ABTA & ATOL** ensure the highest standards of customer care.



### 6 Specialized China experience we want to share with you

Our travel consultants have all either lived, traveled or worked in China and have an enduring passion for China that they are keen to share with you. We want you to have the best possible China experience so that by the end of your trip you will wholeheartedly agree with us that China is one of the world's most amazing and varied destinations.

## Giving Back - Our China Bookshop & support for the China Reading Project

On our website you will find our Online China Bookstore powered by Amazon. All proceeds from the sales of books go to the China Reading Project. Click [here](#) for more details.



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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Overnight Trains ?

Overnight trains are a highlight of travel in China for many. Tickets and prices quoted are based on 4 berth soft sleeper cabins. **We can purchase additional berths to give sole occupancy of a cabin if you wish.** Please just ask us to include those in a quote.

Our trips do not automatically include international flights. Some prefer to book these themselves whilst to give a flight quote we need to know which airport you would like to depart from. **Please just ask us for an international flight quote if you would like us to book for you.**

### International Flights ?

### Transfers & Guides ?

**Most transfers are made by private car with an English speaking guide** and a driver (who will not speak much English). On rare occasions some transfers may need to use a taxi instead of a private car when it is not possible for a car to get close enough to the pick up point.

**Usual hotel check-in times in China are between 12 noon and 2pm.** If you arrive earlier a room will be made available if the hotel has one free but at peak times this may not be possible. The only way to guarantee early check-in is to pre-book the previous night.

### Hotel Check-ins ?

### Tailoring Itineraries ?

**All our itineraries can be tailored to meet your requirements.** Please do not hesitate to make any requests during the pre-booking process. Common requests are additional nights, tours, destinations, catering to special interests and upgrading hotels.

**We do NOT offer group tours\*.** All our trips are designed just for you and so offer maximum flexibility.

*\*The exception to this are some river trips such as the Yangtze and Li River which are only available as group excursions.*

### Group Tours ?

### Accommodation ?

All hotels we use are carefully selected with location, quality, value and consistency being the main criteria. Most hotels include buffet western breakfasts. We can book single, double or twin rooms and many hotels also have suites and other room upgrades possible.

It is advisable to book your trip as far ahead as you can as the best hotels and cheapest international air fares fill up long in advance. Making a booking with us is an easy process and we are here to help every step of the way!

### Booking Your Trip ?

**Any questions ? Please just click here to e-mail to [info@thechinatravelcompany.com](mailto:info@thechinatravelcompany.com)**



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## BOOKING YOUR CHINA HOLIDAY

### ► When to Book

We recommend booking at least 2 months in advance of your trip although it is common for people to book 6 or more months in advance especially to take advantage of cheaper international airfares. Any booking made inside of 2 months before the trip start date runs the risk of availability issues.

### ► Prices & Booking Terms & Conditions

Our full Booking Terms and Conditions can be found on our website by [clicking here](#) or we can send them to you on request. All our prices are quoted in UK Pounds Sterling.

### ► Cancellation

If you wish to cancel your trip, we require written notice from you and will apply cancellation charges using the date we receive this notice and in accordance with our booking terms and conditions.

### ► Travel Insurance

As a booking condition we require all clients taking our trips to have their own insurance against all possible medical costs whilst abroad.

### ► Descriptions

Every effort is made to provide accurate descriptions of our services. However, occasionally, certain items are unavailable or have to be changed in which case we will provide alternative arrangements to the same or a higher standard.

### ► Children

With careful choosing of options China is a rewarding place to bring children. We can advise in more detail what we feel would be the most suitable options depending on your circumstances. For pricing purposes anyone 12 years and over at the time of travel is considered an adult in China. We offer a range of specific family and child orientated tours. [Click here](#) for more details.

### ► International Flights

None of our trips include international flights. However, we can arrange these flights for you so please just ask us for a quote.

### ► Medical advice & vaccinations

There are no specific vaccinations required to enter China but you are advised to contact your local travel clinic or doctor as there may be requirements in certain cases that are dependent on your own medical history. Note that China is a country of vast geographic and climatic extremes so advice for some parts of China may not be relevant to all areas. Contact us for more information but ultimately your doctor needs to give final advice.

### ► Fitness

Our trips are designed for anybody with a reasonable standard of fitness. Where we believe there are special requirements this is mentioned in the trip info. We can cater for clients with disabilities and adapt trips accordingly.

### ► Payment

On acceptance of your booking form we will send you an invoice detailing the price and payment schedule for your trip. We require a non-refundable £250 per person deposit payment as confirmation you wish to proceed with the trip. The balance payment for the trip is due two months before the trip's start date.

We accept credit card payment subject to a 2% surcharge as well as bank transfers and UK £ Sterling Cheques.

### The Chinese Visa

Everyone requires a Chinese visa but the good news is that they are now relatively easy to obtain.

You need one fully blank page and a minimum of 6 months validity of your passport at the time of entry to China.

Allow plenty of time to obtain the visas in order to avoid last minute panics and embassy express fees!

According to your circumstances we can advise on obtaining the Chinese visa.

*\*Note that visa policies can change without warning and it is always your responsibility to make sure you have the right visas.*



We are members of the Association of British Travel Agents. ABTA has strict membership requirements and we are required to adhere to the associations high standards. Our ABTA number is Y1699. [Click here to verify our ABTA membership.](#)

**Financial Protection.** We hold an ATOL license so booking with us gives you **100% financial protection.** Our ATOL number is 10287. [Click here to verify our ATOL membership.](#)



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**CHINA**  
Tailor Made

## Client Feedback

“ The best holiday we have ever had in our lives. It is definitely the way to see and learn about the proper China. A careful balance of seeing the people and sights and local but comfortable hotels with good facilities and we would recommend you to anyone - a beautifully thought out tour. ”

**Hugh & Alison Durell: China Tailor Made - April 2011**

“ The best pre-trip support we had on our 3 month trip around the world, you listened to what we asked for and provided a tour tailored to our every request. Not only would we recommend you, we will use you again. ”

**Vicky & Simon White: China Tailor Made - March 2011**

“ The guides were outstanding. They were flexible, provided a friendly and very professional service and really brought our trip to life. ”

**Cathy & Owen Finnie: China Tailor Made - March 2011**

“ We enjoyed our trip from the moment we started to plan it till the very end. During the whole trip we didn't have a chance to complain even once. It was a real tailor made trip and we felt that we were treated this way. ”

**Bella & Andre Lisovitskaya: China Tailor Made - April 2011**

[Click here to read more client reviews & testimonials](#)

*We look forward to hearing about your trip!*



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