

Code JGCBC **Beyond the City Walls**

Duration: 12 Days **Route:** Beijing to Shanghai **Style:** Adventure Tours



China

From Beijing to Shanghai, this tour takes you over the road less travelled into mainland China to marvel at the Terracotta Warriors, see the stunning limestone peaks of Guilin, the incredible Devil's Backbone as well as delving into the local culture in Yangshuo. Not forgetting of course the timeless highlights, such as Beijing's Forbidden City, Shanghai's futuristic skyline and the eternal wonder that is the Great Wall of China.

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Tour Dossier Introduction

Dossier Last Updated: 10-04-2013

Tour Code: JGCBC

Duration: 11 nights / 12 days

Joining City: Beijing

Departure City: Shanghai

Nearest Joining International Airport: Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK)

Nearest Departing International Airport: Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport (SHA)

This dossier is designed for this particular tour and should be read in conjunction with the country dossier(s), regional pre-departure booklet and optional excursions guides relevant to your itinerary. You will also receive a joining letter in advance of your journey with further information, while last minute updates may be posted in the Latest News section of our website.

Tour Documents

 PDF Document  Web Page

-  [Packing List for Adventure Tours](#)
-  [Extra Excursions in China](#)
-  [Joining Letter for Tours in Beijing](#)
-  [Optional Excursions Guide for Tours to Asia and Russia](#)
-  [Asia Pre Departure Booklet](#)
-  [China Dossier](#)

Inclusions

Accommodation: 10 night(s) in hotel(s), hostel(s) & guesthouse(s), 1 night(s) on overnight train(s)

Meals: 11 breakfast(s), 2 lunch(es), 2 dinner(s)

Transport: Arrival Transfer, train, taxi, on foot, 2 flight(s)

Age: 18-60, max. 70 (recommended)

Group: Average 8-12

Staff: local guides

Exclusions

- Tipping kitty of USD\$35-85 payable at the start of your tour and administered by your tour leader.
- Departure transfer and pre and post tour accommodation
- Entrance fees to some national parks and sites.
- International flights and departure taxes
- Domestic flight taxes if applicable
- Visas, travel insurance, personal items and single rooms.
- Spending money – budget for meals, snacks, drinks, limited souvenirs, laundry, tips and any extras
- Optional excursions - Please see our optional excursions guide on the dossier page for a comprehensive list of optional activities and excursions available on this tour.

Highlights

- **Great Wall of China**
- Terracotta Warriors
- Yangshou & Longsheng

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 to 3 - Arrive Beijing

The first day of your tour is simply an arrival day with no pre-organised activities. In order to allow time to relax and see some of the sights you may wish to add pre tour accommodation. On arrival please ask at the reception for information on when the pre departure meeting will be held.

For centuries the political heart of this hugely historic country, Beijing is an ever changing city and a looking glass between old and new, with an abundance of activities to enjoy.

Beginning the day with a pre-departure meeting, we soon head off on a guided sightseeing tour of the nation's capital, host of the 2008 Olympics. For 800 years Beijing has served as capital for several powerful dynasties. We visit iconic Tiananmen Square, home to the mausoleum of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the founder of Communist China and also the infamous scene of a student uprising and subsequent killings in 1989. On one side of Tiananmen Square is possibly Beijing's most famous sight, the Gate of Heavenly Peace. The gate is the main entry to the Forbidden City. A vision in grandeur, this 'city within a city' was once forbidden to anyone not on imperial business until as late as 1911. It is reported to house 9,999 rooms over 720,00 square metres. Later that day we take rickshaws through the maze of Hutongs that are made up of a lattice work of back alleys, courtyards and compact house, which provide a wonderful insight into a timeless way of life amongst an exploding city. In the evening we will be treated to a meal of traditional Peking duck and the opportunity to further get to know the rest of the group.

The following morning we head out of town for the not-to-be-missed highlight that is a visit to the Great Wall. We travel to a place called Badaling, where we will walk along sections of the wall. No amount of photos can do justice to the sheer scale of the wall and the enormity of the undertaking in constructing it as a line of defence. The whole wall stretches for a seemingly-endless 7,000 kilometres over mountains and through desert all the way to the north-eastern corner of China. Now a UNESCO-protected site, the wall's construction spanned 2,000 years and some 20 different dynasties. The vigorous walk up and along the wall provides a rewarding vista of the rest of the wall winding its way past the horizon and of the surrounding countryside. On the way back to Beijing we will check out a cloisonné workshop, where we'll see practitioners of this ancient craft creating beautifully enamelled metal pieces. In the evening we enjoy an included Chinese acrobatic performance, complete with swinging ropes, juggling hoops, spinning plates and human pyramids, to mention just a few of the spectacles performed.

Day 4 to 5 - Beijing - Xi'an

Still in Beijing, we begin the day with an optional trip to the myriad of clothing shops that make up the famous Silk Street, where few visitors find themselves leaving empty-handed. We then head to Kunming Lake, the picturesque setting for the Summer Palace. The present buildings only date back to the beginning of the 20th century but the site dates back to the 12th century. The lake is completely man-made and the excavated earth was used to make Longevity Hill, upon which the palace sits. There is much to see at the Summer Palace and the 730-metre covered Long Corridor with hand-painted scenes of Chinese history and legend adorning the walls.

Tonight we will catch an overnight train to Xi'an.

On our first morning in Xi'an we visit one of the greatest archaeological finds of the 20th century: Emperor Qin's Terracotta Warriors. Made up of some 7,000 life-sized soldiers standing in military formation in excavated pits under what can only be described as a great big aircraft hangar. Made of local

clay, no two soldiers' faces are alike, as each is said to be an individual portrait, which does little to make it any less eerie.

Emperor Qin's army of 2,200-year-old soldiers was discovered in 1974 by local farmers digging a well. The reason for the warriors was that emperors were buried with their slaves, but slavery had been abolished by the time of Qin. To compensate, the emperor had the warriors made to protect him in the afterlife. Many of the soldiers are severely dismembered, said to be the result of a peasant revolt after the emperor's death rather than the passage of time. The emperor's tumulus (ancient grave mound) is located about a mile away and, according to folklore, contains untold treasures and so far nothing but a few exploratory digs have been attempted to find out. In the evening you have the option of a Tang Dynasty dinner and a performance of Chang'an music and dance, originally performed for the illustrious emperors.

Day 6 to 8 - Xi'an - Yangshuo - Guilin

We begin the next day with a tour of the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, the enduring symbol of Xi'an, which was first built in 652 to hold sutras collected in India by a wandering monk. We then go for a leisurely bike ride on Xi'an's medieval city wall and visit to the Muslim Quarter. The spectacular wall and moat is 15 kilometres in perimeter and dates back to the Ming Dynasty. Later in the day there is an optional excursion to see pandas at the Shaanxi Rare Wildlife Rescue and Breeding Centre, a two-hour drive from Xi'an. The centre offers care to a small number of injured giant pandas from the around the region.

After an early dinner, we catch an evening flight to Guilin. Once in Guilin we drive for roughly an hour and a half to Yangshuo.

It is in Yangshuo that we take in some of interior China's most rugged and spectacular scenery. Here you will have several options to indulge your spirit of adventure. You have the chance to go swimming and tubing down the Yu Long river or traipse over the many mountain trails by foot or on bicycle. You will want to stop and witness the local fishermen as they use their trained cormorants to aid their catch in this age-old tradition. Those looking for a less active adventure might want to lie back on a bamboo raft and float along at a leisurely pace. There are also a number of large caves in the region for your exploration. The nearby village of Xandu is well worth a visit, where locals maintain a traditional way of life and extend visitors genuine hospitality. Back in town you will have plenty of shopping opportunities on West Street, which has retained its traditional styles and is laden with quirky shops. West Street is a regional melting pot, where the local ethnic minority Hui, Zhuang, Yao people (each with their own distinct appearance, traditions and culture) mix with Han Chinese, foreign travellers and a number of foreign residents who have made Yangshuo home. On the evening of our second day in Yangshuo we return to Guilin for the night.

Day 9 to 11 - Guilin - Shanghai

The day begins with a drive to Longsheng where we visit the spectacular Dragon's Backbone. Beginning at the base of Mt Longji, terrace after terrace of rich-green rice fields layer the slopes all the way to the summit. After walking up to the summit we reach the creatively-named 'Seven Stars Accompanying Moon' lookout. From here there is a stunning view back down on the verdant layer cake you just climbed. In the evening we catch a flight to Shanghai.

The name Shanghai is synonymous with wonder and oriental decadence. Prior to 1949, the city was a magnet for fortune seekers, idle foreigners, explorers and the dispossessed. The reason for this laissez faire attitude to all things commercial and social was to do with the notion of extraterritoriality, which meant foreign nationals were not bound by any local laws but by the laws and norms established by their respective consuls. Basically anything went. Until 1949, foreigners dominated commerce, banking and industry, amassing huge fortunes and transforming the landscape of foreign concessionary sections of Shanghai. This all came to a spectacular end in 1949, when the People's Liberation Army under Mao took power. One legacy of these heady times is Shanghai's Bund, where several colonial buildings line the promenade.

For the next two days you are free to explore Shanghai at your own pace. You might want to consider taking in the stunning Oriental Pearl TV tower, the Jade Buddha Temple, the charming Yuyuan Gardens as well as the Bund and Old City. In the evening a cruise on the Huangpu River is a popular way to enjoy your last evening in this fabulous city.

Day 12 to 12 - Depart Shanghai

Your adventure of a lifetime comes to an end today, please confirm with the reception the check out time. If you have a late flight or have lengthened your stay by adding post tour accommodation you will have more time to explore the sights.

The itinerary listed above is to be used as a guide only. Occasionally we may need to update this document and it may be different to the information printed in our current brochure. Tour leaders may need to make adjustments due to unforeseen circumstances during the tour. It is very important that you visit our website and review a copy of this dossier as close as possible to your departure date in case of changes that may affect your plans. Any last minute changes may also be posted in the latest news section of our website.

Group Size

This tour has a maximum of 28 passengers per Tour Leader.

Other Services – pre & post tour accommodation and airport transfers

Very little time is spent in each of the starting and finishing cities and you will need to allow a few days at the beginning or end of your tour if you want to explore them further. Airport transfers in joining and departing cities are not included in the tour price but can be booked through Tucan Travel at an additional cost. For details about how to book pre & post accommodation please refer to the Extra Services information page in our website. Price information can be found on the price page of each tour. If you would prefer to make your own way to and from your hotel, you can find further details on the joining letter for this tour.

Single Supplements

This package may offer single supplements that enable clients to stay in a single room. This single supplement must be paid prior to departure and applies to the whole tour for nights where single rooms can be made available. If there is no offer for a single room this is usually because you will be on an overnight train or bus, or camping.

In the day-by-day grid below a? will indicate in which destinations single rooms are available to those who have purchased a single supplement.

Day by Day Itinerary

Day	Activity	Country	Meals
Day 1	Beijing	China	
Day 2	Beijing		BD
Day 3	Beijing		BL
Day 4	Overnight train to Xi'an		B
Day 5	Xi'an		BL
Day 6	Yangshuo		BD
Day 7	Yangshuo		B
Day 8	Guilin		B
Day 9	Shanghai		B
Day 10	Shanghai		B
Day 11	Shanghai		B
Day 12	Shanghai		B

(B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner included)

Please note the day to day itinerary above is given as a GUIDELINE ONLY.

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