

Xi'an Introduction

Xian, the eternal city, records the great changes of the Chinese nation just like a living history book. Called Chang'an in ancient times, Xian is one of the birthplaces of the ancient civilization in the Yellow River Basin area of the country. During Xian's 3,100 year development, 13 dynasties such as Western Zhou (11th century BC - 771 BC), Qin (221 BC - 206 BC), Western Han (206 BC - 24 AD) and Tang (618 - 907) placed their capitals here. So far, Xian enjoys equal fame with Athens, Cairo, and Rome as one of the four major ancient civilization capitals.

Xian is the capital of Shaanxi province, located in the southern part of the Guanzhong Plain. With the Qinling Mountains to the south and the Weihe River to the north, it is in a favorable geographical location surrounded by water and hills. It has a semi-moist monsoon climate and there is a clear distinction between the four seasons. Except the colder winter, any season is relatively suitable for traveling.

The cultural and historical significance of Xian, as well as the abundant relics and sites, help Shaanxi enjoy the laudatory title of 'Natural History Museum'. The Museum of Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses is praised as 'the eighth major miracle of the world', Mausoleum of Emperor Qin Shi Huang is listed on the World Heritage List, and the City Wall of the Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1644) is the largest and most intact Ming Dynasty castle in the world. In the city, there is the 3,000 years old Banpo Village Remains from the Neolithic Age (approximately from 8000 BC to 5000 BC), and the Forest of Stone Steles that holds 3,000 stone steles of different periods from the Han Dynasty to the Qing Dynasty. Around Xian, the Famen Temple enjoys the reputation of being the 'forefather of pagodas and temples in Central Shaanxi,' because it holds the finger bones of Sakyamuni -- the founder of Buddhism. The natural landscape around Xian is also marvelous Mt. Huashan one of the five best-known mountains in China, is famous for its breath-taking cliffs and its unique characteristics.

Shanghai Introduction

In China there is a saying that 'Xian has witnessed 2,000 years of history, Beijing has witnessed 1,000 years of history while Shanghai bears witness to the last 100 years.' For anyone who is interested in the history of modern China, Shanghai serves as an ideal starting point. Regarded as the 'Oriental Pearl', the city has a unique and important place in modern China and its rich heritage is worthy of exploration.

Yesterday's Shanghai

Shanghai, Hu for short, is situated on the estuary of Yangtze River, a position that led to frequently unwelcome intervention from foreigners seeking to impose their exports on the Empire during the nineteenth century. However, in the 1920s and the 1930s, Shanghai became an important international trade center. With its advantaged natural conditions, rapid development and splendid oriental culture, Shanghai was famed as the 'Oriental Paris' and attracted many entrepreneurs and established businesses. In addition, many foreign scientists, literary figures and

artists chose to live, give lectures or just experience the Chinese charm in Shanghai. They included Albert Einstein, Bertrand Russell, Bernard Shaw and the poet Rabindranath Tagore, to name but a few. However, by the middle of the 20th century, the glory of the city was in decline.

Today's Shanghai

Having suffered the ravages of war, turmoil and economic crisis, the fortunes of Shanghai have been revived thanks to the great Reform and Opening Up since 1978. A favorable national policy, efficient administration, regular market mechanism and a large number of talents have come together to enhance by leaps and bounds the city's economic development in recent years.

Now over 300 of the world's top 500 enterprises have opened branches in Shanghai, while many have their research and development centers or headquarters there. Pudong New Area has developed in just five years, and Lujiazui in Pudong has become one of the foremost world class financial and trade zones in Asia. Skyscrapers such as Jinmao Tower and Shanghai Global Financial Center dominate the skyline, while landmark constructions like Oriental Pearl TV Tower, Pudong International Airport and Shanghai International Convention Center offer the finest and best of modern facilities

Suzhou Introduction

Suzhou is located in the center of the Yangtze Delta, in the south of Jiangsu Province, with Shanghai to the east, Zhejiang Province to the south, Wuxi City to the west and the Yangtze River to the north. Since 42% area of the city is covered by water, including a vast number of ponds and streams, Suzhou is praised as the 'Oriental Venice'. Taihu Lake, four fifths of which is in the territory of Suzhou, is one of the four largest fresh lakes in China, with East Hill, West Hill and other scenic spots in its vicinity. The city is cut by the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal from north to south. Together with its mild climate, making it an available destination all year round, fertile landscape and abundance of produce, it is no wonder that Suzhou is called 'paradise on earth'.

Built in 514 BC, Suzhou is an ancient city with a 2500 years' history. The unique characteristics of the past are still retained in present-day Suzhou. The double-chessboard layout of Suzhou, with 'the streets and rivers go side by side while the water and land routes run in parallel', are preserved basically intact. Strolling the streets, you can feel the unique lingering charm of this landscape left by its long history.

As the saying goes - 'Gardens to the south of Yangtze River are the best in the world, and Suzhou gardens are the best among them'. These gardens attain their high reputation not only for their vast numbers, but also for their charming natural beauty and harmonious construction. At present more than 60 gardens are kept intact in Suzhou, and a series of them have been listed in the World Heritage List, including

the Humble Administrator's Garden, the Lingering Garden, the Garden of Master of Nets and the Mountain Villa with Embracing Beauty.

Rating alongside these classical gardens are the exquisite water townships in Suzhou. Zhouzhuang, Mudu, Tongli Town and so on should not be missed by any visitor. In any water township of Suzhou, a number of Ming and Qing dynasty preserved buildings can be found. The natural sights and human landscape enhance each other's beauty, which is a great attraction to visitors who linger there.

Guilin Introduction

Just as Xian is a must when you travel to China, so is Guilin. The stunning landscape in which the city is situated has a kind of magic that is all its own. The strangely shaped hills, or karsts, with the verdant vegetation ranging from bamboo to conifers together with wonderful caves make Guilin such an attraction for tourists.

Located in the northeast of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Guilin is considered to be the pearl of China's thriving tourist industry on account of the natural beauty and historic treasures. Covering an area of about 27,800 square kilometers (10,734 square miles), the city is rather compact when compared with other leading cities in the country. However, situated within this area one may find green mountains, crystal clear waters, unique caves and beautiful stones. Major attractions include Elephant Trunk Hill, Li River, Reed Flute Cave and Seven-Star Park that boasts a Stone Museum where amazing geological finds are displayed. Believe that each of these places and many other attractions will leave you the lasting memories.

Guilin is also an important cultural city with a history encompassing more than 2000 years. The city has been the political, economic and cultural center of Guangxi since the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127). Solitary Beauty Peak is considered to be the oldest place of interest and has been so since the far off days of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279). The prosperity enjoyed by the city during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) is epitomized by the Tomb of Prince Jingjiang.

The many ethnic minorities represented here that include the Zhuang, Yao, Hui, Miao, Mulao, Maonan and Dong enrich the cultural life of the city. Each minority has its own unique customs and festivals and this means that they are much more abundant here than in many other places elsewhere in China. Travelers can enjoy these pageants at the Li River Folk Customs Center.

Guilin is a well-developed tourist center with convenient transportation, communication and accommodation facilities. You can enter Guilin by air, by train or by bus and get around on free buses. From luxury hotels to hostels, from splendid restaurants to local snacks, you are sure to find that your needs will be met beyond your expectations

Canton Introduction

Guangzhou, the South Gate of China, is a prosperous metropolis full of vigor.

Guangzhou is the capital city of Guangdong, and the center of its political, economic, scientific, educational and cultural life. Sui (Ears of Rice) is short for Guangzhou and the City of Ram (Yang Cheng) is also an alias of Guangzhou. The kapok is the city flower and the kapok tree is the city tree of Guangzhou.

Guangzhou is located in the middle south of Guangdong Province, north of the Pearl River Delta. It lies close to the South China Sea, Hong Kong, and Macau. Zhujiang (The Pearl River), the third largest river of China, runs through Guangzhou and is navigable to the South China Sea. Situated in such an excellent geographical region, Guangzhou is called China's South Gate.

Covering an area of 7434.4 square kilometers (2870 square miles), Guangzhou is home to more than 11 million people, including a 3.7 million transitory population. With the opening of China to the outside world, a large number of people from other regions of China swarmed into Guangzhou, one of the first 'open' cities in China. This has accelerated its economic development.

Guangzhou is a famous historical city. In ancient days, Guangzhou was the capital city for three Chinese dynasties: the Nan Yue (South Yue), the Nan Han (South Han) and the Nanming (South Ming). Thus it was put in the list of the 24 most famous historical cultural cities and became a tourist destination. You can not understand most Chinese cities deeply until you know their history. This is true of Guangzhou. Many historic sights: the Western Han Nanyue King's Tomb Museum, the Zhenhai Tower and the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall tell us the 2,000-year history of Guangzhou.

9 Days/8 Nights Beijing/Xian/Shanghai/Guilin/Canton/Hongkong

Day 1: Beijing-Xian

Fly to Xian- Great Mosque-Big Wild Goose Pagoda

Our guide will meet you at the lobby of Crown Plaza Hotel Beijing Wuzhou. Transfer to airport and take flight to Xian. Upon arrival, our local guide will meet you at the airport. Visit Great Mosque, Big Wild Goose Pagoda and City Wall. Overnight at the hotel. L+D

Great Mosque The Great Mosque in Xian is one of the oldest, largest and best-preserved Islamic mosques in China and its location is northwest of the Drum Tower (Gu Lou) on Huajue Lane

Big Wild Goose Pagoda It is located in the southern suburb of Xian City, about 4 kilometers (2.49 miles) from the downtown of the city.

Day 2: Xian-Shanghai

Museum of Qin Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses-City Wall-Shaanxi History Museum-Fly to Shanghai

Have breakfast at the hotel, visit Museum of Qin Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses, City Wall and Shaanxi History Museum. Transfer to airport and take flight to Shanghai. Upon arrival, be met and transferred to hotel. B+L+D

Museum of Qin Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses the Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses are the most significant archeological excavations of the 20th century.

City Wall After the establishment of the Ming dynasty, Zhu Yuanzhang followed his advice and began to enlarge the wall built initially during the old Tang dynasty (618 -907), creating the modern Xian City Wall.

Shaanxi History Museum The museum occupies an area of 65,000 square meters (16 acres). It is a grand complex of buildings imitating the architecture style of the Tang Dynasty (618-907)

Day 3: Shanghai

Yuyuan Garden- Jade Buddha Temple-The Bund- Oriental Pearl TV Tower- Shanghai Museum

Have breakfast at the hotel, visit Yuyuan Garden, Jade Buddha Temple, The Bund, Oriental Pearl TV Tower and Shanghai Museum. B+L+D

Yuyuan Garden is the largest of Shanghai's ancient gardens with architectural styles of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. The garden has six areas, each with its own style.

Jade Buddha Temple is one of the most famous Buddhist temples to be found in Shanghai. The White Jade Buddhas were brought here from Burma in the nineteenth century.

The Bund also called the Zhongshan Road, is a famous waterfront and regarded as the symbol of Shanghai for hundreds of years. It starts from the Baidu Bridge, which is at the connecting point of the Huangpu River and the Suzhou Creek, to the East Jinling Road and winds a 1500 meters (less than one mile) length.

Oriental Pearl TV Tower is the modern symbol of Shanghai City. Standing beside the Huangpu River and the Bund with a height of 468 meters (1536 feet), it is the tallest TV tower in Asia and the third highest in the world.

Shanghai Museum located in the center of Shanghai in People's Square, Shanghai Museum is a large museum of ancient Chinese art. The museum style and presentation surround visitors with artifacts demonstrating ancient wisdom and philosophy.



Day 4: Shanghai-Suzhou

Tongli Water Village- Humble Administrator's Garden- Garden of the Master of the Nets

Have breakfast at the hotel, drive to Suzhou. Visit the Tongli on the way. Upon arrival, visit the Humble Administrator's Garden and the Garden of the Master of the Nets.

Overnight at the hotel. B+L+D

Tongli Water Village originally named Fushi, Tongli is an age-old but very well preserved water township with a history of more than 1,000 years. Located on the eastern shore of Taihu Lake, just 18 kilometers (11 miles) from Suzhou City, Tongli town is 63 square kilometers (24 square miles) in area and has a population of over 33 thousand.

Humble Administrator's Garden It was initially a private garden of a former government servant named Wang Xianchen. It was said he intended to build a garden after retired and just do some gardening work like planting trees and vegetables there, which was said to be the life of a humble man by him.

Garden of the Master of the Nets It is the smallest of the Suzhou residential gardens, yet it is the most impressive because of its use of space which creates the illusion of an area that is much greater than its actual size.



Day 5: Suzhou/Shanghai/Guilin

Return to Shanghai-Fly to Guilin-Reed Flute Cave (Lu Di Yan)

Have breakfast at the hotel, return to Shanghai. Transfer to airport and take flight to Guilin. Upon arrival, be met by our local guide. Visit Reed Flute Cave and overnight at the hotel. B+L+D

Reed Flute Cave (Lu Di Yan) With its location five kilometers northwest of the downtown of Guilin, the Reed Flute Cave is a brilliant cave marked on almost all travel itineraries. The cave got its name from the verdant reeds growing outside it, with which people make flutes.

Day 6: Guilin/Yangshuo

Li River Cruises

Have breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the pier and start your Li River Cruises. Arrive at Yangshuo in the afternoon. Transfer to the hotel and overnight at the hotel. B+L+D

Li River Cruises the Li River cruise from Guilin to Yangshuo is the centerpiece of any trip to northeastern Guangxi Province. Gorgeous Karst peaks give you surprises at each bend of the limpid river under the blue sky. Water buffalo patrol the fields, peasants reap rice paddies, school kids and fisherman float by on bamboo rafts. With its breathtaking scenery and taste of a life far removed from the concrete metropolis, the scenery along the Li River become one of China's top tourist destinations.

Day 7: Yangshuo/Guilin/Canton

Fly to Canton-Western Han Nanyue King's Tomb Museum-Ancestral Temple of the Chen Family-Qingping Market

Have breakfast at the hotel, return to Guilin. Transfer to airport and take flight to Canton. Upon arrival, be met by our local guide. Visit Western Han Nanyue King's Tomb Museum. Overnight at the hotel. B+L+D

Western Han Nanyue King's Tomb Museum The relics exhibited in the Western Han Nanyue King Tomb Museum Located on Jiefang Bei Road, Guangzhou, the Western Han Dynasty Nanyue King Mausoleum Museum is the oldest and largest Han tomb with the most funerary objects in Lingnan (South of the Nanling Mountain) Area

Ancestral Temple of the Chen Family is famous for its exquisite craftsmanship including wood, stone, and brick carving, and metalwork using copper and iron. There are also wonderful murals.



Day 8: Canton/Hongkong

Have breakfast at the hotel, transfer to pier and take boat to Hongkong. Arrive at Hongkong, be met by our local guide. Do a city tours in Hongkong. Overnight at the hotel. B+L+D

Day 9: Hongkong/Next destination

Have breakfast at the hotel, free at leisure in the morning. Transfer to airport and take flight to next destination. Service ends B

Price include:

1. Coach/Van for Transfers & sightseeing
2. Excellent English Speaking tour guide.
3. Entrance fees as mentioned in the program
4. Eight nights accommodation (twin share bases)in 4 star hotel.
5. Meals as listed in the program; B=breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner
6. Economic flight with tax of airport:
 - * Beijing/Xian MU2106 (07:45-09:35)
 - * Xian/Shanghai FM9202(16:45-18:35) or MU2157 (17:15-1915)
 - * Shanghai/Guilin MU5379(07:40-09:50) or FM9335(08:10-10:25)
 - * Guilin/Canton CZ3235 (08:05-08:55) or CZ3231 (08:00-08:50)
7. Ticket of Boat from Canton to Hongkong

Remarks: The flight schedule is only for reference