

11-Day Beijing - Xi'an - Guilin - Shanghai

Highlights

- Your knowledgeable local English-speaking private guide will meet you in the hotel lobby;
- An air-conditioned vehicle with a licensed driver will transport you throughout the tour;
- We will arrange pre-booked tickets for the Forbidden City, helping you save time;
- The guide recommends trying local snacks in each city, including traditional specialties from Beijing, Xi'an, Chengdu, Zhangjiajie, and Shanghai, for an authentic taste of regional flavors;
- You have the option to select from traditional Chinese performances.

Itinerary Quick Look

We're happy to tailor this 11-day private tour to match your interests. **Please note that the time frame is for reference only and may vary due to traffic conditions on the day of your tour.**

Day 1 Arrival in Beijing

Airport Pickup: You will be greeted at the airport and transferred to your hotel in downtown Beijing to check in and rest.

Hotel Recommendation: Stay at a premium hotel in the city center, close to major attractions for convenient sightseeing.

Free Time: In the evening, take a leisurely walk around Wangfujing Pedestrian Street, enjoying the city's night view or sampling Beijing's famous snacks.

Day 2 Tiananmen Square – Forbidden City – Hutong Tour

Tiananmen Square (Morning): Start your day with a visit to Tiananmen Square, the world's largest city square and a symbol of Beijing.

Forbidden City (Midday): Enter the Forbidden City to explore the grandeur of China's imperial palace from the Ming and Qing dynasties. A guided tour is recommended, and it takes about 3 hours to visit.

Peking Duck Lunch: Enjoy an authentic Peking Duck lunch at renowned restaurants like Qianjude or Da Dong.

Hutong Tour (Afternoon): In the afternoon, explore Beijing's traditional Hutongs, where you can take a rickshaw ride to experience the local way of life and see the traditional courtyard houses.

Day 3: Summer Palace – Gubei Water Town – Simatai Great Wall Night Tour

Summer Palace (Morning): Start your day at the Summer Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most famous imperial gardens in Beijing. Explore its stunning landscapes, including Kunming Lake, Longevity Hill, and the Long Corridor, while learning about Chinese imperial history and traditional garden design.

Gubei Water Town (Afternoon): After lunch (at your own expense), travel to Gubei Water Town, a picturesque water town near the Great Wall that features traditional northern Chinese architecture and charming canals. Enjoy a leisurely stroll through the town, taking in its quaint shops, cafes, and scenic bridges, perfect for capturing beautiful photos.

Simatai Great Wall Night Tour (Evening): In the evening, embark on a night tour of the Simatai Great Wall, one of the most breathtaking sections of

the Great Wall of China. Experience stunning views of the wall illuminated at night. Take a cable car up, walk along the ancient fortifications, and soak in the serene atmosphere under the stars.

Day 4 Temple of Heaven – High-Speed Train to Xi'an

Temple of Heaven (Morning): After breakfast, visit the Temple of Heaven, where emperors prayed for good harvests. Famous for its architectural and historical significance, the visit takes around 2 hours.

Lunch: Enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Beijing West Railway Station: Around 12:55 PM, you will be transferred to the railway station to take a high-speed train to Xi'an (approximately 5.5 hours).

Arrival in Xi'an: Upon arrival around 17:08 PM, you'll be picked up and transferred to your hotel in downtown Xi'an.

Optional: Enjoy the Legend of the Camel Bells, a performance in the evening.

Day 5 Terracotta Army – Xi'an Ancient City Wall – Great Mosque – Muslim Quarter

Terracotta Army Museum (Morning): In the morning, head to Lintong to visit the world-famous Terracotta Army Museum, where you can discover the grandeur of the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang. The tour lasts about 3 hours.

Xi'an Ancient City Wall (Afternoon): Return to the city to explore the well-preserved Ming Dynasty City Wall. You can walk or rent a bike to ride along the wall and enjoy panoramic views of Xi'an.

Great Mosque: Visit the Great Mosque, one of the oldest and most famous Islamic structures in China, combining Chinese and Islamic architectural styles.

Muslim Quarter: In the evening, explore the Muslim Quarter, where you can taste local Muslim street food such as lamb skewers, roujiamo (meat sandwiches), and noodles.

Optional: Tang Dynasty Music and Dance Show in the evening.

Day 6 Big Wild Goose Pagoda – Hanyangling Tomb – Fly to Guilin

Big Wild Goose Pagoda: Visit the iconic landmark to explore Xi'an's history and Buddhist influence.

Hanyangling Tomb: Explore the mausoleum of Emperor Jing of Han and learn more about Han Dynasty history and culture.

Lunch: Enjoy local snacks before heading to the airport for your 18:50 flight to Guilin.

Arrival in Guilin: Upon arrival around 21:00, you will be transferred to your hotel.

Day 7: Guilin Highlights – Elephant Trunk Hill – Li River Cruise to Yangshuo – West Street

Elephant Trunk Hill (Morning): Start your day with a visit to Elephant Trunk Hill, a must-see Guilin tourist attraction. This iconic natural landmark, resembling an elephant drinking from the Li River, offers stunning views of Guilin's karst landscape. Enjoy the peaceful surroundings and capture the beauty of this famous spot, which is an essential part of any Guilin itinerary.

Li River Cruise to Yangshuo (Late Morning to Early Afternoon): Embark on the Li River Cruise, a world-renowned journey through one of the most

picturesque regions of China's karst mountains. Sail through breathtaking scenery with mist-covered peaks, bamboo groves, and charming villages along the Li River. This is often regarded as the best way to experience Guilin's natural beauty.

Yangshuo Arrival (Afternoon): Arrive in the quaint town of Yangshuo, which is surrounded by stunning mountains. Check into your hotel and prepare to explore this popular Yangshuo tourist destination.

West Street (Evening): In the evening, stroll through West Street, Yangshuo's vibrant center filled with cafes, shops, and street performers. Known as the "Foreigner's Street," this pedestrian-only area is a lively spot for Yangshuo nightlife and a mix of local and international culture.

**Day 8: Yangshuo to Longji Rice Terraces – Guilin
Return**

Depart for **Longji Rice Terraces** (Morning): After breakfast, travel to the famous Longji Rice Terraces, also known as the Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces, located in Longsheng County (about 2.5-3 hours away). These terraces are one of the most impressive examples of agricultural terraces in China and a top Guilin day trip destination.

Exploring Longji Terraces (Late Morning to Early Afternoon): Hike through the scenic Longji Rice Terraces, exploring the terraced fields that have been carved into the mountains for over 600 years. Visit traditional Zhuang and Yao minority villages to learn about their unique cultures and agricultural practices. The panoramic views of the rice terraces make it a favorite spot for photography.

Lunch at a Local Restaurant: Enjoy a traditional meal at a local farmhouse restaurant, where you can taste authentic rural Chinese cuisine, including bamboo-cooked rice and wild vegetables.

Return to Guilin (Afternoon): After lunch, head back to Guilin in the afternoon. Relax in your hotel or take the evening to explore Guilin city on your own.

Day 9: Early Morning Visit to Reed Flute Cave – Transfer to Airport – Flight to Shanghai

Reed Flute Cave (Morning): Start early with a visit to Reed Flute Cave, one of Guilin's most famous attractions. Spend 1 hour marveling at the stunning limestone formations, illuminated by vibrant lights. Explore the cave's intricate stalactites, stalagmites, and stone pillars, while learning about its rich history and legends.

Airport Transfer (8:30 AM): After visiting Reed Flute Cave, transfer to Guilin Liangjiang International Airport, which is about a 50-minute drive from the cave.

Flight to Shanghai (11:10 AM): Board your flight to Shanghai, departing at 11:10 AM and arriving at Shanghai Pudong International Airport around 1:40 PM. Upon arrival, you'll be transferred to your hotel. We recommend booking your stay near The Bund or Nanjing Road.

Free Time: After checking in, take the rest of the day to explore at your own pace. You can stroll along the bustling Nanjing Road, one of the world's busiest shopping streets, lined with a variety of stores, restaurants, and cafes.

Day 10 The Bund – Chenghuang Temple – Yu Garden – French Concession (Tianzifang & Xintiandi) – Huangpu River Cruise

The Bund (Morning): Start your day with a refreshing morning walk along The Bund, the famous waterfront area lined with colonial-era buildings and stunning views of the modern

skyscrapers in Pudong, including the Oriental Pearl Tower, Shanghai Tower, and Jin Mao Tower. It's a great spot for photos and to feel the pulse of the city. You can also visit some of the iconic buildings like the Peace Hotel or the Customs House.

Chenghuang Temple (Mid-Morning): Head to Chenghuang Temple (City God Temple), a significant Taoist temple and marketplace in the old city. The temple itself is a great place to explore traditional Chinese architecture and religious culture. The surrounding bazaar offers a variety of snacks, souvenirs, and local crafts.

Yu Garden (Midday): Located next to Chenghuang Temple, Yu Garden is a classical Chinese garden that dates back to the Ming Dynasty. Stroll through its serene landscapes, ancient pavilions, rockeries, and ponds, taking in the peace and beauty of one of Shanghai's most treasured historic sites. A visit

here can offer insight into Chinese garden art and design.

Lunch Recommendation: Have lunch at a nearby restaurant offering traditional Shanghainese cuisine.

Popular dishes include xiaolongbao (soup dumplings), shengjianbao (pan-fried dumplings), and lion's head meatballs.

Tianzifang (Afternoon): In the afternoon, visit Tianzifang, located in the French Concession. This maze of narrow alleyways is home to trendy boutiques, art galleries, cafes, and craft shops. It offers a unique blend of old-world charm and modern creativity, making it a favorite spot for both locals and tourists.

Xintiandi (Late Afternoon): From Tianzifang, head to Xintiandi, a pedestrian street known for its stylish mix of old Shikumen architecture and modern cafes, restaurants, and shopping. It's a popular spot to

relax, people-watch, and grab a coffee or tea. The area also offers historical significance, as it's where the First Congress of the Chinese Communist Party was held in 1921.

Huangpu River Cruise(Evening): In the evening, enjoy a Huangpu River Cruise. This scenic boat ride offers breathtaking views of Shanghai's skyline, with the modern skyscrapers of Pudong on one side and the historic buildings of The Bund on the other. The city is beautifully illuminated at night, creating an unforgettable experience as you glide along the river.

Day 11 Departure from Shanghai

Airport Transfer: Depending on your flight time, you will be transferred to the airport for your departure, concluding your 11-day journey.

Inclusions

- Private English speaking tour guide
- Private licensed driver service
- Forbidden City admission tickets
- A combination ticket for the Gubei Water Town, Simatai Great Wall, and cable car service
- Private Guide Lobby Meetup

Exclusions

- Hotel Charges
- Entry or exit airfare or train tickets

- Meals: Meals are excluded. Your guide will make recommendations for you, if required.

- Li River cruise

- Huangpu River cruise

- Personal expenses

- Overtime service fee

Travel Tips

1. It's recommended to arrive at the hotel lobby on time to help you avoid the crowds and make the most of your day.

2. In the private tour, the guide can meet you in the hotel lobby; however in the case of no private driver service, the private transfer fee is not included,

meaning you will need to take a taxi, and the taxi fare will be at your own expense.

3. Optional performance available upon request; we can assist with booking the tickets, and you will cover the ticket cost.

4. If tickets or tours are not purchased at least 7 days in advance, you will need to buy your own ticket and wait in line.

5. On special occasions of national significance, you may not be able to enter Tiananmen Square; instead, you will have the option to view it from the car.

6. The Forbidden City and Yu Garden is closed to the public on Mondays.

7. Please remember to bring your passport, as it is required for entry into certain attractions.

8. Wear comfortable walking shoes, as some parts of the tour involve moderate walking.

9. It's a good idea to have some local currency (CNY) for small purchases, as not all places accept international credit cards.

10. This trip includes domestic flights. The luggage allowance is 20kg for check in luggage and 7kg for carry on.

11. This trip includes travel on fast trains. There are size restrictions for luggage on fast trains. Your main piece of luggage must not exceed 160cm (sum of height, length and width).