



Classical Highlights of China & Giant Pandas



May 12-25, 2019

Beijing • Xian • Chengdu • Chongqing • Yangzi River • Yichang • Shanghai



Dear Friends of the San Diego Zoo,

We are very excited to offer our popular China Panda tour once again in 2019—an excursion sure to provide the ultimate giant panda experience! Travel with us to Chengdu and enjoy the beautiful Panda Breeding Center, a natural home to approximately 100 giant pandas. Viewing so many adorable pandas, particularly the panda cubs at their “kindergarten,” has been among the most memorable highlights for past travelers. We continue on to the recently opened Dujiangyan Panda Park, which features 50 of its own playful pandas.

At the newly reopened Wolong Panda Preserve, you will enjoy an exclusive experience with the pandas—go behind the scenes and work side by side with panda caretakers to help clean panda enclosures, prepare panda cakes, and feed the pandas. After volunteering, you will even have your photo taken with a panda!

San Diego Zoo Global has a decades-long relationship with the Wolong Breeding Center, conducting essential research to help recover wild populations and remove obstacles to panda reproduction.

This 2019 program also includes visits to Beijing, Xian, and Shanghai, as well as a 3-day cruise on the Yangzi River; the longest river in China. A San Diego Zoo escort will accompany you on your journey, along with a national tour director from Asia Sublime.*

We cordially invite you to join us on this special adventure. Space is limited to 25 travelers and your early reservation is encouraged. With spectacular scenery, fascinating historical landmarks, friendly people, and the endearing giant pandas, your magical memories from this journey to China will be treasured forever.

Sincerely,

*Amy Parrott
WorldWild Tours
San Diego Zoo Global*

**San Diego Zoo host's participation is based on a minimum group size of 15 travelers, and the National Tour Director will accompany a group of 10 or more travelers.*



The Great Wall

Classical Highlights of China & Giant Pandas

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May 12–13 • U.S. to Beijing

Depart the U.S. on your flight to Beijing. Cross the international dateline and arrive in China the next day.

Transfer to your hotel, located in the heart of Beijing's downtown historic district. (Meals aloft)

• *Accommodations at the New World Hotel Beijing (3 nights)*

May 14 • Beijing

This morning, arrive at the gate of the Forbidden City, the abiding symbol of imperial China. Truly one of the great achievements of civilization, its construction employed hundreds of thousands of workers between 1406 and 1420. Marvel at its expansive architecture, magnificent imperial gardens, and many museums of Chinese antiquities and other treasures.

Tour the picturesque Houhai district, where well-preserved courtyard homes and narrow *hutongs* (alleys) border tree-lined lakes. Explore the district by pedicab for a closer and more engaging experience of traditional Chinese life. Meet a local family and have lunch in their home.

Visit the Temple of Heaven, one of the finest creations of the Ming dynasty. This stunning architecture realizes the eternal Chinese desire to manifest heaven in material form and represents the most advanced principles of mechanics and geometry of that time. Evening is free with dinner on your own. (B,L)

May 15 • Beijing

This morning, head northeast for

the Great Wall of China. Encounter this extraordinary rampart at Mutianyu, a rugged section of the wall that offers easy access by foot or cable car. The Great Wall presents a visual experience that dramatically exceeds visitors' expectations every time. Construction of a few miles of the wall on such jagged peaks seems nearly miraculous, but the ram-part stretches for 3,700 miles and passes through 16 provinces.

Have lunch at Xiaolongpu Restaurant at the foothills of the wall, famous for farmers' fresh produce and unique local cuisine.

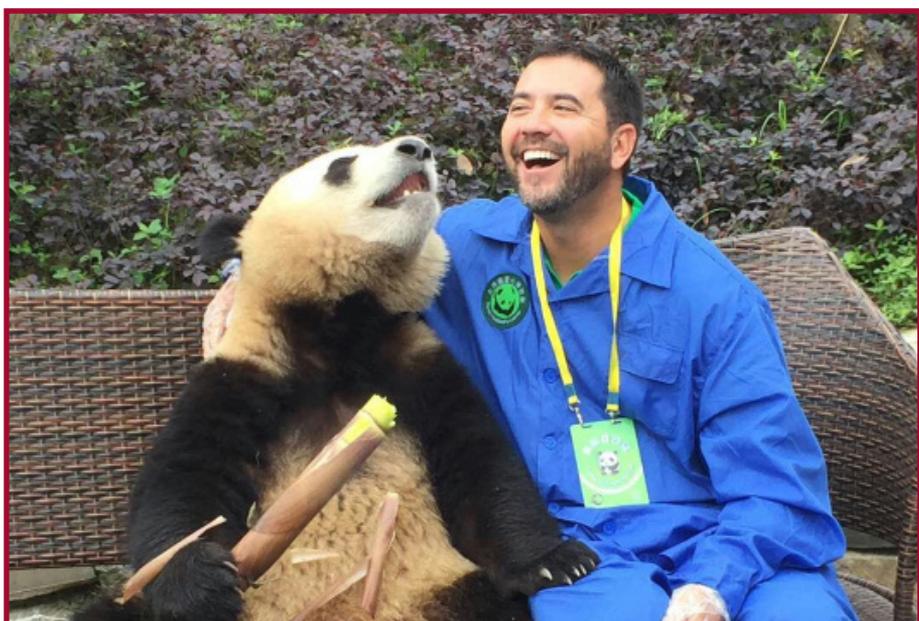
On the way back to Beijing, tour the 798 Dashanzi Art and Culture district. This renovated factory district is distinguished as the "Soho" of Beijing. More than 100 galleries are here, in addition to artist studios, fashion boutiques, and design ateliers.

This evening, savor the imperial city's most famous delicacy, Peking duck, along with other Beijing specialties. (B,L,D)

May 16 • Beijing-Xian

This morning, fly to the ancient Tang dynasty capital of Xian. Upon arrival, tour the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, home to the extraordinary 2,300-year-old Terracotta Warriors. The warriors still stand on the original site of the emperor's burial complex, where farmers discovered them in 1974. Enjoy lunch at the museum restaurant with a noodle-making demonstration.

Before dinner, explore Xian's Muslim



Quarter. Chinese Muslim heritage traces its roots from the once flourishing Silk Road culture of the Tang dynasty. Dinner is on your own. (B,L)

- *Accommodations at Grand Melia Xian (1 night)*

May 17 • Xian–Chengdu

This morning, make a special stop at the Han Emperor’s Tomb, Yangling Museum, to view the Han archaeological finds recently unearthed. Although not on as grand a scale as Qin Shi Huang, the Han emperor sought the same power beyond the tomb.

Take a flight to Chengdu. This is the hub of classical Chinese culture with a vision toward the future. People still maintain a sense of balance in life with an abundance of teahouses, vibrant markets, idyllic gardens, ancient temples, and traditional opera. As a center of Sichuan’s economic boom, the city pulses with cutting-edge development and modern luxury. Above all, Chengdu is known for its unbelievable Sichuan cuisine and the adorable giant pandas.

Wander through People’s Park, where throngs of locals gather to practice Taiji, fly kites, or do synchronized dancing. View the lovely Bonsai Garden in the park with beautiful tropical and native plants grown for decades in large ceramic pots.

Visit Kuanzhaixianzi, a traditional district with restored courtyard houses from the Qing dynasty. Lining the old alleyways, beautiful teahouses, art galleries, bookstores, boutique shops, and restaurants make this area a popular destination for locals.

Dinner at the famous Sichuan hot pot restaurant, Tanyutou. Afterward watch a

fascinating Sichuan opera performance, including mask-changing and firespitting traditional pieces. (B,D)

- *Accommodations at the deluxe Fraser Suites in the heart of downtown (1 night)*

May 18 • Chengdu–Dujiangyan Panda Park

In the morning, transfer to Chengdu Panda Breeding Center, beautifully landscaped with lush plants and lakes. Meet with some 60 pandas and their caregivers. The highlight comes at the kindergarten where panda cubs play with each other, climbing up and down trees, rolling and pushing and kicking like Kungfu masters. Also, visit the Small Red Panda Center with 40 small pandas in residence that roam freely. Lunch at Kuangxi Restaurant nearby. Transfer to Dujiangyan Panda Park. Operated by Wolong Panda Wildlife Preserve, the Panda Park has been in operation since the big 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake. Recently opened to the public, 50 pandas are living here. Later, check into the resort. (B,L,D)

- *Accommodations at Howard Johnson Hotel and Resort (2 nights)*

May 19 • Wolong Panda Volunteer Work

In the morning, drive on the newly paved road to the Wolong Panda Preserve (about 2.5 hours). The Wolong Panda Preserve had 37 pandas in 2017, and they are expecting more arrivals for 2018 and 2019. It is a beautiful facility in the valley, surrounded by green mountains. As the newest panda center in China, it is the largest of the three facilities, giving pandas surroundings more like their natural habitat. Volunteer work offers close contact with the pandas. You spend the morning working side by side with



The Yangzi River

the pandas and their caretakers, cleaning the panda enclosures, preparing panda cakes, and feeding the pandas. You will also take a photo with a young panda—the ultimate souvenir from China!

****We will provide the health form, which requires a simple health exam and doctor's signature.**

Spend the afternoon touring the panda facilities and visit more pandas in residence. Transfer back to the hotel in Dujiangyan in the late afternoon. (B,L)

May 20 • Dujiangyan–Chengdu–Chongqing

A morning transfer to Chengdu. Lunch at a local restaurant. Board the high-speed train to Chongqing (2.5 hours ride). Visit Chongqing Art Institute and Galleries before dinner at a local restaurant. Afterward board Victoria Cruises. (B,L,D)

• *Accommodations on the Victoria Cruiseship "Jenna" (3 nights)*

May 21–22 • Yangzi River Cruise

Travel downstream through the spectacular Three Gorges (called Qutang, Wu, and Xiling), enjoying the dramatic scenery and beautiful vistas as they appear. Along the way, disembark the ship to enjoy optional activities offshore. Tour Immigration Village and see the breathtaking Lesser Gorge Danninghe. An amazing experience is coming face-to-face with the spectacular Three Gorges Dam at Sandouping. The largest construction site in the world is also China's latest effort to tame the Yangzi River. (Both days: B,L,D)

May 23 • Yichang–Shanghai

Disembark the cruise in the morning and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Take a city tour of Yichang before flying to Shanghai in the late afternoon. Arrive in Shanghai late this evening and transfer to the hotel. (B,L)

• *Accommodations at the Fairmont Peace Hotel on the Bund (2 nights)*

May 24 • Shanghai

In the morning, tour the beautiful People's Park in the center of downtown. Watch the locals doing Taiji and other morning exercises.

Visit the Shanghai Museum and view its wonderful collection of Chinese ceramics, paintings, and furniture.

After lunch, tour the Yuyuan Gardens, designed in six unique parts, making the garden seem much larger than it really is. You will find one of the best Ming rock gardens here and winding zigzag bridges will take you to the Huxingting Teahouse, where you can have an afternoon cup of tea.

Cross the Huangpu River and visit the Pudong economic district. Ride the fastest elevator in the world to the top of the third-tallest building in the world, the new Shanghai Center, for a bird's-eye view of the old and new Shanghai by the Huangpu River.

In the evening, enjoy a farewell banquet at Dingxiang Garden Restaurant, serving impeccable Shanghai cuisine. (B,L,D)

May 25 • Shanghai–U.S.A.

Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the U.S.A. (B, Meals Aloft)

Pre- & Post-Tour Extensions*

Customize your China experience

The Magic of Tibet

Pre-Tour Extension
May 9–13, 2019



Visit Lhasa and gain an understanding of the daily life of the Dalai Lamas through an exploration of winter and summer palaces—the stunning and iconic Potala Palace and serene Norbulingka.

Travel Dates for the Magic of Tibet Pre-Tour Extension

May 8-9 • U.S.–Beijing

May 10 • Beijing–Lhasa

May 11 • Lhasa

May 12 • Lhasa

May 13 • Lhasa–Beijing to join the tour

Extension Tour \$2,950
Single Supplement \$890

Delights of Hong Kong Harbor

Post-Tour Extension
May 25–28, 2019



With its magical skyline as a backdrop, there is no end to the fascination of this self-styled World City. Museums, nightlife, extraordinary cuisine, endless shopping—life here is like no other place on Earth! Take the tram to Victoria Peak to enjoy panoramic views of Kowloon and the surrounding islands.

Travel Dates for Delights of Hong Kong Harbor Post-Tour Extension

May 25 • Depart Shanghai for Hong Kong

May 26, 27 • Hong Kong

May 28 • Hong Kong–U.S.

Extension Tour \$2,490
Single Supplement \$990

*Extension tours require a minimum of two passengers.

San Diego Zoo in China

Thirty Years of Protecting Giant Pandas

Three decades ago, when the San Diego Zoo's relationship with the People's Republic of China was in its infancy, the future of the critically endangered giant panda species was bleak because of habitat destruction, illegal hunting, and the lack of an overall conservation plan. Today, there are an estimated 1,860 pandas in the wild, and giant pandas face a much more promising future, in part because the Chinese government has developed a conservation strategy as well as established more than 67 panda reserves.

Our Institute for Conservation Research scientists, as well as our curatorial team, have also played an integral role in bringing the giant panda species back from the brink of extinction. Through our scientific studies and partnership with the Wolong Giant Panda Breeding Center in China, much knowledge has been gained that will help the Chinese manage panda preserves and populations in the wild. We have contributed significantly to the recent giant panda baby boom that has occurred in breeding centers throughout China.

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS:

- A giant panda milk formulated by our San Diego Zoo nutritionist, coupled with a hand-rearing technique developed by the Chinese called “twin swapping,” have transformed the survival rate of the nursery-reared panda cubs from zero percent to 95 percent.
- The giant panda breeding rate at the Wolong Breeding Center increased dramatically following multiyear collaborations with our scientists that involved nutrition, behavioral enrichment, husbandry, breeding protocols, and olfactory communications. Before this, few of Wolong's giant pandas mated naturally and the population was in decline. In 2014, 13 pandas were born at Wolong's Bifengxia panda base! Also, 2014 brought about the birth of panda triplets in China, the world's only surviving trio.
- China has reached a major milestone: the panda population in zoos and breeding centers has reached more than 425, which will ensure a self-sustaining population as long as genetic diversity is also maintained.
- Our giant panda team developed an early pregnancy test for pandas using thermal imaging as well as ultrasound pregnancy detection. Prior to this, there was no single way to determine whether a giant panda was pregnant.
- The first surviving giant panda cub in North America, Hua Mei, was born at the San Diego Zoo in 1999. Hua Mei is also the first cub conceived by artificial insemination in the Western Hemisphere. Since then, a total of six giant panda cubs have been born at the San Diego Zoo, which is a record for North American zoos.
- Our San Diego Zoo giant panda team is monitoring radio-collared pandas in the Foping National Nature Reserve in China. This is the first study of its kind to discover where pandas roam within their range and how they interact with other pandas. It will help us understand how the fragmented forests affect giant pandas as well as how to create natural corridors to link these “island” habitats.
- Logging of old-growth trees in China has eliminated many high-quality panda maternity dens. Our researchers are part of a team that is trying to understand what factors influence a panda female looking for a suitable maternity den. We would like to create artificial dens for wild pandas in areas where their natural dens have been destroyed.



Study Leader - Pam Fein

Pam Fein joined the San Diego Zoo more than 17 years ago, fulfilling a lifelong, childhood dream to work there. In her current role as a Senior Individual & Planned Gifts Officer in the Development Department, she leads hundreds of behind-the-scenes tours each year at the Zoo and the Safari Park, introducing friends and supporters to our wildlife and botanical wonders as well as our worldwide conservation projects. Before joining the Zoo, Pam worked for many years in human resources management, special events, and corporate travel planning. Pam is an avid traveler and enjoys getting to know people from all parts of the globe. She has led past WorldWild Tours™ to Botswana and to Brazil's Pantanal, always making it her top priority to ensure all members of the group had an unforgettable adventure—a trip of a lifetime! Her hobbies include nature photography, people watching, exploring new places, engaging and facilitating learning, caring for rescued critters, eating, cooking, and shopping for unique cultural treasures. Pam looks forward to exploring and discovering the splendors of China as well as sharing her knowledge of the Zoo's ongoing giant panda conservation project with travelers. She is dedicated to providing an unsurpassed, highly memorable journey while sharing and capturing China's authenticity through its unique ancient and contemporary history, spirit, and culture.



FABULOUS DINING *Savor China's Exquisite Regional Cuisine*



Beijing Known as the “Emperor’s Kitchen,” experience the many preparations of China's famous "Peking Duck."

Xian cuisine is known for strong and heavy flavors that build the constitution of its hearty population. Lamb and mutton stuffed in Chinese flatbreads, pickled vegetables, and their signature wide sheaves of noodles are common sights at street stalls and in restaurants.

Sichuan Because of the varied terrain and visits from foreigners in the Middle Ages, the cuisine here offers a variety of choices. Predominant is the chili pepper, originally brought in from India. Chinese hot pot and kung pao chicken are staples of this region.

Shanghai One doesn't often hear of food being “drunken,” but in Shanghai you will commonly find fish, crab and chicken that is pickled, steamed or stir-fried in wine.

The enjoyment of good food will prove to be one of this tour's recurring themes during our travels. However, as not everyone may have an adventurous palate, we will make every attempt to accommodate special food requests and children.

Tour Cost

• Rates are per person and do not include international air:

Main Tour, Double Occupancy **\$6,395**
Single Supplement **\$1,695**

Pre- and Post- Tour Extensions

Magic of Tibet Pre- Tour Extension \$2,950 Single Supplement \$890
Delights of Hong Kong Harbor Post- Tour Extension \$2,490 Single Supplement \$990

Round-trip International Air is available through AirTreks. For pricing, please contact AirTreks directly at 415-977-7136 or at asiasublime@airtreks.com.

Main Tour Includes: • Double occupancy accommodations • All meals listed in itinerary • All domestic land and air transportation • All sight-seeing, cultural activities, and meals listed on tour • Wine and beer at group meals • Double occupancy accommodations in first-class deluxe hotels • Asia Sublime Travel Inc. national tour director at minimum 10 participants and local guides • Chinese airport taxes and gratuities to national guide, local guides and drivers.

Not Included: • Domestic U.S. and international airfare • Trip cancellation, lost baggage, or medical insurance • Meals not listed on tour • Visa processing fee • Gratuities for local guides and drivers on extensions • Airport transfers for international arrival and departure • Liquor and other items of a personal nature.

Travel Insurance: Asia Sublime Travel Inc. highly recommends that you purchase basic protection for your own coverage, as well as trip cancellation/interruption or baggage coverage. Information on additional insurance is available and will be mailed upon receipt of your reservation.

Tour Reservation Form

San Diego Zoo's WorldWild Tours

Classical Highlights of China & Giant Pandas, May 12-25, 2019

Enclosed is a deposit for \$ _____ (\$700 per person) to hold _____ place(s).
Please make checks payable to Asia Sublime Travel, Inc. and mail to the address below.

Final payment is due on February 15, 2019

Passport Name/s _____ Birth date _____

Passport Name/s _____ Birth date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home/Office _____ Cell _____

Email _____ Email 2 _____

Optional Extension:

- Magic of Tibet Pre- Tour Extension
 Delights of Hong Kong Harbor Post- Tour Extension

Accommodations: Single Double Smoking Nonsmoking

Bed Request: One Bed Two Beds

I/we understand that, by signing below, I/we acknowledge that the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure has been read and accepted.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Credit Card Number for Deposit: _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV Code _____ (Payments accepted by credit card or check.)

Signature _____ Date _____

Please fax, email, or mail Reservation Form, with deposit, to:

Asia Sublime Travel, Inc.

3843 Brickway Blvd • Suite 210 • Santa Rosa, CA 95403

tel: 888-333-2585 • fax: 415-841-1790 • email: info@asiasublime.com

TRAVEL IN CHINA

The schedule will be demanding with moderate physical activity. Travel in China requires good physical condition and health (special needs must be arranged for in advance and may result in additional costs), a spirit of adventure, a flexible attitude, and a sense of humor. The itinerary is subject to change and modification. Every effort will be made to carry out the program as planned, but alterations may still occur. Participants should be aware that no refunds will be made as a result of unforeseen changes, modifications, or delays.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Reservations: Bookings are subject to the terms and conditions mentioned in these sections. A contract has been entered into as soon as your booking is received and accepted. To confirm the reservation, a deposit of \$700 per person is required.

Air: Air cancellations and penalties are based on each carrier and ticket. Be sure to review these policies before purchasing air. Neither Asia Sublime Travel, Inc. nor San Diego Zoo Global, is responsible for any penalties incurred due to air changes or cancellations.

Cancellations: *No cancellation is valid until it is received in writing by Asia Sublime Travel, Inc. and San Diego Zoo Global.* Cancellation penalties are based on the date of receipt of written notice and are as follows:

- **91 or more days prior to departure, a cancellation fee of \$500 per person is retained.**
- **90-46 days prior to departure, \$1,500 per person.**
- **45-31 days prior to departure, \$2,500 per person.**
- **30-0 days prior to departure, no refund is made.**

Cancellation penalties for additional hotel nights, hotel and cruise ship room upgrades, tour extensions, and any special arrangements, are as follows:

- **50-31 days prior to departure, 25% of cost is retained.**
- **30-0 days prior to departure, no refund is made.**

Responsibilities: Asia Sublime Travel, Inc. and San Diego Zoo Global act only as agents for the various carriers for which tickets are provided and assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any train, vessel, carriage, aircraft, motor vehicle or other conveyance that may be used, either wholly or in part, in the performance of their duty to the passenger. Neither will they be responsible for any act, error, or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, which may be occasioned by a reason of any defect in any vehicles, or through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or for any hotel proprietor, hotel service or restaurant, or for any other person engaged in carrying out the purpose for which tickets or coupons are issued. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, also to decline to accept or retain any passengers as members for the tours. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded. Refunds for unused carrier tickets may be only in accordance with the regulations of the carrier, Reg. CST 2064278-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. All legal questions will be settled within the jurisdiction of the County of Nevada City, California.

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P.O. BOX 120551
San Diego, CA 92112-0551

Visa: To obtain a Chinese visa, a passport is required that is valid for at least six months beyond the duration of the tour. Travelers are responsible for their own visas.

Insurance: It is highly recommended that you supplement this basic protection with your own additional coverage, as well as trip cancellation/interruption or baggage coverage. Information on additional insurance is available and will be mailed upon receipt of your reservation.

San Diego Zoo Global is pleased to provide this service of facilitating travel opportunities for its members and friends. San Diego Zoo Global strives to work with the best tour operators to make available interesting and enriching travel opportunities for the San Diego Zoo Global family.

Please note that San Diego Zoo Global does not conduct tours, nor does it act as an agent for guests interested in tours. San Diego Zoo Global acts as a facilitator with tour operators, with whom tour participants make arrangements for completing travel, and it is pleased to act as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during, or after your tour. San Diego Zoo Global encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the tour operator's cancellation and refund policies, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance. San Diego Zoo Global is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements, or for losses or additional expenses resulting from travel.

*Pricing and inclusions are based on a **minimum of 15 paying passengers.** Itinerary is subject to modification. All price quotes are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfare, and currency exchange rates in effect as of January 2018 and are subject to change. Although the tour operator will do everything possible to maintain the published trip price, it may be necessary to institute a surcharge.*