



ASIA SUBLIME
Fine Touring
in China, Japan, Myanmar, Bali & beyond

Classical Highlights of China & Giant Pandas

Create your own China experience with a variety of optional extensions--

Pre-tour extension:
The Magic of Tibet

Post-tour extensions:
The Huang Mountains & Huizhou Culture
Hong Kong
Guilin and Longsheng Rice Terraces

San Diego Zoo

May 12-25, 2019

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

- 14 day tour
- 3 domestic flights
- 1 high speed train ride

May 12-13 Day 1-2 • U.S. – 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 Day 3 • 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 treasures.

Tour the picturesque **Houhai district**, where well-preserved courtyard homes and narrow hutong alleys border tree-lined lakes. Explore the district by "pedicab" for a closer and more engaging experience of traditional Chinese life. Visit with 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 incarnate heaven in material form and represents the most advanced principles of mechanics and geometry of the time. Evening is free with dinner on own. (B,L)

May 15 Day 4 • 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 rampart stretches for 3,700 miles and passes through 16 provinces.

Enjoy 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 one hundred 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 Day 5 • 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 peasants 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 Day 6 • Xian – Chengdu

This morning, make a special stop at the **Han Emperor's Tomb**, Yangling Museum, to view the Han archaeological finds recently unearthed. Though not on as grand a scale as Qinshihuang, the Han emperor sought the same power beyond the tomb.

Take a flight to Chengdu. Chengdu is the hub of classical Chinese culture with a vision towards the future. People still maintain a sense of a balance in life with abundance of teahouses, vibrant markets, idyllic gardens, ancient temples, and traditional opera. As a center of Sichuan's 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 Qing dynasty. Lining the old alleyway, 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. Afterwards watch a fascinating **Sichuan opera** performance including mask changing and fire spitting traditional pieces. (B,D)

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

May 18 Day 7 • Chengdu--Dujiangyan Panda Park

In the morning, transfer to **Chengdu Panda Breeding Center** beautifully landscaped with lush plants and lakes. Meet with 60 some 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. The Atlanta Zoo's panda girl was returned to China in 2010 and has lived here since. Also, visit the Small Red Panda Center with 40 small pandas in residence who 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 Day 8 • **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** has 37 pandas in 2017, expecting more arrival 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 a surrounding and atmosphere, more akin to their natural habitat! **Volunteer work** offers close contact with the pandas. You spend a morning working side by side with the pandas and their caretakers. Cleaning the panda enclosures, preparing panda cakes, and feeding the pandas. ***We will provide the health form which require a simple health exam and doctor's signature.*

Your panda photo taking donation is included in the tour cost at \$380 per person. 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 Day 9 • **Dujiangyan – Chengdu- Chongqing**

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

• *Accommodations on Victoria Cruises Jenna (3 nights)*

May 21-22 Day 10-11 • **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 Day 12 • **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 Day 13 • **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 rockeries 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 Day 14 • **Shanghai-U.S.A.**

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

Customize Your Own China Experience!

China is bigger than continental Europe. Each region has its own unique tradition and flavor. Creating these beautiful extensions take decades of expertise and dedication. At China Advocates, we have developed focused extensions so you could create your own customized China experience. Each tour is truly unique and beautiful!

Please review the following pages to peruse all of the optional extension possibilities.

*** There is a 2 person minimum required to operate the extension tours.*

Optional Pre-Tour Extension

The Magic of Tibet

Beijing • Lhasa • Beijing

- 6 day tour (includes 2 days international travel)
- 2 domestic flights in China

Day 1-2 • U.S. – Beijing

Depart the U.S. for Beijing. Arrive on day two and transfer to the hotel. (Meals aloft)

- Accommodations at the New World Hotel Beijing by the airport (1 night)

Day 3 • Beijing – Lhasa

This morning fly to Gongga Airport in Tibet (via Chengdu). Upon arrival, meet your Tibetan guide and transfer to Lhasa.

After adjusting to the altitude, enjoy a walk around **Barkhor Street**, the marketplace of old Lhasa and still amazingly evocative of old Tibet. The Barkhor is a pilgrim circuit where hundreds of pilgrims on any one day make their ritual circumambulations. It is also a thriving market; and traditional stone-block architecture forms the backdrop for the sale of prayer flags, prayer wheels, thangkas, sutras, jewelry, Tibetan knives, and so on. Lunch and dinner will be at the hotel. (b,l,d)

- Accommodations at the Shangri-la Resort (3 nights)

Day 4 • Lhasa

A full day of sightseeing includes the **Potala Palace**, once the seat of government and the winter residence of the Dalai Lama. It yet remains today the abiding symbol of Tibetan Buddhism. The complex comprises the White and Red Palaces situated in the center of Lhasa Valley at an altitude of 3700m. It rises over 13th stories and holds thousands of rooms.

Then take a short drive to **Norbulingka**, the Dalai Lama's former summer residence. Constructed in the 18th century, it is a masterpiece of Tibetan architecture and contains several palaces and chapels.

Later visit **Jokhang Temple**, Tibet's holiest shrine, filled with altars, halls, and galleries. The finest Tibetan art treasures are found here, though some originals were destroyed during the Cultural Revolution. (b,l,d)

Day 5 • Lhasa

In the morning visit **Drepung Monastery**, the largest monastic complex in Tibet. Located at the foot of Mount Gephel, the monastery is home to approximately 300 monks.

After lunch tour **Sera Monastery**, one of the three great monasteries of the Gelugpa sect and founded in 1416 by a disciple of Tsongkhapa. The great ceremonial hall holds thousands of Tibetan sutras in cubicles along the wall. In the afternoon, hundreds of monks continue to practice the Buddhist dharma, including historic debating rituals.

Later in the day, stop by a local **Tibetan village** where old Tibetan life style continues. (b,l,d)

Day 6 • Lhasa – Beijing

In the morning fly to Beijing and arrive in the early afternoon. The rest of the day is free with dinner on one's own. The main tour group arrives this evening. (b)

- Accommodations at the New World Hotel Beijing (3 nights on the main tour)

Optional Post-Tour Extension

Huang Mountains & Huizhou Culture

Shanghai • Tunxi • Huang Mountains • Shanghai

- 5 day extension tour
- 2 domestic flights in China

Day 1 • Shanghai – Tunxi in Anhui province

Depart the Shanghai airport on a one-hour flight to Tunxi (Huangshan City) in nearby Anhui province. Anhui boasts an idyllic landscape of rice cultivation unspoiled by industrialization. Unending greenery gives the impression of vast, well-tended parkland. Upon arrival, tour the **Museum of Huizhou Folk Architecture** and **Ink Factory**. (B,D)

- Accommodations at the *Crowne Plaza Hotel* (2 nights)

Day 2 • Huizhou Villages

Spend the whole day visiting the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Xidi Village**. Situated in the rich green and sparkling waters of surrounding rice paddies, the village appears just as it did centuries ago. You can feel the authenticity of the rural life as you wander the stone lanes on pathways between towering vertical walls that at times narrow to shoulder width. Xidi Village dates to 900AD. Picturesquely ringed by hills, it is known as “a village in a Chinese painting.”

Lunch is at local featuring traditional Anhui cuisine. In the afternoon tour the quiet **Pingshan Village** with centuries old Huizhou architecture. This is one of oldest villages with the most historic buildings preserved. A Song dynasty temple (950AD) still stand close to exquisite family temples of Ming and Qing dynasties. A movie producer restored an ancient courtyard into a boutique inn with a trendy theme bar and cafe.

Return to Tunxi in the late afternoon. The evening is free and dinner is on your own. (B,L)

Day 3 • Huangshan

Today, take a bus to Anhui’s crown jewels, the incomparable Huang Mountains. Because these mountain tops are often above cloud level they offer intriguing natural light effects as well as views of the clouds from above, including the famed **Sea of Clouds** phenomena. The staggering beauty of granite precipices emerging from fog banks has inspired Chinese artists for centuries.

Walk forty minutes to your hotel and check into modest, yet adequate rooms. Vistas of amazing beauty lie a few minutes from the hotel. Every direction offers a unique view as can be gathered from the scenic names of the Nine Dragons, Daoist Priest, Ox Nose, and Hunchback. Choose between short strolls on nearby paths or longer hikes along the summit ridge. (B,L,D)

- Accommodations at the *Xihai Hotel* on the summit (1 night)

Day 4 • Huangshan - Shanghai

This morning return to Tunxi for lunch. Take the high-speed train to Shanghai and check in the hotel in early evening. (B,L)

- Accommodations at *Fairmont Peace Hotel* (1 night)

Day 5 • Shanghai – U.S.

After breakfast, depart for the airport for your flight back to the U.S. Arrive in the U.S. the same day. (B, meals aloft)

Optional Post-Tour Extension

Hong Kong

Shanghai • Hong Kong

- 4 days extension tour
- 1 international flight

Day 1 • Shanghai–Hong Kong

After breakfast, depart Shanghai on your flight to Hong Kong. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for individual exploration of this bustling cosmopolitan city. (B)

- Accommodations at the *Shangri-la Hotel in Kowloon* (3 nights)

Day 2 • Hong Kong

After breakfast, explore the **Sheung Wan Dried Food & Herbal Market**. Hong Kong remains very traditional when it comes to health and beauty aids. Ginseng, deer horn, sea horses and other exotic resources are staples of many Chinese households. Take a walk through the herbal medicine markets and gain insight into old age practices, as shopkeepers and herbal practitioners introduce you to their abundant herbs and medicines.

Then you will stop by **Man Mo Temple**, a temple for the worship of the civil or literature god Man Tai and the martial god Mo Tai. The two gods were popularly patronized by scholars and students seeking progress in their study or ranking in the civil examinations in the Ming and Qing dynasties. The Man Mo Temple is located on **Hollywood Road**; it was built in 1847.

Next, visit the **Aberdeen Floating Community**, once home to thousands of people living on junks and houseboats. A number of them remain, though most have moved off the water and into the sky. Marvel at Aberdeen's indigenous floating community of fishing families and eccentric houseboat dwellers.

Drive to Hong Kong's most famous landmark, **Victoria Peak**, and take in the panoramic views of Kowloon and the surrounding islands.

The afternoon is free for personal exploration and dinner is on your own. After dinner, see the **Symphony of Lights**, a synchronized display of lights, lasers and music, with 44 buildings on both sides of Victoria Harbor participating. Later, stroll the **Temple Street night market**. (B,L)

Day 3 • Hong Kong

This day is at leisure for individual exploration. (B)

Day 4 • Hong Kong–U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

Optional Post-Tour Extension

Guilin and Longsheng

Shanghai • Longsheng • Guilin/Li River • Yangshuo • Shanghai

- 5 day extension tour
- 2 domestic flights in China

Day 1 • Shanghai – Longsheng

Take a morning flight from Shanghai to **Guilin**. Upon arrival, take an hour bus ride to **Longsheng**.

Longsheng is famous for rice terraces cut into precipitous hills that farmers have cultivated since the Yuan dynasty (13th ADE). Spring and summer are particularly beautiful seasons as the paddies fill with water and reflect the changing panorama of the sky. A little later, Skeins of luscious green rice plants create remarkable views throughout the valley. Longsheng is the home of Yao and Zhuang minorities who both continue to don colorful dress and carry on their traditions. Explore the village market and delightful craft shops. (b,l,d)

•Accommodations at *Li An Lodge*, a wonderful boutique inn with 16 rooms created by an American-Chinese artist. The lodge is a work of art itself, using Vietnamese hardwoods and the owner's art and crafts collection in every room. All three meals will be prepared by the chef of the lodge with the freshest produce he personally picked from the farmer's market that morning. Situated above the rice terraces with a commanding view of the valley, there is a moderate uphill hike to reach the lodge (30 -50 minutes walk.) Your luggage will be carried separately, and if you require assistance for the hike, your guide can negotiate the price of a rickshaw ride for you.

Day 2 • Longsheng – Guilin

Continue to explore the paths and life of Longsheng until early afternoon. Then, drive to Guilin. Guilin is world famous for its spectacular karst limestone formations, vertical mountains thrust up from the seabed some 300 million years ago. Eroded over the millennia by water and winds, these picturesque mountains, immediately recognizable to anyone familiar with Chinese painting, have provided inspiration for countless Chinese artists. Dinner is at the Green Tea Restaurant. (b,l,d)

•Accommodations at the *Shangri-La Guilin*, (2 nights)

Day 3 • Li River – Yangshuo

This morning, cruise down the Li River, winding past Mural Hill, Folded Brocade Hill, Crescent Moon Hill, and many more. The four-hour cruise navigates some of the region's most stunning karst formations. After disembarking, check in to your hotel. Then take a ride to Liugong&Mushang Village, a gorgeous agricultural valley and surrounded by distant karst scenery. Walk into the fields to enjoy another experience of rural China, this time in the middle of a visual paradise.

In the evening explore lively Xijie (West Street) filled with restaurants, shops, and local inns. Xijie is the home away from home for numerous Westerners and so exudes a cosmopolitan air as well as an invitation for a rollicking good time. After dinner on your own, enjoy Zhang Yi-mo's show "**Impressions of Sister Liu.**" Zhang is a world famous movie director with Oscar nominated movies like "Raise the Red Lantern", "Hero" and "House Full of Daggers". He was the director of the opening of 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. Return to your hotel in Guilin after the show. (b,l)

Day 4 • Guilin – Shanghai

In the morning explore Guilin at your own leisure. In the afternoon, fly to Shanghai and transfer to your hotel. Dinner is on one's own. (b)

• Accommodations *Fairmont Peace Hotel on the Bund*

Day 5 • Shanghai – U.S.

Transfer to the Shanghai airport for your flight home. Arrive in the U.S. on the same day. (b, meals aloft)

Tour Terms & Pricing

Main Tour:

Main tour without international air	\$ 6,395per person
Single Supplement	\$ 1,695per person

Extension tours for minimum 2 passengers:

Magic of Tibet pre-tour:	\$2,950 per person
Single supplement	\$890 per person
Huangshan post-tour	\$2,290 per person
Single supplement	\$790 per person
Hong Kong post-tour	\$2,490 per person
Single supplement	\$990 per person
Guilin and Yangshuo post-tour	\$2,490 per person
Single supplement	\$890 per person

***All prices are based on exchange rate of September 2017 at US\$1 = 6.6 yuan and are subject to change.*

Tour Inclusions

Main Tour Price Includes

- All domestic land and air transportation within China
- All sightseeing and cultural activities stated in the itinerary
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers for minimum of 10 full paying travelers
- One group airport arrival and departure transfers on main tour dates
- Bottled water on the coach ride
- Airport taxes for included flights

Main Tour Price Does Not Include

- International flights
- Independent airport arrival and departure transfers
- Travel insurance (San Diego Zoo is providing own insurer)
- Meals other than those specified in the itinerary
- Optional activities not specified in the itinerary
- Excess baggage charges, unless specified
- Gratuities for Asia Sublime National Tour Director
- Visa and passport fees
- Items of personal nature and personal expenses

Payment & Cancellation

Deposit: \$700 per person, due at the time of booking, by check, wire or credit/debit card
Final Balance: Due 90 days prior to departure, by check or wire transfer only.

Checks should be made payable to *Asia Sublime*.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation of the main tour by a traveler will incur the following penalty, per person:

- 91 or more days before departure: \$700
- Between 90-46 days prior to departure: 50% of fees paid
- Between 45-31 days prior to departure: 75% of fees paid
- 30 days or less prior to departure: We will retain 100% of all fees paid

Cancellation of extension tours, additional services or upgrades will incur the following penalty, per person:

- 50-31 days prior to departure 25% of cost
- 30-0 days prior to departure No refund

All cancellations must be received in writing.

Inquiries & Bookings

Asia Sublime will handle all inquiries and bookings for this tour, and will notify you on a weekly basis of any current leads and bookings. Names and contact details will be provided for all bookings.

Should a potential traveler contact your office directly, you may provide the name and contact information of the inquiry to China Advocates at its earliest convenience for follow-up.

Travel Insurance

Asia Sublime will provide travel insurance information to the travelers at the time of booking.

Travel in China

China's tourism industry has improved dramatically over the last decade. However, air and land transportation and other facilities may not always meet international standards.

In addition, travel in China requires good physical condition and health (special needs must be identified and arranged for in advance and may result in additional costs), a spirit of adventure, a flexible attitude, and a sense of humor. Our guides want to show your travelers as much of their country as possible, so the schedule will be demanding with moderate physical activity.

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. Travelers should be aware that no refunds will be made because of unforeseen changes, modifications, or delays.

