

## IMMERSED IN CHINA'S WONDERS

Our 12 day journey through central and northern China takes us through some of China's iconic locales and most famous sites.

We'll climb the Great Wall, walk along Shanghai's Bund, marvel at the Terracotta Warriors and float leisurely on the waters of Hangzhou's scenic West Lake.

We'll catch some of China's bullet trains, have the opportunity to walk the old City Walls of Xi'an and stroll through the walled village of Pingyao.

There'll be time for shopping at classy boutiques and for wandering through back streets; we'll dine on Beijing Duck and xiaolong dumplings in fine restaurants and hole in the wall homestyle eateries.

Our all-inclusive tour removes the hassles for you so that you may immerse yourself in China's wonders and have a once in a lifetime experience.

**COST:**           **\$7999** per person for twin share and **\$8499** p.p. for single supplement

### ***Sydney-Shanghai-Hangzhou-Xi'an-Pingyao Village-Beijing***

**April 14**      Day 1            Sydney to **Shanghai**            (plane)

We arrive in Shanghai in the evening of Day 1 and make our way to our downtown hotel. We then spend three nights here in this exciting city, wandering its streets and enjoying its sights.

**April 17**      Day 4            Shanghai to **Hangzhou**            (train)

In the morning of our fourth day, we catch a high-speed train to Hangzhou and then spend the rest of day in the ancient capital. Hangzhou is the home of Dragon Well tea, and is famed for its West Lake. We'll visit a Buddhist monastery and sail at twilight on peaceful waters. We'll also enjoy *Impression West Lake*, a stunning music and light spectacular on the Lake itself.

**April 19**      Day 6            Hangzhou to **Xi'an**            (plane)

Xi'an was at the start of the Silk Road and thus has seen merchants and missionaries, tourists and traders all pass through its city gates. The old city walls loop for 13 kilometres around many of Xi'an's great sites like the Drum and Bell Towers, the Muslim Quarter and the Stelae Forest. We will visit the Terracotta Warriors one morning and in the afternoon relax around the old city, either visiting museums and galleries or relaxing in the shopping streets and cultural districts.

**April 21** Day 8 Xi'an to **Pingyao Village** (train)

We catch a short high-speed train to Pingyao Village, an ancient walled city that has a preserved city tower and laneways as well as two UNESCO Cultural Heritage-listed temples nearby. We sleep in a hotel that still has elevated sleeping platforms (known as *kangs*) and enjoy the fact that the sites will be less crowded, not being the height of summer.

**April 22** Day 9 Pingyao Village to **Beijing** (train)

After our respite we race towards Beijing on the morning of Day 9, arriving just hours later. Over the next 4 days we visit the major sites of Beijing, including the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the Temple of Heaven and the Great Wall, as well as hutongs and shopping districts.

**April 25** Day 12 Beijing to **Sydney** (plane)

Our final day is a full day and so we have a chance to explore more of Beijing's haunts before an evening plane to Sydney, or to take things more at leisure.

***Optional Panda Tour:***

See below for information about an optional add-on tour to **Chengdu** to visit the Giant Panda Research Base. This optional tour will leave Sydney on April 11 and join the group on April 14.

**Inclusions**

- International economy airfare, Australia-China-Australia. It is likely we will not book as a group, but will book individual tickets. Passengers can use points (if possible) and upgrade if desired. It is also possible to travel separately and join the group at the hotel.
- All transfers from hotels to airports and train stations (only for Sino-Immersion organized flights and journeys, otherwise people make their own way to the hotel).
- All internal trains, planes and various automobiles, including bullet trains.
- All accommodation in at least 4 star hotels, in central locations close to cultural sites.
- All meals, except where stated otherwise in the itinerary (such as lunch on a train).
- Full-time accompaniment during the whole journey by Mandarin speaking Dr Jeremy Clarke, Director of Sino-Immersion Pty Ltd and an expert in Chinese modern history.
- Local bi-lingual tour guides will also accompany the group at appropriate times.
- All entry tickets to activities, cultural sites and locations specified in the itinerary, as for

instance the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Terracotta Warriors etc.

- Private tour coaches reserved for our exclusive use.
- All tipping and gratuities in hotels, restaurants and other locations.

### Exclusions

- Meals not included in the itinerary, and snacks and drinks in-between meal times
- Alcohol
- Visa application fees (although Sino-Immersion provides an optional Visa Handling Service)
- Travel insurance (all travellers are highly advised to purchase insurance prior to travel, and this can be organized through our travel agent, if desired)
- Personal expenditure incurred during the journey, such as bicycle hire, private tourist activities, laundry fees, mini bar items and so on
- Souvenirs and personal purchases
- Any items not listed in the inclusions
- Cost:           **\$7999** per person for twin share and  
                      **\$8499** per person for a single supplement

### OPTIONAL SIDE-TRIP TO SEE THE PANDAS IN CHENGDU **\$1550**

April 11        Sydney to **Shanghai**            Overnight in Shanghai        (plane)

We will check-in to the hotel we'll be staying at later in the tour, and have an evening to relax after our flight. If people desire we can leave some luggage here for the next few days.

April 12        Shanghai to **Chengdu**            (plane)

Since the late 1980s the inland city of Chengdu has had a Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, which has been protecting and breeding Giant Pandas. Although it is a journey to here, it continues to be a highlight for those who wish to view these wonderful creatures in a natural habitat. We arrive at our hotel in the early afternoon and have time to visit Chengdu's famed teahouses and try the spicy Sichuan cooking.

**April 13      Chengdu      Whole day touring and visiting Pandas**

We'll visit the Research Base and spend as long as we want walking through the panda park gazing in wonder. Most Chinese tours race through and crowd around, so by allowing more time we can avoid the crush as much as we can and make the most of the experience.

**April 14      Chengdu to Shanghai      (plane)**

We travel to Shanghai in the mid-morning and then return to the hotel where the main group is staying. Dinner is not included this evening.

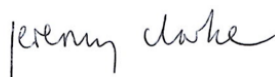
**ADDITIONAL PRICING FOR PANDA TOUR      \$1550**

**\$1550** - This includes the return flight Shanghai to Chengdu, transfers to and from Chengdu airport to our 4 star hotel in downtown Chengdu, two nights accommodation in Chengdu, all meals during this tour (except evening meal April 14), entrance tickets to the Panda Research Base, transport within Chengdu and full accompaniment by a Sino-Immersion staff member (likely Dr Clarke). It also includes the extra night in the 4 star hotel in Shanghai. For those intrepid panda viewers there will be no single supplement for the nights in Chengdu.

**OPTIONAL VISA APPLICATION SERVICE      \$50 per person**

Sino-Immersion advises all its travelers how to apply for the China Visa as part of its inclusive package. Even so, travelers are responsible for obtaining their own visa. Sino-Immersion offers as an optional extra a visa application submission and handling service, for \$50 per person, excluding the cost of the actual visa itself.

Please see the accompanying booking form for further payment details, and the attached contractual information.



Dr Jeremy Clarke

Director, Sino-Immersion Pty Ltd