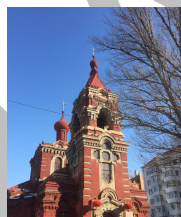
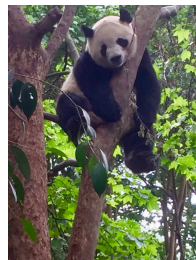


[This is an example of the type of tour you can do, although we can change any city, as you like]

Immerse Yourself in China's Winter Wonders with Jeremy Clarke

January 4 to January 17 (13 days and 13 nights), visiting:
Hong Kong, Guilin, Yangshuo, Chengdu, Xi'an, Harbin and Beijing.



*Per person: \$10,500 twin share (almost all-inclusive¹, except airfare),
with \$750 single supplement.*

[Almost all meals are provided; below, the code is B = breakfast; L = lunch; D = dinner]

¹ See below for inclusions and exclusions, plus terms and conditions.

Day 1 January 4, Monday Hong Kong [D]

We meet in Hong Kong in the evening and stroll down to the glittering “Fragrant Harbour”, enjoying the bustle and busyness of this famous entrepôt, before a late night supper.

Day 2 January 5, Tuesday Hong Kong to Guilin [BLD]

After a lie-in or an early morning walk, we take a train from West Kowloon to Guilin, in neighbouring Guangxi province. Famed for its mountain formations, which feature in Chinese poetry and painting, we will arrive in time for an afternoon wander and then dinner in one of the vibrant night markets, near the lakes and rivers.

Day 3 January 6, Wednesday Guilin to Yangshuo [BLD]

Today is one of the many highlights of the tour as we leave Guilin and take a slow boat down the beautiful Li River through the heart of the amazing karst landscape. Once we reach the ancient town of Yangshuo we get to enjoy the beautiful scenery and laze along the riverbanks, before enjoying some of the sumptuous local cuisine. Yangshuo also has a vibrant live music scene.

Day 4 January 7, Thursday Yangshuo [BD]

Today is a free day, either to rent a bike, go on a hike, take some bamboo rafts, visit the Silver Cave or just enjoy the slower pace of this beautiful country town, or maybe all of these things! We will have a meal together in the evening before attending the outdoor music and dance performance *Impression Sanjie Liu*, which is set on the river among the karst formations.

Day 5 January 8, Friday Yangshuo to Chengdu [BLD]

After one more morning enjoying the early hours along the riverbank we catch a high-speed train to Chengdu in far western China, a UNESCO City of Gastronomy and home to the Research Base of

Giant Panda Breeding. We are met at the airport and then transfer to our hotel, after which we have a late supper near the hotel.

Day 6 January 9, Saturday Chengdu [BLD]

Today is another absolute highlight of the tour as we visit the giant pandas and their companions, the red pandas. Baby pandas are born in late August and September and thus, by the time we visit, the young cubs will have just been released from their nurseries and are enjoying their first steps and tumbles outside, perhaps even in the snow! Later we will visit the Kuan and Zhai alleys with their artisanal workshops and wine bars, and finish up in the evening with a food tour down Chengdu's back streets to prize winning local restaurants.

Day 7 January 10, Sunday Chengdu to Xi'an [BLD]

After our day of wonder we venture to the start of the old Silk Road, Xi'an, by train. Once known as Chang'an, capital of the Tang dynasty, Xi'an is not only a place of great historical interest, it is one of the few cities in China with its old city wall intact, 14 km in length. We will arrive in time to wander the Muslim food markets near the Drum and Bell Towers before dinner, and have the chance to promenade among the lanterns on the walls at night.

Day 8 January 11, Monday Xi'an [BLD]

Although every day is a highlight, today's itinerary is even more so as we spend the bulk of the morning and early afternoon exploring the UNESCO World Heritage site, Emperor Qin Shihuang's mausoleum. This is home to the wondrous terracotta warriors, wrestlers, chariots and horses. Regardless of whether one has seen these at an art exhibition or in documentaries, nothing prepares one for the vast array of warriors in battle formation, the covered chariots and the ongoing archeological work being done. After some free time in the afternoon, we will be joined by a local guide who will lead us on the second of our food tours, this time throughout the inner city, both on foot and in tuk-tuks.

Day 9 January 12, Tuesday Xi'an to Harbin [BLD]

Today we leapfrog our way up to Harbin, the host of the famous and captivating Ice and Snow Festival, catching a three-hour flight over the northern plains and entering into old Manchuria. Our hotel is in downtown Harbin and after arrival we have time to wander to the nearby frozen Songhua River and its winter activities before a warming hotpot meal after our travel day.

Day 10 January 13, Wednesday Harbin [BD]

After several days of amazing experiences, we will relax in the morning and enjoy free/down time. People may wish to visit the ice sculptures in the nearby Zhaolin Park, visit the Jewish Museum, the old Saint Sophia's Church or stroll the early morning food market. We will gather together in the mid afternoon and in our own bus will travel to the Ice and Snow World, where we will meander through the world's largest ice sculptures. These are brightly and cleverly illuminated and they make the park – and the experience – a place of wonder ... even if it might be around minus 20 degrees! After braving this place of beauty we will repair to a warm, toasty northeastern style restaurant after another wonderful day. (No organized lunch today).

Day 11 January 14, Thursday Harbin to Beijing [BLD]

We fly today from Harbin to Beijing, after breakfast. China's capital has prize-winning modern buildings and halls of power, as well as alleyways where old folk fly pigeons and listen to songbirds. Our hotel is situated in the heart of the metropolis, both close to the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square as well as to the markets, restaurants and shops that make Beijing such a surprisingly vibrant city. In winter the inner city lakes freeze over, families take their children skating, people enjoy warming dishes and the dusk glows through the bare trees. Once we arrive in Beijing we will dive into its winter delights and partake of a Mongolian style hotpot in the evening, near a popular downtown district.

Day 12 January 15, Friday Beijing [BLD]

Chairman Mao said that “it was a great pity were one not to travel to the Great Wall”, and so we will ensure that today we are not among the pitied. After an early breakfast we will travel to one of the sections near Beijing – Mutianyu - in part because of the fine views, and the not too steep ascent, as well as the cable car possibility for those who prefer a slightly easier day. The added advantage is that rather than travel hours to far-flung reaches of the Wall, this nearer section allows us to pursue some other activities in the later afternoon. Winter means we are not jostled by tour groups and with luck snow may lie on the ramparts. Once back from the Wall, and some free time for people to wander at leisure in the nearby district or to rest, we will try some local delicacies in another nearby restaurant such as lamb with cumin or vegetable shashliks or shredded beef in beancurd wraps.

Day 13 January 16, Saturday Beijing [BLD]

No journey to Beijing is complete without a visit to the Forbidden City, which stands opposite the imposing Tiananmen Square. Today we will enjoy the knowledge of a local guide (from a tour company Jeremy uses regularly), and explore the massive complex that was the centre of imperial power for more than 500 years and home to 24 emperors. We will marvel at the imperial architecture and symbolism, as well as the collection of rooms and gardens contained within this mammoth and fascinating complex. After lunch at a nearby restaurant – a welcome rest! – we will visit Jingshan Park behind the Forbidden City and enjoy a 360 degree vista of Beijing. After free time in the afternoon for any final errands, we will enjoy a Beijing Duck cooked by a restaurant that has been operating since 1864.

Day 14 January 17, Sunday Beijing tour finishes after breakfast [B]

The group disperses today after breakfast, and Jeremy will assist with transport arrangements. Likewise people may wish to stay longer in Beijing and Jeremy is also willing to assist with bookings.

Total: Per person \$10,500 (twin share), single supplement \$750.

Inclusions and exclusions:

The Tour Price includes the following items:

- full accompaniment by Jeremy, including expert commentary and translation;
- all accommodation in central, high quality hotels;
- internal transfers in our own bus, internal plane ticket, train tickets, metro tickets, ferry tickets and taxis;
- entrance tickets to museums, historical sites and events are included;
- Xi'an and Chengdu food tour;
- local guides where appropriate, from companies Jeremy has vetted;
- all meals are included, apart from where indicated in the itinerary,;
- In-country gratuities are also covered.

Exclusions:

- Alcohol, snacks and soft drinks are not included;
- Souvenirs are not included;
- In-room expenses (telephone charges, mini-bars, room service, dry cleaning etc etc)

(Complete Terms and Conditions document available upon request).