

## **CHINA'S WONDERS TOUR: Pandas and Rivers**

### **Itinerary**

*[6 cities, 11 nights: 1 night Hong Kong, 1 night Guilin, 2 nights Yangshuo; 2 nights Chengdu; 3 nights Beijing; 2 nights Shanghai. Where indicated meals are provided; B= Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner]*

#### **Day 1          Sunday, September 14      Hong Kong**

We meet in Hong Kong in the evening and stroll through the evening markets, enjoying the bustle and busyness of this famous city, followed by a late night supper. [D]

#### **Day 2          Monday, September 15      Hong Kong to Guilin by train**

After a morning in Hong Kong, with an optional stroll down to the famous harbour, we catch a high-speed train through the countryside of southern China to Guilin, passing through immigration procedures at the train station. Our hotel is next to one of Guilin's beautiful lakes and alongside the famous Li River [BLD].

#### **Day 3          Tuesday, September 16      Guilin to Yangshuo on a river cruise**

We get transferred to our ferry in the morning and then take a lazy cruise down the Li River through amazing scenic countryside that has inspired thousands of artists and photographers. A real highlight! During the afternoon and evening we explore the cafes and restaurants of this delightful town. [BLD]

**Day 4      Wednesday, September 17      Yangshuo**

We enjoy a full day of wandering freely around Yangshuo, including Yangshuo Park with its scenic views. Optional tours in the afternoon to neighbouring scenic spots and then we attend a wonderful concert and light show in the shadow of Yangshuo's karst peaks. [BLD]

**Day 5      Thursday, September 18      Yangshuo to Chengdu**

A travel day today as we catch a highspeed train through central China, moving northwards to the cultured and gastronomic city of Chengdu. [BLD]

**Day 6      Friday, September 19      Chengdu**

We begin the day at the famous Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, seeing both giant pandas and red pandas in natural surroundings. Later we stroll through the famous Kuan and Zhai Alleyways, marveling at the energy of this ancient city. We then enjoy an exclusive gourmet food tour with local guides. [BLD]

**Day 7      Saturday, September 20      Chengdu to Beijing**

In the morning we stroll around Tianfu Square with its Mao statue and then a transfer to Chengdu airport for our flight to China's capital, Beijing. In the evening we walk along Beijing's famous pedestrian street, Wangfujing. [BLD]

**Day 8      Sunday, September 21      Beijing**

We take a private bus to the Great Wall, and wander at leisure for as far as we wish to go. There is free time once we return to our hotel and then we take a local metro to Nanluoguxiang and its alleyways of restaurants, shops and bars. We celebrate climbing the Wall by enjoying a tasty local hotpot. [BLD]

**Day 9                      Monday, September 22                      Beijing**

Today is spent exploring the highlights of China's imperial past, including the Forbidden City in the morning and then the capital's hutongs in the heart of the city. In the evening we dine on Beijing's famous roast duck in the Qianmen district with an optional visit to a bar district afterwards. [BLD]

**Day 10                      Tuesday, September 23                      Beijing to Shanghai**

Our day begins with an optional early morning visit to Tiananmen Square for sunrise and the flag raising ceremony, or a sleep-in before we transfer to the Beijing train station for a high-speed train south to Shanghai. Along the way we cross both the Yellow and Yangtze Rivers. In the evening, after checking in to our centrally located hotel, we will take a cruise alongside the famous Bund and the futuristic skyline of Shanghai's financial district. [BLD]

**Day 11                      Wednesday, September 24                      Shanghai**

We wander at leisure through Shanghai's famous French Concession, past art deco buildings, city parks and small galleries and boutique stores. In the afternoon some free time for final minute shopping or photos or reflection before we finish with a banquet dinner in a Michelin-starred local restaurant. [BLD]

**Day 12                      Thursday, September 25                      Shanghai**

On our last official morning we have a few hours of free time before there is a transfer to Pudong International Airport for flights home, or people may have chosen to remain for a few extra days of private touring. [B]

- Our Tour is fully accompanied and exclusive, having been curated by Sino-Immersion staff and built on our years of experience and research.
- Our Pandas and Rivers Tour contains many special features: we include wonderful cultural events (like concerts and food tours) and protect you from the usual tourist traps and obligatory visits to jade factories.
- All our tours offer the opportunity for our travellers to immerse themselves deeply in China's culture, with both international and local guides along the way.