

"When visiting new lands become immersed with its people"



China's Iconic Beauty

Monday 6 March – Saturday 18 March, 2017

CHINESE CULTURAL IMMERSION – 12 DAYS

Guided by Dr Jeremy Clarke, PhD, Sino-Immersion Pty Limited

CHINA'S ICONIC BEAUTY – 12 DAYS



Dr Clarke is an experienced Tour Guide who has travelled extensively throughout China since 1985. He is a published academic, a former university professor, a Mandarin speaker and a student of Chinese history and culture who loves to share his passion and knowledge with others. He will lead this bespoke tour, another of the many that he has done with everyone from university students through to high-school administrators. This encounter with China's iconic beauty will immerse visitors in a deeper understanding of China whilst experiencing distinctive sites, monuments and historically significant locations. You will delight in local delicacies, traditions and authentic Chinese culture.

Sino-Immersion has great pleasure in announcing its latest exciting adventure 'China's Iconic Beauty'. The aim of this tour is to uncover the diverse beauty of China and its people, whilst also gaining a greater appreciation of China's complex and increasing engagement with the Western World.

We have carefully selected excellent hotels in prime locations to enable all travelers sufficient time to immerse themselves in the history, culture and cuisine of this amazing country (and yes, some shopping too!)

Visiting four cities provides us with time to visit cultural sites as well as modern wonders. A mix of sites such as the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square and the fascinating Bund of Shanghai, with the beauty of Hangzhou's West Lake, Yangshuo's Li River and its distinctive mountain backdrop, combine to promise a broad and wonderful range of experiences.

Travelers need to be reasonably healthy, and enjoy doing some degree of walking. We will gain a true feel for the country and its people by exploring the streets and alleys away from the main arterials and the heavily trodden tourist paths.

The food is an experience in itself. As we move away from mainstream offerings we will walk along the alleyways of Beijing and, when the mood takes us, sample lamb kebabs, Mongolian hotpot and Beijing Duck, reflecting upon the imperial grandeur around us. We will eat xiaolong dumplings, special pork belly and tasty steamed fish.



DAY 1 Monday 6 March (Dinner)

Fly to Shanghai, and beat jetlag on the Bund.



DAY 2 Tuesday 7 March (Breakfast, lunch & dinner)

A day of touring through Shanghai, including a visit to the Shanghai Museum and its world-class collection of paintings, calligraphy and jade pieces as well as eating *xiaolong* dumplings in the Old City. We watch nightfall on board one of the Shanghai's well-equipped riverboats as we pass the mix of modern skyscrapers and Art Deco colonial buildings.

DAY 3 Wednesday 8 March (Breakfast, lunch & dinner)

Another day in Shanghai, exploring the history associated with the Chinese Communist Party and the Foreign Concessions, as well as shopping districts mixing the avant-garde with the classical.

DAY 4 Thursday 9 March (Breakfast, lunch & dinner)

A morning high-speed train to Hangzhou, and then wandering along the iconic West Lake's shores. Our evening is spent in the old part of town, perusing artisanal wares and feasting on famous pork belly and fish in special sauce.



DAY 5 Friday 10 March (Breakfast, lunch & dinner)

Buddhism is one of China's major religions and Hangzhou has ancient temples and grottoes dotting its hillsides. We visit these and then take a twilight cruise as our boat is rowed across West Lake's glassy waters.

DAY 6 Saturday 11 March (Breakfast & dinner)

We take one of China's high-speed trains up to Beijing, traversing half the country and passing across the massive northern plains. Lunch may be purchased from the dining car. We stroll through downtown Beijing and celebrate our arrival in the capital with a Beijing Duck banquet.



DAY 7 Sunday 12 March (Breakfast, lunch & dinner)

We sample the capital's wonders, museums and back alleys, cultural sites and secluded parks. There are food streets and markets, art districts and craft beer pubs, modern architecture and ancient courtyards.

DAY 8 Monday 13 March (Breakfast, lunch & dinner)

We take our own private bus to the Great Wall and for the adventurous we make our way up the grey stone crenellations and stand atop this ancient structure.

Now you too can say: 'I have climbed the Great Wall.' Suitable celebrations will ensue and in the afternoon there are optional other locations to explore.

DAY 9 Tuesday 14 March (Breakfast, lunch & dinner)

We fly to Guilin, in southern China, and then take a private bus to secluded yet beautiful rural Yangshuo. Here the River Li meanders around rocky crags and stunning mountains like a painting come to life. We attend the sound and light show in the evening, showcasing Chinese culture and creativity.

DAY 10 Wednesday 15 March (Breakfast & dinner)

A full day in Yangshuo, perhaps riding bicycles along the banks of the River Li, or cruising slowly along on a fishing boat or even taking a calligraphy class in town. We dine in local restaurants on home-style delicacies and feel like time has stood still. Lunch is able to be purchased at leisure in the numerous restaurants and cafes.



DAY 11 Thursday 16 March (Breakfast & dinner)

After a leisurely morning we fly back to Shanghai and have a concluding banquet in one of Shanghai's world-class fusion restaurants. Light lunch on board the plane.

DAY 12 Friday 17 March (Breakfast, lunch & dinner)

This is a free day, with a number of optional tours being offered, ranging from morning exercise in nearby parks to last-minute shopping expeditions to hole in the wall boutiques to visits to one of Shanghai's many world-class museums. We return to Sydney on an evening flight arriving Saturday morning.

INCLUSIVE COSTINGS FOR 12 DAY ITINERARY

- Assistance with applying for Chinese visas
- All flights (international and domestic), economy class
- All transfers and transportation in spacious and comfortable vehicles with local drivers and guides (including gratuities)
- Twin share quality hotel accommodation, 4 star (minimum) in prime locations. Single rooms will be available for an additional cost of \$900. Alternatively Sino-Immersion is happy to try to arrange shared rooms for people on the tour
- Meals as outlined in daily routines. Meals will feature authentic local cuisine and traditional dishes (ranging from dumplings in Shanghai to roast duck in Beijing)
- Local guides to provide logistical assistance
- All museum and scenic site entry costs
- All gratuities and tips expected by local assistants
- **\$8799 per person**
- If a single supplement is required please note the fee of \$900 will be an additional charge
- Alcohol will also be an additional charge



BOOKINGS

To confirm a position on this tour please contact **Taff Walsh**

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A deposit of \$2,500 will be required to confirm your booking.



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