

# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## BEIJING



Beijing Airport

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### DAY 1

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 5

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Upon arrival at Beijing International Airport. You will be met off the jet bridge and whisked through the airport's **Diplomatic Channel**. No need to wait in line for Customs and Immigration, and no need to walk through the car park. Your car will be waiting for you at the airport exit (\*\*please note that this service is only available between 7:30 am – 10:00 pm).

Your China Host will then meet you after you have claimed your luggage and passed through customs. The China Host will accompany you during the remainder of your stay in China (our China Host acts as a personal concierge to you throughout your stay in China, allowing you to make changes as you see fit...this may mean adding a site or taking out a site, changing a restaurant or booking a foot massage!)

Upon transferring to the hotel, you will have the remainder of the evening at leisure (no other services included this evening). (Please note that this itinerary assumes one transfer; additional transfers will be subject to an extra charge.) (Waldorf Astoria–Premier Twin Room on smoking floor)

*\*\*Imperial Tours clients get upgraded to the next room category based on availability at the time of booking.*

## BEIJING



Great Wall

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### DAY 2

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6 B / L / D

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This morning, we drive an hour northwest for the breathtaking views and fresh air of the largest imperial garden in China. Rebuilt in 1888 with little other purpose than to provide the Empress Dowager Cixi with a different scene at every step, the more than 3,000 buildings, gardens, lakes and ponds of the **Summer Palace** revolve around the manmade Kunming Lake.

Afterwards, you will visit the **Great Wall of China**. Built to protect China from the incursions of predatory nomads, the utility and meaning of this fortification has been contested for centuries. The unprecedented scale and unexpected charm of the Great Wall may inspire you. The section that we most highly recommend is the further away, about 2.5 hours drive, but is generally considered one of the most beautiful sections of the Great Wall. Once there, you will be treated to a **private banquet on the Wall** itself (weather permitting). Before dinner you will be given some time for a stroll along this most magnificent of sites.

## WALDORF ASTORIA BEIJING

Located in the heart of Beijing, the Waldorf Astoria appeals to clients seeking a more intimate hotel experience. Rooms are beautifully decorated in subtle tones of Hermes orange and teal.

### IMPERIAL AMENITIES

- Buffet breakfast for two
- Upgrade on availability at time of check-in
- Wifi in rooms

### LOCATION

Close to the Wangfujing commercial street and within walking distance of the Forbidden City's eastern gate.

### ROOMS

171

[www.waldorfastoria3.Hilton.com](http://www.waldorfastoria3.Hilton.com)



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## BEIJING



*Contemporary Art*

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### DAY 3

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7

B / L / D

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This morning, you will visit the **Lama Temple**, a Tibetan Buddhist temple housed in what was once a princely palace. A sandalwood statue of Maitreya, gifted to the temple by the Seventh Dalai Lama, is one of the temples prized religious artifacts. Upon exiting you may be interested to walk through the **Confucius Temple**. Located next door, this is where people paid homage to Confucius during the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties.

In the afternoon you will explore Beijing's contemporary art scene with a visit to the **Factory 798** area in the north of the city. Designed by Bauhaus-inspired German architects in the 1950s, the now-decommissioned factory complex once produced a wide variety of military equipment. As production slowed in the late 1990s, local artists began to gravitate towards the area, finding its vast empty spaces ideal for studios and galleries. Now widely regarded as the epicenter of Beijing's art scene, 798 is home to a vibrant mixture of internationally established galleries and smaller exhibition spaces in addition to a number of cafes, restaurants and stores.

## BEIJING



*Temple of Heaven*

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### DAY 4

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 8

B / L / D

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The **Temple of Heaven** was once the center of a square world where the leader of a Confucianist superpower performed sacred sacrificial rites to a circular heaven. The "noblest example of religious architecture in the whole of China" was the place where the emperor came to mediate in the affairs of God and man. Today the 10 acres of ancient trees surrounding the marble terrace altar serve as a public park, free for pensioners and popular with amateur Peking Opera performers.

For shoppers, the city's largest open-air **antique/flea market** offers unique souvenir solutions. This is your opportunity to polish your haggling techniques purchasing a genuine handmade Ming dynasty-reproduction chair, browse through bronze statuettes or guess the use of Tibetan curios (all available at a tenth the price at the hotel gift shop). Those who tire of beads and trinkets can study the faces of vendors who congregate here from the farthest corners of the country bringing their precious cargos of priceless collectibles. (Please note that this market only opens on weekends)

*(Continues on the next page)*



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## BEIJING



*Hutong Neighborhood*

### CONTINUED

Beijing's historic center was designed in a grid pattern of east-west residential alleyways or *hutong* intersected by north-south commercial streets with shops. After the communist revolution, the character of this formerly exclusive enclave radically changed as the masses moved into its palatial homes, often building rickety shacks in the courtyards for further accommodation. This arrangement gave rise to a romanticized communal street-life that you will see today. **This afternoon's 1.5 mile (2km) stroll** takes you through the contradictions and attractions of this anomalous development. We contrast a lower middle class neighborhood surrounding a market with a recently gentrified area featuring double-garaged mansions. In the process, we take in the lakeside activities that maintain this as the city's most desirable residential address. Should you wish to shorten the walk, please advise your guide who can arrange for you to skip various sections in your vehicle.

We will visit a **Sport School** dedicated to training the country's best young athletes for the Olympics. Once there you will be able to see them practicing kungfu.

## BEIJING XI'AN



*Forbidden City*

### DAY 5

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 9 B / L / D

During the late '60s while the western world busied itself with Beatle mania, more than a million teenagers crammed into the world's largest public square thrusting high their Little Red Books and screaming eternal allegiance to the one, the only, Chairman Mao. Forty years later, the Marxist emperor gazes serenely over **Tiananmen Square**. You will pass under Mao Zedong's iconic portrait and enter the centuries-old geomantic epicenter of the imperial power he came to replace. Home to 24 emperors, their courts and harems from 1420 to 1924, the **Forbidden City** today attracts millions of tourists from China and around the world. We arrange for special access to **Chonghuagong**, a section of the Forbidden City that is normally closed to the general public. Please note that Chonghuagong is filled with antiques and in the event that the weather is particularly rainy/humid, the authorities will not grant access. It is also not open Saturday through Monday and on National Holidays.

In the afternoon you will fly to the ancient capital city of **Xi'an**. (Shangri-la Hotel – Deluxe City View Twin Room on smoking floor)

### SHANGRI-LA HOTEL

With floor-to-ceiling glass windows in all rooms, Shangri-la offers good views over its landscaped gardens or the city. Convenient access to airport, but outside the city centre.

### IMPERIAL AMENITIES

- Buffet breakfast for two
- USD100 spa credit per room
- In-room wifi access

### LOCATION

In the prestigious financial and shopping district of the Gao Xin Hi-tech Development Zone, west of the city.

### ROOMS

390  
[www.Shangri-la.com](http://www.Shangri-la.com)



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## X I ' A N



*Terracotta Warriors*

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### DAY 6

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 *B / L / D*

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Competing Chinese kingdoms were united for the first time within a Chinese empire by the virile King Zheng, of the Kingdom of Qin. Many claim that this first Imperial dynasty of “Qin” (pronounced “chin”) gives English the etymological root for the name “China”. China’s first ever Emperor, known as Qinshihuangdi, designated Xi’an the capital of his rule. He arranged for an underground army to be buried in his tomb. These are the stunning **Terracotta Warriors**, which you will visit this morning.

**Pit #1** is the major archaeological site at the Terracotta Warriors Museum. While access to the front of this pit is reserved for heads of state, we can arrange special access to an area at the rear popularly known as the “hospital” where a squadron of approximately 200 repaired full-size soldiers stand in formation. You will be able to enter the archaeological area and walk next to and between the warriors. *(Please note that the museum can revoke this access at any time for whatever reason; in such circumstances, we will provide you with a full refund.)*

## X I ' A N



*Great Mosque*

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### CONTINUED

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In the afternoon we visit the fully-functional **Great Mosque**, located in the heart of the vibrant and bustling Muslim quarter. This is one of many mosques serving the city's approximate 30,000 Muslims, believed to be the descendants of eighth-century Arab soldiers, traders and converts who arrived via the ancient Silk Road to make their homes in the dynamic economic capital of the time.

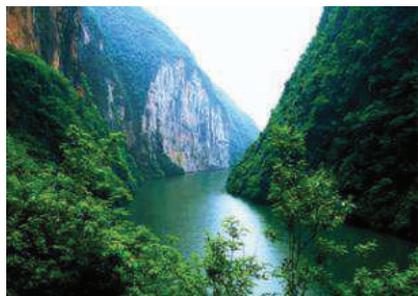
Like the ethnically Han Chinese, they were afforded protection by the imposing City Wall. The **Tang dynasty wall** was significantly expanded in the Ming Dynasty in the late fourteenth century. This handsome structure is in fact taller and wider than the Great Wall with its 98 ramparts placed every 120 meters encircling the older part of the city in a protective embrace.

In the evening you will enjoy a private **dumpling-making and noodle-throwing lesson** by the hotel’s expert chefs.



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## XI'AN CHONGQING



Yangzi River

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### DAY 7

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11 B / L / D

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Feel the unique thrill of holding priceless works of art in your hands. With **special access at the Archaeological Institute**, an academic will take national Chinese treasures out of their off-limits store room and pass them to you for personal inspection. In the past, guests have handled Zhou dynasty (1046 – 256 BCE) bronze-ware commemorating victory in a battle, Han dynasty (206 BCE – 220 CE) gold ingots and a celadon dating to the Tang dynasty (618 - 907), as well as other pieces. The academic will introduce the provenance and background to each piece in detail.

Later on you will fly to **Chongqing** in Sichuan province.

*\*\*Please note that the China Host will not accompany you on the Yangzi Cruise.*

Upon arriving in Chongqing, you will be transferred to the Yangtze Explorer, the newest and best boat on the Yangtze River. (Sanctuary Yangtze Explorer – Imperial Suite on Xiling Deck with extra bed)

## CHONGQING



Fengdu

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### DAY 8

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12 B / L / D

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Today you stop in **Fengdu** and be given the choice to visit the ghost temple where the Chinese believe the souls would gather after they passed away, or alternatively get a glimpse of life along the Yangzi River by visiting the village with a visit to the market and a kindergarten.

### MS YANGZI EXPLORER

*A smaller and more intimate boat, the Yangzi Explorer provides the largest rooms and best service on the river.*

### LOCATION

Embark upstream in Chongqing, disembark at Yichang.

### ROOMS

62

[www.yangziexplorer.org](http://www.yangziexplorer.org)



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## YANGZI



Yangzi River

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### DAY 9

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13 B / L / D

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It requires an early morning start to catch **Qutang Gorge**, the shortest and most majestic of the famous three gorges. Bring a coat on deck as the wind accelerates down the gorge's narrow channel, its rocky banks looming either side in the early morning mist. There's time to snatch breakfast before entering arguably the most beautiful stretch of the Yangtze: the 25-mile-long zigzag that is **Wu Gorge**, renowned for its deep canyons, strange peaks, grotesque rocks and eerie fog.

Soon after emerging from this gorge, you will dock at a small port to transfer to smaller boats for a two-hour excursion up the **Shennong Stream**, a strategic location for countless battles throughout ancient Chinese history. Here you will see the last resting places of the Ba people, who buried their dead in long wooden coffins pegged to the cliff faces. The Ba Kingdom was destroyed in 316 BCE by an emperor better known for his terracotta army: Qin Shihuang. In the afternoon, as you advance through the final **Xiling Gorge**, you cannot miss the US\$25 billion Three Gorges Dam. The largest hydroelectric project in the world dwarfs your boat as it navigates the **Five Stage Ship Lock**.

## YICHANG SHANGHAI



Fengdu

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### DAY 10

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14 B / L / D

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Having docked, this morning you will take a tour of the controversial **Three Gorges Dam**, the only thing to have ever provoked a squeak out of China's notorious "rubber-stamp" parliament. Some 177 National People's Congress delegates openly opposed the project in an April 3, 1992 vote. A further 644 abstained, while 25 apparently forgot to show up. The remaining 1,767 loyal Communist Party members carried the day.

*\*\*Your China Host will meet you again in Yichang after disembarkation.*

After a tour of the site, you will disembark from your boat at Yichang and fly to **Shanghai**. (On occasion, there are no flights from Yichang to Shanghai in which case you will need to take a four-hour car ride to Wuhan airport, whence you will fly to Shanghai). (Peninsula Hotel – Grand Deluxe River View Twin Room)

### PENINSULA HOTEL

The Shanghai Peninsula evokes the Art Deco era. Comfortable rooms are equipped with the latest room technology featuring low cost, IP telephone calling and free internet service.

### IMPERIAL AMENITIES

- American breakfast for two
- In-room wifi access
- Long distance calls via VOIP
- Afternoon high tea for two when booking two Peninsula Hotels in China

### LOCATION

North end of the Bund

### ROOMS

235

[www.peninsula.com](http://www.peninsula.com)



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## S H A N G H A I



*The Bund*

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### DAY 11

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 15

B / L / D

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Your tour of Shanghai begins with a **lecture/tour on colonial architecture** in Shanghai given by a member of the Shanghai Historical Society. This tour will take you into some of the most important buildings along the Bund and former French Concession including the former Hong Kong Shanghai Bank.

En route to lunch, we will travel along sycamore-lined boulevards into the heart of the **Former French Concession**. This section of the “Paris of the Orient” now hosts many arts-based businesses and art galleries that we can visit if you so desire. The afternoon will be spent discovering some of Shanghai’s great shopping treasures. This might include a contemporary ceramics shop, the private studio of a renowned fashion designer or a shop selling cashmere scarves and shawls.

Later today you will be taken to witness the marvelous stunts of the **Acrobatic Show**.

## S H A N G H A I



*Zhujiajiao*

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### DAY 12

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 16

B / L / D

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This morning we will visit one of the best museums in the world for classical Chinese art. While walking you through millennia of beautiful bronzes, jade, calligraphy, paintings and furniture, the **Shanghai Museum** simultaneously guides you through whole chapters of Chinese history. This being Shanghai, the tour concludes with the best museum shop in all of China.

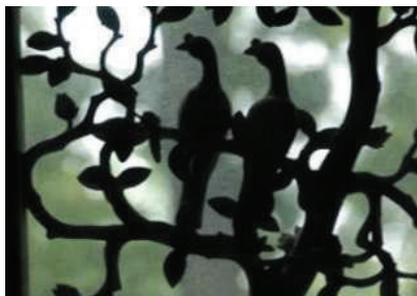
A half-day trip takes us west of Shanghai into the delta of the Yangzi River, a fertile area known as “the land of fish and rice”. We visit **Zhujiajiao**, once an important port on the Grand Canal, which retains much of the old charm of this region’s numerous canal towns. Stroll along the cobblestone streets and ride a traditional wooden boat along the central canal.

## SHANGHAI OPTIONALS

1. *Jewish History Tour*
2. *Contemporary Art Tour with an Expert*
3. *Shopping with a Fashion Insider*
4. *Cooking Lesson in a French Concession home*
5. *Private Dinner in an Art Deco Cupola on the Bund*
6. *Luggage Porter Service*
7. *Shanghai Nightlife with a Music Editor*
8. *Why Chinese View Religion Differently*
9. *Practice Kung Fu with a Master*
10. *Chocolate Making Lesson*

# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## S H A N G H A I



*Yu Gardens*

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### DAY 13

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17 B / L / D

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We start with a **cooking lesson** inside of an old French Concession home. Here you will learn how to make some **traditional Shanghai dishes**.

This afternoon, we will visit the **Yu Gardens**, one of the best examples of traditional Chinese garden design in the country. Afterwards, you will have some time to stroll through Shanghai's Old Quarter.

Unless you would prefer a taste of Shanghai's **contemporary art scene** with visits to a selection of the city's best galleries. This might include the M50 area, where a cluster of former factories have been converted into studios and contemporary exhibition spaces or the Long Museum, the Power Station of Art depending on ongoing exhibitions.

Tonight, we will arrange a **private dinner inside the cupola** of an Art Deco building on the Bund with a magnificent view over the harbor. This set-menu meal will be designed and catered by Jean Georges.

## S H A N G H A I H O N G K O N G



*Hong Kong Harbour*

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### DAY 14

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18 B

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This morning you will be transferred to the airport on time to board your flight to **Hong Kong**.

*\*\*Please note that this is the end of services for your China Host.*

You will land at **Hong Kong's** international airport and be greeted at the bridge by an airport **VIP staff**.

This afternoon you will take the famous **Peninsula afternoon tea with an I-ching Master** who will tell you your destiny. (Peninsula Hotel – Grand Deluxe Harbour View Twin Room on smoking floor)

### PENINSULA HOTEL

Since 1928, the Peninsula has been arguably Hong Kong's best-loved institution, featuring magnificent views of the harbor, some of the territory's finest restaurants, and renowned service. Rainy Chan, the GM is keeping the property true to its tradition of excellence.

### IMPERIAL AMENITIES

- Peninsula breakfast for two in Lobby or Buffet breakfast for two in Verandah
- USD100 Food & Beverage or Spa credit
- Afternoon high tea for two when booking two Peninsula Hotels in China
- In-room wifi access
- Long distance calls via VOIP
- 4 pm late check-out

### LOCATION

Kowloon overlooking the harbor.

### ROOMS

300  
www.peninsula.com



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## H O N G K O N G



*Victoria Peak*

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### DAY 15

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 19

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To paraphrase President Coolidge the business of Hong Kong is business. Our full-day tour gives a human face to the history of this fascinating city. Hong Kong's fast-paced development is explored in our detailed **walking architectural tour of Central** from colonial edifices near the waterfront to the totemic skyscrapers of modern times, finishing on Hollywood Road where contemporary art galleries vie for space with antique dealers.

Having ascended to the Mid-Levels on the world's longest escalator, you will hop onto the funicular Peak Tram climbing to **Victoria Peak** where you will lunch enjoying expansive views over the financial hub and harbor. At **Aberdeen Harbor**, we board a sampan to retrace the original landing path of the British Lord Aberdeen to Hong Kong and sail through a flotilla of Hakka boat people that still call this harbor home.

## H O N G K O N G



*Wong Tai Sin Temple*

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### CONTINUED

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The transience underpinning Hong Kong's story is explored after lunch in our visit to **Wong Tai Sin Temple** on Kowloon side. This shepherd God became famed for an ability to grant wishes spurning a thriving cottage industry in fortune-telling – worthwhile if it improves your odds in the dynamic, opportunistic whirl of Hong Kong.

We will arrange for a **helicopter tour** of the city including the dizzying Hong Kong skyline as well as the waters off Repulse Bay. This is a 15 minute flight.

*Please note that the car, driver and guide are available from 9am to 5 pm.*



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## M A C A U



*Cotai Strip*

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### DAY 16

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20

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“This morning you will be transferred from your hotel to the hoverport. From the gentlemanly restraint of the “Wynn” to the adrenalin-fueled cackles of the local gambling dens, Macau’s casinos are fun to visit. By contrast, our half-day tour focuses on the cultural wealth of this former Portuguese colony. Nothing sums up why and how Macau exists better than the view of **Barrier Gate**, the historic border crossing between tiny Macau and massive China. Of course, the first traders arrived by sea, and our next port of call consequently is the ancient dock where the Portuguese first landed in 1535, opposite **A-ma Temple**, to create this trading colony.

## M A C A U



*Senado Square*

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### CONTINUED

From here we drive downtown to view the relics of the Jesuit missionaries who followed quickly after their co-religionists, propagating not only catholic doctrine but also the latest scientific learning. Close to the emblematic **St. Paul’s Cathedral**, which defines the center of this World heritage-listed city, lies the charming **Senado Square**, from which spurs the island’s main thoroughfares, such as the **Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro**. Here, we may enjoy the unique atmosphere of a small European city... in China. We recommend you enjoy a scrumptious lunch of Macanese specialties in the old town, after which you will have some time to walk around the old town prior to returning to the for your journey back to Hong Kong.” *Please note that the car, driver and guide are available from 9am to 5 pm.*



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## H O N G   K O N G



*Hong Kong Street*

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*DAY 17*

*SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21*

*B*

Today you will be transferred on time to the airport to board your international flight.

