

Hidden Treasures of China

Exploring natural wonders, historical attractions and cultural heritage in
Datong, Pingyao, Yinchuan, Chengdu, Leshan, Guiyang, and Kaili

15 Days / 14 Nights

well tested itinerary and ready-to-go for any group size - pick your dates



Tour Program Summary

China is a land of history and refinement unparalleled in the world. Attentive visitors are immersed in a sea of visual and cultural experiences unlike any other they may have had elsewhere. Each geographic area in China teems with its own identity as an energetic variation on the great theme of Chinese civilization. You will be amazed at how regions differ vastly yet express similar values and ideas.

This journey begins in **Beijing** with an overnight stay in a comfortable airport hotel. A short flight takes you to **Datong**, an ancient city and the capital of Northern Wei Dynasty. Take an excursion to view the extraordinary precious Buddhist art and sculptures at the renowned Yungang Grottos. Travel to the countryside to visit the unique Hanging Temple and tour the exquisite Huayan Temple in the city.

Another hop by air get you to **Pingyao**, one of the best preserved ancient county towns in Shanxi Province. The centuries-old city wall is still standing and the old town center appears to be from an era long gone, with traditional store fronts and character old residences. Explore the maze of small alley ways where old customs and way of life continues. Tour the fascinating compound of the Wang Family and ornate Shuanglin Temple, center of the local spiritual life

Fly to **Yinchuan**, capital of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and an ancient city on the banks of the Yellow River with obvious Muslim characters. Arab and Persian merchants came to China over 1400 years ago during the Tang and Song Dynasties via the Silk Road and many of them settled down in China. Their Muslim descendants became today's Hui ethnic minority.

The next stop of your tour is **Chengdu**, a place of color, spirit and fiery food. A visit to the Giant Panda Breeding & Research Center gives you the rare opportunity to view these adorable but critically endangered animals up close. Ponder the marvelous findings at the Sanxingdui Archaeological Site & Museum spanning 4000 years of history. Relax and sip a cup of fragrant tea in a local teahouse and enjoy a fascinating face-changing performance. See the awesome **Leshan** Giant Buddha and wander in the alleys of the atmospheric Huanglongxi ancient town.

Wing on to **Guiyang**, capital of Guizhou Province. Green and lush parks dot this vibrant city and an day excursion will bring you to China's largest waterfall - Huangguoshu Waterfall. With a diverse culture and ethnic population, Guizhou Province is home to more than 20 ethnic minorities and **Kaili** is the center of the Miao People who still practice ancient rituals and follow centuries old traditions. You will explore several colorful minority villages.

Fly from Guiyang to Hong Kong or another gateway city at the end of your tour.

Tour Daily Itinerary

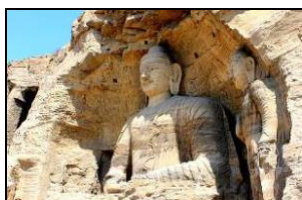
Day 01 **Beijing** Arrive in Beijing today; meet your guide at the airport and transfer by hotel shuttle to [Langham Place Beijing Capital Airport \(essential place room\)](#); evening is free for your own relaxation.

Day 02 **→ Datong** Early breakfast in hotel. Hotel shuttle bus to airport terminal and fly **CA1119 (0705-0820)** to Datong, capital of the Northern Wei Dynasty about 1,500 years ago, served as the military stronghold of numerous dynasties. Here, visitors discover charming temples, magnificent grottoes, exquisite murals, sculptures and the meandering Great Wall to the north of the city.

Met by your local guide and transfer the city to visit the Nine Dragon Screen, built over 600 years ago and presently the oldest and largest glazed screen in China today. Then stop by Shanhua Temple for a visit. The largest and earliest Daxionbao Hall in the temple is the original building from the 11th -century Liao Dynasty established by the Khitans.

After **lunch**, transfer to hotel for check-in and refreshing. In the afternoon, take an excursion to World Heritage Site - Yungang Caves, where elaborate and colorful Buddhist art works in the grottoes have been well preserved for over a thousand years. It is one of the three finest ancient Buddhist Grottos in China.

Transfer back to hotel. Dinner is on your own. [Holiday Inn Datong City Center \(superior room\)](#). <B-L>



Day 03 **Datong** Breakfast in hotel. This morning, take an excursion to the Hanging Temple to the south of Datong. This unique temple was built more than 1,500 years ago. It is notable not only for its location on a sheer precipice but also because it is the only existing temple with the combination of three Chinese traditional religions: Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. The structure is kept in place with oak crossbeams fitted into holes chiseled into the cliffs.

Then head west to Ying County to see the incredible 1000-year old Sakyamuni Wooden Pagoda in Fogong Monastery. It is probably the oldest wooden structure in China today and the interlocking wooden beams and the overall structural style demonstrated a very high architectural achievement during the Liao Dynasty. Also visit the nearby and small Jingtu Temple with an amazing intricate caisson ceiling.

Return to Datong in late afternoon and enjoy **Local Cuisine Dinner** in *Feng Lin Ge Restaurant*. <B-L-D>

Day 04 **→ 🚗 Pingyao** Breakfast in hotel. This morning, go to visit the elegant Huayan Temple,

built in Liao Dynasty, the monastery has on two levels. The lower level houses the Sutra Hall and Datong Museum, while the Main Hall is on the upper level. Huayan Buddhism is based on the Flower Garden Sutra and was influential in many parts of north and western China.

Late morning transfer to Datong Airport and fly [3U8532 \(1250-1330\)](#) to Taiyuan. Met by your guide and have **lunch** in a local restaurant.

Drive south to Pingyao and on the way visit [Jinci Temple](#), Shanxi Province's most famous temple complex. It was first built in Tang Dynasty about 1500 years ago and then expanded in 1023 AD as a tribute to the ancestors of the Jin State. There are over 100 stunning statues and it also contains a classical garden with many old trees including a 3,000 year-old cypress dating from the Zhou Dynasty.

Arrive in Pingyao and check in [Jing's Residence \(deluxe king room\)](#). Enjoy a **Local Cuisine Dinner** and evening is free. <B-D>



Day 05 **Pingyao**

Breakfast in hotel. First enjoy a half-day guided tour of [Pingyao Old Town](#), a walled city with a 2000-year history and many old Ming and Qing dynasty houses, compounds, temples, and defensive structures.

Pingyao has the best preserved protective walls of any city in China. The original [City Wall](#) still circles the town, and its narrow streets restricted from motor vehicles traffic are lined with small but unique family-owned shops and restaurants.

Sites to visit include the [Old Court House](#), [Confucius Temple](#), a [Catholic Church](#), and [Rishengchang Bank Compound](#), the first banking established in China. Have **lunch** in a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, take an excursion to the exquisite [Shuanglin Temple](#), a structure over 1560 years old that houses more than 2000 clay statues of deities and religious icons. Stop by a village market.

Return to hotel and the balance of the day is free for your own relaxation and exploration in Pingyao. <B-L>

Day 06 **→ Yinchuan**

After breakfast in hotel, check out and transfer to Taiyuan Airport and board flight [GS6517 \(1245-1405\)](#) to Yinchuan, capital of Ningxia Hui Muslim Autonomous Region.

Yinchuan is an ancient city on the banks of the Yellow River with a unique Muslim character. Arab and Persian merchants came to China over 1400 years ago via the Silk Road and many of them settled down in China.

Upon arrival, you are met by your local guide and transfer to visit the remains of [Ming Great Wall](#) (a very different scene from the ones near Beijing) at the foot of Helan Mountain and the [Najiahu Grand Mosque](#).

Transfer to your hotel for check-in and refreshing. Enjoy a local

Muslim Cuisine Dinner in a local elite restaurant. Stay for two nights in [Kempinski Hotel Yinchuan \(deluxe king room\)](#). <B-D>



Day 07 **Yinchuan** Breakfast in hotel. This morning you will first visit the [Haibao Pagoda](#), featuring unusual angular shapes with niches and ledges that protrude from each of the eleven storeys. Then, tour [Nanguan Mosque](#), first built at the end of Ming dynasty and rebuilt in 1980, has a distinct and classic Islamic architectural style, complete with majestic green domes.

Next, visit [Drum Tower](#) of Yinchuan, an traditional structure sits right in the city center and next to lively markets and pedestrian walking area; [Chengtian Temple West Pagoda](#) lies in a nice and quiet park, perfect place for a stroll. The current Pagoda was rebuilt in the Qing Dynasty.

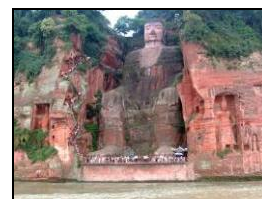
Afternoon travel to the little-known highlight of Yinchuan is the [Western Xia Mausolea](#), on the slopes of Helan Mountain to the west of the city. These high pointed burial mounds are called the “Chinese Pyramids”. These mausoleums contain the nine tombs of the Buddhist emperors of Western Xia Dynasty (1038-1227AD), which was established by the Daxiang People. After 200 years of glory, they mysteriously disappeared among the northern tribes when the Mongols swept across the continent.

Late afternoon , return to hotel and evening is free. <B-L>

Day 08 → **Chengdu** Enjoy breakfast in hotel. Morning transfer to airport and fly [CA4232 \(1030-1225\)](#) to Chengdu. Met by your local guide and transfer to hotel for check-in, refreshing and lunch on your own.

Enjoy an afternoon tour of the [Qingyanggong Taoist Monastery](#), a [tea house](#), and [Jinli Pedestrian Street](#). This evening, enjoy a **Sichuan Cuisine Dinner** at [Baguobuyi](#) followed by a [Face-Changing Show](#) in a local theater.

Transfer back to hotel and stay in [Demenrenli Boutique Hotel \(deluxe king room\)](#) for two nights. <B-D>



Day 09 **Chengdu** Early breakfast and leave at **7:30am** to visit [Chengdu Panda Research & Breeding Center](#) where you can hold a baby panda and take pictures (*cost extra to be paid on spot*). Then, take an excursion to the amazing [Sanxingdui Archaeological Site & Museum](#) for stunning exhibits of the ancient Shu

Culture, and visit a countryside market.

Enjoy **lunch** in a hotel restaurant. Return to Chengdu late afternoon and visit Chengdu Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) and Kuanzhai Alleys Neighborhood. Return to hotel and balance of the day is free. <B-L>

Day 10 **Chengdu** Breakfast in hotel. Take an excursion to Leshan City to see the world's largest sitting Buddha sculpture. The Giant Buddha in Leshan is a 71-meter tall stone statue sitting right at the confluence of the Minhiang, Dadu and Qingyi Rivers. The construction was started in 713 AD and it was not completed until 803 AD with 70 year pause in the middle.

On the way back to Chengdu, stop by Huanglongxi for a visit to see this active market town with century old buildings and residences. Back to hotel by the evening and time for relaxation. <B-L>

Day 11 → **Guiyang** Breakfast in hotel. Morning tour of Dufu's Cottage, a beautiful traditional style garden dedicated to the famous Tang dynasty poet Du Fu. Then, late morning transfer to the airport and fly **CZ3768 (1320-1425)** to Guiyang, capital of Guizhou Province. Met and transfer to hotel.

The subtropical Guizhou, shrouded in mist and forested mountains, has a unique culture and is home to 23 of China's 55 minority groups, second only to Yunnan Province.

Enjoy a late afternoon tour of lush Qianling Park with the charming Hongfu Temple on its ground. Enjoy a **local cuisine dinner** tonight. Stay two nights in Kempinski Hotel Guiyang (deluxe room). <B-D>



Day 12 **Guiyang** ⇄
🚗 **H.W.F** After breakfast, you embark on a scenic drive through deep mountain valleys lined with rice terraces, rivers and verdant peaks. The first highlight of the day is the Sky Dragon Garrison Fortress (Tianlong Tunbao). Residents of the fortress town wear long blue robes, speak a distinctive dialect. The fortress was established in the Ming Dynasty (around 1413) when the imperial court sent an army to control the indigenous people. Explore the town's ancient street and see a unique performance with colorful costumes and high pitched singing.

Then head to the magnificent Huangguoshu Water Fall, one of Asia's largest with a height of 278 feet and a width of 323 feet. Hike to the "Water Curtain Cave" behind the falls and get closer to the action. The cave, a 134 meters long corridor, has six unique naturally formed "windows" through which the falls can be watched, heard and touched! Listening to its thundering sound and reaching out to touch the columns of the cascading water is certainly an unforgettable experiences! Other sites in the park

include [Tianxing Bridge](#) and [Doupotang Waterfall](#).

Drive back to hotel in Guiyang by the evening. <B-L>

Day 13 🚗 **Kaili**

After breakfast, travel for 190 kilometer through lush forested mountains and river valleys to Kaili, the center of Miao culture and gateway to surrounding minority hill villages. Upon arrival, enjoy a city tour before checking in at the hotel, **lunch** and refreshing.

In Kaili region, There are many different groups of Miao, each having distinct costumes, dialects, and customs. Local Han Chinese have given them names that are usually descriptive of or related to the women's dress or hairstyle. Thus there are the Black, Red, and White Miao, Rooster Miao, describing the shape of the headdress, Side Comb Miao because of the position of the hair comb, and so on. They are also named according to where they live, hence Mountain or River Miao, or by the skirts they wear, Long or Short Skirt Miao.



This afternoon you will visit [Jidao Long-Skirt Miao Village](#). Being a generational settlement of the long-skirt Miao, Jidao Miao Village remains original, remote and tranquil. It is also famous for home-made wine. Next, tour [Qingman Short-Skirt Miao Village](#), a village noted for distinct costumes and traditional clothes-making. Men and women wear a hand-knitted short-skirt and the clothing material is homemade.

Enjoy **dinner** in a local restaurant. Return to hotel late afternoon and stay in [Kaili Zongheng Hotel \(deluxe room\)](#). <B-L-D>

Day 14 🚗 **Kaili**

Breakfast in hotel. Take a full day excursion to [Shidong](#), an old town featuring its beautiful rural sight as well as the simple life style. Shidong Ancient Town is also famous for the silver wares and ornaments, and the traditional ways of making these. Here you will see the whole process of how local people make silver wares, and participate many activities.

Along the way, you will stop at [small villages](#) and [local markets](#) to sample the local culture and meet ethnic minority people.

Late afternoon, travel back to Kaili and dinner on your own. <B-L>

Day 15 ✈️ **return**

Enjoy your breakfast in hotel. Travel by vehicle to Guiyang Airport and fly **HX353 (1435-1605)** to Hong Kong or another gateway city. Service ends.

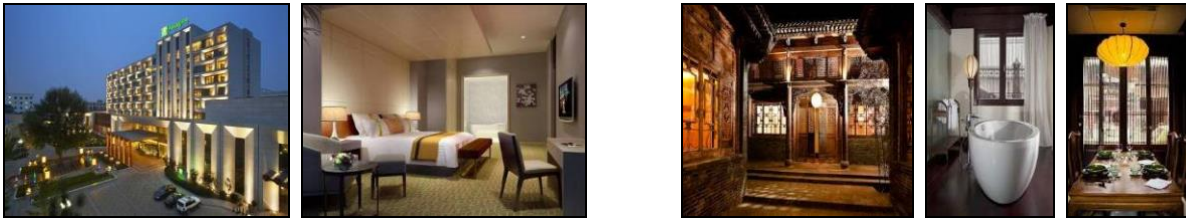
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Deluxe, First Class & Boutique Hotels Selected for Your Tour

Please Note: The photos below are representative of the room categories. Actual rooms may vary from what is shown.

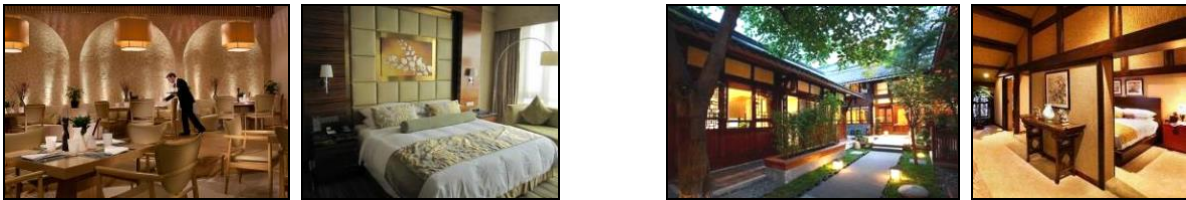


Langham Place Beijing Capital Airport



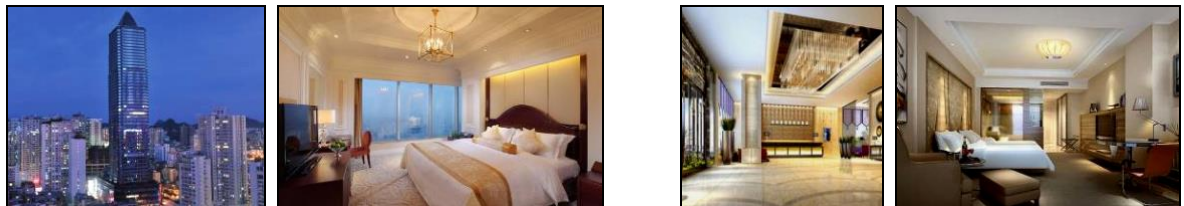
Holiday Inn Datong City Center

Jing's Residence



Kempinski Hotel Yinchuan

Demenrenli Boutique Hotel Chengdu



Kempinski Hotel Guiyang

Kaili Zongheng Hotel

Tour Price Inclusions & Exclusions

Tour Land Prices: call for price with your travel dates

What's Included in 'Tour Land Prices'

- Deluxe, first class and boutique hotel double occupancy accommodations with breakfast
- Coach class China domestic air tickets and ground transportation while on tour
- Guiyang to Hong Kong (or Beijing and Shanghai) coach class air tickets
- All tour related Chinese domestic taxes
- Arrival (in Beijing) and departure (in Kaili/Guiyang) transfers on tour dates
- Transfers and luggage (1 piece of 45 pounds per person) handling
- Pre-departure information packet
- All sightseeing, activities, and cultural events listed in the itinerary
- All meals as specified in the itinerary (**B=breakfast; L=lunch; D=dinner**)
- Service of a private professional English-speaking local tour guide in each city/region
- Private, clean, and newer vehicles with air-conditioning and professional driver

What's Not Included in 'Tour Land Prices'

- International air tickets (*please call us for a quote if you need assistance*)
- Chinese visa processing (www.mychinavisa.com or www.mychinavisa.ca)
- Trip cancellation, baggage, accident, and medical insurance
- Gratuities to guides and drivers
- Other items not listed and/or specified as included in the itinerary

Deposit and Cancellation Policy: 20% of Total Tour Price as deposit to be paid at sign up. Tour Balance is due **90 days** prior to tour date.

All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of receipt by Access Asia Tours. We assess cancellation fees of all tours according to the following schedule:

90 days or more prior to departure -----	10% of Total Tour Price
89 to 60 days prior to departure -----	30% of Total Tour Price
59 to 30 days prior to departure -----	50% of Total Tour Price
29 to 15 days prior to departure -----	70% of Total Tour Price

* Plus any charges assessed by government agencies, land suppliers, cruise companies and airlines.

Within 14 days of departure100% forfeiture of the tour price per person

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