



# Experience Scenic Chinese Route

Along the way  
Beijing  
Xi'an  
Guilin  
Guangzhou  
Hong Kong

Pagodas, princes, and a petrified forest

## What's included

### FULL ON

#### Train

- > Soft Class 4-berth sleeper Beijing-Guangzhou via Xi'an and Guilin (pre-assigned berths)

#### Beijing

- > transfer on arrival to your hotel
- > 2 nights 3★ hotel

#### Xi'an

- > 2 nights 3★ hotel
- > full day excursion to the Terracotta Army

#### Guilin

- > 2 nights 3★ hotel

#### Guangzhou

- > 1 night 3★ hotel
- > hydrofoil ticket to Hong Kong

### NO FRILLS

#### Train

- > Soft Class 4-berth sleeper Beijing-Guangzhou via Xi'an and Guilin (pre-assigned berths)

#### Beijing

- > 2 nights 1★ hotel

#### Xi'an

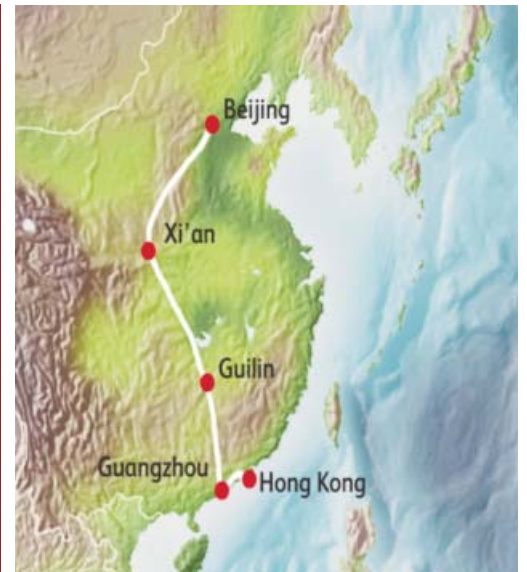
- > 2 nights 1★ hotel

#### Guilin

- > 2 nights 1★ hotel

#### Guangzhou

- > 1 night 1★ hotel
- > hydrofoil ticket to Hong Kong



## Visa Requirements

Visitors to China require visas. These must be obtained prior to departure. Visa processing times for China visas can be up to **7 Working Days**

Fast track processing is possible.

For full information regarding visas, please refer to our web site.

## Hints and Tips

Photocopy your passport including the visas issued pages, airline tickets and insurance policies.

Your passport must be valid for at least six months past the end of your travel dates.

## Travellers Checklist

Day pack, back pack, money belt, first aid kit, sun hat, lightweight jacket, warm jacket (Sep-Apr departures).

## Climate and time – Minimum/maximum Temperatures °C

	Jan/Feb	Mar/Apr	May/Jun	Jul/Aug	Sep/Oct	Nov/Dec
Beijing	-20/-10	-6/+14	+15/+22	+24/+30	+8/+22	-10/+6
Xi'an	-03/+05	+14/+10	+21/+15	+31/+22	+30/+16	-02/+03
Guangzhou	+13/+11	+19/+17	+24/+25	+28/+25	+26/+20	+11/+19
Hong Kong	+13/+18	+16/+9	+23/+29	+26/+31	+23/+27	-15/+23

# Experience Scenic Chinese Route

full on itinerary – 11 days

Pagodas, princes, and a petrified forest



## DAY 01

If you are arriving into Beijing Central Station\* at the end of your trans-siberian journey our driver will meet you at the end of the platform and will be holding a meeting-board with your name on. Transfer from the station directly to the Red Wall Hotel 3★. The facilities available at this hotel include a Chinese restaurant, coffee shop, and a beauty salon. The extremely convenient central location positions you to get the most of your own exploration of the legendary Imperial city, where the rich traditions of Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism meet with the opulence of the Chinese Emperors and the vibrant realism of contemporary China. (Please note your onward train tickets will be delivered to the hotel during your stay.)

No meals

\* Please note for passengers arriving into Beijing International Airport a transfer surcharge of £20.00 per person will apply.

## DAY 02

If you haven't pre-booked one of our city excursions, today is your own to explore. During your stay in Beijing you'll certainly want to visit both the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square. These are within walking distance of the Red Wall Hotel, and adjacent to each other, so this couldn't be more convenient!

No meals

## DAY 03

You'll need to check out of your room by 12 noon today but the hotel offers a Left Luggage service for a small fee. Your time is free until your train departs. Hotel Reception can pre-order you a taxi – it's wise to allow one hour to get through Beijing's traffic and a second hour to complete security (metal-detectors are now in force and there can be queues to use them) and find your train and platform. Own transfer to the station where you will board the Xi'an bound train.

No meals

## DAY 04

Early morning arrival in Xi'an. Take a taxi from the station to the 3★ HNA Hotel. The facilities available at this hotel include Bureau-de-Change, restaurants, café, and Business Centre (with internet). Balance of day is your own for independent sightseeing, and there is plenty to see! To avoid duplicating tomorrow's included activities we suggest heading for the medieval Old City, located within the colossal fortified walls. You can take a walk around the walls themselves (allow about 1.5 hours, they're very extensive), and then head to the Bell Tower and Drum Tower – the very centre of the Old City. Behind the Drum Tower is the Old Bazaar area, full of market stands offering fake "antiques", silk and porcelain goods and other fabulous shopping bargains. At the centre of the Bazaar area is the historic City Mosque with its quiet walled gardens. You might also want to try the City Museum? (Please note your onward train tickets will be delivered to the hotel during your stay.)

No meals

## No ordinary trip

At The Russia Experience we like to ditch the clichés, discard the puff and concentrate on what we do best – bringing to life the world's longest train route: the places visited, the encounters made and the realisation of a journey that is both engaging and rewarding.

We continually look at ways of enhancing the Trans Siberian experience, incorporating seasonal considerations (such as the Harbin Ice Festival), providing the historical context (pay a visit to the only remaining Soviet Gulag) or inviting you to savour the diverse cultural influences of indigenous people (sit down with a shaman, or enjoy the Siberian art of throat singing!).

We have no group departures, our advertised dates always operate (barring anything completely out of our control) and, above all, we will tell you it like it is – allowing you to make the right choice from a portfolio of journeys rich in variety and full of memorable experiences. Sorry! We couldn't resist at least one cliché!

These dossiers are designed to provide you with a guide to our trips, the places visited, accommodation used and to give you a flavour of your daily itinerary. You will be travelling in parts of the world where the unanticipated and the unusual are all part of the experience and, as a result, the unexpected can happen and we may on occasions need to vary your plans. These dossiers do not form part of any contract.

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## DAY 05

Full day excursion programme which includes the Terracotta Army exhibition (you will join an English language trip on which other visitors to Xi'an will also participate, in a minibus-sized small group). The first stop is at the Great Goose Pagoda, a reminder of Xi'an's imperial past when the city was the capital of a country which embraced Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, and Confucian believers, but whose Emperors were Buddhists. The next stop is the archaeological excavation site of Banpo Village, where an ancient settlement has been unearthed. Last stop before lunch is a souvenir store which makes (rather over-priced) replicas of the Terracotta Warriors. A nice Chinese-style lunch is provided in a restaurant along the way (with yet another souvenir shop on the ground floor). Finally you come to the Warriors site – uncovered when farmers were digging a well in the 1970s. There are three separate pits currently visitable, although more pits lie yet unopened. There's also a 360-degree short movie about the history of the Burial Site and its original occupant, after which there is just time for one more... souvenir shop. You'll be dropped off back at your hotel after the two hour drive back to the city. All admission tickets and lunch are included on this full day tour, although you may want to tip the guide separately. The operation of the Terracotta Warriors site is geared to a massive throughput of visitors per day, but it's the only way in which you can visit the centre – so just brace yourself for a bit of jostling in advance. Hint – almost all the "souvenirs" on offer in the shops today can be bargained for at lower prices in the Bazaar in the Old City.

Lunch

## DAY 06

You'll need to check out of your room by 12 noon today but the hotel offers a Left Luggage service for a small fee. Your time is free until your train departs. Hotel Reception can pre-order you a taxi to the station, where you will board the Guilin bound train. The food and beverage service on this train is quite basic, and you might prefer to take the example of most Chinese travellers and bring your own picnic items. Hot water urns (to make tea, coffee, noodles etc) are free to use in all the wagons, but no teabags, coffee etc are sold on board, and you'd also need your own mug etc.

No meals

## DAY 07

Late evening arrival in Guilin. Take a taxi from the station to 3★ Hotel Osmanthus (city centre). The facilities available at this modern hotel include a Chinese Buffet restaurant, business centre, café and a bureau-de-change. Balance of day is your own for independent sightseeing. (Please note your onward train tickets will be delivered to the hotel during your stay.)

No meals

## DAY 08

Free day in Guilin. The highlight of any visit to this area is a trip down the Li River and its astounding scenery – we offer an optional tour. The cruise includes a light Chinese-style lunch on board. The destination of the Cruise is Yangshuo, a popular destination with foreign visitors – the entire town is turned over to souvenir shops, new-age cafes, bars and restaurants. Although it's an outrageous fake, it's quite a pleasant way to spend an hour or two before you return to Guilin by bus.

No meals

## DAY 09

You'll need to check out of your room by 12 noon today but the hotel offers a Left Luggage service for a small fee. Your time is free until your train departs. Hotel Reception can pre-order you a taxi to the station. Where you will board the Guanzghou bound train.

No meals

## DAY 10

Early morning arrival in Guangzhou. Take a taxi from the station to the 3★ Landsman hotel in the city centre. The facilities available at this hotel include restaurants, Business Centre and cable-tv. Balance of day is your own for independent sightseeing. (Please note your onward hydrofoil tickets will be delivered to the hotel during your stay.)

No meals

## DAY 11

You'll need to check out of your room by 12 noon today but the hotel offers a Left Luggage service for a small fee. Your time is free until your Hydrofoil departs. Hotel Reception can pre-order you a taxi to the harbour. The ferry leaves from Nanhaigang Harbour. Arrival in Hong Kong at Canton Road Harbour, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

No meals