



Experience Scenic Chinese Route

Along the way
Beijing
Xi'an
Guilin
Guangzhou
Hong Kong

Pagodas, princes, and a petrified forest

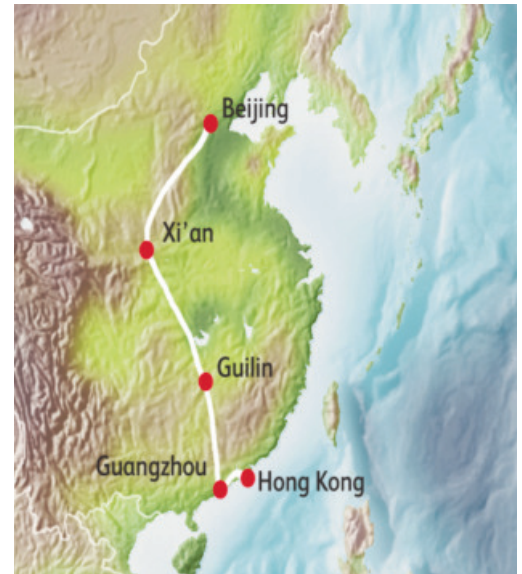
What's included

FULL ON

- Train**
> Soft Class 4-berth sleeper Beijing-Guangzhou via Xi'an and Guilin (pre-assigned berths)
- Beijing**
> 2 nights 4★ 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/June	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

On arrival in Beijing you're free to make your own way to the hotel. The Howard Johnson Paragon 4★ Hotel Beijing is ideally located on East Chang An Street, opposite Beijing Railway station in the heart of the golden area of the capital city, surrounded by major business centres, tourist attractions and only minutes away from the Wangfujing Street. 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 Paragon Hotel, and adjacent to each other, so this couldn't be more convenient! The hotel is situated 40 minutes from the international airport. The 10-story hotel boasts 308 modern furnished guest rooms and suites. Each room features modern facility including central air conditioning, satellite TV, minibar, IDD telephone, in-room safe and hair-dryer.

No meals

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 Paragon Hotel, and adjacent to each other, so this couldn't be more convenient!

Breakfast

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 Beijing West Station where you will board the Xi'an bound train.

Breakfast

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: Terracotta Army. (Coach pick up from hotel reception around 9am, depending on the traffic and number of hotels to pick up from. Your tour guide will contact you in the previous evening to confirm exact time) The first stop is at The excavated Banpo Village which has been protected by the construction of a free-standing building that covers the entire site of a neolithic community which practiced the Yangshao culture (c.6000 BC). Visitors view the original foundations, along with a reconstructed replica of a house, from a wooden walkway. The last stop before lunch is at a souvenir store. After lunch you will be taken to the site of the Terracotta Army, which was uncovered in 1970s by farmers who were digging a well. Currently there are three separate pits which have been unearthed.

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 Guangzhou 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