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China

Tailor-made for: Topper worlds 2018

Date: 22nd August 2018



Travel Counsellors
Helen Vincent



Destination: China

Destination Highlights

Shenzhen

DATES Aug 22

Located in the southern Guangdong Province, on the Hong Kong border, Shenzhen was just a small fishing village called Baoan County until it was renamed in 1979, when the Special Economic Zone was built. Today it is one of China's wealthiest and most commercially successful cities. Many of the surrounding hills have been taken over by the expanding population of the city, now experiencing an economic boom. The world's ninth tallest building is in Shenzhen and the Shun Hing building is the world's tallest steel building, both of these are symbols of the city's economic prominence. It has excellent theme parks, as well as great shopping, dining & nightlife.

One popular attraction in Shenzhen is the Window on the World theme park, which has over 100 replicas of some of the most recognised tourist attractions in the world, from the Eiffel Tower and the Pyramids to the Taj Mahal and Niagara Falls. As well as admiring the exquisite reproductions, there are a number of activities for visitors such as taking a gondola along the imitation Venice canals, riding in a cable car over the rainforest or skiing down the huge indoor piste.

Those seeking more leisurely activity can take a stroll through one of the many parks in the city. The Fairy Lake Botanical Garden is a picturesque garden filled with quaint bridges and gorgeous blossoms. Thanks to its enviable location, close to the Tropic of Cancer, Shenzhen has a good year-round climate with mild winters and a tropical summer so there is rarely a bad day for a pleasant meander through one of these stunning green spaces.



Xi'an

DATES Aug 23

Known as Chang'an in ancient times, Xi'an's illustrious history spans more than 3,000 years having served as the capital city for 13 dynasties throughout the ages. After its decline in the 10th century, the city fell into obscurity until the discovery of Emperor Qin's army of 2,200-year-old terracotta warriors in 1974. Now firmly on China's tourist trail, Xi'an provides visitors with a wealth of historical heritage and a world-renowned star attraction.

Xi'an itself is surrounded by a well-preserved city wall, which was reconstructed during the Ming Dynasty (14th century). Since Xi'an is relatively flat, there are no steep inclines on the impressive walls, making it plenty wide enough for an elevated and enjoyable stroll or bike ride without risk of getting mown over. Other drawcards in Xi'an include the spectacularly lofty Big Wild Goose Pagoda - constructed around the 7th century to store translations of Buddhist sutras from India, the smaller Little Wild Goose Pagoda, the Bell Tower and also Drum Tower. The Shaanxi History Museum boasts a large and impressive collection of artefacts both ancient and modern, tracing Xi'an's history from its early beginnings.

As the final point on the legendary Silk Road, Xi'an became a melting pot of cultures and religions, which can be felt today in the buzzing Muslim Quarter, home to several mosques and a colourful market. The Great Mosque in Xi'an is the largest mosque in China with an intriguing blend of Islamic and Chinese architecture. Founded in the 8th century, the mosque features an Arab-inspired minaret, pagodas, a large prayer hall and attractive gardens.



Destination: China

Destination Highlights

Beijing

DATES Aug 24, 25, 26

Capital of the People's Republic, Beijing is China's political, economic and cultural centre. Established in 1045 BC, Beijing has served as the capital for several dynasties and has experienced a long, illustrious and notorious history spanning three millennia. Numerous relics of this fascinating past stand in remarkable condition across the city but the Beijing of today is something very different with sprawling freeways, towering high-rises and innovative modern architecture propelling the city towards the future.

Beijing is home to an impressive six UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the vast imperial palace complex of the Forbidden City, the elegant Summer Palace and the iconic Temple of Heaven. At the heart of the city is Tiananmen Square, one of the world's largest public squares that has been witness to many of modern China's most defining moments from Mao's proclamation of the new People's Republic in 1949 to the violent student-led protests 40 years later. More recently Beijing has made its presence felt on the world stage hosting the 2008 Summer Olympics with many of the world's top architects invited to design astonishing architectural creations, most recognisable among them the striking 'Bird's Nest' and 'Water Cube'.

As well as imperial wonders and striking modern architecture, Beijing has plenty else to enthrall visitors. It's a foodie's paradise with an outstanding culinary wealth that utilises China's numerous styles of cuisine with standouts including Mongolian hotpot and Peking duck. Beijing is also a thriving centre of creativity with many of the country's best artists represented in prestigious galleries and lesser-known artists making a name for themselves in studio-based collectives.





Destination: China

Your Itinerary

5 DAYS	START: 22 Aug XI'AN	DAY 2: 23 Aug BEIJING	DAY 3: 24 Aug BEIJING	DAY 4: 25 Aug BEIJING
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START Wednesday 22 AUG Shenzhen - Xi'an



This morning we depart the Longcheer Yacht Club for Shenzhen Airport, where we board our flight to Xian. Upon arrival in Xian, we transfer to our hotel. Later we enjoy a leisurely bike ride along the Xi'an City Wall. This evening we enjoy a visit to a Tang Dynasty Show. The Tang Dynasty Show is a performance of Chang'an music and dance that originated in Xi'an in Shaanxi province at the time of the illustrious Tang Dynasty. By combining poetry with the skilled playing of musical instruments, singing, dancing and exquisitely decorated costumes, the modern presentation is certain to give you an impressive view of the ancient China including its splendid history, brilliant arts, distinct traditions and customs.

Wan Nian Grand Hotel

Our rating: Superior
Local rating: 4 Star Hotel
Meals: Dinner

DAY 2 Thursdays 23 AUG Xi'an - Beijing



Today we visit the iconic Big Wild Goose Pagoda, one of Xian's most iconic landmarks, followed by the vibrant Muslim Quarter. Later we visit the famous Terracotta Warrior archaeological site. Emperor Qin's 2,200 year old terracotta army of life-sized warriors and horses were designed to offer protection to the emperor in the afterlife. The 7,000 clay warriors stand in military formation in excavated pits under the cover of a modern protective hanger and no two faces are alike. Later we visit the clay workshop, specialising in making replica figurines of the Terracotta Warriors. After dinner we board our Express train to Beijing before transferring to our hotel. **

Yong An Hotel

Our rating: Standard
Local rating: 3 Star Hotel
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3 Friday 24 AUG Beijing



We arrive into Beijing bright and early this morning, where we'll enjoy a full day of sightseeing in the city. Our first stop will be Tiananmen Square and the sprawling Forbidden City. Boasting some 9999 rooms, the city within a city was once the sole preserve of the Chinese emperors. This afternoon we take a rickshaw ride through the Hutongs before watching a Chinese Acrobatic performance in the evening.

Yong An Hotel

Our rating: Standard
Local rating: 3 Star Hotel
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4 Saturday 25 AUG Beijing



Make sure you don some comfortable shoes today as we set out to walk a section of the famous Great Wall. Zig zagging some 6000 kilometres across barren hills, deserts and mountains, the now partially ruinous Great Wall stretches from east to west in northern China and was constructed over a period of 2000 years. The wall is steep in sections but the photo opportunities are well worth the effort. After our walk we have lunch and visit a jade carving factory. In the afternoon we visit the bustling Pearl Market.

Yong An Hotel

Our rating: Standard
Local rating: 3 Star Hotel
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Destination: China

Your Itinerary

5
DAYS

DAY 5: 26 Aug
BEIJING

DAY 5 Sunday 26 AUG

Beijing

Yong An Hotel



Today we transfer to the airport for your onward journey.

Our rating: Standard
Local rating: 3 Star Hotel
Meals: Breakfast

** The express train is quicker journey, and would mean they get to spend the night in a real bed rather than sleeping on the train. For the Express train, we would probably take the last one of the day departing around 6pm which would then arrive into Beijing around 11.30pm





Destination: China

Your Holiday Prices

<p>► Cost Per Person, based on the attached itinerary and 2 people sharing a room. Evening Express Train from Xian To Beijing Option. Based on a minimum of 50 passengers</p>	£ 555.00
<p>► Single Supplement, to be added to the above price for anyone wishing to have their own room.</p>	£ 185.00
<p>► Cost per person for economy class flight from Shenzhen to Xian. (Airfare subject to change, prices cannot be guaranteed until payment received)</p>	£ 215.00

We have prepared this quote for your travelling party consisting of:

- Mrs Helen Vincent for the Topper worlds 2018

Quote includes

- Accommodation at the hotels mentioned, in standard rooms unless otherwise stated.
- All transfers in a chauffeur driven air-conditioned vehicle, which is private to your travelling party.
- All sightseeing and excursions as per your itinerary, completely private for your travelling party unless otherwise stated.
- Services of qualified English-speaking local guides for all your sightseeing/excursions.
- Representatives, drivers or guides assistance for check in to hotels/trains/flights, where applicable.
- Entrance fees to the sites that are listed as included on your itinerary.
- All meals specified as included on your itinerary.
- All currently applicable taxes.

Quote does not include

- Any international or domestic airfare including any relevant airport tax, unless otherwise specified.
Any meals not specified on your itinerary.
- Increases in any included transportation sector such as train tickets or domestic flights where applicable, between time of quote and time of travel.
- Any expenses of a personal nature such as hard/soft drinks, laundry, phone/fax calls or camera fee if levied at certain sites.
- Tips for your guides and drivers.
- Any item not mentioned as included on your itinerary.
- Visas and any associated visa fees.
- Supplements resulting in unforeseen changes to hotel accommodation between time of quote and time of travel.



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