8-day Beijing and Xian

China

Day 1
Depart on overnight flight from UK.

Day 2
Arrive Beijing. Meet your National Guide and coach. Transfer to your accommodation en-route visit to:

The Temple of Heaven
Built during the Ming Dynasty and the most holy of Beijing’s imperial temples. It has been described as “a masterpiece of architecture and landscape design” and listed as World Cultural Heritage site by UNESCO.

Arrive at the hotel for check-in.
Dinner is arranged locally by your National Guide.

Day 3
Full day of visits to:

Great Wall
Built more than 2,300 years ago this awe-inspiring feat of ancient defensive architecture is one of the greatest sights in the world.

Sacred Road
Originally built to lead to the Changling mausoleum, the sacred road was considered to be the road leading to heaven. Slightly curved to fool evil spirits the road is lined on either side with willows and remarkable carved stone animals and human figures, considered among the best in China.

Ming Tombs
The most extensive burial complex of any Chinese dynasty and one of the finest preserved pieces of 15th century Chinese art and architecture. The Ming Tombs are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Return to your hotel in Beijing.

Day 4
Full day of visits to:

Tiananmen Square
The sixth largest city square in the world at 440,000 square meters it can hold about one million people for public celebrations or gatherings. It has hosted momentous events like the declaration of the People’s Republic of China by Chairman Mao in 1949, and is surrounded by a host of world class sights.

Forbidden City & Imperial Palace
Situated in the very heart of Beijing, the Forbidden City was home to 24 emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Construction of the grand palace started in the fourth year of Emperor Yongle of the Ming Dynasty (1406), and ended in 1420.

Optional full visit (additional cost) or view from the outside (no additional cost) the Olympic Stadium.

The ‘Bird’s Nest’ as it is also known was built to serve as the main stadium for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games; now it is a centre for international or domestic sports competition and recreation activities.

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Day 5
Arrive in Xian and transfer to hotel for breakfast
Full day of visits to:

Wild Goose Pagoda
Built in AD652 this symbol of the old-line Xian is a well-preserved ancient building and a holy place for Buddhists.

Ancient City Walls
Xian City Wall is the most complete city wall that has survived in China, as well being one of the largest ancient military defensive systems in the world.

Muslim Quarter
The Muslim Quarter mainly consists of 4 adjacent streets: Beiyuanmen (Chinese: 北院门), Xi Yangshi (Chinese: 西羊市), Huajue Xiang (Chinese: 化觉巷), Dapi Yuan (Chinese: 大皮院).
Among these streets, Beiyuanmen is the best known and easy-to-spot as zestful with the endless vendor hawk, grilled smog and the strong food aroma.

Return to your hotel in Xian.

Day 6
Full day of visits to:

Huaqing Hot Springs
The hot springs are located at the northern foot of Mount Li one of the three major peaks of the Qin Mountain, built in 723 by Emporar Xuanzong of the Tang Dynasty as part of the Huaqing Palace using the locally-occurring geothermal heating. The area is famous the supposed scene of romance between Xuanzong and his consort Yan Guife.

Terracotta Army
Covering 16,300 square meters, divided into three section the museum contains life size replica terracotta figures of warriors and horses arranged in battle formations.

Depart on overnight train to Beijing.

Day 7
Arrive in Beijing and transfer to hotel for breakfast.
Full day of visits to:

Summer Palace
Construction started on the largest and most well-preserved royal park in China, in 1750 as a luxurious royal garden for royal families to rest and entertain. It later became the main residence of royal members in the end of the Qing Dynasty.

Friendship Store
The largest store in China catering to foreign residents and tourists. It supplies nearly 100,000 varieties of goods, ranging from daily necessities to arts and crafts. Both traditional Chinese export commodities and native produce and special products of various places of China.

Silk Alley
One of the major commercial streets in Beijing, originally it mainly traded in traditional Chinese silk articles, exquisite handicrafts and imported commodities. But now, besides silk and travel souvenirs, it sells more of a variety of goods, such as clothes, bags and suitcases, shoes and hats, pearls and decorations.

Optional - Evening Activity:
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Acrobat Show
One of the most popular nightlife venues the show is packed with outstanding feats, beautiful choreography, colour and excitement.

Day 8
After early breakfast check-out of hotel and depart for Beijing Airport.
Depart on flight to UK

Optional Visits:
Beijing Zoo - Panda Colony
Covering an area of 86 hectares, breeding over 5000 animals in more than 450 species, Beijing Zoo has rare Chinese animals, such as the Golden Monkey, the Red Panda and the Giant Panda.

Llama Temple
Dating back to the Qing Dynasty the temple was originally the residence of the soon-to-be Emperor when he was still a prince. In 1744, it was converted to a Lamasery. It is a beautiful complex of buildings, Buddha statues, with the aroma of incense wafting everywhere

Confucius Temple
The Temple of Confucius was initially built in 1302 and additions were made during the Ming and Qing dynasties. It has a total area of 22,000 square meters (5.4 acres). It is the second largest temple constructed for Confucius, the greatest thinker and educationalist in ancient China.

Liunying Village (Beijing)
Liunying village is an attractive unpolluted village which is granted by united nation, as one of the five hundred Global Environmental protection Zones. That is the First Ecological Agricultural Village in China. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and his party visited China’s first large agricultural ecology project, Beijing Liunying Eco village, on October 12, 2004. Students can visit the farmer’s home and talk to local farmers. Then we can go to the kindergarten to see the countryside children. (You can prepare some small gifts to those children, such as candy and pencil... children will be happy for your kind gifts.) We can go to the farmland to see the organic vegetable, what is tomato, eggplant, and pepper and celery, etc. You also can go to strawberry land to pick up the strawberry by yourselves. (It is take 10 minutes driving from the farmland)

Xian countryside
Located in Hu County is Donghan village about one hour from the city. This is a well-developed but traditional village where you can see the old and the new side by side. You will see the dairy farm and livestock. This village is famous throughout China for paintings, simple and colourful and created by the farmers and housewives which become an important part of the family income. You will see a demonstration of the painting and even have a go yourself. Since this village is well developed in Hu county and it becomes a sample of new style of communism village. All farmers go with the arrangements which are given by village and take same house from village. This is a way to go to let farmers have happy and more enjoyable lives.
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Tang Dynasty Show
The Tang Dynasty Music and Dance show is an outstanding element of this rich and prosperous society giving an inside into the peaceful style of the Tang Dynasty (618-907). The show showcases the costumes, music and dancing of China's golden age and begins with an ancient Chinese musical instrument ensemble and then later the cultural dance segment begins.

High School Visit
Either link up with an already known school to which you have contacts or our local agent can arrange for a visit to a high school in China where pupils and teachers can interact and experience the schooling in a high school in China (not available during school holidays in China).

Cookery Session
A hands-on demonstration of Chinese Cookery – prepare a meal and then sit down and enjoy the meal you have just been shown and had a hand in preparing.

Painting Session:
Learn the art of Chinese painting and calligraphy (not as easy as they make it look) by an expert and in a full class session.