

The Wonders of China

A trans-country train adventure to China's most unforgettable sites



Description

Join us for two weeks as we ride the Chinese rail system over 1,200 miles across the world's most populous nation. China's impressive network of rail-lines has been the backbone of human transit for generations in this expansive nation. Travelling in the luxury of private, 'soft-sleeper' cabins we will work north to south visiting the biggest cities and the most charming countryside along the way.

Beyond the Great Wall

With our journey beginning in the north, our first stop will be the ancient capital, and cultural and political center, Beijing. Take in the awe-inspiring beauty of the Great Wall, stroll through the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square, and sample world-famous Peking duck. Hop in a pedicab to explore the city streets and visit the 2008 Olympic stadiums before stopping into Asia's most promising new home for up and coming artists: the burgeoning art district, 798. After four days we will begin our journey south. Heading to the train station immediately after dinner, we will catch an overnight train and arrive into Shanghai around 8:00 AM.

Welcome to the Future

In the luxury of our 'soft sleeper' cars (equivalent to first class seats) from Beijing, getting a great night's sleep will not be a problem. Currently one of the fastest developing cities on the planet, Shanghai has long been an important commerce hub and was frequented by European traders, explorers, and diplomats for centuries. Savor the classic architecture of the Bund, and then gaze across the vast Huangpu River at the city's futuristic skyline. Shop for antique handicrafts and souvenirs in the Old City and feel the buzz of modern-day China on Nanjing Street. While staying in Shanghai, we will take one day to depart on a high-speed commuter train to Hangzhou for a day. Natives of this region recognize Hangzhou as the perfect place to retire due to its cooler climate, peaceful scenery, and delicious tea. After travelling on one of China's ultra-modern commuter trains, we will disembark for a visit the famed West Lake and a teahouse to try this city's most famous product at its source.

Yangshuo and the Majestic Mountains of China

In the heart of China's vast rural countryside, Yangshuo is renowned for the sublime panoramas of Limestone Karsts rising between sleepy rivers and bamboo rafts. Our train Journey from Shanghai will be the longest of our trip, and will give us a first-hand look at thousands of miles of China's interior from our train seats. Those that have spent time in China will recognize these iconic vistas of Yangshuo from the back of China's 20 Renminbi note. Yangshuo will provide a welcome break as we trade in steamy sidewalks for winding rivers and glassy towers for mossy, sun-soaked, limestone cliffs. We will enjoy three active days as we explore these natural features by boat, bike and foot.

Bright Lights, Big City

On our way out of Yangshuo, we will catch a bus to Guilin for our final train ride to Shenzhen – a booming city adjacent to Hong Kong - where we will disembark our train to pass customs before catching a commuter train into downtown Hong Kong. After unloading our luggage at the hotel, we will take the remainder of the day to get our bearings in one of Asia's most illustrious cities.

We will take one day in Hong Kong to travel across the channel to Macau where signs posted in Portuguese and Chinese are a testament to the region's fascinating colonial history. Here you will have the chance to test your courage with an optional bungee jump from over 700 feet at the Macau Sky Tower. Back in Hong Kong try your hand at bargaining on Nathan Road and, as the sun sets, immerse yourself in the buzz of the Temple Street Bazaar. You will spend your last night overlooking the breathtaking landscapes and dazzling city lights that stretch out below world-famous Victoria's Peak.

This trip easily connects with our other China programs, as well as with our programs in Southeast Asia, India and Mongolia.

Highlights

EXPERIENCE the electric buzz of the great metropolises of Shanghai and Hong Kong two of the world's most modern cities.

BEHOLD the majestic limestone Karsts of China's southern countryside bike, boat and climb through China's adventure capital, Yangshuo.

DISCOVER the stirring contrasts that represent modern China in the ancient capital of Beijing.

RIDE China's extensive rail network from the northern capital of Beijing to the fast-paced southern hub of Hong Kong stopping along the way to meet the nation in between.

BUNGEE JUMP (optional) in Macau and feel the rush of this 764-foot vertical drop or sky walk along the edge of the tower.

Program Details

Ages: 14 to 18 years old

Length: 17 days from the USA

Cost: CHF 6'240 + 500 Internal Airfare

Departures

Departs Tue	Returns Thu	Availability
18 Jun	4 Jul	Limited