



This fully packed overland tour will give you as much of China as possible, including giant pandas, ancient temples, the modern Maglev train and the incredible terracotta warriors.

Day 1: Shanghai to Xian

Your Eastern adventure begins in the Pearl of the Orient, Shanghai. A guided walking tour explores the narrow alleys and cobblestone lanes of the old town, through the zigzag bridge and ending at **Yu Garden**, a classic Ming Dynasty garden home with traditional halls and pavilions. Enjoy **luncheon** at a hotel restaurant, followed by a drive to the **Pudong** area, the Wall Street of China. Among the many skyscrapers in Pudong, the World Financial Centre is the newest and highest building in China. Step aboard the magnetic **Maglev Train**, which will whisk you to Pudong Airport. Take a **flight to Xian**, where you'll transfer to the **Hilton Xian Hotel** to check in and have **dinner**.

Day 2: Xian

After a **buffet breakfast** in the hotel, it's time to visit the world-famous **Terracotta Warriors Museum**. First excavated in 1974, the 7,000 life-size Terracotta Warriors and horses are acclaimed as the 'Eighth Wonder of the World'. The Warriors are grouped in battle order, rank by rank, some mounted on horse-drawn chariots and others in infantry groups armed with spears, swords and crossbows. Afterwards, you'll have a chance to visit a local workshop that makes replicas of Terracotta Warriors. The detail and scale of these incredible sculptures is a sight to behold. **Luncheon** will be served at a local restaurant. Following luncheon, you'll have a chance to visit a local workshop which makes replicas of Terracotta Warriors.

In the evening, enjoy an imperial **dinner** and a **folkloric singing and dancing performance** by professional artists.

Day 3: Xian to Chengdu

Following **breakfast**, you'll visit the **Big Wild Goose Pagoda**, situated inside Ci'en Temple, and one of the most famous pagodas in China. Sponsored by Tang Emperor Gaozong, the temple was first built in 652 during the Tang Dynasty as a symbol of thanksgiving to his mother for her kindness. Take a leisurely walk on part of the magnificent **Xian City Wall**, the only completely preserved city wall in China whose construction started in 1370.

Enjoy a traditional **dumpling luncheon** before proceeding to the **Shaanxi Provincial Museum**, the first state museum with modern facilities in China. In the afternoon, you'll take a **flight to Chengdu**, where you'll transfer to the **Shangri-La Hotel**. Dinner will be served on board the flight.

Day 4: Chengdu City

Breakfast will be served at the hotel, before you start your full day excursion in the northern suburb of Chengdu on **Futou Hill**, home to **Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding Research Base**. 85% of the world's wild panda population resides in Sichuan. Chengdu has devoted great resources towards learning about pandas and helping to preserve them in the wild. The Chengdu Panda Base was founded in 1987. It started with just 6sixgiant pandas that were rescued from the wild. It has since had 110 panda births, and its panda population has grown to 62.

Enjoy **luncheon** at the **Bamboo Restaurant** in the Giant Panda Base, before heading to **Wuhou Temple**, built as a tribute to Zhu Geliang, the Martial Marquis of Shu. Strolling the narrow streets around the temple, you will find yourself surrounded by modern outlets mixed with old-world stores selling lacquer products, giving you a taste of the true life of the local people and a reminder of China's past in this modern city.

Continue with a visit to **Kuanzhai Xiangzi**, an ancient, international and stylish highlight of Chengdu City. **Dinner** will be served at a local restaurant, before an evening visit to the **Sichuan Opera**, one of the oldest and most interesting opera forms in Southwestern China. During the performance, the performers switch masks with lightning speed to portray different characteristics and personalities of the characters.

Day 5: Chengdu City to Hong Kong

After breakfast, you'll visit the **Wenshu Monastery**, arguably the most beautiful and well-preserved temple in Chengdu. The monastery, formerly known as the Xinxiang Temple, originated from the Sui Dynasty (605-617 A.D.), but was ruined in 1644. In 1681, during the Qing Dynasty, it was rebuilt and rechristened as Wenshu Monastery. Highlights of the temple include the White Jade Buddha and the Thousand Buddha Pagoda. Enjoy **luncheon** at a local restaurant, before your transfer to the airport for your **flight to Hong Kong**. On arrival, you'll be met by your local guide and return to the ship in time for dinner on board.

Note: Bookings for this tour will close on 17th December 2017. There is a strict minimum and maximum participation. Please ensure you book the correct tour code for the accommodation you require (Double = SHA826, Single = SHA827). Prices shown on your record of shore excursions are per person, not per room. Once your booking is confirmed, any cancellation made after bookings close will incur a 100% cancellation fee. This tour departs Shanghai on 26th March and returns in Hong Kong on 30th March. Please check your embarkation/disembarkation dates carefully before booking this overland. Flight times and further details will be advised on board. Hotels, flights and order of itinerary are subject to change.

This excursion is physically demanding. Be prepared for very early morning starts, lengthy days, climatic changes and delays at airports. This is an inclusive excursion programme. No refunds will be given for any unused portion.

The fare includes: transport by coach, economy class air travel, sightseeing, meals and accommodation as described. Two glasses of local beer and soft drinks are included with luncheon; rice or house wine is also included with evening meals, limited to two glasses. Those wishing to order alternative beverages will be charged separately.

The fare does not include: items of a personal nature such as refreshments, telephone calls, laundry, gratuities, room service, fees for doctor's visits and prescriptions/medication, visas and travel insurance.

What to pack: please remember your passport and any medication you may require. Luggage limit is one case per person with a maximum weight of 20kg. Comfortable soft-soled, non-slip shoes are essential for walking the Wall, which can become slippery when wet.

Visas: Please be advised guests will require a visa when participating on this overland tour.

Weather: the temperature is likely to be cool in March. The temperature can be as low as 2°C in the morning, rising to approximately 11°C during the day.

Customs and traditions: please dress conservatively when visiting shrines and temples to respect local customs and cultures.

Traffic: Shanghai is a major city and traffic can be very heavy. Everything will be done to maintain the itinerary, but some delays may be experienced.