

## Geography Study Tour

### Highlights Of China & Three Gorges Dam

#### **Day 1 Departure**

Enjoy full meal service on your scheduled wide-bodied flight to Beijing.

#### **Day 2 Arrive Beijing**

Our English-speaking guide will meet us at the airport and accompany us on our transfer by private coach to our hotel in central Beijing. This afternoon, time permitting, we will travel to Olympic sites including the brand new **Beijing Stadium** where the opening ceremony and many events took place. We will enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

#### **Day 3 Beijing**

Our morning commences in **Tian'an Men Square**, the world's largest public square (the size of 90 football fields). In the centre of the square stands the Monument to the People's Heroes, a 124-ft. granite obelisk, engraved with scenes from famous uprisings.

We continue with a visit to the **Forbidden City**, a massive complex of red-walled buildings and pavilions topped by a sea of glazed vermilion tile. It is by far the largest and most intricate imperial palace in China and receives more visitors than any other attraction in the country. Our visit will include the Inner Court, where only the emperor, his family, his concubines, and the palace eunuchs were allowed, and the Hall of Mental Cultivation, where emperors lived.

We will make a short visit to the **Temple of Heaven**, an enormous park and altar to Heaven directly to the south of the Forbidden City. Each winter solstice, the Ming and Qing emperors would lead a procession here to perform rites and make sacrifices designed to promote the next year's crops.

Our afternoon concludes with a stroll along **Wangfujing Dajie**, the grandest shopping area in Beijing and an interesting case study for retailing. The street was overhauled in 1999, and the south section was turned into a pedestrian-only commercial avenue lined with clothing outlets, souvenir shops, portrait studios, fast-food restaurants, and the city's top two malls, the Sun (Xin) Dong An Plaza and Oriental Plaza (Dongfang Guangchang).

Tonight we will attend either a **Martial Arts demonstration show** or choose to watch an **Acrobat Show**.

#### **Day 4 The Great Wall Of China & Ming Tombs**

This morning we will journey outside of the city for a visit to the **Great Wall of China**, one of the world's most awesome and impressive sights. The Great Wall snakes its way from east to west for nearly 4,000 miles, and has been in existence for over 2,600 years.

This afternoon we visit the **Ming Tombs**, where 13 of the 16 emperors who ruled China during the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) are buried. This is the most extensive burial complex of any Chinese dynasty and the tombs are constructed in conventional fashion, with memorial halls at the front and burial chambers to the rear. Among the many Sacred Ways, the one at Ming Tombs is the best preserved and complete, it is the earliest and biggest stone archway existing in China today.

This evening we will enjoy a **Peking Duck Dinner**.

#### **Day 5 Factory Visit – Hutong Tour – Overnight Train to Xian**

This morning we visit a traditional manufacturing plant, the **Beijing Enamel Factory** is the only one in which “Jing Fa” brand Cloisonne ware is made in China. The technology level is high and takes the lead in this industry. There is a great variety of products and the quality of the products is paramount in the factory.

This afternoon we will take a **Beijing Hutong Tour**. A hutong is a unique form of community with a small street or a lane between two courtyards. There are thousands of hutongs in Beijing, most of which were built in the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties. We will enjoy a fascinating tour by **Rickshaw**, which offers a magnificent glance into residential Chinese life. The guide will tell you about life and conditions in high-rise developments and discuss population issues.

Later, we take the brand new express train (first class soft sleeper), which drives through the night. Buffet dinner will be served cafeteria-style on the train.

#### **Day 6 Arrive Xian – Terra Cotta Warriors**

We arrive in Xian, a former capital of 11 dynasties, including the Tang Dynasty, during China's "Golden Age." Upon our arrival, we will check into our hotel where we have breakfast, before embarking on a tour around the **Xian City Walls**. The magnificent Xian City Wall was constructed in the early Ming Dynasty, and is one of the best-preserved ancient walls around a city anywhere in the world, and the best example of a walled city in China. The wall contains watchtowers, moats, gates and towers.

This afternoon we will visit the **Qin Terra Cotta Army Museum**. In 1974 a group of peasants made what was to become the greatest archaeological find of the 20th century when they unearthed fragments of a life sized Terra Cotta Warrior. Excavation of the vault revealed thousands of warriors and their horses, an entire army designed to follow its emperor into eternity. The site is near Qin Mausoleum, and the emperor's Terra Cotta Army was found in three underground timber lined vaults. We will view the thousands of life size soldiers, standing in military formation with their vivid facial expressions frozen for eternity, some of which are being restored to display their original rich coloration.

This evening our guide will take us to a bustling **local market** for shopping.

### **Day 7 Xian - Flight To Wuhan**

In the morning we fly to Wuhan, the capital of the Hubei Province. Upon arrival, we drive to Sandouping where the Three Gorges Dam can be found.

We then visit the **Yangtze River** which runs from Fengjie to Yichang, and goes through the gorges of Qutang, Wu and Xiling. This is the so-called Yangtze Three Gorges and with your guide you will see and discuss the environmental impact, the consequences to the local population and the economic benefits.

We will stay overnight and have dinner in Sandouping.

### **Day 8 Three Gorges Project – Wuhan, Hongbei Agricultural Demonstration Area**

In the morning we will be escorted by a local expert to visit the **Three Gorges Project**, which is the largest water conservancy project in China, indeed the world, mainly comprising of three large parts: the dam, hydropower stations and navigation buildings. In 1997 China's President Jiang Zemin led a celebration honouring the beginning of the building of the world's largest dam, as workers began sealing off a dike to divert the Yangtze River, here we can see the finished project. The engineers erected a 600-foot wall to harness the Yangtze, the world's third longest river, and provide a huge source of hydropower for the world's most populous nation. The dam is capable of pumping out 18,200 watts of electricity from 26 generators, each equal to a medium sized nuclear reactor. The cost of producing the dam was estimated at about 29 billion dollars.

After lunch we drive back to the outskirts of Wuhan and visit the **Hongbei Agricultural Demonstration Area**. Here we study the local farmland and choose one private Farm to visit on the outskirts of the city, and meet a local farmer on a family visit.

### **Day 9 Xian - Flight To Shanghai**

This morning we fly to Shanghai, China's largest and most dynamic city. Our sightseeing commences with a **Huangpu River Cruise**, which is one of the best ways to see both old and new Shanghai. As we sail down the river towards the East Sea, we will enjoy the views of the full sweep of The Bund and the 21st century cityscape of Pudong.

Our day continues with a stroll along **Nanjing Road**, China's premier shopping street, which starts at the Bund in the east and ends in the west at the junction of Jingan Temple and Yan'an West Street. Today Nanjing Road attracts fashion-seeking shoppers from all over the world and features over 600 businesses with countless famous brands, superior quality, and new fashions. In addition, to the traditional stores, specialty shops still provide choice silk goods, jade, embroidery, wool, and open-air bars, abstract sculptures, and lingering sounds from street musicians make this a memorable experience.

Our day concludes with a visit to the **Jade Buddha Temple**, built in 1918. The temple is famous for its jade Buddha statues which are pure white and elegant. The construction of pavilions and halls are in the traditional style of the Song dynasty, and it has four halls.

## **Day 10 Shanghai**

You can choose 2 of the following 4 options for your full day's activities in Shanghai:

This morning visit the **Yu Gardens and Bazaar**, a pleasant and well-contained classical Chinese garden. Built between 1559 and 1577, the Yù Yuán (meaning Garden of Peace and Comfort) is a maze of Ming Dynasty pavilions, elaborate rockeries, arched bridges, and goldfish ponds, all encircled by an undulating dragon wall.

The **Shanghai Museum** is one of the most important museums in China with 11 state-of-the-art galleries and three special exhibition halls arranged on four floors, all encircling a spacious cylindrical atrium. The exhibits feature over 120,000 historic artifacts and the museum is arranged by theme rather than by dynasty.

This morning you can tour inside the **Shanghai Stock Exchange**. It is one of the three stock exchanges operating independently in the People's Republic of China, the other two are the Shenzhen Stock Exchange and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Unlike the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the Shanghai Stock Exchange is still not entirely open to foreign investors due to tight controls exercised by the Chinese mainland authorities.

At the end of 2007, the Shanghai Stock Exchange had 860 listed companies with a combined market capitalization of US\$3.7 trillion making it the largest in mainland China and sixth largest in the world.

Make a visit to the **Volkswagen Factory** on the outskirts of the city for a tour of the manufacturing plant. This factory produces 30% of the vehicles sold in China. Shanghai Volkswagen Factory was founded in 1985, the first joint-venture company in China after the opening policy started in the 1980's. With this special tour, you can visit the assembling line workshop where different parts of a new car are put together. You can see the latest techniques and robots in the workshop.

This evening we will visit the **Jin Mào Tower**, the tallest building in China. Built in 1998 the Jin Mào is currently the third tallest building in the world 1,379 ft. Blending traditional Chinese and modern Western tower designs, we will take a high-speed elevator to the top in less than 45 seconds, where we will enjoy magnificent views from the public observation deck on the 88th floor, known as "The Skywalk."

## **Day 11 Departure From Shanghai / Arrive UK**

Our enjoyable and rewarding tour will come to an end as our guide accompanies us to the airport for the return flight home. You land back in the UK later the same day.

## **GEOGRAPHICAL THEMES TO STUDY ON TOUR**

### **Population**

One child per family  
Male/female issues

### **Urban Environment**

Planning and development issues  
Social areas analysis including quality of life

### **Leisure & Tourism**

Tianamen Square  
The Great Wall  
The Forbidden Palace  
Terracotta Warriors Museum  
The Bund  
Economic, social and environmental impacts  
Development and management / Green tourism

### **Retailing**

Shopping Malls  
Specialty craft shops  
Street Markets

### **Rivers & Soils / Energy**

Fluvial Environments  
Landscapes  
Dams and power generation  
Supply and demand for Energy and their effect on communities  
Resource management

### **Agriculture**

Rural land use  
Settlement patterns  
Planning, development and service issues