

Grande Holiday

15-Day China Discovery Tour

Covering cities: Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai, Suzhou, Guilin, Shenzhen, Hong Kong

Departures (2008): Mar 8, 22; Apr 5, 19; May 10, 24; Jun 7, 21; Jul 5; Sep 6, 20; Oct 11, 18, 25; Nov 8, 22

Price: **\$2,688** + Tax

Single Supp: \$ 750

AB: American Breakfast | L: Lunch | D: Dinner | SD: Special Dinner

Day 1 (Sat.) Honolulu – Beijing

We start our vacation by boarding an international flight bound for Beijing, the capital of China and an ancient city of great splendor. Meals and snacks will be served on the plane.

Day 2 (Sun.) Beijing

Arrive at Beijing Capital Int'l Airport. A Grande Holiday representative will greet and escort us to our hotel.

Day 3 (Mon.) Beijing (AB, L, D)

In the morning, we'll walk around *Tiananmen Square* what is probably the largest and most magnificent public square in the world. Explore *The Forbidden City*, the largest and best-preserved imperial palace whose vast and exotic grandeur was brilliantly captured in the movie *The Last Emperor*. Tour the *Summer Palace*, former summer retreat for the imperial family during the late Qing Dynasty and now China's largest and most well-preserved royal garden. Afterwards, enjoy a visit to the *fresh-water pearl shop*. In the evening, take pleasure in traditional *Chinese Martial Arts* with the "*Legend of Kung Fu*" Show.

Day 4 (Tue.) Beijing (AB, L, SD)

Begin today's full tour with a visit to a *jade workshop*, where we will learn about Chinese jade culture. Drive through the peaceful valley where Ming emperors had chosen as their burial ground, and descend for a walk along the *Sacred Way*, where the Avenue of the Animals can be seen lined with massive stone statues. In the afternoon, ascend by *cable car*, to the fabled *Badaling Great Wall*, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a massive defensive structure built to keep off intrusion. Tonight's dinner features China's famous *Peking Duck*.

Day 5 (Wed.) Beijing – Xi'an (AB, L, SD)

In the morning, visit the *Temple of Heaven*; widely regarded as the noblest example of religious architectures in all of China, it was the site where emperors came to worship heaven for a bountiful harvest. Proceed for an entry to *Tongrentang*, Chinese most famous traditional pharmacy, where you could learn the mystifying Chinese theory of Yin & Yang balance. Board a flight to Xi'an later in the day. Upon arrival, attend a *hot-pot dinner* at a local restaurant.

Day 6 (Thu.) Xi'an (AB, L, SD)

Go to one of the most exciting archaeological finds of the 20th Century - more than 6,000 of excavated *Terracotta Warriors*. Pay a visit to *Shaanxi Provincial Museum*, which beholds a treasure of 113,000 historic and cultural artifacts unearthed in Shaanxi. Today's exploration also includes a stop at a *lacquer ware factory*. Enjoy a fabulous night of *Dumpling Banquet Dinner* and the *Tang Dynasty Show*.

Day 7 (Fri.) Xi'an – Shanghai – Suzhou (AB, L, D)

Explore the *Big Wild Goose Pagoda*, a famous Buddhist pagoda in China. Visit the *City Wall* - one of the few ancient city walls still standing in China. In the afternoon, board a short flight to Shanghai. Upon arrival, we'll drive straight to Suzhou, also known as 'Venice of the East' with its network of canal streets that are criss-crossed by 300 bridges.

