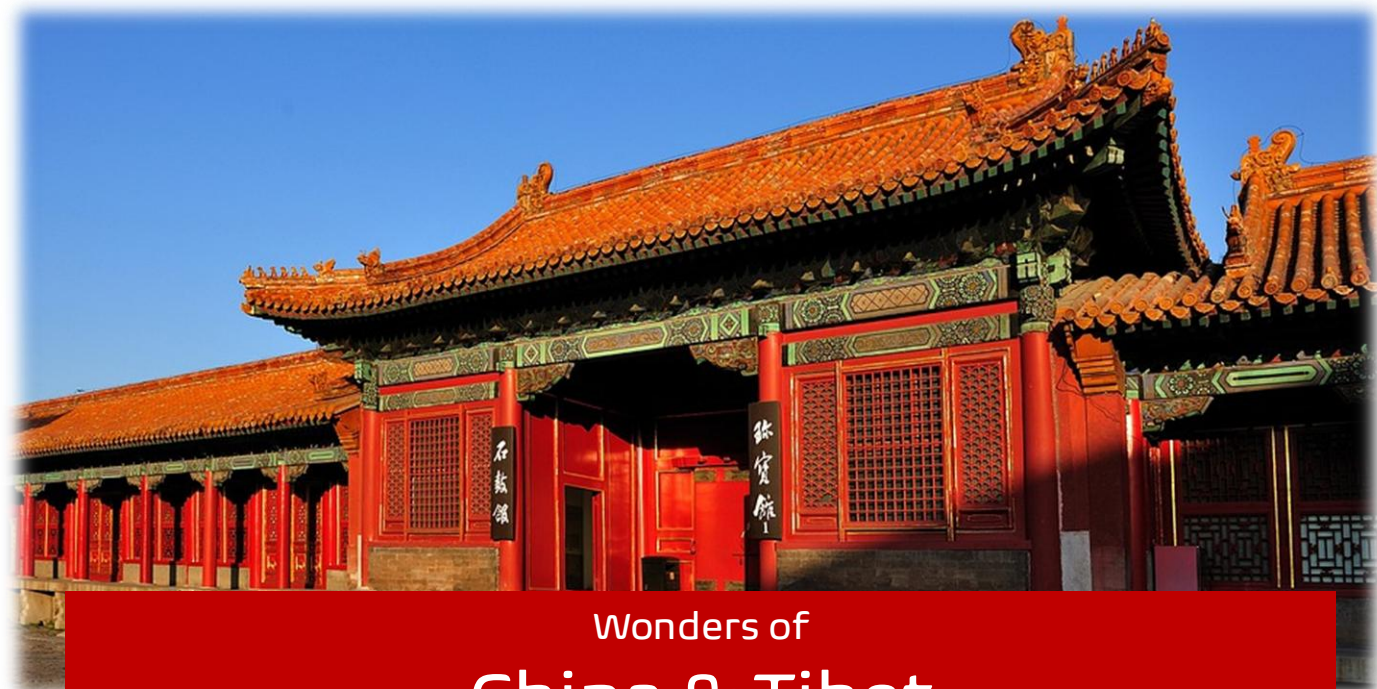




Wonders of China & Tibet

Escorted Adventure | May 2027 | 24 days

From the futuristic skyline of Shanghai to the sacred monasteries of Tibet, the tranquil beauty of the Li River, the mighty Yangtze, and the imperial treasures of Beijing, this extraordinary journey takes you deep into the heart of China. Experience ancient traditions, breathtaking landscapes, fascinating cultures, and unforgettable moments every step of the way.

Day 1 **Welcome to Shanghai!**

Ni hao and welcome to China! You will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. An early check has been arranged so you can relax in your room until we meet later this afternoon. If you're keen to start exploring, a ticket on the Hop On Hop Off bus is a good way to get around (approx. NZ\$25).

We'll meet in the hotel lobby around 5pm before heading out on a **local street food tour**. Whether you're a foodie or simply curious to try something new, this experience will take you beyond the usual tourist areas to sample a variety of popular local dishes. We'll finish the evening with a spectacular bird's-eye view of mega Shanghai from the world's tallest observation deck at **Shanghai Tower**.

Shanghai 2 nights

Day 2 **Shanghai – Where Old Meets New**

Today's adventure showcases the best of Shanghai. Wander through the peaceful **Yu Garden** before exploring the lively alleyways of **Old Town**. Stroll along the famous **Bund** with its stunning colonial architecture before learning the secrets of traditional silk production. Later, ride to the top of **Jinmao Tower** for spectacular



city views before ending the day with a magical **evening cruise along the Huangpu River** as Shanghai sparkles after dark.

Day 3 **Fly to Scenic Guilin**

This morning, fly south to Guilin, a city renowned for its spectacular limestone mountains. Visit the enchanting **Reed Flute Cave**, where colourful lighting illuminates incredible natural rock formations shaped over millions of years.

Guilin 1 night

Day 4 **Cruising the Beautiful Li River**

One of China's most iconic experiences awaits! Relax aboard a leisurely **Li River Cruise** as towering karst peaks, bamboo groves, fishermen, and peaceful villages glide past. Arrive in the charming town of Yangshuo, surrounded by some of the country's most beautiful scenery.

Yangshuo 2 nights

Day 5 **Life in the Yangshuo Countryside**

Start the morning learning the graceful movements of **Tai Chi** before venturing into the **beautiful countryside**. Explore quiet villages, lush rice fields, winding rivers, and spectacular mountain landscapes that have inspired Chinese artists for centuries.



Day 6 **Bullet Train to Kunming**

Travel back to Guilin before boarding one of China's world-class high-speed trains to Kunming, affectionately known as the "**City of Eternal Spring**" thanks to its pleasant year-round climate.

Kunming 2 nights

Day 7 **A Forest with a Difference**

Today's excursion takes us to the remarkable **Stone Forest**, one of China's most extraordinary natural landscapes and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here, towering limestone pillars rise dramatically from the ground, creating the impression of a vast forest carved from stone. You'll have time to stroll among the striking formations to appreciate the scale, texture, and unusual shapes of this ancient landscape.

This evening, enjoy Kunming's famous local specialty, "**Across the Bridge**" noodles.

Day 8 **Journey to Lijiang**

We travel by bullet train to beautiful Lijiang, a picturesque destination and one of China's most charming **ancient towns**. On arrival, wander through atmospheric cobblestone streets, where canals, stone bridges, and traditional Naxi architecture create a timeless setting.

Lijiang 2 nights

Day 9 **Snow Mountains & Ancient Villages**

Marvel at the majestic **Jade Dragon Snow Mountain** – the tallest soaring at 5,500 metres. We'll travel by cable car up to one of the higher meadows for incredible vistas. Continue to peaceful **Baisha Village**, where centuries-old frescoes offer a fascinating glimpse into the region's rich cultural heritage.



Day 10 Mountains, Monks & Monasteries

Travel through dramatic mountain scenery, stopping at the breathtaking **Tiger Leaping Gorge** - one of the deepest river canyons in the world. Continue to the monastery town of Zhongdian, better known today as **Shangri-La**. At 3,450m above sea level, we'll be keeping the afternoon relaxed so you can acclimatise to the altitude.

Zhongdian 2 nights

Day 11 Discover Tibetan Culture

Spend the day immersed in the **unique traditions, culture and spirituality of Tibet**. Visit a local Tibetan village for a glimpse into everyday life and discover the customs and beliefs that have shaped the region for generations. Continue to the beautiful **Dafo Temple**, before exploring the magnificent **Songzanlin Monastery**, with its striking golden rooftops, colourful prayer flags and spectacular mountain setting.

Later, wander through the atmospheric **Old Town**, exploring its narrow lanes, traditional buildings and local shops.

Day 12 Fly to Tibet

Today we'll fly to **mystical Lhasa**, the spiritual heart and soul of Tibet. The remainder of the day is kept leisurely, allowing time to acclimatise to the higher altitude – we're now at 4,150 metres (as a comparison Aoraki Mt Cook is 3,724 metres!).

Lhasa 3 nights

Day 13 The Palace Above the Clouds

Today we step into the spiritual heart of Tibet with a visit to the **magnificent Potala Palace**, one of the world's most iconic religious landmarks and a breathtaking symbol of Lhasa. Rising dramatically above the city, this extraordinary former winter residence of the **Dalai Lama** is a maze of chapels, prayer halls, sacred treasures, and winding stairways, each revealing another layer of Tibet's rich history and devotion. As we explore, we'll gain a deeper appreciation for the artistry, faith, and cultural significance that make this palace such an unforgettable



place. Afterwards, continue to **Norbulingka**, the beautiful former summer residence of the Dalai Lama, where peaceful gardens, traditional architecture, and quiet courtyards offer a gentler contrast to the grandeur of the Potala. It's a day filled with colour, history, spirituality, and some of the most remarkable sights in all of Tibet.

Day 14 **Sacred Lhasa**

Join pilgrims as they walk the 1 km **Barkhor Circuit**, one of Lhasa's most meaningful spiritual routes. Even for non-Buddhists, this is a powerful experience, as you move clockwise among a colourful stream of devoted worshippers who have travelled from near and far. The sound of prayer wheels, chanting, footsteps, and everyday life creates an atmosphere that is both deeply moving and uniquely Tibetan.

Later, visit **Sera Monastery**, set in the foothills of the Himalayas with beautiful views across the surrounding landscape. Long regarded as a centre of Buddhist learning and meditation, Sera is especially known for its lively philosophical debates. Watching the monks debate is a memorable insight into how critical thinking, discussion, and deep questioning are used to strengthen understanding of Buddhist teachings.

Day 15 **Chengdu**

Fly to Chengdu, Sichuan's vibrant capital where over 20 million people reside – it is also one of the most important economic centres in China and is renowned for its fiery aromatic cuisine. Later, experience local culture at Chengdu's fascinating **Marriage Market**, where families look for suitable matches for their children – a kind of tinder on paper!

Chengdu 1 night

Day 16 **Pandas & the Yangtze**

Early this morning we visit a globally renowned institution for **giant panda conservation** and scientific research. Beautifully designed to mimic the natural wild habitat of these national treasures, the base is shaded by lush bamboo groves and dense forest, providing a serene home to many giant pandas, red pandas, black-necked cranes, and other rare species.



This afternoon we journey to **Chongqing** where we'll **board our ship**.

Yangtze River Cruise 3 nights

Days 17 & 18 Cruising the Mighty Yangtze

Settle into the rhythm of one of Asia's great river journeys as your ship carries you through the **heart of the Yangtze**. Step ashore to visit beautiful Shuanggui Mountain, then continue to the peaceful Shennv Stream, where narrow waterways, towering cliffs, and lush forest create one of the region's most atmospheric side trips. As the cruise continues, take in spectacular views of the legendary **Three Gorges**, where steep mountains rise dramatically from the river and every bend reveals another memorable panorama.

Day 19 Engineering Marvels & Ancient Capitals

Visit the **impressive Three Gorges Dam**, a remarkable engineering achievement on an extraordinary scale and one that has also attracted considerable controversy. Its sheer size and ambition make it a truly memorable sight. Later, board a bullet train bound for **Xi'an**, one of China's oldest and most historic cities.

Xi'an 2 nights

Day 20 The Terracotta Army

Come face-to-face with the world-famous **Terracotta Warriors**, one of China's most extraordinary archaeological treasures. Stand above the thousands of life-sized soldiers, horses, and chariots created to guard Emperor Qin Shi Huang in the afterlife, each figure remarkably individual in expression and detail. You'll also discover traditional ceramic and lacquer craftsmanship, gaining insight into the artistry and techniques that have been passed down through generations. Later, enjoy a walk atop Xi'an's remarkably preserved **Ancient City Wall**, taking in sweeping views across this historic city.



Day 21 **High-Speed to Beijing**

Travel by bullet train to Beijing, **China's historic capital** and one of the world's great cultural cities. On arrival, begin to experience a fascinating place where ancient imperial landmarks, traditional neighbourhoods, and dynamic modern life exist side by side.

Beijing 3 nights

Day 22 **Imperial Beijing**

Step into the heart of China's imperial past as you explore the vast **Tiananmen Square** before entering the magnificent **Forbidden City**, the former home of China's emperors for nearly five centuries. Wander through its grand halls and elegant courtyards, then continue to the beautiful **Temple of Heaven**, where emperors once prayed for good harvests. This evening, enjoy a traditional **Peking Duck dinner**, one of Beijing's most celebrated culinary experiences.

Day 23 **The Great Wall & Summer Palace**

We're up early this morning to beat the crowds. Walk along the remarkable **Great Wall of China**, taking in breathtaking views and imagining the centuries of history that unfolded along its ancient stones.

Later, learn about the artistry behind **traditional jade** craftsmanship before unwinding at the beautiful **Summer Palace**, where tranquil lakes, graceful pavilions, and landscaped gardens provide a fitting finale to our tour.

Day 24 **Farewell China**

After breakfast, transfer to airport, taking with you unforgettable memories of an incredible adventure.

DATE

Departs Shanghai | 06 May 2027

Ends Beijing | 29 May 2027

PRICE

NZ\$11,320 per person twin/double share

NZ\$13,570 own room

INCLUDES

- 23-nights in 4* accommodation
- All meals
- Group airport transfers
- Transportation by air-conditioned mini-coach
- Bullet train journeys - 2nd class seats
- Economy class domestic flights within China
- Sightseeing and entry fees as indicated
- Group Tipping
- Experienced English-speaking local guides
- Escorted by Marie Coles from Roam Travel Adventures

EXCLUDES

- Refreshments/drinks
- Items of a personal nature, eg. laundry
- Optional tours/activities
- Visa (currently free for NZ passport holders)
- Travel Insurance (mandatory)

Group Size

Minimum 8 / Maximum 12

Payment Terms

\$850 per person non-refundable deposit at time of confirmation. Balance due 12-3-27.

Expected Weather

May is a great time to travel in China. It's the end of Spring and landscapes are lush and green. The days are pleasant with little rain expected. Temperatures can range from 5 – 20°C in Lhasa and 15 - 28°C in Beijing.

Getting to/from China – Air NZ & Cathay have the best airfare options – price is subject to availability and will be advised at the time of book.



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