From Beijing to Shanghai via the Jinan Province, visit UNESCO sites, Qufu - Confucius' birthplace, sacred Tai Shan, ancient Suzhou and its many waterways, concluding in bustling Shanghai.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- **Beijing**: Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, UNESCO-listed Great Wall, UNESCO-listed Ming Tombs
- **Jinan**: capital of Shandong Province
- **UNESCO-listed Mt Tai Shan (Peaceful Mountain)**
- **UNESCO-listed Qufu - birthplace of Confucius**
- **Suzhou**: UNESCO-listed gardens, Grand Canal and waterways, Humble Administrator’s Garden, Silk factory
- **Shanghai**: Shanghai Plaza Tower, The Bund and Old Shanghai, Yuyuan Garden, Huang River skyline of Pudong City

What's Included

- 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinners
- 8 nights Standard hotels (Superior and Deluxe available on request) & 1 night overnight train - Qufu - Shanghai (sleeper cabin)
- Tai Shan - cable car ride
- Rickshaw ride in Old City of Qufu and Confucius show
- Tai Chi lesson
- Suzhou - historic Grand Canal cruise
- Shanghai - Huangpu River cruise
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 & day 10
- Touring and excursions as per itinerary
- English speaking specialist guides at local sights
- All relevant transfers and transportation
- Entrance fees to all included sites

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Beijing

Welcome to Beijing and the start of your holiday. Arrival transfer from airport to hotel. **Overnight - Beijing (D)**

Day 2 : The Forbidden City

A guided tour of Beijing today takes in Tiananmen Square, which home of the mausoleum of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the father of the Communist People’s Republic, and the striking Monument to the People’s Heroes. Across the way is the Forbidden City. A vision in grandeur with its imperial yellow roofs and vermilion walls, the Forbidden City was forbidden to all except those on imperial business until 1911, when the last emperor, Puyi, was removed from the throne. Beijing was always a walled city but the Forbidden City, seat of the great emperors, was the innermost sanctum of the city. Built between 1406 and 1420, it served as the imperial palace for the Ming and Qing dynasties. Enjoy a guided walk through the city's many temples, grand halls and courtyards. **Overnight - Beijing (B)**

Day 3 : The Great Wall

Today, travel beyond Beijing to Badaling, where you can walk (and almost climb on some sections) on the Great Wall. No matter how many pictures you’ve seen, the Great Wall of China is grand. Following a ridge of barren hills through northern China, it stretches as far as the eye can see - at least 6,700 kms. Continuing, a visit is made to the tombs of the Ming emperors, where some 13 emperors were interred. The
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tombs are approached via a sacred gateway and gate houses. **Overnight - Beijing (B)**

**Day 4 : Jinan**
Beijing - Jinan. Free morning. Afternoon train from Beijing to Jinan. Located south of the Yellow River as it makes its final thrust to the sea, Jinan, the capital of Shandong Province is famous for its springs. Shandong also produces the famous brew - Tsin'tao beer at the former German colony of Qingdao. **Overnight - Jinan (B)**

**Day 5 : Mt Tai Shan**

Jinan - Qufu. Enjoy a visit to the UNESCO listed Tai Shan (Peaceful Mountain), perhaps the holiest of the five Chinese holy mountains devoted to Taoism. The upper reaches are approached by cable-car. Visit also Bu Yang Village. Continue to Qufu, birthplace of the sage - Confucius, where tonight by rickshaw, you’ll travel to the Apricot Altar Theatre, to enjoy a Confucius Singing and Dancing Show. **Overnight - Qufu (B, L)**

**Day 6 : Qufu**
Enjoy a tai chi’i lesson with a Master if you choose. Occupying a hallowed place in the minds of the legions of Chinese, Japanese and Koreans who come here on pilgrimage, Qufu is greatly revered. Although the sage lived in relative obscurity, his descendents lived in the grand Confucius Mansion (Kong Fu) in the heart of Qufu. Wielding immense political clout and wealth, the Kong family, referred to as the First Family Under Heaven, built a palatial mansion. Next to the mansion is the Confucius Temple (Kong Miao), a lengthy complex of memorial gateways, courtyards and pavilions. Afterwards a rickshaw tour around the Old City. Later, overnight train to Shanghai. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B, L)**

**Day 7 : Shanghai**

Shanghai - Shanghai. Once known for its decadent magnetism that attracted fortune-seekers and adventurers, Shanghai looks like a European city in a Chinese setting. Enjoy a big day out touring the Shanghai Plaza Tower, charming Yuyuan Gardens, and the Old City. This evening, witness Shanghai’s illuminated skyline on a Huangpu River cruise. **Overnight - Shanghai (B)**

**Day 8 : Suzhou**

Shanghai - Suzhou - Shanghai. Today take a day trip by high speed train to ancient Suzhou, a Venetian-like town with its UNESCO-listed gardens and many waterways and bridges. Here you can take a cruise on the Grand Canal, which stretches over 1,000 miles from Beijing to Hangzhou and crosses the Yellow and Yangtze rivers, constructed more than 2,000 years ago serving China’s main North-South artery. The hive of activity comprising of boats and people both on and along the Canal offers an amazing sight and later visit a silk textile factory. Or choose to visit the Fish-Net Master’s Garden and Tiger Hill, before returning to Shanghai. **Overnight - Shanghai (B, L)**

**Day 9 : Shanghai**

A day of leisure to enjoy the sights of Shanghai independently. Perhaps take a stroll along the Bund or shop on the famous Nanjing Road. Tonight perhaps consider drinks, jazz and nibbles at the historic Peace Hotel on the Bund. **Overnight - Shanghai (B)**

**Day 10 : Shanghai**
Hotel check-out and included onward transfer to airport. (B)

**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

**Entrance fees - collected in Yuan**
Entry fees to most sites are not included, although reasonably priced. In China, we collect entrance fees on Day 2 of the tour (the amount is noted under exclusions on page one of this document). A comprehensive breakdown of the entrance fee total is provided upon arrival.

All funds collected in China for entrance fees and optional excursions, that you may wish to undertake are payable in local currency - Chinese Yuan (CNY).

**Tipping Kitty**
At the start of your group tour, we take a small tipping kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions) from all tour participants to cover tips throughout your holiday. This saves you the hassle of knowing when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage luggers, bus drivers, train conductors and other support staff throughout the tour.

This amount does not include a tip for your tour guide. For a job well done, we would suggest USD$5 - 5 per person per day. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

If travelling on a short stay, private tour or a group tour with less than 6 participants we do not collect a tipping kitty and recommend the following amount to cover tips paid directly by you to bellhops, luggage handlers, your driver and local guide: CNY50/USD$8 - per person per day of your tour.

**Visas**

**China Visa**
Visas are required by all visitors to China. It is essential that a tourist visa is procured prior to travel. We will provide you with an invoice/
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itinerary indicating that you are travelling to China on a pre-arranged holiday. The visa is valid for entry within 3 months, so you cannot apply any earlier. Please ensure your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of return from China. We also offer a visa service for those residing in the UK, please contact us for information. Visa requirements are subject to change. Visa procurement is also the responsibility of the traveller and not of On The Go Tours.

Visa for Hong Kong
Most Western visitors to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People’s Republic of China do not require a tourist visa issued in advance of travel. Currently, UK nationals can stay up to 180 days. Nationals of Australia, Canada, Eire, most other EU countries, New Zealand and the US do not require a visa for a stay not exceeding 90 days, while holders of RSA passports can remain for up to 30 days. If entering Hong Kong from mainland China and returning to mainland China a multiple Chinese entry visa is required.

Visa for Tibet
Tibet - If travelling to Tibet, a Tibet Travel Permit is required. The permit will be arranged by our office in China. Please contact On The Go Tours prior to departure for the most up to date Tibetan entry information.

The information above is not applicable for the Beijing and Shanghai Visa Free Tours

NOTE: Visa requirements are subject to change, please check with your embassy before booking this trip.

Climate
In all, China has a great diversity of climates. To sum it up - China experiences hot summers in most parts of the country, very cold winters in the north and comfortable winters in the south! Sep-Oct is warm to hot and dry across the country. Nov-Mar is winter with very cold temps in the north, whilst mild in the south. If combining the north and south, you'll experience 2 distinct weather patterns. Apr-May - perfect in the north, if a little humid and rainy in the south. Jun-Aug can bring a few showers.

Health & Water
You should seek medical advice before travelling to China from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide it is recommended that you be vaccinated for Tetanus and Polio, if you haven't had a booster in the last ten years. Food and waterborne diseases are more common, so we recommend vaccinations for Typhoid (valid 3 years) and Hepatitis A (validity varies). There is a malarial risk in remote southern areas of China, so do check the current situation before travelling.

As tap water is not safe to drink in China, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available from hotels, shops and restaurants. Make sure bottled water is sealed.

Currency
The currency of China is the Chinese Yuan.

Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other major currencies can be exchanged in China. Exchange facilities are available at various bureaux de change and banks in major towns have ATMs or it is possible to get some before you leave home. It’s advisable to request bank notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases and gratuities.

Traveller’s Cheques are not recommended as they’re often difficult to change and incur high fees.

Time & Voltage
China is 8 hours ahead of GMT. The country operates on one time zone, so clocks are set according to Beijing time, meaning, given the size of the country, sunrise and sunset can occur at peculiar times! Voltage is 220v, 50Hz AC. Chinese plugs come in many designs: 3 pronged angle pins similar, though smaller than those used in Australia; 2 prong flat pins (type A) or 2 round pins, European style (type C). To cover all bases, pack a travel adaptor!

Pack a travel adaptor!
Please call the emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher. Please do not leave the airport and travel to the hotel yourself. Please call the contact number as stated on your tour voucher.

We schedule our arrival transfers to collect all travellers on flights scheduled to land within the same hour. As such after meeting our arrival transfer person you may be required to wait (there are seats available and a cafe close by) till other passengers, who will also be transferring with you to the same tour start hotel.

**For tours starting in Shanghai or Chengdu**

If arriving into Shanghai or Chengdu International Airport, after attending to immigration and customs, please proceed to the arrival hall.

Please have your tour voucher handy and make it available to our representative who will be waiting for you in the arrivals hall, holding a prominent On The Go Tours logo signboard, ready to escort you to our arriving transportation and onward to your tour start hotel.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative after waiting 30 minutes in the arrival hall or your flight to China is delayed please call the emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher. Please do not leave the airport and travel to the hotel yourself. Please call the contact number as stated on your tour voucher.

We schedule our arrival transfers to collect all travellers on flights scheduled to land within the same hour. As such after meeting our arrival transfer person you may be required to wait (there are seats available and a cafe close by) till other passengers, who will also be transferring with you to the same tour start hotel.

If travelling on one of our 'Short Stays' where an airport arrival transfer is included in your holiday, the procedure for meeting you at any other airport in China is the same as our arrival procedure for Shanghai as detailed above.

**Toilets/Washrooms**

Public toilets, when found, are usually 'squats' - holes in the ground with footrests at either side and often don't possess a door! The custom is to wash with water from a jug or little pipe attached to the toilet using your left hand. Doesn't appeal? Here are some hints:

- Time yourself with the hotels you are staying at
- If you are out and about, find the nearest hotel, restaurant, fast food outlet, or toilets at tourist attractions, which all tend to have Western style facilities
- Ask your tour guide to make a stop
- Pack a roll of toilet paper and anti-bacterial wipes for your own comfort

**Travelling By Train**

Fast and efficient, China’s first rail lines were laid in the 19th century, and today, the government continues to invest heavily in this crucial mode of transport which connects many parts of the country. When travelling during the day, ‘soft’ seats, that is to say ‘upholstered’ seats are provided. For overnight travel, clients are accommodated in ‘soft class’ sleeper cabins. Aboard each wagon are 9 compartments that comprise 4 bunks per compartment. Four people of mixed sex share one compartment. On occasion, dependent upon group size, you may be sharing with local people on the overnight journey, though sometimes dependent upon how the Chinese Railways Booking Office configure the bookings, the cabin may be filled with four of our passengers. A dining wagon serves reasonably priced Chinese food of the noodles and rice variety, along with snacks and drinks. A very simple menu is published in English. On the Beijing - Xi’an service, there is also a small bar serving drinks including alcohol. Each wagon offers a WC and hand basin facility. At one end, is a Chinese squat-style WC, whilst at the other end is a modern Western-style WC. Cabins are lockable from the inside and luggage is stowed in overhead compartments and under the bottom bunk. Bed linen and slippers are supplied, and often there is a TV mounted on the wall at the end of each bed that may even work. Most channels are broadcast in Mandarin, excluding one English Channel, which has little of interest on it!

**Porterage**

In China most often porterage is not available at railway stations and you will be required to carry your own luggage. We recommend you pack as light as possible as there can be several flights of stairs and a lengthy walk to our awaiting transportation.

**Shopping**

China is a virtual Aladdin’s Cave. Government-run Friendship Stores in almost all cities stock a range of fixed-price souvenirs and handicrafts and can offer a reasonable idea of what is acceptable in terms of quality and price. After a visit to the Friendship Store, visit private stores, craft shops and local department stores. However, the best shopping is often at public markets. If you see something you want, buy it when you see it - prices don’t vary greatly, but selection can vary from location to location.

Top buys include silk products, embroidery, Chinese calligraphy and paintings, ceramics, jade and stone carvings, lacquer ware, Chinese tea, Cloisonne, Mao reproduction propaganda souvenirs such as the famous ‘Red Book’, caps and buttons, personalised ink seals and clothing of every kind. Markets in Beijing and Shanghai commonly sell top quality ski jackets and leisure attire by big name brands. Additionally, copied goods such as handbags, watches and shoes are available in plentiful supply in these markets. Ethnic crafts are a speciality in some regions including Xi’an and Kunming. If wishing to buy antiques, proceed with caution. It’s highly likely that the antique will be a skilful reproduction. However, if it is the real deal, you’ll need paperwork the Chinese Administrative Department of Cultural Relics which must then accompany the article being exported.

**IMPORTANT:** Set your budget and don’t be swayed, remember the caveat – ‘Let the buyer beware’. Any purchases made whilst on holiday with us, irrespective of whether the store is recommended by us or other, are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with the product you are purchasing and the delivery arrangements (we would recommend you take away with you any purchases rather than rely on shipping services). On The Go cannot be held responsible...
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or accountable for items bought in country or shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

Media Restrictions
There are restrictions on all media, including social media and free press throughout China. Whilst on holiday your will have limited access to social media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Google Plus. There is also limited international calling options, so please check with your local provider before leaving home, to source the best roaming or online options to keep in regular contact with family and friends during your travels.

It's not like home!
Travel to far-flung corners of the earth involves lifestyles and conditions that are sometimes very different from what you are used to back home. You must come prepared to cope with unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned. With the greatest respect and in the interest of your ultimate enjoyment you must understand this. Things can and do change in foreign countries.