

# Cultural Tour of China

## *Beijing – Xi'an – Xuzhou – Shanghai*



### Day 1 – Depart home city

### Day 2 – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March – AUSTRALIA to BEIJING (L,D)

Upon arrival at Beijing Capital International Airport, clear immigration, collect your baggage, go through customs and meet your local English-speaking guide, who will also give you your travel documents (including tickets). Load your luggage into your coach and transfer to central Beijing, where you start your afternoon sightseeing.

After lunch at a local cafe, visit the **Forbidden City**, home of the Emperors, and **Tiananmen Square**, the largest public square in the world. Then, continue to the **Temple of Heaven**, the largest temple in China, and admire its beautiful blue tiled roof. Transfer to your accommodation for check in and overnight stay.



Tiananmen Square



The Forbidden City



The Great Wall of China

### Day 3 – BEIJING (B,L,D)

After breakfast, meet your guide in the lobby at 8:30am and enjoy a half-day excursion to the **Great Wall of China** and its surrounds. The Wall served as a barrier against the invading nomadic Mongol tribes and was constructed by a conscripted workforce numbering up to a million people. Return to Beijing after your visit.

This afternoon, explore the **Summer Palace**, which was used as a holiday palace by the Imperial family. You will also see the famous **Marble Boat**.

Return to central Beijing and have dinner at a local restaurant, then see the famous **Kung Fu Show**, before returning to your accommodation.

### Day 4 – XI'AN (B,L,D)

*An early start today.* This morning, check out and pick up your packed breakfasts by **6:00am**. Meet your coach and driver at your accommodation at **6:15am**. Load your luggage into the coach, then transfer to the train station for your high-speed train to Xi'an, arriving at in the early afternoon. Upon arrival at the station, make your way to your platform immediately.

Upon arrival, meet your private coach driver and your local English-speaking guide. Transfer to the city centre and enjoy a late lunch at a local restaurant, then check in at your

accommodation and store your luggage. Afterwards, enjoy an afternoon tour to visit **the City Wall** and the **Bell Tower**. These sites represent one of the oldest and best preserved Chinese city walls. Construction of the first city wall of **Chang'an** began in 194 BCE and lasted for 4 years.

In the evening, enjoy a **Dumpling Cooking Lesson and Banquet**, followed by the impressive **Tang Dynasty dancing and singing performance**. Then return to your accommodation.

**Day 5 – XIAN (B,L,D)**

After breakfast, meet your guide at 8:30am in the lobby and enjoy an all day guided tour with your guide, which includes visits to the ancient **Terracotta Warriors**. These figures are dating from 210 BC and have been discovered in 1974 by local farmers in the Lintong District, Xi'an, near the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor. You will also visit the **Wild Goose Pagoda**.

**Day 6 – to Day 13 HOMESTAY (-)**

Transfer to homestay location. meet your coach and driver. Load your luggage, board your coach and transfer to your sister school. Activities organized by hosts and your own school.

**Day 14 – SHANGHAI (L,D)**

After breakfast, your hosts will take you to the local railway station. Say good bye to your host families and board your train to Shanghai.

On arrival, meet your guide in the arrivals hall and load your luggage into your coach. Transfer to your accommodation for check in. Afterwards, enjoy a full-day tour of Shanghai. Lunch today is at a local restaurant. Visit the classical **Yu Garden** and the **Children's Palace**. Explore the **Old Town** and stroll along the famous **Bund**. This afternoon, gain a different perspective of the city during your one hour boat ride on the Huangpu. In the evening, enjoy an **Acrobatic Show**, then your coach drops you off at your accommodation.

**Day 15 – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April – SHANGHAI (B)**

After breakfast, check out and store your luggage at the accommodation. Enjoy the morning in Shanghai with some free time and shopping with your teachers leading the group (*public transport is at own expense*). Arrange your lunch (*at own expense*). Return to your accommodation, pick up your luggage and meet your private coach and driver at 3:00pm (15:00). Load your luggage into the coach, then transfer to the Shanghai Pudong International Airport for your return flight to Australia. Upon arrival, check in immediately and make your way to your departure gate.

**Day 16 - Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April – ARRIVAL IN MELBOURNE (-)**



**Xi'an City Wall**



**Wild Goose Pagoda**



**The Bund Shanghai**

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