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# *China's Imperial Cities, Natural Splendor & Modern Marvels*

**October 2028**

Shanghai's skyline, Guilin's karst landscapes, pandas in Chengdu, the Terracotta Warriors in Xi'an, and the grandeur of Beijing. Ancient history meets futuristic energy on this epic, in-depth journey.

## **What to Expect On This Incredible Trip**

This is a comprehensive, immersive exploration of China. It's designed to show you China in layers. It's imperial history, minority cultures, dramatic natural landscapes, and fast-moving modern cities, all woven together through hands-on experiences and candid cultural conversations.

This trip is:

- Fast-paced and geographically expansive
- A mix of flights and a high-speed train
- Heavy on cultural context (including political discussions)

- Rich in hands-on experiences (cooking, tea harvesting, fan painting)
- Moderately active (some long walking days; Great Wall climb includes ~800 stairs)

You experience:

- Megacity modernity (Shanghai, Beijing)
- Minority village life (Dong community)
- Iconic world wonders (Great Wall, Terra Cotta Army)
- Wildlife conservation (pandas)
- Culinary depth (Sichuan gastronomy)
- Open conversations about contemporary China

It's designed for travelers who want more than monuments... those who want context, nuance, and real human interaction.



👁️👁️ Check Out the Latest [Trip Itinerary Preview Video](#)

## Trip Overview

**China:** Shanghai, Guilin, Chengdu, Xian, Beijing

Exact site order and itinerary subject to [final O.A.T. itinerary](#) for the year.

**Base Trip Price:** \$8,045 per person\*

**Round-Trip Airfare (from DTW):** TBD

**Duration:** 21 Days

**!!Please note:** Prices are subject to change\*



## Expected Itinerary Overview

### **Day 1: Depart USA**

Depart this evening for your overnight flight to Shanghai.

### **Day 2: En Route to Shanghai**

Continue traveling to China, crossing the International Date Line (you regain this day on your return).

### **Day 3: Arrive in Shanghai**

Arrive in Shanghai and transfer to your hotel.

- Meet your Trip Experience Leader
- Orientation walk around the neighborhood
- Free evening to rest or explore independently

### **Day 4: Yu Garden • The Bund • Welcome Dinner**

Morning:

- Welcome Briefing
- Visit Yu Garden (16th-century classical Chinese garden with pavilions, ponds, rock formations)

Afternoon:

- Walking tour of The Bund along the Huangpu River
- View Art Deco architecture and colonial-era landmarks

Evening:

- Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant
- Free time for night markets or acrobatic show

***Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner***

### ***Days 5: French Concession • M50 Art District***

Morning:

- Explore Former French Concession
- Walk through Taikang Road (Shikumen architecture, boutiques, galleries)

Afternoon:

- Visit M50 art district (contemporary studios in converted factories)

Evening free.

***Meals: Breakfast & Lunch***

### ***Day 6: Suzhou Day Trip***

Travel to Suzhou (2,500-year-old city).

Highlights:

- Master of the Nets Garden (800-year-old classical garden)
- Silk factory visit
- West Garden Temple (Buddhist monastery with Arhat statues)

- Shantang Street canal district

Return to Shanghai for dinner.

**Meals:** *Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

### **Day 7: Fly to Guilin**

Transfer to airport and fly to Guilin, gateway to China's karst landscapes.

Evening at leisure after hotel check-in.

**Meals:** *Breakfast & Dinner*

### **Day 8: Li River Cruise • Fan Painting Workshop**

Morning:

- Half-day cruise on the Li River (UNESCO-recognized karst landscape)
- Scenic views of limestone peaks

Afternoon:

- Visit Fuli town
- Ink-painted fan workshop (paint your own keepsake)

Evening free.

**Meals:** *Breakfast & Lunch*

### **Day 9: A Day in the Life: Dong Minority Village**

Travel by train into rural countryside.

Experience:

- Local farmer's market stop
- Traditional Dong village welcome ceremony
- Visit stilted wooden homes and drum tower
- Prepare lunch with local family
- Learn traditional oil tea preparation

- Hands-on sheng (bamboo flute) music workshop

Return to Guilin.

***Meals: Breakfast & Lunch***

### ***Day 10: Tea Garden Experience • Village Dinner***

Morning:

- Visit tea garden in mountain foothills
- Learn tea cultivation and ceremony
- Harvest tea leaves
- Lunch featuring tea-infused dishes

Evening:

- Special dinner in Lujiacun village

Return to hotel.

***Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner***

### ***Day 11: Fly to Chengdu • Optional Opera***

Fly to Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province.

Evening:

- Dinner at local restaurant
- Optional Face-Changing (Bian Lian) Sichuan opera performance

***Meals: Breakfast & Dinner***

### ***Day 12: Giant Panda Sanctuary • Home-Hosted Dinner***

Morning:

- Visit Giant Panda Sanctuary (conservation-focused habitat)
- Learn about preservation efforts

Afternoon free.

Evening:

- Home-Hosted Dinner with local families in Chengdu

***Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner***

### ***Day 13: Sichuan Cooking Experience***

Morning:

- Visit Sichuan Cooking Museum
- Learn about bold, spicy Sichuan cuisine
- Hands-on cooking class

Afternoon free.

Dinner at local restaurant.

***Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner***

### ***Day 14: Shu Brocade Museum • Bullet Train to Xi'an***

Morning:

- Visit Shu Brocade & Embroidery Museum

Afternoon:

- High-speed bullet train to Xi'an
- Evening free for local noodle markets

***Meals: Breakfast***

### ***Day 15: Terra Cotta Army • Xiahe Primary School***

Morning:

- Visit Terra Cotta Army (6,000+ life-sized warriors of Qin Shi Huangdi)

Afternoon:

- Visit Xiahe Primary School (Grand Circle Foundation site, when in session)

Dinner at local restaurant.

***Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner***

### ***Day 16: Temple of the Eight Immortals • Optional Tang Show***

Morning:

- Tai chi session in local park
- Visit Temple of the Eight Immortals (Taoist temple)

Afternoon free.

*Optional: Tang Dynasty cultural performance with dinner*

***Meals: Breakfast***

### ***Day 17: Fly to Beijing***

Fly to Beijing and transfer to hotel.

Dinner included. Evening free.

***Meals: Breakfast & Dinner***

### ***Day 18: Beijing • Forbidden City • Tiananmen Square***

Morning:

- Explore Forbidden City (9,000-room imperial palace complex)

Afternoon:

- Discussion on Tiananmen Square incident & Chinese democracy
- Visit Tiananmen Square

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Day 19: Explore The Great Wall (Mutianyu) • Jade Factory**

Visit Mutianyu section of the Great Wall

- Optional climb (~800 steep stairs)

Afternoon:

- Jade factory visit

Evening free.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Day 20: Summer Palace • Opera School • Farewell Dinner**

Morning:

- Tour Summer Palace and Kunming Lake

Afternoon:

- Visit opera school (when in session)
- Free time for final discoveries

Evening:

- Farewell Dinner

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Day 21: Final Departure**

Transfer to airport for flight back to the U.S.

**Meals:** Breakfast

*\*\*Exact details for this October 2028 tour will be updated on the O.A.T. travel site once*

the official itinerary is confirmed. This more detailed O.A.T. itinerary can be found by [clicking here](#).



## ✓ What's Included

- 18 nights [accommodation](#)
- 41 meals—18 breakfast, 12 lunches, and 11 dinners (including 2 Home-Hosted meals)
- 24 small group activities
- Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers

- Ground transportation, domestic transfers
- Round-trip airfare from DTW (as listed)

## Flight Booking Notes

When confirming your deposit, please specify:

- Travel class preference (Coach, Premium Select, Business)
- Aisle or window seating
- Any special requests or meal preferences

## Additional Notes

- **Prices subject to change**, especially airfare and park fees.
- **Pacing:** 5 locations in 19 days. One 4- to 6-hour long bus ride, one 4-hour train ride, and 3 internal flights of 1-2 hours each.
- [Customizations and optional extensions](#) are available.
- Find weather and climate info by [clicking here](#).
- [Physical Requirements](#): Activity level is **Moderate (Level 3 out of 5)**
- Check out [photos and videos](#) from past trips.



**Online Reservations:** [www.TravelwithScottandCurtis.com](http://www.TravelwithScottandCurtis.com)

**Phone Reservations:** [\(269\) 209-5889](tel:(269)209-5889)