

CHINA IN SIX MOVEMENTS: CAMPERVAN, BOAT, TRAIN, BIKE, JEEP, AND SIDECAR- 12 DAYS

ITINERARY

Day 1-Arrive in Beijing (-)

Your guide will meet and greet you at the Beijing International Airport.

On your way to the hotel, you will notice the spectacular “**Bird’s Nest**”, the palatial stadium now recognized as a symbol of modern China. The stadium is a triumph of architecture with a design heavily influenced by **Ai Weiwei**, the renowned Chinese artist. Beijing has become a thriving metropolis in recent years and was center of the world stage in 2008 when it hosted **the Olympic Games**.

Immerse yourself in the **old neighborhoods of Beijing** by visiting the famous **hutongs** (narrow alleys and streets of Beijing) near **Houhai Lake**. Then discover **Gulou**, the city’s **Drum Tower**. During the **Ming Dynasty**, the city marked the hours of the day with the rumbling of drums.

Moving along, you will meet a **bicycle repairman**, whose job exemplifies the urbanization of the city itself. Feel free to ask as many questions that come to mind!

Sooner or later, you will have the opportunity to assist in a **mahjong party**, a very popular game in China, especially among older generations. Come to watch, and ask your guide to explain the rules!

By the end of the day, you will visit the **Wangfujing neighborhood**, home to the famous **Wangfujing road**, the city’s most commercial area.

Next door, the **Donghuamen Market** offers a **delightful taste of the city’s night market**. Note: no one in the whole world yells as loud as Donghuamen’s wonton vendors!

Return to your hotel and spend the night in Beijing.

Day 2- Beijing (B, L)

Wake up early and be one of the first visitors to arrive at the **Temple of Heaven**. You will immediately notice the simplicity of its structure. **The temple’s hidden symbolism hints at beliefs even more ancient than Buddhism and Taoism** and to a time when the Emperor was considered the direct authority of heaven.

At this time of day, you will see the various activities many Chinese do in the morning. **Tai Qi, Kung Fu, sabre practice, meditation, tango, and gymnastics** are just a few. Many Chinese enjoy practicing traditional exercising in the morning as they consider this essential to their health. Some Chinese prefer to practice **calligraphy on the park’s flagstones using giant brushes** and water. We’ll provide brushes and water, and **your guide will teach you how to write your own Chinese characters!**

Next, you will head to the **Forbidden City**.

Most Chinese buildings face south, which according to ancient beliefs symbolized the barbarian threat and potential invasion from the North. This explains why the main entrance to the Forbidden City faces south toward **Tiananmen Square, the third largest city square in the world**.

The construction of the Forbidden City was finished in 1420 during the reign of the **Ming Dynasty’s Emperor Yongle**; it served as the **imperial administrative center** throughout the Ming and Qing Dynasties until the fall of the Empire in 1911. According to local lore, the Forbidden City is **made up of 9999 different rooms**.

550 Washington St, Suite 641, San Diego, CA 92103
Phone: 415-952-0319 Email: contact@zuzulutravel.com

www.zuzulutravel.com

Climbing the artificial coal hill just behind the Forbidden City provides a **spectacular view of the entire site**.

Option: Enjoy an evening **Kung Fu show** at the **Red Theater!** The Red Theater is originally known as Chongwen Worker's Cultural Palace Theater. It specializes in **traditional Chinese performances**, such as "**The Legend of Kung Fu**".

Overnight at your hotel in Beijing

Day 3-Beijing – Great Wall (B, D)

After lunch, depart from Beijing in a **campervan** before stopping at a local supermarket to purchase supplies for your **evening barbecue** and tomorrow's breakfast.

Visit the **village of Guandi**, located less than two hours from Beijing. The village is overlooked by the **majestic Great Wall** and **surrounded by trees**, which were planted as part of the "Great Green Wall" project. Meet with a **local worker**, who will give you a **general presentation of the project over a cup of tea in a guesthouse**.

Take the road to the **Jiankou section of the Great Wall**, close to **Guandi**. **Jiankou** is less frequently visited than sections such as **Badaling and Mutianyu**. Climb the narrow walkways, incredibly steep stairs, and worn bricks, then marvel at the **unbelievable view**. Please don't forget your walking shoes!

Before your barbecue, try the 40-minute ascension to the Great Wall toward "**Tiandi**" – **The Ladder to Paradise**. It offers an **exceptional panorama of the surrounding countryside**.

Overnight in the campervan

Day 4-Great Wall - Beijing (B, L)

Wake up early and go on a hike! You will return to the same intersection of the Great Wall, but this time turn left rather than right, toward the famous **Mutianyu section**, you can enjoy a morning stroll to this charming destination.

Admire the **ancient watchtowers on the crests of the highest hills**. **The Wall was sufficiently high to stop the charge of the Mongol cavaliers**, who had to dismount from their horses to continue their attack.

Certain parts of this section are difficult to access, so we strongly recommend the presence of an additional local guide.

Your efforts will be rewarded with a **lunch at Schoolhouse**, a former primary school that is now a restaurant, a glass-blowing workshop, and a lodge. Schoolhouse has a **strong environmental and social ethos**. It principally **employs local people, restores abandoned buildings, and grows its own produce for use as ingredients in its simple and fresh food**.

On your way back to Beijing, you'll stop at **the center of the city's art scene – the 798 Art District**, situated in Dashanzi, in the northeast of the city. This lies just outside the 4th Ring Road.

As surprising as it would have seemed 20 years ago, **Beijing has become a major player in the world's modern art scene**. The **798 Art District** is made up of a number of abandoned factories that were renovated by Chinese artists in the 1990s. Cafés, restaurants, and specialty designer boutiques of home goods and pottery have grown in number over the past few years. You can spend hours wandering through the narrow alleyways, browsing the shops, or just relaxing and enjoying a coffee at one of the many cafés or bars.

550 Washington St, Suite 641, San Diego, CA 92103
Phone: 415-952-0319 Email: contact@zuzulutravel.com

www.zuzulutravel.com

Optional: If you want to meet one of the gallery's curators who will be able to guide you through the district's past, present, and future, please let us know.

Day 5-Beijing/Xi'an (B)

Let's start the day by visiting **the Summer Palace**. Three centuries ago, the members of the Imperial Court would flee the Forbidden City's insufferable summer heat to lounge on the palace's immense lawn. **A variety of traditional Chinese temples, pavilions, lakes, and gardens comprise** the palace. The Long Corridor, **Marble Boat, 17-Arch Bridge, Kunming Lake, and Longevity Hill** are the cornerstones of the site.

Afterward, transfer back to Beijing's railway station to take the **high-speed train to Xi'an**.

This ride is a good opportunity to experience the everyday life of Chinese people. You will see them savoring incredible quantities of instant noodles, eating sunflower seeds, **playing cards, and clinking glasses of beer or baijiu**, the country's rice liquor.

Meet and greet with your local guide at Xian's train station, then transfer to your hotel where you will be welcome to Shaanxi Province, the area often considered to be the cradle of Chinese civilization!

Overnight in Xi'an

Day 6-Xi'an (B, L)

You'll travel by **1960s Jeep to discover the beautiful Loess plateau** and its **sweeping canyons**. You will also encounter **local residents** still living in **cave dwellings**. Even though we can't give an exact figure, **millions of people in China still live in cave dwellings** that are built into the loess rock. Loess is a type of sedimentary rock that is the result of an accumulation of silt transported by the winds and from which this region takes its name as the "land of the loess."

After lunch, visit the **Terracotta Warriors**. In 1974, a few farmers stumbled upon the warriors by accident and found a sculpture of **thousands of soldiers' figures lined up in battle formation**. The **emperor Qin Shi Huangdi built a mausoleum to have his immense army of infantrymen, archers, and cavalry riders to protect him in the afterlife**. Each one of the Terracotta Warriors has a unique face, representing the many soldiers serving the Emperor during his life.

Transfer back to your hotel. Overnight in Xi'an

Day 7- Xi'an → Guilin (B)

Ride a **single or tandem bicycle to visit the impressive Xi'an ramparts**, built during **the Ming Dynasty**. Today, they stand restored and reconstructed and are part of the fortifications still visible in China.

Xi'an is also a city of many cultures. During the days of **the Silk Road**, Muslim merchants from Central Asia came to China to do business and left their influence in Xi'an. Several Muslim minorities now live in China as a result. **The Hui minority** is predominant in Xi'an. You will visit Xi'an's **Chinese-style mosque and the vibrant surrounding neighborhood, which houses a number of butcher shops and different stores** where **men wear white skull caps and women wear colorful headscarves**.

At dinner, you will appreciate the unique atmosphere of a **night market**. We suggest you try one of the neighborhood's specialties – spiced lamb kebabs, flat bread, and mutton soup with noodles.

Following dinner you can visit the **tomb of Emperor Jingdi**, located 15 kilometers from Xi'an's airport. **The reign of Emperor Jingdi during the Han Dynasty (118-141 BC)** was distinguished by his humanism and his vision of more diplomatic relations with foreigners. The tomb **houses a multitude of**

550 Washington St, Suite 641, San Diego, CA 92103
Phone: 415-952-0319 Email: contact@zuzulutravel.com

www.zuzulutravel.com



figurines representing eunuchs, servers, and domesticated animals. Walk on the glass panel over the different pits, and study the most recently uncovered statuettes.

Next you will fly to Guilin, and meet your local guide at the airport where you be welcomed to the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region! This region is best known for its **numerous minorities and its fantastic countryside.** You'll see **rocky peaks bordering the Li River, uncountable caves, the Longsheng terraced paddy fields, and the Detain waterfalls.**

Overnight in Guilin

Day 8-Guilin → Yangshuo (B, L) - Cruise on the Li River

Your guide will take you to the pier for a 4-hour **cruise on the Li River.** Eighty-three kilometers separate **Guilin from Yangshuo,** the province's capital. **Yangshuo** is a small, charming market town along the Li River, overshadowed by picturesque hills with fantastic names, such as **Elephant Trunk Hill and Folded Brocade Hill.**

These superb natural formations have inspired poets, painters, and photographers, and are one of China's most captivating natural features.

Lunch on the boat

After your arrival at Yangshuo pier, transfer to your hotel.

Take a quick break and cycle to **Moon Mountain,** which takes its name from the moon-shaped hole in the middle of the rock face. Although the ride is quite short, the climb up to the peak combined with the intense humidity can make the trip rather challenging. **At the top of the peak,** you will be greeted by a **stunning panoramic view of the Sugar Loaf Mountain 'forest' from below.**

Optional: See the show **Impressions of Liu Sanjie!** Created by the famous director Zhang Yimou of 'Raise the Red Lantern' fame. Here in the heart of the Karst formation countryside, hundreds of actors, including local fisherman, imitate scenes from rural life by dressing up in traditional costumes of the minorities of the region.

Overnight in Yangshuo.

Day 9-Yangshuo → Guilin → Shanghai (B)

Transfer back to Guilin airport for your flight to **Shanghai.**

Shanghai has an important place in Chinese history. It was colonized by western powers in the 18th century, became the first seat of the Communist Party in the 20th century, and currently serves as the economic powerhouse of China.

Your introduction to the city will be via the **Maglev, an electromagnetic train** and a source of pride for Shanghai. **The train's maximum speed is 267 miles per hour!**

You will converge on the **nearby neighborhood of Lujiazui,** the epicenter of some of the country's most famous buildings – **the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, Jin Mao Tower,** and the seemingly endless **Shanghai World Financial Center** (the tallest building in Shanghai). You can admire the city from the building's terrace, which is the highest panoramic terrace in the world.

Now let's have a **fun ride** through Shanghai **by sidecar!** Get lost in the maze of the old town, be **amazed by the frenzy of vertical construction and the city's rich art deco heritage.** You will see **old frescos from the Cultural Revolution, Asia's biggest slaughterhouse, and an extraordinary wedding market;** then you will cross **the Huangpu River on a boat – all without setting foot outside of the sidecar!**

550 Washington St, Suite 641, San Diego, CA 92103
Phone: 415-952-0319 Email: contact@zuzulutravel.com

www.zuzulutravel.com

Overnight in Shanghai

Day 10-Shanghai (B)

The day starting with an exploration of **Nanjing Road**. The road is well known for its colorful signs and mixed crowd of locals and tourists. You can take the time to stroll through the streets filled with stores and restaurants.

Next, you will visit the **Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Center** with its impressive model layout of Shanghai, which covers a large part of the 3rd floor.

Optional: head to one of the country's most famous and prestigious museums – **The Shanghai Museum**. Its **collection of bronze statues** on the first floor is unrivalled, and it is complemented by a number of jade pieces of artwork, as well as Qing Dynasty furniture, Buddhist sculptures, and other types of Chinese artwork.

The **Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)** will be your last visit of the day. Its park has a small lake, a number of food stands, and countless places to sit and enjoy the atmosphere.

Optional: +++

In the evening, enjoy the show “ERA”, one of the Shanghai's most popular shows. ERA is a multimedia odyssey combining Chinese acrobatic arts and modern technology.

Overnight in Shanghai

Day 11-Shanghai (B)

In the morning, you will head to the **French Concession**. Admire the **old colonial homes** that have been transformed into **restaurants, bars, and luxury boutiques**. During colonial times, the French Concession was a red light district, and Shanghai was known to be the world's vice capital.

Discover **Xintiandi** and **Tianzifang**, two of the liveliest parts of the city.

Explore the **Old Town** full of old **lilongs** (like the hutongs in Beijing), and stop by the famous **Yu Yuan Gardens**, a superb example of Chinese garden landscaping art. Traditionally, Chinese gardens are miniature reproductions of nature – the presence of rocks represents mountains, ponds represent lakes, and running water imitates rivers.

Optional: Meet a Chinese gardener, and learn about his art. Ask him about the penjing (bonsai) trees.

Visit the **local bazaar**, where visitors and locals come to haggle. It's a perfect chance for you to buy souvenirs before your departure. You can also rest at the **Huxinting tea house**.

Enjoy a **traditional Chinese massage**, or “acupressure”, which concentrates on acupuncture points to stimulate the body's natural healing throughout the whole body. You will be relaxed before flying back home.

Overnight in Shanghai

Day 12-Shanghai departure (B)

Transfer to the airport

550 Washington St, Suite 641, San Diego, CA 92103
Phone: 415-952-0319 Email: contact@zuzulutravel.com

www.zuzulutravel.com

DETAILS

- ❖ **Tour duration:** 12 days
- ❖ **Group Size:** private tour, minimum 1 person
- ❖ **Start on:** All year long
- ❖ **Country visited:** China
- ❖ **Comfort:** Standard: 2-to-3 stars hotels; 4-star hotels available
- ❖ **Level of difficulty:** Easy
- ❖ **Transport:** Campervan, train, jeep, sidecar
- ❖ **Accommodation:** Private double room
- ❖ **Additional Information:** To enter China for tourism purposes, a visa is requested, and your passport must be valid for at least 6 months.

The campervan: The campervan can accommodate a family/group of five (four adults and one child sharing two double beds + one single bed: one located above the driver's cabin, one is a sofa which turns into a double bed, and one smaller bed for the child.) The campervan has a shower unit and toilet, a table, a fridge, and electric hotplates.

Note: Meat, vegetables, coffee, bread, butter, and jam are provided. Drinks and other foods are not included.

- ❖ **What's included:**
 - Accommodation in selected hotel.
 - Meals as mentioned in the itinerary.
 - English-speaking guide.
 - Tours and transfers by private air-conditioned vehicle, as mentioned in the itinerary.
 - Entrance fees for visits mentioned in itinerary.
- ❖ **What's not included:**
 - Airfare from your country of origin.
 - Personal expenses.
 - Travel insurance and tips.

550 Washington St, Suite 641, San Diego, CA 92103
Phone: 415-952-0319 Email: contact@zuzulutravel.com

www.zuzulutravel.com