



Prepared for Houston High School

Beijing, Xi'an, & Shanghai

Starts: May 25, 2015 Ends: June 7, 2015



HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL

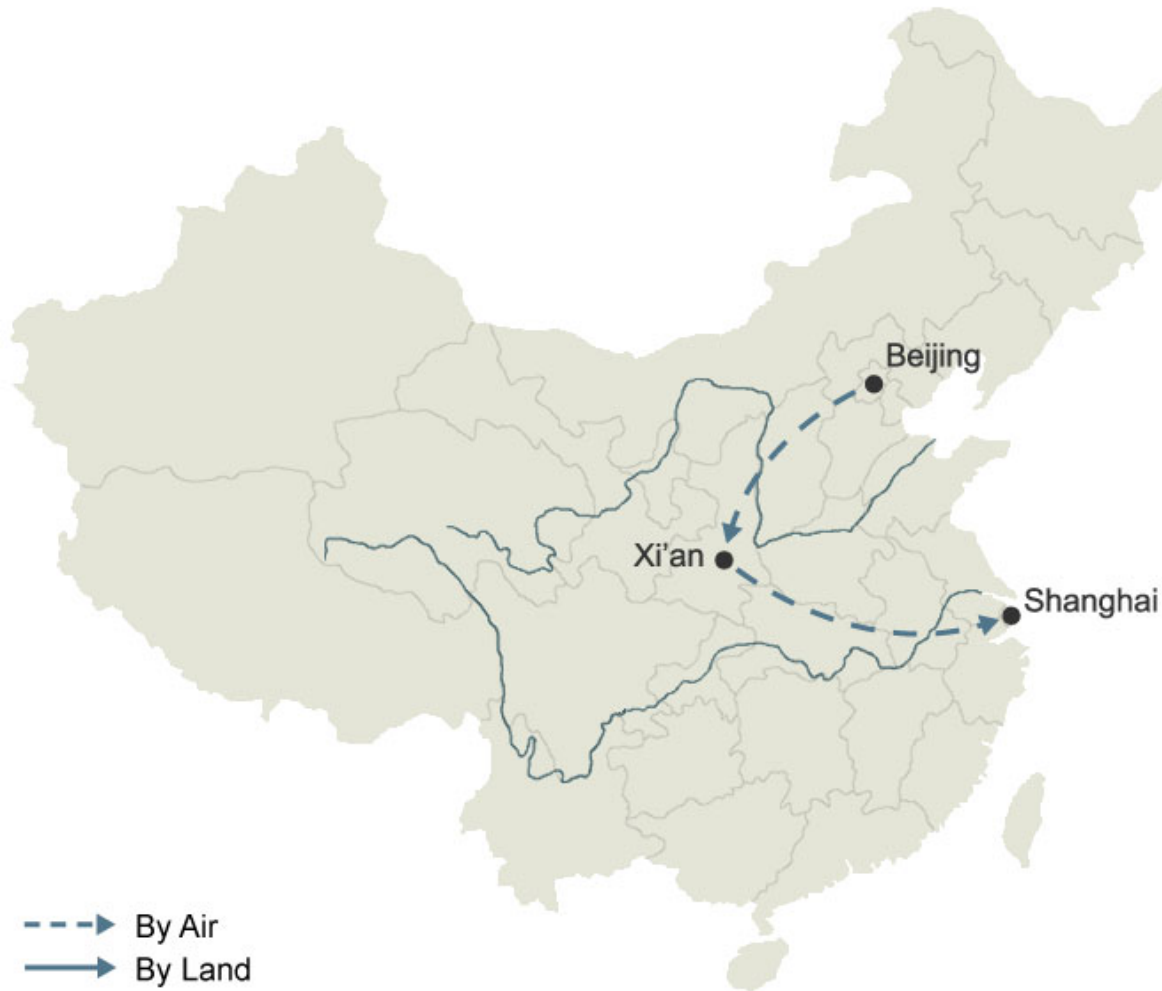
Travel Itinerary

You are one step closer to *Experiencing China Differently*. In planning your journey, this booklet will provide everything you need to know about China and our services. Please get in touch with your WildChina travel consultant with any questions.

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A VISUAL OVERVIEW

Your Journey Map



1. Beijing – Xi'an
2. Xi'an – Shanghai

DAY-BY-DAY

Your Itinerary

Meals provided are indicated as Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) and Dinner (D)

DAY	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES
May 25, 2015 MONDAY DAY 1	Arrive in Beijing <i>Novotel Peace Hotel Beijing</i> (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Arrive in Beijing on suggested flights: DL 1747, Memphis to Detroit, May 24, 8:30-11:22 am; DL 189, Detroit to Beijing, May 24, 12:55 pm to May 25, 2:45 pm- Meet your WildChina tour guide and trip leader at the airport- Hotel check in and time to freshen up- Enjoy the famous Beijing Kung Fu show at the classic Red Theater- Transfer to Sanlitun and have an early dinner at Nanjing Impressions

May 26, 2015

TUESDAY

DAY 2

Beijing

Novotel Peace Hotel Beijing

(B, L, D)

- Visit the Tibetan Buddhist **Lama Temple** and the **Confucius Temple**; learn about religion in China how Confucian philosophy shaped China
- Following lunch join in a **Market Challenge** at **Sihuan Market**
- Take a pedi-cab tour of the *hutongs* around Houhai and participate in traditional **Chinese cultural workshops** in local courtyard homes (activities include Chinese knot, paper-cutting, dough-making, shuttlecock and calligraphy)
- Home-style dinner in **siheyuan**, the traditional courtyard style home characteristic of Beijing
- Explore **Wangfujing's snack street** and dare to eat a scorpion on a stick!
- Indulge in Chinese youths' national pastime, **KTV**, similar to what we know as karaoke, but without the embarrassment of having an audience; in your private room have a try at singing Chinese songs as well as your American favorites

May 27, 2015

WEDNESDAY

DAY 3

Beijing

Novotel Peace Hotel Beijing

(B, L, D)

- Explore the **Forbidden City**, learn about China's imperial history, and climb Mount Jing to get an aerial view of the Forbidden City
- Peking Duck lunch at a renovated *siheyuan*
- Visit **Tian'anmen Square** and delve into the eventful and tragic historical events that took place in the China's largest city square with a focus on Deng Xiaoping
- Beijing opera at the **National Center for Performing Arts**, noted not only for its superb performances, but also for its unique architectural design

May 28, 2015

THURSDAY

DAY 4

Beijing

Novotel Peace Hotel Beijing

(B, L, D)

- Learn **Taiji from a Master at the Temple of Heaven** and visit closest point to heaven a person can be in ancient China
- Pearl Market shopping time
- Lunch at one of **Nanluoguxiang's**, a favorite hutong of both locals and tourists, many little eateries and explore their quaint shops
- Learn the secrets and intricacies of Chinese cooking through our **classical Chinese cooking class**

May 29, 2015

FRIDAY

DAY 5

Beijing

Novotel Peace Hotel Beijing

(B, L, D)

- Walk around the beautiful **Summer Palace** and ride a paddle boat through the lotus filled lake
- Have lunch with **Peking University** students at the canteen, practice Chinese, and learn about the life of your Chinese peers
- Tour Peking University, the top university in China
- Take in the sights of the 2008 **Olympic Park** with Ai Weiwei's famous birds nest building
- Chinese student led tour of the Olympic Park at night

May 30, 2015

SATURDAY

DAY 6

Beijing

Hexi Homestay

(B, L, D)

- Hotel check out
- Transfer to **Hexi Village**
- Enjoy a home-style lunch and **dumpling making** at village homes
- Following lunch, transfer to **Jinshanling** and hike from the **East Tower with Five Holes** to **Zhuanduo Pass**; and learn about the fighting that took place here during World War II
- Early dinner at local guest house near the base of the Great Wall
- Homestay in Hexi village; **learn Mahjong** from the hosts

May 31, 2015

SUNDAY

DAY 7

Beijing to Xi'an

Bell Tower Hotel

(B, L, D)

- Tour 798, the art district, and visit **Caochangdi** a thriving local grassroots art district that houses some of the best up and coming Chinese art
- Lunch
- Transfer to airport for suggested flight: MU2112, Beijing to Xi'an, Sunday, 2:55-5:10 pm
- Transfer to hotel (1 hr); hotel check-in
- Explore downtown Xi'an via a fun photo scavenger hunt in small groups including the **Bell Tower**, Drum Tower, **Great Mosque**, and **Muslim Quarter** (1 hr)
- End at the **Great Mosque** for the Islamic call to prayer (7:51 pm)
- Welcome dinner and enjoy a **shadow puppet show** while tasting local dishes

Jun 1, 2015

MONDAY

DAY 8

Xi'an

Bell Tower Hotel

(B, L, D)

- Visit the ever famous **Terracotta Warriors**; walk through the archaeological site and learn about China's first emperor, Qin Shihuang,
- Walk through China's earliest dynasties at the **Shaanxi History Museum** and photo stop at the **Big Goose Pagoda**
- Bike along the ancient **City Walls** of Xi'an to enjoy the finest view of the old town (includes helmets)

Jun 2, 2015

TUESDAY

DAY 9

Xi'an

Bell Tower Hotel

(B, L, D)

- Visit **Hu County** to learn about, and try yourself, traditional arts and crafts from locals – **farmer painting, paper cutting, and family visits** (travel 3 hrs round trip)
- Community exchange program at **Huiling Center**, a center for the mentally handicapped; students will provide moral support by interacting with residents and financial support by helping with arts and crafts that the center then sells

Jun 3, 2015

WEDNESDAY

DAY 10

Xi'an to Shanghai

Holiday Inn Shanghai Vista

(B, L, D)

- Hotel check out
- Transfer to airport for suggested flight: MU2115, Xi'an to Shanghai, 11:00 am to 1:15 pm
- Hotel check in
- Bund sightseeing tour including a visit to the **Oriental Pearl Tower** and a stroll through the **underwater Bund tunnel**
- View to the beautiful Shanghai night scenery on the **Huangpu evening river cruise**

Jun 4, 2015

THURSDAY

DAY 11

Shanghai

Holiday Inn Shanghai Vista

(B, L, D)

- Family visit in Shanghai's traditional **lilong style of housing**; lunch at the residence
- Visit the **Home of Song Qingling**, one of the famous Song sisters, and learn about these three sisters and their tremendous influence on modern China
- Experience the Shanghai high life with a night out on the town; dress up for an elegant dinner in **Xintiandi**.

Jun 5, 2015

FRIDAY

DAY 12

Shanghai

Holiday Inn Shanghai Vista

(B, L, D)

- **High School Exchange Program** (TBD; including an talk on Shanghai's excellent education system and a discussion on educational inequalities in China // Alternative: Kungfu lesson at Long Wu kungfu school
- Walk along the **French Concession** and soak in the foreign architecture while learning about the foreign influences on Shanghai in the past century (2 hours; includes a visit to Sun Yatsen's residence)
- Visit **Yu Garden**, Shanghai's most celebrated classical garden
- Explore the **Cheng Huang Miao Bazaar**
- Hang on to the edge of your seat while watching the renowned adrenaline inducing "**ERA**" **acrobatics show**

Jun 6, 2015

SATURDAY
DAY 13

Shanghai

Holiday Inn Shanghai Vista
(B, L, D)

- *Empire of the Sun* by JG Ballard book and movie tour (If available); visit the locations of Ballard's childhood and filming locations (including the **Shanghai Art Museum**; recommend the students read the book or watch the movie)
- Half day trip to **Zhujiajiao**, often called "Shanghai's Venice", and enjoy a boat ride through this water town's ancient canals
- Shanghainese farewell dinner

Jun 7, 2015

SUNDAY
DAY 14

Depart for Memphis

(B, L)

- Hotel check out
- Learn **Fan Dancing** from our local experts in Fuxing park, a French style park in the midst of busy Shanghai
- Farewell lunch
- Transfer to Maglev station and take **Maglev train** to Shanghai Pudong at over 400 km/hr
- Depart Shanghai on suggested flights: DL 582, Shanghai to Detroit, June 7, 4:20 pm to June 7, 6:15 pm; DL 1487, Detroit to Memphis, June 7, 7:50-8:52 pm

Note: All information in this itinerary is accurate to the best of our knowledge but please note that changes to our trips can and do occur. This may be due to our effort to improve our program or logistical reasons such as changes in train/flight schedules, traffic conditions, weather conditions, or government policies. WildChina will make every effort to keep you informed of any changes but cannot be held liable for any alterations made to the published itinerary.

WHERE YOU'RE STAYING

Your Accomodations



Novotel Peace Hotel Beijing

The Novotel Peace Hotel Beijing sits front and center in the heart of the capital, within view of Wangfujing Snack Street and the Forbidden City. This elegant hotel was renovated in 2010, and the 402 guestrooms and suites composing the hotel offer a range of scenic views. After a long day of exploration, sit down to an array of Asian or French cuisine at one of Novotel's signature restaurants unwind with a drink at the bar. However impressive the Novotel Peace Hotel Beijing's food and services may be, keep in mind that their biggest selling point is their convenience, so take advantage of the Novotel Peace Hotel Beijing's prime location and explore to your heart's content.



Bell Tower Hotel Xi'an

Centrally located in the Bell Tower neighborhood, inside the old city walls, the Bell Tower hotel, managed by the international Holiday Inn group, provides clean and pleasant accommodations with good friendly service. With modern accommodations like fitness and business services, this is a comfortable and convenient place to stay.



Holiday Inn Shanghai Vista

The Holiday Inn Shanghai Vista is a sleek boutique-style accommodation located only ten minutes from Shanghai's city center. The Inn Place Café has a range of western dining options, and the Jing Lobby lounge is a good place to grab cake and cocktails. Equipped with a state-of-the-art fitness center and pool, as well as wireless internet access in the hotel's

Jing Lobby Lounge, the Shanghai Vista is a convenient and comfortable place to relax after a day of Shanghai sightseeing.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE

Your Journey Highlights



Destination: Beijing

Hong Kong may be modern and Xi'an may have a long history, but Beijing is a mix of both. Serving as China's capital since the Yuan dynasty (1279-1368AD), Beijing's past present and future are forced together in the crowded neighborhoods and streets of the city. But despite a divide between new and old, one thing about Beijing has remained constant for centuries: hard-handed political power, as well as thriving intellectual and artistic thought prominent in Beijing, continues to influence China and the world.

Day 1, Monday, May 25: Beijing



In the past seven centuries, Beijing has survived dynastic collapses, rebellions, colonial incursions, world wars, warlords, revolutions and transitions in and out of communism. As a result of its complex political history, the Chinese capital is now home to world-class monuments. The Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven and the Summer Palace, endowed by both the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties are some of the world's most splendid historical sites. They are a pleasant interlude amongst the matrix of city streets, and have recently been joined by new impressive sites such as Chairman Mao's Mausoleum and the main venue of the 2008 Olympics, China's National Stadium, or the Bird's Nest.

But it is often the small details, not the marquee attractions that reveal the human side of Beijing history: the name of a city gate that recalls an imperial ritual, the recipe originating in the palace kitchen that has been passed from chef to chef for generations, and the faded Maoist slogan still detectable on the wall of a chic new art gallery are all delicate reminders of Beijing's past echoing in the city's future.

But contemporary city life has an equal appeal. After cycles of destruction and reconstruction, Beijing's mix of new and old is truly unique. Ancient hutong lanes and traditional courtyard homes are sewn neatly between the web of bold skyscrapers and vast avenues paving their way into the city. Against the backdrop of frenetic development, in a city of grid-like design, native Beijingers brush shoulders with ambitious migrants from around the country. Students, teachers, businessmen and artists come to Beijing from around the world, pedaling their skills and hoping to make their mark. But historical sites pepper the city with scenes from the past; they offer calm in the face of a competitive new society. These architectural and social juxtapositions create a complexity unique among Chinese cities, giving Beijing a flavor that is distinctly its own.

While *gongfu* (kungfu) is an age-old martial art form, this contemporary performance showcases a mixture of *gongfu*, stellar acrobatics and modern dance, lighting and music. The story follows a young monk's spiritual coming of age in the **live performance of "Chun Yi: The Legend of Kung Fu."** While it is geared towards visitors, this Red Theatre performance is Beijing's most spectacular demonstration of *gongfu*. It is a highly accurate display of the juxtaposition of new and old in modern Beijing culture.

Day 2, Tuesday, May 26: Beijing



The most iconic Tibetan Temple in Beijing, the **Lama Temple** has been home to Tibetan and Mongolian monks for nearly 300 years, as well as one of China's Emperors prior to his ascent to the throne. The temple houses the largest wooden statue of Buddha in the world, as well as the golden vase used to ceremoniously determine the next Panchen Lama.

After visiting the Lama Temple, our guide will take us to the nearby **Confucius Temple**, where thousands of men once sat through grueling examinations, vying for highly coveted positions in the imperial officialdom. China is often credited with instituting the first written merit-based civil service examinations in the world. At the temple, we can even see names of the small proportion of men who successfully passed the exams. Wander the streets surrounding these temples where vendors sell Tibetan prayer mats, incense and various traditional offerings.

Hutongs, the narrow alleys and lanes first laid out during the Yuan dynasty (1268-1364AD), and the *siheyuan*, traditional courtyard homes that border these leafy streets, define old Beijing. Here, we can get an idea of what the entire city once looked like, and experience the traditional way of life. Amongst the *hutong*, we can watch elders whiling away the night with a game of Chinese chess or mahjong, shopkeepers selling traditional snacks like *jianbing* (pancakes) and *baozi* (steamed buns), and hear calls announcing the arrival of the knife sharpener or cardboard collector. It is in these ancient neighborhoods where the capital's distinct culture was generated and where it continues to thrive today. Some of the most well preserved *hutong* can still be found north of the Forbidden City. They sit in and around Houhai Lake, fostering a unique Beijing culture just as they have for so many years.

During our exploration of Beijing's ancient *hutong* we will have the opportunity to visit the home of a local family, drink tea, and enjoy a meal. This home is an authentic courtyard style residence, with several rooms all centered around an outdoor enclosure. The old fashioned cobblestone, plants sprouting up and surrounding the home, as well as pet birds chirping outside, this residence recalls a way of life that existed long before the modern high-rises being built in Beijing today.

Have a hankering for deep fried scorpions, seahorses and silkworms? A trip to **Wangfujing Snack Street**, or Donghua Jie, will satisfy your craving. The bright red awnings cover stall after stall of tasty and bizarre local foods. If this doesn't appeal to you, don't worry. The stalls are also filled with scrumptious dumplings, noodles, and other more familiar snacks for the less adventurous diners. Sugar coated fruit and coconuts make for a nice desert to wash down the smelly tofu and skewered snakes!

Day 3, Wednesday, May 27: Beijing



Home to emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasty for over 500 years, the over 800 buildings and 9,000 chambers of the **Forbidden City** were filled with only the elite officials and associates of the imperial family. The Palace Museum is now the best-preserved palace complex in China. Crowds of tourists are free to roam the courtyards, toting children and imagining a life far different from the one they lead now. It is a life preserved in chambers, where emperors ruled, empresses and concubines strolled in the gardens, and palace staff lived for centuries behind the towering red walls.

With the iconic portrait of Mao Zedong looming over the gates of **Tiananmen Square**, this public square is one of the largest in the world, and has been the site of numerous historical events in China. People travel from all over the world to see Mao's portrait and visit his mausoleum, which lies on the opposite end of the Square.



Beijing Opera is an interpretive traditional performance that incorporates speech, song, dance and combat on a sparse stage with extravagant costumes. Long robes drape over the performer's body, and coats of white makeup are spread over their faces. Stylistic actions and speech have layers of meaning, and actors are judged on the elegance of their movements.

Though Beijing Opera was banned during the Cultural Revolution for being "bourgeoisie" and "feudalistic," it has since made a comeback, and is even being performed in other countries like the U.S. and Japan. Between over-the-top look of the actors, and the interpretive style of performance, Beijing Opera is a fantastical dramatization of life and legend.

Day 4, Thursday, May 28: Beijing



We start off the day with an early morning private ***taiji* (taichi) lesson** with a *taiji* master at the **Temple of Heaven**. Although this abbreviation is commonly used, the full name for this internal martial art is taijiquan, which translates to “supreme ultimate fist”. *Taiji* embodies the philosophy behind *yinyang* (yin and yang) in which movement and tranquility are each the source of the other. *Taiji* is practiced as a form of meditation, for health benefits and longevity, and finally for self-defense—talk to your *taiji* master about what interests you! Once a vast complex of Chinese architectural masterpieces used by emperors for offering sacrifices, the Temple of Heaven now serves as a lively gathering spot for local Beijingers to practice *taiji*, play music and dance.

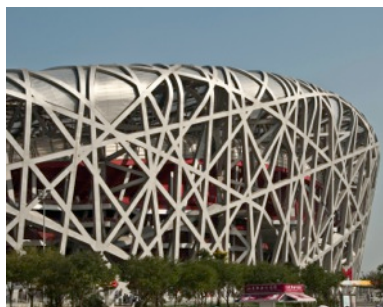
The Temple of Heaven is a vast complex of Chinese architectural masterpieces where Chinese emperors conducted arguably the most important rituals an emperor ever had to do: to offer sacrifices to Heaven and pray for good harvests. Even larger than the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven was designed and laid out in strict accordance with ancient cosmology and numerology to reinforce the legitimacy of the emperor's divine ordination.

In the afternoon head to **Nanlouguxiang**, a historical *hutong* alley that has taken on a new life as bustling, Bohemian center of creativity. Nestled deep in a labyrinth of *hutong* neighborhoods, this eccentric lane is the perfect place to stop for a coffee or enjoy a relaxing stroll. Local designers and artists have planted their roots in this area, and mixed in with standard souvenir stores you will find a trove of leather crafts, ceramic goods and designer clothing you will be hard-pressed to find elsewhere. Regardless of your interests, Nanlouguxiang is sure to have something for you to fixate on, so take your time exploring the nooks and crannies—you never know what you’ll find.

Day 5, Friday, May 29: Beijing

Gardens bloom intermittently around the water and trees shade the narrow paths, but there is almost nothing natural about the **Summer Palace**. Rather, it is an impressive display of man-made beauty built around Kunming Lake, artificial body of water that required an army of over 10,000 laborers to complete.

One of the most important figures of 19th century China was the Empress Dowager Ci Xi, who ruled China behind the scenes for almost half a century. It was she who built the famous Summer Palace and its magnificent gardens. But she also liked to take outings in the Western Hills, visiting Buddhist temples to escape the summer heat of Beijing. Today we will follow in the footsteps of this fascinating woman.



After the unparalleled opening ceremony of the 2008 Olympics, the stunning image of Beijing's **Olympic Green** has been forever embedded in the minds of views around the world. Relive that epic performance, along with the Olympic events that followed, by visiting the Olympic Green itself. Remember the thousands of cheering fans, and the unbelievable Zhang Yimou opening performance, as though you were there.

We'll get a first-hand look at two of the world's most fascinating architectural designs. Take a walk around the bubble like glass of the "Water Cube" or National Aquatics Center, and see it illuminated at night with spectacular blue hues. Stand by the wiry enclosure of the Bird's Nest, the Olympic's most prominent venue where the opening and closing ceremonies as well as all track and field events commenced. If no other events are taking place, WildChina will arrange for us to go inside the stadium.

Day 6, Saturday, May 30: Beijing



Starting at the sea and stretching more than one thousand miles to the desert frontiers of China's west, the **Great Wall** is a lasting symbol of China's imperial might; built over the course of two millennia, it is actually a series of defensive walls erected to protect China's heartland from invaders. Although it ultimately failed as a defensive structure, the Great Wall remains a monument to the ingenuity and determination of imperial China.

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During the Ming Dynasty, the low-lying position of the **Jinshanling** section of the Great Wall was battered in numerous battles against invading Mongol forces. In order to address this positional weakness, General Qi Jiguang ordered the construction of double-walled sections that increased the wall's height. A historical and less-visited section of the Great Wall, Jinshanling is an off-the-beaten-path destination. Upon arrival, we'll embark on a fairly strenuous hike along this less visited part of the Great Wall. There are ups and downs along the wall, but for the most part, you are walking on well-defined trails all the way to the top.

Day 7, Sunday, May 31: Beijing – Xi'an



In 2000, the famed Chinese artist Ai Wei Wei set up a studio for himself and some friends in a northeastern section of Beijing, known as **Caochangdi**. He set up a gallery there called China Art, and for some time, was left alone to work with a small but serious group of artists. But now, this growing art district has many galleries showcasing a wide variety of contemporary art. Unlike the crowded, commercial streets of 798 Contemporary Art District (just a short cab ride down the road), Caochangdi feels like a neighborhood. Locals walk their dogs, and galleries are separated by trees and open walkways. In fact, some of the city's leading gallery owners are heading straight to Caochangdi, bypassing the trendy 798 district all together.

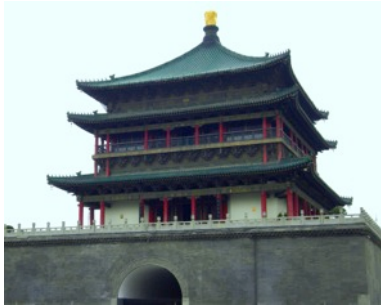
Low, minimalist style buildings characterize the area, and galleries appear understated from the outside, while the art inside speaks for itself. Ai Wei Wei himself has been at the center of many controversies during his career as an artist, including being arrested by the Chinese authorities in early 2011. While Caochangdi has attracted attention, so has Ai Weiwei. Only time will tell what happens to this eccentric artist and his artistic haven.



Destination: **Xi'an**

Though Beijing has stolen the thunder as China's new capital, its history and prestige are nothing compared to the old capital of Xi'an, where emperors ruled China for thousands of years.

Bordering the Qinling Mountains and the banks of the Wei River, Xi'an has been the capital of some of the most important dynasties in China. Home of the treasured Terracotta Warriors, created during the Qin Dynasty, (221-206 BC), and the eastern end of the Silk Road, Xi'an is a city filled with history. Between their famous *jiaozi* (dumpling) feasts, and history that stretches longer than the Great Wall, Xi'an epitomizes traditional Chinese culture.



A well-preserved example of Ming Dynasty (1368-1644AD) architecture at the historic center of Xi'an, the **Bell Tower** was built by Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang in 1384AD. Impressive at the time for its 118 foot / 36 meter height, the structure provided a key lookout position over the surrounding countryside. A tunnel was created through its brick base to accommodate the passage of carts, horses and people, but under the onslaught of today's vehicle traffic it has been closed to all but pedestrians and the landmark's many visitors. Join our experienced local guide and check out this historically significant structure.

Xi'an has one of the world's oldest Muslim communities, founded some 1,300 years ago by traders of Persian and Arab origin who traveled along the Silk Road and settled in the then capital of the Tang Dynasty (618-907AD). Known as Hui, their descendants are deeply integrated in local life, but preserve separate cultural and culinary practices that fuse Central Asian and Chinese traditions. Their distinct way of life is most easily seen after sunset in the famous **Muslim Quarter**. We'll take a stroll to check out the fascinating local culture.



Using intricately crafted shadow puppets, Xi'an's puppeteers tell traditional stories of love and adventure in ancient China. You will enjoy a private performance by a professional shadow puppet troupe.

Day 8, Monday, June 1: Xi'an



Unearthed in the suburbs of Xi'an, the army of **Terracotta Warriors** comprises one of the most remarkable archeological discoveries of all time. Consisting of 8,000 life-size soldiers, 100 chariots and 600 horses, none of which is identical, the army was built to guard the remains and massive mausoleum complex of Qin Shihuang (259-210BC). This pivotal and controversial first emperor forged a handful of warring states into a unified China and began construction of the Great Wall. Despite drawing many curious visitors, this UNESCO World Heritage Site exudes a charged silence. One might even expect a command to ring out urging the army to rouse itself from its 2,200-year slumber and march into battle.

Our trip to see the Terracotta Warriors will include special access to the museum's lower deck, typically only open to China's government officials and premiers. We'll have 20 minutes of uninterrupted private access in this lower area to see the warriors up close and personal.

Xi'an's **Ancient City Wall**, the most well preserved ancient rampart in China, is at the historic heart of the city. With a circumference of 14 kilometers (8.5 miles) and a height ranging 12-15 meters (40-50 feet), this massive fortification was built to guard the old town of Xi'an. It was built on the ruins of an earlier wall that girded Chang'an, Xi'an's name when it was the capital of the Tang Dynasty (618-907AD). Though entirely renovated, the wall's ramparts, sentry towers, corner towers, gates and battlements richly evoke its historic past.

Completing the full wall circuit is a chance to soak up the past and enjoy fine city views and can be done by a leisurely bike ride in 45-90 minutes.

Day 9, Tuesday, June 2: Xi'an



Huxian County, 28 miles/45 kilometers (1.5 hours) southwest of Xi'an, is home to a colony of 2,000 painters who specialize in the vernacular “**peasant painting**” style. Distinct in tone, technique and subject matter from both classical Chinese painting and contemporary Chinese art, peasant painting is inspired by the indigenous folk traditions

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of embroidery and **paper cutting** and characterized by the use of vivid colors and sharp lines to depict often-idealized scenes of rural life.

We will visit a local village that is a hub of peasant painting. During our visit, we will go to a studio of a local painter and, under their guidance, test our skills at this unique art form. Afterwards, we'll head to a local home to learn how to play mahjong and how to make, (and eat), homemade Shaanxi-style noodles or dumplings.

We will also visit a paper-cutting workshop in the area to learn more about the local folk art, which has been practiced in China since soon after the invention of paper in 105AD. This workshop has been Designated a "World Cultural Heritage" foundation by UNESCO.



Destination: *Shanghai*

Once a mere backwater fishing village, the destiny and fortunes of Shanghai changed forever when the British opened their first concession here in 1842, followed soon after by the French and Japanese. By the 1930's, Shanghai had achieved international status as Asia's foremost commercial center and became known as the colonial "Paris of the East." Shanghai today retains some of those former charms in the tree-lined streets of the former French Concession and iconic banking houses along the Bund; at the same time, the urban bustle and multitudes of skyscrapers are a testament to Shanghai's aspirations to be a major international metropolis. Now the financial capital of China, Shanghai is a great place to check out the old, the new and the foreign in this worldly economic and cultural center

Day 10, Wednesday, June 3: Xi'an – Shanghai



The world's great foreign commercial houses and banks built their Art Deco and Neoclassical office buildings on what became known as **the Bund** in the first half of the twentieth century. Today, these European style buildings stand along the western edge of the Huangpu River as a reminder of Shanghai's nickname: "Paris of the East." Stroll through the area and soak up the glamorous European style of old Shanghai. You can take a look inside some of these glamorous buildings, including the famous HSBC building with frescos on the ceiling, Astorhouse, home of Shanghai's first stock exchange, and the Peace hotel, with a springy floor you can actually bounce on.

Zip through the **Bund Sightseeing Tunnel** in a plastic capsule that takes us across the Huangpu River to Pudong. Lasting just 5-10 minutes, this is a quick, cool way to cross the river. Coasting just below the river surface, we'll be entertained with a psychedelic light show. Once we are on the other side, we will go to the top of one of Pudong New Area's soaring skyscrapers. At the top, we'll get a fantastic view of the Bund from across the Huangpu River.



Take an **evening cruise on the Huangpu River** which laces through Shanghai. The sweeping views of the skylines on both sides of the river provide a glimpse into two different faces of Shanghai, and China. To the west is the Bund, where foreign commercial houses and banks built European-style office buildings in the 1930s, during the decadent days of Old Shanghai. To the east sit the futuristic skyscrapers of Pudong.

Day 11, Thursday, June 4: Shanghai



Formally known as Marble Hall, the Shanghai **Children's Palace** was first built in 1924 by Elly Kadoorie, a wealthy Baghdadi Jewish businessman and philanthropist who arrived in Shanghai from Bombay in 1880. After World War II the house became a recreation center for British and American soldiers and the site of many charity activities. In 1953 Madame Song Qingling, the wife of Dr. Sun Yatsen, founder of the Republic of China, requested that the house be used as a Children's Palace where gifted children could cultivate their hobbies and take part in swimming, drawing, gymnastics

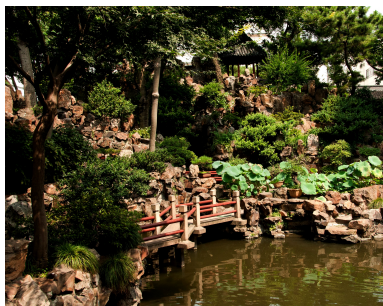


Home to the site of the first Communist party meeting, **Xintiandi** bears the face of old Shanghai, laced with an infusion of upscale modern culture. A hip dining, retail and entertainment area filled with international-standard restaurants, boutiques, cafes and bars, Xintiandi's shops are housed in old *shikumen* buildings restored to their original appearance. Imagine the glamorous days of old Shanghai's sophisticated international past, with all the comforts of a modern city. We'll stroll around the area and take in the sights of Shanghai's new and old.

Day 12, Friday, June 5: Shanghai



The architecture and tree-lined streets of the **French Concession** are reminiscent of the glamorous 1930's Shanghai. Said to be Shanghai's most charming district, this area was administered by the French from the mid 1800s to the mid 1900s. French architectural characteristics have lingered on and are apparent in the colonial villas dotting the area's winding lanes. We will stroll along the charming streets and learn the history of the French Concession. We will visit the notable landmarks, including a walk through the home of Sun Yatsen, the founder of modern China. (Our tour will last around 2 hours).



The **Yu Garden** is the most celebrated classical Chinese garden in Shanghai. Ming Dynasty (1368AD - 1644AD) official, Pan Yunduan, commissioned the construction of the garden in 1559 as a gift to his father for him to spend his old age. The Garden is now Shanghai's most complete example of the Southern Chinese garden style, and must have been a great retirement spot for Pan Yunduan's father. With pavilions, carp-filled ponds and rockeries, as well as the famous zigzag bridge, a visit to Shanghai is incomplete without a visit to this famous garden. Surrounding the garden is the Cheng Hung Miao Bazaar, a bustling market brimming with Shanghai souvenirs and snacks.

Characterized by feats of strength and daring routines, the “**ERA**” **Chinese acrobatics performance** will have you sitting on the edge of your seat. "ERA: The Intersection of Space and Time" is a spellbinding performance that fuses Chinese acrobatic arts with modern technology. Just like Shanghai, ERA evolves through a constant collision between the past and future. The daring routines will have you contorting your own body in suspense at the thrilling energy of the show. Several acts, including "play dooly," "silk stripes," and "pyramid of chairs," are Gold Lion Award winners at the China National Acrobatic Competitions.

Day 13, Saturday, June 6: Shanghai



The **Shanghai Art Museum** is preservative architecture at its best. Housed in the old clubhouse of the now defunct Shanghai Race Club, the Museum is a beautiful neo-classical building on the edge of the very revolutionary-sounding People's Square. A memento from Shanghai's "Parisian-Oriental" past, the 1933 building boasts a tall clock tower that can be seen from shopping-haven Nanjing Road. The artwork inside is revealingly varied—a tribute to Shanghai's convoluted colonial past and the exciting new directions of Chinese contemporary art of the 21st century.



Criss-crossed with meandering canals and thirty-six stone bridges, **Zhujiajiao** is a beautifully quaint water town dating back some 1,700 years ago, although some architectural remains have been dated as far as 5,000 years old. Locals still live in the traditional stone houses with black tiled roofs that line

Day 14, Sunday, June 7: Departing



Fuxing Park, a popular spot for local Shanghai people to do all kinds of morning exercises. Here, our local master will provide a fan-dancing demo and lesson



The fastest growing country in the world is no doubt home to the world's fastest commercial train. The **Maglev**, or magnetic levitation train, runs on cutting-edge technology. Magnets are used to suspend the train in the air and propel it at faster speeds than traditional wheeled trains. The Maglev in Shanghai makes the 30 km (19 mi) journey between Pudong International Airport and Shanghai's Lujiazui financial district in less than 8 minutes, reaching a maximum speed of 431 km/hr (268 mph). Such a fast

GETTING PREPARED

Before Your Trip

We have provided the information below to answer some of the journey-specific questions that are most frequently asked by our clients. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions.

Trip Difficulty

Moderate Adventure

Your journey is considered a moderate adventure. Moderate adventure includes full days outside the hotel, with drives up to 3 or 3 ½ hours on mainly well-maintained, paved roads. When possible, for longer journeys we will try to schedule in a free afternoon or a 2-3 hours break in scheduled activities for free time. We may spend up to 4-5 hours walking, hiking and/or biking, with minimal changes in elevation. We stay in 5-star or boutique hotels in major cities, or, when not available, the best 3 or 4-star local hotels. In second-tier cities or rural areas, we stay at the best available local guesthouses, homestays or campgrounds.

Group Journey

Your journey will include your party, as well as other guests who will travel with you. You will still be accompanied by a guide and/or leader. Upon arrival at the airport, you will be greeted by your WildChina guide or tour leader. From then on, they will serve as your host in China and will accompany you throughout your journey.

Your Guides

The true face and heroes of WildChina, our guides have been rigorously selected for their combination of client servicing, local knowledge and likeable personalities. Most of our guides are natives of the regions they cover and have worked with WildChina for years, appreciating the difference in our service standards, responsible tourism approach and the exceptional clients we bring.

Guide

Your WildChina guide will arrange the logistics of your trip, including meals, hotel reservations, sites and activities, as well as providing you with information about the local region. Each of your WildChina guides is a local of the region where they work and will be your host in each new destination. They are excited to share their knowledge about local culture. When transferring between destinations, your WildChina guide will always accompany you to your transport (be it plane, train, or boat) and see you safely off. When you arrive at a new destination your WildChina guide for that region will be waiting for you as soon as you

set foot on the ground. Your WildChina guide will be confirmed during booking.

Meals

Meals are included, as listed in your itinerary. We strive to arrange meals that highlight authentic local cuisine in clean, local establishments.

Chinese food in China might not taste like the Westernized-Chinese food at home, but it does offer an exciting culinary experience with some incredibly tasty and delightful dishes. When you return home, you might even discover that Chinese take-out just isn't as good as the real thing.

Restaurants in China are *renao*(lively) places to eat. People are loud and social and often order way more food than they can eat. Huge feasts of beef, lamb, soups, fish, and vegetables galore, for only two people, may get cold sitting on their plates. It's actually considered rude to finish all of your food in China; it signifies you didn't have enough to eat and may still be hungry. Since food was once scarce, many Chinese now over order to celebrate having a surplus. While traveling in China, do not worry if you can't finish everything.

Water in China is usually served boiling hot or at room temperature. This is one of those interesting cultural differences that travelers return home to tell stories about. Cold water—and especially ice water—is

thought to be bad for the stomach and will disrupt the body's balance of yin and yang. If you prefer to drink cold water at your meal, you can specify this to your WildChina guide or waiter. Restaurants in larger cities will be able to accommodate this request easily but understand that in more rural areas, this might not be possible.

It is safe to drink bottled mineral water, but tap water, even in 5-star hotels, is not safe for drinking. WildChina will provide bottled water, tea and snacks throughout your journey.

China's major cities, such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, boast the best of high-end, critically acclaimed international dining. Some of the world's most innovative chefs have started coming to China in recent years to stake their claim in the flowering Chinese urban dining scene. If you would like to include one or more of these restaurants in your itinerary, please contact your WildChina travel consultant to discuss further.

In small towns, remote areas, and on the road, we dine on local cuisine in small restaurants, local homes or at our campsite. While some of our meals may be different from what many guests are accustomed, WildChina believes in offering the opportunity to experience this vital aspect of local culture. (Restroom facilities will be basic).

We request guests with severe allergies to consult their physicians prior to traveling and to bring all necessary medicines with them. Guests are highly encouraged to inform WildChina ahead of time of specific

allergies, such as to peanuts, fish, etc., or sensitivities to MSG, so that we can do our best to ensure these items are not used in restaurant meals.

Chinese cuisine differs vastly from province to province—and even sometimes from city to city. Here is what you can expect to taste on your WildChina trip.

Beijing Cuisine

A of many different Chinese cuisines, Beijing food is adaptable and pleases a variety combination of different tastes. Beijing's most famous dish, Beijing *kaoya*, or roast duck, is a delicious must-try dish for visitors. Served with a tangy dark sauce and thin pancakes to wrap it all up, *kaoya* is the capital's classic treat.

Shanghai Cuisine

Shanghai dishes are often characterized by their abundance of rice wine, rice vinegar, lots of soy sauce, and sugar. —The food is often cooked slowly and covered in a flavorful sauce, including a five-spice powder. *Xiaolongbao*, or soup dumplings, are some of the tastiest local snacks. Filled with pork, vegetables, crabmeat and hot broth, these dumplings are a challenge to eat. It takes skill to get the broth to burst in your mouth and not all over your clothes. Regardless, this is an excellent local dish.

Xi'an Cuisine

Xi'an is the place for *jiaozi*, or dumplings, so while visiting it's a good idea to try their famous *jiaozi* banquet. The banquet provides over 20 different types of *jiaozi*, all steamed and filled with tasty vegetables, meats, and seafood. They come in different flavors and even different colors! Dip them in a little dark vinegar and you have a scrumptious Xi'an meal.

Eating with your WildChina Guide

In general, WildChina guides will be busy arranging and confirming afternoon activities during meals, so a separate table will be provided for them to eat. They will always be there to assist and help you with any problems during the meal, pick out local specialties and show you their favorite dishes.

If you prefer, you are welcome to invite your guide to join you during a meal. They can give you insight and background knowledge about the food you're eating.

Vehicles and Road Conditions

Vehicle Standards

We travel in well-maintained, air-conditioned vehicles, driven by experienced local drivers. All our vehicles are licensed for foreign

passenger travel and insured. Vehicle size depends on group size. In more extreme conditions, travel may require 4WD vehicles.

Road Conditions

In general road conditions in China are of high standard. However driving customs here may differ greatly from what you are used to. Cars, bikes and pedestrians often come within inches of each other while on the move and honking is frequent. In large cities it is common to encounter traffic jams, especially during rush hour and inclement weather. Your WildChina driver is experienced at handling these types of road conditions and will constantly be monitoring the traffic situation. In small towns and rural areas, road conditions may be compromised, but they are always safe. Your WildChina driver is experienced and very capable of assessing the situation and taking necessary precautions.

Your journey involves travel to mountainous areas. The roads in these areas may be unpaved, narrow and winding. Your WildChina driver is very comfortable and experienced on these roads.

Health

It's recommended that you visit your physician for a pre-trip check-up. Upon consultation prepare for your journey by undertaking some regular physical exercise, as needed. If you have a pre-existing condition, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart/lung disease or a

nervous disorder, it is advisable to check with your physician that it's possible to participate in all activities during your journey. Request your physician to provide you with a letter explaining the details of your condition or disability to bring along while traveling. All travelers should bring a sufficient supply of any necessary prescription medicines, in their original containers and with clear labels; refills can be difficult to obtain, or even unavailable in the areas we visit.

Always travel with health insurance in case of an accident. WildChina recommends that you bring a photocopy of your medical insurance. If you have pre-existing conditions, declare them before you leave. Insurance will not cover any problems if the condition has not been declared.

Please contact your local international travel clinic for information regarding inoculations and other relevant health-related information. You may also wish to refer to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which provides a comprehensive list of recommended immunizations prior to traveling in China: <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>. Many immunizations require at least a minimum of 10-14 days before becoming effective and should be obtained prior to traveling to China.

In case of emergency

All WildChina travelers must purchase through WildChina an International SOS (an AEA company) Service Plan, which provides for

emergency evacuation to the nearest medical facility of international standards. The plan costs USD 40, which will be added to your final payment. Please note: this is NOT medical insurance.

Safety

In general, China is a very safe country. Most locals will be friendly and excited to meet you. But while traveling on crowded trains or visiting cramped tourist sites, it is advisable to look after personal belongings, especially money, cameras or other valuable possessions. Though locals are friendly, tourists are often targets for petty theft.

It's good to remember as well, that laws in China are not the same as those in your home country. Laws regarding protests, demonstrations and drug use are severe. WildChina chooses the safest hotels in each region to prevent theft. Many hotels are equipped with safes for especially valuable items.

Keep your valuables in a secure place, keep an eye on your belongings, and your trip to China will be safe and smooth.

Visas

Nearly all foreign visitors to China will need a tourist “L” visa. Please get your visa at least 2 months before trip departure to avoid logistical problems. Though WildChina paperwork is not required to obtain your visa, WildChina is happy to provide an itinerary of your trip ahead of time if necessary.

Travelers must apply for a tourist visa in person at the Chinese Embassy or Consulate in their jurisdiction. If the traveler cannot go in person, someone else must visit the embassy on behalf of the traveler to submit the application; in some countries, this can include representatives from third party visa service companies, such as VisaCentral (www.visacentral.com/wildchina).

Please check the Chinese Embassy or Consulate online at www.china-embassy.org for further information. Most Visas take between 3 and 5 days to acquire.

JOURNEY PRICING

Your Quotation (*Estimation*)

Your journey starts in Beijing and ends in Shanghai. Your quotation has been prepared for 14 days and 13 nights.

CATEGORY	15-20 PERSON GROUP	20-25 PERSON GROUP	25-30 PERSON GROUP
Land Cost <i>(price per person and Does not include international airfare)</i>	USD 3,700	USD 3,500	USD 3,300
Land Cost <i>(price per person including additional Tour Leader. Does not include international airfare)</i>	USD 4,100	USD 3,900	USD 3,700

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	CHARGES
Single Supplement (price per person)	Single room for Novotel Peace Hotel Bell Tower Hotel Xi'an Holiday Inn Shanghai Vista	USD 800

What's Included:

- Hotel accommodations based on double occupancy unless otherwise noted in the itinerary
- One (1) English speaking tour guide/tour leader
- One (1) bus and accompanying driver for all land transfers indicated in the itinerary
- Admission fees to all places and for all activities mentioned in the itinerary
- All meals indicated on the itinerary as B (breakfast), L (lunch), and D (dinner)
- All gratuities for drivers, guides and local support staff
- All relevant trip taxes, local duties and surcharges
- Drinking water and snacks on coach
- Water and tea during meals

What's Not Included:

- Round trip International airfare
- Personal telecommunication and laundry charges

GETTING ON THE ROAD

Your Booking

To book this journey, please contact your WildChina travel consultant, Sonia Jeffers, at sonia.jeffers@wildchina.com. Alternatively, you may contact us by email at info@wildchina.com, or via these phone/fax numbers:

Beijing Office

T: (86) 10 6465 6602

F: (86) 10 6465 1793

United States Office

T: (1) 202 903 0737

F: (1) 202 785 8905

Vancouver Office

T: (1) 604 737 4849

F: (1) 888 761 2956

Booking Steps

1. *Reservation:* Consult with your WildChina travel consultant, or another WildChina associate about making reservations.
2. *Deposit:* A deposit of 20% of the total tour cost is required to secure a reservation.
3. *All other payments:* The remaining balance of the payment, which will be adjusted to reflect the final headcount of participants on the Program, will be due 30 days prior to departure.
 - *Payment Methods:* You may pay by transferring money to our HSBC bank in Hong Kong. Detailed payment information will appear on your WildChina invoice.
 - Once full payment has been made your WildChina guides will be confirmed and you will receive guide information. We will check your visa and prep you for the trip.
4. *Your Journey Begins:* Your WildChina guides will greet you at the airport and escort you throughout your journey.

Deposit and Payment

A deposit of 20% of the total tour cost is required to secure a reservation. The remaining balance of the payment, which will be adjusted to reflect the final headcount of participants on the Program, will be **due 30 days prior to departure**. Regardless of the final number of participants, the minimum amount owed shall not fall below the deposit amount and unless the trip is cancelled in advance, in which case the cancellation policies below shall apply.

In the case of trip cancellation, please refer to the schedule below:

- 31 days or more prior to trip departure - Loss of deposit
- Between 20 – 31 days prior to trip departure - 25% of total tour price will be forfeited
- Between 15 – 20 days prior to trip departure - 50% of total tour price will be forfeited
- Less than 14 days prior to trip departure - no refund
- The prices listed are based on the costs and exchange rates current at the time of inquiry. WildChina reserves the right to adjust rates without prior notice
- Trip payment constitutes your acceptance of WildChina's complete Terms & Conditions
- For the detailed Terms & Conditions, please consult with your WildChina travel consultant



WHO WE ARE

About WildChina

Our story began on the slopes of Tibet's Mount Kailash. The company founder and Yunnan native, Mei Zhang, found herself braving high altitudes and a harsh landscape without a guide. After completing the kora (pilgrimage route) and spending the night in an abandoned guesthouse, she awoke to beautiful snowcapped mountains alight with the sunrise.

The breathtaking view brought Mei a deep sense of fulfillment – yet she stood alone and exhausted from her journey. Disappointed by how little support was available for travelers looking to get off the beaten path in China, Mei was inspired to start her own business dedicated to offering high-end, stress-free and responsible travel to China's most remote and unique destinations. Her prescient insight became the company motto:

Experience China Differently

2011
Condé Nast
Traveler
TOP TRAVEL
SPECIALIST

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
TRAVELER
50 Tours
Lifetime
2012

TRAVEL+
LEISURE
A-LIST
TRAVEL AGENT
2011