

U L T I M A T E   C H I N A

*Itinerary Prepared For Distinguished Guests*

HUANGSHAN-HANGZHOU-CHENGDU-LHASA

# WHY IMPERIAL TOURS

*When selecting a company to manage your travel needs, we understand that you have a number of options available to you and that it can be difficult to distinguish between the services. We at Imperial Tours strive for the best and below are some aspects that make our company stand out from the others.*

## Imperial Moments



Our ambition is to give guests at least one "wow!" experience each day. By developing relationships with a broad range of specialists across the country and negotiating private access at prestigious sites, we created a rolodex of exclusive experiences. One of our earliest guests termed these "Imperial Moments", which we are delighted to make available to you through your journey.

## China Host



The China Host is part cultural attaché and part traveling concierge. He or she is a Westerner who has been living in China for many years and speaks Chinese fluently. This gives you the best of both worlds. Your China Host knows where you are coming from and helps create the experience you seek in China. Please note that the China Host service is able to assist you only with those components of the tour booked through Imperial Tours.

## Hotels



Hotels are selected for their facilities, design, spaciousness, service and location. Imperial Tours also selects rooms carefully, taking into account size and views, rarely starting at the entry level room category. Our long relationships with the best hotels and hoteliers result in preferential treatment for our clients in terms of room choice, service and amenities (such as room upgrades).

## Restaurants



For most, dining is an integral part of any travel experience. Our restaurants are the best available in the destination and can introduce a vast array of experiences and flavors. Taking into account any dietary preferences you cite, we will design the menus throughout your stay to introduce you to popular dishes and regional styles so that you will get the most out of each and every meal.

## Private Car Service



We provide the best available vehicles in each city. Our smallest vehicle is a Buick or Toyota Alphard 7 seat MPV of high quality. Using Chinese and lesser quality vehicles is how other companies can cut costs, but we feel your comfort and safety should not be compromised. Upgrades to Mercedes, BMW or Rolls Royce vehicles are available.

## Shopping



Most people traveling to China will be directed to one commission paying tourist factory after another. We cannot abide by this practice. Instead, we keep abreast of the newest and most unique designers, showrooms and shops and relay this information to you. Ask your China Host for advice.

*"Everything seemed to happen without any effort: flight reservations, hotel check-in, sightseeing and time for shopping – everything made to order for us, knowing perfectly to accommodate our different interests and needs. Many thanks to our China Host – who made the difference between Excellence and Perfection."*

*"I have to say that the Imperial Tours logistics were first class. Good clean spacious buses, and for once someone who understands that you don't cram 7 people in a minibus. Well-chosen rooms, great selections of restaurants."*

*"Your attention to detail provided many extra-special moments & gave us a priceless gift: an introduction to China we will always cherish..."*

*"We have traveled to all seven continents including organized tour requirements to places such as but not limited to Antarctica, Australia, Botswana, Galapagos Islands, Israel, Jordan, South Africa, Turkey & Zambia - it bears repeating, Imperial Tours is the BEST!"*

# YOUR QUICK VIEW ITINERARY



Day 1	Shanghai	Diplomatic Airport Pickup Transfer to Peninsula Hotel
Day 2	Shanghai Huangshan	Morning at Leisure Transfer to Airport Fly to Huangshan Transfer to Huangshan Banyan Tree
Day 3	Huangshan	Yellow Mountain Visit
Day 4	Huangshan Hangzhou	Village Visit Drive to Hangzhou Transfer to Four Seasons
Day 5	Hangzhou	West Lake Gondola Ride Buddhist Temple District Tea Plantations



# YOUR QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

Day 6	Hangzhou Chengdu	Introduction to the Five Disciplines Fly to Chengdu Transfer to Temple House Hotel
Day 7	Chengdu	Panda Research Institute Sanxingdui
Day 8	Chengdu Lhasa	Transfer to Airport Fly to Lhasa Transfer to Shangri-la Hotel
Day 9	Lhasa	Lecture on Tibetan Culture Barkhor Jokhang Monastery Norbulingka Monastery
Day 10	Lhasa	Potala Palace Drepung Monastery and Debating Gardens
Day 11	Lhasa	Ganden Monastery Drophenling
Day 12	Lhasa Chengdu	Transfer to Airport Fly to Chengdu



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## S H A N G H A I



*The Bund*

### DAY 1

Upon arrival at Shanghai International Airport, you will be met at the gate by airport VIP staff who will lead you through immigration, baggage claim and customs. Your China Host will then meet you after you have claimed your luggage and passed through customs. The China Host will accompany you during the remainder of your stay in China (our China Host acts as a personal concierge to you throughout your stay in China, allowing you to make changes as you see fit...this may mean adding a site or taking out a site, changing a restaurant or booking a foot massage!)

Shanghai will take your breath away. Since the early 80's this city has been growing like no other, the Pudong waterfront becoming as emblematic of economic prowess as that of Manhattan or Hong Kong. Before dinner, you will have a chance to walk or drive along the Bund, taking in some of the loveliest buildings in the city. (Peninsula Hotel – Deluxe Riverview Room)

## S H A N G H A I H U A N G S H A N



*Huangshan Bridge*

### DAY 2

*B / L / D*

You will have the morning at leisure to recover from jetlag. Should the group wish, Imperial Tours can arrange for some site inspections of new properties in the city.

Early this afternoon you will fly to Huangshan City, arriving in the evening where you will check into its finest hotel. (Huangshan Banyan Tree Resort – Lucun Suite)

### PENINSULA HOTEL

The Shanghai Peninsula evokes the Art Deco era. Comfortable rooms are equipped with the latest room technology featuring low cost, IP telephone calling and free internet service.

### IMPERIAL AMENITIES

- American breakfast for two
- In-room wifi access
- Long distance calls via VOIP
- Afternoon high tea for two when booking two Peninsula Hotels in China

### LOCATION

North end of the Bund

### ROOMS

235

[www.peninsula.com](http://www.peninsula.com)





# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## H U A N G S H A N



*Huangshan Mountain*

**DAY 3**

*B / L*

Waking up early to take full advantage of your day on the **Yellow Mountain**, you will be immediately driven from Huangshan City to the mountain itself. Having ascended the rugged mountain ridge by cable car, we will hike for just short of one hour to our lunch spot along its circuitous peak. Depending on the weather, you may enjoy views of granite tusks suddenly piercing through the swirling mist, or else if it's colder, will be delighted by the famous seas of pink-tinged clouds floating between Huangshan's jagged ridges.

In the afternoon, you'll stroll along the peak for a couple more hours, crossing to the other side of the ridge to appreciate dramatic views along its vertiginous canyons.

## H U A N G S H A N H A N G Z H O U



*Ming Dynasty Village*

**DAY 4**

*B / L*

This morning you will tour some ancient, picturesque villages for which the area is famous.

Commonly, it is the remote geography of such villages that has harbored them from the destructive force of China's turbulent history. This visit, then, will be a rare opportunity for you to experience first hand the design and architecture of affluent Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) villages. Apart from enjoying curious architectural details, such as a wind shield covering a six hundred year old "window", you will also be able to appreciate the sheer ingenuity of traditional urban designs, maximizing the use of flowing streams for aesthetic, spiritual and practical benefits.

In the early afternoon, you will return to Huangshan to walk through its ancient city quarter, which features a century's old, double-tiered shopping street, packed with intriguing wares.

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**BANYAN TREE HOTEL**

*This newly opened scenic resort has luxurious private suites and villas that follow the design of local architecture.*

**LOCATION**

Near Hongcun and Xidi  
Unesco listed ancient villages.

**ROOMS**

20 suites and 56 villas  
[www.banyantree.com](http://www.banyantree.com)



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## H U A N G S H A N H A N G Z H O U



Huangshan Mountain

### CONTINUED

Today you travel by car (approximately 3 hours) to the city that Marco Polo once proclaimed to be “by far the most glorious city in the world”. Upon arrival in **Hangzhou**, you will be transferred to your lovely hotel. (Four Seasons Hotel – Premier Room)

## H A N G Z H O U



West Lake

### DAY 5

B / L / D

Between 1180 and 1315, Hangzhou reputedly was the largest city in the world: “more than 100 miles in diameter with 12,000 stone bridges”, asserts Marco Polo with a gift for hyperbole, if not accuracy. Your location for a serene **taichi session** this morning, allows you to enjoy the full breadth of Hangzhou’s delightful vista prior to following more closely in Marco’s footsteps by your boarding a **private gondola** to tour the romantic West Lake. It’s not hard to guess why countless Chinese philosophers, politicians and poets came, stayed and died here. As your guide will surely tell you: “In heaven there is paradise, on earth Suzhou and Hangzhou.”

After a drive through the **tea plantations** where the leaves of Longjing are cultivated, you will visit the Buddhist temple district of Hangzhou. At the foot of a wooded hill, you will have the opportunity to marvel at the **Peak That Flew From Afar**, a limestone rock face decorated for over four centuries from the tenth century with more than 3,000 Buddhist effigies, before returning to your hotel.

### FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

Located near West Lake, Four Seasons’ second hotel in China draws on Hangzhou’s architectural heritage to accommodate guests in Ming-style pavilions set within a traditional Chinese garden.

### IMPERIAL AMENITIES

- Buffet breakfast for two
- In-room wifi access

### LOCATION

On the Western shores of West Lake.

### ROOMS

78  
[www.fourseasons.com](http://www.fourseasons.com)



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## H A N G Z H O U C H E N G D U



Lingyin Temple

DAY 6

B / L

The Southern Song dynasty (1127 - 1279) was a time of great innovation in the arts and sciences and can be likened to the Renaissance in Europe. The epitome of the learned individual was the *literati* or scholar gentleman. Today, we take you to a classical Chinese garden where you will experience the arts of the Five Disciplines – calligraphy, music, incense, flower arranging and tea, all of which the scholar gentleman of the past was expected to be proficient. This a chance for you to try your hand at some of these quintessentially Chinese arts, as significant to the scholar set a thousand years ago as they are becoming today amongst the newly minted Chinese.

In the afternoon you will fly to **Chengdu**. Today you will fly to the exotic capital city of Sichuan Province, the start of the southern Silk Road and the gateway to Tibet. Whether you prefer “the Brocade City”, “the Lotus City”, “the Panda City”, “the Hibiscus City” or “China’s party city” (Los Angeles Times), Chengdu boasts more teahouses and bars than Shanghai despite having only half the population. The poetic, passionate Chengdunese speak their own spicy Sichuanese dialect and like their food as hot as Grandma Chen’s Tofu. (Temple House Hotel – Studio 60)

## C H E N G D U



Panda Institute

DAY 7

B / L / D

Early this morning, we take you to the **Panda Research Institute**, the best place on earth to see these adorable animals. It is interesting to note that Chinese do not always share our foreign depth of feeling toward their “giant bear cat”. Perhaps this explains – in part – why before the 20th century there are no known artistic representations of this photogenic animal.

After lunch, you will be driven an hour outside the city to **Sanxingdui**, the spell-binding collection of bronze, gold, ivory, stone and jade artifacts that recently forced a complete rewriting of Chinese history books. So hypnotic are the bulging-eyed, big-eared bronze figures, heads and masks uncovered on the site of the modern museum that some have speculated on alien visitations as a possible answer for this spookily advanced, vanished civilization.

### TEMPLE HOUSE

This hotel is inspired after Chengdu’s heritage and landscapes. Named after the nearby Daci Temple, The Temple House also honors the historic buildings of Chengdu with Bitieshi, a remarkable restored Qing dynasty courtyard that inspired elements of our third hotel’s contemporary design.

### LOCATION

Located in the Chunxi Road Commercial District in the heart of Chengdu.

[www.thetemplehousehotel.com](http://www.thetemplehousehotel.com)





# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## CHENGDU LHASA



Monks on Parade

DAY 8

B / L

Today you will fly to **Lhasa**.

Our altitude in Lhasa is about 3,650 meters or 12,000 feet, approximately 4,500 feet higher than Colorado's Grand Canyon. The remainder of the day will be left at leisure to allow you to acclimate to the altitude. If you feel up to it, you will be able to start your exploration of Lhasa today. (Shangri-la Hotel – Deluxe Potala View Room)

## LHASA



Jokhang Monastery

DAY 9

B / L

The "land of the snows" has inspired artists for centuries. James Hilton's utopian "Shangri-La" is based on Tibet's monastic communities and devout way of life. To best appreciate Lhasa's palaces, temples and society, we have arranged for a **morning lecture** to familiarize you with the main themes, characters and symbols of Tibetan art and religious life.

You will be able to apply this knowledge soon after in Lhasa's Old Town as you stroll along the **Barkhor**. This is the kora or pilgrimage route around the Jokhang Temple, Tibet's most sacred. As you amble clockwise along it, surrounded by pilgrims, you will be assailed by novel sights, sounds and wonders. Poking your nose into local Tibetan markets, your eyes will feast on strangely clad clansmen from Tibet's outlying regions and peruse the wares of the many antique and thangka shops of this astonishing circuit.

As you pass through the bulky doors of the venerable, **Jokhang Temple** you will sense the peace and equanimity that imbues the atmosphere of this historic monastery.

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### SHANGRI-LA HOTEL

The newest luxury hotel in Lhasa with views over the Himalayas.

### IMPERIAL AMENITIES

- Buffet breakfast for two
- In-room wifi access

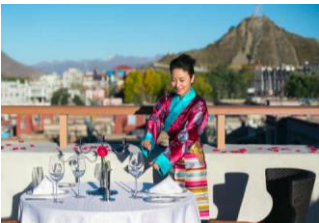
### LOCATION

At the edge of the Tibetan quarter near the Norbulinka.

### ROOMS

279

[www.shangri-la.com](http://www.shangri-la.com)



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## L H A S A



*Sera Debating Monks*

*CONTINUED*

On the one hand, Tibetan pilgrims display intense devotion as they pray before their deities, pouring yak (a local variety of cow) butter or ghee into the altars' butter lamps. On the other hand, the casual comings and goings of the red-robed monks lend this beautiful building the reliability of tradition and the self-confidence of knowledge.

After lunch, you might wish to rest. Those excited to learn more about Tibetan life will continue with a visit to **Braille without Borders**, a local NGO that has developed braille for the Tibetan language and thereby wonderfully rehabilitated and enriched the lives of many blind Tibetan children. We end your first day with a visit to the charming **Norbulingka**, a lovely park that previously housed the Summer Palace of the Dalai Lama when he resided here.

## L H A S A



*Potala Palace*

*DAY 10*

*B / L*

Since yesterday should have provided you with some of the most striking visual images of your life, the bar is set high for this morning's visit to the **Potala Palace** - the trapezoidal, red and white Winter Palace that oversees the growing city beneath. Few buildings are as emblematic of their people - America's White House is perhaps as much a symbol of America's liberties and values as the Potala Palace expresses the remoteness, spirituality and former might of Tibet. The elaborate golden tombs of past Dalai Lamas are of inestimable beauty, value and mystery.

In the afternoon, we visit **Drepung Monastery** to watch young monks testing their debating skills, logic, knowledge and reasoning in the **Debating Gardens**.



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## L H A S A



Ganden Monastery

## L H A S A



Tibetan Drums

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DAY 11

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B / L

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Today's day trip to **Ganden Monastery**, an hour and a half drive from Lhasa, is an opportunity to travel to the rural mountainous areas of Tibet. Thirty miles from Lhasa, we leave the valley floor to climb a meandering road to the crest of a tributary valley. Our gentle ascent through a series of switchbacks takes us to the altitude of approximately 4,200 meters or 13,700 feet.

Ganden Monastery, a striking array of white buildings, surrounding the red "Golden Tomb of Tsongkhapa" (the founder of the Gelugpa monastic sect), will suddenly appear in the hollow of a distant mountain ridge. Temples, colleges, dormitories, assembly halls, kitchens and the like proudly dominate the crown of this deep valley.

As inspiring as it is to view the treasures of this famous monastery, a visit to Ganden is incomplete without walking its *kora* or pilgrimage route. Leading you around the back side of the ridge, we introduce breathtaking views of the river plain thousands of feet beneath as well as of the adjacent towering mountains thousands of feet above. It is no wonder that chortens (religious towers), prayer flags and prayer stones are sprinkled liberally along this *kora* in tribute to God and nature.

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In the late afternoon, we return to Lhasa for a last opportunity to enjoy the atmosphere of Lhasa's Old Town and to make last minute purchases. You may wish to explore a bustling local food market, the crafts market along Tromsikhang beside, take in **Dropenling**, the home of the Tibetan Artists' Initiative whose aim is to promote local arts and crafts and drop in on Goede Chopshal, the leading gallery for contemporary art in Tibet.



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

L H A S A  
C H E N G D U



Tibetan Villagers

DAY 12

B / L

This morning you will be transferred to the airport in time for your return flight back to Chengdu.

Upon arrival in Chengdu, you will be responsible for your onward flight. Should you wish for Imperial Tours to book your flights, please let us know.





# TOUR QUOTATION

HKD141,385 (Approx. USD18,235\*) per person, based double occupancy, based on a private tour for two persons.

HKD100,060 (Approx. USD12,905\*) per person, based double occupancy, based on a private tour for four persons.

HKD84,900 (Approx. USD10,950\*) per person, based double occupancy, based on a private tour for six persons.

*\*Please note that this non-HKD price uses the exchange rate of June 1, 2016. Since foreign exchange rates are constantly fluctuating, the price in your home currency will be determined by the exchange rate on the day of payment, using the official exchange rate supplied by [www.xe.com/ucc/](http://www.xe.com/ucc/). Please note that all credit cards will be charged in Hong Kong dollars (HKD). Wire transfer payments may be made in your home currency.*

## INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

- 11 nights accommodation in outstanding five star hotels
- 11 breakfasts (buffet breakfast), 10 lunches, 3 dinners at our carefully selected restaurants (including local mineral water, soft drinks and local beer)
- Services of a Western bilingual China Host and local tour guides
- All internal flights in economy class (Shanghai/Huangshan, Hangzhou/Chengdu, Chengdu/Lhasa, Lhasa/Chengdu)
- All land transportation (as listed on the itinerary)
- Entrance fees to all tourist sites (as listed on the itinerary)
- Local guide and driver gratuities
- Domestic airport, city and hotel taxes

*B / L / D denotes breakfast, lunch, and dinner*

*Please note that the China Host will eat with you during lunches and dinners throughout the trip. This is to ensure that you are receiving the best possible service. If, at any time, you would prefer to dine on your own, please let the China Host know.*

## NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

- International airfare to/from China, visa processing fees, travel insurance
- Personal expenses such as alcoholic beverages, imported mineral waters, excess luggage fees, telephone charges, room service and laundry charges
- Gratuities to the China Host

## PAYMENT

We accept wire transfer, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. A deposit amount of 10% is due at the time of booking. The remaining 90% of the tour price can be settled 60 days prior to tour departure.

*Please note that no arrangements have been made and are not guaranteed until Imperial Tours receives a deposit.*

## CANCELLATION CHARGES

- a) Should you decide to cancel your tour between the time of deposit and 90 days prior to the tour, you will forfeit USD300 per person, between 90 and 60 days prior to departure, you will forfeit your deposit, between 60 and 30 days prior to departure, you will forfeit 25% of the tour price, between 30 and 15 days you will forfeit 50% of the tour price, from 14 days or less, you will forfeit 70% of the tour price and from 3 days or less, you will forfeit 100% of the tour price.
- b) All notices of cancellation must be written to be effective. The date of cancellation will be the date of reception by Imperial Tours' personnel.

