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Essence of China with Hong Kong Stopover - 12 Days

This tour visits five diverse cities scattered throughout China. Each of the cities has importance to a true understanding of China: Imperial Beijing, Historical Xian, Scenic Guilin, Futurist Shanghai and Cosmopolitan Hong Kong into a grander picture showcasing you how China progress in its unique fashion.

Tour Highlights

Ultimate All-in-One Route: Experience the perfect blend of imperial history, modern skylines, idyllic karst landscapes, and Hong Kong's vibrant coastal charm.
Iconic World Heritage Wonders: Stand before the Terracotta Warriors, climb the Great Wall, and marvel at Beijing's timeless ancient palaces.
Breathtaking Li River Cruise: Sail along the picturesque Li River from Guilin to Yangshuo, surrounded by world-famous limestone karst mountains.
Cross-Border High-Speed Express: Travel directly from Guilin into the heart of Hong Kong via comfortable high-speed bullet train.
East-Meets-West Culture: End your journey exploring Victoria Peak, lively street markets, and the multicultural pulse of Hong Kong.

Date	Destinations	Attractions, Meals & Transport
1	Day 1 Arrival in Beijing	airport - hotel transfer in Beijing

2	Day 2 Beijing | Forbidden City & Temple of Heaven	breakfast, lunch **Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City (UNESCO), Temple of Heaven (UNESCO)** Stand in the heart of modern China at the world's largest public square, a site of profound historical significance and grand architectural scale. Walk into or drive through (sedan/minivan) Tian'anmen Square to marvel at its iconic surroundings, including the Monument to the People's Heroes and the Great Hall of the People. Constructed from 1406 at the very centre of Beijing, the Palace Museum is more widely known as the Forbidden City. Previously home to 24 different emperors, it is the largest palace complex in the world at approximately 720,000 square metres. Note: Closed on Mondays. In case of closure or ticket unavailability, the itinerary adjusts to Jingshan Park for a premier panoramic view overlooking the entire Forbidden City. Completed in 1420, the Temple of Heaven is the largest complex of sacrificial buildings in China that still stands to this day. The temple was visited by Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1636-1912) emperors on an annual basis to pray to the heavens for a good harvest. The subtle employment of acoustic principles used in the construction of the Echo Wall, Triple Sound Stone and Dialogue Stone reflects the advanced architectural technology in use in ancient China. **Dinner Suggestions** Iconic Peking Duck Dinner: Indulge in a signature feast at a renowned, time-honored restaurant. Savor the legendary roast duck, celebrated for its signature crispy skin, tender meat, and the subtle aroma of fruit-wood roasting.
3	Day 3 Beijing | Great Wall & Summer Palace	breakfast, lunch **The Great Wall (UNESCO), The Summer Palace (UNESCO)** The Great Wall is the largest ancient defensive project ever undertaken in China and even the world. Built continuously over 2,000 years starting in the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046-771 BC), the Great Wall now snakes its way across vast areas of northern and central China and has a total length of more than 20,000 km. The wall is a physical illustration of the Chinese philosophy of defending and tolerating rather than expanding and invading. This Qing Dynasty (1636-1912) imperial palace and garden (1636-1912) is the largest and best-preserved imperial garden in China. Modelled on the West Lake in Hangzhou and borrowing design techniques and artistic ideas from the gardens of Jiangnan south of the Yangtze River, this landscaped park offers the perfect summer retreat.
4	Day 4 Beijing to Xi'an by Bullet Train | Hutong Tour	train station transfer in Beijing, train station - hotel transfer in Xi'an breakfast **Beijing Hutongs & Rickshaw Tour** Dive into the heart of old Beijing with a visit to the Hutongs—a maze of historic, narrow alleys lined with traditional courtyard houses. To experience this vibrant neighborhood like a local, you will take a traditional rickshaw tour. Sit back and relax as your driver wheels you through the lively lanes, passing by local markets, ancient doorways, and hidden gardens. It is a wonderful, nostalgic journey that offers an intimate look at the city's traditional lifestyle away from the modern skyscrapers.

5	Day 5 Xi'an | Terracotta Warriors & Muslim Quarter	breakfast, lunch **Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses (UNESCO), The Bell and Drum Tower Square, The Muslim Quarter (Huimin Jie)** Unearth the secrets of the world's most significant archaeological discovery. Face the silent ranks of over 6,000 life-sized warriors, archers, and bronze chariots that have guarded the tomb of China's First Emperor for over 2,200 years. Located at the very center of ancient Xi'an, the Bell and Drum Tower Square is a grand landmark that beautifully connects China's imperial past with its vibrant modern energy. This spacious public square offers a stunning vantage point between two magnificent Ming Dynasty masterpieces: the majestic Bell Tower, which marks the geographical heart of the city, and the historic Drum Tower, which stands at the entrance to the famous Muslim Quarter. Visited by millions each year, the square provides an exceptional setting to admire traditional triple-eaved wooden architecture, which comes alive at night with a spectacular display of colorful illuminations. Steeped in over a millennium of history, the Muslim Quarter is a vibrant sensory feast and the heart of Xi'an's legendary food culture. As you wander through its ancient stone-paved lanes, you are greeted by an incredible array of mouth-watering delicacies and authentic Silk Road flavors. From the savory aroma of charcoal-grilled lamb skewers to the rhythmic pounding of traditional nut candy, this bustling historic enclave offers an unparalleled glimpse into the heritage and culinary soul of the city's Hui community. It is the ultimate destination to immerse yourself in the lively atmosphere and rich, diverse tastes of old Xi'an. **Leisure Time & Optional Experiences** **Evening Recommendation**: Indulge in a celebrated Xi'an Dumpling Banquet, followed by an enchanting Tang Dynasty Music and Dance Show—a vibrant revival of China's golden age of art and culture. **Extended Exploration**: If your schedule allows, we highly recommend a journey to Mount Hua to witness its breathtaking natural peaks. **Regional Highlights**: For a deeper dive into Buddhist history, consider a bullet train excursion to Luoyang to marvel at the Longmen Grottoes, one of China's three most renowned ancient cave complexes.
6	Day 6 Xi'an to Shanghai by Flight | Ancient City Wall	airport transfer in Xi'an, airport - hotel transfer in Shanghai breakfast, lunch **Ancient City Wall** Located in the centre of Xi'an, the Xi'an City Wall was built in the early Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) over the previously existing palace walls of the Tang Dynasty. It is the best-preserved and largest city wall in China and extends a total of 13.74 kilometres. The wall has a moat, draw bridges, watchtowers, corner towers and other military defences.

7	Day 7 Shanghai | Yu Garden & The Bund	breakfast, lunch **Yu Garden, The Bund, Shanghai Old Town** Built in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Yu Garden is a classic example of a Jiangnan region garden and the most famous of five classical gardens in Shanghai. The Yu Garden compound consists of more than 30 halls and is divided into six sections by "dragon walls", tall white walls with undulating grey tiled ridges each terminating in a dragon's head. Next to the garden is Yuyuan Bazaar, a labyrinth of small streets and lanes where you can find a large number of restaurants, tea houses and shops. The most popular restaurants are NanxiangMantou Restaurant, famous for its xiaolongbao, Lubolang Restaurant and Old Shanghai Restaurant. One of the city's most recognisable landmarks and the pride of Shanghai for over one hundred years, the Bund is a mile-long stretch of waterfront promenade along the Huangpu River. On the west side of the road stand 52 buildings of various architectural styles, including Gothic, baroque, and neoclassical styles. It is often called an outdoor museum of buildings. Step back in time and experience the historical heart of the city at Shanghai Old Town, where classic Jiangnan-style architecture and bustling street markets offer a fascinating contrast to the city's futuristic skyscrapers. Anchored by the 16th-century Yu Garden and the lively bazaar surrounding the City God Temple, this vibrant district allows you to wander through labyrinthine alleys lined with traditional gray-brick buildings, cross the iconic Nine-Turn Bridge, and sample world-famous local delicacies like Xiaolongbao (soup dumplings) at historic eateries. **Leisure Time & Optional Experiences** **Huangpu River Cruise**: See Shanghai's iconic skyline from the water on a Huangpu River Cruise. Sail past the Bund's 52 historic colonial buildings and the futuristic skyscrapers of Lujiazui, including the Shanghai Tower and Oriental Pearl Tower. Choose a day cruise for clear architectural details or a night cruise (highly recommended) to see the city illuminated in a dazzling light show. **Shanghai Tower Skywalk Experience**: Soar to new heights at the Shanghai Tower, China's tallest building at 632 meters. Ride the world's fastest elevator (18m/s) to the 118th-floor Top of Shanghai Observatory. Enjoy 360°panoramic views of the city, including the Bund's colonial architecture, the Oriental Pearl Tower, and the winding Huangpu River.
8	Day 8 Shanghai to Guilin by Flight | Fubo Hill	hotel - airport transfer in Shanghai, airport transfer in Guilin breakfast **Fubo Hill** The Fubo Hill is a perfect spot to explore the limestone karst landscape in Guilin.

9	Day 9 Guilin & Yangshuo | Li River Cruise	take a cruise ship from Guilin to Yangshuo; private transfer from Yangshuo to Guilin breakfast, lunch **Li River Cruise** In the morning, meet your guide at the hotel and transfer to embark on a memorable Li River Cruise. Through this 3-hour journey of China's best known natural scenery, you can appreciate unique karst landscapes as well as verdant hills and lovely waters. Then, arrive at Yangshuo at about 13:00 and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.
10	Day 10 Guilin to Hong Kong by Bullet Train	hotel - train station transfer in Guilin, train station - hotel transfer in Hong Kong breakfast
11	Day 11 Hong Kong | Victoria Peak & Stanley Market	breakfast **Half-day tour of Hong Kong Island** Today starts with a half-day tour of Hong Kong Island. Visit the Victoria Peak (include One-way peak tram ride), the summit of the Hong Kong Island and get a bird-eye view of the magnificent skyline of the Victoria Harbor. Then, visit the Stanley Market and drive by the Repulse Bay. Later, explore the Historic Fishing Village at Aberdeen with sampan ride. Their traditional lifestyle is in sharp contrast to the modern life style of those living in the high-rise communities. Afterwards, return to your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.
12	Day 12 Hong Kong Departure	hotel - airport transfer in Hong Kong breakfast

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: Do I need separate visas for Mainland China and Hong Kong?

A: Most nationalities can enter Hong Kong visa-free for stays ranging from 14 to 90 days. However, a Chinese visa is required for the mainland portion (Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai, Guilin). Make sure your visa covers your entry into Mainland China.

Q: What is included in the Li River Cruise experience?

A: The cruise takes approximately 4 hours from Guilin to Yangshuo and includes scenic seating and a light lunch onboard. After exploring Yangshuo, you will be transferred back to Guilin by private vehicle.

Q: Can this tour be customized for families or seniors?

A: Yes, private vehicles and local guides are provided throughout the mainland and Hong Kong legs, allowing for a flexible pace suitable for families and senior travelers.

Q: How does border control work when taking the train from Guilin to Hong Kong?

A: You will clear both Mainland China exit customs and Hong Kong entry immigration conveniently at the West Kowloon High-Speed Rail Station upon arrival in Hong Kong.

Tour Includes :

-- Private tour guide

Tour Excludes :

-- International flights with taxes

-- Private air-conditioned coach
-- Land transfers between airport or railway station and hotel
-- Entrance tickets as listed
-- Chinese lunch as listed
-- Centrally located hotels with breakfast
-- Domestic flights with taxes and train ticket (2nd class seat)as listed
-- Service charge & government taxes

-- Personal expenses such as laundry, drinks, phone bills, optional activities
-- Tips for guides and drivers
-- China Visa
-- Travel insurance

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