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China Golden Triangle with Zhangjiajie Nature Landscape - 10 Days

Discover China’s rich imperial heritage and otherworldly natural wonders on this classic 10-day tour. Journey through historic capitals Beijing and Xi’an to explore the Great Wall, Forbidden City, and Terracotta Warriors. Then, venture into the surreal sandstone spires of Zhangjiajie and Tianmen Mountain before concluding your trip amid Shanghai’s dazzling modern skyline.

Tour Highlights

Avatar Floating Mountains: Marvel at the towering karst pillars, Bailong Elevator, and Tianzi Mountain in Zhangjiajie National Forest Park.
Tianmen Mountain Cableway & Cave: Ride one of the world's longest alpine cablecars and explore the dramatic Tianmen Cave ("Heaven's Gate").
UNESCO Cultural Heritage: Walk along the ancient Great Wall, explore the Forbidden City, and witness the awe-inspiring Terracotta Warriors.
Modern & Historic Contrast: Experience imperial history, vibrant ethnic street food, and Shanghai's cosmopolitan Bund skyline in one seamless trip.
Convenient Multi-City Transit: Travel effortlessly across China via high-speed bullet train and domestic flights.

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, lunch **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 Zhangjiajie by Flight | Ancient City Wall	airport transfer in Xi'an, airport - hotel transfer in Zhangjiajie 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 Zhangjiajie | Avatar Mountains	breakfast, lunch **Zhangjiajie National Forest Park** Experience a full-day, breathtaking journey through the otherworldly sandstone pillars of Zhangjiajie National Forest Park, the true inspiration behind the floating mountains in the movie Avatar. Your adventure begins with a scenic cable car ride up the mountain, whisking you directly into the clouds. First, explore Tianzishan (Tianzi Mountain), renowned for its misty peaks and stunning panoramic views of thousands of jagged pillars rising from the valleys. Next, journey to Yuanjiajie, where you will stand face-to-face with the awe-inspiring Avatar Hallelujah Mountain and cross the First Bridge Under Heaven. After marveling at these gravity-defying landscapes, you will experience a thrilling descent aboard the famous Bailong Elevator, a soaring glass structure built into the cliffside. Conclude your unforgettable day with a peaceful, ground-level stroll along the crystal-clear waters of Golden Whip Brook (Jinbianxi), where you can admire the towering peaks from below amidst lush forests and playful wild macaques.
8	Day 8 Zhangjiajie to Shanghai by Flight | Tianmen Mountain	airport transfer in Zhangjiajie, airport - hotel transfer in Shanghai breakfast, lunch **Tianmen Mountain** Embark on a thrilling exploration of Tianmen Mountain, legendary for its dramatic cliff faces and spiritual mysteries. Your journey includes a spectacular round-trip cable car ride, featuring one of the longest alpine cableways in the world, which takes you directly from the city center up into the mountain's misty peaks. At the top, walk along cliff-hanging pathways and marvel at the magnificent Tianmen Cave (Heaven's Gate), a colossal natural water-eroded hole that looks like a gateway to the heavens. For an enhanced journey, you can choose an optional experience to Baofeng Lake, where you can take a peaceful boat cruise across emerald waters surrounded by stunning karst mountains and listening to local folk songs.

9	Day 9 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.
10	Day 10 Shanghai Departure	hotel - airport transfer in Shanghai breakfast

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: How active is the itinerary in Zhangjiajie National Forest Park?

A: The day includes scenic cable car rides and the Bailong Elevator to reduce heavy climbing, though moderate walking along paved boardwalks and paths is required.

Q: Is Zhangjiajie suitable to visit year-round?

A: Yes, Zhangjiajie offers distinct seasonal beauty. Spring and autumn offer pleasant weather and mist-enshrouded peaks, while summer brings lush foliage and clear valley views.

Q: Are luggage transfers managed smoothly between cities?

A: Absolutely. Private transfers handle your transfers to and from airports and high-speed train stations, ensuring a stress-free transition between Beijing, Xi'an, Zhangjiajie, and Shanghai.

Q: Is Tianmen Mountain safe for visitors with a mild fear of heights?

A: While Tianmen Mountain features cliffside pathways and glass skywalks, the primary paths are sturdy, paved, and fully protected with railings.

Tour Includes :

- Private tour guide
- Private air-conditioned car or coach
- Land transfers between airport or train station and hotel
- First entrance tickets as listed
- Chinese lunch as listed
- Centrally located hotels with breakfast
- Domestic flight tickets with taxes and train tickets (2nd class seat) as listed
- Service charge & government taxes

Tour Excludes :

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

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