

# CHINA

## Wonders of China

11 Days

Sept 22 – Oct 1, 2012

Beijing to Shanghai

\$2795 USD



### China Trip Info

**Dates:** September 22 - October 1, 2012

**Group Size:** Maximum of 16.

**Grade:** Leisure

**Transport:** Aircon mini-bus, flights.

**Accommodation:** 9 nights accommodation in 5 star hotels.

**Meals:** Breakfast daily, 8 lunches, 8 dinners (D).

**Prices:** \$2795 USD, single supplement: \$850 USD. Not required. Hermes Tours can match you with another traveller.

**Includes:** all accommodation as listed, all domestic flights, activities and meals as listed. Transfers to/from airport on designated days.

**Not Included:** International air to/from China, visas to China, meals and activities not specifically included in itinerary. Any items of a personal nature such as telephone, laundry, alcohol as well as customary tips to your driver and tour guides and Hermes Tours escort.

**Hotels: Beijing:** Jade Palace Hotel 5\*

**Xian:** Xian Sofitel Hotel 5\*

**Hangzhou:** Hangzhou Grand Metropark Hotel

**Suzhou:** Suzhou Nanlin Hotel

**Shanghai:** Broadway Mansions Hotel 5\*

**Further Info:** See our website

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



Join Hermes Tours as we travel through the Chinese Dynasty. We start our tour in Beijing in grandiose style where we walk along the Great Wall of China, visit the forbidden city, Tiananmen square and see Ming tombs. Then travel to Xian and witness a life size army of warriors that stand guard over an emperor's tomb. We complete our journey in Shanghai, one of the most modern cities in all of Asia. Even with all the skyscrapers, we find history, wisdom and culture that embody this fascinating city. Taste some of the best tea in China and visit the famous water town of Xitang where the film mission impossible was filmed.

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Walk the Great Wall of China to your hotel.
- ★ Visit the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Ming Tombs
- ★ Witness the life size army of Terra Cotta Soldiers in Xian
- ★ Visit the modern city of Shanghai
- ★ All guiding and entrance fees included
- ★ Breakfasts daily / 8 Lunches / 8 dinners

#### Day 1 – Saturday, September 22, 2012 – Arrive in Beijing (D)

Arrive in the Beijing International Airport. Then transfer to your hotel. Try to arrive by 4pm today. This evening we will show you the secret place where during the stricter communist times, Chinese gay people once used to meet each other and not be recognized. This evening Hermes Tours will host a welcome banquet giving complete with Peking Duck!

#### Day 2 - Sunday, Sept 23, 2012 - Great Wall and Ming Tomb and Summer palace (B, L, D)

A day you won't forget! Your full day tour includes The Great Wall of China, one of the world's architectural marvels. The Great Wall, this imposing ancient Chinese structure stretches over 6000km and is one of the 8 wonders of the world. We then visit the Ming Tombs, a total of 13 Imperial tombs from the Ming dynasty emperors and see how the ancient emperors used to plan for life after death.

This afternoon, enjoy the Summer Palace, a complex of pavilions, temples and galleries situated on an immense man-made lake. This evening we head out to experience the current night life of Beijing including visits to local gay clubs.

#### Day 3 - Monday, Sept 24, 2012 – Beijing Tiananmen Square and Forbidden city (B, L, D)

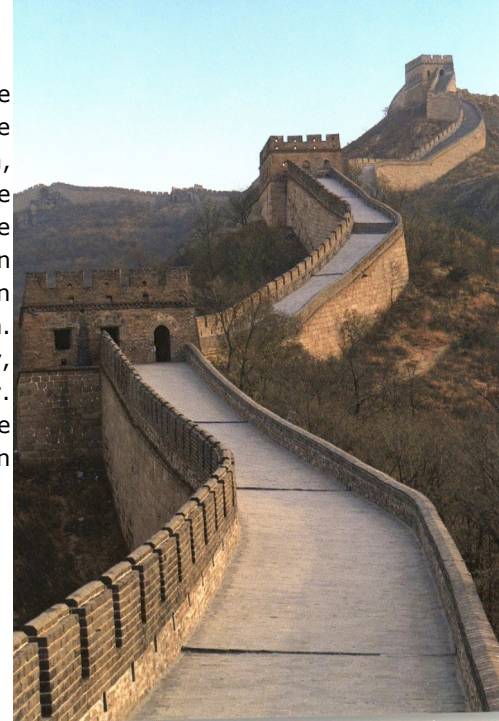
Visit Tiananmen Square, the largest public plaza in the world and the Forbidden City, whose acres of splendid 15th Century halls and pavilions graced with imperial treasures now comprise the Palace Museum. You also visit the beautiful Temple of Heaven, possibly the most popular symbol of China. Then the whole afternoon free to explore the city on your own.

#### Day 4 - Tuesday, September 25, 2012 – Beijing to Xian (B, L, D)

Transfer to the airport for our flight to Xian. Upon our arrival We'll walk on the ancient City Wall of Ming Dynasty, then see the grand Wild Goose Pagoda, then walk on the Bell and Drum Tower Square.

#### Day 5 - Wednesday, Sept 26, 2012 – Xian (B, L, D)

We visit the ancient Terra Cotta Warriors Museum. The Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses are one of the most significant archeological excavations of the 20th century. It is a sight not to be missed by any visitor to China. Visit the over one thousand life-size terra cotta



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warriors which have been standing guard by the tomb of Qin Shi Huang for 2,000 years. This afternoon visit Huaqing Hot Springs. Dynasty over 1,000 years ago.

#### Day 6 - Thursday, September 27, 2012 – Xian to Hangzhou (B, L, D)

This morning we depart Xian and fly to Hangzhou. On our way we stop at a very famous water town, Xitang. Once here you will understand why Mission Impossible III had chosen this location to shoot the movie. The drive will take us about two hours and once we arrive we will enjoy a fantastic cruise on the west lake, the most famous lake in Chinese fairy tale. We then drive to a local tea plantation to enjoy some of the best green tea in china. This tea was named as Emperor Tea in the Qing dynasty. Hermes Tours will host a farewell banquet for this tour. And this will give us one last opportunity to say farewell to our new travel friend.

#### Day 7 - Friday, Sept 28, 2012– Suzhou (B, L, D)

We enjoy a full day tour to Suzhou today. In Suzhou, we visit one of the most famous private gardens "Master of nets garden" where we can feel luxurious life of the ancient families who resided here. China is known for their silk and we stop at a silk factory to learn about the famous trade that is appreciated the world over.

#### Day 8 - Saturday, September 29, 2012 – Suzhou to Shanghai (B, L, D)

Chenghuang Miao (the old town of shanghai), the old Ming and Qing dynasty style house and old residential area will remind you china town, but here you will be impressed about the crowd. At night enjoy a cruise on the Huangpu River.

#### Day 9 – Sunday, September 30, 2012 – Shanghai (B, L, D)

After visiting the Jade Buddha Temple, we will check in hotel to catch some rest. To stand in the Shanghai Bund you will feel the development of China and be amazed of how modern the country (or at least Shanghai) is. We sail to the top of Jinmao Tower; the tallest building on mainland of China where we will stand on the top 88<sup>th</sup> floor of the building and enjoy one of the best views of the city of Shanghai.

#### Day 10 – Monday, October 1, 2012 Depart Home (B)

Our tour ends today after breakfast. You are free to make your return flight arrangements for anytime today.

**Afterward why not join us on our optional All Gay extension 3 night trip to Hong Kong!**

