

AUTHOR TRAVEL AGENCY

GO TO STAR

CHINA





About travel

Go to Star author travel agency invites you to China.

Ancient, mysterious, amazing China promises to become a new travel trend for the next 5 years. Like Russia, it is one of the few countries in the world where everyone can spend their dream vacation without having to choose between nature, interesting cultural heritage, modern art and gastronomy. An ancient civilization with a fascinating history of thousands of years, amazes with the monumental Great Wall of China, the mysteries of the Forbidden City and the tall skyscrapers of Beijing, the majestic mountains of the Zhangjiajie National Forest Park, known from the film "Avatar", and the incredible acrobatics of the art of Kung Fu, the achievements of traditional medicine, popular all over the world. The Chinese were the first in the world to teleport photons from Earth into orbit and surprised everyone with a giant leap of progress. In three decades the cities have become high-tech, the quality of life has increased, but the traditions have not gone anywhere, which makes the Celestial Empire a unique, original country as from another

planet — incredibly interesting, comfortable to visit and friendly.

With this trip Go to Star opens the cycle of tours to China. We have compiled the program of a small 9-day tour to accommodate the most iconic sights of China and the most impressive and diverse activities — from walking through the closed part of the Forbidden City to ride on cable car to Tianmen mountain — at a comfortable pace. The tour is ideal for a first introduction to China during a vacation with children.

China





Day 1

Arrival at Beijing airport. Walk through one of China's most beautiful parks, Yiheyuan, located in the Emperor's Summer Palace. Visit to Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, the former residence of the Chinese Emperor.



Day 4

Flight to Lijiang — a city at the crossroads of the Silk and Tea trade routes, which played the role of a kind of bridge between the West and the East.



Day 2

Excursion to the Temple of Heaven with its unique architecture. Visit Beijing's largest open-air antique market, Panjiayuan, where you can buy ancient paintings, porcelain and legendary Chinese teapots made of Yixing clay. Visit Chaoyang Theater, one of the oldest circuses in the world.



Day 5

Visit Baisha Village, one of the ancient settlements of the Naxi people, and the authentic Shuhe Ancient Town. Walking tour of the ancient part of Lijiang. Flight to Hangzhou, one of the seven ancient capitals of China, founded more than 2,000 years ago. Walking tour of the city. Visit to tea plantations and tea ceremony. Evening boat ride on the West Lake with sunset picnic.



Day 3

Visit one of the seven surviving wonders of the world, the Great Wall of China, by car. A walk through the Forbidden City, the former residence of the Chinese Emperor, including the part of the Chonghuagong Palace, an area generally restricted to the public. Private lecture "Chinese way of thinking through the prism of architecture of the Forbidden City". Discovering the ancient tradition of kite making in the studio of local artisans. Visit to galleries and photo exhibitions.



Day 6

Bicycle ride around the lake. Visit to seven Buddhist temples and monasteries. Flight to Zhangjiajie, a city with a national park of the same name, where the famous movie "Avatar" was filmed.



Day 7

Drive to Tianmushan Mountain and visit the Yellow Dragon Cave. The world's longest cable car (7455 meters) leads to the top of Tianmushan, and the ascent offers breathtaking panoramas of the surrounding mountains and forests. Visit the Buddhist temple "Heaven's Gate".



Day 8

Visit to the highest peak of the Zhangjiajie National Park, which offers a magnificent view of the surrounding area. Departure to Shanghai. Dinner inside the dome, on top of a skyscraper, overlooking Shanghai at night.



Day 9

Visit Shanghai Ocean Aquarium, one of the largest in Asia, with a 120-meter underwater tunnel. Visit Shanghai Zoo, the second largest zoo in China, where you can see 600 species of animal life from all over the planet. Explore the treasures of Chinese culture and architecture at the Shanghai Museum and Yuyuan Garden.



China



Hangzhou

Hangzhou is one of the seven ancient capitals of China, founded over 2,000 years ago. Marco Polo once called Hangzhou a paradise city, and today it still holds the title of one of the most beautiful in China: the picturesque West Lake, countless pagodas, temples, botanical gardens and famous tea plantations.

The city's calling card is the sacred for Buddhists Leifeng Pagoda, founded in 975 in the era of five dynasties and ten kingdoms by order of Qian Chu, the last king of Wuyue. It is located on the shore of the picturesque West Lake, and despite the proximity of the metropolis, this place breathes serenity and harmony, and lotuses bloom on the water surface in summer. For a long time it was considered a legend that near the pagoda there is a treasury with untold riches. But in 2011 such a burial place was really discovered — one of the main findings of historians was a metal case with the ashes of Buddha.



The Great Wall of China

The Great Wall of China — one of the most famous and impressive cultural monuments of China, and also — the longest artificial construction in the world. Its length is more than 21 thousand kilometers, and to walk along it, it will take more than a year and a half.

Now most of the wall is in a ruined state, but many sections have been restored and opened for tourists. Sections of the wall near Beijing, such as Badaling, Mutianyu and Simatai, allow you to climb up and enjoy views of the surrounding scenery, fortresses, towers and temples, many of which date back to the Ming dynasty. During the tour, you will drive to one of the sections of the wall where there are almost no tourists, and in almost complete solitude you will be able to see and feel the full power of the unique monument.







Zhangjiajie National Park

Remember the incredible soaring mountains in the movie Avatar? It seems that all this is a skillful computer graphics, but in fact the prototype of fantastic landscapes were the mountains in the Zhangjiajie National Forest Park, where the movie was filmed. Back in the 90's the park was included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites — and it's not just the mountains. Hundreds of species of flowers, shrubs and trees grow among the picturesque sandstone and quartz pillars, red-listed golden pheasants and Chinese giant salamanders — the largest amphibians in the world.

The symbol of the park is Tianmenshan Mountain, which is reached by the longest cable car in the world (7455 meters). The final point of the journey is the huge through cave "Heaven's Gate", which can be accessed via the famous glass path along the cliff slope if you wish. Looking under your feet at an altitude of 1,450 meters is an unforgettable experience for thrill-seekers.





Shanghai Ocean Aquarium

Opened in 2002, the Shanghai Ocean Aquarium is home to China's endangered aquatic life. There are over 450 species of marine animals in total, including dolphins, whales, sharks, sea lions, and jellyfish — all housed in different zones, each representing a different type of marine environment.

The highlight of the ocean aquarium is the 120-meter underwater tunnel, one of the largest in the world. The route passes through coastal reefs, open ocean, caves, shark cove and coral reef. And after the impressive walk, you can watch a show featuring dolphins and sea lions.





China



Yuyuan Garden

Yuyuan Garden is an example of ancient architecture from the Ming Dynasty in southeastern China, built in the Suzhou architectural style in 1577. Over the centuries it has been restored many times, and now on an area of more than 2.5 hectares you can see not destroyed architectural monuments, but the very paths, pavilions and pagodas, 500-year-old magnolia and bamboo thickets, which contemplated the emperors of the past.

In the Garden of Joy, you can not only admire the landscaping, but also look into the Book Study, Chamber of the Ten Thousand Flowers and Yuhua Hall. The galleries display rare examples of traditional paintings, calligraphy and porcelain ware.





Baisha Village

The traditional village of the Naxi people, located 10 kilometers from Lijiang City, will take you to a different China and take you centuries back in time. There are no high-rise buildings or offices here — the locals still live in ancient dwellings, wear traditional clothes, use unique pictography as a script, keep the secrets of national medicine and even conduct shamanic rituals. Two important trade routes once passed through this village: the Great Silk Road and the Tea Road.

Connoisseurs of Chinese culture come here to view rare murals created over 1,000 years by Dongba artists and Tibetan lamas — unique examples of Chinese mural painting.





China



Traditional Chinese cuisine

Chinese cuisine, the foundations of which were laid in the 5th millennium BC, are bright flavors, unusual ingredients and the combination of incongruous. Gastronomy here has always been different from European gastronomy: for Celestial residents it is a real art, and balanced diet, visual aesthetics and minimal heat treatment.

The calling card of Chinese cuisine is Peking duck, the recipe for which was first written down by court physician Hu Sihui in 1330. Nowadays everyone can try it, but in XVIII this delicacy was available only to emperors and aristocracy. The secret of duck is not only in the method of cooking, but also in the choice of the bird itself: for the right balance of meat and fat white duck of Beijing breed is fed in a special way. And in order to properly gut the bird and prepare the delicacy, the chefs undergo a long training course. The result is tender meat in a crispy honey crust, which is served with thinly sliced vegetables, young onions, sauces, garlic paste and sugar.

China





Journey cost

10 100 USD

per person for
a group of 8 people

The price includes:

- domestic flights;
- accommodation throughout the route in 5* hotels (double room);
- transportation according to the program;
- meals (breakfasts, lunches and dinners);
- sightseeing program and activities;
- professional certified guide.

Additional expenses:

- international flight;
- meals outside the program, alcohol;
- any change of program involving expenses;
- tips for the guide team.



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