

## 12-Day China Drama & Costume Tour

### Itinerary:

**Day 1:** Depart on your flight to Beijing, China. The adventure begins!

**Day 2:** Arrive in **Beijing**; guided hotel transfer. **D**

**BEIJING** - The capital of China, where many miraculous structures have been built for the glory of the Emperor! This city is rich in history & culture.

**Day 3: Beijing:** The day will begin with a visit to **Tian-An-Men Square**. Then you will go to the majestic **Forbidden City**. In addition to seeing the buildings and grounds of the Emperor's palace, you will also see the **Emperor's clock collection and the Qing Dynasty Jewelry, Robes and Relics collection (which Westerners rarely see)**. After lunch we will take you to the **Silk Market**. **B, L**

**Day 4: Beijing:** Today you will begin the day going to the **Puppet Theatre**. You will go backstage, meet the actors, see a show and see a private room where they have an excellent collection of puppets including the traditional Chinese rod puppets. **After lunch** you will be taken to the **Temple of Heaven**, which is where the Emperor went every year to commune with the gods. Afterwards visit the **2nd Hand Street Market**, where you will find a wide array of items. **B, L, D**



**Day 5: Beijing:** Enjoy a **tour of a Chinese Hutong**. This includes a rickshaw ride, a short walking tour, and a visit to the home of a local family. These quaint dwellings are disappearing in the continual modernization of China. After lunch you will visit the **Central Academy of Peking**. **Here you will see some classes in session, view some demonstrations as well as receive a lecture** from a professor regarding the makeup, significance of the colors as well as the types of BJ opera characters, etc.



**Evening: Beijing Opera.** You will go early and observe the actors put on their makeup.

**Day 6: Beijing – train to Xi'an** Today you will visit the **Ming Tombs, the Ding Ling Museum**. You will be able to enter one of the tombs. In the **Ding Ling Museum** you can see artifacts and replicas from the tomb itself. They also have some **golden crowns, jewelry and Qing Dynasty robes**. You will stop at the **Cloisonné Factory** and see the process of making cloisonné. After lunch you will go onto the incredible **Great wall of China** (at Badaling). It is an incredible feeling to be standing on one of the Seven Wonders of the World, which is over 3,900 miles in length! Return to your hotel. Then you will be transferred to the train station for your **12-hour train to Xian**. **B, L, D**

**XI'AN** is the home of incredible archaeological discoveries and is the Eastern-most city of the Silk Road. The ancient emperor's burial sites can be found here.

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**Day 7: Xi'an:** You will arrive in the morning; guided hotel transfer. We will have breakfast and drop off your luggage before **taking you to the Shaanxi Traditional Opera Research (Shaanxi Folk Art School Institute)** where you will be given a tour and demonstrations. You can talk to some of the professors and students through your guide/interpreter. Then we will take you into the **Great Mosque and Muslim Quarter**. As we continue in this area we will take you to the ancient home of **Bei Yuan Men**. After a brief tour see this site's small but excellent **Shadow Puppet Theatre**. **B, L, D**

**Day 8: Xi'an:** Visit the World Class **Shaanxi Provincial Museum**, which exhibits the dynasties in order through the artifacts brassworks and cultural relics. After lunch you will take a **tour the old city of Xi'an** including the **Drum Tower, Bell Tower, and the famous City Wall**. **Wild Goose Pagoda by night** and observe their delightful water show. **B**

**Day 9: Xi'an - Shanghai:** Visit the **Terra Cotta Soldiers Museum & Replica Factory**. Oftentimes, one of the farmers who discovered the site is actually there. The museum has a 360-degree theatre which shows a dramatized history of how and why the Terra Cotta soldiers were created. Then we will transfer you to the airport for your **flight to Shanghai**; guided hotel transfer. **B, L, D**

**Evening Option:** We will take you to the **Historic Bund**, which is very beautiful in the evening lights.



**SHANGHAI - The East Meets West City.** This historic home of the European and American headquarters in China is still witnessed by the historic Bund. Today it is the top business center in China and reaching near Hong Kong status in the international world of business.

**Day 10: Shanghai:** The day begins with a tour of the world-class **Shanghai Museum**. This fantastic museum has a number of quality exhibits including an ancient coin collection and **on the fourth floor an ethnic minority exhibit which features their costumes, masks, and various implements and tools**. After lunch you will then see the **Private Lotus Show Museum** for tiny lotus shoes plus Qing Dynasty costumes, followed by a visit to the private **Blue Batik Museum and shop**.

**Evening Option:** You can go to a performance of the **world famous Shanghai Acrobats**. **B, L**

**Day 11: Shanghai - Suzhou:** Today we will drive to you Suzhou. We will take you to **Humble Administrator's Garden**. This is a classic beautiful large Chinese Garden **Then you will be taken to the much smaller, yet still gorgeous Master of the Net garden**. You will also visit the incredible **Embroidery Institute**, where Chinese masters do with thread what our Western masters did with oil paint. We will also visit the **Silk Factory**. Then you will be taken to the **Silk Museum**, which has many fine exhibits and products. **B, L**

**Day 12: Suzhou – Return to the USA:** We will transfer you back to the airport for your **flight back to the USA** with many wonderful memories. **B (meals on plane)**

**End of tour**

**Call us today and together we can create a program to present to your institution!** We will be delighted to answer questions & provide services and counsel to help you turn this exciting dream into a reality!

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