

Grand Luxe Cultural Journey

Beijing/Xian/Guilin/Shanghai

13 days/12 nights

Tour Code: 3CNCDGLUX1

Price: from \$8512^{CAD}

Validity: 2010 - 2011

A Fulfilling Learning Journey Led By Our Respected Chinese Scholar – Dr. Herbert Fong

Herbert Fong, a professional bilingual/bicultural American Tour Director, is also a renowned, erudite Chinese scholar.

Since 1980, he has led over 300 groups and VIP contingents to China, organized by private families, established corporations and university alumni associations, smoothing the path, guiding the way and bridging the cultural gap for many thousands of very satisfied seasoned travelers.

His decades of experience assures a carefree journey while his vast knowledge adds illuminating depth to a wide range of Chinese subjects.

Exclusive immersion activities add a special dimension and he tailors daily Cultural Talks and interactive exchanges to the special interests of his travelers. It's all presented in a friendly, respectful manner with a positive attitude and an easily understood speaking style.

Topics of Conversation include:

- **Chinese Art** – Jade, pottery, bronze, porcelain, painting, calligraphy, furniture, textiles
- **Chinese Fables** – Tales of mortal lovers, supernatural beings and otherworldly vixens
- **Chinese Cuisine** – Savory morsels, sweet sensations, fragrant teas, spirited beverages
- **Chinese History** – From pre-Beijing Man to China's dynamic place in today's world
- **Chinese Fashion** – 5000 years of personal attire and adornment in the land of silk
- **Chinese Customs** – Rites, rituals & traditions still respected after 100's of generations
- **Chinese Aesthetics** – Style/sensibilities of the traditional scholar/refined connoisseur
- **Chinese Inventions** – Much more than paper, printing, gunpowder, compasses & kites
- **Chinese Geography** – Yellow River, Himalayan Mountains, Gobi Desert, Grand Canal
- **Chinese Philosophy** – How Buddhist, Daoist & Confucian ideas guide Chinese thought
- **Chinese Architecture** – Chinese influence on Frank Lloyd Wright's prairie-style homes
- **Chinese Art Symbolism** – Bats & Peaches - Unspoken blessings in common depictions
- **Chinese Performance Arts** – Music, dance, opera, acrobatics, drama, storytelling, film
- **Chinese Classical Gardens** – Domestic retreats in microcosms of the big natural world
- **Chinese Written Language** – Decipher 3500 year old characters and present evolution
- **Chinese Contemporary Life** – Living in a country with 1/5th of the world's inhabitants
- **Chinese Classical Literature** – Sun Tzu/Zi's "Art of War" to Tang poet Li Bai's gems
- **Chinese Traditional Medicine** – Balance of Yin & Yang energy, "Qi/Ch'i" cultivation
- **Chinese Mandarin/Putonghua** – Characteristics of the language & often-used phrases
- **Chinese Significant Personalities** – Confucius, Qu Yuan, Zhuge Liang, Zheng He

Most importantly, your knowledgeable companion and gracious host, **Herbert Fong**, truly a gentleman and a scholar who understands both Eastern and Western ways, puts your well-being and enlightenment above all else, throughout the entire way.

Package Includes:

- Luxury 5-star plus hotel accommodations with daily ABF as listed in the itinerary
- Round trip airport/hotel/airport transfers
- Sightseeing tours as specified in the itinerary
- Lunches as specified in the itinerary with **FREE FLOW** of soft drinks, diet sodas, local beer
- Dinners as specified in the itinerary with one glass of soft drink, diet sodas or local beer
- Domestic air transportation based on coach class
- TOP English-speaking local guides
- Fully escorted by Dr. Herbert Fong
- **Luggage handling fee and tips to local operators porters, hotel porters**
- **Tips to Herbert Fong, local guides, local drivers**

Travel Agents Please Contact: 1-800-668-6889

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Itinerary:

Day 01: Arrive Beijing

After Chinese arrival formalities, meet our English-speaking local representative and transfer to your luxurious 5-star hotel, the Peninsula Beijing. After checking-in, the rest of the day is at your leisure. The ideal heart-of-the-city location offers easy walking access to many important historic landmarks, such as Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, also contemporary hotspots – Wangfujing St, Beijing's traditional main shopping area and an outdoor, colorful after-dark food market.

Accommodation: The Peninsula Beijing (5*) or similar

Day 02: Beijing (B/L/D)

After a sumptuous buffet breakfast in the hotel, there will be an Orientation for you to meet your fellow travelers and your professional bilingual/bicultural tour director, Herbert Fong. Mr. Fong will travel with you throughout this itinerary, smoothing your path, guiding your way and bridging the cultural gap. At this initial gathering, he will share information and ideas with you to help make your stay relaxed and comfortable. While on the road with you, he gives interesting and informative talks daily on Chinese Studies topics such as Art, History, Culture, Philosophy, Geography, Language, Literature and Contemporary Life, supplemented with specially prepared informational material for you to take home and helpful visual references.

Visit the relatively unknown Beijing Urban Planning Exhibition Center where a beautiful short film depicts the physical layout of the city so you can learn about your new surroundings. After a Chinese lunch, visit the vast Temple of Heaven complex (Tiantan Park, a UNESCO site), that was once a sacred area used only by the Emperors of China. Today this park is a favorite gathering spot for local residents, where they come to sing, dance, exercise and relax. Joining in on activities is a fun way to interact with everyday Beijingers. Returning to the hotel in the mid-afternoon gives you some free time to rest or explore on your own before a delicious Peking Duck welcome banquet in the hotel's elegant Chinese restaurant, one of the city's finest establishments.

Day 03: Beijing (B/L/D)

Climb China's most important monumental feat, the Great Wall (UNESCO site). At this awe-inspiring and less visited Mutianyu section, you take a scenic gondola ride to the wall at the top of the mountain. You will have time to enjoy the area, photograph majestic views and ride back down. Have local home-style cooking before heading back into town, going by the 2008 Olympic Village's signature buildings, the Bird's Nest and the Water Cube. Enjoy the luxury of dining in the Peninsula Hotel on delectable Western/International cuisine for your evening's repast.

Day 04: Beijing (B/L)

Stroll through Tiananmen Square, China's historic heart of jubilation and also turbulence for almost a century. Onward to the resplendent Forbidden City/Palace Museum (UNESCO site). Walk through the world's largest royal home and learn about important treasures of the Imperial collection on display in the vast inner courts. After a Chinese lunch along the way, go for a ride on a two seat, pedicab/trishaw, with someone peddling you through the charming Hutong lanes of old Beijing. Visit with a local family residing in a typical quadrangle home. Tonight, you are free to explore and dine on your own.

Day 05: Beijing/Xian (B/D)

Fly to Xi'an, the country's capital for 1100 years. After landing, visit Han Emperor's tomb, Yangling, learn about life and culture during the Han Dynasty (206 BCE-220 CE). See seldom viewed pottery burial objects. This period is so important in Chinese history that 92% of China's population today self-identify as being of Han descent. Check in at the city's newest and finest hotel, the Shangri-la Xi'an, located in the upmarket hi-tech development district. Tonight, an entertaining evening awaits you at the famous Tang Dynasty Dinner Theatre where you enjoy music and dance of the 7th century Chinese Imperial Court, when this was the world's leading metropolis with over one million residents and many of them were from distant lands, like Persian merchants, Tibetan monks, Japanese students and Mongolian horsemen.

Accommodation: Shangri-La Hotel Xian (5*) or similar

Day 06: Xian (B/L)

Drive to see the famous Terracotta Warriors and Horses underground army pits of the 1st Qin Emperor (3rd century BCE), that were uncovered in 1974 by farmers who were digging for a well. Thousands of these life-size pottery effigies have been unearthed and no two are alike; each one was modeled after a real person. They were made to protect the Emperor Qin Shihuangdi in the afterlife and a Circlevision film reenacts the related events of 2300 years ago. This UNESCO site is recognized by many scholars as the world's most important archeological find of the 20th century. A tasty dumpling feast is arranged for your lunch, a local treat at the famous De Fa Chang Restaurant. We then go to the underground vault of the Shaanxi Provincial Museum, where you have the rare opportunity to hold and inspect specially selected unearthed works of art that were made thousands of years ago, some of which date back to the early Western Zhou Dynasty (1045 – 770 BCE). This much-coveted invitation-only experience is extended to Pan Pacific Journeys' travelers. Dinner is on your own account tonight.

Day 07: Xian (B/L/D)

A full day excursion through the fertile Yellow River area countryside takes you to see the rarely visited Tang Dynasty (618-907) Qianling Imperial Tomb, with stone animals and human figures that have been guarding the area for 1300 years. Step underground to the Tomb of Tang Princess Yongtai, where you will walk where few have been, see murals depicting court life and understand the customs of that time. Along the way, learn about everyday life for local farmers and visit a typical cave home. A northern Chinese lunch is served during your travels and a Western / International dinner awaits you at the hotel.

Day 08: Xian/Guilin (B/D)

Visit the Small Wild Goose Pagoda, situated in a tranquil park where there are trees that were planted over 1000 years ago. Fly to picturesque and relaxing Guilin, where you enjoy Nature's wonderful work and saunter through the lovely Reed Flute Cave to gaze at stalagmites and stalactites that are still growing. Spend the night at the convenient Sheraton Guilin, where the front door faces the famous Li River. A scrumptious southern-style Chinese meal is arranged for you at the hotel and an active night market is just a few steps away.

Accommodation: Sheraton Guilin or Shangri-La Hotel Guilin (5*)

Day 09: Guilin/Yangshuo (B/L)

Sail down the lovely Li River. The peaceful limpid water and otherworldly limestone Karst formations (UNESCO site) come together to form unforgettable panoramas. Lunch is served onboard. Arrive at Yangshuo, where the most stunning scenes of the river vie for attention. Check into a centrally located 5 star hotel, the best available. Have fun bamboo rafting on the calm river while enjoying the breathtaking natural scenery. You'll have free time to explore this picturesque little town and have dinner on your own. Local crafts and eager vendors await you at a nearby 1400 year old market.

Accommodation: Green Lotus Hotel Yangshuo (5*)

Day 10: Yangshuo/Guilin/Shanghai (B)

Fly to the rapidly changing, ever-updating, cosmopolitan Shanghai, where old lanes give way to modern thoroughfares and stiletto heels walk on roads where bound feet once stood. Stay at the new, tastefully appointed Peninsula Shanghai hotel, ideally situated on the famous Bund, offering you unsurpassed luxury and an unparalleled location. You have free time to head out for a stroll and feel the upbeat energy of the city. Internationally acclaimed foreign chefs and local cooks carrying on family traditions proudly present their culinary talents here to discerning palates. Maybe dine at one of the many fine local eateries or enjoy a glass of wine while overlooking the active and dazzling Huangpu River.

Accommodation: The Peninsula Shanghai (5*) or similar

Day 11: Shanghai (B/L/D)

You have a fascinating morning stroll from the hotel, the site of the former British consulate, through the historic Bund/Waterfront area. Have a typical Shanghainese lunch and then off to the world-famous Shanghai Museum, where you can use an audio inforguide to enjoy this thoughtfully curated, distinguished art collection at your own pace. Fine Chinese pieces, from Neolithic to contemporary, pottery to porcelain, bronze to jade, sculpture to furniture are all represented. Have time to freshen up and enjoy a sumptuous Western/International dinner at the hotel before going to see an astonishing Chinese acrobatic performance.

Day 12: Shanghai (B/D)

Drive to the charming ancient town of Zhujiajiao, where you see typical Yangtze Delta architecture. Walk through a traditional garden home. Cruise on a branch of the Grand Canal. After returning to the hotel, lunch is on your own and the afternoon is at your leisure. A special farewell dinner is arranged at a wonderful local restaurant uniquely featuring carefully prepared tea-related connoisseur Shanghai cuisine, to feast your eyes and please your palate.

Day 13: Exit Shanghai (B)

Departure transfer to airport for the flight to your destination.

Exclusions

- Personal expenses
- Airport tax and fuel surcharges

Tour Prices – In CAD

Arrival Thursday	Departure Tuesday	Package Rate	Single Supplement	Extra Night in Beijing – Per Twin/Single Room	Extra Night in Shanghai – Per Twin/Single Room
3/25	4/06	8512	2127	398	481
4/15	4/27	8960	2287	398	481
5/13	5/25	9184	2496	513	481
6/17	6/29	8833	2287	398	481
7/22	8/03	8833	2287	398	481
9/02	9/14	9329	2656	513	481
9/16	9/28	9329	2656	513	481
10/07	10/19	9329	2656	513	481
10/21	11/02	9329	2656	513	481
11/04	11/16	8993	2287	398	481

B = Breakfast
 L = Lunch
 D = Dinner
 SD = Special Dinner