Imperial China: Xi'an to Hong Kong

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Overview

The Highlights

- Nine nights on board the luxurious *Golden Eagle Silk Road Express;*

- Accommodation at five-star Ritz-Carlton in Xi'an (or similar) for one night;

- Accommodation at at five-star hotel in Hong Kong for one night;

- City tours highlighting the rich history of imperial China;

- Cruise on the Yangtze River, admiring the Three Gorges Dam and incredible scenery;

- Exclusive porcelain art workshop;

- See the Giant Pandas in Chengdu and learn of their conservation efforts;

- Private visit and performance at the Sichuan Opera Theatre;

- Private cruise along the Lijiang River;

- Fully inclusive meals, drinks, gratuities, touring, & transfers.

The Tour

Journey through imperial China on the *Golden Eagle Silk Road Express* and discover the rich cultural history of iconic UNESCO World Heritage sites such as the Forbidden City, Great Wall, Longmen Grottoes and Terracotta Warriors.

Visit the Giant Pandas in Chengdu; learn the ancient art of porcelain-making in Jingdezhen and admire the Three Gorges Dam from the Yangtze River. The buzzing cities of Shanghai and Hong Kong showcase China's modern technology and culture. This is China at its most captivating—an elegant, all-encompassing adventure through a land where history and innovation meet.

Itinerary

Day 1: Xi'an, China

Upon arrival in Xi'an, you will be met and transferred to the five-star Ritz-Carlton hotel for a one-night stay.

Take some time to unwind before joining your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception and Tang Dynasty themed dinner to commence your grand journey.

Day 2: Xi'an, China

Enjoy breakfast in the hotel before setting out to explore Xi'an's ancient city walls, one of the oldest, largest, and best-preserved structures in the world. Visit the Great Mosque and stroll along the ramparts where imperial guards once stood, and admire the panoramic views of the old town.

Following lunch at a local restaurant, visit the Terracotta Warriors — 6,000 life-size figures standing guard over the tomb of China’s first emperor. These status are considered one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the 20th century.

Board the *Golden Eagle Silk Road Express,* where you can unwind in the comfort of your private cabin before a grand dinner in the dining car.

Overnight onboard the train.

Day 3: Luoyang, China

Awaken in Luoyang, a city with over 4,000 years of history and once the capital of 13 dynasties.

After breakfast on board, visit the awe-inspiring Longmen Grottoes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where more than 100,000 Buddhist statues and 60 stupas are carved into the limestone cliffs along the Yi River.

Continue to the legendary Shaolin Temple, situated at the foot of Mount Song, the spiritual birthplace of both Zen Buddhism and Kung Fu. Wander the beautiful courtyards where monks still train and witness martial arts performances.

Head back into town and sample local specialties, such as water banquet dumplings, before rejoining the train for dinner and overnight on board.

Day 4: Beijing, China

Begin your day with a visit to the legendary Great Wall at Badaling. Explore the beautifully restored section and take in the breathtaking views of the countryside.

Join your fellow travelers for a special lunch: a traditional Peking Duck feast at one of Beijing's most popular restaurants.

This afternoon, immerse yourself in the wonders of imperial Beijing with a full-day exploration of iconic ancient landmarks, including Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the Summer Palace.

Alternatively, you may choose to experience modern Beijing, with visits to the Olympic Village, CCTV Tower, and the world-class National Museum.

Rejoin the train for dinner and drinks, and overnight on board before heading to your next destination.

Day 5: Shanghai, China

After a leisurely morning and lunch on board the train, disembark for today's adventure in Shanghai.

Head first to the iconic Shanghai Tower, China's tallest skyscraper and home to the J Hotel's celestial lounge, where you'll have an unforgettable afternoon tea on the 120th floor. Sample rare teas and exquisite pastries while enjoying the unparalleled views.

In the evening, step aboard a luxurious private yacht for an enchanting cruise along the Huangpu River. A special dinner blending Shanghainese and international cuisine will be served as you drift past the illuminated buildings of this modern city.

Overnight on board.

Day 6: Jingdezhen, China

Your day begins in the legendary porcelain capital of Jingdezhen, with a visit to the Jingdezhen Chinese Ceramic Museum-showcasing over 2,000 years of ceramic artistry. Our expert guides share stories of emperors and artisans who helped shape this global legacy.

Continue to the Ancient Kilns & Folk Customs Expo Area, where centuries-old dragon kilns still burn with tradition. Here, you are given the opportunity to work alongside master potters and take part in a hands-on porcelain experience-shaping, carving, and painting your own ceramic creation using time-honored techniques.

Rejoin the train for dinner and overnight on board.

Day 7: Yichang, China

Begin your day in Yichang, the gateway to the majestic Yangtze River, with an exclusive chartered boat trip through the striking Natural Grand Canyon, stretching from the awe-inspiring Three Gorge Dam to Gezhouba. Take in the scenic views as you glide through this picturesque landscape, including the Three Gorges Dam - the world's largest hydroelectric power station - and the Gezhouba Dam, both impressive symbols of China's engineering prowess.

A sumptuous lunch is served on the boat, featuring freshly-caught Yangtze fish and Sichuan-inspired delicacies.

After an unforgettable cruise, rejoin the *Golden Eagle Silk Road Express* for dinner, drinks, and an overnight onboard.

Day 8: Chengdu, China

Enjoy breakfast on board as the train arrives in Chengdu, Sichuan's capital.

We'll begin our day of exploration at the world-renowned Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. Here you will get a heartwarming glimpse into one of China's greatest (and cutest!) conservation successes.

Later, attend the Sichuan Opera Theatre, where you will witness an intimate, exclusive performance featuring radiant silk costumes and the art of bian lian (where performers quickly change masks to depict various emotions).

Dinner and overnight on the train.

Day 9: On board

Today is yours to relax on board the train. Take in the scenic views of the countryside in the Observation car, unwind in the comfort of your cabin, or get to know your fellow guests over cocktails.

Day 10: Guilin, China

Today, embark on a privately chartered cruise along the Lijiang River, traveling from Guilin to the riverside town of Yangshuo. Admire the peaceful villages, lush countryside, and tranquil scenery along the way - offering a glimpse into rural life in China.

In the evening, board an exclusive fishing boat for a serene sunset voyage and witness the age-old tradition of cormorant fishing.

Following, rejoin the train for a farewell dinner on board as you depart for Hong Kong, your final destination.

Day 11: Hong Kong, China

Enjoy a peaceful morning as you arrive in Shenzhen and make your way across the border into Hong Kong, where you will check into a five-star hotel for a one-night stay. Here, explore this wonderful city at your leisure.

You may wish to browse the designer boutiques and heritage streets of Central, admire the city's iconic skyline from the Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront, or simply unwind in the comfort of your hotel and reflect on your journey.

This evening, join your fellow guests for a memorable Farewell Dinner at the hotel and celebrate the finale of your adventure.

Day 12: Hong Kong, China

This morning, transfers are included to the airport to meet your departing flight.

Dates & Prices

2027 Dates

April 16 - April 27

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Superior Cabin Twin/Double	$27,500	$45,900	25%
Han Dynasty Suite	On request	On request	25%

All prices are per person.

2028 Dates

April 15 - April 26

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Superior Cabin Twin/Double	$28,900	$48,200	25%
Han Dynasty Suite	$89,000	$178,000	25%

All prices are per person.

More

A Chinese visa may be required for your journey, depending on nationality.