

16-Day Japan and China Discovery Tour

Trip overview

Immerse yourself in the ultimate cross-cultural journey through East Asia with our meticulously crafted 16-Day Japan and China Discovery Tour. This private, chauffeured expedition seamlessly bridges the serene traditions and hyper-modern skylines of two mesmerizing nations. Begin your adventure in Japan, tracing a path from the neon-lit energy of Tokyo and the misty hot spring valleys of Hakone to the timeless imperial shrines of Kyoto and ancient Nara. Then, cross the sea to China to stand atop the monumental Great Wall in Beijing, come face-to-face with the mystical Terracotta Army in Xi'an, and conclude your grand voyage amidst the colonial elegance and futuristic heights of Shanghai. Designed for discerning travelers, this curated itinerary offers the perfect balance of iconic World Heritage sites, deep-dive cultural masterclasses, and unhurried premium relaxation.

- **Durations:** 16 Days
- **Destinations:** Tokyo - Hakone - Kyoto - Beijing - Xian - Shanghai
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://asiachinatour.com/16-day-japan-and-china-discovery-tour/>

Itinerary

Day 1: Welcome to Tokyo — Arrival & Private Transfer

Touch down in Tokyo, where your journey into the captivating heart of Japan begins. After clearing customs, step into the arrival hall where your private driver will be waiting to welcome you with a personalized name board. Leave the navigation and airport hustle behind as you slide into the comfort of your private vehicle for a smooth, direct transfer into the city center.

As Tokyo's iconic neon-lit skyline rises around you, get your first sensory taste of this hyper-modern metropolis. After arriving at your hotel and completing a seamless check-in, the remainder of the day is yours to unwind at your own pace. Shake off the jet lag with a quiet stroll through the local neighborhood, or relax with a warm bowl of authentic ramen nearby as the city hums around you.

Expert Journey Insights:

To ensure a completely seamless arrival regardless of whether your flight lands at Haneda or Narita Airport, your private chauffeur tracks your flight status in real-time to adjust for any early

arrivals or delays, greeting you immediately outside the baggage exit. We highly recommend utilizing this first evening to gently acclimate to the local time zone by enjoying a casual walk around your immediate neighborhood or resting early, as the upcoming days feature extensive walking across Tokyo's diverse districts. If you require pocket Wi-Fi devices, local SIM cards, or wish to exchange currency, our team can guide you to the most efficient airport kiosks right before you meet your driver so you can step into the city fully connected and prepared.

Day 2: Icons of Tokyo — From Ancient Sanctuary to Neon Horizons

Meet your private local guide in the lobby this morning to dive into the beautiful contradictions of Tokyo's past and future. Begin your exploration at the majestic **Meiji Shrine**, passing through towering wooden *torii* gates into a peaceful, 170-acre forest hidden in the heart of the metropolis. Walk the gravel pathways lined with towering cedar trees and, if you are lucky, glimpse a traditional Shinto wedding procession gliding silently across the courtyard. Step directly from this spiritual oasis into the high-fashion energy of **Omotesando**. Stroll down this elegant, tree-lined boulevard—often called Tokyo's Champs-Élysées—to admire its striking avant-garde architecture and world-class flagship boutiques.

In the afternoon, cross the city to Asakusa to experience Tokyo's oldest soul at **Senso-ji Temple**. Pass beneath the massive red paper lantern of the Kaminarimon (Thunder Gate) and wind down Nakamise Street, a vibrant market alley that has catered to pilgrims for centuries. Next, witness Tokyo's modern engineering prowess by ascending the magnificent **Tokyo Skytree**. From its high-altitude observation deck, marvel at an unparalleled, 360-degree panorama of the endless urban canvas below. Conclude your day amidst the kinetic energy of **Shibuya**, where you can join the organized chaos of the world-famous Shibuya Crossing and watch the neon-lit city truly come alive.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:

Our route today is strategically split into a western morning and an eastern afternoon to minimize cross-town travel times, ensuring you spend less time navigating traffic and more time fully immersed in the sights. To guarantee an unhurried experience, your admission tickets for the Tokyo Skytree are pre-booked with fast-track entry slots, allowing you to bypass the long general admission lines completely. We highly recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes today as Tokyo's historic sites and vibrant shopping streets are best explored on foot, and your guide will gladly help point out the best elevated photography vantages around Shibuya Crossing to capture the ultimate twilight shot of the intersection away from the heavy street-level crowds.

Day 3: Tokyo Culinary Masterclass & Heritage Gardens

Begin your morning diving into Tokyo's legendary food culture at the vibrant **Tsukiji Outer Market**. Walk the lively, narrow lanes lined with multi-generational stalls, taking in the sights and scents of fresh seafood, rolled omelets (*tamagoyaki*), and artisanal kitchen knives. After exploring the market, elevate your culinary skills with an **authentic private sushi-making masterclass**. Under the patient guidance of a professional local sushi chef, learn the delicate arts of slicing pristine fish and perfecting the pressure of *shari* rice. Savor your own handcrafted creations for a rewarding, memorable lunch.

In the afternoon, escape the urban rush within the tranquil borders of **Hama-rikyu Gardens**. Stroll along the winding pathways of this beautiful Edo-period landscape garden, admiring its unique tidal pond filled with seawater from Tokyo Bay. Pause at the floating lakeside teahouse to enjoy a bowl of whisked matcha and traditional sweets. Conclude your day by stepping from the historic past directly into Japan's dynamic pop culture. Visit a curated anime-themed cafe or interactive digital venue, offering a playful, fascinating look into the colorful animated universes and creative subcultures that captivate fans worldwide.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (Self-made Sushi)

Expert Journey Insights:

While the wholesale inner fish market relocated to Toyosu several years ago, the historic Tsukiji Outer Market remains the absolute heartbeat of Tokyo's street food and culinary culture, making it highly rewarding to explore with an appetite. Because Hama-rikyu Gardens sits immediately adjacent to the Tsukiji area, our schedule transitions seamlessly into the greenery without unnecessary driving, and we recommend trying the traditional hot matcha at the floating teahouse where you can look up to see the striking contrast of historic pavilions framed by Shiodome's hyper-modern skyscrapers. If you have specific dietary restrictions, allergies, or raw fish preferences, please notify your travel consultant well in advance so your private master chef can customize the ingredients for your sushi-making class to ensure a completely safe and delicious experience.

Day 4: The Romancecar to Hakone — Alpine Air & Onsen Relaxation

Leave the neon horizons of Tokyo behind this morning as you transition into Japan's dramatic mountain country. Utilizing your pre-arranged **Hakone Freepass and premium Romancecar tickets**, step aboard the elegant limited-express train at Shinjuku Station. Relax into your reserved seat for an effortless, scenic 90-minute journey, watching the urban landscape soften into rolling green hills, dense cedar forests, and misty valleys as you approach Hakone-Yumoto Station.

With all transit logistics seamlessly handled, the remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at an unhurried pace. Check into your traditional hot spring resort (*ryokan*) and embrace the art of Japanese relaxation. Change into a comfortable *yukata* robe and slide into the therapeutic, mineral-rich waters of the area's famous thermal hot springs (*onsen*). In the evening, savor an exquisite, multi-course *kaiseki* banquet served directly to your room or at a private dining pavilion, celebrating the finest seasonal and regional ingredients.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner (*Kaiseki*)

Expert Journey Insights:

To elevate your alpine experience, we highly recommend utilizing the hands-free luggage delivery service counter at Hakone-Yumoto Station before 12:30 PM, allowing you to drop off your bags and begin exploring the scenic trails or lakeside vistas completely unburdened. As you travel, the premium Hakone Freepass will grant you seamless, unlimited access to the region's iconic ropeways, mountain switchback trains, and scenic lake cruisers. Upon checking into your ryokan, please keep in mind that traditional onsen hot spring bathing is practiced completely naked with a pre-wash ritual required, and since these peaceful mountain properties are nestled far from late-night commercial districts, your exquisite multi-course kaiseki dinner operates on a precise culinary schedule—making an arrival before 5:00 PM ideal to enjoy the master chef's creations at their perfect temperature.

Day 5: Hakone at Leisure — Mountain Rhythms & Infinite Exploration

Awaken to the crisp alpine air and a traditional multi-course breakfast at your *ryokan*. Today is entirely yours to shape, offering the perfect opportunity to fully unleash the power of your all-inclusive **Hakone Freepass**. Design your own mountain adventure by seamlessly hopping between eight different modes of scenic transportation. You might choose to board the historic Hakone Tozan switchback railway as it climbs through lush ravines, ascend into the clouds on the Hakone Ropeway, or stand on the deck of a majestic pirate ship as it glides across the deep blue waters of Lake Ashi, framed by views of Mount Fuji.

If you prefer a more restorative pace, dedicate your day to pure relaxation. Indulge in the luxurious, quiet amenities of your hot spring resort. Spend hours soaking in the healing, mineral-rich thermal waters of the *onsen*, listening to the wind rustle through the surrounding forest canopy. Whether you choose a day of dynamic alpine sightseeing or absolute stillness, conclude your evening with another masterfully prepared regional dinner at your estate.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Expert Journey Insights:

To maximize a self-guided sightseeing circuit today, we highly recommend departing your resort by 9:00 AM to complete the classic Hakone Loop—encompassing the switchback train, cable car, ropeway, and Lake Ashi cruise—before the midday tour buses arrive at the major viewing points. Be sure to step off the ropeway at Owakudani Volcanic Valley to witness the active sulfur vents and sample the famous black chicken eggs (Kuro-tamago), which local folklore claims add seven years to your life. Because your Hakone Freepass also grants you discounted admission to numerous regional landmarks, it is a fantastic day to visit the world-class Hakone Open-Air Museum, and your ryokan front desk or our concierge team will gladly double-check the live mountain weather and visibility conditions for you first thing in the morning to ensure optimal views of Mount Fuji before you set out.

Day 6: Bullet Train to Kyoto — Journey to the Imperial Heart

Bid farewell to the misty valleys of Hakone this morning as you prepare to journey toward Japan's cultural capital. Utilizing your Hakone Freepass, take a scenic local mountain train or bus down to Odawara Station, the regional gateway for the high-speed rail network. Here, step onto the platform to board the iconic Shinkansen bullet train. Settle into your comfortable, reserved seat and marvel at Japan's cutting-edge engineering as you hurtle down the Tokaido line at speeds up to 285 km/h, watching the countryside stream past your window on a smooth, direct ride to Kyoto.

Arriving at the bustling Kyoto Station, make your way to your centrally located hotel to check in and unpack. The remainder of your afternoon and evening is completely free for you to get a first taste of this timeless city. Step out to explore the surrounding historic neighborhoods, watch the city light up along the Kamogawa River, or duck into a traditional wooden *machiya* townhouse for a bowl of Kyoto-style seasonal noodles as you acclimate to the rhythm of the old capital.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:

To ensure an effortless journey today, your Shinkansen tickets are pre-booked with reserved seating on the right-hand side of the train (going south), which offers an incredible, parting view of Mount Fuji on a clear day as the bullet train speeds past the town of Shizuoka. When navigating

Kyoto Station upon arrival, we highly recommend using the dedicated taxi stands located just outside the main Karasuma or Hachijo exits for a quick, direct ride to your hotel, rather than trying to puzzle out the local city bus routes with your daypacks. Don't forget that if you utilized our luggage forwarding service back in Tokyo, your large suitcases will be waiting safely for you at your Kyoto hotel front desk when you check in, meaning you can step off the bullet train and immediately begin exploring the historic Gion or Pontocho alleyways completely hands-free.

Day 7: Imperial Kyoto — Golden Pavilions, Shogun Castles & Ancient Verandas

Meet your private local guide and chauffeur in the lobby this morning to step into the soul of Japan's ancient cultural capital. Begin your journey at the breathtaking **Kinkaku-ji**, the iconic Golden Pavilion. Watch the top two floors, completely covered in brilliant gold leaf, cast a flawless reflection across the surrounding Mirror Pond, and learn how this former shogunal retirement villa became one of Zen Buddhism's most revered sanctuaries. Next, step back into the samurai era at **Nijo Castle**, the grand Kyoto residence of the Tokugawa Shogunate. Walk through the opulent reception chambers and listen to the famous "nightingale floors"—intentionally designed to chirp like birds underfoot to protect the Shogun from ninja assassins.

Dive into the culinary heart of the city at the historic **Nishiki Market**, a narrow, vibrant five-block alley packed with over a hundred lively stalls. Sample seasonal Kyoto specialties, from skewered seafood and traditional pickles to artisanal Japanese sweets. Afterward, elevate your cultural immersion by dressing in a stunning, hand-selected **traditional Japanese kimono**, meticulously styled by local experts. In your authentic attire, ascend the historic stone pathways of the Higashiyama district to **Kiyomizu-dera**, the "Pure Water Temple." Stand on its legendary, nail-free wooden veranda hanging 13 meters above the hillside to take in a spectacular, panoramic view of Kyoto framed by sacred maple trees.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:

Today's comprehensive exploration is thoughtfully paced with your private vehicle allowing you to smoothly cross between Kyoto's far western and eastern districts without wasting time on crowded public buses. To experience the serene, meditative atmosphere of Kinkaku-ji before the main tour crowds arrive, your driver will aim for an efficient morning departure, and we highly recommend wearing comfortable slide-on shoes today, as both Nijo Castle and the inner sanctuaries of Kiyomizu-dera require guests to remove their footwear before stepping onto their historic wooden floors. If you choose to participate in the optional kimono experience, your guide will adjust the walking route up the historic slopes of Ninenzaka and Sannenzaka to a leisurely pace, ensuring you have plenty of time for timeless, professional-grade photographs against the backdrop of Kyoto's most beautifully preserved wooden townhouses.

Day 8: Sacred Horizons — Fushimi Inari, Uji Matcha & The Great Buddha of Nara

Depart Kyoto this morning with your private guide and driver to explore the cradle of Japan's earliest faith and culture. Begin your day at the iconic **Fushimi Inari Shrine**, arriving early to walk beneath the mesmerizing, brilliant vermilion paths of the *Senbon Torii* (thousands of torii gates) winding up the sacred wooded mountain. Next, journey south to the historic riverside town of **Uji**,

the spiritual heartland of Japanese green tea. Step inside a centuries-old tea house to witness the meticulous artistry of matcha production, enjoying a private, interactive demonstration where you will learn to whisk the perfect, frothy cup of premium Uji tea alongside traditional confections.

Continue your expedition to **Nara**, Japan's first permanent imperial capital established in the 8th century. Your first stop is the magnificent **Nara Park**, a sprawling, verdant sanctuary where over 1,200 bowing, protected deer roam freely alongside visitors. Walk through the park to the awe-inspiring **Todai-ji Temple**, one of the world's most monumental timber structures. Step inside its grand hall to stand in the presence of the Daibutsu (Great Buddha), a colossal bronze masterpiece casting a quiet aura of tranquility for over 1,200 years. Conclude your curated day trip with a private tasting at a boutique, traditional **sake brewery**, sampling a flight of premium local sakes while learning how Nara's pure mountain spring water shapes Japan's national drink.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:

Today's journey is meticulously arranged in a smooth, geographic line heading south from Kyoto to Nara, allowing you to maximize your sightseeing hours while completely bypassing the midday crowds at Fushimi Inari by arriving just as the morning mist clears the lower gates. When interacting with the famous bowing deer in Nara Park, we recommend purchasing a small stack of official Shika-senbei (deer crackers) from local vendors and bowing gently to the deer first, as many have learned to mirror this polite Japanese gesture before receiving a treat. Please note that the full trail up Fushimi Inari mountain takes nearly three hours to climb, so your guide will strategically lead you through the stunning lower and middle gate loops—giving you the ultimate iconic photographs and temple context without exhausting your legs before walking the expansive stone grounds of Todai-ji.

Day 9: From the Kansai Capital to China's Imperial Heart

Enjoy a leisurely morning at your luxury estate before embarking on your international transit to China. Your private chauffeur will manage all luggage logistics and escort you in a premium executive vehicle straight to the terminal at Kansai International Airport. Bid farewell to Japan as you board your business or preferred class flight, enjoying a swift and comfortable journey to Beijing Capital or Daxing International Airport.

Your luxury China expedition begins the moment you touch down in Beijing. Your dedicated VIP specialist guide and private professional driver will receive you directly at the terminal exit, handling your luggage and escorting you to your waiting luxury vehicle. Enjoy a seamless, air-conditioned private transfer straight to your premium accommodations in the heart of Beijing. Once checked in, enjoy a completely open evening to relax in your room, order elite room service, or take a peaceful twilight stroll through the city's historic core at your own pace.

Meals: Breakfast

VIP Operator Insights:

For an absolutely seamless transition between these two countries, we highly recommend downloading and setting up WeChat Pay or Alipay on your smartphone prior to leaving Japan, linking your international credit cards so you can instantly enjoy cashless convenience at restaurants and shops the moment you step foot into Beijing. If your flight lands at Beijing's architectural marvel, the Zaha Hadid-designed Daxing International Airport (PKX), the drive into the city center takes roughly an hour via the efficient expressways, making it an excellent opportunity to chat with your expert guide about customizing the pacing for your upcoming

exploration of the Forbidden City. Rest assured that our regional teams remain in constant, synchronized communication behind the scenes, ensuring your luggage transfers and vehicle handovers line up flawlessly from the moment you leave your hotel in Japan to your arrival in China.

Day 10: Imperial Majesties — Private VIP Access to Beijing's Dynastic Core

Begin your immersion into China's imperial heritage alongside your private historical specialist guide and professional chauffeur. Your morning opens at **Tiananmen Square**, the grand symbolic heart of modern China, before you cross the threshold into the sublime world of the Ming and Qing dynasties. Step through the Meridian Gate into the **Forbidden City**, the world's largest and most impeccably preserved ancient palace complex. While standard tour groups are hurried strictly along the crowded central axis, your private expert will lead you on a curated, **12-point in-depth route**, guiding you through restricted eastern and western courtyards, opulent concubine chambers, and the imperial treasure galleries to reveal the deep-seated court politics and architectural secrets of its 500-year history.

For lunch, enjoy a reserved table at a premier culinary institution for a formal **Peking Roast Duck banquet**. Witness a private, tableside carving demonstration by a master chef who will skillfully slice the crisp, honey-glazed skin and tender meat, followed by a guided introduction to the traditional art of wrapping the duck with sweet bean sauce, scallions, and delicate pancakes. Spend your afternoon stepping down into the tranquil, historic rhythm of Beijing's **Hutong alleyways**. Wind through these beautifully preserved grey-brick lanes in a private rickshaw, stopping to visit a traditional courtyard estate (*Siheyuan*) to sip fine local tea and converse with multi-generational residents about the city's evolving local culture.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (Authentic Peking Duck)

VIP Operator Insights:

To provide an uncompromisingly seamless experience, our team secures your highly competitive Forbidden City passport-linked admission tickets well in advance, allowing you to bypass the chaotic ticketing windows and enter smoothly via our fast-track route. We highly recommend wearing comfortable, supportive walking shoes today, as exploring our comprehensive 12-point palace itinerary and wandering the cobblestone Hutongs will cover significant ground on foot. Please ensure you carry your physical passport with you at all times today, as it is strictly required for security clearance checks at both Tiananmen Square and the palace entrance gates, and your guide will seamlessly manage all checkpoint logistics so you can focus entirely on the breathtaking imperial scale around you.

Day 11: Altars of Heaven & The Great Wall at Mutianyu

Experience two of China's most profound historical symbols on a flawlessly paced, privately chauffeured expedition. Your morning opens with a private guided walk through the sacred grounds of the **Temple of Heaven**, arriving just as the park comes alive with local cultural rituals, martial arts, and classical music. Your specialist guide will decode the complex sacred geometry and numerology embedded within the Echo Wall and the Circular Mound Altar, offering a deep look into imperial cosmology.

Following a curated lunch showcasing authentic countryside cuisine, relax inside your premium executive vehicle as you travel to the spectacular **Great Wall at Mutianyu**. Enjoy VIP access and

bypass the standard transit lines to board the enclosed cable car straight to the apex of the battlements. Walk the pristine stone parapets alongside your expert storyteller, who will bring the military history of the Ming dynasty to life as you survey the endless mountain horizons, concluding your majestic day with a private mountain-view toast before your smooth return transfer to Beijing.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (Regional Countryside Specialties)

VIP Operator Insights:

Our routing to the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall is specifically timed to arrive in the early afternoon, a strategic window when the morning tour buses are already departing—leaving the wall exceptionally quiet and providing a near-private setting for your exploration. While walking the Wall involves navigating uneven stone steps and varying inclines, your guide will customize the pace to your exact comfort level, showing you the flatter, easier-to-navigate paved sections between watchtowers 14 and 20. Please note that all local park shuttle transfers and premium cable car fees are fully pre-arranged and included in your VIP package, ensuring a completely seamless, hands-free experience from the moment you step out of your hotel lobby to your return in the evening.

Day 12: The Summer Palace Lakes & The High-Speed Rail to Xi'an

Spend your final morning in the capital exploring the breathtaking landscapes of the **Summer Palace**, a masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design. Originally built as a luxurious lakeside retreat for the imperial court to escape the oppressive summer heat, this sprawling estate blends natural hills and open water with stunning pavilions, halls, and bridges. Take a peaceful stroll beneath the vibrant, painted beams of the famous Long Corridor, stretching along the edge of Kunming Lake, and admire the majestic Marble Boat resting by the shore before bidding farewell to Beijing.

In the afternoon, transition from the imperial past to China's hyper-modern present by boarding a sleek **high-speed bullet train to Xi'an**. Relax in your comfortable, reserved seat and experience the incredible efficiency of China's cutting-edge rail network as you race smoothly across the changing geography of the country's heartland at speeds of up to 350 km/h. Upon pulling into the ancient gateway city of Xi'an, your new local guide and private driver will welcome you at the station and transfer you directly to your central hotel for a restful evening.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:

To ensure a completely stress-free transition from the capital to the ancient silk road terminus, your morning visit to the Summer Palace is beautifully timed to allow for a relaxed exploration before your driver takes you directly to the Beijing West Railway Station. Your high-speed rail tickets are pre-booked in first-class or premium cabins, giving you spacious seating, individual power outlets, and ample overhead storage for your daypacks. Please keep your physical passport easily accessible when arriving at the railway station, as China's train network utilizes a fully digitized ticket system where your passport acts as your physical boarding pass to scan through the automated platform turnstiles, and your guide will walk you right up to the security gates to ensure a seamless departure.

Day 13: The Silent Army & Ancient Ramparts — Xi'an's Greatest Treasures

Prepare to come face-to-face with one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the 20th century. Meet your private guide and chauffeur in the lobby and travel to the **Terracotta Army Museum**. Step inside the massive excavation pits to gaze upon thousands of life-sized clay soldiers, horses, and chariots, each meticulously crafted with completely unique facial expressions over 2,200 years ago to protect China's first emperor in the afterlife. After uncovering the mysteries of this underground empire, step off the tourist path and visit a traditional cave dwelling (*Yaodong*). Here, meet a master local craftsman to discover the ancient techniques of molding and carving these clay figures, and enjoy a private, hands-on workshop to create your own mini terracotta warrior to take home.

Return to the city center to ascend the magnificent **Xi'an Ancient City Wall**, a grand defensive fortress that has stood proudly for over 600 years. Standing atop this remarkably preserved 12-meter-high structure offers a striking, panoramic view contrasting the historic, low-rise inner city with the soaring modern skylines beyond. Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the wide stone parapets, or rent a bicycle to enjoy a breezy, unforgettable ride along the complete 14-kilometer (9-mile) loop, catching glimpses of ancient watchtowers and bustling local life below as the afternoon light begins to soften.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:

To beat the massive tour groups and enjoy a much quieter, more atmospheric viewing of the Terracotta Army, your private vehicle will depart early this morning, allowing you to walk right up to the railings of Pit 1 before the midday crowds arrive. We highly recommend bringing a light jacket or cardigan today as the subterranean excavation pits are heavily climate-controlled and can feel quite chilly even during warm summer days. If you choose to cycle along the ancient City Wall, the full 14-kilometer loop takes roughly 1.5 to 2 hours of casual pedaling; your guide will help you select a well-maintained rental bike and will point out the best south-gate vantage points to capture incredible photographs of the watchtowers glowing under the evening lanterns.

Day 14: Silk Road Spice Markets & The Flight to Shanghai's Neon Skyline

Spend your final morning in Xi'an immersing yourself in the spiritual architecture and culinary aromas of this ancient crossroads city. Begin with a peaceful walk through the scenic, garden-like grounds of the **Small Wild Goose Pagoda** and the adjacent **Xi'an Museum**, discovering the grand urban layout of the city during its golden Tang Dynasty era. Continue to the magnificent **Big Wild Goose Pagoda**, a towering masterpiece of Buddhist architecture built to house the sacred sutras brought back from India along the Silk Road. Conclude your morning with a sensory feast in the bustling **Muslim Quarter**. Wander through the vibrant, narrow market alleyways lined with historic wooden storefronts, taking in the lively atmosphere while sampling unique local delicacies like savory hand-pulled *Biangbiang* noodles, lamb skewers, and persimmon cakes.

In the afternoon, bid farewell to the ancient capital as your private guide and driver escort you to the airport for your brief domestic flight to **Shanghai**, China's dazzling global metropolis. Welcome to the future! Upon touching down in Shanghai, your new local guide and private driver will meet you right at the arrival gate. Relax inside your private vehicle as you cross the river into the glittering city center, checking into your premium hotel for a restful evening to recharge before diving into the high-energy wonders of this ultra-modern megacity tomorrow.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:

To ensure a perfectly smooth transition from the ancient capital to the coast, we intentionally focus your morning on the peaceful grounds of the Small and Big Wild Goose Pagodas before heading into the high-energy Muslim Quarter for an early lunch, giving you a wonderful mix of culture and street food before your afternoon flight. Domestic flights within China are highly efficient, and your private airport transfer is timed precisely to allow for a relaxed check-in process. Please keep your physical passport handy in your daypack, as it is strictly required for checking in and passing through airport security clearance for all domestic flights, and your Shanghai guide will be waiting right outside the baggage claim area with a personalized name board to ensure you step into the city in total comfort.

Day 15: Shanghai's Dual Souls — 1920s Bund Architecture & The Sky-High Tower

Step into a day of dramatic visual contrasts, tracing Shanghai's journey from a historic colonial trading port to a glittering global financial capital. Meet your private guide and driver in the lobby to begin our exclusive **In-Depth Bund Culture Discovery Tour**. Go far beyond the standard tourist selfies along the waterfront promenade as your guide takes you inside beautifully preserved historic banks and hotels, stepping back in time to the golden age of the 1920s. Listen to the fascinating stories of typhoons, high society, and financial empires embedded within these magnificent art deco and neoclassical facades.

In the afternoon, cross the Huangpu River into the futuristic skyline of Lujiazui to ascend the magnificent **Shanghai Tower**. Standing as the tallest building in China and the second-tallest in the world, this twisted architectural marvel features a super-fast elevator that rockets you up to the 118th-floor observation deck in seconds. Stand at the glass edge to drink in a breathtaking, 360-degree panoramic view of the endless megacity below, watching the historic colonial buildings you explored this morning shrink into a beautifully detailed miniature world far below.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:

Today's exploration offers an incredible visual timeline of Shanghai's history, perfectly matching the low-rise historic charm of the west bank with the soaring skyscrapers of the east bank. To ensure an upscale and unhurried experience at the Shanghai Tower, your timed-entry tickets are pre-booked through our priority access channels, allowing you to bypass the long general admission lines at the base. We highly recommend checking the local weather app with your guide in the morning; if the high-altitude skyline is misty or cloudy, your guide can easily reverse the day's pacing—exploring the indoor architecture of the Bund first and saving the observation deck for the afternoon when the sky clears up and the city lights begin to blink to life.

Day 16: Fond Farewell — Seamless Departure from Shanghai

Savor your final morning breakfast in the dynamic city of Shanghai, taking time to pack your treasured souvenirs and reflect on the incredible memories made across Japan and China. When it is time to depart, your private guide and chauffeur will be waiting for you in the hotel lobby. Relax in the absolute comfort of your private vehicle as you are transferred directly to Shanghai Pudong or Hongqiao International Airport.

Upon arrival at the terminal, your stress-free travel experience continues. Your dedicated guide will assist you with managing your luggage, navigate you through the departure hall to your airline's premium check-in counter, and assist with all final customs declaration procedures. After helping you obtain your boarding pass, your guide will escort you right to the entrance of the correct security gate, wishing you a delightful and comfortable journey home as you prepare to board your flight.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:

To guarantee a perfectly smooth and unhurried departure, your private airport transfer is precisely scheduled to arrive at the terminal three hours prior to your international flight time, giving you plenty of buffer space for traffic and tax-refund processing. Please ensure that all liquid items, power banks, and lithium batteries are packed correctly according to international airline regulations; remember that power banks must be carried in your hand luggage rather than checked bags, and their capacity labels must be clearly visible for airport security inspection. Your guide will remain with you throughout the entire check-in process to handle any last-minute questions, leaving you completely relaxed and ready to enjoy your premium flight home.

Booking Policy

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation by Customer

- Cancellation received before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 20% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 40% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 70% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

Children Policy

The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults.

- For infant (<04 years old): Free of Charge
- 04 - 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate
- 04 - 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
- Above 11 years old with extra bed: 100% adult rate

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