

2-Week Beijing, Xi'an, Chengdu, Shanghai Educational Family Vacation

Trip overview

Embark on an unforgettable **2-week China family vacation** designed perfectly for parents and children alike. This carefully crafted itinerary balances China's awe-inspiring history with immersive, hands-on cultural activities that will keep kids engaged and parents relaxed. From walking the iconic Great Wall of China and meeting adorable giant pandas to cruising through the surreal landscapes of Guilin, we take care of all the logistics (family-friendly hotels, high-speed trains, and expert local guides) so you can focus on making lifelong memories together. It's the ultimate, hassle-free introduction to the wonders of China for the whole family.

- **Durations:** 13 Days
- **Destinations:** Beijing - Xian - Chengdu - Leshan - Shanghai
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://asiachinatour.com/2-week-family-vacation-to-china/>

Itinerary

Day 1: Welcome to Beijing — Stepping Onto Imperial Ground

Welcome to China! Your highly anticipated journey into the heart of the Middle Kingdom begins the moment you step off the plane in Beijing. As you clear customs, your dedicated personal local guide and professional private driver will be waiting to greet you warmly at the arrival hall. They will handle all of your heavy luggage and escort you to your private, air-conditioned executive vehicle for a smooth, comfortable transfer into the city. Along the drive, your guide will introduce you to the fascinating layout of Beijing's ancient ring roads and striking modern landmarks. Upon arriving at your hotel, your guide will personally manage the entire front-desk check-in process, ensuring you settle into your room effortlessly so you can relax, unwind, and begin adjusting to the local time zone in absolute comfort.

Meals: No meals included today

Expert Journey Insights:

Welcome to the start of an extraordinary adventure. To make your arrival completely seamless, our operations office tracks your flight status in real-time, meaning your guide and driver will be

waiting for you precisely on time, regardless of any flight delays or early landings. We know that long-haul flights can be draining; if you are concerned about jet lag, please let your guide know today. We can easily coordinate a late, relaxed start for tomorrow's sightseeing or adjust it to a completely free day of independent exploration to ensure you travel at your absolute best pace.

Day 2: Beijing's Living Heritage — Imperial Philosophies, Royal Academies & Authentic Hutong Courtyards

Begin your deep dive into the cultural soul of China at the peaceful, cypress-shaded **Temple of Confucius**, the perfect sanctuary to uncover the foundational traditions, social philosophies, and deep-seated beliefs that have shaped Chinese society for millennia. Just steps away, cross into the historic **Imperial Academy** (*Guozijian*), the highest institution of learning in dynastic China. Here, discover the incredible rigor of the ancient civil service exam system and sit back to enjoy an exclusive performance of *Dacheng* Rites Music—a mesmerizing blend of ancient court instruments, ritual chanting, and dynastic dances. Continue your morning to the vibrant **Lama Temple** (*Yonghe Palace*), a magnificent Tibetan Buddhist monastery renowned for its brilliant rooftop tiles, swirling incense, and a breathtaking, Guinness-record-holding Buddha carved from a single trunk of white sandalwood.

For lunch, indulge in Beijing's ultimate culinary crown jewel: authentic **Peking Roast Duck**, served as a premium, thoughtfully curated *à la carte* feast. To make the meal truly special, your children will have the exciting opportunity to practice their Mandarin by interacting directly with the staff, using a traditional Chinese menu to order their favorite dishes.

This afternoon, step back in time into Beijing's historic maze of narrow alleyways. Walk through the grand doorways of a traditional brick courtyard to visit a local **Hutong family**. Discover the timeless rhythms of multi-generational courtyard living and let your children experience a day in the life of a Beijing child. They will get to play traditional street games, learn historic courtyard study customs, and sample the nostalgic local snacks and sweet treats that neighborhood kids have loved for generations.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:

Today is an exceptional, deeply interactive day for families, seamlessly balancing profound cultural history with fun, kid-friendly immersion. The morning sights feature beautiful, open-air stone courtyards, so we recommend comfortable walking shoes. For the lunch experience, your expert guide will provide a fun, illustrated Mandarin cheat-sheet prior to arriving at the restaurant, giving the kids a wonderful boost of confidence as they try out their language skills with the local staff.

Day 3: Imperial Lake Sanctuaries & The Great Wall — Mountain Slides & Eco-Retreat Dining

Spend your morning exploring the breathtaking pavilions, covered corridors, and sweeping lake vistas of the **Summer Palace**. Originally built as a luxurious, breezy escape for the Qing Dynasty imperial family, this UNESCO World Heritage site blends grand classical palace design with vast, manicured lakeside gardens. Stroll along the famous Long Corridor, admiring the thousands of hand-painted traditional folk scenes, before heading north toward the mountains. Escape the usual crowds for a unique lunch at a beautifully converted eco-retreat nestled quietly at the foot of

the Great Wall. Once an active imperial glazed-tile factory that supplied roofs for dynastic palaces, this creative boutique property now serves delicious, organic farm-to-table dishes, offering your family a relaxing look into rural Chinese country life.

In the afternoon, ascend to China's most magnificent structural wonder: the world-famous **Great Wall**. You will visit the highly scenic, beautifully preserved **Mutianyu section**, surrounded by thick green pine forests. As you look up at the mountain ridges, notice five colossal white characters carved into the distant hillside facing the wall. Your expert guide will share the fascinating modern history behind what these giant characters mean and why they were placed there. To ensure the day is packed with fun for the children, take a scenic open-air chairlift straight up to the battlements, and finish your high-country exploration with an exhilarating, safe toboggan ride sliding all the way down the mountain on a winding steel track.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:

Today elegantly pairs imperial luxury with thrilling mountain outdoor adventure. The Mutianyu section is widely loved by families because it provides an outstanding mix of stunning, uncrowded watchtower views and fun alpine rides. While the chairlift and toboggan slide make ascending and descending incredibly easy and kid-friendly, walking along the wall's battlements involves navigating historic stone steps of varying heights; we highly recommend wearing sturdy, supportive athletic shoes and carrying lightweight sun protection for your mountain trek.

Day 4: Beijing's Green Urban Explorer — Eco-Transits, Iconic Squares & Legends of the Forbidden City

Embark on an exciting, eco-friendly urban adventure today as you navigate Beijing's heartbeat using the city's ultra-modern public transit network. Under the expert guidance of your local mentor, this journey doubles as an interactive cultural classroom—your children will love learning to decipher colorful Chinese transit signs, read station maps, and observe the lively, authentic daily routines of the local residents. Arrive first at **Tiananmen Square**, the vast, historic plaza that serves as the symbolic center of modern China. Walk past landmark political monuments and beneath the iconic portrait of Chairman Mao to cross into the majestic Meridian Gate of the **Forbidden City**.

Once inside this sprawling imperial palace complex of 9,999 rooms, your guide will bypass the standard dry history lectures, instead using vivid storytelling to bring ancient legends, court intrigues, and hidden architectural secrets alive for the kids. Your exploration will specifically target the unique courtyards, imperial gardens, and royal treasuries that naturally spark children's imaginations.

If you or your family would prefer a more relaxed pace, we can easily substitute public transit with a private, chauffeured executive vehicle at no additional stress.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:

Today offers an exceptional, hands-on opportunity for young minds to practice practical navigation and "street Mandarin" in a safe, highly controlled setting. Beijing's subway system is spotlessly clean, fully air-conditioned, and remarkably efficient. Because we will be walking through the expansive stone plazas of Tiananmen and the Forbidden City, please ensure everyone wears comfortable walking shoes and carries a refillable water bottle for this unforgettable day of royal

history and local lifestyle.

Day 5: Ancient Energy & Futuristic Tracks — Temple Grounds, Private Tai Chi Masters & High-Speed Rail to Xi'an

Step into a vibrant world of living culture this morning at the magnificent **Temple of Heaven**. More than just an imperial architectural masterpiece where Ming and Qing emperors once prayed for bountiful harvests, the surrounding parklands serve as the energetic backyard of Beijing's local residents. Stroll through the lively pavilions to see locals flying massive, artistic kites, practicing intricate water-calligraphy on the stone plazas, and dancing in unison. With your guide by your side, your family will jump right in, greeting the locals and practicing everyday Mandarin phrases in the warmest, most welcoming setting possible. Next, escape the park crowds for a completely private, exclusive **Tai Chi class** led by a renowned local Tai Chi master. Learn the fluid, meditative martial arts movements that have promoted balance and longevity for centuries—a beautiful, hands-on physical experience that children and parents alike will love.

At midday, bid farewell to Beijing as you board a sleek, bullet-shaped **high-speed train** bound for the ancient imperial capital of Xi'an. Settle into your comfortable seats and enjoy lunch as you race across the Chinese countryside at over 300 km/h (186 mph)—a thrilling, firsthand way for your children to experience the jaw-dropping technological development of modern China. Upon arrival in Xi'an, your new local guide and private driver will meet you right at the platform to escort you to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (onboard the train)

Expert Journey Insights:

Today elegantly bridges ancient traditions with futuristic infrastructure. The morning park visit is incredibly interactive, providing the perfect canvas for kids to put their Mandarin skills to use with friendly local grandparents. The bullet train journey to Xi'an takes approximately 4.5 hours and is smooth, remarkably quiet, and equipped with modern amenities and power outlets. Your guide will handle all train station security boarding protocols and luggage transitions, ensuring a completely stress-free travel day.

Day 6: Dynastic Secrets of Qin — Secret Archaeological Enclaves, Private Cave Estates & Imperial Cycling

Dedicate your morning to discovering the staggering scale of the **Terracotta Warriors**, a UNESCO World Heritage wonder. Beyond the standard public viewing platforms, your specialist guide will grant your family access to an unlisted, ultra-private museum facility. This exclusive experience bypasses the heavy commercial tourist tracks to offer a serene look at the masterfully preserved clay soldiers. Next, enjoy a private excursion to a traditional subterranean **cave estate**. Under the gentle guidance of your local artisan host, your family will enter a private studio to mold, carve, and replicate your own personalized clay warriors using authentic regional methods—a timeless, tangible heirloom from your time in Shaanxi.

After a masterfully prepared lunch featuring Xi'an's famous artisanal biang-biang noodles and dumplings, enjoy VIP access to the top of the magnificent **Xi'an Ancient City Wall**. Embark on a privately escorted bicycle expedition along the wide, stone-paved ramparts. Cycling this complete historical loop offers an unparalleled, panoramic view over the old and new quarters of the city, perfectly timed to catch the soft afternoon light striking the battlements.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

VIP Operator Insights:

All private entry permits for our unlisted museum experience, exclusive cave hosting fees, and premium bicycle reservations are meticulously coordinated by our local office. The clay warrior workshop is entirely private and takes place in a comfortable, family-run rural courtyard, ensuring a completely safe and relaxed environment for your children to get creative. For family members who prefer not to cycle on the City Wall, a private, open-air electric golf cart with a dedicated driver can be arranged effortlessly to accompany the cyclists.

Day 7: Soul of the Silk Road Capital — Architectural Casting, Home-Style Dumpling Making & Imperial Brush Calligraphy

Dive deep into the heart of China's ancient golden ages today, exploring how thirteen imperial dynasties shaped the cultural fabric of Xi'an. Begin at the world-class **Xi'an Museum**, which traces the spectacular transformation of the city from a rugged Western Zhou settlement into the glorious, cosmopolitan terminus of the Silk Road. Step outside into the tranquil courtyard gardens of the Tang Dynasty **Small Wild Goose Pagoda**. After admiring the multi-layered brick arches of this ancient architectural icon, your children will step into the role of a traditional builder. Using a fascinating, hands-on pattern-making method—an ancient casting and craft technique used by Chinese masters for thousands of years—the kids will create their very own 3D model of the pagoda to understand the genius of early Chinese engineering.

Next, experience the ultimate warmth of Shaanxi hospitality by visiting an energetic local family in their neighborhood home. Roll up your sleeves as your hosts teach you the delicate art of rolling dough, preparing savory fillings, and wrapping traditional Chinese dumplings. Share stories, practice basic phrases, and enjoy a vibrant family-style lunch together. Conclude your day at the **Intangible Cultural Heritage Museum** for a private, immersive calligraphy masterclass. Under the watchful eye of a master calligrapher, learn the precise wrist movements and brush strokes of this elevated art form, and watch your children proudly paint their own custom hanging scroll to take home as an unforgettable souvenir.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:

Today is carefully designed to offer a beautiful rhythm of relaxed museum storytelling, active engineering crafts, and heartfelt human connection. The pattern-casting architectural workshop is an excellent sensory activity that helps children visualize structural shapes. The home visit is a favorite for parents because it offers an authentic, unscripted glimpse into modern Chinese family life, and even the pickiest young eaters absolutely love devouring the dumplings they helped wrap!

Day 8: Railing into the Capital of Comfort — High-Speed Transits, Teahouse Culture & Sichuan Street Eats

Board a morning high-speed train and relax as you cut through the dramatic Qinling Mountains, racing toward Chengdu—a vibrant, sub-tropical metropolis world-renowned for its giant pandas and legendary culinary scene. Arrive in the afternoon and head straight to the beloved **People's Park**, the green heart of the city's leisurely lifestyle. Stroll down bamboo-lined walkways to see locals playing traditional music, singing, and practicing Tai Chi. Immerse yourself in Chengdu's

most famous custom by taking a seat at a bustling, open-air riverside teahouse. Sip fragrant jasmine tea from traditional lidded bowls while relaxing in low bamboo chairs, enjoying the slow-paced rhythm that makes this city so unique.

As evening falls, dive into the sensory wonderland of **Jinli Ancient Street**. Illuminated by rows of glowing red lanterns, this historic pedestrian market is packed with energy. Your guide will introduce you to Sichuan's iconic street food stalls. Treat your family to local favorites like savory sweet potato glass noodles, delicate Sichuan-style wontons in clear broth, and refreshing bean jelly in a rich, flavorful chili sauce. For the truly adventurous foodies in the family, your guide can help you sample a true local delicacy: slow-braised spicy rabbit head.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner (Street Food Tasting)

Expert Journey Insights:

Today is a feast for the senses and a fantastic way for families to slide into Chengdu's famously relaxed "slow life" (man shenghuo). The high-speed rail ride takes roughly 3 to 4 hours, offering a highly comfortable journey. The street food safari at Jinli is highly interactive; while Sichuan food is famous for its spice, your guide will expertly select non-spicy variations of wontons and noodles so that children can sample the rich flavors completely stress-free.

Day 9: The Colossus of Leshan — Cliffside Decents & Private River Cruises

Depart Chengdu this morning for a scenic **2-hour private drive south**, arriving in the historic city of **Leshan** by midday. After a relaxing lunch featuring legendary local specialties like sweet-skinned duck, your expedition to see the world's largest stone Buddha begins. Marvel at the **Leshan Giant Buddha**, a towering 71-meter (233-foot) masterpiece carved directly into the red sandstone cliff face over 1,200 years ago. Climb to the summit to stand level with the Buddha's massive, intricately detailed head, and then brave the narrow, winding stone plank pathway that hugs the cliffside all the way down to the riverbank. Standing at his base, your family will experience a true moment of awe when you discover you are only as tall as a single one of his giant toes.

To complete your exploration, step aboard a dedicated **river cruise** at the confluence of the Min, Qingyi, and Dadu Rivers. Drifting out into the currents offers a spectacular, unobstructed panoramic view of the entire mountain-sized sculpture, giving you the absolute best vantage point to photograph the colossal scale of this ancient spiritual wonder.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:

Today is a spectacular blend of light hiking, ancient engineering, and relaxing river vistas. The narrow stone staircase heading down the cliffside (Nine Turns Lingyun Road) can be steep and exhilarating for children; your guide will manage the pace carefully to ensure absolute safety. We highly recommend wearing sturdy hiking shoes or sneakers with excellent grip, as the historic stone steps near the water can occasionally be misty and damp.

Day 10: Quiet Bamboo Valleys & Traditional Art — Serene Panda Encounters, Simmering Hot Pot & Flight to Shanghai

Escape the morning city crowds and travel into the misty, forested mountains of the **Dujiangyan Panda Valley**. Nestled alongside tranquil running waters, this lush sanctuary provides a much

quieter, highly serene atmosphere with far fewer visitors than standard bases. Walk along shaded bamboo pathways to observe giant pandas munching happily on fresh bamboo right before your eyes. Nearby, enter the free-roaming ecological zone where curious red pandas explore the canopy freely—if fortune smiles on your family, one of these beautiful, auburn-furred creatures might walk directly past your path!

Celebrate your final afternoon in Sichuan with a legendary local culinary institution: an authentic **Sichuan hot pot** luncheon. Enjoy the interactive fun of simmering fresh vegetables, meats, and hand-pulled noodles together at your table in a rich, flavorful broth infused with aromatic Sichuan peppercorns (*if your family prefers a milder profile, a perfectly delicious, completely non-spicy savory broth is always provided*). Afterward, visit a peaceful Chinese painting studio. Under the patient guidance of a resident master artist, your children will learn traditional ink brushwork to paint their own custom panda masterpiece on parchment paper to carry home. Conclude the afternoon with a private transfer to the airport, boarding your evening flight to the glittering, futuristic metropolis of **Shanghai**.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (Sichuan Hot Pot)

Expert Journey Insights:

This day offers a brilliant combination of natural wildlife, rich flavors, and artistic expression. Panda Valley is highly favored for family travel because its spacious, uncrowded layout lets children view the animals comfortably without rushing. For the hot pot lunch, we always arrange a "split-pot" (Yuan Yang Guo) featuring one side of classic fiery broth and one side of comforting, non-spicy mushroom or tomato broth, making it highly customizable and safe for young palates. Your guide handles all airport check-in and domestic flight transitions smoothly.

Day 11: Deciphering the Megacity Metamorphosis — Neighborhood Market Safaris, Cloud-Piercing Spires & The Historic Bund

Uncover the fascinating secret behind Shanghai's legendary rise from a sleepy fishing village to a global megacity. Begin your morning with a rare, insider look into everyday local life at the **Caoyang New Neighborhood**, a historic, model residential district that showcases the evolution of modern Chinese community design. Stroll through the bustling stalls of the lively neighborhood wet market, where your family can sample fresh, crisp fruits and local morning snacks while practicing practical conversational phrases with the friendly vendors. Next, visit the community exhibition hall to trace the neighborhood's unique history, followed by a simple, comforting, and thoroughly authentic family lunch directly inside the bustling community canteen—a favorite gathering place for local residents.

In the afternoon, shift from grassroots charm to ultra-modern grandeur. Board a classic public ferry to cross the bustling Huangpu River, tracing the historical water highway of the city. Then, ascend into the clouds at the magnificent **Shanghai Tower**—the tallest skyscraper in China and the second-tallest in the world. Stand on the dizzying observation deck to admire panoramic, bird's-eye views of the urban landscape stretching to the horizon. Conclude your day with a sunset stroll along **The Bund**, where you can contrast the majestic, century-old European-style architecture on one side of the river with the glittering, neon-lit futuristic skyline of Lujiazui on the other.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (Community Canteen Experience)

Expert Journey Insights:

Today offers a brilliant study in urban contrasts that keeps both adults and children completely

captivated. The morning at Caoyang provides a genuinely rare, non-touristic glimpse into how modern Chinese families live, shop, and dine, making it a fantastic educational opportunity for young travelers to practice their language skills in a warm, welcoming environment. In the afternoon, the high-speed elevator ride up the Shanghai Tower is an absolute thrill for kids, blasting them to the top of the world in just seconds!

Day 12: The Grand Finale of Magic — Full-Day Shanghai Disneyland Adventure & Evening Castle Illuminations

After an incredible journey exploring China's ancient dynasties, towering monoliths, and hidden valleys, surprise your children with the ultimate reward. Today is entirely dedicated to creating lifelong family memories at **Shanghai Disneyland**—the newest and most technologically advanced Disney park in the world. Skip the hassle of public transit as your private chauffeur escorts you directly from your hotel lobby to the park gates. Spend the entire day immersed in unique, world-first attractions: race through a futuristic grid on the *TRON Lightcycle Power Run*, dive into an immersive battle with the *Pirates of the Caribbean: Battle for the Sunken Treasure*, and explore the world of *Zootopia*, a land exclusive to Shanghai.

As night falls, gather your family in front of the **Enchanted Storybook Castle**—the tallest and grandest of all Disney castles. Watch in awe as the night sky explodes with a breathtaking, state-of-the-art display of dazzling fireworks, sweeping projections, and classic music, providing a truly magical conclusion to your cross-cultural expedition.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:

This day is strategically placed at the end of the itinerary as an unforgettable high-energy reward for children. Shanghai Disneyland beautifully blends classic magic with distinct Chinese cultural touches, making it uniquely fascinating for international travelers. To maximize your family's enjoyment and beat the long queues, your guide will assist you with downloading the park's official app and provide pro-tips on utilizing Disney Premier Access passes for the most popular rides.

Day 13: Farewell to Shanghai — Seamless Airport Transit & Fond Memories of China

As your grand Chinese immersion comes to a close, take a final moment to pack away your cherished souvenirs and the unforgettable memories of the past two weeks. Your dedicated local guide and professional private driver will meet you in your hotel lobby exactly as scheduled, ready to handle your luggage with care and ensure a smooth, comfortable final transfer to **Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG)** or **Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport (SHA)**. As you head toward the terminal, your guide will remain on hand to assist with your final check-in procedures, ensuring your departure is as effortless as your arrival was. Safe travels on your journey home, and we look forward to welcoming you back for another unforgettable adventure in China very soon!

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:

Today's departure is the final, essential step in a perfectly paced journey. Our operations office will monitor your flight's status in real-time, and your chauffeur will be waiting in the lobby at the optimal time—calculated based on your flight's departure and current traffic patterns—to ensure you arrive at the airport with plenty of time for security, lounge relaxation, and duty-free shopping.

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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