WHY IMPERIAL TOURS

When selecting a company to manage your travel needs, we understand that you have a number of options available to you and that it can be difficult to distinguish between the services. We at Imperial Tours strive for the best and below are some aspects that make our company stand out from the others.

IMPERIAL MOMENTS
Our ambition is to give guests at least one "wow!" experience each day. By developing relationships with a broad range of specialists across the country and negotiating private access at prestigious sites, we created a rolodex of exclusive experiences. One of our earliest guests termed these "Imperial Moments", which we are delighted to make available to you through your journey.

CHINA HOST
The China Host is part cultural attaché and part traveling concierge. He or she is a Westerner who has been living in China for many years and speaks Chinese fluently. This gives you the best of both worlds. Your China Host knows where you are coming from and helps create the experience you seek in China.

HOTELS
Hotels are selected for their facilities, design, spaciousness, service and location. Our long-standing relationships with the best hotels and hoteliers result in preferential treatment for our clients in terms of room choice, service and amenities. For example, some hotels offer Imperial Tours' guests amenities like complimentary room upgrades.

RESTAURANTS
For most, dining is an integral part of any travel experience. Our restaurants are the best available in the destination and can introduce a vast array of experiences and flavors. Taking into account any dietary preferences you cite, we will design the menus throughout your stay to introduce you to popular dishes and regional styles so that you will get the most out of each and every meal.

PRIVATE CAR SERVICE
We provide the best available vehicles in each city. Our smallest vehicle is a Buick 7 seat MPV of high quality. Using Chinese and lesser quality vehicles is how other companies can cut costs, but we feel your comfort and safety should not be compromised. Upgrades to Mercedes, BMW or Rolls Royce vehicles are available.

SHOPPING
Most people traveling to China will be directed to one commission paying factory after another. We cannot abide by this practice. Instead, we keep abreast of the newest and most unique designers, showrooms and shops and relay this information to you. Ask your China Host for advice.

“I have to say that the Imperial Tours logistics were first class. Good clean spacious buses, and for once someone who understands that you don’t cram 7 people in a minibus. Well- chosen rooms, great selections of restaurants.”

“Your attention to detail provided many extra-special moments & gave us a priceless gift: an introduction to China we will always cherish.”

“We have traveled to all seven continents including organized tour requirements to places such as but not limited to Antarctica, Australia, Botswana, Galapagos Islands, Israel, Jordan, South Africa, Turkey & Zambia - it bears repeating, Imperial Tours is the BEST!”
**YOUR QUICK VIEW ITINERARY**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>Diplomatic Channel Airport Pick up&lt;br&gt;Luggage Porter Service&lt;br&gt;Transfer to Rosewood Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 8</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>Temple of Heaven&lt;br&gt;“Court Life in the Forbidden City” Lecture with Expert&lt;br&gt;Shufangzhai Special Access&lt;br&gt;Private Beijing Comfort Food Dinner Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>Great Wall at Mutianyu&lt;br&gt;“Court Life in the Summer Palace” Lecture with Expert&lt;br&gt;Imperial Summer Palace</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 10</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>Morning meeting with a local Foreign Relations expert (TBC)&lt;br&gt;Meeting with Journalist &amp; Writer Lijia&lt;br&gt;Lama Temple &amp; Confucius Temple</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 11</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>Meet with a Leader of China’s Business Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>February 12</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>Airport Transfer</td>
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<td>Xi’an</td>
<td>Fly to Xi’an</td>
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<td>Airport Pick-up- Luggage Porter Service</td>
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<td>Great Mosque &amp; City Wall</td>
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<td>Transfer to Ritz Carlton</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Xi’an</td>
<td>Terracotta Warriors</td>
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<td>Shaanxi Provincial Museum</td>
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<td>Tang Murals with Expert</td>
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<td>February 14</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Xi’an</td>
<td>Yangling Museum</td>
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<td>Airport Transfer</td>
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<td>Fly to Osaka</td>
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Upon arrival at Beijing International Airport, you will be met off the jet bridge and whisked through the airport’s Diplomatic Channel. No need to wait in line for Customs and Immigration, and no need to walk through the car park. Your car and China Host will be waiting for you at the airport exit. The China Host will accompany you during the remainder of your stay in China (our China Host acts as a personal concierge to you throughout your stay in China, allowing you to make changes as you see fit…this may mean adding a site or taking out a site, changing a restaurant or booking a foot massage!) Upon transferring to the hotel, you will have the remainder of the evening at leisure (no other services included this evening). (Please note that this itinerary assumes one transfer; additional transfers will be subject to an extra charge.)

You will be met at baggage claim by porters who will assist you.

(Rosewood Beijing - Grand Deluxe Room)
BEIJING
DAY 2
MONDAY FEBRUARY 8
B/L/D

The Temple of Heaven was once the center of a square world where the leader of a Confucianist superpower performed sacred sacrificial rites to a circular heaven. The “noblest example of religious architecture in the whole of China” was the place where the emperor came to mediate in the affairs of God and man. Today the 10 acres of ancient trees surrounding the marble terrace altar serve as a public park, free for pensioners and popular with amateur Peking Opera performers.

We invite our expert to bring the history of the Imperial Palace to life through a guided tour entitled “Court Life of the Forbidden City”. As this site was at the apex of political might for nearly five hundred years, this introduction combines general topics such as the organization of Imperial private life or the role of eunuchs in government with the particular challenges, solutions and idiosyncrasies of various Emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasty.

We have arranged for special access to Shufangzhai (The Hall of Pure Beauty), a structure dating from the original construction of the Forbidden City early in the fifteenth century. Under Emperor Qianlong, China’s longest reigning and one of its most cultivated monarchs, this was designated as an entertainment area for banquets and performances. As well as the original structure with finely crafted wood frames, the palace also contains pieces from Emperor Qianlong’s ceramic collection. Please note that Shufangzhai is filled with antiques and in the event that the weather is particularly rainy/humid, the authorities will not grant access.

In the evening, sample Beijing’s typical comfort foods, shoulder-to-shoulder with Beijingers in a traditional neighborhood. You will enjoy traditional dishes and learn about the history and culture of Beijing along the way. Between such unusual comestibles as donkey burger and Mongolian hotpot, you will also enjoy a tasting of traditional rice wines and spirits. This is an authentic but ‘local’ experience, only suitable for adventurous guests who are comfortable eating at small local restaurants. Please also note that this is a walking tour, with 3 planned seated stops.
Today, you will visit the Great Wall of China. Built to protect China from the incursions of predatory nomads, the utility and meaning of this fortification has been contested for centuries. The unprecedented scale and unexpected charm of the Great Wall may inspire you. At the Wall you will be given plenty of time for a stroll along this most magnificent of sites.

We have invited a guest lecturer, to introduce this site through his talk “Court Life at the Summer Palace”. This focuses on the reign of the much demonized Dowager Empress Cixi, for whom the New Summer Palace was built towards the end of the nineteenth century. The Dowager empress is a controversial figure in Chinese history - she lived through the demise of three emperors and is commonly blamed for bringing the Qing dynasty to its knees, all the while leading an egregiously hedonistic lifestyle at her cherished Summer Palace.

We arrange a meeting with Social and Political Commentator Lijia, who will relate her experiences and views of China. Lijia’s eventful life is representative of many interesting aspects of China’s modern history: after being forced out of school to take a job in the local missile factory, Lijia learned English from the radio in the evenings. Having organized the largest worker demonstration in Nanjing in support of the Tiananmen demonstrators in ’89, Lijia was able to leave China to complete her studies in the UK where she worked as a journalist. She now provides regular commentary on China for such organizations as the BBC and Newsweek and has recently published her memoirs, Socialism Is Great!, to critical acclaim.
You will next visit the Lama Temple, a Tibetan Buddhist temple housed in what was once a princely palace. A sandalwood statue of Maitreya, gifted to the temple by the Seventh Dalai Lama, is one of the temple's prized religious artifacts. Upon exiting you may be interested to walk through the Confucius Temple. Located next door, this is where people paid homage to Confucius during the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties.
You will meet the founder & CEO of the China chapter of a prominent global public relations firm. With over 20 years’ experience negotiating China at the highest business and political levels, you will have access to a widely acclaimed expert sought by leading multinationals. He will meet you over a meal to explain China’s economic trajectory and opportunities, dispel common over-simplifications and provide background to China’s increasingly sophisticated and complex business environment.

You will explore Beijing’s contemporary art scene with a visit to the Factory 798 area in the north of the city. Designed by Bauhaus-inspired German architects in the 1950s, the now-decommissioned factory complex once produced a wide variety of military equipment. As production slowed in the late 1990s, local artists began to gravitate towards the area, finding its vast empty spaces ideal for studios and galleries. Now widely regarded as the epicenter of Beijing’s art scene, 798 is home to a vibrant mixture of internationally established galleries and smaller exhibition spaces in addition to a number of cafes, restaurants and stores.
You will be transferred to the airport in time for your onward flight.

You will be met at baggage claim by porters who will assist you to the vehicle.

Upon arrival you will be met by your local guide who will accompany you for the remainder of your stay in Xi’an.

China’s capital during the Han (206BC–220AD) and Tang (618–907AD) dynasties, periods of increasing international exposure, Xi’an became home to communities of Nestorian Christians, Zoroastrians, Buddhists, Jews & Muslims - many of whom have left their mark. This afternoon, for example, we will observe the enduring influence of Xi’an’s vibrant Muslim community in its Great Mosque and forever-bustling Muslim Quarter.

Xi’an is fortunate to boast an intact defensive perimeter dating to the Ming dynasty. Higher and taller than the Great Wall, you may like to cycle along the wall, giving a unique perspective on Xi’an’s two faces – the ancient city within the walls and the emerging modern metropolis on the outside. Please note that cycling the entire circuit of the wall takes about an hour.

(Ritz Carlton - Premium Room)
Competing Chinese kingdoms were united for the first time within a Chinese empire by the virile King Zheng of the Kingdom of Qin. Many claim that this first Imperial dynasty of “Qin” (pronounced “chin”) gives English the etymological root for the name “China”. China’s first ever Emperor, known as Qinshihuangdi, designated Xi’an the capital of his rule. One of China’s most foresightful rulers, he built the first Great Wall across China, standardized weights and measures, introduced a common currency and constructed national road and canal networks. From when he was a young man, a large share of the state budget was annually devoted to his tomb, one of the most complex ever built with an extensive underground army to be buried with him to protect him in the afterlife. These are the stunning Terracotta Warriors.

To attain a comprehensive appreciation of the city now literally named “western peace”, no trip would be complete without a visit to the Provincial History Museum. Beginning in prehistoric times, exhibits proceed chronologically so that even the most casual observer soon begins to appreciate the old Chinese saying: "If you want to see China of 100 years ago, visit Shanghai; China of 500 years ago, Beijing; China of 2,000 years ago, Xian."

Aficionados who wish to concentrate their attention on only the most precious pieces will be enthralled by the Tang dynasty murals. Peeled from the walls of the damp mountain chambers in the 1970’s, these precious frescoes are now stored in a restricted exhibition area within the museum that you will have a chance to view.

You will enjoy access to about a hundred original, wall-sized Tang Dynasty (AD 618-907) murals shaven from this ancient capital’s Imperial tombs. A rare, unique and stunning record of court life, these are stored in an underground exhibition room at the Shaanxi History Museum. You will be accompanied by Professor Wang, a leading archaeological authority. He will bring to life the manners, culture and society of those times.
You will visit the stunning Yangling Museum, dedicated to the tomb of the Western Han dynasty emperor, Liu Qiu (188 – 141 BCE). The artifacts unearthed here, while similar in purpose to those found in the more famous tomb of Emperor Qin, are far more varied. For example they include courtesans, buildings and farm animals as well as soldiers. Highly stylized, they are also elegant - this is one of the most sophisticated displays you will find anywhere in China.

From here, you will be transferred to the airport in time for your onward flight to Hong Kong.
HOTELS

ROSEWOOD BEIJING
Located in Central Business District, the hotel’s rooms have great views over the iconic CCTV Tower.

IMPERIAL AMENITIES
Buffet breakfast for two, Upgrade subject to availability at time of check-in

LOCATION
Central Business District.

ROOMS
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www.rosewoodhotels.com

RITZ CARLTON XI’AN
Located south of the city walls and one of the city’s newest properties, the Ritz Carlton offers panoramic views and houses the city’s largest club lounge. Its modern amenities and trendy rooftop bar make this an ideal property for work & pleasure alike.

LOCATION
In the prestigious financial and shopping district of the Gao Xin Hi-tech Development Zone, west of the city.

ROOMS
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www.ritzcarlton.com
TOUR QUOTATION

HKD 58,895 (Approx. USD $7,255)

INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE
- 7 nights accommodation in outstanding five star hotels (double occupancy)
- 7 breakfasts (buffet breakfast), 6 lunches and 6 dinners at our carefully selected restaurants (including local mineral water, soft drinks and local beer)
- Services of a Western bilingual China Host and local tour guides
- Flights in Economy Class (Beijing/Xi’an, Xi’an/Osaka)
- All land transportation (as listed on the itinerary)
- Entrance fees to all tourist sites (as listed on the itinerary)
- Local guide and driver gratuities
- Gratuities to the China Host
- Domestic airport, city and hotel taxes

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE
- International airfare to/from China, visa processing fees, travel insurance
- Personal expenses such as alcoholic beverages, imported mineral waters, excess luggage fees, telephone charges, room service and laundry charges