



**IMPERIAL TOURS®**

**Ultimate China Tour Itinerary**

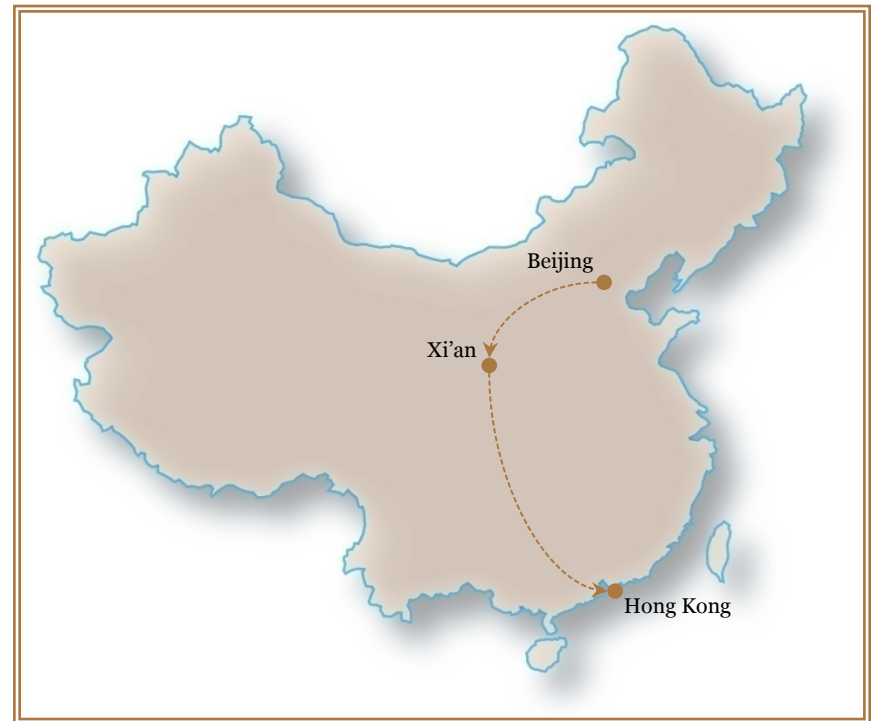
**For the Distinguished Guests of Bright Horizons 19**



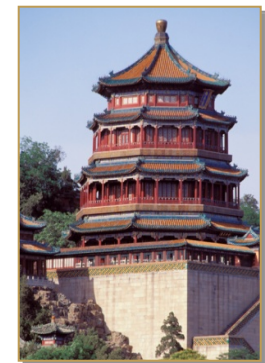
### Your Quick View Itinerary

<b>Sun, 01/26/14</b>	Arrive Beijing	VIP Airport Pickup, Transfer to Shangri-la China World Summit Wing Hotel
<b>Mon, 01/27/14</b>	Beijing	Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City, Hutong Tour
<b>Tue, 01/28/14</b>	Beijing	Great Wall
<b>Wed, 01/29/14</b>	Beijing	Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace
<b>Thu, 01/30/14</b>	Beijing – Xi'an	Factory 798 Art District, Fly to Xi'an, Transfer to Hilton Hotel
<b>Fri, 01/31/14</b>	Xi'an	Terracotta Warriors, Great Mosque & Bazaar, City Wall
<b>Sat, 02/01/14</b>	Xi'an – Hong Kong	Yangling Tombs, Fly to Hong Kong

### Itinerary Map



“I have not told half of what I saw.”  
 Marco Polo





## Day by Day Itinerary

### Day 1, Sunday, 1/26 – Beijing

Upon arrival at Beijing International Airport, you will be met at the gate by airport VIP staff, holding a sign with your name, who will lead you through immigration, baggage claim and customs. Your China Host will then meet you after you have claimed your luggage and passed through customs. 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.) (Four Seasons Hotel – Deluxe Room)

### Day 2, Monday, 1/27 – Beijing

B, L, D

Whether by force of irony or expediency, China’s government has been located in the same area continuously for over six hundred years. You will walk back in time; strolling across **Tian’anmen Square**, one of the largest squares of the modern era, you will pass the Monument to the People’s Heroes -- dedicated to the ravages of the hundred year long Opium War -- and finally enter the ancient epicenter of Imperial Power, the **Forbidden City**.

We continue the day with a visit to an ancient quarter of Beijing, whose **traditional alleyways known as hutong** are being preserved. We access a deeper understanding of life in the hutong through contrasting two radically different environments in this same area. Our tour begins in the everyday setting of an outdoor market, wedged between a maze of disheveled but lively and colorful streets. From there, we travel partly on **pedicab** along the lakeside to an affluent neighborhood, where you will see beautifully restored traditional courtyard homes and have the opportunity to learn calligraphy.

B, L, D denote Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



### Beijing Optionals

- + Avoid lines at immigration & customs.
- + Special access to a separate section of the Forbidden City.
- + Court Life of the Forbidden City lecture.
- + Coaching seminar with a past or present Olympic champion.
- + Shaolin Performance
- + Great Wall historian lecture.
- + Meeting with Chinese journalist & writer Lijia.
- + Private taichi lesson at the Temple of Heaven.
- + “Court Life at the Summer Palace” lecture.
- + Contemporary art tour
- + Leading fengshui master

*For a complete list and description of the Optionals available please check Appendix 1*



### Hotel Profile

#### Beijing Four Seasons



**Beijing Four Seasons**  
*Long awaited flagship hotel for the Four Seasons.*

**Location:** close to the north embassy district with convenient access to the airport



**Rooms:** 334  
[www.fourseasons.com](http://www.fourseasons.com)



## Day by Day Itinerary

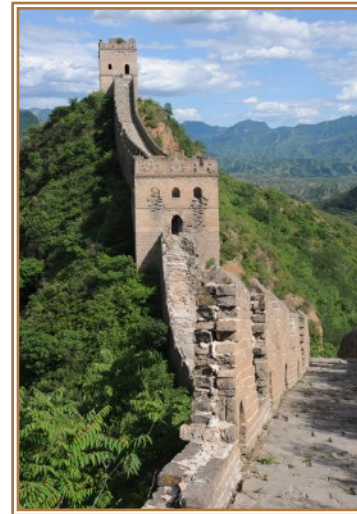
### Day 3, Tuesday, 1/28 – Beijing

B, L, D

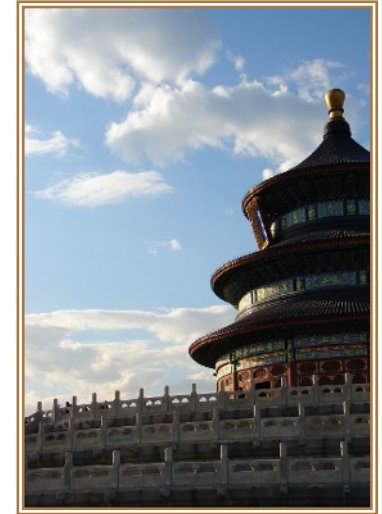
Today, you will visit the **Great Wall of China**. Built to protect China from the incursions of predatory nomads, the utility and meaning of this fortification has been contested for centuries. The unprecedented scale and unexpected charm of the Great Wall may inspire you. In winter, we visit a section slightly closer to town but less touristy nonetheless. Once there, you will be given plenty of time for a stroll along this most magnificent of sites.

We return you to the outskirts of Beijing for one of the cities most creative dining venues, where you will enjoy a unique lunch before we bring you back into the city.

There will be some time at leisure this afternoon to do some shopping, for example with a visit to the city’s famous Silk Market.



*Forbidden City*



*Temple of Heaven*

### Day 4, Wednesday, 1/29 - Beijing

B, L, D

Today we start early to visit 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. Morning is a wonderful time to visit the Temple as you will see local Beijingers out doing their morning exercises.

Afterwards, we take a tour of the Imperial **Summer Palace**, a retreat said to have been given to the Empress Dowager Cixi in return for political favors. Whether or not you believe the popular demonization of this female leader, she certainly had taste. Her enchanting mansion, set on 700 acres of land, incorporates stunning temples, arched bridges, capacious pavilions and the world’s longest covered corridor, all within a landscape crafted according to the dictates of fengshui.



*Forbidden City*





## Day by Day Itinerary

### Day 5, Thursday, 1/30 – Beijing / Xi’an

B, L, D

This morning you will have some more time at leisure, and would be a great opportunity to catch up on any last minute shopping before departing from the capital.

Early afternoon, en-route to the airport, 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 later fly to **Xi’an**, ancient capital and present capital of Shaanxi Province, where upon arrival you will be transferred to your hotel. (Hilton Hotel – Deluxe Room)

### Day 6, Friday, 1/31 - Xi’an

B, L, D

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. He arranged for an underground army to be buried in his tomb. These are the stunning **Terracotta Warriors**, which you will visit this morning.

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

*(Continued on next page)*

B, L, D denote Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



### Xi’an Optionals

- + Special viewing platform of the Terracotta Warriors.
- + Private showing at the Xi’an Archaeological Institute.
- + Yangling Museum Artifact Restoration Room.

*For a complete list and description of the Optionals available please check Appendix 1*



### Hotel Profile

#### Hilton Xi’an



A brand new hotel in a central location, the Hilton combines contemporary design with Tang Dynasty artwork.

**Location:** Within Xi’an’s ancient walled city, towards the east.



[www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)



*Terracotta Warriors*



## Day by Day Itinerary

### Day 6, Friday, 1/31 - Xi'an (continued)

Xi'an is the only major Chinese city to retain its **City Wall** almost completely intact. Originally constructed in the Ming Dynasty the imposing structure is in fact taller and wider than the Great Wall and encircles the older part of the city. This afternoon you'll cycle along the wall itself, giving a unique perspective on Xi'an's two faces – the ancient city within the walls and the emerging metropolis on the outside.

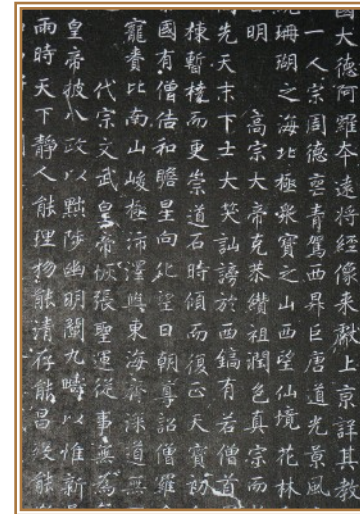
In the evening you will enjoy a **private dumpling-making** and noodle-throwing lesson by the hotel's expert chefs.

### Day 7, Saturday, 2/1 - Xi'an

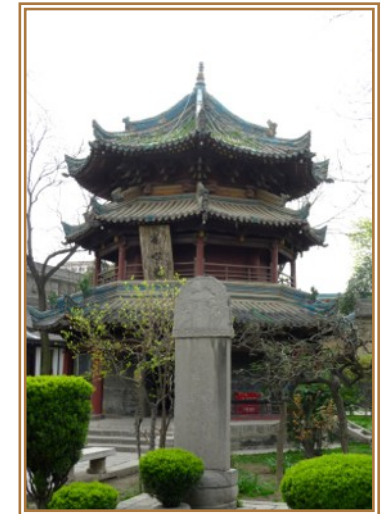
B, L

En-route to the airport this morning, we 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.

Afterwards we continue to the airport in time for your onward flight to **Hong Kong**. No services provided upon arrival there.



Beilin Calligraphy



Great Mosque



Yangling Museum



## Appendix 1: Complete List of Optionals

We have not included the optional experiences that follow below in our quoted price, but encourage you to consider these in order to enhance further your experience of China.

### - BEIJING

#### Diplomatic Channel

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 will be waiting for you at the airport exit (please note that this service is only available between 7:30 am – 10:00 pm). (CNY855 per person)

#### Chonghuagong Palace

We can arrange for special access to Chonghuagong, a section of the Forbidden City that is normally closed to the general public. Please note that Chonghuagong is filled with antiques and in the event that the weather is particularly rainy/humid, the authorities will not grant access. (CNY1230 per person for 3 participants; CNY925 per person for 4-5 participants; 620 per person for 6+ participants)

#### Court Life of the Forbidden City

An alternative to a lecture on the significance of its architecture, is to invite a former Sotheby's 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. That said, guests are invited at all times to ask questions and so influence the direction of the tour. (CNY4,800 per lecture)

#### Coaching Seminar

There are a number of Olympic sports that Chinese have traditionally excelled at. Imperial Tours can arrange a special coaching seminar with a past or (depending on availability) present Olympic champion in one of the following disciplines: table tennis, badminton, martial arts and boxing. *Pricing varies by sport and teacher.* (Please inquire about pricing.)

#### Shaolin Martial Arts Performance

Once at the Great Wall, you will see the extraordinary kungfu performance of the famous Shaolin warriors. (CNY7,450 per performance)

#### Great Wall Historian Lecture

To deepen your experience of the Great Wall, you will be accompanied to the Wall by an historian, the subject of a major profile in the "New Yorker" magazine and a contributor to two "Discovery" channel programs, who devotes himself full-time to walking, studying and writing about the Great Wall and is now arguably the most informed historian on the Great Wall in any country in any language. (CNY7,170 per lecture)

#### Meeting with Social and Political Commentator Lijia

We can 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 ironically-entitled memoirs, *Socialism Is Great!*, to critical acclaim. (CNY3,065 per meeting)

#### Court Life at the Summer Palace

We can invite a guest lecturer, formerly at Sotheby's, 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. (CNY4,800 per lecture)



**Appendix 1: Complete List of Optionals**

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**-BEIJING (continued)**

**Designer Shopping with a Fashion Insider**

Beijing can be a sartorially challenging city to conquer. The glitzy shopping malls generally tout international brands, but if you're wanting something more unique and localised, our fashion expert can help you navigate. An extremely well connected fashion insider, who is also editor and stylist for numerous top-end publications, she also runs her own China-centric fashion website and online store, promoting the very best of emerging Chinese design. (CNY2,800 per tour)

**Expert Art Educators**

In 2010, total global sales of works by the traditional Chinese painter Qi Baishi ranked second only to Picasso, and above Warhol and all other Western artists. In China he is a household name, but in the West he is almost entirely unknown. Stanford- and Yale-educated art curators and educators manage several of the most important private collections of traditional Chinese paintings in the world, including the works of Qi Baishi. They have lectured and organized exhibitions at major Chinese and Western institutions such as the Asian Art Museum, Honolulu Academy of Arts, the Society for Asian Art, and Tsinghua University. They are experienced in teaching both Chinese and foreigners with widely varying degrees of art knowledge how to understand and connect with this quintessentially Chinese art form. Drawing exemplary masterworks from these collections for your private viewing, they will spend approximately 1.5 hours teaching you the traditional Chinese method of connoisseurship, and will help you comprehend not just the beauty of the art, but also its deeper philosophical, emotional, poetic, historical and religious content. The great American art scholar Sherman Lee once said, "If art is the essence of culture, then Chinese painting is the essence of that essence." One cannot truly understand Chinese culture without understanding traditional Chinese painting. (CNY2,200 per meeting)

**Chinese Contemporary Art**

To enhance your journey through this maze like area we will organize a Chinese Contemporary Art Expert to accompany you. After today you will have a thorough understanding of Contemporary Art in China. (Two hour tour: CNY3,200 per tour for 3-4 participants; CNY3,990 per tour for 5 participants; CNY4,800 per tour for 6 participants)

Four hour tour with studio visits: CNY5,600 per tour for 3-6 participants)

**Private Tea Ceremony**

You will experience a quintessential Chinese tradition: a private tea ceremony. Originally an elitist ritual of high culture, the tea ceremony has become a hallmark of Chinese conviviality, especially south of the Yangzi River. Savor a professionally-prepared cup of fragrant tea served in the traditional Chinese style by a skilled tea master. (Please inquire about pricing.)

**Meeting with a Leading Fengshui Master**

Having spent thirty years teaching and researching Chinese geography and history at the University of Beijing, these days Professor Yu is most sought for his world-leading expertise on the Chinese traditional science of *fengshui* or geomancy. Considered China's top exponent of this ancient tradition, this eminent academician's phone number is sought far and wide by practitioners of governance and business at the highest possible level. Whether explaining the intricacies of Chinese culture to such luminaries as Bill Gates and President Obama or providing advice to business leaders like Li Kai Shing (the world's wealthiest Chinese person), Professor Yu is able to share an encyclopedic knowledge of his subject matter. From a general introduction of the union of yin and yang to the detail required to explain the significance of all the constituent symbols of Chinese architecture within its traditional system of thought, he combines the metaphors underwriting traditional Chinese thought with the practicalities of design. Professor Yu can also provide advice for improving your home's or business' *fengshui*. (CNY3,780 per meeting)





**Appendix 1: Complete List of Optionals**

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**-BEIJING (continued)**

**Meet up-and-coming Artists**

Not only its political capital but also the cultural heart of China, Beijing is home to the majority of China’s best known contemporary artists, their works routinely selling at astronomical prices. The vibrancy and success of Beijing’s arts scene acts as a magnet to emerging talent across the nation, encouraging up-and-coming artists to advance their careers in the capital. Our expert will take you to 3 – 6 studios to meet with a selection of young artists and see the works now making waves in the art world. Their compositions, generally priced at less than US\$10,000 apiece, are on a low rung of the art ladder, such that they have the potential to appreciate significantly should these artists become commercially successful. (Please note that neither Imperial Tours, its experts nor anyone related to Imperial Tours earns a commission on any of your expenditure in China and that we cannot in any way be held responsible for the future value of the works of art that you may purchase as a result of this tour.) (CNY5,600 per three hour tour)

**Traditional Chinese Medicine Introduction**

Many people have heard how traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) focuses on preventive care, but few understand the overarching principles of this curative tradition and how you can incorporate its benefits into your everyday life. Spend a few hours this morning learning about the background and precepts of traditional Chinese medicine to learn how you can change your lifestyle to improve your long-term health and quality of life. We begin in an ancient Imperial park, energized by early risers exercising as the sun rises and the new day begins. This is the backdrop to understanding how important it is for your life to mirror the rhythm of the seasons and day. Having outlined the basics, we proceed to a typical TCM clinic, crowded with patients and doctors, to see Chinese pharmacology at work and understand how it has progressed over the centuries. Finally, for an additional fee, you are able to enjoy a private consultation with a leading TCM doctor. (CNY4,000 per lesson for 3 participants; CNY4,480 per lesson for 4 participants; CNY4,915 per lesson for 5 participants; CNY5,350 per lesson for 6 participants)

**Private Qigong Lesson**

Begin your day in an ancient Ming dynasty temple practicing “Qigong” or Chinese morning exercises. Daoist philosophers were the physicists of the ancient world researching the operations powering the universe. Yin and yang (the male and female principles), Dao (the way of nature) and Qi (energy force) are some of the building blocks of this cosmic view. After introducing the philosophical underpinnings of ancient Chinese thought, you will be led through a series of gentle exercises to invigorate you for the rest of the day. (CNY880 per lesson for 3-4 participants; CNY1,200 per lesson for 5 participants)

**Private Taichi Lesson**

*Taichi* is a self-defense technique derived from the Daoist concept of the “Supreme Ultimate”. This primal source of energy is thought to move between different sets of physical opposites - like hot and cold or bright and dark – to create interconnected, forever reversing dynamic states that become the building blocks of life. Taichi leverages this idea for a martial art. For example, a taichi master might absorb rather than repel an attack from an opponent in order to unbalance him and then in the same motion, use the newly created movement to release an attack of his own. In addition to breath control and relaxation methodologies, taichi was embellished with the development of ideal body shapes to enable fluid motion between poses, such that nowadays it is practiced daily by millions of people of all ages for its meditative and health benefits rather than as a means of self-defense. Based on low-impact, slow-motion exercises, practice aims at achieving good health, by enhancing flexibility, balance, focus and muscle strength. This one hour session introduces you to the basics of this ancient discipline.(CNY800 per lesson for 3-5 participants; CNY1,200 per lesson for 6-10 participants; CNY1,800 per lesson for 11-16 participants)



## Appendix 1: Complete List of Optionals

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### - XI'AN

#### **Terracotta Warriors Viewing Platform**

You will be granted special access to a viewing platform where you can admire the warriors away from the crowds. (CNY585 per person based on 3 participants; CNY450 per person based on 4 participants; CNY350 per person based on 5+ participants)

#### **Archaeological Institute**

If you are interested in museum antiquities, we can arrange for a visit to the Xi'an Archaeological Institute where you will be given a private showing of some of the Institute's collection. Pieces which you will be able to examine may be a celadon dating back to the Tang dynasty or a 3,000 year old bronze urn! (CNY1,470 per person)

#### **Yangling Museum Artifact Restoration Room**

We will take you to the restoration room within the nearby research center to introduce the tools and methodologies used to conserve and repair the antiquities. Apart from enjoying closer access to the hundreds of pieces in this restricted area, the repair room features some valuable pieces not on display in the glass-encased burial pits of the museum]. (CN960 per person; inquire for groups of more than 5 participants)

#### **Chinese Landscape Painting**

Much like the traditional European concept of the "renaissance person" being versed in a wide range of disciplines, so the Chinese scholar aimed to be as skilful an administrator as he was a poet and landscape artist. Just as for writing calligraphy, the traditional Chinese landscape painting calls for a prescribed set of brush-strokes to apply ink to rice paper. As with calligraphy, the technique is challenging in controlling the movement of the brush head and the volume of ink spreading on the rice paper, but this introductory lesson will provide the basics for producing a landscape painting, and is highly suitable for families. (CNY2,100 per group)

## Tour Quotation

- CNY36,954 (Approx. USD \$6,000\*) per person based on a private tour for six persons in dual occupancy;
- CNY31,710 (Approx. USD \$5,150\*) per person based on a private tour for ten persons in dual occupancy;
- CNY4,450 (Approx. USD \$720\*) single supplement;

*\*Please note that this non-RMB price uses the exchange rate of May 21, 2013. Since foreign exchange rates are constantly fluctuating, the price in your home currency will be determined by the exchange rate on the day of payment, using the official exchange rate supplied by [www.xe.com/ucc/](http://www.xe.com/ucc/). Please note that all credit cards will be charged in U.S. dollars (USD). We accept checks drawn on bank accounts in the United States. Wire transfer payments may be made in your home currency.*

### Included in the tour price is:

- 6 nights accommodation in outstanding five star hotels
- 6 breakfasts (buffet breakfast), 6 lunches, 4 dinners at our carefully selected restaurants (including soft drinks and local beer)
- Services of a Western bilingual China Host and local tour guides
- All internal flights in economy class (Beijing/Xi'an, Xi'an/Hong Kong)
- All land transportation (as listed on the itinerary)
- Entrance fees to all tourist sites (as listed on the itinerary)
- Local guide and driver gratuities
- Baggage handling, domestic airport, city and hotel taxes

### Not included in the tour price is:

- 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;
- Optional lectures and performances.

### PAYMENT

In conformity with Imperial Tour's participation in the Travel Money Protection Plan — regarded as the most secure consumer protection plan in the travel industry — all funds paid to them, whether by check, credit card or wire transfer will be deposited in a "true" escrow account, held at the Shelby Financial Corporation/Bank of America, until after the completion of your trip. They accept check, wire transfer, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover. A deposit amount of 20% is due at the time of booking. The remaining 80% of the tour price can be settled 100 days prior to tour departure.

### CANCELLATION CHARGES

**a)** Should you decide to cancel your tour between the time of deposit and 90 days prior to the tour, you will forfeit USD\$500 per person, between 90 and 60 days prior to departure, you will forfeit 25% of the tour price, between 60 and 30 days prior to departure, you will forfeit 50% of the tour price, between 30 and 15 days you will forfeit 75% of the tour price, from 14 days or less, you will forfeit 100% of the tour price.

**b)** All notices of cancellation must be written to be effective. The date of cancellation will be the date of reception by Insight Cruises' personnel.

*- Please note that the China Host will eat with you during lunches and dinners throughout the trip.*

*This is to ensure that you are receiving the best possible service. If, at any time, you would prefer to dine on your own, please let the China Host know.*

*- Please note that no arrangements have been made and are not guaranteed until Imperial Tours receives a deposit.*