



中青旅控股股份有限公司

CHINA CYTS TOURS HOLDING CO. LTD.

General Information of China

General Information: China, representing one of the earliest civilizations in the world, has a recorded history of about 3,600 years. Being the 3rd largest country in the world, in terms of tourism, it offers endless diversity of historical, architectural and natural scenery on earth. Despite there are 56 minorities spread out in China, Han people account for 93% of the total population. The Han people have its own spoken and written language, known as the Chinese language, which is commonly used throughout China and a working language of the United Nations. You may be interested to know that The People's Republic of China has both marine and land boundary line of more than 20,000 kilometers and a coastline of 18,000 kilometers, with a total land area of 9.6 million square kilometers, next only to Russia and Canada. Its territory extends over 50 latitudes from north to south, embracing the equatorial belt, the tropics, the subtropics, the moderate temperate zone and the cold temperate zone. And from east to west, it covers over 62 longitudes, and has longitudinal regular divisions of forests, grasslands, deserts, plains, hilly lands and Highlands. China is a vast country, with long travel times between the many cultural, historical and natural wonders of the land, 23 of which have already been declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Altogether there are 26 provinces, each with their own dialect and regional characteristics. The western provinces of Xinjiang, Tibet, Qinghai, Sichuan and Yunnan occupy an enormous area of land, and Sichuan alone is about the size of France.

City:

Beijing

The entire area of Beijing within the city limits is - in many ways - one great historic museum. The original city plan was divided in four. The innermost rectangle is the Forbidden City, now a museum and public park, but formerly the residence of the Ming and Qing emperors. The second rectangle forms the boundaries of the Imperial City, enclosing residences and parks for the former senior government officials. The outer rectangle forms the outer city with its markets and old residential districts. The Imperial Palace, lying inside the Forbidden City and surrounded by a high wall and broad moat, is probably China's greatest surviving historical site. Dating from the 15th century, the Palace was home to a total of 24 emperors and, today, its fabulous halls, palaces and gardens house a huge collection of priceless relics from various dynasties. The surviving city walls are impressive monuments, as are the traditional hutongs, enclosed neighborhoods of alleys and courtyards. Other points of interest are the Coal Hill (Mei Shan), a beautiful elevated park with breathtaking views; Beihai Park, the loveliest in Beijing; Tiananmen Square, the largest public square in the world, surrounded by museums, parks, the zoo and Beijing University; the Temple of Heaven, an excellent example of 15th-century Chinese architecture; the Summer Palace, the former court resort for the emperors of the Qing Dynasty reconstructed in traditional style in the early 1900s after Western attacks, looking out over the Kunming Lake; the Great Wall (see below), the section at Badaling being some 72km (45 miles) from Beijing; and the Ming Tombs, where 13 out of the 16 Ming emperors chose to be buried. Two magnificent tombs here have been excavated, one of which is open to the public.

Tian'anmen Square



Located at the center of Beijing City is Tiananmen Square, where you can visit Tiananmen Tower, Monument to the People's Heroes, Great Hall of the People, Mao Zedong Memorial Hall and see the national flag raising ceremony. Thousands of people come to the Square every day.



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Forbidden City

The Forbidden City (known officially as the Imperial Palace Museum) was commissioned by the third Emperor of the Ming Dynasty, Emperor Yong Le. The palace was built between 1406 and 1420, but was burnt down, rebuilt, sacked and renovated countless times, so most of the architecture you can see today dates from the 1700's and onwards. The Forbidden City was the seat of Imperial power for 500 years, and is now a major tourist attraction in China. The total area of the complex is 183 acres, so it takes quite a while to walk through, especially if you want to have a close look at everything. All together there are 9,999 1/2 rooms in the Museum, not all of which can be visited.



Great Wall

A symbol of ancient Chinese civilization, the Great Wall has stood for more than 2,000 years. The wall was built in stages from the 5th century BC up to the 16th century AD as protection against northern nomadic tribes. Stretching from the coast of the Bohai Bay in the east and ending at the Jiayu Pass in the west, it snakes along the back of mountains, deserts and valleys for 6,350km (3900 miles). It is said to be 1 of the only 2 human engineering projects visible by astronauts from space with the naked eye. Built of huge granite slabs and special sized bricks, the Great Wall at Badaling 75km (47 miles) north of Beijing is most typical of the Wall during the Ming dynasty (1368-1644). There the wall is wide enough for 5 horsemen to ride abreast or 10 men to walk side by side.



Summer Palace

Summer Palace is a favorite among tourists sightseeing in Beijing. Indeed, it is one of the best parks in the city. Originally it was a retreat for emperors to escape the scorching summer heat of Beijing. The Summer Palace was used by emperors for 800 years, but fell into disuse in the 18th century. Then in the 19th century, the Empress Dowager Cixi made massive renovations and restored many buildings using money funneled out from the state treasury.



Temple of Heaven

China's largest temple and altar complex, the Temple of Heaven in the southern part of Beijing covers an area of 270 hectares. The Temple of Heaven is an exquisite and extraordinary example of Chinese religious architecture. Construction of the temple began in 1420 and at the temple emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties worshipped heaven and prayed for abundant harvests.



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Hutong Tour

This tour takes you back to the old days of Beijing. Hutong is the Chinese name for the ancient city alleys and narrow lanes originally built in the Yuan Dynasty, where neighborhoods are made up of traditional courtyard-style homes. Ride in an old-fashioned pedicab through the Hutong district during this guided tour.



Beijing Night Show

Beijing Night Show Beijing Night offers a show named The Great China, which is a performance displaying traditional Chinese historical culture. The show is composed of 6 scenes and each one tells a famous historic story by the splendid and wonderful performance. 3 of them are named Ceremony of the Imperial Palace, Romance of White Snake and The Splendor of the Forbidden City. Guests from home and abroad give high praises for the performance of The Great China.



Peking Opera: An art genre that is more than 200 years old, Peking opera dazzles the eyes with elaborate make-up and costumes, enchants the ears with beautiful melodies and grabs the hearts with complicated dramas. This performing art lures those who are keen to learn about the Chinese culture.



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Shanghai

This is one of the world's largest cities and one of China's most famous - more like New York or Paris than Beijing. Lying on the estuary of the Chang Jiang (Yangtze) River, it is the center of China's trade and industry. European-style architecture, traditional Chinese buildings and sleek modern developments all co-exist in this cosmopolitan metropolis. The Yuyuan Gardens date back over 400 years: although relatively small, they are impressive thanks to their intricate design, with pavilions, rockeries, ponds and a complete traditional theater woven together in an ornate maze. The gardens are reached via the Town God Temple Bazaar, a touristy but impressive warren of lanes and stalls. The French Concession area has quiet, characterful colonial parks and neighborhoods, while the Bund along the Huangpu River has the celebrated strip of Art Deco towers. From here, the dynamic new Pudong Development Area and the Oriental Pearl Tower can be viewed across the water.



Xi'an

The capital of Shaanxi Province and often regarded as the true historic capital of China, Xi'an was once amongst the most magnificent cities in the world. For 11 dynasties, from the 11th century BC, the city was also the capital of China. It was the starting point of the ancient trade route with the West known as the Silk Road (see Silk Road section) and is now, after Beijing, the most popular tourist attraction in China. The city is most famous for the Tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi, who first united China under the Qin Dynasty in 200 BC, and its terracotta figures - over 6000 life-sized Terracotta Warriors and horses buried along with the emperor. Many other tombs from the Han and Tang Dynasties are still unexcavated. Despite damage inflicted during the Cultural Revolution, there are still numerous tombs, pavilions, museums and pagodas to be seen, such as the Big Wild Goose Pagoda with its spiral staircase, and the Small Wild Goose Pagoda.





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Tibet (Lhasa)

Tibet (in Chinese Xizang), a rich and beautiful land, is located at the main part of Qinghai-Tibet plateau, south-west frontier of China. Tibet borders with Sichuan, Yuannan, Qinghai And Xinjiang; to the south contiguous to India, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Burma, and bounded by Kashmir on the west. It covers an area of 1.2 million sq km and has a population of 2.7 million. Tibet has a unique culture of all his own. Tourist attractions include the Potala Palace in Lhasa, Jokhang Temple, and a number of Buddhist sacred places. Lhasa, the heart and soul of Tibet and an object of devout pilgrimage, is still a city of wonders.

The Potala Palace:

This architectural wonder is Lhasa' cardinal landmark for its imposing scale and unique style. It's located on the Red Hill, covers an area of 41 hectares. It was first set up in the 7th century. The present architectural group is divided into two parts the red Palace and the white Palacethe. The former is composed of the tombs of eight Dalai Lamas, the monks' assembly hall, numerous chapels and shrines, and libraries for Buddhist Scriptures, while the latter was for secular use which conmtains living quarters, offices, the seminary and the printing house. Palace is the largest museum of cultural relics in Tibet.

The Potala, a vast white and ochre fortress, dominates the Lhasa skyline. Once the seat of Tibetan government and the location of the tombs of previous Dalai Lamas, the Potala serves as a symbolic focus for Tibetan aspirations of self-government.



Jokhang Temple:

Temple, built in 647 A.D and located in the centre of old town Lhasa, it is one of the earliest constructions in Tibet, its roof is covered gold, making much of a sight. Through several renovations it expanded into quite a large group of buildings and now covers an area of over 25,000 sq meters. A large number of precious. Walls along lobbies and inner temples are covered with legendary frescoes. The are Tang willow and and the Ilnite Stela of Tand and Tibet in the front.

It is the spiritual center of Lhasa and stands in the heart of the old city. The medieval push and shove of crowds, the street performers, the stalls hawking everything from prayer flags to jewel-encrusted yak skulls, and the devout tapping their foreheads to the ground at every step is an exotic brew that few newcomers can resist.

Jokhang has 4 stories and its roofs are covered with gilded bronze tiles. It was built in the style of Tang dynasty structures and adopted the characteristics of Nepalese and Indian architecture.

There are numerous elaborately decorated shrines and rooms at Jokhang. There are also statues of King Songtsan Gambo together with his Chinese bride Princess Wen Cheng and Nepalese bride Princess Chizun in the side halls. In the center of the main hall, a gold statue of the young Buddha Sakyamuni, brought to Tibet by Princess Wen Cheng from Chang'an (present Xian) is enshrined.

Jokhang



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Language: Official language is Mandarin and most people also use their local dialect. All tourist hotels employ staff fluent in English, Japanese and other languages, who can write down addresses or instructions in Chinese for taxi drivers or others. In addition, roads in major cities are signposted in pinyin - the Chinese system of Romanization - which makes it quite easy to get around with the help of a map.

Currency: Renminbi (RMB). The basic unit is the yuan, and is divided into 10 jiao. Paper notes are issued in denominations of one, two, five, 10, 50 and 100 yuan; one, two and five jiao; and one, two and five fen. Coins are issued in denominations of one yuan; five jiao; and one, two and five fen.

Credit Cards: Visa, MasterCard and American Express are the most common. Cards can be used in most mid to top-range hotels, Friendship and department stores, but cannot be used to finance your transportation costs.

Time: GMT plus eight hours (the whole of China is set to Beijing time)

Electricity: Electricity is 220 Volts, 50 AC; plugs can be three-pronged angled, three-pronged round, two flat pins or two narrow round pins.

Water: Bottled mineral water, sold around 3 yuan, is widely available in all stores and street kiosks and sometimes provided free by the hotel. Potable water is available only at a few best hotels, so visitors should always ask to make sure. Water in thermos bottles in rooms is non-potable tap water.

Measurement: In Metric system.

Shopping: Shops are generally open from 9am to 7pm, or 8am to 8pm, daily. Night markets open until late at night. The traditional street markets, where you haggle for 'antiques' and collectibles, are found in every city, town and tourist site.

Transportation: Underground train or metro can only be found in big cities such as Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. It is clean and easy to use. However, taxi is the easiest way of local transport mode that can be rent in most cities and can generally be hailed on the street. For fear of cheating, it is wise to agree to a price before you start. The smaller the taxi is, the cheaper the fare. Meters are used, and all drivers will give receipts, but few drivers speak English, so have addresses written in Chinese.

Visa: Visas are required by all foreigners entering Mainland China.

Weather: China has a continental and seasonal climate. With most parts located in the Temperate Zone

Month	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Beijing	-5	-2	4.5	13	20	24	26	25	20	12	4	-3
Shanghai	4	5	8	14	19	24	28	28	24	18	12	6
Xian	-1	2	8	14	19	25	27	26	19	14	7	1
Guangzhou	13	14	18	22	26	27	28	28	27	24	19	15



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Guilin	9	10	14	19	24	24	28	28	27	22	16	11
Kunming	10	11	14	18	20	20	21	19	18	16	13	10
Sanya	25	26	27	29	31	31	31	30	30	29	27	26

Map of China

