



# Discover **China**

Experience the best  
of China

**This edition written and researched by**

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## ● Běijīng & the Great Wall

Highlights .....54

- Běijīng's Hútòng
- Explore the Forbidden City
- Wander Around the Summer Palace
- Gallivanting Along the Great Wall
- Marvel at the Temple of Heaven

## ● Xǐ'ān & the North

Highlights .....126

- Potter around Píngyáo
- Marvel at the Terracotta Warriors
- Wonder at Yúngāng Caves
- Watch the Sunrise from Tài Shān
- Temple Trekking in Wǔtái Shān

## ● Shànghǎi & the Yangzi Region

Highlights .....182

- The Bund
- Savouring the French Concession
- Wandering Around West Lake
- Hiking up Huángshān
- Drifting Through the Three Gorges

# Contents

## Plan Your Trip

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| This Is China .....             | 6  |
| China Map .....                 | 8  |
| China's Top 25 Highlights ..... | 10 |
| China's Top Itineraries .....   | 32 |
| China Month by Month .....      | 42 |
| Get Inspired .....              | 47 |
| Need to Know .....              | 48 |

## Hong Kong & the South

Highlights ..... 262

- Central, Hong Kong
- Ruins of the Church of St Paul
- Amble Around Gǔlàng Yǔ
- Explore Yángshuò
- Discover Fènghuáng

.....

## Discover



## Běijīng & the Great Wall.....51

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Highlights .....   | 54 |
| Best... ..         | 56 |
| Itineraries .....  | 58 |
| Walking Tour ..... | 60 |

## Běijīng .....

|                                              |     |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|
| Clock Exhibition Hall ....                   | 67  |
| Lama Temple .....                            | 72  |
| Běijīng's Hútòng .....                       | 78  |
| Poly Art Museum .....                        | 92  |
| 798 Art District .....                       | 96  |
| National Centre for the Performing Arts..... | 105 |
| Pānjiāyuán Market.....                       | 106 |
| Fragrant Hills Park & Botanic Gardens .....  | 110 |

## Around Běijīng .....

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Ming Tombs ..... | 112 |
|------------------|-----|

## The Great Wall .....

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mùtiányù .....     | 114 |
| Jiànkǒu .....      | 115 |
| Chuāndǐxià .....   | 116 |
| Zhuàngdàokǒu ..... | 116 |
| Jīnshānlǐng .....  | 116 |
| Bādálǐng .....     | 117 |

## Chéngdé .....

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Pǔníng Temple ..... | 121 |
|---------------------|-----|



## Xī'ān & the North.....123

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Highlights ..... | 126 |
|------------------|-----|

# Contents

## Discover China

**Best...** ..... 128

**Itineraries** ..... 130

**Xī'ān** ..... 132

*Xī'ān City Walls* ..... 136

*Muslim Quarter* ..... 139

**Around Xī'ān** ..... 140

*Huà Shān* ..... 143

**Luòyáng** ..... 146

*Shàolín Temple* ..... 147

*Losana Buddha*

*Statue Cave* ..... 149

*Around Luòyáng* ..... 149

**Píngyáo** ..... 150

*Píngyáo City Walls* ..... 152

*Around Píngyáo* ..... 155

**Wǔtái Shān** ..... 156

*Xiǎntōng Temple* ..... 157

**Dàtóng** ..... 159

*Hanging Monastery* ... 162

*Around Dàtóng* ..... 162

**Tàir'ān** ..... 164

*Tiānzhú Peak Route* .. 165

**Tài Shān** ..... 166

**Qūfù** ..... 169

**Qīngdǎo** ..... 172

  
**Shànghǎi & the Yangzi Region**.. 179

**Highlights** ..... 182

**Best...** ..... 184

**Itineraries** ..... 186

**Walking Tour** ..... 188

**Shànghǎi** ..... 190

*The Bund* ..... 192

*Yùyuán Gardens*

*& Bazaar* ..... 205

*Tiānzǐfáng* ..... 206

*M50* ..... 220

**Around Shànghǎi** ..... 227

*Zhūjiājiǎo* ..... 227

*Sūzhōu* ..... 228

*Garden of the Master*

*of the Nets* ..... 230

*Around Sūzhōu* ..... 233

*Hángzhōu* ..... 235

*Around Hángzhōu* ..... 244

*Túnxi* ..... 247

*Around Túnxi* ..... 248

*Huángshān* ..... 249

*Wùyuan* ..... 253

*Around Wùyuan* ..... 253

**Cruising the Yangzi** ..... 254

*Boats* ..... 255

*Tickets* ..... 257

  
**Hong Kong & the South**..... 259

**Highlights** ..... 262

**Best...** ..... 264

**Itineraries** ..... 266

**Walking Tour** ..... 268

**Hong Kong** ..... 270

*Peak Tram* ..... 279

*Star Ferry* ..... 286

*Hong Kong Islands*..... 291

*Mai Po Marsh*

*Nature Reserve* ..... 294

**Macau** ..... 297

*Ruins of the Church*

*of St Paul* ..... 299

*Colonial Macau* ..... 303

**The South** ..... 308

*Guǎngzhōu* ..... 308

*Guilín* ..... 311

*Dragon's Backbone*

*Rice Terraces* ..... 314

*Yángshuò* ..... 316

*Around Yángshuò* ..... 318

*Fènghuáng* ..... 319

*Xiàmén* ..... 321

*Gǔlàng Yǔ* ..... 323

*Fújiàn Tǔlǒu* ..... 325

  
**Best of the Rest** ..... 327

**Yúnnán** ..... 328

*Dàlǐ* ..... 328

*Lìjiāng* ..... 331

*Yùlóng Xuěshān* ..... 332

*Tiger Leaping Gorge* ..... 333

**Sìchuān** ..... 336

*Giant Panda Breeding*

*Research Base* ..... 336

*Éméi Shān* ..... 336

*Lèshān* ..... 337

*Jiǔzhàigōu National*

*Park* ..... 339

**Silk Road** ..... 340

*Lánzhōu* ..... 340

*Xiàhé* ..... 341

*Jiāyùguān & Around* ..... 342

*Mògāo Caves* ..... 343

*Kashgar* ..... 344



## In Focus

## Survival Guide

|                                     |            |                             |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| <b>China Today .....</b>            | <b>350</b> | <b>Directory .....</b>      | <b>392</b> |
| <b>History .....</b>                | <b>352</b> | Accommodation.....          | 392        |
| <b>Family Travel .....</b>          | <b>362</b> | Activities .....            | 394        |
| <b>The People of China...</b>       | <b>364</b> | Children .....              | 394        |
| <b>Chinese Cuisine .....</b>        | <b>370</b> | Climate .....               | 395        |
| <b>Arts &amp; Architecture ...</b>  | <b>378</b> | Customs                     |            |
| <b>Religion &amp; Beliefs .....</b> | <b>383</b> | Regulations .....           | 395        |
| <b>China's Landscapes...</b>        | <b>386</b> | Discount Cards.....         | 395        |
|                                     |            | Electricity .....           | 396        |
|                                     |            | Gay & Lesbian               |            |
|                                     |            | Travellers.....             | 396        |
|                                     |            | Health .....                | 396        |
|                                     |            | Important                   |            |
|                                     |            | Numbers .....               | 399        |
|                                     |            | Insurance .....             | 400        |
|                                     |            | Internet Access .....       | 400        |
|                                     |            | Legal Matters.....          | 400        |
|                                     |            | Money.....                  | 400        |
|                                     |            | Opening Hours .....         | 402        |
|                                     |            | Passports.....              | 402        |
|                                     |            | Public Holidays.....        | 403        |
|                                     |            | Safe Travel .....           | 403        |
|                                     |            | Telephone .....             | 404        |
|                                     |            | Visas .....                 | 405        |
|                                     |            | <b>Transport .....</b>      | <b>407</b> |
|                                     |            | Getting There               |            |
|                                     |            | & Away.....                 | 407        |
|                                     |            | Getting Around.....         | 410        |
|                                     |            | <b>Language .....</b>       | <b>416</b> |
|                                     |            | Mandarin .....              | 416        |
|                                     |            | Cantonese.....              | 417        |
|                                     |            | <b>Behind the Scenes...</b> | <b>418</b> |
|                                     |            | <b>Index .....</b>          | <b>419</b> |
|                                     |            | <b>How to Use This</b>      |            |
|                                     |            | <b>Book .....</b>           | <b>430</b> |
|                                     |            | <b>Our Writers .....</b>    | <b>431</b> |



# This is China

The central civilisation of the Far East and historically home to the dominant culture of the region, China is a traveller's treasure box: colossal palaces, sacred mountains, cliff-top temples, roaring metropolises, spectacular scenery and much, much more. A nation enjoying an exuberant and energetic coming of age, China is the country everyone's talking about.

**China is modernising at a head-spinning pace.** But the slick skyscrapers, Lamborghini showrooms and Maglev trains are little more than dazzling baubles. Let's face it: the world's oldest continuous civilisation is bound to pull an artefact or two out of its hat. You won't bump into history at every turn, but travel selectively and rich seams of antiquity present themselves. Tumbledown chunks of the Great Wall, creaky historical residences, mist-wreathed and temple-strewn mountains, quaint villages and delightful water towns make travel in China both unique and astonishing.

**China is vast.** So you must get outside: island-hop in Hong Kong, size up awesome sand dunes in Gānsù, trace the Great Wall as it meanders across mountain peaks, sail through awesome river gorges or cycle through otherworldly landscapes of karst peaks in Yángshuò. Ponder the desiccated enormity of the northwestern deserts and the preternatural mists of China's sacred mountains. Hike into a landscape richly flecked with seasonal shades, from the crimson leaves of autumn maples to the colourful azaleas of Huángshān in springtime or the ice-encrusted roofs of mountaintop Buddhist temples.

**China is food obsessed.** Treat yourself and swap local Chinatown menus for the lavish Middle Kingdom cookbook: sample Peking duck, gobble down Lánzhōu noodles, sweat over spicy Sichuān dishes, and don't forget what's cooking in China's frontier lands – an excuse to get off the beaten path. Impress your friends as you *gānbēi* (down-in-one) the local firewater, sip a beer in a slick Běijīng bar or survey the Shànghǎi skyline through a raised cocktail glass. Culinary exploration is the most enticing aspect of Middle Kingdom travel: you'll return with stimulated taste buds and much-cherished gastronomic memories.

“  
China  
is a  
traveller's  
treasure  
box...and  
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about.”





# China



# 25

## Top Highlights



- 1 Great Wall
- 2 Forbidden City, Běijīng
- 3 Terracotta Warriors, Xī'ān
- 4 Yangzi River cruise
- 5 Cruising Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong
- 6 Lǐjiāng
- 7 The Bund, Shànghǎi
- 8 China's cuisine
- 9 Huángshān & Hui villages
- 10 Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces
- 11 The Silk Road
- 12 Lí River & Yángshuò
- 13 Fújiàn Tǔlóng
- 14 Mògāo Caves, Dūnhuáng
- 15 Píngyáo
- 16 Fènghuáng
- 17 Labrang Monastery, Xiàhé
- 18 Wúyuán
- 19 Giant Panda Breeding Research Base, Chéngdé
- 20 Hútòng, Běijīng
- 21 Gǔlàng Yǔ
- 22 Canal towns
- 23 Yúngāng Caves
- 24 Wǔtái Shān
- 25 West Lake, Hángzhōu