

NZCFS Arts Tour

15 Days in China **October 11 to 25, 2014**

October 10 Depart NZ 11.15 pm

Day 1 Arrive **Beijing**, transfer to hotel. Visit Temple of Heaven in the afternoon. Founded in the first half of the 15th century, the Temple of Heaven is a dignified complex of fine buildings surrounded by gardens, symbolizing the relationship between earth and heaven – which stands at the heart of Chinese cosmogony, and also the special role played by the emperors within that relationship.



Day 2 Beijing Traditional Painting and Calligraphy.

Morning, a visit to the Art Institute for a talk about the meanings and



symbolism of traditional Chinese painting, with demonstration and participant activity. Also a demonstration and explanation of styles of calligraphy, and its historical importance, by a master calligrapher, with participation.

Afternoon: Visits to local art galleries showing examples of work demonstrated in the morning, with artists as guides . Visit NAMOC – National Art Museum of China. Formal Welcome Banquet Dinner.

Day 3 Beijing Modern Chinese Art, and new trends.

Seminar, demonstrations, and participation. Afternoon a visit to the 798 Art Zone, and one more gallery if time. Dinner at a local restaurant. Evening: Optional Outings: Shopping or Hutong Rickshaw ride.

Day 4 Beijing Architecture.

Morning talk, including slides or video, on main aspects of Chinese architecture over the millennium, from Tang, Ming and Qing styles to Modern Beijing. Visit Beijing City Planning Exhibition Hall to see the historical development of Beijing City, spend the afternoon at the beautiful Summer Palace and Gardens.



Day 5 Beijing China ancient and Modern.

Excursion to the Great Wall, and the Ming Tombs and the Stone steles. Visit the Olympic Green, the Birds Nest and Water Cube. Evening free for shopping or wandering.

Day 6 Beijing

Morning: Either visit Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and Beihai Park or Silk Market and Jade Market and free time for shopping. Afternoon: Visit to Museum of Natural History or Central Art Gallery. A talk on the origins of Peking Opera, the music, the masks and their significance. An early dinner, followed by an evening performance of Peking Opera at Liuyan Theatre.

Day 7 Xi'an Take the fast train to Xian in the morning (about 5 hours), arriving mid afternoon. After checking into the hotel, we will explore the Moslem part of Xian, first visiting the Great Mosque, one of the largest Mosques in China and a fascinating blend of Chinese and Islamic architecture. This area plays host to a large population of China's indigenous Moslem Hui people, and the market specializes in halal foods. Not only the food, but also the architecture and activities of the area and the dress of its inhabitants pay tribute to their Islamic origins, making a visit to this particular night market a cultural feast. We will have dinner here, and experience the local Hui cuisine.



Fully escorted. All inclusive price twin share \$6250

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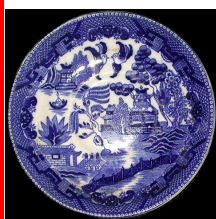
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Day 8 Xi'an Spend the day in a folk art village, looking at the tradition of folk art, participating in classes. Enjoy lunch in the farmer restaurants and experience a different expression of culture through the local culinary traditions. Farmer restaurants are becoming increasingly popular in Shaanxi Province.

Day 9 Xi'an Visit Terra-cotta Warriors Museum displaying China's greatest archaeological discovery – the Terracotta Warriors and Horses, an underground army from the tomb of China's First Emperor over 2,200 years ago. This will be followed by a visit to the Huaqing Hot Springs and Banpo Neolithic Village.



Day 10 Xi'an City Tour and Wall: Visit the City Wall, with options to walk, ride bikes, or hire a golf cart. Xian is one of the few cities in China where the old city walls are still standing. Built in 1370, the Ming dynasty wall has been restored and now encircles the town for 14kms. Other stops on the city tour will include the Big Goose Pagoda, one of China's best examples of Tang-style pagoda completed in 652 AD. In the centre of town, now surrounded by traffic, sit two important



landmarks – the Bell Tower and Drum Tower. The Bell was struck at dawn and the Drum marked nightfall. Depending on time we hope to visit the following: the Shaanxi Provincial History museum or the Xian Museum which houses exquisite ceramics from the Han dynasty, also jade artifacts and figurines. An excellent scale model of the city can be found in the basement, while in the grounds of the museum is the Little Goose Pagoda. In the evening a performance of Tang Dynasty Music and Dance at the Shaanxi Opera Theater.

Day 11 Shanghai/Suzhou

Fly to Shanghai in the morning, then drive to our hotel in Suzhou (1 hr).



Suzhou has the most beautiful examples of southern gardens in China. Visit two gardens: the Garden of the Humble Administrator and the Master of Nets Garden. Enjoy an evening walk along the old waterways of Suzhou.

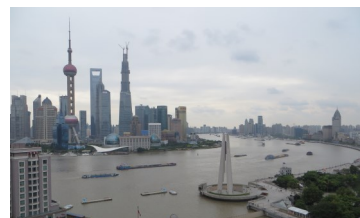


Day 12 Drive to Shanghai

Return to Shanghai in the afternoon, explore the city. Itinerary flexible. Free time for shopping in Nanjing Road, the most famous shopping street in Shanghai.

Day 13 Shanghai

Today we will visit some city sites, which may include the Bund, the French concession, Pudong, Jade Buddha temple.... We also reserve time during this day to visit further art galleries, a current art exhibition, and select a cultural performance for the evening.



Day 14 Shanghai

Visit the Shanghai Museum of Chinese Arts and Cultures, and then spend the afternoon in the Tianzifang Art Zone. Tianzifang has been transformed from a residential and industrial area into a modern art and commercial zone housing bars, cafes, crafts shops and design studios.



Day 15 Mid-morning go to airport, depart 2.15pm for New Zealand.

Contact
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 for enquiry and interest

