Vent Nouveau s.a.l.
TRAVEL & TOURISM
Since 1970

CHINA
12 - Day Itinerary

7 Mezher Street Antelias Beirut - Lebanon
Tel: +961 4 712037 Fax: +961 4 715196 P.O. Box: 60-233 Zip Code: 1241 2020 R.C. 1035 Baabda VAT No. 8721-601
www.ventnouveau.com info@ventnouveau.com

Beijing, the capital of China, lies just south of the rim of the Central Asian Steppes and is separated from the Gobi Desert by a green chain of mountains, over which The Great Wall runs. Modern Beijing lies on the site of countless human settlements that date back half a million years. It is China's second largest city in terms of population and the largest in administrative territory

Day 1 – Arrival in Beijing

Upon arrival at Beijing International Airport, please proceed to the luggage area to claim your check-in bags. You are greeted by an English speaking tour guide of Destination Asia representatives with specially designed welcome signage at the luggage carousel area exit and transferred to the hotel.

Day 2 – Beijing

Breakfast at leisure in a hotel.

Pickup time: 9:00am

Full day sightseeing to **Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven and Hutong Tiananmen Square** is the largest public square in the world. It has long been a gathering place for locals and visitors alike. On the north side of the square is Tiananmen Gate (the Rostrum). It was from the balcony of the Rostrum on October 1, 1949 where Mao Zedong, chairman of the Communist Party, proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The Forbidden City (Imperial Palace), directly behind the Rostrum, was home to 24 emperors beginning with its creation by Emperor Yongle in 1420 until the last Qing emperor, Puyi, left in 1924. The entire complex consists of 8,706 rooms in which an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 people lived including 3,000 eunuchs, as well as maids and concubines, all within 170 acres.

Optional visit to She Lent Fang Palace (Shu Fang Zhai)- the essence of traditional Chinese palace architecture in Forbidden City. Located on the east side of the Chonghua Palace, it was originally the head of the Qianxi Five places, and was built in the 18th year of Ming Yongle (AD 1420). After the Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty took the throne, he changed the second west to the Chonghua Palace, and changed the head to the She Lent Fang Palace, and built the stage as a place for the performance of the Chonghua Palace. At present, the building and interior decoration are in good condition. It is the VIP reception desk of the Palace Museum. It is used for the rest of the national leaders and foreign leaders when visiting the Forbidden City. It is a non-open area where visitors are not allowed to enter. Lunch.

The Temple of Heaven is a sequence of temples and altars set in a park. Twice a year during imperial times, the emperor and a magnificent procession of some 1,000 eunuchs, courtiers, and ministers would leave the Forbidden City for the temple. At the winter solstice, he expressed thanks for the previous harvest, and on the 15th day of the first month of the lunar year, he begged the gods of sun and moon, clouds and rain, and thunder and lightning to bless the coming harvest.

Optional Taichi Class (30-45 minutes) Discover the ancient art of meditative self-defence that is Chinese Tai Chi. Your Tai Chi Master will guide you through introductory poses and breathing exercises in the remarkable setting of the Temple of Heaven.

Beijing Hutong are lanes or alleys formed by lines of Siheyuan (a compound with houses around a courtyard). Most of them were built during the Yuan (1206-1368), Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644- 1908) dynasties surrounding the Forbidden City. Many famous operas and dramas are based on the themes of hutong life. Man-power rickshaw is arranged for you to feel the Hutong of Beijing. Take a rickshaw to visit the ancient Beijing Hutong. Transfer to hotel after tour. Dinner.

Day 3 – Beijing

Breakfast at leisure in the hotel.

In the morning you will have a chance to visit the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall, one of the great wonders of the world (inclusive of the return cable car fee).

Mutianyu Great
Located in Huairou County about 45 miles from Beijing, Mutianyu Great Wall enjoys a long history and is part of the glorious culture of China. It connects Juyongguan Pass in the west and Gubeikou Great Wall in the east. The wall was first built in Northern Qi Dynasty (550 - 557).

Followed by visiting Ming Tombs (Changling)
The Ming Tombs are a collection of imperial mausoleums built by the Chinese Ming dynasty emperors. After the Yongle Emperor finished the Forbidden City in 1420, he began constructing his own mausoleum outside of Beijing. Subsequent emperors placed their tombs in the same valley, resulting in the fascinating sight we can see there today.

Day 4 – Beijing - Xian By Air

Upon arrival in Xian, you are greeted by Destination Asia representatives with specially designed welcome signage at the exit of the airport.

City Wall
The city walls of Xi'an are some of the oldest and best preserved in all of China, and can be dated back to the 2nd century BC, when Xi'an was the capital of the country. The existing walls were completed in 1370 AD, and are about 14 kilometers in length and are still surrounded by a deep moat to this day. Since 1993, the Xi'an city walls have played host to a world-famous marathon where participants run along the entire length of the wall several times; however, on this tour we'll take a more leisurely pace to appreciate the spectacular views and rich history of this ancient structure.

Small Goose Pagoda
The Small Wild Goose Pagoda was built in 707, and was named after the already existing Big Wild Goose Pagoda, due to its remarkable likeness. Damage caused by an earthquake in 1556 resulted in the Small Wild Goose Pagoda getting even smaller, its height reduced by a full two meters. In the lower level of the pagoda, explore the precious artifacts and historical objects housed inside the Xi'an Museum.

Muslim Quarter
For over 1300 years, Muslims have been an integral part of the community in Xi'an. The city's Hui ethnic group traces their roots back to Persian and Arabic traders, who settled here at the eastern end of the Silk Road. Stroll through this unique and fascinating area of the city, and see the ways in which Central Asia has influenced the development of Mainland China.

Transfer back to the hotel. Dinner at your hotel on your own

Day 5 – Xian

Visit the TerraCotta Warriors, one of the most amazing sites in the world.

Uncovered in 1974 by peasants digging a well, the terracotta warriors and Xian's greatest and most important attraction. The first emperor of the Qin Dynasty, Qin Shi Huangdi, ordered the making of the warriors. During his reign, he undertook military programs to the far corners of the known world. The estimated 8,000 terra cotta soldiers are a testament to his power and megalomania. In the main and most impressive vault, the figures are arranged in typical battle formation in 11 columns composed of officers, soldiers holding spears and swords and others steering horse drawn chariots.

Xian Jingwen Cattle Culture Ceramic Museum
Several thousand cattle collections and ceramics treasures of different eras, different materials and different styles, are displayed alternately in the unique exhibition hall. During this incredible hands-on experience, you will have thousand-year-old relics presented to you right in front of your eyes. On rare occasions, the curator may allow you to hold and touch these precious national treasures.

Day 6 – **Xian - Chongqing By Air**

Private transfer to the airport and fly to Chongqing.

Arrive in Chongqing, transfer to the pier and board the cruise-Sanctuary Yangtze Explore.

Day 7 – On the Cruise

Shibaozhai - Take a shore excursion to Shibaozhai, with its impressive wooden pagoda, appropriately named "The Pearl of the Yangtze". Depending on river conditions, an alternate excursion may be substituted to Fengdu, visiting the new relocation village built for families who have moved as a result of the Yangtze's rising waters brought about by the Three Gorges Dam. Additional optional Shore Excursion to Fengdu's "Ghost City" (river conditions permitting), known for its statues of ghosts and devils on Mingshan Hill.

Enter the Three Gorges/"Small Gorges"/Ship Lock. Enter the Three Gorges, one of nature's most extraordinary sculptures. Today, you will pass through the first two—Qutang Gorge and Wu Gorge. Qutang Gorge is the shortest (5 miles), narrowest (500 feet), and most dramatic. The 25-mile long Wu Gorge is known for its quiet beauty, forest-covered mountains, and cliffs so sheer that the sun barely penetrates the precipices. Transfer to another vessel for a relaxing excursion through the attractive gorges of Goddess Stream. Depending on river conditions, an alternate excursion may be substituted to the gorges of Shennong Stream. Enter Xiling Gorge, the longest (41 miles), and the deepest of the Three Gorges. In the evening, sail through the Three Gorges Dam ship locks. Additional optional Shore Excursion to White Emperor City (river conditions permitting), an ancient city overlooking the western end of Qutang Gorge.

Day 8: Yichang - Shanghai By Air

Morning visit to the Three Gorges Dam Disembark in Yichang. Lunch in a local restaurant. City tour to Riverside Park, Yichang City Museum and Wanda Plaza. Private transfer to the airport and fly to Shanghai.

Day 9 – Shanghai

Yu Garden, Old Bazaar
Yuyuan Garden, a place of peace and comfort in the heart of bustling Shanghai, dates back to the fabled Ming Dynasty. Now a popular tourist destination, Yuyuan began as a private garden created by Pan Yunduan, who spent almost 20 years - and all of his savings - to build a garden in order to please his parents in their old age. That is why he called this garden "Yuyuan" - because "yu" in Chinese means "peace and health". .

Then visit Jade Buddha Temple
Situated in the northwest near the intersection of Anyuan Lu and Jiangning Lu, the temple is an active one, attracting large numbers of visitors, both local and overseas Chinese tourists. It is one of Shanghai's few Buddhist temples.

Jade Buddha Temple was built between 1911 and 1918, housing 70 resident monks. Its exterior is easily identifiable by its bright saffron walls. Inside, the centerpiece is a two meter-high white jade sitting Buddha encrusted with jewels.

Followed by a walk along the famous Bund with its colonial architecture.

The Bund, also called the Zhongshan Road, is a famous waterfront and regarded as the symbol of Shanghai for hundreds of years. It starts from the Baidu Bridge, which is at the connecting point of the Huangpu River and the Suzhou Creek, to the East Jinling Road and winds 1500 meters (less than one mile) length. Walking along the Bund, which is at the west shore of the Huangpu River, the Oriental Pearl TV Tower can be seen on the opposite side and also the Jin Mao Tower. Being one of the Top Ten Shanghai Attractions, the Bund is a really beautiful and special place that is worth visiting.

Dinner at your hotel on your own.

Day 10 – Shanghai

Morning tour to Zhujiajiao.

Zhujiajiao - a town with over 1,000 years of history, features rivers, bridges, old streets and gardens. Small rivers crisscross the town with 36 old bridges on them. Over 1,000 houses first built in the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911) stand along both sides of nine narrow streets. Visit this old town including Fangsheng Bridge -A stone arch bridge built during the mid-Qing Dynasty, which is viewed as the landmark structure of Zhujiajiao.

Lunch at Jean Georges restaurant with French cuisine (beverage is not included.)

Then visit Xintiandi & Tianzifang

This fashionable pedestrian street is composed of traditional Shikumen ("stone gate") style houses that now serve as boutique shops and restaurants. Tianzifang, once an unassuming laneway in a factory area, has been transformed into the art district of Shanghai. Here you will find many art galleries, private studios, craft shops, and some of the most charming bars and cafes in Shanghai.

Transfer back to the hotel after the tour.

Day 11 – Shanghai

Jing An Sculpture Park

The park was opened in 2007 and the sculpture exhibits began in 2010 in conjunction with the World Expo here in Shanghai that year. This outdoor museum is full of large scale sculptures and available for the bargain price for free!

Shanghai City Planning and Exhibition Hall (closed on Mondays)

Despite its dry sounding name, this surprisingly informative and interesting venue contains some amazing scale models depicting Shanghai at various points in its development. The most impressive is the model that shows all existing and approved buildings in Shanghai. It represents the entire city and takes up an entire floor of the building. Another model shows how Shanghai will look in a couple of decades, and in the basement Old Shanghai is reconstructed complete with cobblestones, shops and teahouses.

Lunch at Roof 325 restaurant (beverage is not included).

Ohel Moshe Synagogue where during WWII this designated area became the home of approximately 20,000 refugees from Central Europe. You will also visit The Old Ghetto Allies where both Jews and Chinese shared years of hardship during WWII. Most of the architecture of the area has been dismantled.

French Concession

Under the administration of the French from 1849 to 1946, the French concession is today a pleasant mix of wide tree lined avenues and interesting European style architecture. The area contains many gorgeous art deco and Tudor style mansions and retains a very European feel despite being in the heart of Shanghai. As the premier residential and retail district of Shanghai, the French concession is replete with boutique shops, charming cafes and exceptional restaurants.

Transfer back to the hotel after the tour.

Day 12 – Shanghai Departure

Breakfast at leisure in a hotel.

Private transfer to Shanghai Pudong airport.

END OF SERVICE

7 Mezher Street Antelias Beirut - Lebanon
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