



China's Paradise Island: Tropical Sanya
Beijing - Xi'an - Sanya

Country: China
Duration: 11 days / 9 nights

Route: Beijing – Xi'an – Sanya
Type of tour: Cultural / Beach
Departure days: See inside for details
Validity: From Nov 15, 2020 – Oct 10, 2021

TOUR OVERVIEW

Travel from China's capital in the north east to its paradise island at its southern tip, via the former capital of Xi'an and take in the cultural and historical delights of its current and former political centres, before retiring to the best beaches in China. From Beijing with its mix of old and new to the nation's former seat of government and home to the UNESCO Heritage Terracotta Warriors in Xi'an is a journey west, but also a trip back in time to the rule of emperor Qin. So celebrated was he, that once departed a huge army of individual clay soldiers were constructed to guard him in the afterlife and were accordingly entombed with him. Enjoy shopping for designer goods in fashion-conscious Beijing, but also the many handicrafts available in Xi'an's Muslim market, before heading south to soak up rays and dip your toes in the warm waters of the tropical South China Sea.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



Great Wall: Stroll along the restored Badaling section and see the undulating wall disappear into the horizon

Ming Tombs: As capital of China for centuries, Beijing is home to the tombs of its former rulers - the Ming dynasty

Tiananmen Square Imperial Palace: Rejoice in the true centre of the capital of the Chinese nation and learn of its royal past

Hutong Tour: Tour close-knit Hutong neighbourhoods by rickshaw and discover the living quarters of old Beijing

Terracotta Army: Pay homage to the immortal clay warriors unearthed after 2,000 years guarding China's first emperor

Wild Goose Pagoda: This seven-storey tower in Xi'an has protected priceless Buddhist scriptures for centuries

Double Tree Resort: Hilton's 4.5* Double Tree Resort in Haitang Bay, Sanya allows for a little luxury for your final stop

Wuzhizhou Island: Home to countless tropical fish and sea life, the clear waters offer great opportunities for diving

Haitang Bay Duty Free Center

Pick up some bargains before your flight home in the largest duty-free shop in Asia



Start & finish destination

1. *Beijing*
3. *Sanya*



Destinations

2. *Xi'an*

DON'T MISS!

Beijing: Hip Gulou district is dotted with small independent bars and music-friendly venues and is popular with trendsetters

Xi'an: After the Terracotta Warriors the most important sight in Xi'an is surely the restored tomb of revered emperor Jingdi

Sanya: As the largest duty free-store in China, Haitang Bay Duty Free Center provides a final opportunity to pick up some tax-free luxury branded goods

DAY BY DAY

D1-2 BEIJING

Meet your local guide in the lobby of the Beijing Dong Fang Hotel. In the afternoon there is an **optional excursion to the Summer Palace and Kunming Lake** in the north-west of the city. This spellbinding complex was where China's emperors and their families would retreat from the heat and intrigues of the Forbidden City. Here they could relax in the lavish pavilions of Longevity Hill, meditate in the temples and stroll through the landscaped gardens around Kunming Lake. The vast and sumptuous Summer Palace provides a range of striking views, and boasts beautifully decorated buildings and courtyards, which are charged with history. Admire structures whose grandeur is matched only by their wonderfully evocative names such as the Temple of Buddhist Virtue, the Hall of Jade Ripples, the Cloud-Dispelling Hall and the Hall of Happiness and Longevity. Kunming Lake is a large manmade pond, expanded over centuries, which has three isles that are believed to represent the 'three fairy islands of the Eastern Sea'. Two can be reached by bridge, including Nanhui Island, which is linked to the shore by the sensational Seventeen-arch Bridge. **Overnight in 3* Dong Fang Hotel or similar on B&B basis**

D3 BEIJING (B, L)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing for a brief drive to the **Badaling section of the Great Wall**. This stretch was built in 1505 in the strategically important Guan Valley in order to keep out the Mongol hordes from the north. Nowadays, tourists flock from all over the world and it is the most visited part of the Great Wall. Having been reconstructed to replicate its original appearance, this section gives a realistic vision of the Great Wall's sheer immensity. For a journey further into China's past, next is a visit to the Imperial Tombs of the Ming Dynasty and the Great Wall. The **Ming Tombs** are located some 45km north of Beijing in the valley below the Jundu Mountains. The location was specifically chosen because of its harmonious environment, and it was designed in an arc form to ward off evil spirits from the north. This monumental and serene complex is accessed through the imposing **Great Red Gate** and then reached via the 7km-long **Sacred Way**, which is lined with statues of guardians such as camels, elephants, lions, soldiers and imperial chamberlains. Explore the **Changling Tomb**, which is the final resting of the Yongle Emperor, who reigned in the early 15th century and is considered one of China's greatest rulers. On return to the city there is the chance to take a picture stop at Olympic park, built during the 2008 games and considered to be the lungs of the city. **Overnight in 3* Dong Fang Hotel or similar on B&B basis**

D4 BEIJING (B, L)

Breakfast at the hotel is followed by a full day visiting four of Beijing's most famous landmarks. First up is the enormous **Tiananmen Square**, one of the world's largest urban plazas, which is the location of the Chinese parliament, Mausoleum of Mao Zedong, the National Museum of China, the Zhengyangmen Gate Tower and the Tiananmen Gate ('Gate of Heavenly Peace') which gives access to the **Imperial City**, within which is the **Forbidden City**, hidden from the prying eyes of commoners by 10-metre-high walls. Head inside and as you stroll along the stretch leading from the Tiananmen Gate to the Meridian Gate, which leads to the **Forbidden City** proper, the sense of anticipation gives way to awe as you take in the sheer majesty of this incomparable treasure – one that for centuries no commoner or foreigner could enter and live to tell the tale. Construction began under the **Yongle Emperor** in the early 15th century and it was meticulously designed to be in harmony with philosophical, religious and hierarchical principles. Thus all roof tiles were yellow, which was the emperor's colour and could not be used by commoners, while no other building in Beijing could be taller than the Forbidden City. Among the city's attractions visited are: The Hall of Supreme Harmony, the Hall of Central Harmony, the Hall of Preserving Harmony and the Palace of Heavenly Purity as well as the Hall of Union and Palace of Earthly Tranquillity. Explore this beguiling UNESCO World Heritage Site and marvel at the magnificent temples, halls, pavilions, palaces and courtyards. Enjoy a local lunch after the visit. Adjacent to Forbidden City is **Jingshan Park**, which stretches out over the manmade 45-metre-high hill of the same name. It is the highest point in Beijing and was built as a private garden for emperors and their families. Like all imperial projects, Feng shui was at the fore of the planning process, and **there are five peaks on the hill, each crowned by a pavilion**. The views over the Forbidden City and the rest of the capital are breath-taking. To end your day in Beijing we journey on to the **Temple of Heaven**, which is located 3km south of Tiananmen Square. This Buddhist complex dates from the Ming and Qing Dynasties, and is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Of the three main structures, the most impressive is surely the 32-metre-high **Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests**, which is the oldest building in the temple. Towards north end of the Temple of Heaven, you will visit **the pearl market**. **Overnight in 3* Dong Fang Hotel or similar on B&B basis**



D5 BEIJING – XI'AN (High-speed train to Xi'an) (B, L)

Begin the day with a tour of Beijing's intricate alleyway 'Hutongs' in style, aboard a nifty pedal-powered Rickshaw. Stop off to visit a local family and dine in authentic Beijing fashion (think an array of dishes and an emphasis on congeniality) before taking a leisurely stroll around popular Houhai Lake. Bid farewell to Beijing and **transfer to the train station for a high speed train to Xi'an**. Arrive at Xi'an railway station and transfer to your accommodation **for the next two nights. Overnight in 3* Le Garden Hotel or similar stay on B&B basis**

D6 XI'AN (B, L)

Breakfast at the hotel is followed by a trip to the countryside on the outskirts of Xi'an to visit a priceless treasure that was unknown to humanity until some farmers stumbled upon it four decades ago. What they encountered has since become a global phenomenon, with parts of the so-called **Terracotta Army** being exhibited all over the world. There are thousands of armed warriors, each one different, lined up in rows according to military rank as well as hundreds of horses and chariots. The figures were made by an army of artisans and were buried with **Qin Shi Huang**, the first emperor of China, who died in 210 BC. To see them all before your very eyes is a truly unforgettable experience. The afternoon's activity is an excursion to the **Wild Goose Pagoda**, which has stood here since the **Tang Dynasty** in seventh century. It has been expanded and renovated many times but its main purpose of housing Buddhist

scriptures brought back from India by the travelling monk, Xuanzang, has remained the same. Jade, treasured by the Chinese but also the ancient peoples of Central America, remains a treasured precious stone, worn by people from all walks of life for its supposed calming effects. Explore a local Jade factory and see the stone taken from its raw form to the finely polished and beautifully shaped articles often adorning local people. **Overnight in 3* Le Garden Hotel or similar stay on B&B basis**

D7 XI'AN - SANYA (1,784 km) by plane (B)

Depart by plane and fly south to Sanya. Transfer to the 4.5* Hilton Doubletree Resort in beautiful Haitang Bay for your next four nights' accommodation.



D8–10 SANYA (B)

Awake in the Hilton Doubletree Resort in Haitang Bay, a 4.5* star hotel and resort with views of its tropical gardens leading to white sand beaches. Enjoy one of the resort's seven restaurants and bars or visit nearby Haitang Bay Duty Free Center (the largest duty-free shop in Asia). Sunkissed and all shopped out? Make good use of the hotel's spa facilities to rejuvenate body and mind whilst any smaller family members enjoy the resort's many family friendly facilities. Local attractions include Wuzhizhou island, home to countless tropical fish and other sea life and Nanwan Monkey Island, a nature reserve for 2000 macaque monkeys and home to the longest cable car in China.

Sanya is one of the southern most cities on Hainan island, often referred to as 'China's Florida' it sits on a similar latitude to Hawaii. To the north of the city sit low lying mountains, to the south, the South China Sea. Not only is the city popular with Chinese mainlanders, but also visitors from further afield, resulting in numerous English and Russian signposts. Famed for both its beaches, clear waters and nature reserves but also opportunities for duty-free shopping and spa treatments, Sanya offers a few surprises along the way. Try a visit to Buddhist Nanshan Temple or Luobi Caves, should you wish to break out of the laid back routine of islanders and visitors alike.

D11 SANYA

Depart for Sanya Airport for your return flight.