

# China Dynastic Perfections

Take the pulse of the Red Dragon, whose resounding past reverberates into the polished present.

## highlights

**Far East Firsthand** Bring the sophisticated brushwork of Chinese culture to your fingertips for a cultivated understanding of this influential world power.

**Annals of Chinese History** Discern your Xia from your Qing as you walk in the steps of emperors, learning over 3,000 years of dynastic history.

**Fan Artistic Curiosity** View immaculate works by ancient masters and modern artisans, and roam famed gardens and temples—muses for calligraphers, poets, sculptors and painters for centuries.

## at a glance

**Imperial Pathways** Stroll in the footsteps of emperors at the imposing Forbidden City. Just beyond the Gate of Heavenly Peace, visit Tiananmen Square, China's abiding symbol of pride and protest. Float through the royal garden-lined lake at the Summer Palace.

**Fortifications for Heaven and Protection** Harness yin and yang forces with a tai chi master at the Temple of Heaven. Soar by cable car to the Great Wall, walking between stately watchtowers dotting the rolling vista—then a deserved reflexology foot rub.

**Exquisite Color and Flavor** Whir through narrow *hutong* alleyways by rickshaw and discover traditional living in this modernizing metropolis. Craft dumplings with a local for lunch.

Practice intricate makeup application on a mask from a Peking Opera expert. **Army of the Afterlife** Walk hallowed grounds of the first emperor's tomb in Xi'an, guarded by 7,000 terracotta sculptures of soldiers and horses in full battle regalia—only uncovered in 1974. Bicycle the Xi'an City Wall, a vestige of feudal society trimmed with red lanterns. Rest overnight in a bullet train sleeper car to 2,500 year old Suzhou.

**Enclave of Classical Charms** Refresh amidst latticed walls and poetic rockwork of revered UNESCO gardens. Watch silk-making, and see meticulous tapestries. Trim bonsai trees and learn flower arranging before ascending to the leaning pagoda at Tiger Hill. Stroll the "Venice of the East," drifting along a canal in Tongli, followed by a tea ceremony and traditional Chinese medicine class.

**Sky's the Limit** Tradition converges with a flush of ultramodern culture along the historic Bund waterfront in Shanghai. Admire the imperious skyline from the inky Huangpu River at night—glazed with dazzling light shows—and from above at the Shanghai Tower, the second-tallest building on earth.

## details

- 9 days, 8 nights.
- Dedicated bilingual guides and private transportation throughout the trip.
- Comprehensive briefing packet for each participant, including country information, logistical and contact information, reading list, and packing list.

"Our heads are filled with kaleidoscopic impressions from our travels in China... Thank you for your enormous part in creating experiences which have reshaped our understanding of the world."



"I have traveled many times to the Far East, but never was the 'inside scoop' as accessible and fun as with you."

