

Have You Been To China Yet?

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Have You Been To China Yet?

By J Schipper

China is such a large country that it is impossible to see even a fraction of it in one visit. It is

advisable to specialize in just one area, and get a good guided tour. Ten-day guided tours are available starting at approximately \$1100.

For instance, the ancient civilization of mystical Tibet has always fascinated travellers. Learn about the history of Tibetan Buddhism, and visit the Potala Palace. Pilgrims come from every corner of Tibet to the Heavenly Lake Namtso.

Another popular tour travels along the historic Silk Road, one of the world's most famous trade routes. This route features ancient Islamic and Buddhist civilizations, bustling markets, exotic folk customs and a faded but glorious history. This fascinating overland route was once used for transporting silk to Europe. It covers areas in central China not visited by many tourists and passes through archaeological treasures such as the cities of Xian and Dunhuang as it heads into Xinjiang.

Or hike along the Great Wall of China. Make sure to bring hiking shoes and warm clothing, as the Wall was built as a military fortification atop steep, exposed mountain ridges.

China has a population of 1.265 billion, the largest of any country on earth, and holds about 22 percent of the earth's total population. It is an extremely diverse nation consisting of 55 different ethnic groups. The Chinese speak eight major dialects: Putonghua (Mandarin), Yue (Cantonese), Wu (Shanghainese), Minbei (Fuzhou), Minnan (Taiwanese), Gan, Xiang, and Hakka and many sub-dialects. In addition, ethnic groups such as the Mongolian, Naxi, Tibetan, Yi, Uygur, and other ethnic groups have their own native languages.

The language spoken in Beijing is often referred to as Mandarin or Putonghua. Putonghua, which means "common language" is the country's main language and is spoken by more than 70 percent of the population. Putonghua is also referred to as the "Han language" (Hanyu) or simply Chinese. Because of the increased economic migration across China during the past two decades years, the use of Mandarin has increased.

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In recent years, as tourism to China has grown, the use of English has increased across the country. In major cities, staff in stores and hotels can speak fluent or at least basic English. However, it is best for English-speaking tourists to have a translator, as knowledge of English is by no means universal, especially in rural areas where approximately 2/3 of China's population lives.

China, officially called the People's Republic of China (PRC), is the third largest country on earth. Only Russia and Canada are larger. China has a land area of 9,600,000 square kilometers (3,700,000 square miles), and a widely varying climate. Before you leave, find out what seasonal climates to expect in the region you are going to visit, and pack accordingly. China has a marked continental monsoon climate with great variety in temperature and rainfall. The greatest part of China is in the northern temperate zone while the southern areas are in the tropical or subtropical zone and northern areas in the frigid zone.

In most of China there is a clear division between seasons. In winter, northerly winds from high latitude

areas keep the northern region cold and dry, while in summer, monsoons from southern coastal areas bring warmth and humidity. In north China, such as Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia, summer is dry and sweltering while winter is biting cold. Sandstorms often occur in spring in this area, especially in the Inner Mongolia and Beijing area. The red dust from these storms can be picked up by high-altitude winds and travel around the world. In Russia, pink snow was reported in the winter of 2006 as this far-flung red dust mixed with local precipitation.

On the Tibet-Qinghai plateau, which has an elevation of approximately 4,000 meters above sea level, winter is long and extremely cold while summer is short and moderately warm. There is little precipitation here and a great temperature fluctuation between day and night. Visitors to Tibet should bring warm clothing even in summer.

In central China, such as Yangtze River area, summer is long, hot and humid while winter is short and cold. In the areas south of the Yangtze River, temperature rarely falls below freezing. In the near-tropical far south, such as the area around Guangzhou, the summer is long, humid and hot while the winter is short and mild. The rainy season runs from May through August and typhoons frequently occur in the southeast coast between July and September.

Chinese currency is called Renminbi (people's money), abbreviated as RMB, issued by The Bank of China. The unit of Renminbi is a yuan and with smaller denominations called jiao and fen. The conversion among the three is: 1 yuan equals 10 jiao which equals 100 fen. The safest way to bring currency to China is in travellers' checks. Be sure to keep your currency exchange receipts because you will need to show them when you change RMB back to your own currency when you leave China. Credit cards are often not accepted in remote areas, so be sure to carry sufficient RMB and travelers' checks to cover your requirements.

J Schipper is interested in traveling

<http://www.travelling-in-china.com>

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<http://www.2qz.com/condo-cruise-ship>

<http://www.royalcaribbeanreview.com>

<http://www.vegas-shows-now.info>

Go Oriental – Travel To China

By Barney Garcia

People touring all the important countries of the world; prioritize their travel to China. People's Republic of China is the world's most populated country, touching the 1.3 billion mark. With such a huge population and the large area, it is bound to be diverse and hence makes for a hot tourist destination..

Natural And Man-Made Wonders China is a beautiful blend of natural beauty and man-made architecture. Nature here is bountiful with magnificent mountains of Guangxi Zhuang, deserts like Xinjiang and rivers as Yangtze. Man has erected splendid structures like 'The Great Wall of China,' beautiful bridges, structurally planned buildings and other monuments. This makes it one of the worlds most sought after tourist spot and the reason for people to travel to China.

Getting and Staying There While planning to visit China, it would be wise, if you take a tour package for travel to China. However, be sure to do some research of your own, so that you can choose a suitable tour. While in China, you can go around by road, train or even by air. Accommodation is available to suit all budget and taste.

Places to Visit Beijing, the capital of China is a must-see during your travel to China. Cities of Hangzhou and Suzhou are extremely beautiful. The most popular destinations in China are: The Great Wall of China, which is one of the seven wonders of the world; Tiananmen Square; the Forbidden City of China, the famous temples of Shibaozhai and Yangtze River, which is a very astounding natural marvel. Boat cruise on River Yangtze is breathtakingly beautiful as it takes you through various exquisite Chinese cities and places of historical importance.

People of China People of China are very gentle, hardworking and thoughtful. Their main religion is Buddhism and Taoism. Most people speak Chinese and local people do not understand English very well. This can cause a little problem for the tourists. Other languages spoken here are Korean, Tibetan, and Mongolian etc.

China is rich in culture and has vast areas to explore. Your world-tour will never be complete, if you do not visit this oriental country.

Barney writes about various topics, and chose to write about China because of it's rich history and the fact that travel to china is ever increasing on what seems to be a daily basis. Please visit

<http://www.china-travel-tips.info>

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and

<http://www.travelto-china.info>

for more information

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