

A CHINA ROMANCE
DREAM IDYLL OF SOUTHERN
WATERS AND MOUNTAINS



TEXAS  **EXES**[®]
— FLYING LONGHORNS —

May 9–20, 2017

BEIJING • GUILIN • LONGSHENG • YANGSHUO • HANGZHOU • SHANGHAI



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join fellow flying longhorns for an insider's exploration of China's natural beauty. Your journey focuses on the idyllic karst mountain regions of Guilin as well as the sublime West Lake in Hangzhou.

Southern China has been known over the millennia for its exquisite landscapes of mountains and waters. Guilin evokes this special beauty, and your cruise down the Li River provides hours of visual delights. Yangzhuo is the debarkation of the cruise and offers its own loveliness, as karst shapes tower above the agricultural plain and form the backdrop of rustic townships. Soak in the picturesque landscape as you wander through the local villages.

A special treat is Longsheng, a hill region of rice paddies cultivated since the Yuan dynasty. This region epitomizes harmony with nature as life adapts along the steep hillsides. Li An Lodge, a boutique hotel created by a photographer, awaits you with accommodations and refined as the surrounding views and acts as your launching point to experience the cultures of the local Yao and Zhuang people.

West Lake is said to be the most inspiring synthesis of modernity and nature in Asia. Ultra-chic Hangzhou sits on the lake's east side, while the other shore is tied to the natural rhythms of ancient dynastic ways. Su and Bai Causeways frame views often found in Chinese landscape paintings, and the Guo Zhuang Garden provides multiple perspectives of the lake's refinement.

Your exploration of southern Chinese charms is bookended by the grand cities of Beijing and Shanghai. The imperial grandeur of Chinese emperors is felt throughout Beijing and the high-tech cosmopolitanism is present everywhere in Shanghai; two cities that could not be more different and yet remain quintessentially Chinese.

These enchanting regions will make memories for a lifetime, so join us on this special exploration of Chinese beauty. Note that pre- and post-tour extensions are available to customize your experience and make your stay in China even more enjoyable. All will operate with a minimum of only two travelers.

For more information, contact China Advocates at 888-333-2585 or 415-334-4505, or e-mail them at info@china-advocates.com with questions and to make a reservation. You may also fax the reservation form to 415-841-1790.

Regards,

Leslie Cedar BS '89, MBA '98
CEO and Executive Director of Texas Exes®



FABULOUS DINING

Savor China's Exquisite Regional Cuisines



China today arguably produces some of the finest cuisine in the world. Given the country's stratospheric economic rise and the emergence of a fun-loving middle class, fine dining experiences are prized in Chinese



society more than ever. A good time in China means nothing if not "to eat well."

The enjoyment of good food will prove to be one of this tour's recurring themes. Every Chinese region defines itself by its cuisine, which means the best way of experiencing China is through tasting its food. Since your tour passes through much of the country, you'll have many opportunities to discover each province's culinary specialties and given the creativity of Chinese chefs, it is unlikely you'll eat any dish twice! Here are just some of the splendid eating establishments that you will enjoy on your trip:

§ BEIJING - Known as the "Emperor's Kitchen" Beijing cuisine has been refined over centuries to delight the palates of the royal denizens that inhabited the city. With a visit to *Duck de Chine*, you will experience the many preparations of China's most famous dish, Peking duck. At the foot of the Great Wall, dine at *Xiaolongpu*, a restaurant that showcases farm fresh produce and braised meats that evoke the northern climate and rugged terrain.



§ GUILIN - When Westerners speak of Chinese food, they are often referring to Cantonese cuisine. Emphasizing fresh seafood, preserved condiments and a dizzying array of culinary techniques,



Guilin offers food that is coveted across China. At *Zuoan* you will indulge in dishes inspired by the local love of bold colors and an artistic presentation that compliments the complexity of the dishes.

§ HANGZHOU - Hangzhou natives consider their cuisine to be fresh, tender, and with a mellow fragrance. Tea is an important part of Hangzhou culture and is often used in braising meats. At *7 Longjing Road* you will find a variety of comforting dishes utilizing local ingredients including their praised varieties of bamboo shoots.

§ SHANGHAI - One doesn't often hear of food being "drunken," but in Shanghai you will commonly find fish, crab and chicken that is pickled, steamed or stir fried in wine and spirits. Characterized as light, mellow, and slightly sweeter than other provincial fare, Shanghai food exemplifies elegance and delicacy over all else. At *Ding Tai Feng* you will taste some of the city's unique styles of dim sum and at *Xi Family Garden Restaurant* you will be delighted by the balanced flavors as well as the

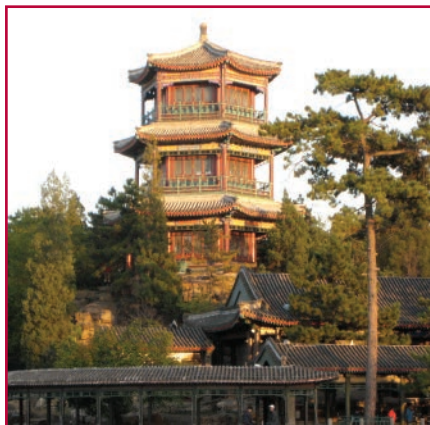


attractive presentation of ingredients carefully crafted with an aim towards harmonizing color and shape.



PRE- AND POST-TOUR EXTENSIONS

Customize Your Own China Experience



PRE-TOUR EXTENSION: CHENGDE IMPERIAL RESORT

May 6–10, 2017*

**Includes 2 days of international travel*

Spend three days experiencing the grandeur of the Qing Imperial Resort at Chengde, where Qing imperial power and minority politics played out, Tibetan lamas founded their monasteries, Manchus pursued their hunting traditions and Southern garden aesthetics were realized to their most opulent level. As a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site with a history of more than 300 years, this is one of the great cultural landmarks in all of China.

Generations of Chinese were fearful of life beyond the great wall and only the Qing emperors embraced that life while embellishing it to the limits of their imagination. The garden complex includes imperial halls, Mongolian yurts, and a wooded hillside with numerous pavilions and Buddhist temples.

Travel Dates for Chengde Extension

May 6 • Depart the U.S. for Beijing
May 7 • Arrive Beijing
May 8 • Beijing–Chengde
May 9 • Chengde
May 10 • Chengde–Beijing

Accommodations: New World Hotel Beijing (1 night)
Qiwanglou Hotel Chengde (2 nights)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION: DELIGHTS OF HONG KONG HARBOR

May 20–22, 2017

Combine captivating sightseeing experiences with ample free time for personal exploration and experience the perfect finish to your China tour.

With a magical skyline as a backdrop, there is no end to the fascination of this self-styled World City. Museums, nightlife, extraordinary cuisine, endless shopping—life here is like no other place on Earth!

Explore the Sheung Wan Dried Foods & Herbal Market, as shopkeepers and herbal practitioners introduce you to their abundant herbs and medicines. Visit the Aberdeen Floating Community and marvel at the indigenous community of fishing families and eccentric houseboat dwellers. Drive to Hong Kong's most famous landmark, Victoria Peak, and take in the panoramic views. Then tour Ocean Park to see some of China's rarest animals.

Travel Dates for Hong Kong Extension

May 20 • Shanghai–Hong Kong
May 21 • Hong Kong
May 22 • Hong Kong–U.S.

Accommodations: Shangri-La Kowloon (2 nights)





Temple of Heaven, Beijing

A CHINA ROMANCE

ITINERARY

May 9–10 • U.S.–Beijing

Depart the U.S. on your flight to Beijing. Cross the international dateline and arrive in China the next day. (Meals aloft)

• *Accommodations at the New World Beijing Hotel by the Temple of Heaven (3 nights)*

May 11 • Beijing

After breakfast, visit the Forbidden City, the abiding symbol of imperial China. Truly one of the great achievements of civilization, its construction employed hundreds of thousands of workers between 1406 and 1420. Marvel at its expansive architecture, magnificent imperial gardens, and the many museums of Chinese antiquities and treasures within the complex.

Enjoy lunch at a local family's home in the historic Houhai District. Then explore the picturesque lake district where many old courtyard homes are preserved amid narrow hutong alleys bordering tree-lined lakes. Tour the district by "pedicab" for a more lively experience of traditional Chinese life. (b,l)

May 12 • Beijing

In the morning, drive to the Great Wall of China Mutianyu, a rugged section of the wall that offers less crowded access (with cable car availability) and a more striking perspective as the wall climbs and winds over the surrounding hills. Here the Great Wall of China presents a visual experience that consistently exceeds visitors' expectations.

On the way back, drive by the Olympic Village and see the Olympic stadiums with their innovative design. Herzog & de Meuron

designed the National Stadium, known as the "Bird's Nest," while the firm PTW designed the National Aquatics Center, the "Water Cube."

Later tour the Temple of Heaven, one of the finest expressions of the Ming dynasty. Built in the 15th century, the stunning architecture of the Temple of Heaven represents the most advanced principles of mechanics and geometry available at the time.

In the evening, enjoy a feast at the luxurious Duck de Chine featuring fine cuisine and the world famous Peking duck. (b,l,d)

May 13 • Beijing - Guilin - Longsheng

After breakfast, fly to Guilin. Upon arrival, transfer by motor coach to Longsheng.

Longsheng is famous for rice terraces cutting into the precipitous hills that farmers have cultivated since the Yuan dynasty. Skeins of luscious green rice plants create remarkable views throughout the valley. Longsheng is the home of Yao and Zhuang minorities who continue to don colorful dress and carry on their traditional life. Explore the village market and delightful craft shops.

Hike the rice terraces and visit the locals in their traditional dwellings. (b,l,d)

• *Accommodations at the Li An Lodge, a work of art using Vietnamese hardwood and decorated with the owner's personal art collection (1 night)*

May 14 • Longsheng - Guilin

Continue to explore the paths and lifestyle of Longsheng until the early afternoon. Then drive to Guilin, famous for its spectacular



Fisherman on the Li River

karst limestone formations. These vertical mountains thrust up from the seabed some 300 million years ago. Eroded over the millennia by water and winds, these picturesque mountains have provided inspiration for countless Chinese artists and are immediately recognizable to anyone familiar with Chinese paintings.

Enjoy dinner at Zuoan Restaurant.

(b,l,d)

- *Accommodations at the Waterfall Hotel by the Li River (2 night)*

May 15 • **Li River - Yangshuo - Guilin**

This morning, cruise down the Li River, winding past Mural Hill, Folded Brocade Hill, Crescent Moon Hill, and many more. The four-hour cruise navigates some of the region's most stunning karst formations.

After disembarking, tour Liugong & Mushan villages, a gorgeous agricultural valley surrounded by distant karst scenery. Walk into the fields to enjoy another experience of rural China, this time in the middle of a visual paradise.

Return to Yangshuo and wander lively Xijie Street, filled with restaurants, craft shops, and local inns. Xijie is the home away from home for numerous Westerners and so exudes a cosmopolitan air as well as an invitation for a rollicking good time.

After dinner, attend Zhang Yimou's colorful water show, *Impressions of Sister Liu*. Zhang made numerous Oscar-nominated movies such as *Raise the Red Lantern* and *House of Flying Daggers*. He also directed the Beijing Summer Olympic Opening in 2008. After the show, head back to your hotel in Guilin. (b,l)

May 16 • **Guilin - Hangzhou**

In the morning, fly to the ancient capital Hangzhou, the most elegant and beautiful city in China. Marco Polo, purported governor of Hangzhou once called it, "paradise on earth."

Tour the elegant Qing dynasty Guo Zhuang Garden and stop by the charming Quyuanfenghe Park.

Before dinner, tour the grand architectural compound of the Qing dynasty merchant, Hu Xueyan. Countless courtyards lead from one to another, culminating in a grand garden with a monumental rockery and idyllic pavilions.

In the evening, tour Xihuxintiandi by the West Lake, a beautiful lakeside park developed recently with gardens, fine restaurants, and boutique shops. Dinner is on your own. (b,l)

- *Accommodations at the Shangri-La Hotel by the West Lake (2 night)*

May 17 • **Hangzhou**

Enjoy a gentle hike up Gushan Hill by the West Lake. Traditional architecture, landscape gardens, pavilions, and museums line up the hillside with a bird's-eye view of the West Lake and Hangzhou City.

Visit the National Silk Museum and learn the process of cultivation, production, and refinement of ancient Chinese silk art.

Tour the Meijiawu Tea Plantation and meet farmers who continue the ancient art of Longjing tea cultivation. Enjoy lunch at a tea farmer's home.

In the afternoon, tour Lingyin Temple, one of the earliest grand Chan Buddhist temples remaining in China today.

Take a boat ride on West Lake and stop



West Lake, Hangzhou

at the charming gardens on the isles.

Dinner is at 7 Longjing Restaurant featuring authentic Hangzhou cuisine. (b,l,d)

May 18 • Hangzhou - Shanghai

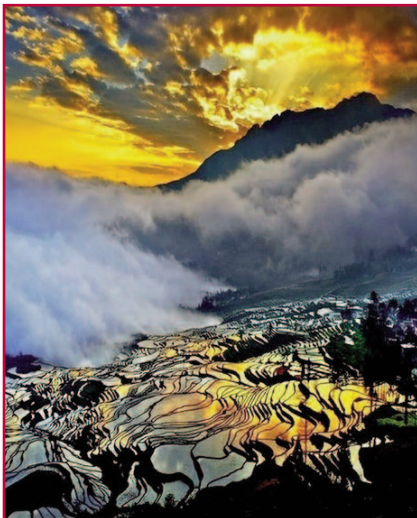
In the morning, take the new high-speed train to Shanghai, an exhilarating fifty minute ride!

Wander the old French Concession, with European style villas and walk along Taikang market street with boutique shops, galleries, and cafes. For lunch, enjoy delicious Shanghai dim sum at Tintaiyuan Restaurant.

In the afternoon, tour Yuyuan Gardens, designed in six unique parts, making the garden seem much larger than it really is. You will find one of the best Ming rockeries here, and meandering along the zigzagging bridge to Huxingting Teahouse is a delight.

Dinner is on your own. (b,l)

- Accommodations at the Shanghai Jinjiang



Tower (2 night)

May 19 • Shanghai

In the morning, Tour the Shanghai Museum and view its wonderful collection of Chinese ceramics, paintings, and furniture. The museum curator will greet you for a special introduction of their special collections.

Lunch is on your own. Visit a local primary school to meet with China's bright young scholars.

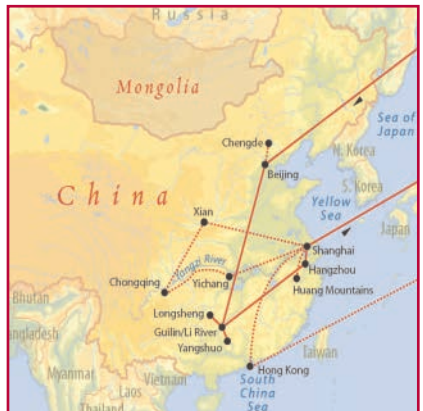
Tour the Pudong economic district and ride the elevator to the top of the highest building in Asia, the World Financial Tower, for a panoramic view of the old and new Shanghai by the Huangpu River.

The rest of the day is free for personal exploration and last minute shopping.

In the evening, enjoy a farewell banquet at Xi Family Garden Restaurant, serving impeccable Shanghai food. (b,d)

May 20 • Shanghai - U.S.

Transfer to the Shanghai airport for your flight home. Arrive in the U.S. on the same day, or continue on with your post-tour extension. (b, meals aloft)



POST-TOUR EXTENSIONS

Customize Your Own China Experience



POST-TOUR EXTENSION: XIAN & THE YANGZI RIVER

May 20–25, 2017

See the splendor of the Tang Dynasty capital of Xian and journey down the Yangzi river for a tour of China's most scenic landscapes.

In Xian, stand on the spot where the Chinese emperor Qinshihuang ordered an army of terracotta warriors to preserve his immortality in the life beyond. Full construction involved 700,000 workers, a human effort so stupendous it lies beyond human comprehension.

Afterwards, you will fly to Chongqing to see pandas as well as 2,000 other species at the Chongqing Zoo. Embark on a cruise down the Yangzi River where you will be surrounded by valleys and mountains carved by the rushing waters. Each day there are special excursions culminating in a visit to the extraordinary Three Gorges Dam, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world!

Travel Dates for Xian and Yangzi Extension

May 20 • Shanghai–Xian
May 21 • Xian–Chongqing
May 22-23 • Yangsi River Cruise
May 24 • Yichang–Shanghai
May 25 • Shanghai–U.S.

Accommodations: Wyndham Grand Xian South (1 night) Victoria Cruises (3 nights) Jinjiang Tower Shanghai (1 night)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION:

HUANG MOUNTAINS & HUIZHOU CULTURE

May 20–24, 2017

This five day extension focuses on Anhui Province and its idyllic landscape of rice paddies, Ming and Qing Dynasty villages, and old town centers. Marked by the old rhythms of rural life, these villages have remained unchanged for hundreds of years and wandering through the crooked stone lanes will provide an insight into ancient China. Discover traditional Anhui life, regional architecture, and museums in the foothills of Anhui.

Then, visit the crown jewels of the region, the Huang Mountains. The beauty of granite precipices towering above the morning valley fog have provided inspiration to Chinese artists for centuries. On foot and by cable car, explore the mountain's gorgeous views. Vistas of amazing beauty lie a few minutes from the hotel. Sit at the edge of thousand foot cliffs and absorb nature at its most sublime.

Travel Dates for Huang Mountain Extension

May 20 • Shanghai–Tunxi
May 21 • Huizhou Villages
May 22 • Huangshan Mountains
May 23 • Huangshan - Shanghai
May 24 • Shanghai–U.S.

Accommodations:

Crowne Plaza Hotel Tunxi (2 nights) Xihai Hotel Huangshan Mountain Summit (1 night) Jinjiang Tower Shanghai (1 night)



Tour Cost

• Rates are per person and do not include international air:

Main Tour, Double Occupancy **\$5,190**

Single Supplement **\$1,690**

Chengde Pre-Tour Extension	\$1,595	Single Supplement	\$ 795
Huang Mt. Post-Tour Extension	\$2,190	Single Supplement	\$ 995
Xian & Yangzi Post-Tour Extension	\$2,290	Single Supplement	\$ 1,095
Hong Kong Post-Tour Extension	\$2,090	Single Supplement	\$ 995

Round-trip International Air is available through AirTreks. For pricing, please contact AirTreks directly at 415-977-7136 or at china-advocates@airtreks.com.

Private Airport Transfers upon arrival in Beijing and departure in Shanghai are recommended and available through China Advocates. Call 1-888-333-2585 or email info@china-advocates.com.

Main Tour Includes: • Double occupancy accommodations • All meals listed in itinerary • All sightseeing, entertainment, and cultural activities listed in itinerary • Chinese airport taxes • All air and ground transportation within China • English-speaking local tour guides • China Advocates' National Tour Director (with a minimum of 10 participants) • Gratuities to local guides and drivers on main tour (with a minimum of 10 participants)

Not Included: • Domestic U.S. and international airfare • Gratuities to China Advocates' National Tour Director • Gratuities on extensions • Airport arrival/departure transfers and Portage • Visa and passport processing fees • Meals not included in the tour • Optional activities not included in the tour • Excess baggage charges • Travel insurance • Items of a personal nature.

For more information, please contact **China Advocates** toll-free at **888-333-2585**, locally at **415-334-4505** or email **info@china-advocates.com**.

Tour Reservation Form

Texas Exes Flying Longhorns
A *China Romance*, May 9–20, 2017

Enclosed is a deposit for \$ _____ (\$700 per person) to hold _____ place(s). Please make checks payable to *China Advocates*. Final payment is due on February 8, 2017.

Passport Name/s _____ Birth date _____

Passport Name/s _____ Birth date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home/Office _____ Cell _____

Email 1 _____ Email 2 _____

Optional Extensions: Chengde Pre-Tour Extension Huang Mt. Post-Tour Extension
 Xian & Yangzi Post-Tour Extension Hong Kong Post-Tour Extension

Accommodations: Single Double
 I need assistance securing a roommate. I understand that if a roommate cannot be secured for me, I agree to pay the single supplement fee(s).

Bed Request: One Bed Two Beds Smoking Nonsmoking

I/we understand that, by signing below, I/we acknowledge that the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure has been read and accepted.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Credit Card Number for Deposit: _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV Code _____ (*Payments accepted by credit card or check.*)

Signature _____ Date _____

Please fax, email, or mail Reservation Form, with deposit, to:

China Advocates
3843 Brickway Blvd. • Suite 210 • Santa Rosa, CA • 95403
tel: 888-333-2585 • fax: 415-841-1790 • email: info@china-advocates.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS

TRAVEL IN CHINA: The schedule will be demanding with moderate physical activity. Travel in China requires good physical condition and health (special needs must be arranged for in advance and may result in additional costs), a spirit of adventure, a flexible attitude, and a sense of humor. The itinerary is subject to change and modification. Every effort will be made to carry out the program as planned, but alterations may still occur. Participants should be aware that no refunds will be made as a result of unforeseen changes, modifications, or delays.

Some aspects of this tour may not be appropriate for travelers with health concerns or disabilities. Tourist travel in China can be extremely strenuous and may be especially debilitating to someone in poor health. Tours often involve walking long distances and up steep hills. China lacks handicap-accessible facilities. Please consult with China Advocates if you have any special needs or concerns.

RESERVATIONS: Bookings are subject to the terms and conditions mentioned in these sections. A contract has been entered into as soon as your booking is received and accepted. **To confirm the reservation, a deposit of \$700 per person is required. Final payment is due at 90 days prior to departure and can be paid by check or credit card.**

GROUP AIR: A recommended group flight is available through AirTorks. This flight will include airport transfers on both arrival and departure. This flight is subject to availability and prices may vary depending on time of purchase.

AIR: Airline cancellations and penalties are based on each carrier and ticket. Be sure to review these policies before purchasing air tickets via AirTorks. China Advocates, Inc. and Texas Exes Flying Longhorns are not responsible for any penalties incurred due to airline schedule changes or cancellations.

CANCELLATIONS: *No cancellation is valid until it is received in writing by the office of China Advocates.* Cancellation penalties are based on the date of receipt of written notice and are as follows: **91 or more days prior to departure, a cancellation fee of \$500 per person is retained; 90-46 days prior to departure, \$1,500 per person; 45-31 days prior to departure, \$2,500 per person; 30-0 days prior to departure, no refund is made.**

Cancellation penalties for additional hotel nights, hotel and cruise ship room upgrades, tour extensions, and any special arrangements, are as follows: **50-31 days prior to departure, 25% of cost is retained; 30-0 days prior to departure, no refund is made.**

RESPONSIBILITIES: China Advocates, Inc. and Texas Exes Flying Longhorns act only as agents for the various carriers for which tickets are provided and assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any train, vessel, carriage, aircraft, motor vehicle or other conveyance, which may be used either wholly or in part,

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in the performance of their duty to the passenger. Neither will they be responsible for any act, error, or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, which may be occasioned by any defect in any vehicles, or through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or for any hotel proprietor, hotel service or restaurant, or for any other person engaged in carrying out the purpose for which tickets or coupons are issued. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, also to decline to accept or retain any passengers as members for the tours. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded. Refunds for unused carrier tickets may be only in accordance with the regulations of the carrier (CST 2064278-40). Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. All legal questions will be settled within the jurisdiction of the County of Nevada City, California.

VISA: To obtain a Chinese visa, a passport is required that is valid for at least six months beyond the duration of the tour. Travelers are responsible for their own visas.

Trip cancellation insurance is highly recommended and available. You will receive travel insurance information once you are confirmed on the program.

Itinerary is subject to modification.

Prices are subject to change without notice.