

# Destination China

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## Guangzhou

The pulse  
of the South

## Shanghai or Beijing

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CHINA SOUTHERN







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**Classic China Adventure with China Southern Airlines**

If you've always been intrigued by the mysteries of the Middle Kingdom's tremendous past and the promise of its future, then dive into the wonders of China on this exceptional tour. Walk back in time along the Great Wall, stare down the stoic Terracotta Warriors, uncover the Buddhist gems of Hangzhou and watch Shaolin monks cut through the air during a fearsome display of Kung Fu. With your accommodation and transportation arranged by Adventure World's expert guides, this adventure offers up a great combination of must-see highlights and authentic activities to engage your inner explorer. Competition closes 5pm 22 Aug 2011

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# New door 中國歡迎你 opens to China

The fascination of travelling in China is to discover an emerging giant that is still mysterious. The powerhouse economy tells only part of the story. There is the sheer diversity of China's terrain and its people, the allure of places of natural beauty as well as the dynamism of its cities. Born of an ancient civilisation, China leaves you wanting to know more. China Southern Airlines' new flights from Auckland to Guangzhou have opened the door not only to an exhilarating centre of international trade but also to road, rail or air connections to all corners of this vast and intriguing country.



Wuyi Mountains - between Fujian and Jiangxi province





Chengdu architecture - Sichuan



Summer Palace - Beijing



Local food stall - Chongqing

## Tales from the east



Terracotta Warriors - Xian

### Top Sights:

#### The Great Wall of China

Construction of the Great Wall began about 200 BC to prevent raiding nomad tribes from conquering China. Up until the 17th century, successive dynasties continued to extend the wall across China for at least 6500kms. Several sections are easily reached from Beijing.

#### Yangtze River

China's great waterway courses from the glaciers of the Tibetan plateau on a 6300km journey to the East China Sea, a lifeline to the people for thousands of years. Cruises on the mighty river include the magnificent Three Gorges between Chongqing and Yichang.

#### The Forbidden City

The imperial palace with its 9000 rooms and many courtyards remain behind walls in Beijing but entry is no longer forbidden. Yet the Forbidden City, housing China's best preserved collection of imperial architecture, still has a mysterious aura.

#### Terracotta Warriors

China's extraordinary army of terracotta warriors, chariots and horses lay buried near the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang for 2200 years until they were discovered in 1974 by farmers digging fields near the ancient capital of Xian. Nearly 2000 figures have so far been excavated, with estimates of thousands more awaiting discovery.

#### Yunnan

Yunnan Province is home to some of China's most spectacular scenery, from soaring, snow-capped mountains to subtropical rain forests. Tiger Leaping Gorge in the protected World Heritage Site known as Three Parallel Rivers is just one of the Province's many breathtaking sights and hiking trips.

#### Pandas of Sichuan

The Panda Research Base in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, is one of the best places to see these endearing symbols of China. You will also be able to see pandas in their natural habitat at the Ya'an Bifengxia Panda Base, 140kms away by road through stunning mountain scenery.



Guangzhou - skyline city at night



# Guangzhou (Canton) 廣州

## Pulse of the South

The dynamic city of Guangzhou has become the latest gateway into China for New Zealand travellers. And because China aims to be the world's top tourist destination by 2020 you can be sure of ready road, rail or air connections from Guangzhou to nearby Hong Kong, to the striking scenery of neighbouring Yunnan Province and to main centres spread across the country.

Award-winning Baiyun Airport is an impressive entrée to Guangzhou's booming metropolis. Designed with the future in mind, it gleams with efficiency. A subway and express buses provide seamless ground transport into Guangzhou, a large and lively city of more than 10 million people. But you'll be able to get around easily. Like Baiyun Airport, Guangzhou's public transport is modern and cheap to ride. While traffic-choked Aucklanders wait for the promised electric trains to replace the aged, diesel-powered trains, Guangzhou moves millions of passengers daily on its advanced rapid rail and bus transport systems. Freewheeling cyclists are looked after too. The city's extensive bus corridor integrates bicycles.

And don't worry about getting lost on the subway network. Most stations tourists are likely to use have English signs and announcements in English telling you the name of the next station.

The direct air access from Auckland to Guangzhou has opened exciting new travel and business opportunities. The port city of Guangzhou is southern China's major centre of international trade and industry, a prosperous city that bursts with life and entrepreneurs chasing the opportunities that China's rapid development is bringing.

With a 2800-year history behind it, the city also takes pride in its cultural heritage and educational institutions. As for food, Guangzhou is the mecca of native Cantonese cuisine. When you think you have died and gone to heaven after dining in one of Guangzhou's renowned Cantonese restaurants you can sample more Cantonese cuisine in many more excellent restaurants around the corner.

You can walk off dining excess while visiting some of the city's main attractions. Away from the commercial throb are tranquil havens like the city's scenic Yuexiu Park.



## Guangzhou highlights

### Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall

Built after the former leader's death in 1925

### Chen Clan Academy

A magnificent collection of 19th century buildings and courtyards, built in Guangzhou region's distinctive Lingnan-style of architecture and housing the Guangdong Province's Museum of Folk Crafts

### Museum of the Southern Yue King

The 2000-year-old excavated mausoleum of Emperor Wen

### Temple of the Six Banyan Trees

Which has a 900-year-old, 54-metre high pagoda

### Guangxiao Temple

An historic Buddhist temple, founded during the 4th century Eastern Jin Dynasty

### Hualin Jade Street market

Is Guangzhou's best known but don't miss the countless alleyways of jade stalls a little north of Hualin

### Haulin Temple

One of Guangzhou's oldest and most interesting





Guangzhou tower



Baiyuan temple, Guangzhou/Canton



### China Adventure

The perfect introduction to the Middle Kingdom, this tour accentuates China's truly amazing achievements. From the ancient structures of Beijing, to the incredible craft that went into the Terracotta Warriors of Xian and the contrasting boom-city of Shanghai, see the best on this eight-day tour.

**8days /7 nights (upgrade) - \$3849pp**

**Price including airfares with China Southern**



### Cameo China

Combine historic sites, bustling cities, rural country scenes and delicious cuisine on our most popular introduction to China.

**12days /11 nights - \$4349pp**

**Price including airfares with China Southern**



### Flavours of China

Meals in China represent more than just food on a plate – they are the cornerstone of all social interaction. The cuisine is divided into different regions and flavours and this tour offers an opportunity to sample the diversity of tastes throughout.

**9days /8 nights - \$3699pp**

**Price including airfares with China Southern**



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

(See over page for terms & conditions)



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**Email: [AATours@aa.co.nz](mailto:AATours@aa.co.nz)**

Other tourist favourites are visits to Guangzhou's historic Shamian Island and cruising on the Pearl River.

The elegant tree-lined trees and old mansions of Shamian Island are nostalgic reminders of Guangzhou's colonial era – the days when China was forced to lease the island to the British and French in 1859 towards the end of the Opium Wars. Shamian's pedestrian-friendly legacy offers respite from the fast-paced fury of the city. You will see the locals at Tai Chi, card games and singing and dancing under the shade of the trees. Getting amongst the street life, whether in peaceful Shamian or the fast-paced city centre, is the rewarding way to experience Guangzhou.

The water view of Guangzhou is the other way to go. The city is traversed by the Pearl River as it flows to the South China Sea. For centuries Canton, as Guangzhou used to be known, was China's main port on the Maritime Silk Road and it flourished anew when Britain's East India Company established a post there in 1711. A Pearl River cruise past old and new city sights is a quintessential Guangzhou experience.

Spring and autumn are pleasant times of the year to visit subtropical Guangzhou. And plan to explore further afield. To the west is Yunnan and some of China's most beautiful and diverse scenery. And Hong Kong to the south is just two hours away by train from Guangzhou.



Cantonese food



Fan dancing - Shanghai



Chinese scribe

**Ancient North China**

Visit the incredible hanging temples at Mount Heng, the Holy Mountain of Wutai & explore the ancient streets of Pingyao.  
**6days /5nights - \$2949pp**  
 Price including airfares with China Southern



**Grand Yangtze Discovery**

After time in vibrant Shanghai relax and unwind on this spectacular nine-day Yangtze River cruise. With regular shore excursions you will witness river and rural life, see towering mountain peaks in Huangshan, sail through the mighty Three Gorges and visit the spectacular Small Gorges on the Daning River.  
**9days /8nights - \$2949pp**  
 Price including airfares with China Southern



# Shanghai 上海

Shanghai is the dragon released from its cage. In the 30 years since China introduced economic reforms, the city has fired on all cylinders to re-establish itself as the country's centre of commerce.

Shanghai was Asia's busiest port during the 19th and early 20th centuries when Western powers and Japan had lucrative footholds there. Roaring trade in opium, silk and tea led to the erection of grand buildings along the Huangpu River which flows from the Yangtse, China's great waterway. Shanghai became known as the Paris of the East and danced from success to excess until Mao Zedong's communist takeover in 1949 sent the foreigners scuttling from the neo-classical buildings.

Today, Shanghai's famous riverside Bund is still lined with the now handsomely restored buildings like the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank and Peace Hotel. The Bund's vitality will carry you along like an unfurling wave. Book a table at the Peace Hotel to hear an elderly jazz band play, a tradition upheld for 80 years apart from breaks for war or revolution.

From the roof garden are views across the river to the burgeoning skyline of new Shanghai, known as Pudong. The 88-floor Jin Mao Tower is just one of Pudong's boldly designed sky piercers. Even the locals have trouble keeping up with the pace of development on what was farmland a few decades ago. Short ferry rides across the river plunge you into Pudong's buzzing ambience of people unapologetically in pursuit of enterprise.

English-speaking guides know the short cuts to interesting places like the historic French Concession where shuttered mansions and tree-lined streets are redolent of 19th century France. They will also take you to the 400-year-old Yu Yuan Gardens and superb Shanghai Museum, to buzzing street markets and the air-conditioned department stores of Nanjing Road.

An appetite quickly builds exploring this vibrant city of 22 million people. Restaurants abound, serving cuisine from every Chinese region as well as Shanghai's tasty amalgam of closer regions. Don't by-pass Shanghai's juicy, steamed buns known appropriately as Little Dragon Buns.



### Three Gorges Explorer

A remarkable in-depth journey of the Three Gorges region along the mighty Yangtze River, with shore excursions escorted by knowledgeable river guides each day.

**8days /7nights - \$2849pp**

**Price including airfares with China Southern**



### Sichuan Explorer

The spicy province of Sichuan is surrounded by a lofty mountain plateau, the lengthy Yangtze River and imposing Three Gorges. Chengdu sits as the capital and entry point and fascinates with its quaint tea houses, excellent museum and adorable pandas. Journey further and witness breathtaking temples and the Buddha at Leshan.

**3days /2nights - \$2649pp**

**Price including airfares with China Southern**



Hanging temple - Datong

# Beijing 北京

Beijing's population outstrips New Zealand's several times over. The exuberant, confident capital of a huge country that is as rich in history as it is culturally diverse, proclaims the rising ambitions of modern China with bold, 21st century architecture, traffic-filled boulevards and shopping malls glittering with local and international brands.

Traditional Beijing is also on show, having been the home of imperial power for 500 years. Off limits to all but the Emperors' court for half a millennium, the Forbidden City spreads across 250 acres within its protective walls. More intimate by far are Beijing's remaining hutongs, narrow alleys lined with traditional courtyard houses. They huddle beneath soaring skyscrapers and are cherished by the locals and visitors alike. You can rent boats to sail around the little Lake Houhai in their midst and take a rickshaw ride around the alleys where some of the houses have been converted into restaurants, bars and shops.

The Forbidden Palace borders on Tiananmen, Beijing's central square with its imposing Monument to the People's Heroes. Under the deadpan gaze of soldiers, people gather in thousands to

watch the raising of the national flag and children rush merrily about with balloons, softening Tiananmen's concrete expanse.

Across the city is the strikingly modern Bird's Nest Stadium built for the 2008 Olympic Games. Lit up at night, it looks even more spectacular. China's National Theatre, an elliptical titanium dome that seems to float on the surrounding water, is another stunning example of the city's 21st century face to the world.

Dining out in Beijing is akin to a virtual gourmet tour of the whole country. From Sichuan, Suzhou, Ningbo and Wuxi cuisines to Anhui, Muslim, Yangzhou and Cantonese. And, of course, Beijing food. Be sure to try Beijing's celebrated Peking Duck, sliced on the table by the chef and served with pancakes, spring onions and hoisin sauce.

Worried about weight gain? Take off to hike part of China's most famous monument. No fewer than eight major sections of The Great Wall are close to Beijing. Badaling is an hour by road. Less tourist trod and tracing the mountains are Simatai and the 40km-long Gubeikou section containing many cultural relics.

## AA Tours and Cruises

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### DEAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

#### Conditions: Price:

Prices are correct as at 16 May 2011 & are subject to change without notice. Until 31 March 2012 unless otherwise stated or sold out earlier. Departure fees are additional. Prices are per person from Auckland in economy class unless otherwise stated & are subject to availability. All prices are based on payment by cash or EFTPOS only. Capacity is limited & will not be available on all flights. If included, all accommodation is based on twin share unless otherwise stated. To see full terms & conditions are available at [www.aa.co.nz/china](http://www.aa.co.nz/china)



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