



SINO-AMERICAN
TRANSCULTURAL INSTITUTE

2015 Birding Tour in China

December 2, 2015 to December 20, 2015

Day One – Wednesday 12/2 – USA to Beijing

Depart from Boise for Beijing. On this day you will cross the International Dateline on your way to the People's Republic of China. Once on board, change your watch to China time: 14 hours ahead of Mountain Standard Time. (Noon in Boise is 2AM TOMORROW, China time!) All of China is on one time zone...Beijing Time Zone.

Day Two – Thursday, 12/3 – Arrive Beijing

You will be met at the Beijing Capital Airport and transferred to the hotel in the heart of Beijing. Following hotel check-in, and a time to freshen up, we can explore the Wangfujing Walking Street area.

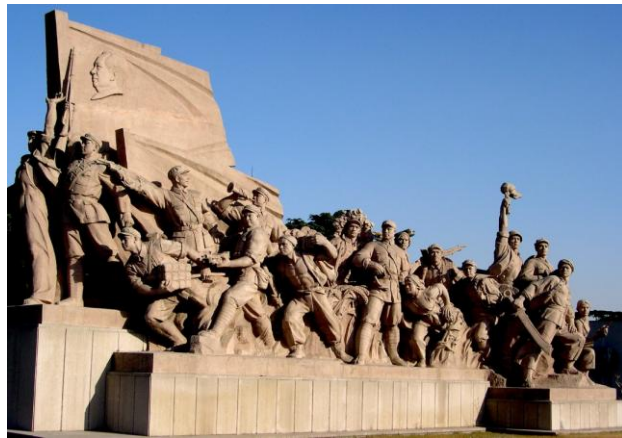
Local Beijing-style food is readily available....if you are hungry. There are lots of things to try! We can walk, gawk, and enjoy the central shopping area of Beijing. It's fun to absorb the pace of the people and the feeling of the city! You are in the friendliest city in China, and perhaps, the world!



Day Three – Friday, 12/4– Beijing

Sleep in a bit, and meet for breakfast at 0800. Enjoy breakfast in the hotel restaurant. There are lots of things to choose from...both Western and Asian foods. Fruit, juices, cereal, eggs, tea, coffee and assorted breads are always available.

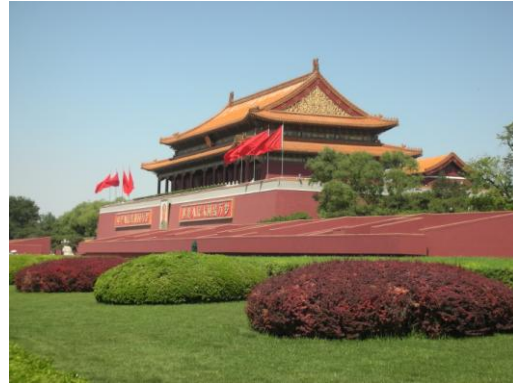
Following breakfast we will walk to Tiananmen Square, the largest public square in the world, about ¼ mile from our hotel. At over 108 acres, Tiananmen Square can accommodate more than 1 million people.



We will cross the Square, viewing the elaborate Soviet-style statues dedicated to the heroes of the revolution, and the mausoleum of Chairman Mao.

- ❖ While we remember Tiananmen Square for the student democracy demonstrations and associated deaths in 1989, the Chinese People remember it as the birthplace of the PRC, the People's Republic of China.
- ❖ Looking north, we will see an enormous portrait of Chairman Mao, above Tiananmen (The Gate of Heavenly Peace), the entrance to the Forbidden City. In 1949, Mao declared the start of the PRC from the balcony above this gate.
- ❖ In 1966, from this same venue, he set the students and Red Guards on the path to Communist reform, starting the Cultural Revolution in the PRC. Ten years of absolute chaos, death and destruction followed.

We will cross Chang An (Everlasting Peace) Boulevard, and enter the Forbidden City through Tiananmen Gate.



- ❖ The Forbidden City, the central landmark in Beijing, is a double walled structure, officially known as the Former Imperial Palace, or *Gu Gong*.
- ❖ We will enter by the south gate and traverse the length (3,150 feet) viewing the relics and 9,999 buildings within this 183-acre cultural treasure.
- ❖ *Gu Gong* was home to twenty-four emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, from 1407 to 1911.

We will exit through the North Gate (Gate of Divine Might), and walk to the nearest subway station, where you will get an introduction to mass transit in Beijing. Use of the subway is amazingly easy, cheap and safe. Expect it to be crowded, but not uncomfortably so.

Following lunch at a famous vegetarian restaurant, we will visit Yonghegong Lama Temple.

- ❖ This Tibetan Buddhist temple is Beijing's most visited religious site. Its five main halls and numerous galleries are hung with finely detailed thangkas (painted cloth scrolls) and decorated with carved or cast Buddha images -- all guarded by young lamas (monks).
- ❖ Originally a palace for Prince Yongzheng, it was transformed into a temple after he became the Qing's third emperor in 1723. The temple flourished under Yongzheng's successor, Emperor Qianlong, housing some 500 resident monks.
- ❖ Unlike most "feudal" sites in Beijing, the Lama Temple survived the 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution mostly unscathed. Premier Zhou Enlai is credited with saving not only Yonghegong, but also Lingyin Temple in Hangzhou during this tumultuous period! (We will visit Lingyin Temple while we are in Hangzhou!) While the reason remains a mystery as to why the Premier would want to save a religious site, personal speculation is that his mother may have been a devout Buddhist.



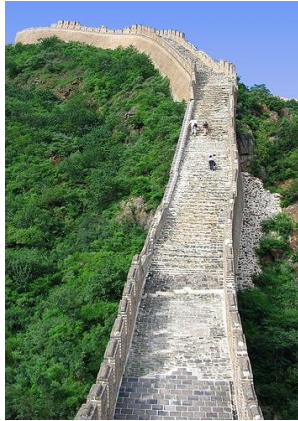
Be sure your camera battery is well charged! This is a fantastic place for candid shots.

Our evening destination is the Peking Opera. Peking Opera is quite different than western opera, in that it is one part singing, one part acting, and one part acrobatics/martial arts (kung fu). English subtitles are provided on adjacent screens. After a while, the subtitles become less important, as you start to understand the plot of the opera and characters. It is true Chinese culture. Since Peking Opera is basically a People's event, there is no need to dress formally. Business casual dress will do just fine.



Day Four – Saturday, 12/5 – Beijing– Huanghua Great Wall

This morning, we will eat breakfast early at the hotel and then travel to Huanghua Great Wall of China, 40 miles north of Beijing.



Huanghua is well off the usual tourist route and represents a fine example of the un-restored Great Wall of China. Built in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Huanghua (Yellow Flower in Chinese) has a colorful history to match its name.

When summer comes, the entire village under the Huanghua Great Wall is immersed in a sea of yellow wild flowers, hence the name.

- ❖ On a cliff by the Huanghua Great Wall are two big Chinese characters 'jintang' which means being very firm and strong. There is a legend about the origin of these characters.
- ❖ In the Ming Dynasty, the Emperor ordered a general named Cai Kai to build the Great Wall here. But it took many years to accomplish the construction. The slow pace of construction angered the Emperor greatly. At the same time, a treacherous official falsely reported that Cai Kai had spent too much money in building Huanghua and that the work was shoddy. As a result, Cai Kai was called before the Emperor and beheaded.
- ❖ Later, the Emperor asked his ministers to check the construction. They found that Huanghua Great Wall was well built, strongly fortified and extremely steep. The Emperor realized that he had treated Cai Kai unjustly and ordered craftsman to carve these two Chinese characters. Today, Huanghua Great Wall is also called the Jintang Great Wall; the lake under it is Jintang Lake.

Birding opportunities at Huanghua are vast, considering the surrounding cover. On past visits, the calls of Chinese Hill Warbler and Pere David's Laughingthrush were frequently heard and the occasional Red-billed Blue Magpie seen. Kestrels and other birds of prey frequent the area.

Many portions are quite steep, with some approaching 75 degrees. Footing can be treacherous in spots. Be sure to wear sturdy hiking boots and bring a knapsack with some food and plenty of water. A broad brimmed hat (any color but green – we will explain fully once we are in China!), sunglasses and sunscreen are a must.

We will be well above Beijing in altitude. The weather at Huanghua is unpredictable. It can be sunny one hour and raining or snowing the next. It is generally windy and cool, but can be scorching under mid-day sun, due to reflection from the stone.

Our destination, the uppermost watch tower, affords a spectacular 360 degree view of the surrounding area. You can see the Great Wall climb high up adjacent mountain ridges and disappear into the distance. Birds soar above and fresh breezes blow freely. If you are so inclined, we can also practice yoga, qigong or taiji at this ancient scenic spot.



Following our climb, we will eat at a peasant restaurant beside the Wall. The owner is quite gracious, and cooks wonderful roasted fresh fish, and assorted vegetable dishes. Her preparation of eggplant is exquisite. We can relax there, and watch the world go by.



We will return to our hotel and rest for awhile. Following dinner, we will enjoy a TCM foot soak and therapeutic foot massage to soothe those tired feet. Multiple forms of Chinese full-body massage are also available at reasonable prices.

Day Five – Sunday, 12/6 – Beijing – Miyun Reservior

This morning we will rise early and, following breakfast, travel to Miyun Reservoir with local bird expert Terry Townshend.



- ❖ Terry is a British birder living and working in Beijing. Through his blog Birdingbeijing.com, he celebrates the birds that can be found in and around China's vibrant capital city.
- ❖ A passionate conservationist, Terry has spearheaded efforts to save some of China's most endangered birds, in particular the Jankowski's Bunting, a poorly known bird living in remote northeast China with a known population of under 100 pairs.
- ❖ Terry has found several new birds for Beijing, including the capital's first Tree Pipit in the UK Ambassador's garden (!).
- ❖ He is a regular contributor to the Beijing Birdwatching Society's lecture series and, earlier this year, was honored to deliver the keynote lecture at the National Zoological Museum to celebrate China's National Bird Day.

Miyun Reservoir, about 50 miles northeast of central Beijing, is one of the best general birding sites in Beijing. Because it is one of Beijing's main sources of drinking water, no development or industry is allowed around the margins. This means that the water quality is excellent, making it one of the few wetlands in the Beijing providing clean habitat for a variety of water birds. It has a storage capacity of 3.5 million acre-feet of water.

It's possible to make a strong case for Miyun Reservoir being the best general birding location in Beijing.

The evidence? How about this:

- ❖ More than 50,000 Little Buntings in one morning on 26 September 2014
- ❖ More than 8,000 Horned Larks on 15 October 2014
- ❖ 7 species of goose: Bar-headed, (Taiga and Tundra) Bean, Greater and Lesser White-fronted, Greylag and Swan
- ❖ 7 species of crane recorded in the last two years: Common, Demoiselle, Hooded, Red-crowned, Sandhill, Siberian and White-naped.
- ❖ A raptor list that includes Amur Falcon, Lesser and Common Kestrels, Hobby, Saker, Peregrine, Chinese, Eurasian and Japanese Sparrowhawks, Goshawk, Booted, Golden, Greater Spotted, Eastern Imperial, Short-toed and White-tailed Eagles, Osprey, Grey-faced, 'Eastern', Oriental Honey and Rough-legged Buzzards, Cinereous Vulture, Black and Black-winged Kites, Eastern Marsh, Hen and Pied Harriers.
- ❖ Red-throated and Black-throated Loon, Baikal and Eurasian Teal, Baer's and Common Pochards, Falcated, Ferruginous, Spot-billed and Tufted Ducks, Gadwall, Mallard, Pintail and Wigeon, Greater Scaup and White-winged (Stejneger's) Scoter.



A first-winter SAKER, Miyun Reservoir, November 2014

For an inland location, the shorebird list is impressive, too.

❖ Black-winged Stilt, Avocet, Northern and Grey-headed Lapwings, Jack, Common and "Swintail" Snipe, Asian Dowitcher, Bar- and Black-tailed Godwits, Eurasian, Far Eastern and Little Curlews, Whimbrel, Common and Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Common, Curlew, Green, Marsh, Pectoral, Sharp-tailed, Terek and Wood Sandpipers, Long-toed, Red-necked and Temminck's Stints, Ruff, Dunlin, Grey, Kentish, Little Ringed, Oriental and Pacific Golden Plovers, Greater Sandplover, Turnstone, Red Knot, Grey and Red-necked Phalarope and Oriental Pratincole have all been recorded.

Note that, in winter, the reservoir usually freezes over from around mid-November through to early March. However, in most winters, some small areas remain ice-free throughout and can host impressive flocks of waterfowl.

❖ Mallard, Goldeneye, Smew, Common Merganser (Goosander) and Ruddy Shelduck are frequent visitors. Large flocks of (mostly Tundra) Bean Geese, occasionally including other species of goose and Common Cranes are also a feature of winter at Miyun.



Ruddy Shelduck

After return to our hotel for some rest and relaxation, we will go to the famous Quanjude Peking Duck Restaurant for our farewell-to-Beijing banquet.

Day Six – Monday, 12/7 – Beijing to Guiyang

This morning, we will check out of our hotel and fly to Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou Province in Southwest China. Being a humid (75% average relative humidity), subtropical climate, the weather should be cool and temperate with highs in the mid 50's and lows in the low 40's.

We arrive in Guiyang at 3:00 PM, and will transfer to our hotel to check in and freshen up. The remainder of the evening is free to explore Guiyang.

One possibility for late birdwatching is Qianlin Park. More than 95% of Qianlin Park is covered by giant old trees and lush vegetation. There are more than 1500 kinds of trees and flowers as well as 1000 famous medicinal herbs growing inside the park. The park is an ideal habitat for a great number of birds. It is not difficult to see some forest birds such as Grey-headed Woodpecker, Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher, Red capped Babbler and Red-billed Leiothrix.



Red Billed Leiothrix

Qianlin is also the perfect habitat for macaque monkeys. With more than 500 documented resident monkeys, walking the trails can be quite interesting. Be careful with your food and possessions!

Day Seven – Tuesday, 12/8 – Guiyang to Caohai

This day is devoted to getting to Caohai Lake. Following breakfast at our hotel, we will transfer to the train station and depart for Caohai, five hours away.

Train travel in China is relatively comfortable and efficient. Since Caohai is a bit remote, we will be traveling on a K class train.



While a bit less comfortable than higher class trains, we will have reserved soft seats (pictured above). Be sure to bring a few snacks with you for the train ride. Beverages are available from push carts, and, of course, hot water is always available for making your own tea and instant noodles.

Be sure to retain your ticket, since these are frequently checked when you exit the train station.

We will transport to our hotel and have the night free to explore Caohai.

Day Eight – Wednesday, 12/9 – Caohai Nature Reserve

Up early this morning to travel Northwest to Caohai National Nature Reserve, a world-class area for winter birding.



At 7,125 feet above sea level, Caohai Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in Guizhou Province. Covering an area of more than 17.4 square miles, Caohai Lake literally means the "grass lake". It was designated a national nature reserve in 1992 by the PRC.



Caohai is home to the largest known wintering concentration of Black-Necked Cranes as well as many other migratory visitors.



Black-Necked Cranes at Caohai Lake

Other migratory species include common cranes, red-crowned crane, hooded cranes, white storks, black storks, bar-headed geese, wild geese, yellow-spotted pheasant, snipe, egret, golden eagles, eastern imperial eagles, white-tailed sea eagles and ruddy shelducks.

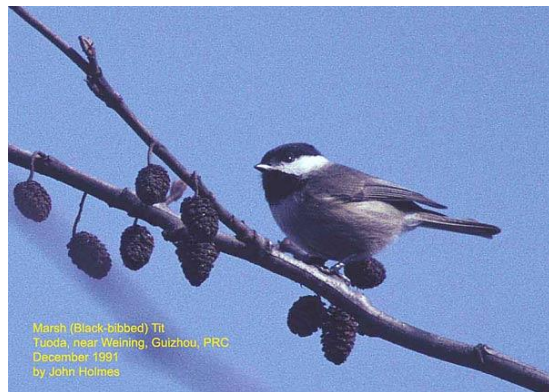


Bar-Headed Geese at Caohai Lake

Around Caohai, there is also a superb selection of endemic and near-endemic species including Chinese Thrush, Ashy-throated Parrotbill, Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler, Elliot's Laughingthrush, Spectacled and Grey-hooded Fulvettas, Black-Browed and Black-Bibbed Tits, and Black-Headed Greenfinch.



Black-Browed Tit



Black Bibbed Tit

Day Nine – Thursday, 12/10 – Caohai Nature Reserve to Guiyang

This morning will be spent birding around Caohai Lake. In the afternoon, we will take the train back to Guiyang, arriving around sunset.

The evening is free to explore Guiyang on your own.

Day Ten – Friday, 12/11 – Guiyang to Nanchang

Today is a travel day. Nanchang, our gateway city to Poyang Lake NNR, in Jiangxi Province is 580 miles away.

We will transport to Guiyang Airport and fly to Nanchang at 11:50 AM. We arrive in Nanchang at 1:15PM.

After transferring to our hotel, our afternoon is open for exploration of Nanchang city.

If you are so inclined, the best places for bird watching around Nanchang City are: Aixi Wetland Park (Eastern Nanchang), Elephant Lake and the wetland along the Gan River near Honggu Tan.

Your tour operator can assist you to arrange transportation to these areas, but this will be a personal exploration, not included in the tour.

Nanchang birds include:

- ❖ Long-tailed Shrike, Brown Shrike, Black Drongo, Ashy Drongo, Dollarbird, Brown Crake, White-breasted Waterhen, Red-necked Phalarope, Grey-headed Lapwing,
- ❖ Common Snipe, Common Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, Wood sandpiper, Long-billed Plover, Little-ringed Plover, Kentish Plover, Whiskered Tern, Little Grebe, Little Egret, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, Gray Heron, Chinese Pond Heron, Little Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow Bittern, Grey-streaked Flycatcher, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Red-throated Flycatcher (Taiga Flycatcher), Oriental Magpie, Robin, Black-collared Starling,
- ❖ Red-billed Starling, Crested Myna, Great Tit, Red-rumped Swallow, Chinese Bulbul, Plain Prina, Yellow-browed Warbler, White-browed Laughingthrush, Pygmy Wren Babbler, Vinous-throated Parrotbill, Oriental Skylark, White-rumped Munia, Scaly-breasted Munia, White Wagtail and the Grey Wagtail.

Day Eleven – Saturday, 12/12 – Nanchang to Poyang NNR

Starting early, we will take a van to Wuchengzhen, on Poyang Lake. The entire day will be spent birding at this world-class reserve.



Siberian Cranes at Poyang Lake NNR

Poyang Lake, the largest fresh water lake in China, is located on the south bank of the Yangtze River, in northern Jiangxi Province. Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve is located in the Northwestern part of Poyang Lake, with an area of 86.5 square miles. The reserve was established in 1983.



- ❖ There is an integrated wetland ecosystem structure in the reserve and the biodiversity is abundant, with 45 species of mammals, 310 species of birds, 48 species of reptiles, 136 species of fish, 227 species of insects, 40 species of shellfish, 46 species of zooplankton, 50 species of phytoplankton and 476 species of higher plants.
- ❖ The highest number of the Siberian Cranes wintering in the reserve is more than 4,000, accounting for 98% of the global number.
- ❖ More than 80% of the global Oriental White Storks and 70% of the global White-naped Cranes winter in the reserve.
- ❖ It is the wintering site for the largest population of the Swan Geese in the world (the highest number is more than 60,000)
- ❖ It is the most important wintering site for Tundra Swans in China (the highest number is more than 80,000).



Day Twelve – Sunday, 12/13 – Nanjishan, Poyang NNR

Today we will spend all day birding in the Nanjishan region of Poyang NNR.



Oriental White Storks at Poyang Lake NNR



Swan Geese at Nanjishan, Poyang NNR



Bewick's (Tundra) Swans at Poyang NNR

Day Thirteen – Monday, 12/14 – Poyang NNR to Wuyuan

Today, we travel for more than 6 hours by van, to Wuyuan. Wuyuan has long been regarded as the most beautiful countryside in China, but it is also an incredible area for bird watching.



En route, following the Le'An River, we will have multiple opportunities to see forest and riparian bird species. This is a good place to see rare Scaly-sided Mergansers. Also known as Chinese Mergansers, they are considered endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



Scaly-Sided Mergansers

**Day Fourteen and Fifteen – Tuesday and Wednesday,
12/15-16 – Birding at Wuyuan**

For two days we will travel to different areas to watch birds.

Target birds include:

- ❖ Chinese Bamboo Partridge, Grey-capped Woodpecker, Common Kingfisher, Oriental Turtle Dove, Long-tailed Shrike and Black-collared Starling
- ❖ Grey-chinned Minivet, Black and Chestnut Bulbul, Chinese Bulbul, Collared Finchbill, Hwamei, Grey-sided Scimitar Babbler, Black-throated Tit, Japanese White-eye, Fork-tailed Sunbird, Tristram's Bunting, Common Pheasant, Elliot's Pheasant
- ❖ Mandarin Duck, Red-billed Starling, Sooty-headed Bulbul, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Brown Crake, Plain Prinia, Crested Myna, Scaly-breasted Munia



Mandarin Ducks at Wuyuan

Day Sixteen – Thursday, 12/17 – Wuyuan to Hangzhou

Beginning early, we will travel by van to Hangzhou, in Zhejiang Province. Multiple stops will allow birding en route.

Hangzhou has long been known as one of the most beautiful cities in all of China. In the late 13th Century, Marco Polo marveled at its beauty. In fact, there is an old Chinese saying:

上有天堂下有苏杭, "shàng yǒu tiān táng, xià yǒu Sū Háng":

"In heaven there is paradise, on earth, there is Suzhou and Hangzhou."

The West Lake is undoubtedly the most renowned feature of Hangzhou, noted for the scenic beauty that blends naturally with many famous historical and cultural sites.

Our hotel is quite near West Lake, so we can walk and enjoy the beautiful view of this historic landmark.



Hangzhou has numerous bicycles for rent, located at self service kiosks. We will provide you with a rental card, so you can use bicycles for transportation while in Hangzhou.

❖ Hangzhou is also known for the fragrant, locally grown, Long Jing (Dragon Well) tea. Tea houses are plentiful; many of which overlook West Lake. We can stop for a few cups of this tasty green tea, relax and watch the world go by.

❖ One of the most important parts of traveling is tasting the local delicacies. Hangzhou dishes are noted for their elaborate preparation, sophisticated cooking and refreshing taste. Many local specialties will be sure to make your trip a cultural experience. We recommend that you try Beggar's Chicken (a chicken baked in clay), West Lake Vinegar Fish (fish fresh caught from the lake coated with a sweet-sour vinegar sauce), Dongpo Pork (braised pork) and tiny Crystal Shrimp cooked with Long Jing Tea.

Day Seventeen – Friday, 12/18 – Hangzhou

This morning is devoted to exploring the historic areas surrounding West Lake and watching birds near Lingyin Si and Fei Lai Feng.

Located north-west of West Lake, Lingyin Si (Temple of the Soul's Retreat) is one of the ten most significant ancient temples of Zen Buddhism in China.



- ❖ Lingyin Temple was built in 328 AD, and has a history of over 1685 years. Destroyed and rebuilt no less than 16 times, the present Temple reflects late Qing Dynasty design.
- ❖ On August 26, 1966, a portion of the Red Guards of Hangzhou in the name of sweeping away the Four Olds, (old culture, customs, habits and traditional beliefs) targeted Lingyin Temple and threatened to dismantle the temple and destroy all the Buddhist statues.
- ❖ On that day, thousands of workers, farmers and students automatically gathered and remained at the front gate and the rear gate of Lingyin Temple to protect it from The Red Guards' destruction. Fierce debates and armed conflict ensued between opposing factions.
- ❖ Urgent appeals were made to Premier Zhou Enlai to save this sacred site from the impending destruction. He eventually closed down Lingyin Temple by governmental order. While Lingyin Temple was protected successfully, it did sustain defacement of some easily accessible carvings.
- ❖ During this crisis, the monks of the temple, despite capture, humiliation and persecution, made great efforts to protect the Temple and its contents. On the one hand, these monks publicized the announcement of the State Council, and on the other hand, bought portraits of Chairman Mao and pasted them on the Buddhist statues to protect them from destruction by the Red Guards. Few foreigners realize how many died to protect this and other sacred sites in China.

Located directly in front of Lingyin Temple is Fei Lai Feng (Peak Flown from Afar). The peak is so-named because it is made of limestone, giving it a craggy appearance; very different geologically from the surrounding sandstone mountains.

- ❖ Legend holds that the peak was originally from India but flew to Hangzhou overnight as a demonstration of the omnipotence of the Buddha.
- ❖ The caves of this mountain shelter about 330 stone statues dating from the 10th to the 14th centuries. The statues appear in a variety of poses ranging from standing, to sitting, to sleeping.
- ❖ A favorite may be the Laughing Buddha, sitting on the cliff beside the stream with exposed breast and belly. If you wonder why he has such a big belly, there is a famous couplet that states: "His big belly contains all that cannot be bore in the world; He laughs at the man who deserves to be laughed at on the earth."
- ❖ This life-like statue is the largest one of all the statues on Fei Lai Feng, and the earliest Laughing Buddha carved in China.



Following lunch at a local tea plantation, we can travel to the Bamboo Lined Path at Yunki for some afternoon birding.



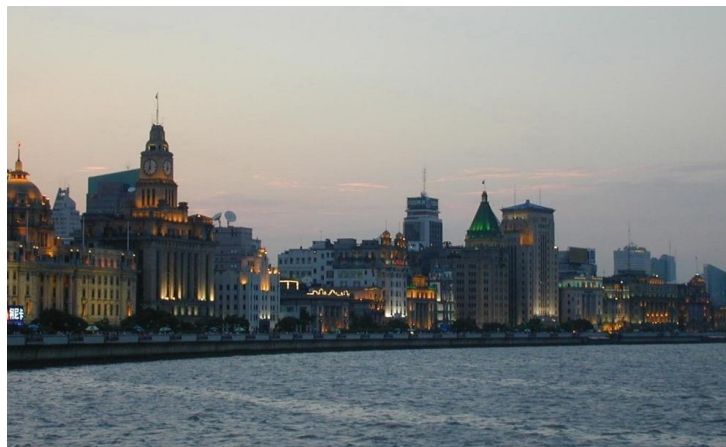
Day Eighteen – Saturday, 12/19 – Hangzhou to Shanghai

Mid-morning, we will catch the high speed train to Shanghai.

This train reaches speeds of greater than 300 kph (185 mph). The time to drive to Shanghai from Hangzhou is more than 3 hours. We will make the trip in one hour!

Shanghai, a city of more than 23.9 million people, is the second largest city in China. (Chongqing is the largest, with more than 32 million!) With a rich history of international trading, Shanghai is truly a modern city.

Our hotel is walking distance from the Bund; an area with dozens of historical buildings, lining the Huangpu River.



- ❖ At the end of the 19th century, the Bund housed numerous banks and trading houses from the United Kingdom, France, US, Italy, Russia, Germany, Japan, Netherlands and Belgium, as well as the consulates of Russia and Britain.
- ❖ Today, it is the hub of tourism in Shanghai. The wide walkway on the Huangpu River offers spectacular views of modern Shanghai architecture and the busy river traffic.

Skyscrapers dominate the horizon, with the Oriental Pearl Tower capturing the eye of every visitor.

- ❖ At a height of 1,535 feet, the Tower is home to the local TV and radio stations. There are fifteen observation levels; the highest at 1,148 ft.
- ❖ There is a revolving restaurant at the 876 ft level.
- ❖ The Tower also contains exhibition facilities, restaurants and a shopping mall.
- ❖ There is also a 20-room hotel called the Space Hotel between the two large spheres.
- ❖ At night, the exterior lights change in color and design, creating a sight unmatched anywhere.

In the evening, we will take a cruise on the Huangpu River, to enjoy the splendor that is Shanghai at night.



Our hotel is also walking distance to Nanjing Road, the neon splendor walking street that rivals the Ginza in Tokyo. It is “shopping heaven” with numerous upscale shops and restaurants. It is also a great place for people watching.

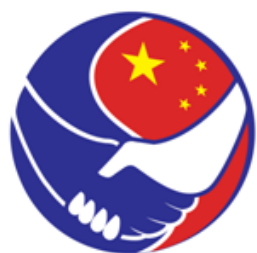


Day Nineteen – Sunday, 12/20 – Shanghai to USA

Following an early breakfast and check out, we will depart for Shanghai Pu Dong Airport (PVG). In moderate traffic, PVG is a one hour drive.

Plan to arrive at the airport at least 2 hours ahead of departure time.

Once again, you will cross the International Dateline on your journey back home. This time, you will GAIN a day. In fact, you may land in the USA the same day, before you departed Shanghai. It's Groundhog Day all over again!



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We sincerely hope that your trip to China will not be your last. Upon reflection of the many sights, sounds and smells that you experienced in China, we are sure that you will return again and again.

We welcome your feedback concerning your trip and suggestions for future Explorations.

If you enjoyed your trip: Tell your friends.
If you didn't enjoy it: TELL US!

*If you can dream it, you can do it in China with:
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Be well, and zài jiàn!

