

great wall & warriors eclipse

go guide

don't leave home without it



tour spotlight

what you see

- **Beijing** - Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, UNESCO - listed Emperor's Summer Palace, Hutong areas of Beijing, Silk Alley markets, Cloisonne Factory, Chinese acrobatic performance
- **Badaling** - UNESCO - listed Great Wall of China, UNESCO - listed Ming Tombs
- **Xi'an** - UNESCO - listed Terracotta Warriors and clay workshop, Huaqing Hot Springs, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, City Wall and bike ride, Muslim Quarter and Great Mosque
- **Shanghai** - Oriental Pearl Tower, Jade Buddha Temple, The Bund and Old Shanghai, Yuyuan Garden & Huang River
- **Suzhou** - UNESCO-listed gardens, Grand Canal and waterways, Humble Administrator's Garden, silk factory
- **TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OVER THE SHANGHAI COASTLINE 22ND JULY 2009**

what you get

- Breakfast daily, 3 lunches & Peking Duck dinner
- 6 nights 3 - 4★ hotels
- 2 overnight trains (soft sleeper cabin)
- Chinese acrobatic performance
- Rickshaw ride through Beijing's Hutongs
- Beijing local market walk
- Xi'an - bike ride on medieval City Wall
- Shanghai - Huangpu River cruise
- Suzhou - historic Grand Canal cruise
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 and day 10
- Touring of Beijing, Badaling, Xi'an, Shanghai & Suzhou
- Tour leader escorted (for groups of 6 or more)
- English speaking specialist guides at local sights
- All relevant transfers and transportation



on location

Your guide to on the ground...

visa requirements

Visas are required by all visitors to China. It is essential the visa is procured prior to travel. Visa forms are available from us and also supplied upon booking. Please ensure your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of return from China. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change. Visa procurement is also the responsibility of the traveller and not of **on the go**.

climate

In all, China has a great diversity of climates. To sum it up - China experiences hot summers in most parts of the country, very cold winters in the north and comfortable winters in the south! Sep-Oct is warm to hot and dry across the country. Nov-Mar is winter with very cool temps in the north, whilst mild in the south. If combining the north and south, you'll experience 2 distinct weather patterns. Apr-May - perfect in the north, if a little humid and rainy in the south. Jun-Aug can bring a few showers.

time

China is 8 hours ahead of GMT (during BST-7hrs)

money

GBP £1.00 = CNY 13.00 USD \$1.00 = CNY 7.00 (subject to fluctuation). The Yuan is exchangeable prior to arrival in China. Exchange facilities are available at various bureau de changes and banks. ATM machines exist in all major towns and cities.

health requirements

Recommendations - Tetanus and Polio (if no booster in 10 yrs, plus Typhoid (valid 3 yrs) and Hepatitis A (validity varies). A Malarial risk exists in remote areas of the south, and Rabies and Meningitis are present in Tibet and remote areas, so seek medical advice.

how much?

- **ENTRANCE FEES**
Entrance fees are not included in your tour. Please budget approximately **USD \$95**
- **TIPPING KITTY**
A small tipping kitty will be collected from all tour participants to cover tips en route. **USD \$65**
- Can of coke, 330ml **CNY 3-5**
- Mineral water (local brand, 500ml) **CNY 22-5**
- Meal for 2 (entree, main, & a beer) **CNY 120**
- Beer (local brew Tsingtao - 640ml) **CNY 4-10**
- Chocolate candy bar (local brand) **CNY 7**

eclipse time line

22nd July 2009 - City Beach, Jinshan, Shanghai.
Eclipse Site Co-ordinates 30°42' 28.62"N, 121°20'32.60"E
Approximate times:
08.23am - The moon first touches the sun - this signals the start of the Eclipse
09.36am - The true start of totality when the moon completely blocks out the sun for an incredible 5 minutes! One of the longest total eclipses of the 21st Century!
The Sun's height above the horizon during totality is 56 degrees.
09.41am - The end of totality
11.01am - The moon is no longer visible on the sun, this signals the end of the eclipse.

5 things to do/see:

- The Great Wall. An enduring behemoth. **the big 5**
- Go and take a climb. This is China.
- Once forbidden to all but the emperor and his entourage, the Forbidden City is open for some imperial exploration in Beijing.
- Take a stroll on gargantuan Tiananmen Square - a square for the public and home of Mao's mausoleum.
- Check out the terracotta warriors in Xi'an
- Check out Shanghai's futuristic Pudong skyline, and The Bund.

5 things to buy:

- Chairman Mao's famous quotation-filled little red book. A classic People's Republic souvenir.
- A Chinese foot massage. Seriously good for the soul.
- A bottle of Maotai - essentially Chinese firewater!
- Your own personal ink seal, personalised in Chinese characters with a carved marble or bronze handle.
- A few choice purchases from the many markets.





great wall & warriors eclipse: itinerary

day 1 - tues 14th july beijing

Beijing - Welcome to China and the start of your holiday! Enjoy an arrival transfer to our hotel. If arriving into Terminal 2, please turn right once you've passed customs to reach the pick up point. If arriving into Terminal 3, you will be met just outside of the restricted area. Overnight - Beijing.

day 2 - forbidden city

Beijing - breakfast. This morning, we enjoy a Welcome Meeting. Then, it's time to set off and see some of Beijing. We then embark on some guided sightseeing of the nation's capital. A patriotic vision of grandeur, Tiananmen Square is a square for the public and also home of the mausoleum of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the Communist father of the Communist People's Republic and the striking Monument to the People's Heroes. Mao's gargantuan mausoleum is an austere behemoth in granite where since his death in 1976, he has lain in state in his crystal coffin. We'll have a stroll on the square, which attracts many tourists wishing to take photos, all under the watchful eye of the dutiful guards. Perhaps one of Beijing's most famous sights is the Gate of Heavenly Peace. Up above the gate and looking out across to all his people, is a famous colour portrait of Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

The Gate of Heavenly Peace is the main entry point into the Forbidden City. A vision in grandeur with its imperial yellow roofs and vermilion walls, the Forbidden City, once forbidden to all those except on imperial business until 1911, when the last emperor, Puyi, was turfed off his throne is a city within a city. Built between 1406 and 1420, it served as the imperial palace for the Ming and Qing dynasties. We enjoy a guided walk through the city's many temples, grand halls and courtyards. An all-out assault on the eyes, the huge, lavishly constructed Forbidden City boasts 9999 rooms!

Later we take a rickshaw ride through the Hutongs of Beijing, weaving through old back lanes, traditional courtyards and compact houses, gaining a fascinating snapshot of the city's traditional way of life. This evening, we enjoy a Welcome Dinner of Peking Duck at a city restaurant. Welcome Dinner and overnight - Beijing.

day 3 - the great wall

Beijing - breakfast. Some say it can be seen from space, but unless you're a top gun at NASA, perhaps you'll never know. Instead, experience the real deal. Today, we travel beyond Beijing to Badaling, where we can walk (and almost climb on some sections) on the Great Wall. An enduring symbol of Chinese civilisation and genius, the UNESCO protected Great Wall of China was built as a defensive structure. Although the present wall dates mainly from the Ming dynasty, some 20 states and dynasties were involved in its immense construction over a period of 2,000 years and followed different routes and building extensions as required. Snaking some 6700 kms across barren hills, deserts, mountains and plateaux, the now partially ruinous Great Wall stretches east to west in northern China. Today, a visit offers a healthy, if steep and vertiginous walk, made all the more breathtaking by the stunning views and the realisation that this 2,200 year-old wall 2,200 year-old wall isn't just a common or garden wall.

Continuing, we visit the tombs of the Ming emperors, where

some 13 emperors were interred. The tombs are approached via a sacred gateway and gate houses. We also visit a cloisonne workshop, where we'll see firsthand the production of decorative items utilising the techniques of this practised and ancient craft.

Tonight, an eye boggling Chinese acrobatic performance. Swinging ropes, juggling hoops, spinning plates and human pyramids are just a few tricks these show stoppers pull out. Lunch and overnight - Beijing.

day 4 - summer palace

Beijing - Xi'an - breakfast. A chance to cross a few palms with silver at Silk Alley markets, where even the most hardened non-shoppers, find it hard to resist the huge array of goods on offer.

After a spot of shopping we head to the Summer Palace which is set on the picturesque Kunming Lake. The buildings date back only to the turn of the 20th century, though the site goes back to the 12th century. Perhaps most famous of all the structures at the Summer Palace is the wonderful Long Corridor, a covered walkway 730m long, and extraordinarily hand-painted with scenes from Chinese history, legend and literature. An imperial folly is the solid marble boat on Kunming Lake! Tonight, we travel by train to Xi'an in Shaanxi Province. Overnight - train.

day 5 - xi'an/terracotta warriors

Xi'an - breakfast. Arrive Xi'an and transfer to hotel. Most famous for the Terracotta Warriors, perhaps the find of the 20th century and only just usurped by the discovery of King Tut's gold-laden tomb in Egypt, Emperor Qin's Terracotta Warriors comprise more than 7,000 life-sized soldiers which stand in military formation in excavated pits under the cover of a modern protective hanger. Made of local clay, no two faces are alike, each is said to be an individual portrait. We visit Huanqing Hot Springs, then visit a workshop where you'll see modern-day crafts people producing terracotta warrior figurines before we continue to the archaeological site itself.

Emperor Qin's army of 2,200 year old terracotta warriors were discovered in 1974 by local farmers who happened to be digging a well. Previous emperors used to be buried with their slaves but slavery had been abolished. So, to make up for this, Qin had the warriors made to be buried near him to protect him in the afterlife. Delicate excavation continues on site, where hundreds of warriors remain smashed like eggs, not due to the passage of time but rather a peasant revolt after the emperor's death. The emperor's tumulus (ancient grave mound) is located about a mile away and is said to contain untold treasures. To date, only trial archaeological digs of the main site have been completed.

Tonight there is an optional Tang Dynasty Bolt-on, with dinner and performance. Lunch and overnight - Xi'an.

day 6 - big wild goose pagoda

Xi'an - Shanghai - breakfast. Today, we visit Xi'an's city symbol, the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, first built in AD652 to hold sutras collected in India by a wandering monk. An awesome sight, the City Wall and moat is over 15 km in perimeter and

we embark on a hired bike ride, where there is no vehicular traffic to mow us over! A legacy of the Silk Road, Xi'an's Muslim population supports an enclave including known as the Muslim Quarter, which we later visit. Later, we board the overnight train bound for Shanghai. Lunch and overnight - sleeper train.

day 7 - shanghai

Shanghai - breakfast. Just the mere mention of 'Shanghai' conjures up mystery, romance and general decadence. Perhaps China's most modern city, its amazing Pudong skyline is certainly impressive enough to rival Hong Kongs. Our sightseeing of Shanghai takes in the awesome Oriental Pearl TV tower, the Jade Buddha Temple, charming Yuyuan Gardens, the Bund and Old City. This evening, enjoy a cruise on the Huangpu River. Overnight - Shanghai.

day 8 - suzhou water canals

Shanghai - Suzhou - Shanghai - breakfast. Today, we journey to Suzhou. A sort of oriental Venice, ancient Suzhou is interwoven by a series of striking canals and pretty waterways which feed a series of classical gardens, laid out here since the Song dynasty, a thousand years ago. They are justly famous across China. Suzhou sits very close to the Grand Canal. At 1800km, it is the longest canal on earth and ranks alongside the Great Wall as China's greatest engineering achievement. We enjoy a cruise on the Grand Canal and visit a silk workshop. The silk trade has flourished here since the Tang dynasty. Later, we return to Shanghai. Evening free to enjoy your last night in Shanghai. Lunch and overnight - Shanghai.

day 9 - total solar eclipse

Wednesday. Shanghai - breakfast TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2009. Early this morning we drive south (for approx 90 mins) following the Shanghai coastline. Arriving at our eclipse location, City Beach in Jinshan - a broad flat beach with clear visuals across the East China Sea and above. Shanghai's coastline is the most favourable land based location within the eclipse path and additionally offers one of the greatest time spans for overhead visual. We will arrive at the viewing point approximately 1 hour prior to First Contact to ensure that we are prepared for the big event!

Poised and ready to witness the total Solar Eclipse, the moon will first touch the sun at 08.23, with totality beginning at 09.36. As the event unfolds the sky will change to a deep purple as the horizon falls into shades of orange and red. Then at the precise moment of totality the sun will blacken over and the sky will fall into darkness. The brilliance of totality will last for 5 minutes.

After the wonderful grand finale to our tour we travel back to Shanghai where our tours concludes and we take an onward departure transfer to the airport. International flights should be booked after 15:00pm allowing sufficient time for you to check in prior to your flight. Alternatively, extra nights accommodation are available should you require.

*The go guide & information contained herein has been compiled with care and in good faith. It is as accurate an illustration as can be given with regard to the proposed itinerary. Circumstances beyond our control such as inclement weather or local conditions could force us to amend the proposed itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the client and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown may be subject to change but are an accurate reflection of costs at the time of writing this go guide. Please also be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and remain the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go.



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total solar eclipse - 22nd july 2009

Partial eclipses of the sun pale in comparison to the overwhelming spectacle of a total solar eclipse! On Wednesday, 22 July 2009, a total eclipse of the sun will be visible from within a narrow corridor, which traverses a third of the Earth.

The eclipse will start off the West coast of India and travel north east passing over Varanasi and Darjeeling lasting for a duration of approximately 3 minutes, then onward through Bhutan and Bangladesh until it reaches China. China will experience the very best visual of the impressive 2009 eclipse, lasting for just over 5 minutes. Passing over Chongqing, the great Yangtze with its three Gorges and the coastline of Shanghai, viewers have the advantage of being positioned directly beneath the centre line and ultimately, will experience the maximum totality of the black out.

A total eclipse occurs when the moon moves between the sun and the earth, fully blocking our view of the sun. When this happens the moon and sun appear to be the same size, when in fact the moon is actually 400 times smaller. This is because the Moon also happens to be 400 times closer to the earth than the sun making their size appear to be the same.

We do not see a monthly eclipse because the moons orbit is usually at a slight angle to the Earth and therefore the moon and sun miss each other as they pass.

saros cycle

The term Saros refers to the cycle which eclipses follow, which was discovered as far back as 400BC. The pattern of the sun and the moon repeats itself every 18 years, when the new solar eclipse will appear over the same region again and will occur at a similar latitude.

stages of a total eclipse

First contact - The moment when the edge of the moon first touches the sun. At first it is almost unnoticeable because daylight is not diminished. The fading of the light is a very gradual process. Even when the moon approaches 50% of coverage the sky doesn't significantly change, it is more like the dullness of heavy cloud cover. When the moon has covered 80% of the sun you'll really notice the difference. Around 10 minutes before totality the sky will turn a bluish grey and it will become much darker.

Second contact - Roughly one hour after first contact. The light has almost completely disappeared and about 15 seconds before totality specks of light appear around the moon which look like a string of pearls, these are known as 'Baily's Beads' and they are the last few rays of sun shining through the lunar valley. These rapidly disappear until only one bright pearl of light remains which is known as the 'diamond ring' which shines for about four seconds before it vanishes.

Totality - The total eclipse- the moon completely blocks out the sun and darkness prevails as the shadow of the moon covers the land. The length of totality depends upon your distance from the central line.

Third contact - The moon starts to move away from the sun. The 'diamond ring' becomes visible on roughly the opposite side of the moon to before and the sequence begins again in reverse. Daylight gradually creeps back.

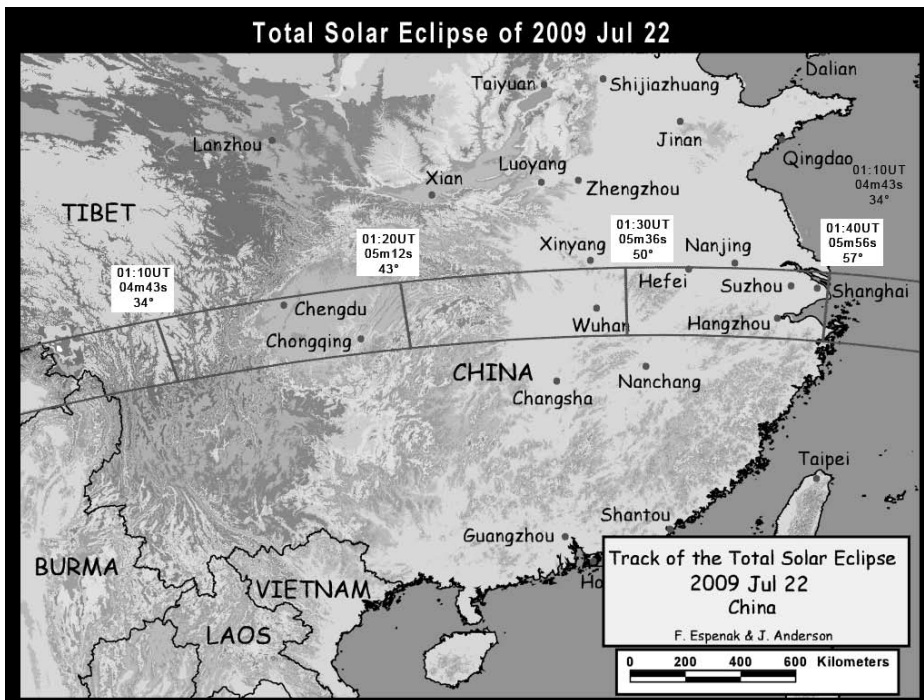
Fourth contact - The moon is no longer visible on the sun and this signals the end of the total solar eclipse.

viewing the eclipse safely

Viewing the sun directly during an eclipse can cause permanent eye damage. We will provide simple solar eclipse viewing glasses which have been certified as safe by the European Community and will carry the 'CE' logo. These glasses will allow you to safely watch the eclipse but you must not look at any stage of the partial eclipse without glasses. You are safe to view the sun during the brief period of totality when it is fully covered by the moon but you must exercise caution.

nature of the eclipse

Perfect viewing conditions of the eclipse cannot be guaranteed, as July marks the height of China's rainy season. Despite this, there is still a 55 - 60% chance of clear blue sky and Shanghai's coastline is regarded as one of the most favourable viewing spots of all the land based locations within the eclipse path.



Map by Fred Espenak, NASA's GSFC

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