

Peregrine Travel Tour 10-day Package

10days 9nights Beijing/Lhasa/Chengdu

(PT10D-5)

USD:\$3,995 Double Occupancy

USD:\$4,550 Single Occupancy

As the capital of China, Beijing is one of the world's truly imposing cities, with a 3,000-year history and 11 million people. Covering 16,808 square kilometers in area, it is the political, cultural and economic center of the People's Republic of China. Situated in northeast China, Beijing adjoins the Inner Mongolian Highland to the northwest and the Great Northern Plain to the south. Five rivers run through the city, connecting it to the eastern Bohai Sea. Administratively, the Beijing municipality equals the status of a province, reporting directly to the central government. Rich in history, Beijing has been China's primary capital for more than seven centuries. China's imperial past and political present meet at Tiananmen square, where the Forbidden City palace of the emperors gives way to the Great Hall of the People congress building and the mausoleum of Chairman Mao Zedong. The old city walls have been replaced by ring roads, and many of the old residential districts of alleys and courtyard houses have been turned into high-rise hotels, office buildings, and department stores. Beijing, a dynamic city where the old and new intermingle, remains a magnet for visitors from inside and outside China.

Lhasa is rightly one of the most featured and dreamt-about cities in the world. This is not only because of its remoteness, its high altitude at 3,650 meters (11,975 feet) means limited accessibility, but also because of its impressive heritage of over a thousand years of cultural and spiritual history that has helped to create the romantic and mysterious Tibetan religion. Differing from the inland cities and other places in Tibet, Lhasa is unique with an allure all of its own. In the Tibetan language, Lhasa means the Holy Land or the Buddha Land. It is the center of Tibet's politics, economy and culture. The city has also been appointed as one of the 24 historical and cultural cities of China. The splendor and grandeur of the Potala Palace in Lhasa remains a world-famous symbol of the enigmatic power of politics and religion in this region.

The history of Chengdu as well as its name can be traced back 2,400 years. Praised as 'the best place for living', Chengdu is a city brimming with a strong leisurely ambience. The handicrafts of the city have been famous for thousands of years and include brocades and embroideries. Sichuan Cuisine with hot flavor is welcomed all over the country. Few people do not know about the Giant Panda. Their symbolic black and white fur-color distinguishes them well from any other animals. Giant Panda, with only about one thousand left in the wild, is also the most well known endangered animal in the world. The rare animal is endemic to China, though some of the habitats were found in northern Vietnam and other nearby areas over half a million years ago. Since the very beginning, most of the research works on Giant Panda have been carrying out on-site at the Giant Panda's natural habitats. Wolong is a part of the Sichuan Province of China. From Chengdu, it is about four hours' drive. Wolong is a highland with almost one thousand meters above sea level. Due to the altitude at Wolong, the weather among the four seasons of the year is highly contrasting.

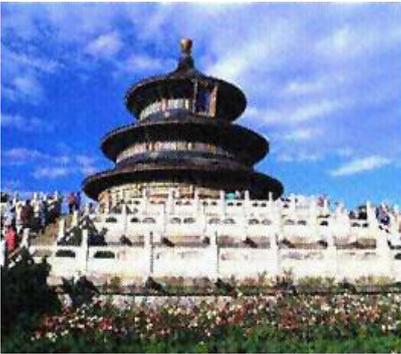
Schedule:

- Day 1** Arrive at Beijing. Transfer to Days & Suites Beijing Hotel for 3 nights stay. (D)
- Day 2** Full Day City Tour (Forbidden City & Temple of Heaven) (B,L,D)
- Day 3** Badaling Great Wall & Summer Palace. (B,L,D)
- Day 4** Fly to Lhasa. Transfer to Lhasa Hotel for 3 nights stay. (B,L,D)
- Day 5** Full day Potala Palace & Jokhang Temple & Barkhor Street (B,L,D)
- Day 6** Full day Yamdrock Yutso Lake (B,L,D)
- Day 7** Fly to Chengdu. Transfer to Chendu Holiday Inn Crown Plaza Hotel for 2 nights stay. (B,L,D)
- Day 8** Full Day City Tour (Wangjiang Park, Wenshuyuan, Jinli Street) (B,L,D)
- Day 9** Panda Hug. Early evening flight to Beijing. Transfer to Days & Suites Beijing Hotel. (B,L,D)
- Day 10** Departure from Beijing. (B)



The Forbidden City

Forbidden City was the imperial palace during the Ming and Qing dynasties which is the largest palace complex in the world. It is surrounded by 10-meter high walls and a 52-meter wide moat. It covers 74 hectares and has 9,999 rooms. In the forbidden city, you can get more knowledge about the eastern architecture, splendid painted and beautiful craftwork.



Temple of Heaven

Temple of Heaven was built in 1420 in the Ming Dynasty, which is the most holy of all Beijing's imperial temples. This is where the Emperor came every winter solstice to worship heaven and to solemnly pray for a good harvest. True to the Chinese saying, "Round Heaven, Square Earth." The park is in a square shape and the temple in a round shape which symbolizes that the emperor had to leave the Earth (represented by the square) for Heaven (represented by the round-roofed building).

The Great Wall



The Great Wall is perhaps China's most famous and most mythologized site. Several sections are conveniently visited from Beijing, including at Badaling, the most popular site, about 70 km (43 mi.) northwest of Beijing and at Mutianyu, 90 km (56 mi.) northeast of Beijing. These impressive brick and earth structures date from the Ming dynasty, when the wall was fortified against Mongol forces to the north. The Ming wall is about 26 feet tall and 23 feet wide at the base, and could accommodate up to six horsemen riding abreast. Watch towers, built on high points every 200-300 meters or so with small garrison forces, used fire signals or fireworks as a means of communication. These stretches of the wall are part of a system that extends from the Shanhaiguan fortress on the Bohai Gulf in the east to the Jiayuguan fortress in the west, altogether some 6000 km (3700 mi).

The Summer Palace



The Summer Palace landscape, dominated mainly by Longevity Hill and Kunming Lake, covers an area of 2.9 square kilometers, three quarters of which is under water. Its 70,000 square meters of building space features a variety of palaces, gardens and other ancient-style architectural structures. The Summer Palace is a monument to classical Chinese architecture, in terms of both garden design and construction. Borrowing scenes from surrounding landscapes, it radiates not only the grandeur of an imperial garden but also the beauty of nature in a seamless combination that best illustrates the guiding principle of traditional Chinese garden design, which is: "The works of men should match the works of Heaven".

The Potala Palace



Perched upon Marpo Ri hill, 130 meters above the Lhasa valley, the Potala Palace rises a further 170 meters and is the greatest monumental structure in all of Tibet. Early legends concerning the rocky hill tell of a sacred cave, considered to be the dwelling place of the Bodhisattva Chenresi (Avilokiteshvara) that was used as a meditation retreat by Emperor Songtsen Gampo in the seventh century AD. In 637 Songtsen Gampo built a palace on the hill. This structure stood until the seventeenth century, when it was incorporated into the foundations of the greater buildings still standing today. Construction of the present palace began in 1645 during the reign of the fifth Dalai Lama and by 1648 the Potrang Karpo, or White Palace, was completed. The Potrang Marpo, or Red Palace, was added between 1690 and 1694; its construction required the labors of more than 7000 workers and 1500 artists and craftsman. In 1922 the 13th Dalai Lama renovated many chapels and assembly halls in the White Palace and added two stories to the Red Palace. The Potala Palace was only slightly damaged during the Tibetan uprising against the invading Chinese in 1959. Unlike most other Tibetan religious structures, it was not sacked by the Red Guards during the 1960s and 1970s, apparently through the personal intervention of Chou En Lai. As a result, all the chapels and their artifacts are very well preserved.

From as early as the eleventh century the palace was called Potala. This name probably derives from Mt. Potala, the mythological mountain abode of the Bodhisattva Chenresi (Avilokiteshvara / Kuan Yin) in southern India. The Emperor Songtsen Gampo had been regarded as an incarnation of Chenresi. Given that he founded the Potala, it seems likely that the hilltop palace of Lhasa took on the name of the Indian sacred mountain. The Potala Palace is

an immense structure, its interior space being in excess of 130,000 square meters. Fulfilling numerous functions, the Potala was first and foremost the residence of the Dalai Lama and his large staff. In addition, it was the seat of Tibetan government, where all ceremonies of state were held; it housed a school for religious training of monks and administrators; and it was one of Tibet's major pilgrimage destinations because of the tombs of past Dalai Lamas. Within the White Palace are two small chapels, the Phakpa Lhakhang and the Chogyal Drubphuk; dating from the seventh century, these chapels are the oldest surviving structures on the hill and also the most sacred. The Potala's most venerated statue, the Arya Lokeshvara, is housed inside the Phakpa Lhakhang, and it draws thousands of Tibetan pilgrims each day.

The Jokang Temple

Included on UNESCO's World Heritage list in 2000 as part of the Potala Palace, the Jokhang Temple is located in central Lhasa in Tibet. With an area of 25,100 square meters (about six acres), it is the ultimate pilgrimage destination for Tibetan Pilgrims. The Jokhang Temple is a four-storey timber complex with a golden top. It adopted the architectural styles of the Tang Dynasty, as well as those of Tibet and Nepal. Standing in the square of the Jokhang Temple, one can view the entire complex. On the square there are two steles, one recording an alliance between the king of Tibet and the emperor of the Tang, the other portraying the teaching of the Tibetan people of how to prevent and treat smallpox, a once incurable disease in Tibet.



In the eastern section of the yard there are rows of votive lights. These flicking lights provide a path leading all the way to the main hall. The main hall, over 1,300 years old, is the oldest shrine of the complex. Above the major entrance, there is a Dharma Wheel (chakra) flanked by two deer. This represents the unity of all things and symbolizes Sakyamuni himself. On both sides of the passageway, paintings showing the building of the temple and renderings of the temple from the seventh century are adorned on the wall. The statue of Sakyamuni at age 12 sits in the middle of the hall. It has been gilded many times and decorated elaborately with jewels typical of Tibet. Statues of King Songtsem Gampo, Princess Wen Cheng and Princess Bhrikuti are on the second floor. On the top floor, there are four gilded bronze tile tops crafted in the emblematical Tang style.

The statue of Sakyamuni is a rare treasure. When Sakyamuni was alive, he disagreed with the idea of 'personal worship' and did not allow likenesses of himself to be created. Only three statues, designed by he himself, were permitted to be sculpted during his lifetime. The first is a likeness of him at age eight; the second shows him at age twelve when he was still a prince of India; and the third is of him as an adult. The statue kept in the Jokhang Temple is the statue of Sakyamuni at age eight. It was presented to the king of the Tang Dynasty and brought to Tibet by Princess Wen Cheng.

Barkhor Street



Located in the old area of Lhasa City, Tibet, Barkhor Street is a very ancient round street surrounding the Jokhang Temple and the Tibetan people are always proud of it. As a symbol of Lhasa, this street is also a must-see place for the tourists.

It's said that in 647, the first Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo (617 - 650) built the Jokhang Temple. Due to its magnificence, it quickly attracted thousands of Buddhist pilgrims. As a result, a trodden path appeared. That is the origin of Barkhor Street. Today even still many pilgrims hold the prayer wheels to walk clockwise there from dawn to dark. Also you can see some pilgrims walking or progressing body-lengths by body-lengths along the street. Even some of them are teenagers or have experienced thousands of miles' walk to reach this sacred place. The way they express their piety could make you understand the holiness of religion.

To sum up, Barkhor Street is a place full of religious atmosphere and a world of exotic articles. If you have been attracted by it, you should go there. Believe your eyes, and you will get a lot of surprise there.

Yamdruk-sto Lake

Yamdruk Yumtso (or Yamdrok-tso), one of the three holiest lakes in Tibet, lies at Nhagartse, located about 100 kilometers (62 miles) to the southwest of Lhasa. According to legend, it was a fairy that descended to earth. Her husband followed suit and transformed into Mt. Kampala. Besides Mt. Kampala, Yamdruk Yumtso is also surrounded by Mt. Nyinchenkhasa, Mt. Chetungsu and Mt. Changsamhamo. Befitting its mythical feminine origins, the turquoise blue lake has indescribable scenic beauty, prompting the Tibetans to compare it with the fairyland in heaven. The lake is also called Coral Lake of the Highlands due to its shape. The charming lake produces abundant aquatic life. On the surrounding expansive pasture, animals and birds flourish in huge numbers. There are dozens of islets in the lake, on which flocks of birds roost.



During the herding season, the local herdsmen will ferry their herds of sheep across to these islets since there aren't any predators on these islets, and leave them there until the onset of winter. The holy lake is also a pilgrimage site for Tibetans. Every summer, gangs of pilgrims trek there to pray and receive blessings. Pilgrims believe that its water can make the old young again, grant the middle-aged a longer life and make the children smarter. Being a sacred lake, the color of its water may be taken by the devout as having spiritual meaning. Tibetans will usually visit the lake before making important decisions. On one of the islets, stands a Nyinmapa monastery

South of the lake, one finds the Sangding Monastery, which is famous as the residence of the only female high lama in Tibet

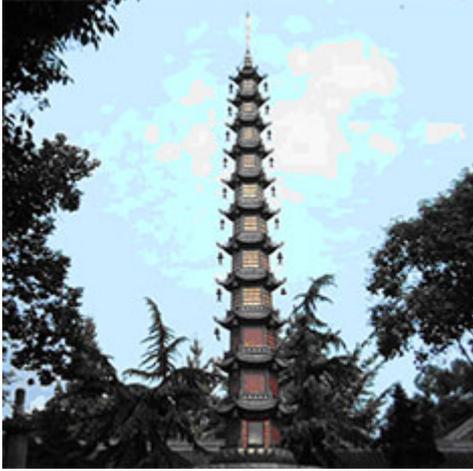
Wangjiang Tower Garden

Located on the south bank of Jinjiang River, Chengdu, Wangjiang (in Chinese, overlooking the river) Tower Park is one of three famous cultural relics in Chengdu, along with Wuhou Memorial Temple and the Thatched Cottage of Du Fu. While Wuhou Temple honors the legendary minister of Shu, Zhuge Liang, and Du Fu Cottage honors the Sage of Poetry, Wangjiang Tower is dedicated to a woman, Xue Tao, a poet in the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Since in the past women lacked social status, the story of Xue Tao is all the more fascinating.



Bamboos will get your attention as you enter the park. Xue Tao loved bamboo; over 150 kinds of bamboos from home and abroad grow here in her honor. Wangjiang Tower Park with its elegant garden of bamboo is the finest in Chengdu. The 39-meter- (128-foot-) high Wangjiang Tower is the greatest building in the park. Of the four stories of the tower, the upper two are octagonal while the lower two are square with every eave layer exquisitely decorated with sculptures.

Wenshuyuan



Wenshuyuan or Wenshu Monastery, located in the northern part of the city in western Sichuan Province, is the best-preserved Buddhist temple in Chengdu . It is the home of the Buddhist Association of Sichuan Province and Chengdu City . Initially built in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), Wenshu Monastery was once called Xinxiang Temple . In 1681, during the reign of Emperor Kangxi of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), Cidu, an accomplished Buddhist monk, came to the monastery. He built a simple hut between two trees and for several years lived an ascetic life there. Legend has it when Cidu was being cremated; the statue of Wensu (Bodhisattva Manjusri in Sanskrit) appeared in the flames, staying for a long time. So people regarded Cidu as the reincarnation of the Bodhisattva Manjusri. Thereafter, Xinxiang Temple became Wenshu Monastery. Cultural relics are the highlights of Wenshu Monastery. Since the Tang and Song dynasties, over 500 pieces of painting and calligraphy by celebrities have been stored here. In addition to its cultural relics, Wenshu Monastery is famous for its exquisite garden and solemn halls. Tourists and locals can enjoy tea in the Tea House while listening to music by folk artists.

Jinli Street

Jinli Street, located to the east of the [Wuhou Memorial Temple](#) of Chengdu (the most famous Three Kingdoms period (220 - 280) relic museum in China) is particularly representative of the Chengdu City. It is recorded that as early as the Qin Dynasty (221 BC - 206 BC), Jinli Street was the most famous place for baldachin-a rich, ornate cloth. And it was one of the busiest commercial streets during the Shu Kingdom (221-263). Hence, it is known as 'First Street of the Shu Kingdom'.

At the time of the Three Kingdoms period, the production of the famous Shu brocade (a rich silk fabric with raised patterns in gold and silver) was centralized at the southern bank of the Jinjiang River in Chengdu, adjacent to the historical

Wuhou Memorial Temple, The area was originally known as Jinguan or Jinli, and during the later Tang and Song Dynasties, Jinli became another name for the city of Chengdu.

The geography of the area is relatively simple; Jinjiang River lies to the north and the Rainbow Bridge to the east of Jinli Street. At one end of the street is an imposing archway with 'Jinli Street' carved on it. From there the street, paved with green flagstones, winds through Chengdu for a length of 350 meters (382.8 yards). By combining the culture of the Three Kingdoms Period with the folk customs of Sichuan , the buildings on both sides including tea-houses, stores and hotels, are modeled on the architectural style of a traditional old town in western Sichuan Province from the Qing (1644-1911) Dynasty. The wooden steles and the brick-walls exhibit an ancient charm. In the middle of the street, there is a wooden stage which looks like an ancient pavilion. It is used from time to time for performing classic [Sichuan Operas](#). Renovation of the street was completed at the end of 2004. Visitors from all over China and abroad gathered here in this ancient street to relax, take in the surroundings, and perhaps taste some of the local specialties. It is said that citizens of Chengdu are particularly fond of dining and socializing, and perhaps this is what helps to create the city's leisurely ambience. Chengdu



has been newly designated as one of the ten most livable cities in China.

Giant Panda Wolong Research Center

The Wolong Giant Panda Reserve Center was one of the earliest research bases established in the early 1980s by the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC). In 1989, the Ministry of Forestry of PRC and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) formulated the long-term Giant Panda Management Plan. Today, the Wolong Giant Panda Reserve Center has been turned into the Giant Panda Breeding Center focusing on research works on breeding and bamboo ecology. Many other research works are being carried out at other Reserves such as the one in Qinling Mountains of Shaanxi Province.



The Center basically takes care of giant pandas under three situations:

- * when the giant pandas are brought up from captive breeding,
- * when the giant pandas are somehow dispersed from the group, or are rescued from injury, and have lost the ability to survive if released back to the wild,
- * when the giant panda are ready to be released back to the wild.

The Center has two types of 'accommodations' for giant pandas - the captive cages and the semi-nature enclosures.



Most of the giant pandas in the Centre stay individually in the captive cages, which are in fact large enclosures, each consists of an in-door room and an out-door courtyard. The semi-nature enclosures are very large wild areas but protected by border fences. Those giant pandas that will soon be released back to the wild will be put in the semi-nature enclosures for a long enough period of time for them to adapt to the natural environment. Although food has to be provided, the giant pandas will sleep there, eat there and recover their natural survival skills there until they can be released back to the wild.

Days & Suites Beijing Hotel(Beijing Chang An Grand Hotel)

27 Hua Wei Li Chaoyang District Beijing China



Offering comfortable accommodation and various facilities, the Chang An Grand Hotel is an ideal travel destination for both business and leisure travelers visiting Beijing. The hotel has 373 rooms.



Hotel Amenities:

- Airline reservation desk
- Beauty shop
- Car Rental
- Babysitting
- Bar & Lounge
- Concierge desk
- Foreign exchange
- Restaurants
- Housekeeping service daily
- Laundry on-site



Hotel Description

Guest Rooms: Guests are provided with the comfort of tastefully decorated rooms that are spacious and facilitated with numerous in-room amenities. The hotel also offers 24-hour room service for your convenience.

Location: The Chang An Grand Hotel is located in the southeast corner of Beijing City, adjacent to Beijing Curio City, China's largest curio and folk artwork market. It is also close to the Central Business District and downtown.

Restaurant: Guests can enjoy delicious western cuisine in the relaxed atmosphere of the onsite restaurant and later chill out with a refreshing drink at the cocktail bar.

Lhasa Hotel

No. 1, Minzu Road, Lhasa, China



Lhasa Hotel is one of the most luxurious hotels in Lhasa. This former Holiday Inn hotel was renovated in 1999. The hotel has 450 rooms.



Hotel Amenities:

- Meeting Facilities
- Business Center
- Ticketing Office
- Domestic Long-distance Access
- Laundry Service
- First Aid
- Beauty Salon

Hotel Description

Guest Rooms: Some are decorated in Tibetan Style while others are decorated in Western comfort. All rooms come with amenities that meet the needs of the international travelers.

Location: Located at 3,600m above sea level. Right next to the hotel is the famous landmark of Norbulingka, the summer Palace of the Dali Lama. It takes only 10 minutes of drive to the "Holy City" centre, where one can see the mystical Potala Palace. The distance from airport is 95 km

Restaurant: The hotel has a range of restaurants, which provide Sichuan, Western, Indian and Tibetan food.

Chengdu Holiday Inn Crown Plaza

31 Zong Fu Street Chengdu , China



The Hotel is strategically located in the busy commercial part of the city. It is within the main shopping expanse of Zong Fu street and office complexes, close to the Sichuan Provincial Exhibition center and the major government offices



Hotel Amenities:

- 24 Hour Room Service
- A/C Public Areas facilities
- Baby-Sitting
- Beauty Salon
- Cocktail bar
- Dry Cleaning/Laundry
- Foreign Currency Exchange
- Free Local Phone Calls
- Gift Shop
- Safety Deposit Box
- Secretarial Services
- Shoe Shine
- Turndown Service
- Wake Up Calls

Hotel Description

Guest Rooms: The facilities in the guest rooms are superb, including marble bathrooms, individually controlled air-conditioning systems, color television with satellite TV, a private bar and coffee-making facilities. The hotel also caters well for disabled guests.

Location: With both the major shopping area of Zong Fu Street and Chengdu's commercial center within walking distance, the hotel is ideally situated in the heart of the city. The hotel also has easy access to the airport (18 km) and the central railway station (less than 5 km).

Restaurant: There is a lobby bar and restaurants, serving French, regional and Japanese, available onsite. Hotel restaurants include the Sphere Cafe, Golden Century Chinese Restaurant, Spice Market and Fresh Deli Counter.