



8 DAY CHINA TOUR



19th April - 28th April, 2026

ITINERARY

Sunday 19th April - Departure Day

Begin your adventure as you depart Dublin, flying with Qatar Airways (or similar) to Beijing, the capital city of China. Sit back, relax, and get ready for an unforgettable and cultural experience.

Monday 20 April – Arrival in Beijing

Upon arrival, meet your guide and transfer to the centrally located 5* Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town (dinner included), where you'll stay for three nights with breakfast included. In the evening, you will be treated to a famous Peking Duck dinner (ex drinks).

Tuesday 21 April – Imperial Treasures & Local Life. (Lunch Included)

After breakfast, embark on a full-day guided tour of Beijing's most iconic sites, including Tian'anmen Square – the world's largest city square, steeped in history. The Forbidden City – explore the majestic palace complex with over 9,000 rooms, once home to emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties. Jingshan Park – climb to the summit for panoramic views of the Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven – a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its stunning architecture and spiritual significance. In the evening, enjoy a rickshaw tour through Beijing's Hutongs, the city's historic alleyways, offering a glimpse into traditional Chinese life and culture.

Wednesday 22 April – Great Wall & Summer Palace (Lunch Included)

After breakfast, your guide will take you to the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall, one of the best-preserved and most scenic stretches. A round-trip cable car is included for a comfortable ascent and descent. Walk along ancient stone paths and explore historic beacon towers. On your return to the city, stop for photo opportunities at the Bird's Nest and Water Cube, iconic Olympic landmarks. In the afternoon, visit the tranquil Summer Palace, a lakeside retreat with classical gardens once favoured by Qing emperors.

Thursday 23 April – High-Speed Train to Xi'an & Local Flavours (Lunch Included)

Board a high-speed train (travelling first class!) to Xi'an (08.26 – 13.51 or similar). Make sure to bring some snacks and water on board. Upon arrival, meet your local guide and enjoy a late lunch in the city centre. Then explore the Ancient City Wall – walk along one of China's oldest and best-preserved fortifications, Bell & Drum Tower Square – the historic heart of Xi'an and the Muslim Quarter – stroll through vibrant streets filled with local flavours and colourful market stalls. Check into the centrally located 5* Sheraton Xi'an North City Hotel (Longshouyuan), where you'll stay for one night with breakfast included. This evening enjoy a food walking tour and sample Xi'an's famous street food (at own cost), including biangbiang noodles, soup dumplings, and lamb skewers.



ITINERARY

Friday, 24th April – Journey Through Xi'an's Timeless Treasures & Fly to Shanghai (Lunch Included)

Start your day with a delicious breakfast before setting off on a captivating adventure into China's ancient past. Your personal guide and driver will meet you at your hotel and take you on a scenic one-hour drive to the legendary Terracotta Army Museum — one of the world's most iconic archaeological discoveries. Prepare to be amazed as you explore this vast underground army of over 8,000 life-sized warriors and horses, created more than 2,000 years ago to guard Emperor Qin Shihuang in the afterlife. Begin at the largest excavation pit, home to more than 6,000 figures, and admire the astonishing detail in each soldier, horse, and chariot. Continue to another pit featuring archers in battle-ready poses, offering a fascinating glimpse into ancient Chinese military formations and craftsmanship. In the afternoon, visit the serene and spiritual Big Wild Goose Pagoda, a towering landmark built in 652 AD during the Tang Dynasty. Originally constructed to house sacred Buddhist scriptures brought from India by the monk Xuanzang, the pagoda stands as a symbol of cultural exchange and devotion. Then, step into the vibrant atmosphere of the Grand Tang Dynasty Ever-bright City, where traditional Tang-style architecture, lively streets, and cultural performances bring the grandeur of ancient Xi'an to life. As evening falls, you'll be transferred to the airport for your flight to Shanghai, China's dazzling modern metropolis. Upon arrival, a local driver will be waiting to escort you to the centrally located 5* Renaissance Shanghai Yu Garden Hotel on the Bund, where you'll stay for three nights with breakfast included.

Saturday, 25th April – Shanghai: Art, Gardens & City Vibes (Lunch Included)

Your day begins with a visit to the renowned Shanghai Museum, home to millions of cultural treasures. As you explore its elegant halls, your guide will lead you through captivating exhibits of ancient bronze ware, delicate porcelain, traditional paintings, and exquisite calligraphy—each piece telling a story from China's rich past. Next, step into the tranquil beauty of Yuyuan Garden, a masterpiece of classical Chinese landscaping. Originally built in 1559 by Pan Yunduan during the Ming Dynasty as a peaceful retreat for his parents, the garden has endured centuries of change. From abandonment and war damage to careful restoration, its pavilions, bridges, rockeries, and ponds now offer a serene escape in the heart of the city. Just outside the garden lies the bustling Yuyuan Market, where tradition meets everyday life. Wander through lively alleys filled with local crafts—chopsticks, fans, pottery—and sample delicious street food like steamed buns, crab shell cakes, and pork chop with rice cakes. Don't be shy to haggle; it's all part of the experience! Continue your journey along Nanjing Road, one of Shanghai's most famous shopping streets. Here, you'll find a blend of classic department stores and modern boutiques, with the option to try authentic Shanghai snacks as you explore. As the day winds down, stroll along the historic Bund. Admire the striking mix of architectural styles lining the waterfront and take in the breathtaking views of the Pudong skyline. Your guide will share stories of the Bund's fascinating past, bringing this iconic stretch of Shanghai to life.



ITINERARY

Sunday, 26th April – Suzhou Serenity & Water Town Charm (Lunch and Dinner Included)

Your day begins at 8:00 AM, when your English-speaking guide and driver greet you for a scenic two-hour drive to the enchanting city of Suzhou. Known for its classical gardens and rich cultural heritage, Suzhou offers a peaceful contrast to Shanghai's urban energy. Your first stop is the Lingering Garden, a masterpiece of Qing Dynasty design. As you wander through its elegant halls, intricate courtyards, and beautifully arranged landscapes, you'll discover why it's considered one of China's finest classical gardens. Next, take a leisurely stroll along Shantang Old Street, where centuries-old houses line the canal and the aroma of local snacks fills the air. This charming street offers a glimpse into Suzhou's past, with opportunities to sample traditional treats and soak in the historic atmosphere. After lunch, your journey continues with a short drive to Tongli Water Town, one of the most picturesque ancient towns in the Jiangnan region. Famous for its winding canals, graceful stone bridges, and architecture dating back to the Song and Qing dynasties, Tongli feels like a living museum. A relaxing boat cruise offers a unique perspective of the town's timeless beauty, gliding past historic homes and under arched bridges. As the afternoon fades, you'll return to Shanghai and enjoy an end-of-tour dinner (including drinks).

Monday, 27th April – Stylish Streets & Departure (Farewell Lunch Included)

After breakfast, begin your final day in Shanghai with a stroll through the charming French Concession. This leafy district blends old-world elegance with modern flair, where traditional alleyway homes sit alongside chic cafés, boutique shops, and stylish restaurants. The atmosphere is relaxed yet vibrant, offering a perfect start to your day. Continue to Xintiandi, a lively pedestrian area that beautifully merges historic architecture with contemporary culture. Explore its cobbled lanes, browse unique stores, and soak in the cosmopolitan vibe that defines modern Shanghai. Next, discover the artistic soul of the city in Tianzifang. Once a maze of 1930s lane houses, this creative enclave is now home to art studios, galleries, and cozy coffee bars. It's a place where old Shanghai charm meets youthful energy, making it a delightful spot to wander and reflect. To mark the end of your journey, enjoy a special long and leisurely farewell lunch filled with local flavours and shared stories. It's a moment to celebrate the experiences, connections, and memories made along the way. After lunch, your guide will accompany you to the airport for your evening flight home.



ITINERARY

Tuesday 28th April

Touch down in Dublin, bringing your unforgettable adventure through Hong Kong and China to a close. From ancient warriors and tranquil gardens to vibrant city streets and cultural treasures, every moment has been part of a journey to remember. Thank you for travelling with Rugby Travel Ireland—we hope you've enjoyed every step of the experience and we look forward to welcoming you on another incredible tour soon.

VISA / PASSPORT INFORMATION

Hong Kong: Irish / UK citizens do not require a visa to enter Hong Kong for the purposes of tourism.

China (Irish Citizens): At the time of writing, Irish citizens are exempt from a visa requirement if entering China for the purpose of tourism for no more than 30 days. If this changes, you will be updated.

China (UK Citizens): At the time of writing, UK citizens need to apply for a tourist visa to China no later than 30 days prior to departure. If this changes you will be updated. The visa application link will be provided after you have made a booking.

A valid passport is required for travel to Hong Kong / China. Passports should have a minimum validity of 6 months. Passport cards cannot be used. Passports should be valid for at least one month after the date of your departure from Hong Kong / China.

Optional activities list will be sent post booking



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FINANCIAL PROTECTION - BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

OTP Travel Services Ltd T/A Rugby Travel Ireland (RTI) is fully bonded assuring you that your monies are secure at all times. Rugby Travel Ireland is bonded and licensed with the Irish Aviation Authority Tour Operators Licence No. T.O.260. Further details are available at www.aviationreg.ie/.

INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking with Rugby Travel Ireland that you and any fellow travellers **MUST** have travel insurance in place. Your travel insurance should cover the cost of cancellation, medical expenses, loss of luggage or money, personal liability claims, participation in activities and costs of assistance (including repatriation) in the event of accident, injury, illness or death. You should check any exclusions and, in particular, that your policy covers you for the activities you want to undertake. We strongly recommend that you are covered from the time of booking as this may assist you in recovering monies paid in the unfortunate event of you having to cancel your trip. We recommend the services of our preferred travel insurance partner, Blue Insurance, and you can get a quotation directly from the link below:

 **ROI RESIDENTS ONLY**
[Get Travel Insurance Quote](#)

HOTELS

Prices are based on twin/double rooms with two people sharing. Triple/Family rooms can be quoted subject to availability. Single occupancy incurs a single room supplement as outlined in our costs. This is because we are charged on a per room basis, but we cost the package based on two people sharing that cost. Should we change your hotel we will advise you at the earliest opportunity, but we will always endeavour to offer a hotel of the same standard. If this is not possible, an alternative will be provided, and a credit note will be applied. All accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis.

FLIGHT UPGRADES

Although the comfort and service offered by the airlines we use is excellent, you may wish to upgrade your flight to Business Class (not available for internal flights). You can request a quotation during the booking process.

CHANGES TO YOUR TOUR

RTI reserve the right to change/readjust the tour schedule, transportation, hotel accommodation and services indicated in the package. Promotions may end without notice. All tours are subject to availability.

IF YOU WISH TO CANCEL

Should you wish to cancel your booking, we will require notification in writing. Cancellation charges will be levied in accordance with the scale set out in our full set of Terms and Conditions. A summary of our cancellation provisions are as below: More than 100 days Deposit(s) - Between 99 and 70 days 50% of total booking cost - Between 69 and 56 days 60% of total booking cost - Between 55 and 43 days 70% of total booking cost - Between 42 and 15 days 90% of total booking cost - 14 days or less 100% of total booking cost.

Contact Us

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact one of our staff members at hello@rugbytravelireland.com or by calling us directly on +353 61 624 734 | +353 1 556 7776.