# Classical China & The Dunhuang Caves

Featuring **Dora C.Y. Ching *11**, Associate Director
Princeton University's P.Y. & Kinmay W. Tang Center for East Asian Art

September 12–24, 2016

**Beijing • Dunhuang • Mogao & Yulin Caves • Xian • Shanghai**

# Picturesque China

*Experience the Delights of a Well-Crafted Tour*

Dear Princetonian,

Join Princeton Journeys, September 12–24, 2016, on an exploration of some of China's most magnificent sites, including the incomparable Mogao and Yulin Caves near Dunhuang. The Mogao and Yulin caves feature hundreds of Buddhist cave-grottoes with an astonishing number of brilliantly colored paintings and sculptures that cover the walls and ceilings. The artifacts in these caves are both rare and extraordinarily beautiful.

The Silk Road of China presents travelers with a visit to a region vastly different from the rest of the country. Begin by visiting the classical sites in Beijing, from the Ming dynasty's Temple of Heaven to the riches of the National Museum. Then fly to Dunhuang for an in-depth exploration at the Mogao Caves, the Dunhuang Research Academy, and the complex environs. Take a side trip to the Yulin Caves, with their world-famous Buddhist scriptures, statues, and wall murals, before moving on to Xian to meet Qinshihuang's famous terra-cotta warriors. End the program in Shanghai, one of Asia's fastest growing and cosmopolitan cities.

You will be accompanied by Dora C.Y. Ching *11, Associate Director of Princeton's Tang Center for East Asian Art. Dr. Ching has been instrumental in the the international effort to understand how art and Buddhism began in this region more than 1,500 years ago. Learn from her about the many ways Princeton is connected to Dunhuang and the pivotal role Princeton scholars have played in accessing, cataloging, and housing archives of the cultural treasure of the Mogao caves.

Space is limited on this Princeton exclusive, so contact the Princeton Journeys team now at (609) 258-8686 or journeys@princeton.edu to reserve you place.

With kind regards,

Leslie Jennings Rowley S95
Executive Manager, Princeton Journeys
Office of Alumni Affairs, Princeton University

## Princeton Study Leader ~ Dora C.Y. Ching *11

Dora Ching, a specialist in Chinese painting and calligraphy with particular expertise in Chinese portraiture, has served as associate director of the Tang Center since 2002. Before and during her time at the Tang Center, she has been deeply engaged in book editing and publication, with more than a dozen books to her credit as co-editor or managing editor. She is the author of numerous published book chapters and articles and has co-curated three major museum exhibitions. She also occasionally serves as a lecturer at Princeton; her most recent course is "Dunhuang: Buddhist Art and Culture along the Silk Road." Both her course and her current project focus on the caves at Dunhuang and the Lo Archive of photographs, taken at the site in 1943–44. The archive represents a unique, aesthetically refined, and historically invaluable record of cave paintings and sculpture made over a thousand-year period from the 4th to the 14th centuries that will be published along with research essays into in a six-volume publication.

# Fabulous Dining

*Savor China's Exquisite Regional Cuisines*

China today produces some of the finest cuisine in the world. Given the country's stratospheric economic rise and the emergence of a fun-loving middle class, special dining experience is prized in Chinese society more than ever before. A good time in China means nothing if not "to eat well."

Simply put, the brilliance of Chinese culture is found in China's astounding culinary traditions. As your tour passes through much of the country, you'll have ample opportunity to discover each region's culinary specialty. The enjoyment of "food as culture" will be part and parcel of your China experience. Here are just some of the fine eating establishments you will enjoy:

## BEIJING

§ Dine at *Duck de Chine*, recognized as a premier location for the fabled Chinese delicacy, Peking duck. § Your lunch with Beijing locals in their courtyard home in Houhai shows that all succulent foods need not be produced by five star kitchens. § And *Xiaolongpu* at the foot of the Great Wall showcases hearty foods, particularly braised meats, conducive to the northern climate and rugged terrain.

## DUNHUANG

§ *The Silk Road Restaurant* in Dunhuang serves a mouth-watering variety of local dishes. Enjoy the flavors of northwest China—beef noodles, fried meat pie, shish kebab, and dumplings are just a few items that this expansive menu has to offer.

## XIAN

§*Defachang* lays claim to being the champion of the dumpling, and dinner here includes twenty kinds with unique fillings and flavors. § *Chen Family Mansion Restaurant*, established by Mr. Chen who immigrated to Xian from Canton, offers a combination of traditional Shaanxi cuisine as well as southern Cantonese Cuisine.

## SHANGHAI

§ *Xiajiayiyuan Restaurant* is often cited as one of the city's best choices for Shanghai cuisine and delicate flavored dishes. § *Ding Tai Feng Restaurant* is renowned for its delectable Shanghai dim sum.

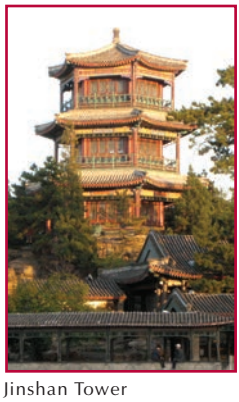
The enjoyment of good food will prove one of this tour's recurring themes. However as not everyone may have an adventurous palate, we will make every attempt to accommodate special food requests.

# Pre-Tour Extension

*Arrive before the main tour begins to relax, get settled, and take in the architecture and gardens of this nexus of imperial design.*

Young Monk

Yanyu Pavilion



Jinshan Tower

## Chengde Imperial Resort

September 9–13, 2016 *

*dates include 2 days of international travel

Spend three days experiencing the grandeur of the Qing Imperial Resort at Chengde, a two hour drive north of Beijing. A UNESCO World Heritage Site with a history of more than 300 years, this is one of the great cultural landmarks of China.

The garden complex includes imperial halls, southern-style lake gardens, Mongolian yurts, and a wooded hillside with numerous pavilions. Beyond the palace many Buddhist temples were built, each one architecturally unique, of which five remain.

**Travel Dates for Chengde Extension**

September 09 • Depart the U.S. for Beijing
September 10 • Arrive Beijing
September 11 • Beijing to Chengde
September 12 • Chengde
September 13 • Chengde to Beijing
(main tour participants arrive today)

Accommodations: 1 night Hilton Wangfujing (Beijing), 2 nights Qiwanglou Resort (Chengde)

Pule Temple

Temple of Heaven in Beijing

# Classical China & The Dunhuang Caves

## ITINERARY

September 12–13 • U.S.– Beijing
Depart U.S. on flights to Beijing. Cross the international dateline and arrive in China the next day. Transfer to the Hilton Wangfujing, located in the heart of Beijing. (meals aloft)
• *Accommodations at the Hilton Wangfujing in historic downtown (3 nights)*

September 14 • Beijing
After breakfast, begin your China exploration with a welcome orientation. Then set off for the Forbidden City, the abiding symbol of imperial China. Truly one of the great achievements of civilization, its construction employed hundreds of thousands of workers between 1406 and 1420. Marvel at its expansive architecture, magnificent imperial gardens, and many museums of Chinese antiquities and treasures.

In the afternoon, explore the Temple of Heaven, one of the finest creations of the Ming dynasty. This evening, savor the imperial city's most famous delicacy, Peking duck, at the elegant Duck de Chine Restaurant. (b,l,d)

Included meals indicated each day as Breakfast (b), Lunch (l), and Dinner (d).

September 15 • Beijing
After breakfast, visit the newly renovated National Museum by Tiananmen Square. With the largest exhibit space in the world, the museum displays some of the finest art and antiquities of China.

Explore Beijing's picturesque Houhai district, where well-preserved courtyard homes and narrow hutong alleys border tree-lined lakes. Tour the district by "pedicab" for a closer and more engaging experience of traditional Chinese life. Divide into small groups and enjoy lunch at a local family's home.

In the afternoon, tour the Great Wall of China. Encounter this extraordinary rampart at Mutianyu, a rugged section of the wall that offers easy access by foot or cable car.

The Great Wall presents a visual experience that dramatically exceeds visitors' expectations. Construction of a few miles of the wall on such jagged peaks seems near miraculous, and the rampart stretches for 3,700 miles and passes through 16 provinces.

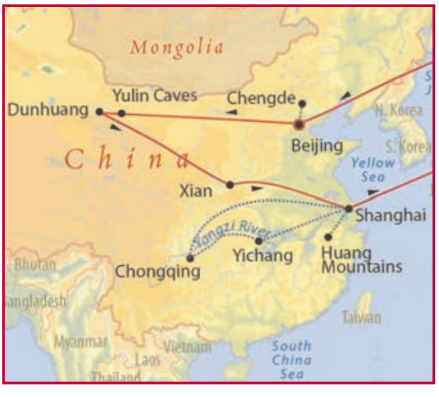
Evening is free with dinner on one's own. (b,l)

September 16 • Dunhuang
Fly to Dunhuang in the morning. Dunhuang is one of the world's great repositories of religious art and provides an excellent window onto ancient life along the Silk Road. Visit the Dunhuang Museum, with its fine collection of antiquities from the ancient caves in Dunhuang area. (b,l,d)
• *Accommodations at Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel near Mingsha Hill & Dunes (4 nights)*

Crescent Moon Lake in Dunhuang

September 17 • Yardang National Park–Jade Gate Pass–Hecang Fortress
After breakfast drive to Yardang National Park. Yardang is a geological rock ridge formed by endless years of wind and water erosion. The word Yardang is of Turkic origin, meaning "steep bank." In the afternoon, tour Yumenguan (Jade Gate Pass), a strategic military pass on the ancient Silk Road. The name of the wall was was derived from the jade being transported through this pass to central China.

Tour nearby Hecang Fortress, once a vital supply depot for the Chinese military. Later visit 2,000-year-old remains of the Han Dynasty Great Wall. Return to Dunhuang for dinner. (b,l,d)




September 18 • Mogao Caves
The Mogao Caves are cut into steep cliffs along a riverbed, providing a perfect location for the thousands of Buddhist murals and statuary. An old inscription records that the first cave was created in 366 CE, and in 1987 UNESCO listed the Mogao Caves as a World Heritage Site. Wander through a succession of grottoes, marveling at the interiors of caves containing painted and stucco Buddhas and bodhisattvas dating from the 4th through the 14th century. Meet with a scholar from the Dunhuang Research Academy to learn about recent excavations and the ongoing effort at cultural preservation.

A sunset camel ride over the sand dunes at Crescent Moon Lake caps the day. (b,l,d)

September 19 • Yulin Caves
The Yulin Caves are a Buddhist cave temple site that takes its name from the elm trees lining the Yulin River, which flows through the site and separates the two cliffs from which the caves have been excavated. The 42 caves house some 250 statues and 4,200 square meters of wall paintings, dating from the Tang Dynasty to the Yuan Dynasty (7th to 14th centuries). In 1961, the site was among the first to be designated for protection as a major national historical and cultural site. In 2008, the Yulin Grottoes were submitted for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List as part of the Chinese Section of the Silk Road. (b,l,d)

September 20 • Xian
This morning, fly to the ancient Tang dynasty capital of Xian, formerly known as Chang'an.

In the afternoon, enjoy a curatorial tour of the Shaanxi History Museum and its artifacts spanning many dynasties.

Explore Xian's charming Muslim

Terracotta Warriors in Xian

Quarter where you'll find traditional Chinese Muslim cuisine and colorful shops and merchants. Chinese Muslim culture traces its heritage from the flourishing Silk Road culture of the Tang dynasty. The evening is free for individual pursuits. (b,l)

• *Accommodations at the Hilton Hotel in the heart of downtown (2 nights)*

September 21 • Xian

A second day in Xian begins with a viewing of the extraordinary 2,300-year-old terracotta warriors in the tomb of China's first emperor, Qinshihuang. The warriors still stand on the original site, where they were discovered by farmers in 1974.

In the afternoon visit the Wild Goose Pagoda, where the ancient Buddhist sutras from Tang dynasty (618–907AD) are kept. The famous monk Xuanzang traveled to India and brought back a great number of Buddhist sutras. He toiled for years translating and organizing the scriptures at the temple.

The day concludes with a dumpling banquet at Defachang Dumpling restaurant with a feast of over 20 kinds of Chinese dumplings, a Xian specialty. (b,l,d)

September 22 • Shanghai

Take a morning flight to Shanghai. What strikes everyone about Shanghai is its vitality. Nothing restrains Shanghai in its immense ambition to achieve world-class status.

Transfer to the hotel for independent lunch and a rest before enjoying an afternoon tour of the historic French Concession and a walk along Taikang Market Street with boutique shops, galleries and cafés. The evening is free for independent adventures. (b)

• *Accommodations at the Portman Ritz-Carlton near the famous Nanjing Road (2 nights)*

September 23 • Shanghai

This morning visit the People's Park and observe or participate in locals' *taiji* exercises. Then wander among the wonderful collections of the Shanghai Museum, including its world-class displays of Chinese bronzes, jade, pottery, ceramics, paintings, and calligraphy.

Tour Yuyuan Gardens, which is designed in six unique parts, making the garden seem much larger than it really is. The gardens have one of the best Ming rockeries, and wending along the zigzag bridge to Huxingting Teahouse is a delight.

Savor Shanghai Dim Sum at lunchtime. In the afternoon, tour the Pudong economic district and ride the elevator to the top of the highest building in Asia—the World Financial Tower—for a bird's-eye view of the old and new Shanghai by the Huangpu River.

In the evening, the journey comes to a memorable close with a farewell banquet at Xijiahuayuan Restaurant featuring fine Shanghai cuisine. (b,l,d)

September 24 • Shanghai - U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the Shanghai airport for flights home. Arrive in the U.S. on the same day. (b, meals aloft)

# Post-Tour Extensions

*Stay in China Awhile Longer*

## Three Gorges Along The Mighty Yangzi River

September 24–28, 2016

Fly from Shanghai to Chongqing, the great interior city of China. Visit the pandas at the Chongqing Zoo in their expansive natural enclosure. If time allows, enjoy the lively art scene at the Chongqing Art Galleries.

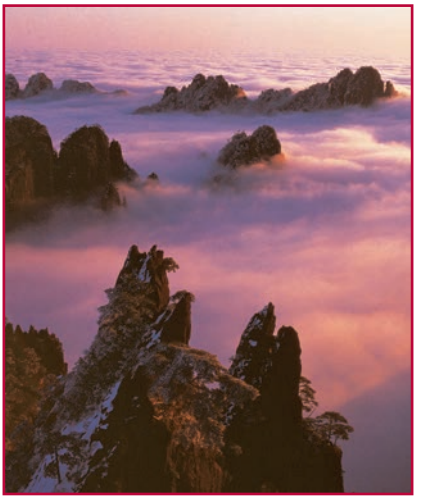
Board the *Century Legend* and travel downstream through the spectacular Three Gorges. Along the way, disembark to enjoy activities onshore.

Visit a relocated village and see the breathtaking Lesser Gorge, Danninghe. Experience the spectacular Three Gorges Dam at Sandouping, the largest in the world. Disembark at Yichang and fly to Shanghai.

**Travel Dates for the Yangzi River Extension**

September 24 • Shanghai, Fly to Chongqing (emabark)
September 25 • Yangzi Cruise
September 26 • Yangzi Cruise
September 27 • Yichang (disembark). fly to Shanghai
September 28 • Shanghai to U.S. (depart anytime)

Accommodations: 3 nights aboard Century Cruises, 1 night Portman-Ritz Carlton (Shanghai)



## Magnificent Huangshan & Ancient Huizhou Culture

September 24–28, 2016

Take a one-hour flight from Shanghai and explore Anhui province and its idyllic landscape of rice paddies, Ming and Qing dynasty villages, and dynastic market center. Discover traditional Anhui life in Hong and Xidi villages.

Then, visit the crown jewel of the region, the Huang Mountains. The beauty of the granite precipices towering above the morning valley fog has inspired Chinese artists for centuries. On foot and by cable car, explore the Yellow Mountains' fabled views.

**Travel Dates for Huangshan Extension**

September 24 • Shanghai, fly to Tunxi
September 25 • Tunxi and Huizhou Villages
September 26 • Huangshan
September 27 • Huangshan to Tunxi, train to Shanhai
September 28 • Shanghai to U.S. (depart anytime)

Accomodations: 2 nights Crowne Plaza (Tunxi), 1 night Xihai Hotel (Huangshan), 1 night Portman-Ritz Carlton (Shanghai)

# Tour Cost

* Rates are per person and do not include international air:

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|---|---|
| **Main Tour, Adult, Double Occupancy** | **$6,390** |
| **Single Supplement** | **$1,990** |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Chengde Pre-Extension | $1,390 | Single Supplement | $ 395 |
| Huangshan Post-Extension | $2,100 | Single Supplement | $ 795 |
| Yangzi River Post-Extension | $2,165 | Single Supplement | $ 895 |

**Roundtrip International Air** is available through Airtreks. For pricing, please contact Airtreks directly at 415-977-7136 or at china-advocates@airtreks.com.

**Private Airport Transfers** upon arrival in Beijing and departure in Shanghai are recommended and available through China Advocates. Call 1-888-333-2585 or email info@china-advocates.com.

**Main Tour Includes:** • Double occupancy accommodations • All meals listed in itinerary • All sightseeing, entertainment, and cultural activities listed in itinerary • Chinese airport taxes for internal flights • All group air and ground transportation within China • Basic medical and evacuation insurance • English-speaking Chinese local tour guides • China Advocates' national tour director • Princeton Study Leader • Gratuities to national tour director, local guides, and drivers on main tour

**Not Included:** • Domestic U.S. and international airfare • Airport transfers and porterage • Visa processing • Meals & activities not included in the tour • Excess baggage charges • Extended Travel insurance • Items of a personal nature • Gratuities to national tour director, local guides and drivers on extensions

For more information, please contact **Princeton Journeys** at 609-258-8686
or by email at journeys@princeton.edu

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# Tour Reservation Form

Princeton Journeys: *Classical China & The Dunhuang Caves*
September 12–24, 2016

Enclosed is a deposit for $ _____ ($1000 per person) to hold _____ place(s). Please make checks payable to *China Advocates*. Final payment is due **June 14, 2016.**

Passport Name/s _____Affiliation_____DOB_____

Passport Name/s _____Affiliation_____DOB_____

Address_____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Home/Office _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

**Optional Extensions:** ☐ Chengde Pre-Tour ☐ Yangzi Post-Tour ☐ Huangshan Post-Tour

**Accommodations:** ☐ Single ☐ I need assistance in securing a roommate (I understand that if a roommate cannot be secured for me, I agree to pay the single supplement fee(s).) ☐ Double

**Bedding Request:** ☐ One Bed ☐ Two Beds
☐ Smoking ☐ Non-smoking

I/We understand that, by placing a deposit, I/we accept and are bound by the terms listed in the Term & Conditions section of this brochure.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

**Credit Card Number for Deposit:** _____
*(Credit card payment is for deposit only. **Balance must be paid by check**)*

Exp. Date _____CVV Code_____

Signature _____ Date _____

*Please fax or mail the Tour Reservation Form with deposit to:*
The Office of Alumni Affairs of Princeton University
John Maclean House, P.O. Box 291 Princeton, NJ 08542-0291
Tel: 609-258-8686 • Fax: 609-258-5561• journeys@princeton.edu

## TRAVEL IN CHINA

The schedule will be demanding with moderate physical activity. Travel in China requires good physical condition and health (special needs must be arranged for in advance and may result in additional costs), a spirit of adventure, a flexible attitude, and a sense of humor. The itinerary is subject to change and modification. Every effort will be made to carry out the program as planned, but alterations may still occur. Participants should be aware that no refunds will be made as a result of unforeseen changes, modifications, or delays.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

**Reservations:** Bookings are subject to the terms and conditions mentioned in these sections. A contract has been entered into as soon as your booking is received and accepted. To confirm the reservation, a deposit of *$1000 per person is required*. Credit card payment is accepted for the deposit only; Final balance must be paid by check.

**Air:** Air cancellations and penalties are based on each carrier and ticket. Be sure to review these policies before purchasing air. Neither China Advocates, Inc. nor Princeton University, through its Office Alumni Affairs and Princeton Journeys, is responsible for any penalties incurred due to air changes or cancellations.

**Cancellations:** ***No cancellation is valid until it is received in writing by the Office of Alumni Affairs of Princeton University.*** Cancellation penalties are based on the date of receipt of written notice are as follows: **91 or more days prior to departure, a cancellation fee of $500 per person is retained; 90-46 days prior to departure, $1,500 per person; 45-31 days prior to departure, $2,500 per person; 30-0 days prior to departure, no refund is made.**

Cancellation penalties for additional hotel nights, hotel and cruise ship room upgrades, tour extensions, and any special arrangements, are as follows: **50-31 days prior to departure, 25% of cost is retained; 30-0 days prior to departure, no refund is made.**

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**Visa:** To obtain a Chinese visa, a passport is required that is valid for at least six months beyond the duration of the tour. Travelers are responsible for their own visas.

**Insurance:** As a service to its travelers, the Office of the Alumni Association of Princeton University automatically provides all Princeton Journeys participants with basic medical, accident, and evacuation coverage under a group travel insurance policy. **It is highly recommended that you supplement this basic protection with your own additional coverage, as well as trip cancellation/interruption or baggage coverage**. Information on additional insurance is available and will be mailed upon receipt of your reservation.

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Please note that the University does not conduct tours, nor does it act as an agent for guests interested in tours. Princeton Journeys acts as a facilitator with tour operators, with whom tour participants make arrangements for completing travel, and is pleased to act as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during, or after your tour. Princeton Journeys encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the tour operator's cancellation and refund policies, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance. The University is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements, or for losses or additional expenses resulting from travel.

Itinerary is subject to modification.

*Prices are current as of September 2015 and are subject to change without notice*

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