



Buddhpath/Eleven Directions

Seth Consultants Pvt. Ltd. (Government-Approved Tour Operators)

Regd. Office: 50/8, 1st Floor, Tolstoy Lane, Janpath, New Delhi 110001, India

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In the Footsteps of the Ancestors - A China Pilgrimage with Stephen Batchelor, Martine Batchelor and Shantum Seth

June 1 - 16, 2025

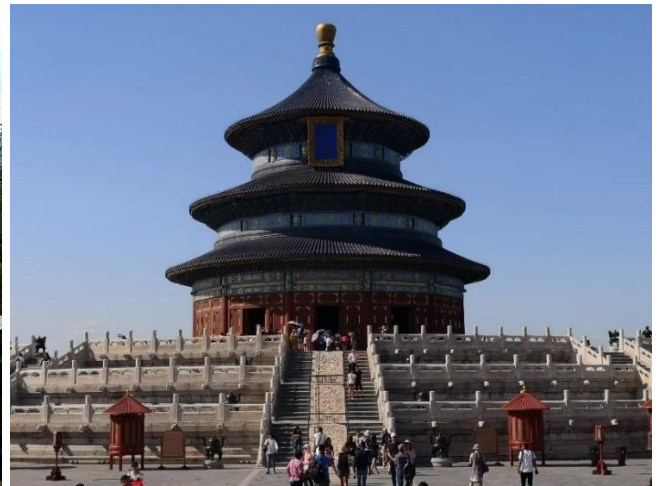
Beijing Extension

June 16 - 18, 2025

TRAVEL FACTS



Wutai Temple, Wutaishan



Temple of Heaven



Terracotta Warriors



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Po Lin Monastery

This journey will take us to some of the oldest and most revered Buddhist sites in China.

Over seventeen days, we will travel from early Chan (Zen) monasteries in the subtropical southern province of Guangdong, to the Dunhuang Caves in the desert of Gansu province in the far north, where Buddhism first reached China from India along the Silk Road. We will explore Kumbum, one of the largest Tibetan monasteries in north-west China; the ancient Imperial capital of Xian; the renowned shrines and statues of the Longmen Grottoes; and the sacred mountain of Wutaishan, covered with temples and hermitages that date back hundreds of years and are still active today.

For many centuries these sites have served not only as places of meditation and study, but as important centres of pilgrimage, attracting Buddhists from all over Asia. To honour the spirit of those former pilgrims, at each place we will spend time in silent reflection as well as learning about the historical, religious and philosophical roots of Chinese Buddhism.

Our pilgrimage will allow us to witness what remains of the ancient culture of China, while also experiencing the highly modernised and dynamic country that China has become today. Shantum visited many of these sites in 1982 soon after his brother, Vikram, then a student at Nanjing University, had written his travelogue *From Heaven Lake* on his overland journey through China and Tibet to India. Stephen and Martine likewise visited some of these sites during a pilgrimage to China in 1985 after they left their monastery in Korea. Shantum was also part of Thich Nhat Hanh's delegation in 1999, which went to many of the surviving Chan monasteries. Our guides will thus be able to share with you their own impressions of



the changes that have occurred over the past thirty-five years. In addition, we shall be accompanied throughout our trip by excellent local guides.

In the Footsteps of the Ancestors will appeal to anyone with an interest in Buddhist philosophy, history, meditation and art, who seeks to experience first-hand the sites that gave birth to China's unique synthesis of Taoist, Confucian and Buddhist traditions.

You can extend the journey by three days to visit important sites in and around Beijing including the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China. Step inside the Forbidden City, a massive imperial palace once home to China's emperors and the geographic center of this endless metropolis. The gates were shut to all but the royal household and their entourage of eunuchs and concubines for 600 years until, in 1924, a powerful warlord gave the last emperor just three hours to leave.

TEACHER BIOGRAPHIES

Stephen Batchelor



Stephen Batchelor was born in Scotland and educated in Buddhist monasteries in India, Switzerland and Korea. In 1972, at the age of nineteen, he settled in Dharamsala, and in 1974 he ordained as a Buddhist monk in the Tibetan tradition and later traveled to Korea where he practiced as a Zen monk. Batchelor disrobed in 1985, when he moved to Devon, England to live and teach at the Sharpham Community and Gaia House. Stephen Batchelor has synthesized a distinctively Western Teaching style, drawing from multiple Buddhist traditions. He currently lives in south-west France.

His books include: *The Awakening of the West: The Encounter of Buddhism and Western Culture*, *Buddhism Without Beliefs: A Contemporary Guide to Awakening*,

Verses from the Center: A Buddhist Vision of the Sublime,

Living with the Devil: A Meditation on Good and Evil and *Confession of a Buddhist Atheist*.

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Martine Batchelor



Martine Batchelor was a Buddhist nun in Korea for ten years. She studied Son Buddhism under the guidance of the late Master Kusan, and after his death she translated his book, *The Way of Korean Zen*. Following Master Kusan's death, she returned her nun's vows and returned to Europe. She is the author of *The Path of Compassion*, *Women in Korean Zen*, *Let go: A Buddhist Guide to Breaking Free of Habits*, and her latest, *The Spirit of the Buddha*. She has been active with the Silver Sante Study, teaching meditation, mindfulness and compassion to seniors in France to see if this could prevent ageing decline. She is on the Teacher Council of Gaia House and the faculty of Bodhi College. She is a teacher who is interested in what works for people and helps them to develop their creative potential for wisdom and compassion for themselves and others. Martine enjoys photography and art and lives in France with her husband, Stephen Batchelor

Shantum Seth



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Shantum Seth, an ordained Dharmacharya (Dharma teacher) in the Thiền (Zen) Buddhist lineage of Thich Nhat Hanh, is the foremost expert on the sites associated with the Buddha and has been leading pilgrimages in India and across Asia since 1988. He worked with the United Nations for more than 15 years, and was a Senior Advisor to the World Bank and on the Advisory group to the Minister of Tourism and Culture on pilgrimage tourism. He has co-authored books such as *Walking with the Buddha* and been a consultant for films like BBC-Discovery's *Life of the Buddha* and BBC-PBS's *The Story of India*. He has been promoting mindfulness in education, with the police, and is setting up a practice centre in the foothills of the Himalayas through the non-profit *Ahimsa Trust* of which he is a co-founder. Ahimsa, has been deeply involved in Covid relief work in India in the last year.

*ITINERARY

No	DATE	DAY	TRAVEL	NIGHT'S STAY
1	01-Jun-25	Sunday	Arrival in Beijing: Visit the Lama temple and/or the five-pagoda temple (zodiac temple)	Beijing
2	02-Jun-25	Monday	Beijing	Beijing
3	03-Jun-25	Tuesday	Fly Beijing to Dunhuang	Dunhuang
4	04-Jun-25	Wednesday	Dunhuang	Dunhuang
5	05-Jun-25	Thursday	Dunhugan to Xining by air (1 hr 40 mins) Visit the Kumbum monastery.	Xining
6	06-Jun-25	Friday	Xining. Visit the Tongren area	Xining
7	07-Jun-25	Saturday	Xining – Xian by train (4 hrs 25 mins). Visit the Terracotta Soldiers	Xian
8	08-Jun-25	Sunday	Xian – Luoyang by train (2 hrs 45 mins). Visit the Baimasi temple Have a session here.	Luoyang
9	09-Jun-25	Monday	Visit the Longmen cave not far from Luoyang (15km). The caves are multiple (1km long). Have a pilgrimage session.	Luoyang
10	10-Jun-25	Tuesday	Luoyang – Zhengzhou by road	Zhengzhou
11	11-Jun-25	Wednesday	Zhengzhou – Taiyuan – Wutaishan by fast train (3 hrs) and road	Waitaishan
12	12-Jun-25	Thursday	Wutaishan	Wutaishan
13	13-Jun-25	Friday	Wutaishan	Wutaishan
14	14-Jun-25	Saturday	Wutaishan – Taiyuan – Beijing by fast train	Beijing
15	15-Jun-25	Sunday	Beijing	Beijing
16	16-Jun-25	Monday	Departure from Beijing	

*Beijing Extension:

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1	16-Jun-25	MONDAY	Beijing Forbidden City	Beijing
2	17-Jun-25	TUESDAY	Beijing	Beijing
3	18-Jun-25	WEDNESDAY	Departure after breakfast or lunch	

***Suggested Detailed Travel Itinerary** (Please note that there could be minor changes to the itinerary)

In the Footsteps of the Ancestors - A Chinese Pilgrimage with Stephen Batchelor, Martine Batchelor and Shantum Seth *June 1 to June 14, 2025* – US\$ 8500 based on twin-sharing hotel rooms. The Single room Supplement is an additional US\$ 2500

Beijing Extension - Visit the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China *June 18 to June 20, 2025* – US\$ 850 based on twin-sharing hotel rooms. The Single room Supplement is an additional US\$ 350

The price include: • Teachings, talks and meditations by Stephen Batchelor, Martine Batchelor and Shantum Seth • Additional Service of a local English-speaking guide • Accommodation in selected hotels • Transportation with driver in A/C vehicle • Flights and trains as mentioned • Drinking water during the tour • Meals (without alcohol) • Entrance fees for mentioned visits

Our services do not include: • Camera / video entrance fees • Laundry, telephone calls and expenditure of personal nature • Excess baggage charges and airport taxes • Trip cancellation, travel delay or baggage insurance • Any other services not mentioned • Early Check In and Late Check Out • Visa for China • Any international flights • Tips

International Flights:

You should book your international flight to arrive in Hong Kong on June 12, 2025 between 9am and 8pm. You should book your departure flight from Beijing airport on June 28 or June 30, 2025 any time after lunch.

TO REGISTER

A non-refundable deposit of **US\$500 per person** is required at the time of booking. The remainder of the cost of the pilgrimage is due by March 15, 2025.

CANCELLATION

For cancellations received up to eight weeks before the commencement of the journey only the deposit will be forfeited. Cancellations received less than eight weeks will be 100% of the total cost.

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR CHINA:

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL SERVICES (e.g. shuttle buses, taxis)

We provide all the transport services during the journey, including having you met at arrival in Hong Kong. There is no extra charge for meeting people at the airport.

There will also be a transfer to Beijing Airport for your flight back home.

VISA FOR CHINA:



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For tourists, the [L visa](#) is suitable.

Prepare all documents needed: Documents required for all types of visa include passport and [visa application form](#) attached with a recently-taken photo. Besides, other supporting documents are required, but they vary according to the visa type you are applying for. For instance, if you apply for a tourist L visa, the supporting documents will refer to round-trip tickets, hotel bookings or an invitation letter from your China travel agency. See detailed [China Visa Application Requirements](#).

Be sure your documents meet the requirements of Chinese embassy or consulate.

Passport: with a remaining validity of at least 6 months; have blank visa pages.

Visa Application Form: truthfully completed; type-written with no blanks left.

Photo: taken within latest six months; full face against a light background; size: 48mm x 33mm; bare-headed unless for religious causes.

Submit the application: Visit the Chinese embassy, consulate or Chinese Visa Application Center (CVASC) which serves your residence area. You can show up in person or ask an agent to do this for you. In some consular offices and CVASCs, [mail service](#) is also available.

The normal processing time is four working days including the day you submit the application and the day you collect. Remember there might be additional non-working days for [Chinese public holidays](#). By paying an additional fee you can usually have your application processed faster. It is normally possible to have your application processed overnight, for collection in the following afternoon, though some offices might offer a same-day service if you arrive in the office soon after opening. In general, try to apply for it well in advance to allow for any delay.

Pay the fee and pick up your visa: Go to the place where you apply for China visa on the date appointed at the pick-up slip. Pay the fee and you will get your passport back with visa. See [China Visa Fees](#).

Best time to apply for a China visa: The best time to apply for China visa is one or two months before your departure date. Usually, a China visa is valid for only three months from the date of issue, which indicates that the earliest time you can apply is three months before your departure.

ABOUT THE WEATHER:

Spring (March – May)

The spring of the north cities in China is not long and the climate is a little dry and windy. The temperature rises quickly day by day, and the temperature difference between day and night is also very big. In the daytime, it is generally warm enough. Hikers can wear a overcoat, a jacket and a pair of jeans. A pair of walking shoes are necessary and a cap can help to protect from strong wind.

And Hong Kong, Shaoguan will be warmer and according to actual climate, you can even wear a T shirt, so the suggestion is to layer - bring some T shirts and a jacket or coat, so that you can decide to add or not as necessary.



3. Power Plugs / Sockets in China

Voltage in China is 220V/50HZ

In Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau, the common power voltage is 220 Volt 50 Hz AC, but in Taiwan, electronic devices often work with the electricity supply voltage of 110V/60HZ.

Is Outlet Adaptor Needed in China?




As the shapes of sockets and voltage vary among countries, a portable plug adaptor is usually necessary. It can be purchased in your local country from stores like Franzus or electronics stores such as RadioShack and Best Buy. You can also buy it in China.



Sockets & Plugs

Chargers of most electronic devices like cell phones, tablets, and cameras can function normally in the wide power voltage of 110~240V. Most hotels ranking above 3 stars in China provide electrical outlets of both 110V and 220V in the bathrooms, though in guest rooms usually only 220V sockets are available.

What Power Sockets are Used in China? There are two kinds of sockets widely used in Mainland China: type A and type I. The type A can also accept plugs of type C or F, which are commonly seen in most European countries.

<p>Type A</p>  <p>⚡ 220V</p>	<p>In China, this kind of outlets has two holes of the same shape and size. Plugs that match this socket are commonly used in US, Mexico, Canada, Japan, Philippines, Colombia, Thailand, Vietnam, Panama... But you should notice that there is a kind of two-blade plug with one end larger than the other. They can't be used in China without an adaptor.</p>
<p>Type I</p>  <p>⚡ 220V</p>	<p>Countries like Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, and Fiji use electronic devices of this plug shape. Sometimes, the blade at the top is missed, but it can still function safely in Mainland China.</p>
<p>Type C & F</p>  <p>⚡ 220V</p>	<p>This kind of socket is widely seen in most European countries, like Russia, Germany, Denmark, Poland, Finland, France, Sweden, and Spain, as well as South Korea.</p>

DISCLAIMER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY



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