

滿清

Manchu

文化

Culture Tour



English

Manchu

The conquest of China by the people of Manchuria was to mark the beginning of the end for the two-millennia-old dynasty system of government.

But during the initial centuries of Manchu rule, times were prosperous, with the Manchus adopting and adapting many of the systems used by the previous Han rulers. It was the second time the unified China had been conquered - Genghis Khan and his marauding troops took over the country four centuries earlier - but the Manchurian invasion of the 17th century was a much less traumatic affair.

In fact the Manchurians followed the Confucian style of rule, whereby the moral uprightness of the rulers was paramount; they had a sophisticated, examination-structured administrative system which utilised both Han and Manchurian civil servants. The ancestor-worship beliefs of the Han were also retained.

The Qing dynasty of the Manchurians produced powerful emperors with huge personalities - Kangxi, Yongzheng and Qianlong - who are revered figures in Chinese history. The country's vast borders also became more secure during the Qing period; once the Manchurian rulers had subdued the country as a whole, they conquered Outer Mongolia and, in later years, Central Asia as far as the Pamir Mountains and established a protectorate over Tibet.

With all immediate outside danger to China eliminated, a period of prosperity and artistic development was ushered in. Literacy was high, even in the rural areas of the vast country, and artistic and architectural creativity allowed to flourish.

In early years, the Manchu dynasty based its court in Shenyang, an hour's flight from Beijing. Here, reminders of that era are in abundance: in the oldest section of the city, a mini-Forbidden City houses exhibitions of ivory and jade artifacts, furniture and excellent collection of musical instruments.

Shenyang has other historical relics to fire the imagination, reminders of more turbulent times in China - the warlord Zhang Zuo Lin had his headquarters here. Museums have relics that go back into the far mists of time, to the Stone Age.

When the capital moved to Beijing, a Summer Palace was established in Chengde, with extravagant gardens and a glorious central lake surrounded by palaces and temples. Chengde also acted as a secondary stronghold for the Qing rulers, who could keep a watchful eye on any potential invaders from the north.

But it was from an unexpected source that the danger finally came from. Aggressive European traders managed to get a foothold in China, in particular the British, who provoked the Opium War of 1840, a skirmish that ended with the Treaty of Nanjing which ceded rights and territory to the victors. British and French troops later burned the Summer Palace in Beijing.

It marked the beginning of the end for Qing - and dynastic - rule in China. In 1911, a republic was established under the leadership of Dr Sun Yat Sen, marking the abrupt end of two thousand years of rule by emperors. A period of political turmoil, foreign invasion and civil war finally finished in 1949, when the People's Republic of China was established.

To this day, Beijing remains the seat of power. At one end of the vast Tiananmen Square is the mighty Forbidden City, a striking symbol of imperial rule; flanking the square is the Great Hall of the People, symbolising the modern government.

It is a city that, fittingly, has elements from all of China's history, from the Great Wall, a short drive from the urban limits, to the buildings created in the spirit of modern, open-looking China.

1 Hong Kong / Beijing

Approx. 3 hours flight

Take the morning flight to Beijing - the capital of People's Republic of China and former Qing Dynasty. History buffs will find solace in some well-preserved relics of the Manchu era. Discover the old Beijing by taking a pedicab ride through the amazing "Hutongs" (ancient narrow alleyways), visiting both typical quadrangles as well as gracious estates once owned by aristocrats. Enjoy a Peking duck dinner.

Accommodation at Lu Song Yuan Hotel

(D)

2 Beijing

Travel to the Great Wall and climb atop the Mu Tian Yu section. Lunch will be served at the Beijing Golf Club. Afterwards, travel to Yuan Ming Yuan ruins, once famous for the European-style palaces, lovely gardens with elaborate fountains and baroque statuary. After dinner, enjoy folklore performance at the Lao She Tea House.

Accommodation at Lu Song Yuan Hotel

(B,L&D)

3 Beijing

Visit the Tiananmen Square, the world's largest square; the Forbidden City's Imperial Palace, the biggest and best preserved cluster of ancient buildings in China. Afternoon visit the Summer Palace - a royal garden and summer residence.

Accommodation at Lu Song Yuan Hotel

(B,L&D)

4 Beijing / Hong Kong

Approx. 3 hours flight

Visit the Temple of Heaven, the symbol of Beijing and once the sacred ground for the emperors to perform major ceremonial rites to encourage bumper crops and full tummies. Transfer to the airport for a flight back to Hong Kong.

(B&L)



- 1** Hong Kong / Beijing Approx. 3 hours flight
Beijing / Shenyang Approx. 1 hour flight

Take a flight to Beijing and transit for connecting flight to Shenyang - the capital of the Manchu empire in the 17th century. History buffs will find solace in some well-preserved relics of the Manchu era.

Accommodation at the Gloria Plaza Hotel or similar (D)

2 Shenyang

Located in the oldest section of the city, the mini-Forbidden City houses exhibitions of ivory and jade artifacts, furniture and excellent collection of musical instruments. Visit the North Tomb or Zhaoling, the burial place of the founder of the Qing Dynasty; and the residence for the warlord Zhang Zuo Lin. Browse the museum of Xinle Ruin, a comparatively early relic of the New Stone Age found in northern China till now.

Accommodation at the Gloria Plaza Hotel or similar (B,L&D)

- 3** Shenyang / Beijing Approx. 1 hour flight

Arrival to Beijing - the capital of People's Republic of China. Ride the pedicab around the Hutongs and experience the life of the old Beijing with visit to Prince Gong's Residence, the largest private residence compounds in Beijing. Night visit to the prestigious shopping Street - Wangfujing.

Accommodation at the Lu Song Yuan Hotel (B,L&D)

4 Beijing

In the heart of Beijing is Tiananmen Square, surrounded by monuments of past and present : Tiananmen, the Chinese Revolution History Museum, the Great Hall of the People, Qianmen, the Mao Mausoleum and the Monument to the People's Heroes. Visit the Forbidden City, the biggest and best preserved cluster of ancient buildings in China; the Lama Temple which has beautiful gardens, stunning frescoes and tapestries and incredible carpentry. Enjoy a Peking Duck dinner.

Accommodation at the Lu Song Yuan Hotel (B,L&D)

- 5** Beijing / Chengde Coach

Start the day with a walk on the Mutianyu Great Wall - 90 km north-east of Beijing. The Great Wall was begun 2000 years ago and linked up when Emperor Qin Shihuang unified China. Drive to Chengde - the royal retreat of the Qing Emperors and one of the most scenic resorts in China. Visit the Summer Palace (AD1703-1790) known for its exotic & asymmetrically designed Imperial architecture.

Accommodation at the Shan Zhuang Hotel or similar (B,L&D)

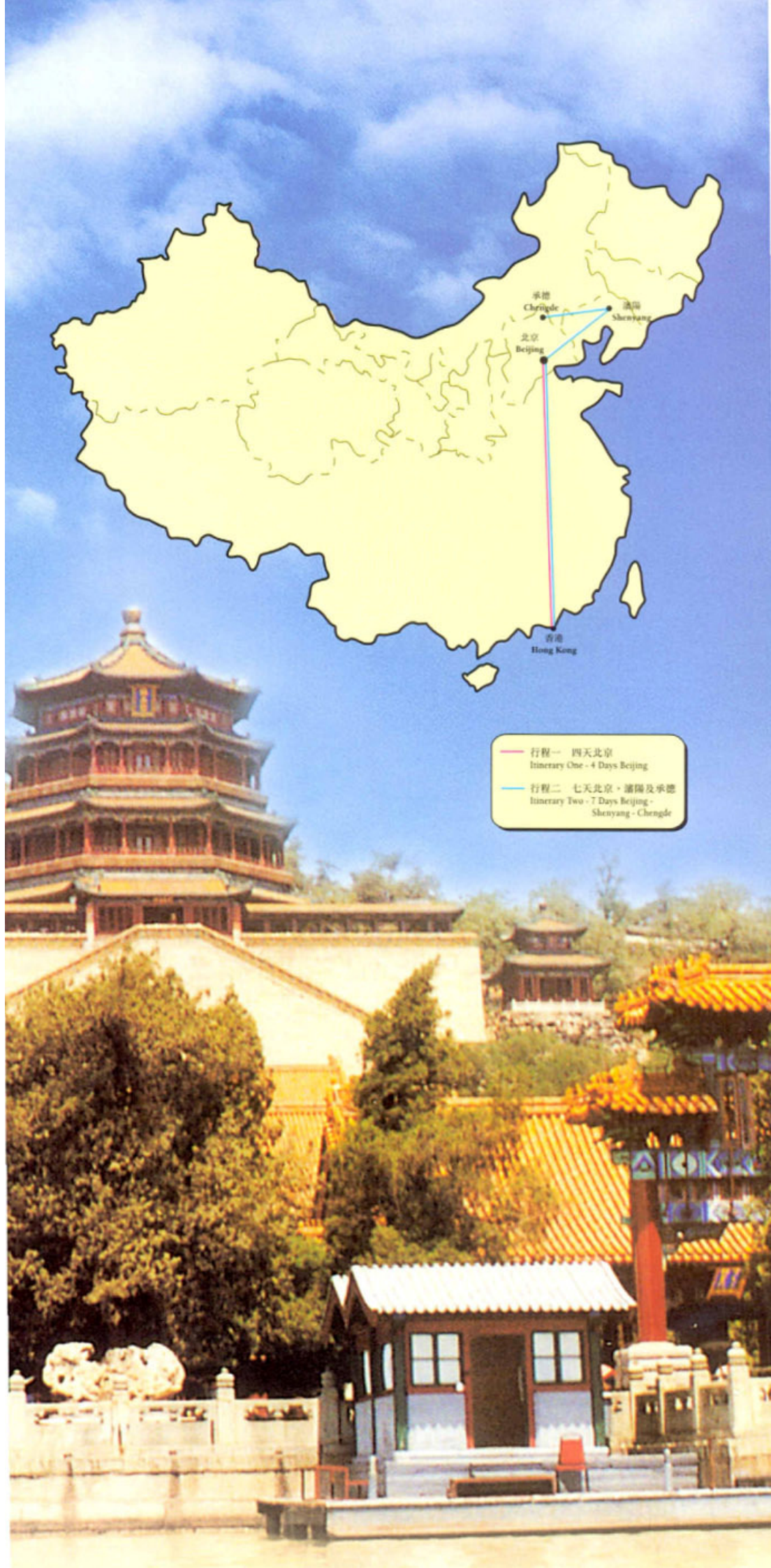
- 6** Chengde / Beijing Coach

Browse the Eight Outer Temples (AD1750), a combination of Chinese & Tibetan architecture in 8 temples, including the Little Potala Palace - the Putuozusheng Temple was built to celebrate Emperor Qianlong's 60th birthday. Modelled on a Tibetan temple, the Puning Temple was built to commemorate Emperor Qianlong's victory over Mongol tribes and still an active place of worship. Return to Beijing.

Accommodation at the Lu Song Yuan Hotel (B,L&D)

- 7** Beijing / Hong Kong Approx. 3 hours flight

Enjoy shopping at the Xiushui Silk Market before transferring to the airport for a flight back to Hong Kong. (B)



承德
Chengde

瀋陽
Shenyang

北京
Beijing

香港
Hong Kong

- 行程一 四天北京
Itinerary One - 4 Days Beijing
- 行程二 七天北京·瀋陽及承德
Itinerary Two - 7 Days Beijing -
Shenyang - Chengde

滿 Manchu 清

絲路旅遊



Silk Road Travel

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