

CHRISTIE'S ART JOURNEYS: *Ancient to Contemporary China*

23rd October – 1st November 2015

Join Christie's in China for a fascinating journey into the country's legendary dynastic heritage as well as an exploration of the fast-paced contemporary art scene and introductions to some of the most eminent artists working in the country today. Travelling between Shanghai, Jingdezhen, Xi'an and Beijing, we will enjoy private tours of the Terracotta Army and the Forbidden City, visit artists' studios and the factory of one of China's most notable ceramicists, view exceptional private collections and have curator-led tours of some of China's most impressive museums, and throughout enjoy the best of the country's cuisine.



CHRISTIE'S *travel*
— IN ASSOCIATION WITH —
Abercrombie & Kent



SIGNATURE MOMENTS

Four cities in 10 days: discover the best of Shanghai, Jingdezhen, Xi'an and Beijing

A champagne picnic on the Great Wall of China

A private tour of the Forbidden City, including parts of the complex not usually open to the public

Visits to artists' studios where you can meet the artists and see master ceramicists at work

A private tour of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses led by an expert archaeologist

Invitations to view exceptional works held in private collections

Curator-led tours of China's most important museums and galleries including the Long Museum, the largest private collection in China



— YOUR CHRISTIE'S EXPERT: NIXI CURA —

Your host on this trip will be Nixi Cura, who has served as Programme Director of the Arts of China postgraduate programme from its inception at Christie's Education London in 2007. She read East Asian Studies at Yale University, then specialised in Chinese painting and Buddhist art, with a minor in European Romanesque art, at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. Her current research interests include Qing art, especially during the Qianlong reign (1736-1795), collecting and antiquarian practices in the Qing, Republican and Manchukuo periods, and contemporary Chinese visual culture. Nixi holds an Honorary Research Fellowship at the University of Glasgow and co-founded the Arts of China Consortium in 1994.

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2015

Shanghai is a city of great contrasts, between the tech-savvy modern day and its former years under communist rule. To make the most of your time in Shanghai we recommend arriving before lunchtime today, for which early check-in can be arranged. If you wish to arrive the day before you may enjoy a walking tour of the French Concession, largely unchanged throughout the years of communism with many original buildings remaining, making this one of the most beautiful areas of the city.

On arrival in Shanghai a member of the A&K team will meet you at the airport and drive you to your hotel, the Waldorf Astoria. Here you'll have time to relax before a welcome tea reception where you will meet your host, Nixi Cura, and the other members of your intimate group while discovering what the rest of your trip has in store.

Our tour begins at the Christie's office in Shanghai, located in a remarkable Art Deco building on the Bund, the animated waterfront area in the centre of the city. Here you'll have the chance to preview the lots available for sale in the auction which is due to take place tomorrow evening.

Our afternoon continues with a champagne reception as guests of an important contemporary Chinese artist before dinner at the fabulous Jean Georges located on the Bund, one of the finest restaurants in all of China.

WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, SHANGHAI | MEALS: L,D

SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2015

This morning includes a curator-led tour of the Shanghai Museum's outstanding collection of ancient Chinese art before a lesson in the city's traditional past, as we explore the gardens and teahouses for which the city is famed. You'll see the manicured Yu Gardens with its numerous pavilions, chambers and towers before a visit to the Huxinting teahouse. Here tea is an art in itself, formed from pure mineral water and delicate leaves produced throughout the tea growing areas in China. You can sample a variety of teas within the graceful surroundings of the intricate teahouse, lapped by the waters of the lake on which it resides.

After lunch at Lost Heaven, one of Shanghai's most innovative restaurants on the Bund, you'll enjoy an exclusive visit to the Long Museum, a private institution owned by one of the most prolific art collecting couples in China, Wang Wei and Liu Yiqian. After this enlightening tour your exploration of Shanghai ends at the Minsheng Museum, which showcases 30 years of Chinese contemporary art.

This evening we will be VIP guests at the Christie's sale before dinner at Din Tai Fung restaurant, a Shanghai institution.

WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, SHANGHAI | MEALS: B, L, D



SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2015

An early morning flight brings us to Jingdezhen, known as the 'porcelain capital' of China due to its 1,700-year history producing the country's famously beautiful pottery. After lunch Christie's expert Nixi Cura will lead you on a walking tour of the Ceramic Institute, where you'll have the opportunity to try your hand at creating a piece yourself. This afternoon we'll continue to explore the importance of Jingdezhen in the history of porcelain production with a visit to some of the factories used by ceramic masters. Jingdezhen has remained at the forefront of production, despite competition from around the world. Today the factories manufacture pieces for a host of eminent Chinese artists, such as Liu Jianhua. Dinner this evening will be in the hotel.

ZIJING HOTEL, JINGDEZHEN | MEALS: B, L, D

MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2015

This morning we'll start the day with a visit to some of Jingdezhen's ancient kilns. You'll see the Hutian and Imperial kilns which fired the production of world-famous Chinese porcelain for hundreds of years, producing incredible pieces of pottery in many attractive glazes, including the renowned blue and white ware. A guided tour of the sites will uncover their importance throughout the history of Chinese porcelain and the production techniques used.

After an early lunch we'll board a short flight to Xi'an, one of the oldest cities in China and capital of Shaanxi province. Situated in the Guanzhong Plain, Xi'an's wide open streets and colourful city walls are a stark, historic contrast to Shanghai's buzzing, neon-lit metropolis, recording the great changes of the country like a living history book. In earlier times the city was known as Chang'an, meaning 'eternal city', with the surrounding Yellow Basin area one of the birthplaces of ancient Chinese civilisation, including the eastern terminus of the Silk Road and the site of the famous Terracotta Warriors of the Qin Dynasty. More than 3,000 years of history including over 1,100 years as the capital city of thirteen ancient dynasties have endowed the city with an amazing historical heritage.

Dinner this evening will be at Defachang restaurant, one of Xi'an's most established and renowned eateries.

SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, XI'AN | MEALS: B, L, D



TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2015

Today brings possibly the highlight of your visit to Xi'an, and indeed your trip to China. We'll spend the morning at the Museum of Qin, home to the magnificent Terracotta Warriors and Horses. After an intimate briefing on the 8,000 soldiers sculpted in 3rd century BC to protect Emperor Qin Shi Huang in the afterlife, you'll enjoy privileged access to a private VIP area which affords an overreaching view of the excavation site along with a fascinating close up of the Terracotta Army. Your insider access continues with permission to enter an area under restoration by the site's archaeologists, walking among the terracotta figures, a treat usually reserved for heads of state. Here you'll be led among the warriors and their steeds currently under restoration, accompanied by a leading archaeologist.

After lunch at the museum we'll enjoy insider access at the Xi'an Museum where we will have a private viewing of the treasures from the Han to Tang Dynasties, which are rarely opened to the public, including gold and silverware, bronze vessels, jade and pottery. Guests can wear white gloves to personally examine and handle these treasures. Our last stop is at the magnificent Wild Goose Pagoda. Those feeling adventurous can climb to the top, concluding our time in Xi'an in glorious style. This evening we'll dine at Hai Shi Hai Hang, a renowned restaurant within the old city.

SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, XI'AN | MEALS: B, L, D



WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2015

This morning we'll visit the Forest of Steles, famed for one of the largest collection of stone steles, calligraphy and sculptures transcending the great Chinese dynasties. You'll enjoy a traditional lunch of dim sum in one of the city's best restaurants, before exploring some of Xi'an's atmospheric sights including the grand City Wall and the famous Muslim Quarter, with its Drum Tower and Great Mosque.

This afternoon we'll board a short flight to Beijing, China's political and cultural heartland. A member of the A&K team will meet you at the airport and drive you to your boutique hotel, the stylish Opposite House. You'll have the evening free to explore the bright lights of the city, with its glamorous bars, traditional hutongs and renowned culinary scene.

THE OPPOSITE HOUSE HOTEL, BEIJING | MEALS: B-L

THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2015

After breakfast you'll embark on a once in a lifetime adventure; you'll be driven to the Great Wall, the 8,850km-long fortification on the country's historic northern border, where you'll explore the Mutianyu section. One of the best preserved parts of the Great Wall, the ramparts once served as the northern barrier, defending the capital and the imperial tombs since the mid-6th century. We will ascend the wall – taking full advantage of the cable car to the top! – enjoying champagne and a buffet lunch on the wall itself.

This afternoon you'll have another privileged experience, visiting the eerie and fascinating Ming Tombs, a collection of imperial mausoleums built by the Ming dynasty emperors. We'll learn about the 13 emperors laid to rest here, in an arc-shaped valley perfectly situated for Feng Shui and to ward off evil spirits. Returning to Beijing, you'll enjoy a traditional dinner at Da Dong Restaurant, famous for its Beijing duck.

THE OPPOSITE HOUSE HOTEL, BEIJING | MEALS: B, L, D

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2015

An early start affords an exclusive experience, as we make our way to Tiananmen Square. Here you'll explore the Forbidden City, which served as the home of emperors and their households, not to mention the political centre of the Chinese government, for over 500 years. You'll visit the Palace Museum and enjoy a special privately guided tour of the 'Great Within', visiting halls usually closed to outsiders including Chong Hua Gong and Shu Fang Zhai. Lunch today will be served at Zijin Mansion, a traditional Eastern restaurant inside the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Your afternoon is free to explore Beijing, before dinner at TRB Temple Restaurant, contemporary European dining housed in a compound that spans a 600 year history.

THE OPPOSITE HOUSE HOTEL, BEIJING | MEALS: B, L, D





———— SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2015 ————

Our final day in Beijing will start with a viewing of an exceptional private collection, details of which will be confirmed nearer the trip's departure. As with all collectors' trips, private collectors are chosen to reflect the theme of the tour and offer unparalleled insider access.

After lunch you'll visit an artist's studio and find out more about contemporary practice in Beijing. Beijing's contemporary art community has recently emerged as the vanguard of Chinese art, establishing the city as the place to see provocative works. Beijing's art scene has now matured and diversified, with a plethora of important galleries clustered in the Danshanzi 798 Art Zone, a former industrial area filled with Bauhaus-style factory buildings, and the funky, up-and-coming Caochangdi District. This evening you'll have time to relax with cocktails at the hotel's slick and sophisticated bar, Mesh, before our farewell dinner at Jing Yaa Ting, one of Beijing's finest eateries.

THE OPPOSITE HOUSE HOTEL, BEIJING | MEALS: B, L, D

———— SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2015 ————

A member of the A&K team will drive you to the airport for your onward flight arrangements.



FROM £8,700 PER PERSON

**Itinerary subject to change*

Call +44 (0)207 389 2830 **email** travel@christies.com or **visit** christiestravel.com

8 CHRISTIE'S TRAVEL | ABERCROMBIE & KENT