Exotic Art in China - Silk Road & Southwest

Lead by DAM Asian Art Curator Ron Otsuka

Exploring ancient, imperial, contemporary, and modern art and rare Xu Beihong works in Beijing, Dunhuang, Chengdu, Lijiang, Dali, Yixing, and Shanghai

15 Days / 13 Nights

Specially designed for the Asian Art Association of Denver Art Museum, September 16 - 30, 2013

in association with ACCESS CHINA TOURS®
Small Group and Private Fine Touring in China & Asia
Exotic Art in China - Silk Road & Southwest

Lead by DAM Asian Art Curator Ron Otsuka

Exploring ancient, imperial, contemporary, and modern art and rare Xu Beihong works in Beijing, Dunhuang, Chengdu, Lijiang, Dali, Yixing, and Shanghai

China is a land of history and refinement unparalleled in the world. Attentive visitors are immersed in a sea of visual and cultural experiences unlike any other they may have had elsewhere. Yet, China is often overlooked as one of the best art destinations in the world.

This private deluxe tour on art in China visits unique and out of the way artistic destinations that even travelers who have visited China several times have likely not yet experienced. The itinerary combines the best of the new and the old, with private touring of select art gallery districts, private art collections and noteworthy recent architecture, as well as ancient temples, imperial palaces, historic monuments, art deco buildings, rustic villages, local markets and stunning landscapes.

Begin your exploration in Beijing, China’s centuries-old capital serving three dynasties and the current republic, and the heart of the country’s burgeoning contemporary art scene. With your private guide and driver, explore the leading gallery districts and visit impressive new buildings designed by world-renowned architects. Visit museums holding hidden treasures and listen to curators’ enlightening presentations. Dine on traditional specialties at favorite family-run restaurants, and enjoy reservations at Beijing’s most sophisticated venues.

Wing on to Dunhuang for an exploration of the magnificent Mogao Caves and the magical Crescent Spring and singing sand dunes in the Gobi Desert. Carved into the cliffs above the Dachuan River, the Mogao Caves comprise the largest, most richly endowed, and longest used treasure house of Buddhist art in the world. It was first constructed in 366AD and represents the great achievement of Buddhist art from the 4th to the 14th century. 492 caves are presently preserved, housing about 45,000 square meters of murals and more than 2,000 painted sculptures.

The next stop of our tour is Chengdu, a place of color, spirit and fiery food. A visit to the Giant Panda Breeding & Research Center gives you the rare opportunity to view these adorable but critically endangered animals close to their habitat. Ponder the marvelous findings at the Jinsha Archaeological Site & Museum spanning 7000 years of history. Relax and sip a cup of fragrant tea in a local teahouse and enjoy a fascinating face-changing performance. Chengdu is the center of art for Southwestern China and we will see great samples of the artistic creativity in this ancient region.

A short flight will bring you to northwestern Yunnan at the base of the Himalayas. Spend a few days in the charming minority culture towns of Dali and Lijiang, where the original old town centers and architectures have been well preserved. Meet the local Bai, Naxi and other ethnic people and enjoy the pristine scenery with the backdrops of Erhai Lake and the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Explore the folk art and small art galleries in these towns.

Continue to Shanghai, China’s most stylish and modern city. Tour Art Deco, colonial-era and other interesting buildings old and new along the Bund and in the French Concession. Visit the best local galleries in a city that is becoming a must-see for contemporary art lovers, and stop in up-and-coming neighborhoods filled with design shops and stylish new restaurants. Tour some of China’s best museums, including the Shanghai Art Museum. Take an excursion to Yixing, hometown of Xu Beihong and view rare works at the local Xu Beihong Memorial Museum. Visit Shanghai’s old town to sample the city’s famous dumplings.

Fly back home to Denver from Shanghai.
Enrichment Art Commentator -- Curator of Asian Art at the Denver Art Museum since 1973, Ronald Y. Otsuka received his graduate degree from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, where he studied with Alexander Soper, Stella Kramrisch, and Richard Ettinghausen. In addition to teaching Asian Art at Rutgers University, University of Colorado, and University of Denver, he is the recipient of research grants from the Asian Cultural Council, Bunkacho (Agency of Cultural Affairs, Japan), and National Endowment for the Arts. Otsuka has organized and administered more than sixty Asian art exhibitions for the Denver Art Museum, Colorado State University, and Japan Pavilion (Epcot Center). He is a trustee of the William and Alice Hosokawa Fellowship Program, a board member of the Golden Sun Foundation for World Culture, and an appointee to the Governor’s Asian Pacific American Advisory Council (Colorado).

Tour Manager -- Joseph Sinisi grew up in Denver, Colorado and attended college at Princeton University and the University of Colorado Law School. Joe became intrigued with China while working in Beijing in the 1990s. Finding travel more interesting than law, in 1996 he and Mark Huang founded Access China Tours. Although Joe has traveled to 76 nations, China always remains his favorite. Joe, his wife Liu Shu, and their daughter Cassandra live in Denver, where he is the Director of Marketing and Sales for Access China Tours’ US operations office.
Tour Itineraries

Pre-Tour Extension: "Imperial Beijing"
On the pre-tour, visit world class attractions such as the Forbidden City, Great Wall, Temple of Heaven, and Summer Palace in Beijing. Enjoy an Imperial Cuisine Dinner that is unique for China’s capital.

Sep 14
Day 01
➔ depart
Fly from Denver, USA to Beijing, China

Sep 15
Day 02
Beijing
Arrive at Beijing Capital Airport, the world’s 2nd busiest airport. Transfer to the Regent Beijing (deluxe room) in the center of the capital city. Relax after your long flight and enjoy a free evening.

Sep 16
Day 04
Beijing
Early breakfast in hotel. First, visit the Temple of Heaven this morning. The temple’s main hall is considered to be both monumental and delicate in architecture. It was constructed in the 15th century without the use of a single nail. You will see local Chinese residents enjoying their morning exercises such as Tai Chi, Qigong and even ballroom dancing.

Return to hotel for refreshment and your own lunch. In the afternoon, tour the Summer Palace – royal playground and summer hideout during the late Qing Dynasty using money earmarked for a modern navy. Tonight, enjoy an Imperial Cuisine Dinner at the Baijiadayuan located in a traditional courtyard which was the home of a Qing official. <B-D>

Sep 17
Day 03
Beijing
After breakfast at our hotel, depart on a full day exploration of Beijing. Visit Tiananmen Square, the largest public square in the world. Then walk through the gate of heavenly peace and enter the Forbidden City, imperial palaces for five centuries of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. We will be focusing on the art exhibits in the various halls of the Imperial Palace.

After a Beijing Noodle Lunch, take an excursion to the Mutianyu section, one of the best preserved parts of the Great Wall. This is a particularly rugged section of the wall and is less visited by tour groups. After climbing the wall, return to the city and meet the other Asian Art Association members for the Evening Group Reception & Dinner. <B-L-D>

(next page see Main Tour itinerary)
Main Tour: "Exotic Art in China - Silk Road & Southwest"

Sep 16  
Day 01  ⬤ depart Fly from Denver, Colorado to Beijing, China

Sep 17  Beijing  
Day 02  
Arrive in Beijing today; meet your guide at the airport and transfer to Regent Beijing (deluxe room); after refreshing, enjoy an Evening Group Reception & Dinner with a brief tour orientation by your Denver Art Museum curator Ron Otsuka and tour manager Joe Sinisi.  <D>

Sep 18  Beijing  
Day 03  
Breakfast in hotel. We begin our exploration this morning by first visiting Arthur Sackler Museum of Art & Archaeology on the campus of Peking University in the university district – fascinating ancient art works rarely seen by outside visitors. We will have a curator guided private tour of the museum. There is also a small sculpture garden next to the museum.

Then, drive to Guanfu Museum, one of the prominent private art museums in Beijing specializing in paintings, classic porcelain and old traditional Chinese furniture.

After lunch, we will visit some of Beijing’s earliest and most influential modern art galleries in the renowned Factory 798 Art Complex such as Ullens Center for Contemporary Art and Three Shadows Gallery. If possible, we will also arrange visit to artist private studios. Afterwards, enjoy a highlight of our Beijing tour - a special arranged visit to the private home of a Beijing artist or an art collector. You will have the opportunity to discuss art with the artist/collector while drinking Chinese tea, and to view some his recent works/collections.

Return to hotel for refreshing before enjoying a memorable Peking Duck Dinner at Dadong Restaurant this evening.  <B-L-D>

Sep 19  Dunhuang  
Day 04  
Breakfast in hotel. This morning drive east to the outskirt of Beijing and visit Songzhuang Village, which is a fascinating colony of Chinese modern art and artists who turned art into the main pillar of the local economy. Here we will visit artist private studios and see a private collection of Chinese modern art. Have lunch in a village restaurant.

Take an afternoon flight to Xi’an and connect a flight to Dunhuang. Upon arrival, met and transfer to Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel (deluxe room). Have dinner in the hotel restaurant.  <B-D>
Sep 20  **Dunhuang**  **Day 5**

Wake up in the Gobi Desert to stunning views outside the hotel. Enjoy your breakfast in hotel. Go to explore the magnificent Mogao Caves this morning on a expert guided tour of selected caves including a couple of not-open-to-public caves through our special arrangements with the Dunhuang Academy.

After lunch, an expert from Dunhuang Academy will give us a Presentation on Dunhuang Art and answer our questions.

Then go to the famous Singing Sand Dunes for the splendid view and maybe a double-hump camel ride. Then drive to the other side of town to see the less visited and yet equally remarkable Western Thousand Buddha Caves. This evening enjoy a walk in the city market and visit a couple of local art stores. Have a Local Cuisine Dinner.  <B-L-D>

---

Sep 21  **Chengdu**  **Day 6**

Breakfast in hotel; transfer to airport and fly to CZ6895 (1015-1235) to Xi’an.

While waiting for the connecting flight, we will be transferred to visit the fascinating Han Yangling Mausoleum Museum - This is the tomb site for Emperor Jing Di of Western Han Dynasty (202BC-9AD). Strolling on the glass walkways above the pits, one can have a clear look at the buried treasures in the shallow pits of the museum which are all well lit.

Continue the journey on flight 3U8804 (1710-1825) to Chengdu; met by local guide and transfer to hotel for check-in and rest. Enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.  Tibet Hotel Chengdu (deluxe room).  <B-D>

---

Sep 22  **Chengdu**  **Day 7**

Breakfast in hotel; full day private guided tour in Chengdu. First, visit the Giant Panda Breeding & Research Center followed by a tour of the stunning Jinsha Archaeological Museum; enjoy a Sichuan Cuisine Lunch.

In the afternoon, our special visit to a Sichuan Art Museum/Gallery and a private art collector’s home. Late afternoon we will mingle with locals in teahouse and enjoy the Sichuan style Face-Changing Show; return to hotel and dinner is on your own.  <B-L>
**Sep 23**  
**Lijiang**  
*Day 08*

After breakfast, transfer to airport and fly **JD5135 (1045-1215)** to Lijiang in northwestern Yunnan Province; private transfer to hotel for check in and your own lunch.

Afternoon take a walking tour of **Dayan Old Town** and explore the cobblestone alleys, canals, tiny bridges and picturesque red lanterns in this exceptional ancient town. Many ethnic groups live in this region but it is the center of the Naxi, a Qiang and Tibetan related ethnic group. The Naxi are a matriarchal people who created a unique pictographic writing system that is still in use by some elders today.

Enjoy a **Local Cuisine Dinner** is a restaurant; **Crowne Plaza Lijiang Ancient Town (deluxe room)**. <B-D>

---

**Sep 24**  
**Lijiang**  
*Day 09*

Breakfast in hotel; go to **Black Dragon Pool Park** featuring a Naxi Cultural Center and a gorgeous view of the snow-capped Jade Dragon Peak reflected in the tranquil waters of the lake. take a trip to **Baisha Village** to visit a Naxi family and see the ancient temple murals. Next, visit the **Yufeng Tibetan Monastery** and see the venerable magnolia tree in the courtyard.

We then head towards the sky on a cable car up the **Yulong Snow Mountain** to enjoy the gorgeous views. Take a short hike through the Yak Meadow. At 14,750 feet, Yak Meadow is actually higher than Colorado’s majestic peaks. Descend from the mountain and enjoy the marvelous open theater **Music & Dance Show “Impression Lijiang”**, again choreographed by Zhang Yimou, the Olympic ceremonies creator and famous movie director.

Return to hotel for some down time and your own dinner; then follow your guide on an evening walk in the old town for a peek at some of interesting private art galleries. <B-L>

---

**Sep 25**  
**Dali**  
*Day 10*

After breakfast, drive through the beautiful mountains to Dali. During our drive along this ancient tea trading road, we pass through some of the most charming scenery in southwestern China. Make sure your camera battery is charged and your memory card is empty because today you will have many amazing photographic opportunities.

En route we stop at the **Shaxi Village** to visit the ancient market place, Shizhong Temple, and the small **Shibao Shan Grottos**. The rural towns in this region were once busy trading stations along the Southern Silk Road linking southwestern China and Tibet with Southeast Asia.

We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant and arrive Dali late in the afternoon. Check into one of the true gem boutique hotels in China. The **Linden Center (only 13 rooms)** is run by the American Linden family and staffed by Han and Bai Chinese and North Americans. You will be
immersed in authentic Bai culture as you experience this unique hotel and its service. Enjoy a set-menu dinner in the hotel and later an authentic performance by local musicians from the village. <B-L-D>

Sep 26  Dali  Day 11
After breakfast, we will enjoy a full day tour of Dali. Dali was once a thriving independent Buddhist kingdom of the Bai and Nanzho peoples. It is the cultural center of the Bais and an active market town.

We start our exploration in Dali Old Town with a walking tour focusing on local architecture, folk art, and private art galleries. Bai people's building style is one of the most distinctive of China's ethnic groups. Most of the houses in their villages are built with gray bricks covered with tilted roofs and accented with upturned eaves.

Then, we move on to visit the sublime Three Pagodas, survivors of 1200 years of earthquakes and wars.

After lunch, enjoy a tranquil boat ride on azure Erhai Lake. Then we arrive at Shuanglang Village to visit a few family workshops making things from tofu, incense to boat models; also visit the local Bai Ethnic Art Society. Return to hotel late afternoon and dinner in hotel. <B-L-D>

Sep 27  Shanghai  Day 12
Breakfast in hotel; transfer to Dali Airport and fly MU5988 (0910-0945) to Kunming and connect MU5811 (1155-1505) to Shanghai; met and transfer to hotel upon arrival; after refreshing, tour Tianzifang Antique & Crafts Market Place (or the Bund) followed by dinner in a local restaurant; Renaissance Shanghai Yu Garden Hotel (deluxe room). <B-D>

Sep 28  Shanghai  Day 13  Yixing
Breakfast in hotel; travel by vehicle (2.5 hrs) to Yixing to visit Xu Beihong Memorial Museum which holds and exhibits some of the well-known pieces of the master. Works of other artists are exhibited here as well.

On the way back, stop by Brahma Palace near Wuxi to see the stunning modern creation of Buddhist art and architecture. Return to hotel by the evening; dinner is on your own. <B-L>

Sep 29  Shanghai  Day 14
Breakfast in hotel; start today’s exploration by visiting the Bund (or Yuyuan Garden) and followed by Shanghai Art Museum. Enjoy a Shanghai specialty - Steamed Soup Dumpling Lunch at the century-old Nanxiang Restaurant.
Afternoon explore Moganshan 50 that is now the focus of the city’s art scene and includes respected galleries such as ShanghArt, Art Scene China, ROCK Bund, and Eastlink; a local art expert will take us through the diversified and thought-provoking exhibits. Lastly, we will pay visit to a private art collector and see some of his precious collections.

Return to hotel for freshen up. Enjoy a Farewell Dinner in a local restaurant. <B-L-D>

Sep 30  ➤ return  Breakfast in hotel; your tour concludes today; bid farewell to Shanghai and transfer to the airport; fly home on the cross-Pacific flight. <B>

Changes to Itinerary: Access China Tours has made all possible attempts to ensure the accuracy of tour itineraries. Circumstances beyond our control may occur. We reserve the right to change itineraries, sightseeing activities, and common carriers, and to substitute hotels when necessary. Service of a similar category and standard will be maintained if such changes are made. The Service Voucher in your last pre-departure packet will provide the operational itinerary summary, final transport and hotel information.

Deluxe Hotels

Regent Beijing  Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel  Tibet Hotel Chengdu

Crowne Plaza Lijiang Ancient Town  Linden Centre Dali  Renaissance Shanghai Yu Garden
# Tour Land Price Inclusions & Exclusions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tour Land Price:</th>
<th>$6,470 USD per person, double occupancy (for 10-20 full-paying participants)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$6,590 USD per person, double occupancy (for non-DAM AAA member participants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Supplement:</td>
<td>$1,390 USD for single occupancy throughout the trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Tour Land Price:</td>
<td>$795 USD per person double occupancy, for 2-5 travelers; $320 single supplement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$680 USD per person double occupancy, for 6-9 travelers; $320 single supplement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Air Cost:</td>
<td>$1095 USD per person on ACT selected flights (United Airlines or other Asian airlines)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## What's Included in Tour Land Price:
- Your donation of $250 USD per person to Asian Art Association of Denver Art Museum
- Deluxe 5 star or best available hotel accommodations, double occupancy
- Coach class Chinese domestic air and ground transportation while on tour
- Chinese visa processing (not including postage)
- All tour related Chinese domestic taxes
- Arrival and departure transfers on tour dates
- Transfers and luggage (1 piece of 45 pounds per person) handling
- Pre-departure information packets
- All sightseeing, excursions, art visits & tours, and cultural events listed in the itinerary
- All meals specified in the itinerary
- Accompanied and enhanced by Denver Art Museum curator of Asian Art Mr. Ron Otsuka
- Tour led and managed by Access China Tours Marketing Director Joe Sinisi, member of AAA
- Service of a private and professional English-speaking local tour guide in each city
- Private, clean, and newer vehicles with air-conditioning and professional driver
- Gratuities to local tour guides and drivers

## What's Not Included in Tour Land Prices:
- International air tickets (listed above separately)
- Trip cancellation, baggage, accident, and medical insurance
- Gratuities to tour leader and hotel service staff
- Items not listed and/or specified as included in the itinerary

## Cancellation Policy:
$500 pp deposit is required when signing up. All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of receipt by Access China Tours. We assess cancellation fees of all tours according to the following schedule:

- 70 days or more prior to departure * ..................................... $200 per person
- 69 to 50 days prior to departure * ......................................... $500 per person
- 49 to 30 days prior to departure * ......................................... $800 per person
- 29 to 15 days prior to departure * ....................................... $1000 per person

* Plus any charges assessed by government agencies, land suppliers, cruise companies and airlines.

Within 14 days of departure ..........100% forfeiture of the tour price per person

Access China Tours will not grant partial refunds for any unused trip arrangements after the trip has commenced or any refunds to participants who do not complete any portion of the itinerary. Any airline tickets issued are subject to the carrier’s refund and cancellation policy. **We strongly recommend you purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance to protect your travel investment.** Access China Tours reserves the right to cancel the tour due to insufficient number of travelers. In this case, we will try to find an alternative tour for tour participants. If this is not acceptable, all money paid will be refunded in full and this will constitute full and final settlement for the client. However, **Access China Tours** will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by tour participants (e.g., non-refundable “advance purchase” air tickets, insurance & medical expenses, passport and visa expenses, etc.).

If a tour is forced to be cancelled due to government’s travel warnings, declared or undeclared wars, hostilities, civil disturbances, strike, riot, epidemic, and quarantines, **Access China Tours** will refund all participants’ payment less any irretrievable expenses and loss (visa fees, airline penalties, communication cost, and non-refundable booking cost, etc.)