IMPERIAL CHINA
HISTORY & THE ARTS
SEPTEMBER 25 – OCTOBER 12, 2017
TOUR LEADER: DAVID ROSIER

TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS
Association of Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies
adfastravel.com.au
OVERVIEW

China’s thousands of years of awe inspiring culture and civilisation has left a legacy rich in historical achievements and artistry. Once an enigmatic nation closed to the west it is rapidly emerging as a modern economic powerhouse and a major player in the art world. This ‘Middle Kingdom’, China’s traditional moniker is predominately defined by its Imperial heritage (221BC to 1911 AD) created by its Emperors, literally ‘The Son of Heaven’, living gods who ruled with the Mandate of Heaven.

Our 18-day tour spans 2000 years of Imperial rule as we seek to understand how Emperors sought to immortalise their reign. Imperial Capitals define dynasties. We explore the motivations of the First Emperor, Qin Shihuangdi to create the World’s most extravagant ‘After World’, protected by the Terracotta Army, in Xi’an, and experience the diversity of the Ming and Qing (1368-1911) Imperial treasures in Beijing whilst confronting modern China. The full spectrum of Imperial art will be explored with a particular focus on the medium of Imperial silk, creating mandatory Court Costume, which will take us to the city of Suzhou. In Shanghai we experience the Post-Imperial Republican Years (1911-1949), typified by a mix of traditional Chinese and European ‘Art Deco’ cultures. Finally, our travels will bring us to Hong Kong, The Fragrant Harbour, to gain an appreciation of a colonial past ultimately defined by Chinese enterprise.

Throughout the tour we will meet local art experts and have the opportunity to view private collections not usually open to the public and David will share his expert knowledge through a series of stimulating lectures.

YOUR TOUR LEADER

David Rosier is a Chartered Insurer by profession with a specialization in medical risk assessment. He has spent in excess of 25 years focusing on business in Asia, and China in particular, and for 14 years he and his family lived in Hong Kong. During the years in Hong Kong David, and his wife Wendy, created a collection of in excess of 700 Imperial Qing Dynasty, and related items, of costume and dress accessories.

Since returning to UK David has lectured extensively on the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) Chinese Court Costume to groups as diverse as National Trust, Embroiderers’ Guild, Art Fund and Oriental focused societies and museums. David is an Accredited Lecturer for the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS), which operate 360 groups with in excess of 100,000 members, and lectures around the UK. In addition, David has undertaken lecture tours to New Zealand and Australia and leads tours to China that focus on Imperial Art and Culture.

ENQUIRIES AND BOOKINGS

For further information and to secure a place on this tour please contact Erin Laffin at Academy Travel on 9235 0023 or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email erin@academytravel.com.au
TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

BEIJING’S IMPERIAL TREASURES
Explore the seat of Imperial governance at the Forbidden City, view over 5000 years of cultural heritage and art at the National Museum & wander through the Summer Palace, the largest Royal Park in China

XI’AN’S ARMY OF TERRACOTTA WARRIORS
Stand in awe amongst 8000 life size terracotta soldiers, chariots, and cavalry horses protecting the Emperor in the afterlife

ART DECO SITES IN SHANGHAI
Experience the confluence of traditional Chinese culture and European Art Deco in Post Imperialist Shanghai

SUMPTUOUS DYNASTIC SILKS AND CLASSICAL GARDENS IN SUZHOU
Delve into Suzhou’s 4000-year-old Imperial silk and embroidery industry and relax in two of China’s most revered classical gardens

PRIVATE VISITS TO COLLECTIONS NOT ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
Enjoy a personal tour of the world’s most comprehensive Imperial textile collection at the owner’s private home
My fascination, verging on obsession, with the Chinese Imperial Court, and a life defined primarily by mandated formal costume, dates back to my first visit to China in 1984. As China emerged from the Cultural Revolution, it was just possible, whilst exploring Beijing, to glimpse aspects of the magnificence of Imperial rule that had spanned over 2000 years until its collapse in 1911.

Whilst the grandeur of the Forbidden City gave tangible evidence of the power and wealth the Emperors, ruling from the Dragon Throne with the Mandate of Heaven, possessed, little was known of the philosophy and mechanics of Imperial governance.

Curiously, the Imperial Court had survived, and prospered, on a foundation that was dependent upon a system of mandated court costume where appropriate imagery visually established the rank of the wearer. Robes that were created of exquisite silk, a product more valued than gold, and then expertly embroidered came from a network of Imperial Workshops centred on the cities of Suzhou, Nanjing and Hangzhou.

China during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), and particularly under the direction of one of China’s greatest Emperors, Qianlong (1735-1796), imposed the most extensive and complex set of costume regulations that had ever existed. At the core was the fundamental objective of establishing status via appropriately designed ‘insignia of rank’ deployed on, or complimenting, formal robe designs.

The 12 ranks of the Imperial Clan wore insignia (roundels or squares) that displayed varying designs of the iconic Chinese Dragon, a creature that was the personal emblem of the Emperor and which symbolised the vital link between Earth and Heaven. The number of claws a dragon possessed, plus the colour of the silk ground, were the key indicators of noble status but every aspect of the iconography related to the Imperial environment and the seniority of the wearer.

The same logic applied to the Civil Officials, the next most important social class. These government officials, or Mandarins, were organised within 9 Ranks according to their functional roles. Each rank was represented by a Bird that typified the required skills and characteristics. The birds were embroidered onto square ‘Rank Badges’ which were then applied, front and back, to formal outer robe.

Lastly came the Military Officials who were again organised into 9 ranks. Individuals were represented by creatures, some real but some mythical, that were associated with courage and strength, which became the central design of a Rank Badge.

Defining rank, however, went beyond insignia badges and to a varying degree impacted virtually every aspect of court costume.

The history, culture and arts of Imperial China are enshrined in these magnificent costumes which provided evidence of the Emperor’s mandate to rule his Empire.
DETAILED ITINERARY

Included meals are shown with the symbols B, L and D.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25
ARRIVE

The tour begins at the Beijing hotel this evening. There is a light dinner available in the hotel this evening. (D)

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26
BEIJING

After a morning lecture in the hotel we depart by coach for an orientation tour of Beijing's city highlights including Jingshan Park, Olympic Park, the Birds Nest Stadium and a visit to one of the remaining Hutongs. After a lunch in a local restaurant we head to Curio city, Beijing's enormous antique market to browse the myriad of stores selling porcelain, calligraphy, paintings, jade, bronze ware and jewellery. This evening before our welcome dinner we meet a local Imperial art collector and enjoy a presentation on the Chinese antiquities market from a local and international perspective. (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27
FORBIDDEN CITY AND NATIONAL MUSEUM

Beijing was originally established as a capital by the Mongol conquerors in the 14th Century. From the 15th Century until 1911, Imperial governance emanated from the Forbidden City which we visit this morning. In the inner court of the Forbidden City we visit the recently renovated Palace of Tranquil Longevity, the retirement palace of Emperor Qianlong. We explore the gardens, gates and pavilions considered to be the pinnacle of Chinese design. This afternoon we visit the National Museum containing over five thousand years of Chinese art and cultural heritage and wander through Tiananmen Square passing under the iconic picture of Mao and through the Gate of Heavenly Peace. There is a lecture in the hotel this evening. (B, L)

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28
GREAT WALL

This morning we visit the most iconic symbol of Chinese Imperialism, the Great Wall. The fortifications which are accessible from Beijing are most impressive being built of stone whereas other sections of the wall are made from tamped earth, brick, wood and other less sturdy materials. After lunch, we visit the Eastern Qing Dynasty tombs, the mausoleum for the most accomplished emperors, empresses, and concubines of the period. After a full day we return to Beijing. (B, L, D)
SUMMER PALACE

Today we visit the Summer Palace, the largest royal park in China and one of the main recreational residences for Qing Emperors. A popular recreation area comprising of the lake and court area, the superb halls, temples and decorated gates of Longevity Hill are a highlight. UNESCO placed the Summer Palace on its world heritage list citing it as a masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design. This afternoon we visit the Temple of Heaven, an imperial complex of Confucian design, Ming and Qing emperors came here to pray for a good harvests and divine atonement. Finally, we make a private visit the studio of well-regarded contemporary artist, Huang Gang whose works have been collected by the Rothschild’s. (B, L)

TO XI’AN

We depart by coach this morning for the airport and our flight to Xi’an, the Imperial capital from the Zhou to Tang dynasties (1046BC-907AD) and the start of the Silk Road. There is a lecture and dinner in the hotel this evening. (B, D)

WILD GOOSE PAGODA

This morning we tour the fortifications that make up Xi’an’s city walls one of the largest and complete ancient military defensive systems in the world. We also visit the Dayan or Giant Wild Goose Pagoda, a Buddhist structure built during the Tang Dynasty and rebuilt during the Ming Dynasty. The pagoda held sutras and figurines of the Buddha that were brought to China from India by the Buddhist translator and traveller, Xuanzang. After lunch in a local restaurant we visit the expansive Shaanxi History Museum which houses a large collection treasures that give context to thousands of years of Chinese history and culture. (B, L)

TERRACOTTA WARRIORS

Today we visit the Terracotta Warriors, one of the highlights of the tour. These terracotta sculptures depicting the armies of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China, were to protect him in the afterlife. Dating from around the late third century BC, they were discovered in 1974 by local farmers. Current estimates are that in the three pits there were over 8,000 soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses and 150 cavalry horses; the majority of which still remain buried. (B, L)

Images clockwise top left: a piece in Huang Gang’s contemporary art studio; art deco architecture on the Bund in Shanghai; Pavilion of Listening to Billows at Yu gardens, Suzhou; an example of intricate Nanjing Cloud Brocade; you never know when the Emperor might need his chariot in the afterlife; Temple of Heaven in Beijing
TUESDAY OCTOBER 3
TO SHANGHAI
We depart by coach this morning for the airport and our flight to Shanghai. There is a lecture in the hotel this evening followed by dinner. (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4
SHANGHAI MUSEUM AND ART DECO
This morning we explore the most important galleries at the Shanghai Museum including the Qing and Ming Dynasty furniture collection. After lunch in a local restaurant we take a walking tour of Shanghai’s art deco heritage including Missionary Row, the Bund Promenade, the former Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Building and Shanghai Club set against backdrop of the ultra-modern business district of Pudong. (B, L)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 5
YU GARDENS AND SUZHOU
After checkout we head to the peaceful Yu Gardens built by a Ming Dynasty family over 18 years. It was largely destroyed during the first opium war of 1842 and again by the French during the Taiping rebellion. Now restored, the layout, design and architecture of the garden make it one of Shanghai’s best loved attractions. After lunch, we continue by coach to Suzhou. There is a lecture in the hotel this evening followed by dinner (B, L, D)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6
SUZHOU SILKS AND GARDENS
Suzhou is famous for its elegant classical gardens and this morning we visit two of the most honoured and revered in China; The Humble Administrator’s Garden and the Lingering Garden. Following lunch in a local restaurant we visit the Suzhou Silk Museum which details the 4000-year-old history of Suzhou’s Imperial silk industry. Suzhou embroidery is characterised by beautiful patterns, colours and meticulous stitching. This afternoon we also visit the embroidery Institute and see some of the artisans, and master craftsmen, creating the finest quality silk. (B, L, D)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7
NANJING
Today we make a roundtrip to Nanjing, the initial capital of the Ming Dynasty, to visit the Cloud Brocade Museum. Cloud Brocade, so named because of its delicate and distinct patterns which are like flowing clouds, was made exclusively for the court costume of the Emperors, and nobility, of China. The method for weaving the brocade designs is complex and labour intensive making it the most expensive type of silk fabrics. We return to Suzhou after lunch in a local
SUNDAY OCTOBER 8
TO HONG KONG
We return to Shanghai Airport for our flight to Hong Kong. Upon arrival, we transfer to the hotel where there is a lecture followed by dinner. (B, D)

MONDAY OCTOBER 9
TOUR HONG KONG
Today we embark on a full day tour encompassing the highlights of both Kowloon and Hong Kong Island. Take the tram up to Victoria Peak for spectacular panoramic views over the Island, explore Stanley Market and enjoy a Sampan ride through Aberdeen’s floating fishing village. On Kowloon we visit the Tang style Nan Lian garden, the Flower market, Ladies market and Temple Street night market. The tour culminates watching the symphony of lights from Tsimshatsui promenade. (B, L)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 10
PRIVATE COLLECTION
This morning is at leisure. After a Dim Sum lunch we view the Chinese art and imperial textile collection of Chris Hall, a Hong Kong collector. Chris is regarded to possess the world’s most comprehensive Imperial Chinese textile collections and is a past president of the Oriental Ceramics Society. He will personally guide you through his collection, and share his story, at his home on the Peak. We will then visit a leading Auction House for a tour plus a talk on the ‘Chinese Art Market’. (B, L)

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 11
HONG KONG MUSEUM
This morning we visit the Hong Kong Museum of History housing collections of cultural objects pertaining to the ethnography and history of the region including artefacts relating to the revolutionary, Dr Sun Yat Sen. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to further explore Hong Kong before we gather for a farewell dinner in a local restaurant. (B, D)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 12
DEPARTURE
The tour ends after breakfast. (B)

HOTELS
Hotels have been selected principally for their central location.

- Beijing, Park Plaza (5 nights)
- Xi’an, Grand Park (3 nights)
- Shanghai, Central Hotel (2 nights)
- Suzhou, Marriott Hotel (3 nights)
- Hong Kong, The Park Lane (4 nights)
FITNESS REQUIREMENTS OF THIS TOUR

GRADE TWO ★★

It is important both for you and for your fellow travellers that you are fit enough to be able to enjoy all the activities on this tour. To give you an indication of the level of physical fitness required to participate on our tours, we have given them a star grading. Academy Travel’s tours tend to feature extended walking tours and site visits, which require greater fitness than coach touring. We ask you to carefully consider your ability to meet the physical demands of the tour.

Participation criteria for this tour

This Grade Two tour is designed for people who lead active lives and can comfortably participate in up to five hours of physical activity per day on most days, including longer walking tours, challenging archaeological sites, climbing stairs, embarking and disembarking trains and/or boats, and a more demanding tour schedule with one night stops or several internal flights.

You should be able to:

• keep up with the group at all times
• walk for 4-5 kilometres at a moderate pace with only short breaks
• stand for a reasonable length of time in galleries and museums
• tolerate uncomfortable climatic conditions such as cold, humidity and heat
• walk up and down slopes
• negotiate steps and slopes on archaeological sites, which are often uneven and unstable
• get on and off a large coach with steep stairs, train or boat unassisted, possibly with luggage
• move your luggage a short distance if required

A note for older travellers

If you are more than 80 years old, or have restricted mobility, it is highly likely that you will find this itinerary challenging. You will have to miss several activities and will not get the full value of the tour. Your booking will not be accepted until after you have contacted Academy Travel to discuss your situation and the exact physical requirements of this tour. While we will do our best to reasonably accommodate the physical needs of all group members, we reserve the right to refuse bookings if we feel that the requirements of the tour are too demanding for you and/or if local conditions mean we cannot reasonably accommodate your condition.

TOUR COST

The tour price is $9,925 per person, twin share (land content only). The supplement for a single room is $1,845 per person. A non-refundable deposit of $500 per person is required to secure a place on the tour.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

Included in the tour price

• All accommodation in four and five star hotels
• Two internal economy class flights within China
• All breakfasts and many lunches and dinners in hotels and local restaurants as indicated in the itinerary
• Land travel by air-conditioned coach
• Background notes and lectures
• Services of your tour leader throughout the tour
• All entrance fees to sites mentioned on itinerary
• Qualified national guide in mainland China
• Chinese visa costs and processing

Not included in the tour price

• International airfares, taxes and surcharges
• Travel insurance (highly recommended)
• Meals not stated as included in this itinerary
• Expenses of a personal nature such as laundry

AIR TRAVEL

The tour price quoted is for land content only. For this tour we recommend Cathay Pacific flights into Beijing and out of Hong Kong. Please contact us for the best possible prices on economy, business or first class fares. Transfers between airport and hotel are included for all passengers booking their flights through Academy Travel. These may be group or individual transfers.

ENQUIRIES AND BOOKINGS

For further information and to secure a place on this tour please contact Erin Laffin at Academy Travel on 9235 0023 or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email erin@academytravel.com.au

WEATHER ON TOUR

September and October is a pleasant time to travel in China and Autumn colours should be on display in the north. Days will vary from crisp and cool on Beijing and Xi’an to warmer temperatures in Shanghai and up to 28 degrees in Hong Kong. Pack a coat for the evenings in Beijing and Xi’an when the temperatures remain below 10 degrees. Chances of rain are low whilst we are on the mainland but increase significantly once we reach Honk Kong. A light weather proof jacket and umbrella may be required at times during the tour.
ADFAS TRAVEL TOURS ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE!

ADFAS Travel is the official travel program of the Association of Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (ADFAS). Each year we offer a small range of international and Australian tours designed to appeal to ADFAS members or anyone with a strong interest in the visual arts. All tours are led by qualified experts. ADFAS Travel helps to support the activities of ADFAS, including sponsorship of young artists and contributions to the preservation of sites around Australia.

ADFAS Travel is managed by Academy Travel, one of Australia’s most experienced providers of special interest group tours.

ITINERARIES PLANNED FOR YOU

ADFAS Travel itineraries are designed to meet the travel needs of members - active, intelligent and mature people. Each day is a carefully thought-through mix of experiences, including walking tours, gallery visits, scenery and performances.

TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS

Share your journey with fellow ADFAS members and their friends from around Australia and New Zealand. Like you ADFAS members have a strong interest in the arts and travel, making for lively and engaging company on tour.

RELAXED PACE

Wherever possible we make each stay three or four nights and leave time for relaxing, individual sightseeing and dining. Fitness levels for each tour let you know how physically demanding the itinerary is.

ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCES

One of the benefits of group travel is the chance to enjoy experiences that you can’t have as an individual. These include private out-of-hours visits to museums, tickets to sold-out performances, special lectures from local experts. We try to build at least one of these into each tour.

EXPERT TOUR LEADER/LECTURERS

All tours are led by a NADFAS/ADFAS lecturer or a similarly qualified professional. Their detailed knowledge, enthusiasm and travel experience will transform your experience. You will see and understand far more than the average traveller.

PROFESSIONALISM

ADFAS Travel is managed by one of Australia’s most experienced ‘special interest’ tour operators, Academy Travel. Decades of experience and knowledge are used to create and operate each tour, backed up by a Sydney-based office staff of 16 and a network of trusted contacts around the world.
C YOUR TRAVEL PLANS

- I/we wish ADFAS Travel to arrange air travel from Australia.
- Economy Class: Business Class.
- I/we will organise our own air travel.
- I/we are undecided about air travel. Please contact us to discuss the available options.
- I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences.
- Planned departure date:______________
- I intend to take part in the extension tour offered in the itinerary (if applicable).

D YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF BOOKING CONDITIONS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND SIGN BELOW

DEPOSITS
A deposit of $500 per person is required to confirm your booking on a tour. Final payment of the tour fee, insurance and any additional travel will be due 60 days before departure.

CANCELLATION FEES
If you decide to cancel your booking the following charges apply:
- More than 60 days before departure: $500 *
- 60-45 days before tour start: 25% of total amount due
- 44-15 days before tour start: 75% of total amount due
- 14 days or less before departure: 100% of total amount due
*This amount may be credited to another ADFAS Travel tour within 12 months of the original tour you booked.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR
We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

TRAVEL INSURANCE
ADFAS Travel requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. We offer a comprehensive policy with a reputable insurer if required.

PASSPORT AND VISA
A valid passport is required for all international travel. If you do not hold an Australian passport you may require a re-entry permit. Some countries require a visa to be issued before you depart Australia. We will advise you of all passport and visa requirements, but it is your responsibility to ensure that you meet passport and visa requirements before you depart.

E DEPOSIT PAYMENT
A non-refundable $500 deposit is required for each person listed on this booking form. Please indicate which method you have chosen to pay your deposit:

- Number of passengers:______________
- Amount of deposit: $______________
- Paid directly by cheque (Please make cheques payable to ADFAS Travel)
- Paid by credit card (Please complete details below)
  - Card Number:______________
  - 3 or 4 digit security code:______________
  - Expiry date:______________
  - Name on card:______________

F HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS TOUR?
Please select one or more where appropriate:
- I receive the ADFAS Travel Brochure/Newsletter/Emails
- I saw an advertisement in... please specify
- I attended a lecture at... please specify
- Brosewing the internet
- A friend recommended ADFAS Travel
- Other... please specify

G SEND
Please send your completed booking form to:
ADFAS Travel
GPO Box 5057
Sydney NSW 2001
Or email: info@adfastravel.com.au or fax it to (02) 9235 0123
Additional booking forms can be downloaded from our website: adfastravel.com.au

I/we plan to undertake additional travel before/after the tour and would like ADFAS Travel to organise this (please describe destinations and length of stay required below):

To discuss your travel arrangements please contact the travel consultant for your tour. You can also email enquiries to info@adfastravel.com.au.