



Hiddenchina.net

China Golf Tour to Eastern China

Dalian and Weihai / Qingdao on Shandong Peninsula



HIGHLIGHTS OF EAST CHINA GOLF TOUR

- Tour date: all year, but best in Spring and Fall
- Destinations: Dalian, Weihai, Qingdao
- Duration: 6 days
- Starting in: Dalian
- Ending in: Qingdao
- Group size: 2+ Pax
- Golf Plays: 4 (Dalian Golden Pebble Divine Tortoise, Weihai Point, Tiger Beach, Qingdao Huashan) - Golf courses upon availability.

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

DAY 1: XXX - DALIAN (NO MEALS)

Independent transfer to the airport and flight to Dalian where you will be picked up by our driver and guide. After arrival drive straight to Lushan where you will visit Port Arthur. We recommend for history buffs a visit of the Sino-Japanese prison site and if you like to see more local flair, the visit of the local fish market is a must. If you like you can buy some seafood directly at the market and then take it to one of the restaurants nearby where they cook your catch for a modest fee.

In the late afternoon drive to Dalian city center for check-in at Kempinski Hotel

Overnight in Kempinski Hotel

DAY 2: DALIAN (GOLF DAY 1) (B)



After breakfast drive around 1 hour to the Golden Pebble Beach Golf Course. The course offers two 18 hole courses, the Golden Eagle and the Divine Turtle Course, which is the seaside course. The seaside course is the one we recommend to play, a 7226 Yard Par 72, designed by US American Peter Thompson who was also in charge of Shanghai's famous Lake Malaren Course. There are some altitude changes to master on the course and it actually starts relatively gentle and easy. Hole No. 3 is a downhill 180 Yards Par 3

protected by a dominant bunker. Hole No. 5 asks for some tactics, as there is around 60 Yards in front of the Green a large ravine, so either you go all out and hit the Green in two or you need to place your second shot before the ravine to reach the Green in Regulation. Hole No. 7 is the undisputed signature

hole due to its spectacular layout. It is a very short 132 Yard Par 3, but the Green is located on top of a cliff with the sea on three sides. Add a 70 foot vertical drop from Tee to Pin, strong sea winds and a Green that slopes from front to back and you have one tricky Par 3. Choice of Club is critical, as you don't want to end up too short and a safety drive will end up in the rough behind the Green due to the slope. Choice of Club, skill and luck are essential here.



Hole No. 11, a 437 Yard Par 4 requires again tactical skills. Your first shot needs to go far that you can see the Green and the second shot you can play at full risk or safe. Hole 13 and 14 are again very scenic and Hole 17 is probably one of the most difficult holes. The 475 Yards Par 5 is a dogleg left and features a steep cliff on the left and the end. Your second shot requires courage, skill and drive as you need to cover a steep valley to approach the Green.

After the game, return to Dalian and visit the city center if you like or relax in the hotel.

DAY 3: DALIAN - YANTAI - WEIHAI (GOLF DAY 2) (B)

Today we have to get up very early to catch the first flight to Yantai in Shandong province.

Arrived in Yantai you board your van and then drive around 1 hour to Weihai where you check-in the



golf resort hotel and in the afternoon play the spectacular Weihai Point Golf Course.

Designed by Golfplan Design (Ronald Fream, David Dale and Kevin Ramsey) the course is built on to a narrow Peninsula which reaches over half a mile into the Yellow Sea. With 6230 Yards, the course is relatively short, but it's the maximum the designers could pull out of the limited space. However, with a truly spectacular 270 degree ocean view, dramatic altitude

changes, cliff proximity and the challenging wind, this course is absolutely fantastic to play. Crown jewel is the 500 Yard Par 5 Hole No.16 which requires a 220 Yard carry over Yellow Sea.

Overnight in Golf Resort Standard Room

DAY 4: WEIHAI - QINGDAO (GOLF DAY 3) (B)

In the morning we drive to Tiger Beach Golf Course, another one of the top courses of the Shandong Peninsula. Tiger Beach is designed by Taiwanese Golf-Links lover Beta Soong and has a length of



7222 Yards, although the full length is only granted to pros. Every single step you can feel Soong's love for the Scottish Links style and this course is probably as close as it gets to a Links style course in China. The roughs are gnarly, the fairways are bumpy and the ball doesn't roll well at all and there are tricky obstacles in the fairways, mostly knee deep bumps that look much deeper from the tees and trick the first timers on this course. Traditionalists will notice the

man-made sand dunes and hence not consider it as a true Links Course, but it for sure plays like one. If you are lucky and there is no wind (or only little), then the course plays gentle and easy. However, as soon as the omnipresent and most of the time strong winds from the Yellow Sea kick in, it will get very tough, even for the most skilled pros. A special gimmick and ode to the Links style golf courses of Scotland is the exact copy of the St. Andrews stone bridge at Hole No.5.

After golfing drive to Qingdao.

Overnight in Intercontinental Qingdao or similar

DAY 5:	QINGDAO (GOLF DAY 4)	(B)
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In the morning drive to Qingdao Huashan Golf Course and play, if possible, the masters course.

Designed by Robbie Nelson, Rodney Wright and Neil Howarth, this course has the usual Par 72



spread on 6972 Yards, which is for a Championship Course on the short side, but the Fairways are narrow and a high level of tactics is demanded. It's a combination of many water hazards, doglegs, gentle hills, some altitude changes and narrow fairways. Due to the short nature of the course, strategy is much more important than long drives. Technically strong players are definitely in advantage over

unskilled big hitters.

Hole 3 is a Par 4 but with 369 Yards relatively short. The tee is on both sides flanked by a pond and the fairway is narrow. Be careful on your way to the green, as it is protected by another pond.



The next is a tricky 530 Yard Par 5. It is a slight dogleg left and the Fairway is at the 230 Yard mark particularly narrow and boasts on the left side a series of 3 bunkers, while on the right side is the pond. Your second shot asks for a very tactic approach, since the way to the Green is protected by a series of trees, so you need to hit the ball perfect that you manage to reach with your 3rd shot the Green in Regulation and not get stuck in the

trees.

Hole 14 is great for players who like to take risks. It's a fairly short 389 Yard Par 4 and a dogleg left. On the left side is the pond and on the right side two bunkers and the way to the Green is cut by a line of trees. Place your shot accurately on the left side (you may need to add some left spin to avoid the trees around the tee) and as close as possible to the pond and the way for your second shots through the gap in the tree line is free.

After golfing return to Qingdao. Visit in the afternoon Badaguan Street where you can see a colorful blend of European architecture which are remains of the Concession times in the late 19th and early 20th century. If there is time, visit the Qingdao Beer museum and have a glass or two of China's most famous beer is a must in Qingdao.

DAY 6:	QINGDAO - XXX	(B)
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Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

RATES

RATE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE / TWIN ROOM ON REQUEST

SINGLE ROOM SURCHARGE: ON REQUEST

(RMB rate is the fix rate, EUR rate may change due to ROE fluctuations). Rates are based on 2015 Spring / Fall but excludes the National holiday period (1-7 May, 1-7 October).

INCLUDED SERVICES:

- ✚ All overnights in the mentioned Hotels in standard room category including breakfast
- ✚ All transfers in Private Business Van with driver
- ✚ Local English speaking tour guides in every destination
- ✚ Green Fees to the mentioned Golf courses including Caddie, Golf Cart (2 Persons shared basis) and locker fee
- ✚ Entrance Fees to the mentioned sightseeing places

EXCLUDED SERVICES:

- ✚ International Flights
- ✚ Local flight to Dalian and from Qingdao
- ✚ Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- ✚ Alcoholic drinks for the meals
- ✚ tips for driver and guides

HOTEL UPGRADES

Various upgrade possibilities upon request.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Traveling in China, especially off the beaten tracks and in rural areas, can be adventurous and carries also a certain amount of surprises and risks. Hiddenchina.net ensures that in every situation we and our guides are trying to get out a maximum of comfort for our clients. All our guides are carefully chosen and selected by their abilities and experience. Nevertheless, there might be surprises. We hereby express that a voyage in China needs patience, adaptation and tolerance. In addition due to lack of infrastructure, in rural areas in China there is often a lack of western sanitary standards. Clients of hiddenchina.net accept - upon signing a contract - to be aware of these circumstances, and accept changes which may occur in order to keep security and comfort of the clients according to the circumstances to a maximum during the trip.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR CHINA TRAVELERS

Traveling in China is always an adventure. Quality of service can range from “top” in selected 5* Hotels in the big cities to “very poor”. While traveling in China, even with an organized tour, the clients have to be ready for unexpected changes (e.g. due to natural disasters such as landslides or flooding) or other surprises. In hotels by example, it can happen that you will get phone calls in the middle of the night, offering you a special massage service. The following chapters will tell you more about what you should consider when traveling in China.

FACE

You may have heard it before and for the experienced China traveler it's a “must know”: In China, everything is about “giving and losing face”. Chinese people are very proud of their culture, food and traditions. Respect this fact and try not to bring a Chinese into an embarrassing situation, as he or she might lose his face in front of coworkers, friends, family members or even the authorities. Try to be polite, smile and - especially to English speaking Chinese - always praise their language skills. Chinese can be considered as reactive people. If you treat Chinese people in an arrogant and harsh way, you will be treated the same way. When you feel cheated, try to solve the situation in a gentle and charming way. You will achieve your goal much faster. Also try to react calmly in stress situations and stay friendly. For every problem in China there is a solution. It's up to you how effective you will get to this solution. Being angry and aggressive is contra productive in the most cases.

SECURITY

Especially large cities in China are extremely safe. Chinese people have to fear severe punishment when being caught by the authorities in illegal matters when foreigners are involved. However, be aware that pick pocketing happens everywhere, so keep an eye on your belongings and never leave your luggage unattended. When going out at night, China's large cities are much safer than practically all European cities. A single woman has nothing to fear when walking in a dark alley even at 4 o'clock in the morning.

HEALTH

It is also recommended to visit your house doctor before you go on a China trip and make all the necessary vaccinations. Your doctor will inform you what you will need. For travelers going to south China, it is also recommended to carry a supply of Malaria remedies. As the avian influenza is getting more and more a serious issue in Asia and a pandemic outbreak will happen sooner or later, the traveler should also consider buying a box of "Tamiflu" before the trip begins.

When traveling in China and especially when eating a lot of local food, a supply of remedies for stomach problems is highly recommended. We will always take care of taking you to clean restaurants with high quality standards. However, your body will have to deal with a wide range of unknown food, spices and other ingredients in China and also with different bacteria and viruses than in Europe's clean environment. When being on a 3 week China trip, you have to reckon with stomach problems at least once. To cure them it is recommended to take pharmaceuticals, which are rich in salt and minerals and give you back the elements you will lose during a diarrhea. From our longtime China experience, one of the best remedies is to eat well-boiled Chinese mushrooms and bananas as well as to drink tomato juice. On many of our private trips, this helped much better than the Western medication like e.g. Imodium. Always take toilet paper with you, as you won't find any in public toilets! Travelers going to high altitude areas such as Tibet are also recommended to take a supply of Diamox in case of altitude sickness. Please get advice from your doctor.

CLIMATE

China has several different climatic zones. From high-altitude to sub-tropic and desert climate, there is everything. Depending on your date of arrival in China, you might be traveling in the rainy season. E.g. in southern China, this time mostly starts late May / early June and lasts until August. This year, in the provinces of Guangxi and Guizhou heavy flooding took the life of several hundred local people. However, we will adapt the trip according to your travel time and avoid the areas with heavy rain.

LUGGAGE

Most airlines allow you to check-in 20 kg of luggage (economy class). It is not allowed to take nutrition products (cheese, meat) as well as pornographic material. Please ensure that your "Swiss army knife" and other "dangerous products" are checked in with your luggage and not in the hand luggage.

China offers you a wide range of shopping possibilities. So if you plan to go for extensive shopping, take a minimum of luggage to China. However, whenever you forgot something, don't worry, more or less everything you need in daily life, can be bought much cheaper in China (see chapter below). Be aware that many customs authorities like the ones in Paris and Milan can fine you heavily when finding out that you try to import faked products from China such as Yves St Laurent bags, Gucci items or Prada clothes.

SHOPPING

Except for imported luxury goods and high-end electrical equipment such as beamers or imported laptops, more or less everything is cheaper in China than in Western Europe. Especially clothes can be bought at a very low price. Many shopping areas offer faked products (sometimes in extremely good quality). However, in many places where no prices are indicated you have to bargain about the price (see chapter below). Please note that when buying a faked product, especially at the airport in Paris, you can get into trouble. The fight against faked products is now at a point, that authorities can or will take away your purchase and will heavily fine you. For the golf lovers, there is a wide range of possibilities to buy whole golf sets at a ridiculously low price. Have your suits tailor-made, buy ties, silk products, pearls etc. at a very low price. For most Europeans, DVD's are of special interest. For a DVD you pay between 8 and 10 RMB (about 1 EURO) and most of the movies are available even before they are shown in European cinemas. The advantage is that DVD's take away only little space and weight. But be aware that in many cases you are buying illegally copied and distributed products.

Credit cards are only accepted in major stores, 5* hotels and upwards and western restaurants. As from 1st January 2013 it is no longer possible to cash out money from Chinese ATM's with your MAESTRO Card. Only possibility is to get money at the ATM's with your credit card or change foreign currency at a bank (daily limit is USD 4'000 and passport is required. Annual limit USD 50'000 or the equivalent in foreign currency). Money can be changed at major branches of the Bank of China or in western hotels. Please note that you need to show your passport for changing money.

BARGAINING

As mentioned in the "shopping" chapter, in many places you have to bargain for your price. Western tourists are mostly looked at as "big dollar signs" and accordingly the price will be set 400 – 500% above the price the vendor is ready to sell his or her merchandise. The first rule is to go below the first offered price. So when the vendor asks for 100 RMB, you can set your offer to 20-25 RMB. Then it depends on your bargaining skills at what price you will get it. A simple trick is, when it seems too expensive for you, to walk away from the vendor. If he or she doesn't follow you, you know that your bid was too low. Please also note, always stay friendly and smile when bargaining. Once you agreed for a price, you have to buy the product. Otherwise you and the vendor will lose face.

LANGUAGE AND BEHAVIOR

Even in big cities like Beijing and Shanghai, it is most unlikely that you find English speaking taxi drivers or personnel in the shops. Therefore it is recommended to take a phrase book with you, where you can show what you need. Chinese people are mostly friendly and curious towards foreigners. However, Chinese are also very proud of their country and culture and some behavior will be strange for travelers who come to China for the first time. In many places (even sometimes in public buses) people smoke a lot and for the non-smoker, China can be a terrible place. You also often see Chinese people spitting accompanied by strange noises. The best way to get around it is to ignore it and live with it. For the smoker on the other hand China is a paradise, as it is more or less everywhere allowed to smoke and cigarettes are extremely cheap, although some foreign brands might be faked. Please

also note that you might be invited to test your drinking skills. The easiest way to avoid it without losing face is to tell your hosts that due to liver problems you're not allowed to drink.

TIPPING

Although China is - especially away from the big cities - a very poor country, tipping only exists in the 5* surroundings of the big cities. In restaurants or taxis and hotels (except 5* hotels) tipping is a no-no. However, tour guides and drivers of organized tours should be tipped. Most guides and drivers are roughly paid with 10 Euro per day and rely on additional income. With Chinese tour groups (which often go shopping) the guides always get a commission in the shops, where they make most of their salary. As European groups usually do not visit as many shops as Chinese tourists, guides and drivers have to rely on tips.

Generally a tip of RMB 30 per person and day is reasonable. When you are in a tour group it is recommended that the group collects the tips and hands it to the guides and drivers in an envelope. It is also very helpful to take some souvenirs with you, like for example watches or picture postcards from your home country.

SMALL TALK AND CONVERSATION

Small talk in China is a bit different than in Europe, but there are also topics which should be avoided and topics which are perfect for small talk.

One of the most common greetings in China is "Ni chi fan le ma?" which literally means "Have you eaten yet?" This emphasizes the importance of eating in China, and it is much more a social event than in the West, therefore food is always a welcomed topic.

In some cases you also might be confronted with rather private questions such as about your marital status and about family. The Chinese are very family oriented, so don't feel embarrassed when people ask you rather private questions, it's just small talk. Sometimes, especially in business surroundings, people also might ask you about your salary, which is quite normal in China. Here you can escape (if you don't want to tell the truth) by telling some fictional figure, or when telling the truth and your counterpart's eyebrows rise, you explain how expensive the life in Europe is.

Topics which should be avoided at all costs are all political related such as the Cultural Revolution, critics against the system or chairman Mao, the Tibet and Taiwan question, human rights or how to treat animals. If you want to have answers to these questions you might do it through your guide. Do not overload your guide with too many hard questions in the beginning though. Tactically it is wise to hide these questions in some compliments and be as subtle as possible (see also the chapter about "face"). Please note that young Chinese (below 30) are more open to discuss critical topics than people above 30.

Please also note that Chinese people tend to touch you, which is not a sign of homosexuality but just a sign of sympathy. In such a situation, when you feel uncomfortable, don't react in a rude or harsh way;

just try to escape the contact by elegant means. Mostly a hearty fit of coughing does the trick (SARS is still in Chinese people's mind).

TRAFFIC AND TAXI

The public transport system in China is basically quite convenient. Every major city has an airport; there are many train routes (even though there is mostly only one train per day between two destinations) and public buses. Public buses are very cheap although the comfort is sometimes a bit poor.

In the cities, the most convenient public transport is the taxi. You can, compared to Europe, basically take a taxi anytime and everywhere at a very low price. Be careful that on major tourist sites there are also drivers trying to make extra money. When a taxi has no taximeter (make sure that the driver in taxis with a taximeter always puts it on), negotiate the rate before you get into the vehicle. However, some drivers will still try to make you pay an extra fee at the end. Just tell him that you pay the negotiated price, nothing more, and nothing less. Please also note that most drivers don't speak English. So take a bilingual map, a taxi card or a guidebook with you. Tell the reception in the hotel to write down the addresses for you so you can show it to the driver. Please note that highway fares have to be paid by the customer and not the driver (for example, in Beijing the fee for the airport expressway is 10 Yuan for passenger cars). This fee will be added to the amount shown on the taximeter.

USEFUL THINGS TO TAKE ON A CHINA TRIP

Several Swiss army knives, a compass, 9:55 pharmaceuticals (see health chapter), a first-aid kit, tape, watches (not too expensive), money clip, camera (films can be bought and developed on spot for a very reasonable price), deodorant (rarely available in China), sunglasses, altimeter (for Tibet and Himalaya tours), GPS, safety belt for money, literature, guidebooks, credit-/bank card and a lot of patience.

For ladies: tampons are rarely available in China.