

CONTEMPORARY & TRADITIONAL CERAMICS IN NORTH CHINA
May 8th – 26th 2010

**Neolithic Ceramics, the Terracotta Army, Northern Celadons, Cizhou Wares
a Buddhist Cave complex crafted 1500 years ago
& the deserts of Inner Mongolia**

Arriving in **BEIJING** we will have the opportunity to visit the Forbidden City before travelling to Shaanxi & Shanxi Provinces home not only to the Terracotta Army but to some of the classic wares of the Song Dynasty visiting potters replicating past classical wares as well as contemporary potters.

XIAN (Chang'an), in Shaanxi Province, was the seat of Qin Shi Huang Di whose terracotta army is witness to the power of the man who unified China. It further came to prominence in the reign of the Sui and Tang Dynasties and the province was a crossroads on the trading routes from eastern China to central Asia. This was the 'heart' of China until the 9th century.

We will visit the Terracotta Army as well as the Yaozhou, Northern Celadon, Museum and kiln site. A return visit to Chenlu pottery village will be most welcome.



From here we will travel north visiting a roof-tile factory making tri-coloured tiles for the nine dragon screens found in some of the palaces as well as some local potteries. We will stay in **PINGYAO** made famous in the film 'Raise the Red Lantern' it is one of the few ancient cities still retaining in Ming Dynasty city walls. In **TAIYUAN** we will visit the Museum of Song Ceramics as well as a workshop still producing one of the Cizhou traditions of carving from black glaze to porcelain body. Following the road northward - **DATONG** the 1500 year old Buddhist cave complex of **YUNGANG** contains more than 51,000 statues!

An overnight train will take us westwards through Ningxia Province to **YINCHUAN**, capital of the Western Xia kingdom around 11th century, and the deserts of Inner Mongolia, home to the Muslim Hui people's descended from the Arab Silk Road traders. The mountains of Helan Shan form a natural barrier against the desert winds and invaders alike! Visit rock strewn gorges with rock carvings thought to date back to more than 10,000 years and the Western Xia tombs. The road to Baiyan Hot crosses the Great Wall. At **ZHONGWEI** the landscape bordering the Tennger Desert varies from desert sand dunes, the Yellow River and lush farm fields.

The Gansu Provincial Museum in **LANZHOU** is home not only to the Flying Horse but a fine collection of Yangshao painted pottery from the late Neolithic period.

Landprice including internal flights & overnight train: £2,300
International flights London / Beijing / London £550