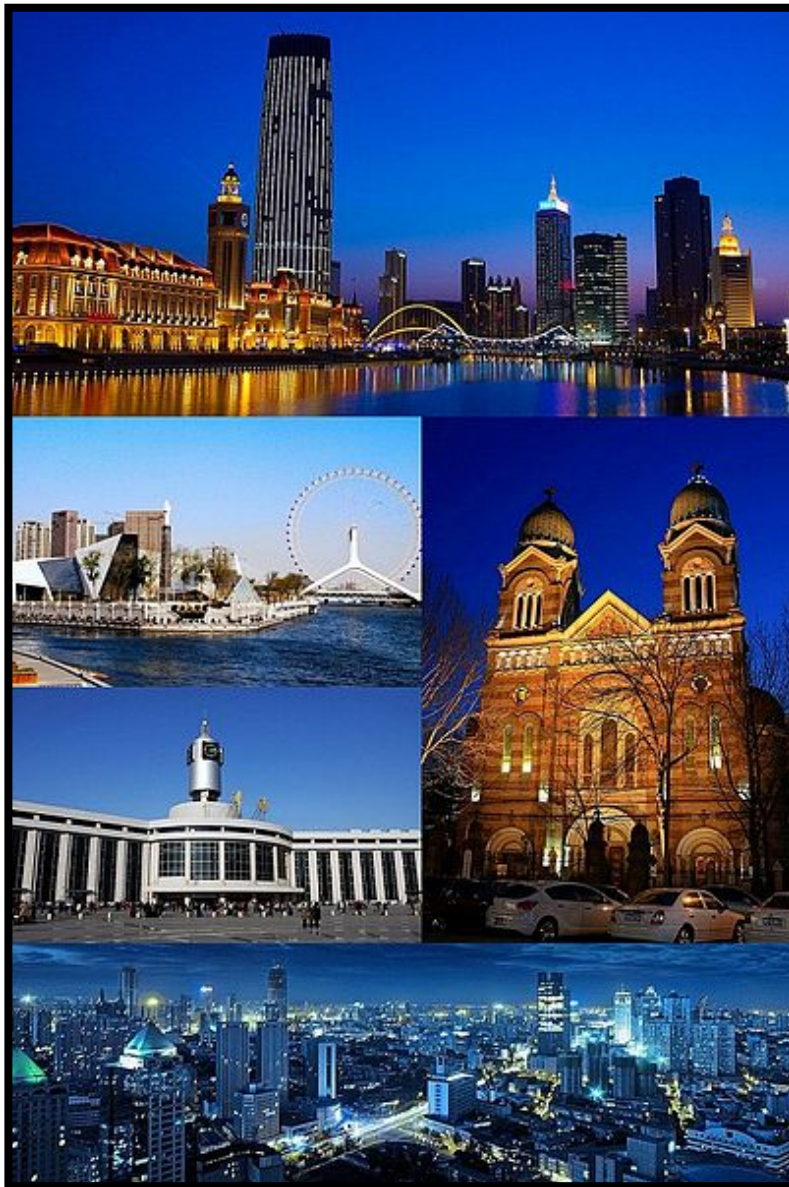


The Meridian Society 2017 Tour to Shandong Province [15 days from 15 October]:

Shandong - in many ways the spiritual heart of China; home to Confucius and a mix of Buddhist and Taoist influence with glorious scenery, towering granite peaks and a wild yet welcoming coastline





Tianjin:

Clockwise from top:

Tianjin Financial Centre and Hai River,
Xikai Church,
Panorama of downtown Tianjin,
Tianjin Railroad Station, Tianjin Eye

Montage by Alexander Needham

Day 1 Sunday 15 October 2017

The group assembles in Tianjin, the third largest city in China and along with Beijing, Shanghai and Chongqing, one of China's four municipalities. Tianjin is 120 km/75 miles from Beijing. Clients check in hotel by themselves. Dinner not included.

Overnight in Tianjin

Day 2. Monday 16 October 2017

Tianjin – day for exploration eg. Porcelain House Museum, Jingyuan Garden (Pu Yi), Dabei Yuan (Monastery)

High speed train to Jinan by G215 1438/1556.

Overnight in Jinan, capital city of Shandong.

Day 3. Tuesday 17 October 2017

Jinan – there are many attractions to explore including the Great Southern Mosque, the Five Dragon Pool, Baotu Spring Park, temples and museums.

Opportunity to climb Qianfo Shan (Thousand Buddha Mountain) with its glorious views and temple.

Overnight in Jinan



Qufu Drum tower
- the centre of the Walled City



The tomb of Confucius

Day 4. Wednesday 18 October 2017

Coach to Qufu:

Birthplace and home town of Confucius and his descendants. The town is testament to the importance of Confucian philosophy over the centuries and in China to this day. Opportunity to view the main sites within the ancient city walls of Qufu, a Unesco World Heritage Site

Overnight in Qufu

Day 5. Thursday 19 October 2017

Visit Confucius Temple, Confucius Family Mansion and Family Graveyard – the largest imperial building complex after the Forbidden City

Overnight in Qufu

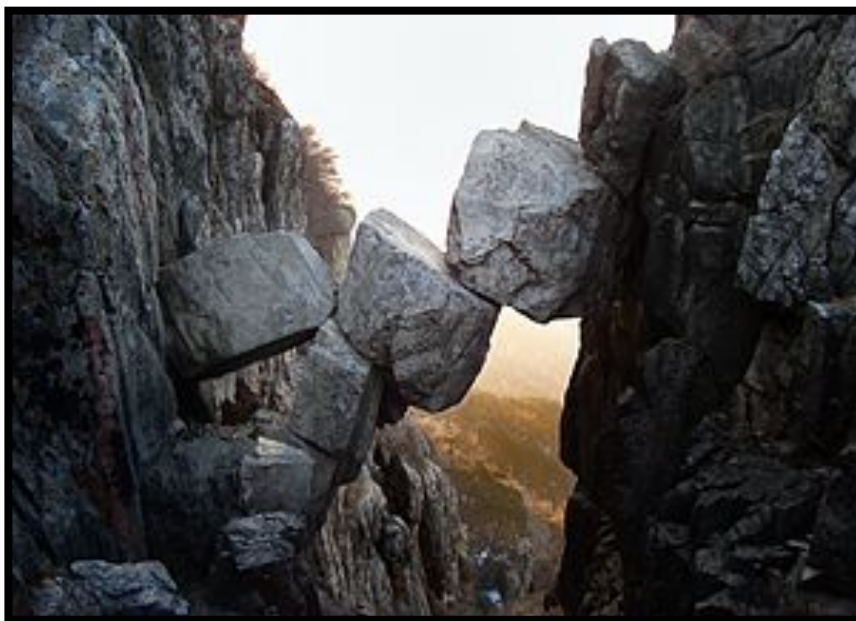
Day 6. Friday 20 October 2017

Coach to Tai'an. Visit the magnificent Dai Temple with its 150 ancient buildings at the foot of China's most holy mountain, mystical Taishan and the starting point for pilgrimages up to the peak

Overnight in Tai'an



The Dai Temple at Tai Shan



The Immortal Bridge
(仙人桥; Xiānrén Qiáo)
Tai Shan

Day 7. Saturday 21 October 2017

Take the cable car over Taishan's slopes dotted with ancient temples, bridges and gates and view the Azure Clouds Temple also known as Bixia Temple.

Overnight in Tai'an

Day 8. Sunday 22 October 2017

Coach to Zhujiayu for a couple of hours where the Canadian film on Chinese Labour Corps, Tricks on the Dead, was filmed and then we continue to the ancient village of Zhoucun, a major recruitment centre for the CLC.

Although somewhat overlooked by the reforms of current years, Zhoucun was once a major trading centre and refurbished buildings in the "old city", including Japanese, German and British banks and companies, bear witness to this.

Overnight in Zibo.

Day 9. Monday 23 October 2017

Train to Qingdao

On arrival there maybe time for an initial exploration such as Zhongshan Park, named after Sun Yat Sen, the founder of modern China, a vast area of lakes, gardens and walking paths. From the park which has many varieties of flowering trees can be seen Qingdao's largest temple, Zhanshan Temple.

Overnight in Qingdao.

Day 10 Tuesday 24 October 2017

Explore Qingdao, a great combination of German architecture, breezy seaside and...the Tsingtao Beer Factory which produces beer using spring water from LaoShan (Mount Lao) and which we intend to visit.

Overnight in Qingdao

Day 11. Wednesday 25 October 2017

LaoShan stands 3,700 feet above Qingdao. Hike over a lovely jumble of granite slabs and thickets of bamboo and pine and visit some of the temples on Lao Shan. This is the only sacred mountain in China with a sea view. An alternative to anyone not wanting to hike would be to relax and follow in the footsteps of Mao Zedong discussing party policy and visit Bathing Beach 2.

Coach to Yantai, the largest fishing seaport in Shandong; Yantai was formerly incorrectly known as Chefoo in the West. Stroll along the promenade to watch the fishermen repairing the nets. If open, there will be time to visit Changyu Wine Company Museum or the Yantai Museum on Nan Dajie.

Overnight in Yantai

Day 12. Thursday 26 October 2017

Drive along the coast to Penglai to see the 14th century Fortress built to be out of sight of Japanese pirate ships active on the coast at that time. Stroll through the wooded hills of Penglai Pavilion where there are many temples and beautiful views out to sea. If lucky, you will see the Penglai mirage.

Overnight in Yantai



**The Happiness Gate
- the landmark of Weihai**

Day 13. Friday 27 October 2017

Coach to Weihai (formerly called Weihaiwei) in the morning. In 1917 this port was used to transport Chinese labourers/farmers to England and France after joining the China Labour Corps to assist in war effort against Germany until the larger port at Cangkou took over this role.

The city still has British-era architecture and has for many years been twinned with Cheltenham. The cuisine here is famous for its seafood which has a fresh and light taste. If the weather is fine, a visit to Chengshantou can be arranged which is 83 miles as the seabirds fly from South Korea.

Overnight in Weihai

Day 14. Saturday 28 October 2017

Weihai:- Visit Liugong Island, 20 minutes by boat from downtown Weihai to visit a) the half-dozen 1894-95 Sino-Japanese museums, b) the Museum detailing when Weihai was leased to the British which has a good reputation for historical accuracy and c) the National Forest.

Overnight in Weihai

Day 15. Sunday 29 October 2017

Breakfast. End of Tour.

For Further Information, please contact either:

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