

BEST OF ASIA

BEIJING - WUXI - SUZHOU - HANGZHOU - SHANGHAI - OSAKA - KYOTO - NARA - NAGOYA - MT. FUJI - TOKYO -
TAIPEI - NANTOU - TAICHUNG - KAOHSIUNG - KENTING - TAITUNG - HUALIEN - TAROKO



24 DAYS FROM

\$4,999

per person twin-share



Explore the Best of Asia, with a tour of Mainland China, Japan, and Taiwan. Experience the wonders of imperial Beijing, cosmopolitan Shanghai, and three historical Chinese cities. Asia's sleeping giant has truly awakened – in case you hadn't noticed! In Japan, discover the first Asian nation to challenge the modern West, while keeping its unique way of life largely intact. High-tech sits comfortably beside ancient wisdom in this incomparable land. In Taiwan, encounter a beautiful island with friendly people who possess many Chinese traditions that were sacrificed in the mainland's revolution, and who have carved out their own place in the world.

Left: Great Wall - Beijing, middle: Fushimi Inari Shrine, right: Fo Guang Shan Buddha Memorial Centre

Nexus Holidays

  Nexus Holidays Australia



HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk on the incredible **Great Wall**
- Race across China on a **bullet train from Beijing to Wuxi**
- Uncover the mystery of the **Forbidden City**
- Stroll in one of the finest **Chinese gardens in Suzhou**
- Immerse yourself in the bustling metropolis **Shanghai**
- Discover **Osaka**, with a day free at selection of optional activities
- In Nara, visit the **Great Eastern Temple with its Great Buddha Hall**

- Explore **Osu Shopping Street's 1200 shops and restaurants**
- Drink from clear springs at the foothills of **Mount Fuji**
- Enjoy optional activities or free time in **Tokyo**
- Visit **Taipei 101**, the world's sixth tallest building
- Stroll through the famous bustling **Night Markets** of Taiwan
- Cruise across **Sun Moon Lake** and experience its tranquil beauty
- Immerse yourself in the natural splendour of **Taroko National Park**

Images: 1. Hangzhou
2. Taipei 101
3. Oshino Hakkai
4. Sun Moon Lake

Day 1: Arrive in Beijing

Fly to Beijing via a connecting city. Upon arrival, you will be warmly greeted at the airport by your tour guide and transferred to your hotel. Note: Some flights may depart the night before.

Day 2: Beijing (B)

Today, visit **Tiananmen Square**, the second largest public square in the world, Tiananmen Square is named after the Tiananmen (Gate of Heavenly Peace) located to the north of the square, separating it from the Forbidden City.

Optional Program Forbidden City Tour (\$80, at your own expense): Continue on to the incredible Forbidden City, a true architectural masterpiece, and the imperial palace from the Ming to the Qing dynasty (1420 to 1912). The Forbidden City was declared a World Heritage Site in 1987 and is listed by UNESCO as the largest collection of preserved ancient wooden structures in the world! Tonight, head out for a optional Beijing speciality, **Peking Duck** (\$40, at your own expense).

Day 3: Beijing (B)

Today's highlight is an excursion to the majestic **Great Wall** at Juyong Pass, the most famous image of China, and a chance to climb a portion of this 6,000 km marvel. You will also visit one of the largest jade exhibitions in Asia en-route. After lunch, see skilled artisans at work at a cloisonné factory. Tonight, you can choose to attend an optional large scale dramatic musical, **The Golden Mask Dynasty** (\$75, at your own expense).

Day 4: Beijing (B)

Enjoy a tour to the **Summer Palace**, the largest preserved ancient garden in China and a former summer resort for Emperors followed by a visit to a Chinese herbal medicine institute. Later, enjoy a rejuvenating foot massage.

Optional Program Hutong Life & Panda House Tour w/Lunch (\$80, at your own expense): A rickshaw will take you around the intricate winding hutongs to admire these old courtyard dwellings, built during the Mongol Yuan Dynasty. Even today, when many have been developed into upscale restaurants, tea houses, and boutiques,

many residents are reluctant to move from their beloved hutongs. Visit a local family's house to experience authentic 'old Beijing' life. Next, visit the Panda House in Beijing Zoo to see China's adorable national treasure – the Giant Panda.

Optional Program Chinese Kung Fu Show (\$75, at your own expense): An energetic mix of traditional Chinese martial arts, dance and high-flying acrobatics set in a modern theatre. Combined with an excellent storyline, exceptional stage design and professional actors this show is not to be missed for Chinese Kung-Fu enthusiasts or those seeking a thrilling performance.

Day 5: Beijing Wuxi (B)

Take a high speed train to Wuxi, an ancient city richly endowed with natural attractions due to its pleasantly warm and moist climate. Wuxi boasts a reputation of being the 'Land of Fish and Rice'. Enjoy the scenery as we pass by **Lake Tai**, the third-largest freshwater lake in China. You can join an optional **Jiangnan Dumpling Lunch** (\$25, at your own expense) that includes the famous **Xiao Long Bao**, a Chinese steamed bun filled with minced pork and tasty soup, prepared in a small bamboo steaming basket.

Day 6: Wuxi Suzhou (B)

Visit one of the largest fresh water pearl exhibitions in the country. Travel to **Suzhou**, an extraordinarily elegant city with its canals, stone bridges, and meticulously designed gardens. Suzhou has been referred to as 'Paradise on Earth' by Chinese poets and writers since ancient times. It is also known as the 'Garden City' due to its many classical gardens, renowned for their charming natural beauty and harmonious construction. Visit the **Lingering Garden**, which is among the finest in China. You can join an optional **Grand Canal Cruise** (\$35, at your own expense) – Take a cruise along the UNESCO World Heritage listed Grand Canal of over a thousand years to view life along what was known as 'China's golden waterway' in its heyday and **Western Buffet Dinner** (\$40, at your own expense) – Enjoy a sumptuous western style buffet dinner at your hotel, a relaxing way to wind down the day.

Day 7: Suzhou Hangzhou (B)

This morning visit a silk spinning mill, and learn how silk is created from mulberry-munching silkworms to produce the finest thread and cloth. After lunch, travel by coach to Hangzhou, described by Marco Polo as "the most beautiful and magnificent city in the world". Upon arrival, take a boat ride on the serene **West Lake**, the most renowned feature of Hangzhou, and noted for its scenic beauty which blends naturally with many famous historical and cultural sites. This evening, you can enjoy an optional open-air performance, **Impression West Lake** (\$80, at your own expense), a masterpiece created by Zhang Yimou, the director of the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics Games Opening Ceremony .

Day 8: Hangzhou Shanghai (B)

Experience tea-tasting at the Dragon Well Tea Plantation. Then to Shanghai, a vibrant metropolis and the commercial centre of China. Upon arrival, walk along the famous **Bund**, a mile-long stretch along the **Huangpu River**. Lined with colonial architecture of European design, it is the best place to capture the Western influences of the old days. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure strolling along the bustling shopping district, **Nanjing Road**. Afterwards, you may enjoy an optional **Huangpu River Cruise** (\$40, at your own expense).

Day 9: Shanghai (B)

This morning, visit the **Shanghai Museum** to see ancient Chinese art, furniture and jade. The rest of the afternoon is at your own leisure, or you may join our optional programs:

Jin Mao Tower, Xintiandi & Maglev Train Tour (\$70, at your own expense): Visit the Jin Mao Tower Observation Deck (88th floor) for a panoramic view of the Huangpu River. Then explore the affluent Xintiandi (New Heaven and Earth) area which holds the historical and cultural legacies of the city. Xintiandi was the site of the first congress of the Communist party of China, and is now the most expensive place to live in China. Next, experience the world's fastest commercially operating train, running between the city and Shanghai airport with a top speed of 431km/h.

ERA: The Intersection of Time, OR Spiral (\$75, at your own expense): Tonight you can watch a stunning Chinese acrobatic show combining Chinese arts and modern technology, comparable to the tradition of the Broadway Musical.

Day 10: Shanghai ✕ Osaka (B)

After breakfast, transfer to Shanghai airport to board your flight to Japan. On arrival in Osaka, your friendly tour guide will be waiting at the airport to transfer you to the airport hotel.

Day 11: Osaka 🚗 Kyoto 🚗 Nara 🚗 Osaka (B)

Travel to Kyoto. Visit **Fushimi Inari Shrine** and **Nijo Castle** before heading to Nara. Visit **Todaiji (Great Eastern Temple)**, with its Great Buddha Hall, the world's largest wooden building. This impressive building houses the world's largest 15m bronze statue of the Buddha Vairocana. Wander through **Nara Park**, where over 1,200 wild sika deer roam free, before travelling back to Osaka.

Day 12: Osaka (B)

Spend today free at your own leisure. You can join our wide range of optional programs. Please see optional programs for more information.

Day 13: Osaka 🚗 Nagoya (B)

This morning, head to Nagoya and visit **Inuyama Castle**. Then, head to **Atsuta Shinto Shrine** (covering 200,000 square meters and established almost 2000 years ago) before enjoying some time for shopping at the **Osu Kannon Shopping Quarter**. Transfer to your hotel in the evening.

Day 14: Nagoya 🚗 Mount Fuji 🚗 Tokyo (B)

Today, visit **Oshino Hakkai**. Known as the springs of Mount Fuji, the eight ponds are fed by melting snow filtering down from the slopes of nearby Mount Fuji, through porous layers of lava, resulting in very clear spring water that is revered by locals. Afterwards, visit **Gotemba Peace Park** to capture a breathtaking view of Mount Fuji, and **Hakone Shinto Shrine**. Standing at the foot of Mount Hakone along the shores of Lake Ashi, the shrine buildings are hidden in dense forest. Finally, visit **Owakudani** - 'Great Boiling Valley' is a valley formed by the explosion of Hakone volcano more than 300 years ago, and contains hot springs and steaming sulphur vents - visitors usually eat eggs cooked in the boiling, sulphurous waters. At the end of the day we head to Tokyo.

Day 15: Tokyo (B)

Spend today free at leisure. You may wish to visit **Tokyo Disneyland or DisneySea** (admission \$120). Alternatively, you can join our wide range of optional programs. Please see optional programs for more information.

Day 16: Tokyo ✕ Taipei (B)

Spend today free at leisure before transferring to the airport. Fly to Taiwan. Upon arrival, you will be greeted warmly at the airport by your tour guide and transferred to your hotel (check in time: 3pm).

Day 17: Taipei (B, D)

Today's highlight is a visit to the **Presidential Building** (outside) and **Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall**. Next, we visit **Tamsui**, a laid back waterfront town on the northern part of Taipei city. Enjoy lunch today at **Tamsui Old Street**, where you can feast on many **Taiwanese snacks**. Visit **Lin An Tai Historical House and Museum**. This elegant building is built in the style of prosperous houses in China's Fujian province. In the evening, explore the bustling night life of Taipei. Have a traditional **Taiwanese dinner of Xiao Long Bao**, then proceed to colourful **Huaishi Night Market**.

Day 18: Taipei 🚗 Sun Moon Lake (B, D)

Travel to **Sun Moon Lake**, situated 762 meters above sea level in the lofty mountains of central Taiwan for a view of **Xuanguang Temple & Lalu Island** as you relax on the lake's tranquil waters. Then, take Sun Moon Lake Ropeway to the **Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village** and observe Taiwanese traditional indigenous lifestyles and traditions. After a dinner of Taiwanese-style Roasted Chicken, check in to the hotel.

Day 19: Sun Moon Lake 🚗 Fo Guang Shan 🚗 Kaohsiung (B, D)

After breakfast, we will head to an Oolong Tea Farm before continuing south towards **Kaohsiung** and **Fo Guang Shan Buddha Memorial Centre (BMC)**. Completed in 2011, BMC has enshrined a relic of the Buddha given by Tibetan Lama Kunga Dorje Rinpoche, since the beginning of construction in 2001. We will be spending most of our day at this place to enjoy the serene atmosphere and explore the entire area at our leisure. Then, learn how to make **Pineapple Tarts at the popular Vigor Pineapple Factory**. Later we will be enter Kaohsiung City and explore **Pier 2 Art Central**, where 25 former warehouses have been converted into a thriving arts precinct. After dinner (Taiwanese Shabu Shabu hotpot), explore one of **Kaohsiung's bustling night markets**.

Day 20: Kaohsiung 🚗 Kenting 🚗 Taitung (B, D)

Visit to **Kenting National Park**, Taiwan's first nationally recognised park and undoubtedly one of the most spectacular landscapes you will see. Be awestruck by the vastness of the natural reserve and stand on the southernmost tip of the island at **Maopitou** and **Longpan Park**, also known as 'The Light of East Asia'. This afternoon, head to **Kenting Main Street** in the heart of Kenting, an area bustling with locals, tourists and vendors. Spend lunchtime discovering the numerous stalls and restaurants offering a variety of local snacks and cuisines. Travel up the scenic **Southern Link Highway** to Taitung County.

Day 21: Taitung 🚗 Taroko 🚗 Hualien (B, D)

The highlight today is a visit to the **East Coast National Scenic Area**, known as Taiwan's 'last unspoiled land'. Weathering and erosion have produced a wide range of breathtaking landforms here which can only be appreciated first-hand. Stop at **Siao-ye-liou, San-sien-tai** (Three Immortals Island), **Shi-ti-ping** (Stone Steps) and take in the spectacular views. Proceed to Hualien, to **Taroko National Park**. Encompassing Taroko Gorge, Swallow Grotto, and Shakadong Trail, the park covers over 120,000 hectares and rises from sea level in the east to heights of over 3700m further west. The aquamarine Liwu River cuts through the centre, forging deep slit valleys before joining the sea.

Day 22: Hualien 🚗 Taipei (B,D)

Today, visit a **Marble Factory** on the return trip to Taipei. Depending on the size of the group, **visit local scenic towns Yilan or Shifen**. These towns are both rich in culture and local history. Later, visit **Taipei 101** (admission fr \$25, payable to the guide), experience soaring heights and impressive views at the tallest building in Taiwan. Dinner will be at Takao Restaurant hotpot (or similar, depending on availability).

Day 23: Depart Taipei (B)

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home via a connecting city.

Day 24: Arrive home

📅 2019 DEPARTURES

🌸 12 Mar**	30 Apr*	02 Jul*	20 Aug
🌸 19 Mar**	14 May	16 Jul*	27 Aug
🌸 26 Mar**	28 May	30 Jul	29 Oct
09 Apr*	11 Jun	13 Aug	05 Nov

*Peak Season Surcharge: \$300

🌸**Cherry Blossom Season Surcharge: \$500
Single supplement: \$1850

✈️ DEPARTURE OPTIONS

- SYD/MEL: Airfare included
- Other cities: fr \$300

⊕ INCLUSIONS

- + Full service Chinese carrier airfares & taxes
- + 22 nights 3-4 star (local rating) hotel accomm.
- + Daily breakfast and 6 dinners
- + Internal flights (operated by local carriers)
- + High speed train
- + Coach transportation & transfers
- + Entrance fees to scenic attractions (unless otherwise indicated)
- + English-speaking tour guide(s)

⊗ EXCLUSIONS

- Prepaid tipping: \$240
- China visa
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)

✈️ AIR UPGRADES (long haul int'l sectors)

- Economy class: Cathay Pacific fr \$700
- Premium economy: Cathay Pacific fr \$2400
- Business class: Southern fr \$3000, Cathay Pacific fr \$4100

🕒 EXTEND YOUR STAY

- Break fee: fr \$300
- Hotel w/breakfast : fr \$160/twin-share/night

🏨 HOTEL ACCOMMODATION (or similar)

Beijing	Chunhuiyuan Hot Springs Hotel
Wuxi	Swiss-Belhotel Liyuan
Suzhou	Holiday Inn Suzhou Taihu Lake
Hangzhou	Hangzhou Merchant Marco Edgelake
Shanghai	Wassim Hotel Zhousu
Osaka	Bellevue Garden Kansai Airport
Osaka	Hotel Alexander Namba
Nagoya	Loisir hotel Toyohashi
Tokyo	Hotel Rose Garden Shinjuku
Taipei	Taipei Grace Hotel
Nantou	Nantou Hotel Formosa
Kaohsiung	Kaohsiung City Suite Hotel
Taitung	Chihpen Century Hotel Hot Spring
Hualien	Hualien Park City Hotel Hualien
Taipei	Tamshui Park City

🎈 OPTIONAL PROGRAMS

Japan programs please refer to next page



All prices are per person twin-share in AUD unless otherwise stated and subject to revision without notice. Itineraries, airlines, hotels & ships are subject to availability and change. Nexus Holidays reserves the right to provide substitutes of similar quality and adjust the itinerary as we see fit to ensure smooth operations. Late March to early April is historically the best time to view cherry blossoms and early November to see crimson leaves, but is not guaranteed as they are highly seasonal and subject to climatic conditions. Passengers must remain with the group at all times. Fees may apply for deviations from the set itinerary. Total length of trip includes time spent in flight and is subject to flight schedule. Final itineraries and flight info may not be available until 2 weeks before departure. Several shopping stops are included as cultural learning experiences with no obligation to purchase local specialty products. Booking conditions apply, refer to website for latest information. ver28JUN2018



Tokyo Day Tour \$250

Japan's capital, Tokyo, is packed with so much to see and do. First stop on this tour is Asakusa Kannon Temple, one of Tokyo's most colourful and popular temples. Afterwards visit Meiji Shrine, dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his consort, Empress Shoken. Proceed to the fashion district Harajuku and Shibuya, an affluent and trendy shopping hotspot. Then proceed to Tokyo Tower, where you will observe the amazing city of Tokyo from up above. Then, relax on a Tokyo bay cruise en route to the beautiful and serene landscaped Hamarikyu Garden beside Tokyo Bay.

Osaka Day Tour \$250

This tour will take you to Osaka Castle which was built in 1583 as the intended capital of Japan, before the capital was moved to Edo (now known as Tokyo). Walk through the majestic castle while learning from the exhibit detailing life in old Osaka. From there, walk to the nearby river boat dock to board the Osaka River Cruise for a cruise around Nakanoshima. Explore Shinsaibashi and Dotonbori, the vast restaurant districts, with eateries offering a variety of Japan's most famous street foods. Then travel down to Umeda Skybuilding, where you will get a sweeping view of Osaka. Tour finishes in Osaka.

World Heritage Nikko Guided Day Tour \$290

Nikko is a major centre for Buddhism and the Shinto religion. It is located in a valley and surrounded by beautiful deciduous forests and majestic waterfalls. This optional tour will take you to the UNESCO World Heritage Site Nikko Toshogu Shrine. This area is well known for its distinctive architecture made up of a large number of wood carvings and gold leaf decorations on the buildings. This design is unique and not seen elsewhere in Japan. You will also visit Kegon Waterfall (around 100m high) which is the main natural attraction in Nikko. This is the best spot to view maple leaves during autumn. Note: This tour is subject to minimum numbers. Tour guide will meet you at the hotel and transportation will be by public transport.

Himeji Castle and Akashi Kaikyo Bridge Walking Day Tour \$250

Please contact us for the available dates. Himeji Castle is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site and is well-known for its elegant white decorations and magnificent appearance. Unlike many other Japanese castles, this early 17th century castle is an original; never damaged by war, earthquakes or fires. Its complex structure was designed as an advanced defence mechanism and continues to draw in many visitors today. After lunch, walk on the world's longest suspension bridge – Akashi Kaikyo Bridge, which is almost 4 kilometres long. Walk along the Maiko Marine Promenade underneath the bridge, which is 50m above the water. *Lunch and return train tickets between Osaka Station and Sannomiya Station are included (your guide will meet you and send you off at Himeji Station, you will need to make your own way to/from Osaka station).

Tokyo Disneyland Day Ticket \$120

Tokyo Disneyland is a 115-acre (47 ha) theme park, near Tokyo. Its main gate is directly adjacent to both Maihama Station and Tokyo Disneyland Station. The park has seven themed areas: the World Bazaar; the four classic Disneylands: Adventureland, Westernland, Fantasyland and Tomorrowland; and two mini-lands: Critter Country and Mickey's Toontown. Many of the games and rides in these areas mirror those in the original Disneyland as they are based on American Disney films and fantasies.

Tokyo DisneySea Day Ticket \$120

Tokyo DisneySea is a 176-acre (71.22 ha) theme park at the Tokyo Disney Resort. In 2002 Tokyo DisneySea won a Thea Award from the Themed Entertainment Association for the concept, design, and construction of the theme park. Tokyo DisneySea also won the 2012-2015 Theme Park Insider Awards "Best theme park". There are seven uniquely themed areas or "ports of call". The entrance to the park is Mediterranean Harbour, which opens up to six additional nautically-themed ports: American Waterfront, Lost River Delta, Port Discovery, Mermaid Lagoon, Arabian Coast, and Mysterious Island.

Robot Restaurant \$100

Not just any restaurant and bar, Tokyo's Robot Restaurant is most famous for its late night robot-themed dancing and battle shows. Behold an outrageous and electrifying live spectacle featuring Japanese taiko drum performances as well as mock battles between bikini-clad dancing girls, giant robotic dinosaurs, cyborgs, ninjas and a host of other bizarre characters, staged in a theatrical LED-fitted room bursting with kaleidoscopic neon-lit laser beams, virtual fireworks, explosions and energetic techno music. Please choose from the times below: 17:55, 19:50 or 21:45~ \$100 for show tickets & be there at least 30 minutes before. Please enquire if you wish to add a meal package.

Tea Ceremony (30 minutes) \$75

The Japanese tea ceremony is a traditional ritual influenced by the principles of Zen Buddhism, in which powdered green tea, or matcha, is prepared and served to a small group in a quiet setting. Traditional Japanese confectionary is often served to balance out the bitter taste of the green tea.

Highlights:

- > Learn the process of the Japanese tea ceremony from a qualified tea instructor
- > Learn which utensils to use to prepare green tea in a traditional Japanese room (tatami)
- > Discover the customs, culture and hospitality of the Japanese people

Physical considerations: The tea ceremony is performed in a kneeling position (seiza) on the floor. This puts pressure on your knees and ankles. Please be cautious of joining this optional program if you have a condition that prevents you from kneeling on the floor for a short period of time.

Optional: Wear traditional Japanese garment (kimono) and experience a tea ceremony



Images: 5. Tokyo DisneySea, 6. Tea Ceremony, 7. Himeji Castle, 8. Kimono Photo Shoot

Kimono Photo Shoot (60 minutes) \$120

The kimono is the traditional dress of Japan and is representative of its culture and heritage. The dress consists of a long robe with wide sleeves and is usually made of various materials and patterns. Today the kimono is only worn sparingly, on formal occasions such as weddings, funerals, tea ceremonies or other special events. Take part in a memorable photo shoot at a studio where you can dress up in a kimono of your choice. You can take photos with your own camera or you may choose to purchase a photo package plan from the photographers.

Highlights:

- > Dress up in a kimono of your choice for the photo shoot.
- > Have your photos taken for free with your own camera or purchase the photos from the professional photographers.

Sushi Experience & Tsukiji Half Day Guided Walking Tour \$240

Take a closer look at the fascinating world of sushi, extending from the ocean to your plate. On this tour you will take part in a sushi-making class and visit the world-famous Tsukiji fish market. Tour the world's largest seafood market as you discover the vast selections of fresh seafood they have to offer. Then turn your attention to sushi-making, learning to prepare nigiri sushi with the help of a sushi master. Finish your experience by enjoying your creations for lunch. Note: This tour is subject to minimum numbers. Tour guide will meet you at the hotel and transportation will be by public transport.

Note: Transportation is not included for optional programs & are subject to availability.

