Savour the beauty of China’s ancient history, delicate cuisine and modern architecture. Walk along the Great Wall and unfold the mystery of the Forbidden City in China’s capital Beijing, discover the exquisite southeastern cities Wuxi, Suzhou, and Hangzhou – long known for their natural beauty, and immerse yourself in dynamic, cosmopolitan Shanghai.

Image: Grand Canal, Suzhou

11 DAYS FROM
$1199
per person twin-share

Nexus Holidays Australia

Image: Grand Canal, Suzhou
Day 1: Arrive in Beijing
Fly to Beijing via connecting cities and transfer to the hotel. Note: Some flights may depart the night before. Beijing, China’s massive capital, has a history stretching back three millennia, and since the 2008 Olympic Games, it has been known for its modern architecture as well as grand ancient sites such as the Forbidden City complex, the imperial palace during the Ming and Qing dynasties. Please note: Some flights may depart the night before.

Day 2: Beijing (B)
Today, visit Tiansanmen Square, the second largest public square in the world, Tiansanmen Square is named after the Tiansanmen (Gate of Heavenly Peace) located to the north of the square, separating it from the Forbidden City. The square contains the Monument to the People’s Heroes, the National Museum of China and the Mausoleum of Chairman Mao Zedong, and holds great cultural significance as it was the site of several important events in Chinese history.

Optional Program Forbidden City Tour (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 complex is home to the National Palace Museum, and consists of 980 buildings covering 72 ha (over 180 acres). 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 specialty which is one of the most famous Chinese dishes, Peking Duck (at your own expense).

Day 3: Beijing (B)
Today’s highlight is an excursion to the majestic Great Wall of China at Juyong Pass. This is one of the three most famous passes along the Wall, together with Jiayuguan and Shanhaiguan. Just 60 km from downtown Beijing, Juyong Pass was the northern route to Beijing in ancient times. Once here, there is plenty of time to learn about the wall’s construction and you’ll have the chance to climb a portion of this 6,000 km marvel.

On the way back to Beijing, we stop at one of the largest jade exhibitions in Asia. Then, after lunch, see skilled artisans at work at a cloisonne factory. Cloisonne is a famous traditional enamel ware, known as the ‘Blue of Jingta’ in China, with a history of over 500 years. It was so called because blue was the colour typically used for enamelling, and Jingta was the reign title of the 7th Ming Emperor.

Optional Program The Golden Mask Dynasty (at your own expense): This phenomenal show incorporates dancing, acrobatics, magnificent costumes and lot of surprises. Seen by an estimated 1.1 million people, it is one of Beijing’s must-see shows.

Day 4: Beijing (B)
Enjoy a tour to the Summer Palace, the largest preserved ancient garden in China and a former summer resort for Emperor’s followed by a visit to a Chinese Herbal Medicine Institute to learn about traditional Chinese medicine, which has existed for thousands of years, as you enjoy a rejuvenating foot massage.

Optional Program Hutong Life & Panda House Tour with Lunch (at your own expense): A rickshaw will take you around the intricate winding hutongs to admire these old courtyard dwellings, and visit the Panda House in Beijing Zoo to see China’s adorable national treasure – the Giant Panda.

Optional Program Chinese Kung Fu Show (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. This evening, we will stroll along the trendy yet traditional Nanchang Street, composed of both ancient and modern architecture, and juxtaposed with the peaceful atmosphere of the waterside town and fashionable life of Wuxi.

Optional Program Jiangnan Dumpling Lunch (at your own expense): Enjoy a traditional lunch 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 (xiao long).

Day 6: Wuxi — Suzhou (B)
This morning visit one of the largest fresh water pearl exhibitions in the country. After lunch, travel by coach 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. As a large area of the city is covered by water, including a vast number of ponds and streams, Suzhou is also known as ‘Venice of the East’. 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.

Optional Program Canal Cruise (at your own expense): Take a cruise along the UNESCO World Heritage listed Grand Canal of over a thousand years to view life along as China’s ‘golden waterway’ in its heyday.

Optional Western Buffet Dinner (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.

Optional Program Impression West Lake (at your own expense): This evening, enjoy an open-air performance, a masterpiece created by Zhang Yimou, acclaimed film and theatre director, and architect 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 option Huangpu River Cruise (at your own expense).

Optional Program Huangpu River Cruise (at your own expense): As you cruise along the Huangpu River, you will get a glimpse of the history and spectacular view of cosmopolitan Shanghai. On one side of the river, there is The Bund, a landmark of Shanghai. Lining the boulevard of the waterfront are grandiose solid buildings of Western style dating back to the early 19th century. On the other side is the charming image of modern Shanghai.
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** (at your own expense) and **ERA: The Intersection of Time, OR Spiral** (at your own expense): Visit the Jin Mao Tower Observation Deck (88th floor) for a panoramic view of the Huangpu River and the Bund. 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.

Tonight you can watch a stunning Chinese acrobatic show combining Chinese performing arts and modern technology, comparable to the traditional of the Broadway Musical.

**Note:** These programs cannot be combined with Shanghai Disneyland Package.

**OR Shanghai Disneyland Package** (at your own expense): Newly opened in June 2016. Shanghai Disneyland showcases a never-before-seen world of wonder where you can ignite the magical dream within your heart and experience fun, adventure and thrills for guests of all ages! Includes standard Shanghai Disneyland admission and one transfer in each direction.

**Note:** Departure transfer is at a set time. If you prefer to stay behind at the resort, you must make your own way back to the hotel. This package cannot be combined with other optional programs on this day.

Day 10: Depart Shanghai (B)
You will be transferred to the airport for your return flight home via a connecting city.

Day 11: Arrive Home
VICTORIA JENNA (or similar)

After the tour, relax as you cruise along the majestic Yangtze River. Discover the dramatic gorges, mountain villages and breathtaking scenery. A Yangtze River cruise is the thrill of a lifetime. The images will stay with you long after you have returned home.

EXECUTIVE SERVICE PACKAGE INCLUSIONS

VICTORIA CRUISES – $150

- Complimentary Wi-Fi service in the Executive Lounge and Lobby areas
- Complimentary Regular Laundry Service before 10AM every day (Maximum of four pieces/person/day, not available on embarkation & disembarkation days)
- Complimentary Shoe Shine Service
- Diet soda included for lunch and dinner service
- Complimentary house wine and beer offerings at dinner
- Beverage service available daily in Executive Lounge incl. cookies, soft drinks, tea & coffee
- Afternoon Happy Hour an hour before dinner (House Wine, beer, and soda). Note: No Happy Hour on the second day
- You may choose which dining room you prefer for your meals—downstairs buffet for all meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner), or upstairs on Deck 6 for buffet breakfast and lunch, a la carte for dinner.

MAJESTIC YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE 5 DAYS 4 NIGHTS
fr $950; single supplement $750; includes
+ Economy class flights
+ 4 nights standard Cabin with private balcony (twin-share)
+ 4 breakfasts (B), 3 lunches (L) & 4 dinners (D)
+ All transfers
+ 3 shore excursions (subject to change & favourable weather conditions)

Excludes prepaid tipping: $50 & optional shore excursions

Note: Cruise ship is subject to change. Triple share is not available. Nexus Holidays reserves the right to substitute the ship with one of similar standard. Cruise itinerary including all arrival, departure times & shore excursions are subject to change.

Day 10: Shanghai Yichang Yangtze River Cruise (D)
This morning fly to the port city of Yichang, the starting point of our Yangtze River Cruise for the next four nights. After dinner, we board the cruise and receive an introduction on cruise events and onboard activities.

Day 11: Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D)
Today, your cruise enters the Xiling Gorge. Named for Mount Xiling, this is the longest of the Three Gorges. In fact, Xiling Gorge comprises four smaller gorges with rather poetic names; Precious Sword, Horse Lung & Ox Liver, Soundless Bell, and Shadow Play.

Day 12: Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D)

Day 13: Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D)

Day 14: Depart Chongqing (B)
After breakfast, disembark from our cruise in the port city of Chongqing at 9am. Transfer to the airport for a connecting flight home.

Day 15: Arrive Home