

GRAND TOUR OF CHINA

BEIJING - XI'AN - YANGTZE CRUISE - CHENGDU - LESHAN - GUILIN - YANGSHUO - SUZHOU - SHANGHAI



22 DAYS FROM

\$4,299

per person twin-share



This comprehensive Grand Tour of China is designed to be a trip-of-a-lifetime and showcases China's amazing history, rich culture, natural wonders, charming landscapes, and dramatic economic, social, and architectural changes that characterise its future. In 22 days you will experience the very essence of this amazing country. The combination of places visited encapsulates China's past, present and future. This is a magnificent tour of amazing and unforgettable experiences!

Image: Li River

Nexus Holidays

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Images: 1. Great Wall, 2. Terracotta Army, 3. Grand Buddha, 4. Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, 5. Guilin, 6. Wuzhen, 7. Old Town of Shanghai, 8. Fishmen in Guilin

Day 1: Arrive in Beijing

Fly to Beijing via a connecting city. Please note: Some flights may depart the day after.

Day 2: Beijing (D)

Arrive in Beijing, the capital city of China. You will be warmly greeted at the airport by your tour guide and transferred to the hotel.

Day 3: Beijing (B, L, D)

Beijing has served as the capital of five dynasties over a period of 800 years. Today we start our city tour with a visit to **Tiananmen Square**, the second largest public square in the world, followed by a visit to the **Forbidden City**, the Chinese imperial palace from the Ming to the Qing dynasty. In the afternoon, we continue to the **Temple of Heaven**, which was used by emperors in ancient times to offer sacrifices to heaven and pray for good harvest. Tonight, enjoy a special Peking Duck welcome banquet. After dinner, you can choose to attend an optional large scale dramatic musical, **The Golden Mask Dynasty** (at your own expense).

Day 4: Beijing (B, L, D)

Our highlight today is an excursion to the majestic **Great Wall** at Juyong Pass, the most famous image of China. After lunch, visit a **Fresh Water Pearl Exhibition** and then see skilled artisans at work at a **Cloisonné Factory**. Later, visit the **Changling Exhibition Hall of the Ming Tombs** where thirteen out of the sixteen Ming dynasty emperors are buried. We cap off the day by attending a superb and thrilling **Chinese acrobatic show** in the evening.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Beijing:** Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Great Wall, Chinese Acrobatic Show, Summer Palace, Bird's Nest, Water Cube, Hutongs, Wangfujing, Peking Roast Duck
- **Xi'an:** Terracotta Warriors & Horses Museum, Dumpling Banquet, Shaanxi Provincial Museum, Ancient City Wall, Great Wild Goose Pagoda
- **Yangtze River Cruise:** Three Gorges Dam, Three Gorges
- **Chengdu:** Get up close to the adorable giant pandas, Jin Li culture street, Sichuan Cuisine
- **Leshan:** Stand at the foot of the towering Grand Buddha
- **Guilin:** Li River, Elephant Trunk Hill, Reed Flute Caves
- **Yangshuo:** Yangshuo Village, West Street
- **Wuzhen:** Wuzhen Ancient Water Town
- **Suzhou:** Grand Canal, Lingering Garden
- **Shanghai:** Bund, Old Town, Huangpu River, Shanghai Museum, Xintiandi Area, Shanghai Cuisine

Day 5: Beijing (B, L)

This morning we tour the exquisite **Summer Palace** (Imperial Garden), the largest preserved ancient garden in China and a former summer resort for Emperors, followed by an outside view of the beautiful **Bird's Nest** (National Stadium) and **Water Cube** (National Aquatics Centre), both purposely built for the 2008 Olympics. Then visit a **Chinese Herbal Institute** to learn about traditional Chinese medicine as you enjoy a rejuvenating foot massage. In the afternoon, we explore Beijing's ancient **Hutong** alleyways by pedicab, followed by a stroll in **Wangfujing**. Tonight, cap off the day by attending a superb and thrilling **Chinese Kung-Fu Show** (at your own expense).

Day 6: Beijing ✈ Xi'an (B, L, D)

This morning fly to Xi'an, the first Chinese city to open its doors to the world, during the Tang dynasty, and the capital for eleven dynasties over a period of more than 2,000 years. Our highlight today is a visit to the **Terracotta Army & Horses Museum**, to see the life-sized defending army to the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang. This site is among the most significant archaeological excavations of the 20th century. Later, visit a ceramic arts factory, followed by a special **Dumpling Banquet**, while enjoying a **performance of music and dance from the Tang Dynasty** (618-907 AD).

Day 7: Xi'an (B, L, D)

This morning we visit the fascinating **Shaanxi Provincial Museum**, followed by lunch featuring a noodle making demonstration. After lunch we visit the **Ancient City Wall**, the most complete ancient city wall to survive in China. Later, visit the **Great Wild Goose Pagoda**, the symbol of the city.

Day 8: Xi'an ✈ Wuhan 🚢 Yichang 🚢 Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D)

This morning we fly to Wuhan and transfer by coach (approx 4-5 hours) to Yichang, the starting point of our **Yangtze River Cruise** for the next four nights. Note: Cruise subject to change.

Day 9-11: Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D)

We enjoy a tour to the **Three Gorges Dam**, the world's largest, before cruising on the Yangtze River. Over the next few days, relax and enjoy the beautiful scenery as we cross through the **Yangtze Three Gorges: Xiling, Wu, and Qutang**. Enjoy shore excursions to explore the fascinating history and tranquil landscapes.

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

We disembark from our cruise in the port city of Chongqing this morning and transfer (approximately 5 hours drive) to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province. This evening we will feast on sumptuous **Sichuan cuisine**.

Day 13: Chengdu 🚢 Leshan 🚢 Chengdu (B, L, D)

Today we will travel to Leshan to marvel at the **Grand Buddha**, an enormous statue carved into the side of the Lingyun Mountain. The Buddha is over 71m tall and is wide enough for over 100 people to sit between its feet. Later, return to Chengdu and explore the dynamic folk custom street, **Jin Li**, and experience the lifestyle of Old Chengdu. This evening, you can watch a fascinating show featuring **'face changing'** (at your own expense), a kind of magic traditional Chinese dramatic art that is the pride of Sichuan opera.



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Day 14: Chengdu ✈️ Guilin (B, L, D)

Today's highlight is a visit to the **Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding**. This is the best place to see Chengdu's most famous residents being reared in surroundings resembling their natural habitat. This evening we will be transferred to the airport to board our flight to Guilin, one of China's most picturesque cities.

Day 15: Guilin 🚢 Yangshuo (B, L, D)

Today we enjoy a relaxing Xingping River cruise along the **Li River**. The journey offers 30 miles of breathtaking scenery. We arrive in **Yangshuo Village** in the afternoon and walk along the 1,400 year old **West Street** and explore the beautiful **Yangshuo local village**. You may enjoy an optional show tonight - **Impression Liu San Jie**, a large scale ethnic performance over the Li River (at your own expense).

Day 16: Yangshuo 🚢 Guilin (B, L, D)

With its name translating to 'Forest of Sweet Osmanthus', Guilin has long been renowned for its unique scenery, amazing karst landscapes and rich ethnic cultures. This morning we tour **Elephant Trunk Hill** and the **Reed Flute Caves** and will be amazed by the extraordinary karst limestone formations.

Day 17: Guilin ✈️ Shanghai 🚢 Suzhou (B, L, D)

This morning we fly to Shanghai, the modern metropolis and commercial centre of China. Upon arrival, we travel by coach to Suzhou, known as the 'Venice of the East' or 'Garden City' due to its many classical gardens known for their charming natural beauty and harmonious construction. This morning we take a **Grand Canal Cruise** and visit the **Lingering Garden**, one of the four greatest Chinese gardens and a UNESCO world heritage site. We then visit a silk spinning mill and learn how silk is created from mulberry munching silkworms to produce the finest thread and cloth.

Day 18: Suzhou 🚢 Wuzhen (B, L, D)

Today, we explore beautiful **Wuzhen water town** built on stilts over a system of canals, with traditional wooden homes and stone bridges. Ride a boat along the ancient canal to the scenic waterfront area, where you will experience traditional culture and stay in a traditional lodge.

Day 19: Wuzhen 🚢 Shanghai (B, L, D)

This morning we travel by coach back to Shanghai and walk along the famous **Bund**, a mile-long stretch along the Huangpu River. Lined by colonial architecture of European design, this area is the best place to capture the western influences of the old days. We then continue to the **Old Town** which is a perfect combination of gardens, temples, old architecture, civil culture, business, souvenirs and food. After dinner, you may join an optional **Huangpu River Cruise** (at your own expense) and get a glimpse of the dazzling and charming night view of Shanghai.

Day 20: Shanghai (B, L, D)

This morning we visit the **Shanghai Museum** to see ancient Chinese art, furniture and jade followed by a **Jade Exhibition**. Then we explore the **Xintiandi Area**, an affluent and fashionable pedestrian street composed of unique shikumen (stone gate) and modern architecture style. Our farewell dinner this evening will be a banquet of delicious **Shanghai cuisine**. You can cap off the celebrations by attending a thrilling optional Chinese acrobatic show - **ERA: The Intersection of Time or SPIRAL** (at your own expense).

Day 21: Depart Shanghai (B)

Enjoy the morning at leisure before we transfer to Shanghai airport to board your flight home via an intermediate city. The trip may be over, but the experiences and memories will certainly last a lifetime.

Day 22: Arrive Home

2019 DEPARTURES

05 May 11 Aug 11 Sep
15 May 21 Aug 20 Oct
02 Jun* 01 Sep* 30 Oct

*Peak season surcharge: \$300
Single supplement: \$1500

✈️ DEPARTURE OPTIONS

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

⊕ INCLUSIONS

- + Full service Chinese carrier economy international airfares & taxes
- + 15 nights 4-5 star hotel (local rating) accomm.
- + 4 nights standard Cabin with Private Balcony
- + 3 shore excursions (subject to change)
- + 19 breakfasts (B), 18 lunches (L) & 18 dinners (D)
- + Internal flights (operated by a local carrier)
- + Coach transportation & transfers
- + Entrance fees to scenic attractions (unless otherwise indicated)
- + English speaking tour guide(s)

⊗ EXCLUSIONS

- Prepaid tipping: \$250
- China visa
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)

✈️ AIR UPGRADES (long haul int'l sectors)

- Economy class: Cathay Pacific/Singapore Air fr \$500
- Business class: China Eastern/Southern fr \$2500, Cathay Pacific/Singapore Air fr \$4100

🕒 EXTEND YOUR STAY

- Break fee: fr \$250
- Hotel w/breakfast: \$75 twin-share, \$150 single

🚗 HOTEL ACCOMMODATION (or similar)

Beijing	Wynham Beijing North
Xi'an	Titan Times Hotel
Cruise	M.S. Yangtze 2
Chengdu	Sheraton Hotel
Guilin	Grand Link Hotel
Yangshuo	Jasper International Hotel
Suzhou	Pan Pacific Hotel
Wuzhen	Wuzhen Lodge or similar
Shanghai	Wyndham Bund East Hotel

🎪 OPTIONAL PROGRAMS

Beijing	The Golden Mask Dynasty	\$75
Beijing	Chinese Kung-Fu Show	\$75
Chengdu	Face-Changing Show	\$55
Yangshuo	Impression Liu San Jie	\$80
Shanghai	ERA: The Intersection of Time OR Spiral	\$75
Shanghai	Huangpu River Cruise	\$40



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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. 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. ver18SEP2018

After walking along the Great Wall in Beijing,, change pace and 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. You will enjoy the stunning picturesque scenery and amazing natural beauty of the famed Three Gorges: Qutang, Wu, and Xiling, while exploring the historic relics and ancient cultural sites along the mighty river.

Enjoy shore excursions to explore the fascinating history and tranquil landscapes including the spectacle of Fengdu Ghost City, a peculiar site that contains statues of demons and ghosts that roam the after-world; the fun of drifting through Shennong Stream, which offers clear running waters, picturesque rock formations, and monkeys and goats along its banks; and the wonder of the Three Gorges Dam.

A Yangtze River cruise is a visual delight, full of pleasant surprises and many treasures waiting to be discovered. The images will stay with you long after you have returned home.



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The **M.S. YANGTZE 2** is the biggest cruise ship on the Yangtze River, at 139m long and 13,000 tons. Debuting in 2011, the M.S. Yangtze 2 is spacious, luxurious, and truly modern. Private balconies are provided for all cabins. A number of cultural activities are provided covering topics such as Tai Chi & Chinese calligraphy, and there are daily performances. Aboard this 'floating 5 star hotel', you'll find shops, a day spa, beauty salon, sauna and massage therapists, as well as a business centre, library, cards and chess room, and cigar bar.

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.



Pamper yourself by upgrading to an executive package onboard your Yangtze River cruise extension. Contact Nexus Holidays for details.

 YOUR TRAVEL AGENT



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POST-TOUR EXTENSION HONG KONG & MACAU 3 NIGHTS

- from \$1099; single supplement \$320; includes
- + Cathay Pacific economy international airfares & taxes
- + 3 nights hotel accommodation: Harbour Plaza 8 Degrees Hotel 4 star or similar (twin-share)
- + 3 breakfasts (B) & 1 Lunch (B)
- + Round trip airport & transfers
- + Half day Hong Kong Island sightseeing tour
- + Macau day tour, lunch & round trip ferry tickets

Day 21: Shanghai ✕ Hong Kong (B)

Fly to Hong Kong, the gourmet and shopping paradise of Asia, and transfer to your hotel.

Day 22: Hong Kong (B)

Enjoy a half day tour of Hong Kong Island visiting **Victoria Peak, Stanley Market** and **Aberdeen Fishing Village**. Spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 23: Hong Kong Macau Hong Kong (B, L)

Today, take a high speed ferry (Turbojet) to Macau for a tour of Asia's equivalent to Las Vegas, visiting the **Ruins of St Paul's Cathedral, A Ma Temple, Barrier Gate, Senado Square**, casinos and souvenir stores. Enjoy lunch before returning to Hong Kong in the evening.

Day 24: Depart Hong Kong (B)

After breakfast, transfer to Hong Kong airport to board an overnight flight to home.

Day 25: Arrive Home

Images: 9. M.S. Yangtze 2, 10. Yangtze River Cruise, 11. Hong Kong skyline, 12. Victoria Peak Tram, 13. Aberdeen Fishing Village, 14. Senado Square, 15. St Paul's Cathedral.

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