

TASTE OF CHINA

BEIJING - WUXI - SUZHOU - HANGZHOU



9 DAYS FROM

\$999

per person twin-share



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. You'll also have the option to extend your tour to include dynamic, cosmopolitan Shanghai, including a trip to Disneyland!

Image: Beijing city

Nexus Holidays

  Nexus Holidays Australia



Images: 1. Great Wall, 2. Wuxi, 3. Forbidden City, 4. Terracotta Army, 5. Xi'an Ancient City Wall, 6. Shanghai Disneyland, 7. Huangpu River

Day 1: Arrive in Beijing

Fly to Beijing via connecting cities and transfer to the hotel. 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 **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. 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 speciality which is one of the most famous Chinese dishes, **Peking Duck** (at your own expense).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk on the incredible **Great Wall**
- Race across China on a **bullet train**
- Uncover the mystery of the **Forbidden City**
- Sit by the tranquil **West Lake in Hangzhou**
- Stroll in the **Chinese gardens in Suzhou**

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 Jingtai' in China, with a history of over 500 years. It was so called because blue was the colour typically used for enamelling, and Jingtai 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 Emperors 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 w/Lunch (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 (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 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.

Day 6: Wuxi Suzhou (B)

This morning visit one of the largest fresh water pearl exhibitions in the country. Later, 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 what was known 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.

Day 7: Suzhou Hangzhou (B)

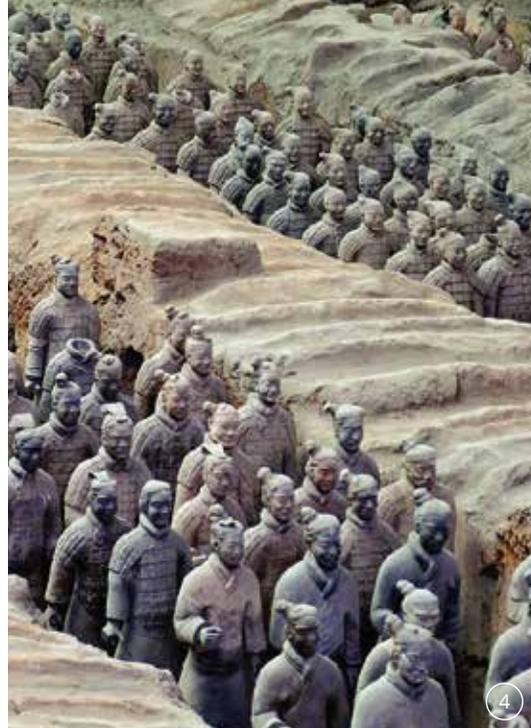
This morning visit a **silk spinning mill**, and learn how silk is created from mulberry-munching silkworms to produce the finest thread and cloth. After lunch, travel by coach to Hangzhou, described by Marco Polo as 'the most beautiful and magnificent city in the world'. Upon arrival, take a boat ride 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: Depart Hangzhou (B)

You will depart Hangzhou for your return flight/s home via connecting cities. If time permits, you will experience tea-tasting at the **Dragon Well Tea Plantation** before departure.

Day 9: Arrive Home



4



6



7



5

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION XI'AN TERRACOTTA WARRIORS 2 NIGHTS

fr \$590; single supplement \$120; includes
+ Economy class flights
+ 2 nights hotel accommodation (twin-share)
+ 2 breakfasts (B), 2 lunches (L) & 1 dinner (D)
+ Coach transportation & transfers
+ Entrance fees to scenic attractions
+ English speaking tour guide
Excludes prepaid tipping: \$30

Day 1: Arrive in Xi'an

Fly to Xi'an via connecting cities. Your tour guide will greet you at the airport and then transfer you to your hotel to rest.

Day 2: Xi'an (B, L, D)

The highlight today is a visit to the **Terracotta Army** to see the life-sized defending army of the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang. This site is among the top archaeological excavations of the 20th century. This will be followed by a visit to a ceramic art factory. In the evening, enjoy a special **Imperial Dumpling Banquet** and **traditional Tang Dynasty Singing & Dancing Show**.

Day 3: Xi'an ✈️ Beijing (B, L)

After breakfast, visit the **Shaanxi Provincial History Museum**. Enjoy a special noodle lunch including an interesting noodle making demonstration. Then visit the **Great Wild Goose Pagoda**, the symbol of the city. Later, walk along the **Ancient City Wall**, which is not only the most complete city wall to survive in China, but also one of the largest ancient military defence systems in the world. Depart for Beijing to commence your core China tour.

POST-TOUR EXTENSION SHANGHAI 2 NIGHTS

fr \$333; single supplement \$250; includes
+ 2 nights 3-4 star (local rating) hotel accomm.
+ Daily breakfast
+ Coach transportation & transfers
+ Entrance fees to scenic attractions
+ English speaking tour guide
Excludes prepaid tipping: \$20

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** (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.

Optional Program Shanghai Disneyland (at your own expense): It's time for **Shanghai Disneyland!** 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! *Note: Return transfer is not included for guests that want to stay behind to watch the evening fireworks – please make your own arrangements to return to the hotel.*

Day 10: Depart Shanghai (B)

You will be transferred to the airport for your return flight home via connecting cities.

Day 11: Arrive Home

2019 DEPARTURES

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 26 Feb ^{^*} | 07 May | 16 Jul [*] | 24 Sep [*] |
| 05 Mar [^] | 14 May | 23 Jul [*] | 08 Oct [*] |
| 12 Mar [^] | 21 May | 30 Jul | 15 Oct |
| 19 Mar [^] | 28 May | 06 Aug | 22 Oct |
| 26 Mar [^] | 04 Jun | 13 Aug | 29 Oct |
| 02 Apr | 11 Jun | 20 Aug | 05 Nov |
| 09 Apr [*] | 18 Jun | 27 Aug | 12 Nov |
| 16 Apr [*] | 25 Jun | 03 Sep | 19 Nov |
| 23 Apr [*] | 02 Jul [*] | 10 Sep | |
| 30 Apr [*] | 09 Jul [*] | 17 Sep [*] | |

*Peak season surcharge: \$300

[^]Yangtze River cruise extension is not available

Single supplement: \$500

✈️ DEPARTURE OPTIONS

- SYD/MEL/BNE: Airfare included
- Interstate Surcharge: fr \$300

⊕ INCLUSIONS

- + Full service Chinese carrier airfares & taxes (eg. China Southern/Eastern Airlines)
- + 7 nights 3-4 star (local rating) hotel accomm.
- + 7 breakfasts (B)
- + High speed train
- + Coach transportation & transfers
- + Entrance fees to scenic attractions (unless otherwise indicated)
- + English speaking tour guide(s)

⊗ EXCLUSIONS

- Prepaid tipping: \$80
- China visa
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)

✈️ AIR UPGRADES (long haul int'l sectors)

- Economy class: Cathay Pacific/Singapore Airlines fr \$300

🕒 EXTEND YOUR STAY

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

🏨 HOTEL ACCOMMODATION (or similar)

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| Beijing | Chunhuiyuan Hot Springs Hotel |
| Wuxi | Swiss-Belhotel Liyuan |
| Suzhou | Holiday Inn Suzhou Taihu Lake |
| Hangzhou | Merchant Marco Edgelake Hotel |
| Shanghai | Wassim Hotel Zhoupu |

🎈 OPTIONAL PROGRAMS

| | | |
|----------|---|-------|
| Beijing | Forbidden City Tour | \$80 |
| Beijing | Peking Duck Dinner | \$40 |
| Beijing | The Golden Mask Dynasty | \$75 |
| Beijing | Hutong Life & Panda House Tour w/Lunch | \$80 |
| Beijing | Chinese Kung Fu Show | \$75 |
| Wuxi | Grand Canal Cruise | \$35 |
| Wuxi | Jiangnan Dumpling Lunch | \$25 |
| Suzhou | Western Buffet Dinner | \$40 |
| Hangzhou | Impression West Lake | \$80 |
| Shanghai | Huangpu River Cruise | \$40 |
| Shanghai | Shanghai Disneyland | \$199 |

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. ver14SEP2018



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.



POST-TOUR EXTENSION
MAJESTIC YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE 5 DAYS 4 NIGHTS

Images: 8. Yangtze River
 9. Shibaozhai Pagoda
 10. Yangtze River
 11. Victoria Jenna

- fr \$950; single supplement \$750; includes
 - + Economy class flights / High-speed train
 - + 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 8/10: Arrive Yichang  **Yangtze River Cruise (D)**
 Arrive at 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.

| Arr/Dept | Events |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 19:00-20:00 | Board the ship at Yichang Dock |
| 24:00 | Departs Yichang |

Day 9/11: 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.

| Arr/Dept | Events |
|-------------|---|
| 08:00 | Briefing on the cruise |
| 08:00-09:00 | Passing the Xiling Gorge (East Part) |
| 09:00-11:00 | Shore excursion: Three Gorges Dam Site |
| 11:00-13:00 | Shore excursion: Visit tribe of Three Gorges (optional) |
| 13:30-15:30 | Passing the Three Gorges Dam |
| 16:00 | Sail through 5-stage shiplock |
| 18:00 | Captain's Welcome Dinner |
| 20:00 | Evening entertainment |

Day 10/12: Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D)

| Arr/Dept | Events |
|-------------|---|
| 06:30 | Breakfast |
| 08:00-12:00 | Shore excursion: Shennong Stream |
| 13:30-17:00 | Sail through Wu Gorge and Qutang Gorge |
| 17:30 | Shore excursion: White Emperor City (optional, river conditions permitting) |

Day 11/13: Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D)

| Arr/Dept | Events |
|-------------|---|
| 07:00 | Breakfast |
| 08:30-10:30 | Shore excursion: Shibaozhai Pagoda |
| 10:30-12:30 | Shore excursion: Fengdu Ghost City (optional) |
| 18:00 | Captain's Farewell Dinner |

Day 12/14: Depart Chongqing (B)
 After breakfast, disembark from our cruise in the port city of Chongqing at 9am. Transfer to the airport for connecting flights home.

Day 13/15: Arrive 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/dayday, 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.

 **YOUR TRAVEL AGENT**