

THE BEST OF CHINA

XI'AN - BEIJING - WUXI - SUZHOU - HANGZHOU - SHANGHAI



2019/2020 - 13 DAYS FROM

\$2199   
per person twin-share

This tour is designed for you to experience the best of China's ancient history, rich culture, delicate cuisine, thriving industries and modern architecture. Marvel at the thousands of Terracotta Warriors in Xi'an, walk along the Great Wall and unfold the mystery of Forbidden City in the country's capital. Explore the beautiful gardens and canals of Suzhou, Hangzhou and Wuxi before immersing yourself in the bustling metropolis of Shanghai.

Image: Great Wall, Beijing

Nexus Holidays

  Nexus Holidays Australia



HIGHLIGHTS

- Marvel at the 2200 year old **Terracotta Army** of China's first emperor
- Walk on the incredible **Great Wall of China**, near Beijing
- Uncover the mysteries of the **Forbidden City**, and walk in **Tiananmen Square**
- Sit by tranquil **West Lake in Hangzhou**, much admired by Marco Polo
- Stroll in one of the finest Chinese gardens in **Suzhou**
- Immerse yourself in the bustling metropolis **Shanghai**

Images: 1. Terracotta Army, 2. Hutong Life, 3. Tang Dynasty Singing & Dancing Show, 4. Ancient City Wall, 5. Shanghai, 6. Panda, 7. Grand Canal Wuxi, 8. West Lake, 9. Old Street, 9. Impression West Lake, 11. Forbidden City

Day 1: Arrive in Xi'an

Fly to Xi'an via connecting cities and transfer to the hotel. **Note:** Some flights may depart the day before.

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

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**. The museum is one of China's largest, and houses over 370,000 items, including murals, paintings, pottery, coins, as well as bronze, gold, and silver objects. 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. Fly out of Xi'an in the evening.

Day 4: Beijing (B, L, D)

Beijing has served as the capital of five dynasties over a period of 800 years. Today, visit **Tiananmen Square**, the second largest public square in the world, and the **Forbidden City**, the Chinese imperial palace from the Ming to Qing dynasty. Your welcome banquet includes the local delicacy, **Peking Roast Duck**.

Day 5: Beijing (B, L)

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 long 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).

Day 6: Beijing (B, L)

Today tour the exquisite **Summer Palace**, the largest preserved ancient garden in China and a former summer resort for Emperors, followed by the Panda House at **Beijing Zoo** to see China's adorable national treasure – the **giant panda**. Then visit a Chinese herbal institute to learn about traditional Chinese medicine, which has existed for thousands of years, as you enjoy a rejuvenating foot massage. Later, you can join an optional **Hutong Life Tour** (\$70), a special journey which explores Beijing's ancient alleyways or hutongs by pedicab or take a stroll in Wangfujing, one of the Chinese capital's most famous shopping streets. Cap off the day by attending a thrilling **Kung Fu Show** (\$75).

Day 7: Beijing Wuxi (B, D)

Take a high speed train to Wuxi, an ancient city richly endowed by nature 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, go sightseeing around **Nanchang Street** and take a cruise along the **Grand Canal** (\$35) to view life along what was known as 'China's golden waterway' in its heyday. Then, take a stroll along the trendy pedestrian streets composed of both ancient and modern architecture.

Day 8: Wuxi Suzhou (B, L)

This morning visit one of the largest fresh water pearl exhibitions in the country. After lunch, travel to Suzhou, an extraordinarily elegant city with its canals, stone bridges and meticulously designed gardens which has often 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 known as the 'Venice of the East'. It is also known as '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 gardens in China.

Day 9: Suzhou Hangzhou (B, L, D)

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 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, 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), a masterpiece created by Zhang Yimou, the director of the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics Games opening ceremony.





DEPARTURES

2019 30 Aug 06 Sep 13 Sep* 11 Oct# 18 Oct 01 Nov 08 Nov 15 Nov

2020 27-Feb*^ 05 Mar^ 12 Mar^ 19 Mar^ 26 Mar 02 Apr* 16 Apr* 23 Apr 30 Apr 07 May 14 May 21 May 28 May 11 Jun 18 Jun** 25 Jun** 02 Jul** 09 Aug 13 Aug 20 Aug 27 Aug 03 Sep 10 Sep 17-Sep** 15 Oct 22-Oct 29-Oct 05-Nov 12-Nov 08 Oct*

#Shoulder Season Surcharge: \$100

*Peak Season Surcharge: \$300

**School Holidays Surcharge: \$400

^Yangtze River Cruise Extension is not available
Single supplement: \$670

DEPARTURE OPTIONS

- SYD/MEL: Airfare included
- BNE/ADL/PER: +\$300

INCLUSIONS

- Full service Chinese carrier airfares & taxes (eg. China Eastern/Southern Airlines or similar)
- 11 nights 4-5 star (local rating) hotel accomm.
- 11 breakfasts (B), 8 lunches (L) & 5 dinner (D)
- High-speed bullet train from Beijing to Wuxi
- Coach transportation & transfers
- Selected sightseeing & entrance fees
- English speaking tour guide(s)

EXCLUSIONS

- Compulsory prepaid tipping: \$130
- China visa
- Optional programs
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)

AIR UPGRADES (long haul int'l sectors)

- Economy class: Cathay Pacific/Singapore Airlines fr \$500

EXTEND YOUR STAY

- Early Arrival/Stay Behind Fare Difference: fr \$250
- Hotel w/breakfast: \$75 twin-share, \$150 single
- Private transfer: \$120 per way (max. 3 ppl)

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION (or similar)

Xi'an	Titan Times Hotel
Beijing	Wyndham Beijing North
Suzhou	Suzhou QingShan Hotel
Wuxi	Days Hotel Baile Wuxi
Hangzhou	Merchant Marco Garden Hotel
Shanghai	Howard Johnson Hongqiao

OPTIONAL PROGRAMS (AUD)

Beijing	The Golden Mask Dynasty	\$75
Beijing	Hutong Life Tour	\$70
Beijing	Chinese Kung Fu Show	\$75
Wuxi	Grand Canal Cruise	\$35
Hangzhou	Impression West Lake	\$80
Shanghai	Chinese Acrobatic Show	\$75
Shanghai	Huangpu River Cruise	\$40
Shanghai	Disneyland Package (Forego sightseeing Day 11)	\$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. Hotel locations can be within or outside itinerary cities and may not be centrally located. Double-bedded rooms are not guaranteed. 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 within 2 weeks before departure. Booking conditions apply, refer to website for latest information. ver30JUL2019



Day 10: Hangzhou Shanghai (B, L)

Experience a tea tasting at the Dragon Well tea plantation. Then travel to Shanghai, the vibrant metropolis and 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 recapture the Western influence on old Shanghai. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure strolling along the bustling shopping district centred on Nanjing Road. Tonight you can watch a thrilling **Chinese Acrobatic Show** (\$75).

Day 11: Shanghai (B, D)

After breakfast, visit **Jin Mao Tower Observation Deck (88th floor)** for a panoramic view of Huangpu River and the Bund. After lunch, head to the **Old Street** in the City God Temple area, symbolic of the large temple complex and surrounding traditional district of commerce in the city. Afterwards, you can cap off the celebrations by joining an optional **Huangpu River Cruise** (\$40) for a glimpse of a charming view of Shanghai.

Day 12: Depart Shanghai (B)

After breakfast, transfer to Shanghai airport to board your flight home.

Day 13: Arrive Home





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 historical relics and ancient cultural sites along the mighty river.

Enjoy shore excursions to explore the fascinating history and tranquil landscapes of the region, 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, the world's largest.



VIP PACKAGE INCLUSIONS

Yangtze Gold Cruise ships: +\$150

- Free upgrade to higher floor (4th-5th floor)
- Complimentary coffee, tea & snacks at happy hour in the afternoon
- Access to VIP restaurant (an optional a la carte menu will be available at extra cost)
- Unlimited local wine, beer, and soft drinks at lunch & dinner
- Express check in and check out service
- Room turn-down service
- Welcome fruit basket in cabin
- VIP area reserved for evening entertainment
- 2 hours free internet for each sailing

Note: Inclusions & prices are subject to change without prior notice.

 YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

POST-TOUR EXTENSION Majestic Yangtze River Cruise 4 Nights

Images: 12. Yangtze River
13. Shore excursion
14. Yangtze Gold Cruise

from \$950; single supplement \$750; includes

- Economy class flights or high-speed train (subject to availability)
- 4 nights standard Cabin with private balcony (twin-share)
- 4 breakfasts (B), 3 lunches (L) & dinners (D)
- All transfers
- 3 shore excursions (subject to change & favourable weather conditions)
- English speaking guide (on board)

Excludes compulsory prepaid tipping: \$50 & optional shore excursions

Note: Aboard Yangtze Gold 1, 2, 6 or 7, President 7, or similar. 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 12: Shanghai / Yichang Yangtze River Cruise (D)

Arrive 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

19:00-20:00
24:00

Events

Board the ship at Yichang Dock
Departs Yichang

Day 13: 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

08:00
08:00-09:00
09:00-11:00
11:00-13:00

Events

Briefing on the cruise
Passing the Xiling Gorge (East Part)
Shore excursion: Three Gorges Dam Site
Shore excursion: Visit Ba and Tujia ethnic minorities of the Three Gorges. Experience a charming reenactment of traditional life ways in a peaceful hillside village setting (optional)
Passing the Three Gorges Dam
Sail through 5-stage shiplock
Captain's Welcome Dinner
Evening entertainment

13:30-15:30
16:00
18:00
20:00

Day 14: Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D)

Populated since at least the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD), this once-wild tributary to the Yangtze has calmed since the construction of the **Tree Gorges Dam**. This charming gorge and the surrounding forest park are named for Shen Nong, the mythical 'Divine Farmer', who is said to have taught the ancient Chinese the secrets of agriculture, herbal medicine, the solar calendar, and brewing tea.

Arr/Dept

06:30
08:00-12:00
13:30-17:00
17:30

Events

Breakfast
Shore excursion: Shennong Stream
Sail through Wu Gorge and Qutang Gorge
Shore excursion: White Emperor City (optional)

Day 15: Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D)

Arr/Dept

07:00
08:30-10:30
10:30-12:30
14:00-16:00
18:00

Events

Breakfast
Shore excursion: Shibaozhai Pagoda
Shore excursion: Fengdu Ghost City (optional)
Lectures
Farewell Dinner

Day 16: Depart Chongqing (B)

After breakfast, disembark from our cruise in the port city of Chongqing at 9am. Transfer to the airport to board your flight to home.

Day 17: Arrive Home