

YANGTZE RIVER DELIGHT

BEIJING - WUXI - SUZHOU - HANGZHOU - SHANGHAI - YICHANG - YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE - CHONGQING



2019/2020 - 15 DAYS FROM

\$2599



per person twin-share

This tour is designed to give you a sample of China's ancient history, rich culture, delicate cuisine, thriving industries, and modern architecture. Walk along the Great Wall and unfold the mystery of the Forbidden City in China's capital Beijing, discover the exquisite cities of Suzhou and Hangzhou both on par with heaven for their natural beauty according to a Chinese saying, and immerse yourself in the dynamic cosmopolitan city Shanghai. Afterwards relax as you cruise along the majestic Yangtze River on board a five-star vessel – Yangtze Gold Cruise or similar and discover the dramatic gorges, mountain villages and breathtaking scenery.

Image: Yangtze River

Nexus Holidays



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HIGHLIGHTS

- Uncover the mystery of **Beijing's Forbidden City**
- Race across China on a **high-speed bullet train from Beijing to Wuxi**
- Take a boat ride on tranquil **West Lake in Hangzhou**
- Stroll in one of the finest Chinese gardens in **Suzhou**
- Immerse yourself in the bustling metropolis **Shanghai**
- Enjoy four nights onboard the **Yangtze River Cruise**

Images: 1. Forbidden City, 2. Bullet Train, 3. Great Wall, 4. Panda, 5. Linger Garden, 6. Shanghai Old Street, 7. Yangtze Gold Cruise, 8. Three Gorges Dam, 10. Xiling Gorge

Day 1: Arrive in Beijing

Fly to Beijing. On arrival, you will be met by your guide and will transfer to the hotel. *Note: Some flights may depart the day before.*

Day 2: Beijing (B, L, D)

Beijing 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 3: 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 3,700-mile 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 4: 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 **Chinese Kung Fu Show** (\$75).

Day 5: Beijing Wuxi (B, D)

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, 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 6: Wuxi Suzhou (B, L)

This morning visit one of the largest freshwater 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 **Linger Garden**, which is among the finest in China.

Day 7: 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 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), a masterpiece created by Zhang Yimou, the director of the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics Games Opening Ceremony.

Day 8: Hangzhou Shanghai (B, L)

Experience tea-tasting at the Dragon Well Tea Plantation. Then travel by coach 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**. Tonight you can watch a superb and thrilling **Chinese Acrobatic Show** (\$75).

Day 9: 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. After tonight's farewell celebration dinner, you can cap off the celebrations by joining an optional **Huangpu River Cruise** (\$40) for a glimpse of the charming view of Shanghai.



DEPARTURES

| Year | 01 Sep* | 06 Oct* | 01 Sep | 03 Nov |
|------|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| 2019 | 08 Sep* | 13 Oct* | 08 Sep | 10 Nov |
| | 15 Sep* | 20 Oct | 15 Sep* | 17 Nov |
| 2020 | 29 Feb* | 09 May | 25 Jul | 10 Oct |
| | 07 Mar | 16 May | 01 Aug | 17 Oct |
| | 14 Mar | 23 May | 08 Aug | 24 Oct |
| | 21 Mar | 30 May | 15 Aug | 31 Oct |
| | 28 Mar | 06 Jun | 22 Aug | 07 Nov |
| | 04 Apr* | 13 Jun | 29 Aug | 14 Nov |
| | 18 Apr* | 20 Jun* | 05 Sep | |
| | 25 Apr | 27 Jun** | 12 Sep | |
| | 02 May | 04 Jul** | 19 Sep** | |

*Peak season surcharge: \$300

**School Holiday Surcharge \$400

Single supplement: \$1300

DEPARTURE OPTIONS

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

INCLUSIONS

- Intl. economy airfares & taxes with Chinese carrier
- 9 nights 4-5 star (local rating) hotel accomm.
- 4 nights standard cabin with private balcony (twin-share)
- 12 breakfasts (B), 9 lunches (L), 8 dinners (D)
- 3 Shore excursions aboard Yangtze River Cruise (subject to change & local conditions)
- Internal flight (local carrier) or high-speed train (Shanghai to Yichang)
- High-speed train from Beijing to Wuxi
- Coach transportation & transfers
- Selected sightseeing & entrance fees
- English speaking tour guide(s)

EXCLUSIONS

- Compulsory prepaid tipping: \$150
- Optional programs
- China visa
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)

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)

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| Beijing | Wyndham Beijing North |
| Wuxi | Days Hotel Baile Wuxi |
| Suzhou | Suzhou Qingshan Hotel |
| Hangzhou | Merchant Marco Garden Hotel |
| Shanghai | Howard Johnson Hongqiao Hotel |
| Cruise | Yangtze Gold Cruise |

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 |

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. ver31JUL2019

Day 10: 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 activities.

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

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.

| 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 Ba and Tujia ethnic minorities of the Three Gorges. Experience a charming reenactment of traditional life ways in a peaceful hillside village setting (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 12: 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 **Three 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 | 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) |

Day 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) |
| 14:00-16:00 | Lectures |
| 18:00 | Farewell Dinner |

Day 14: Depart Chongqing (B)

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

Day 15: Arrive Home

VIP PACKAGE INCLUSIONS *Note: Inclusions & prices are subject to change without prior notice.*

Yangtze Gold Cruise ships: +\$150

- 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
- Free upgrade to higher floor (4th-5th floor)
- 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



Images: 10. Ancient City Wall, 11. Terracotta Army

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION
Xi'an Terracotta Warriors 2 Nights

from \$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
+ Admissions to scenic attractions
+ English speaking tour guide
Excludes compulsory prepaid tipping: \$30

Day 1: Arrive in Xi'an

Board your international flight to Xi'an. Your tour guide will greet you at the airport and then transfer you to your hotel to rest. *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 to continue your holiday.

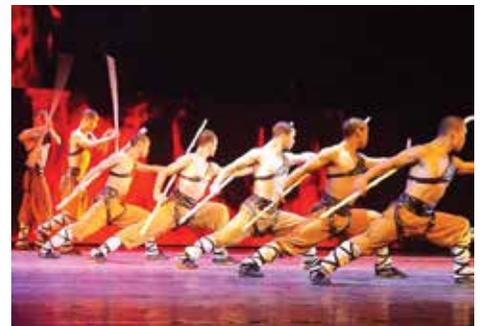
Optional Programs: Beijing, The Golden Mask Dynasty (\$75)



Beijing, Hutong Life Tour (\$70)



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)



YOUR TRAVEL AGENT