

[GW-CH-007]Beijing-Xi'an-Chengdu-Kunming-Guilin-Yangshuo-Hangzhou-Suzhou-Shanghai (20 Day)

Day 1 Arrive Beijing

Arrive in Beijing, the capital of China. Meet your guide upon arrival and be transferred to your comfortable hotel. (D)

Day 2 Beijing

Begin the day with a visit to **Tiananmen Square**, the world largest. Then, move on to the Imperial Palace, also known as the "**Forbidden City**" that symbolizes the imperial and traditional China. After lunch, visit **Temple of Heaven**, the place where the emperors of Ming and Qing dynasties worshipped heaven and prayed for peace and harvest. **A Peking**



Duck Dinner concludes your first full day activities in China. (B-L-D)

Day 3 Beijing

Visit the enchanting **Summer Palace**, one of China's largest and best-preserved imperial gardens. In the afternoon, you will visit the **Yonghe Lama Temple**. (B-L-D)

Day 4 Beijing

Today's highlight is your visit to the **Great Wall**, symbol of Chinese civilization. A short drive away is the statue-lined **Shenlu (Spirit Road)** leading to the **Ming tombs**, here you can see some marvelous stone sculptures. The Ming Tombs the tomb area for deceased emperors of the Ming Dynasty. Rest of the day is free. (B-L-D)

Day 5 Beijing-Xian

After a relaxed breakfast at hotel this morning, you will take a walk through some old "**hutongs**", a kind of ancient city compound, to see traditional style courtyards and locals doing their daily chores. Fly to Xi'an and check in Hotel upon arrival. Climb up the ancient **City Walls** and visit **Forest of Steles Museum** where precious stone carvings and sculptures are kept. Enjoy a characteristic dumpling dinner at a local restaurant. (B-D)

Day 6 Xi'an

Begin the day with a once-in-a-lifetime viewing of the extraordinary 2,200-year-old **terracotta warriors** of China's first Emperor, Qin Shihuang. After lunch, visit the superb **Shaanxi History Museum**, the best of its kind in China. Visit to **Big Wild Goose Pagoda** which was built in 652 A.D. It contains a large volume of Buddhist scriptures which were obtained from India by the eminent monk of Xuanzang. Tonight, you are invited to enjoy a **Tang Style Dinner Show**. (B-L-D)

Day 7 Xi'an-Chengdu

Take a short visit to the digging site and **museum of Yangling**, tomb of Emperor Jingdi of the Han Dynasty (25-220 AD). Fly to Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province. Check in Hotel. Visit the **magnificent Sanxingdui Archaeological Museum** in the afternoon. (B-D)

Day 8 Chengdu

Today's highlight is to take a full day excursion to **Wolong Panda Preserve** to get a



behind-the-scenes look at the current work underway to preserve the Chinese panda. Meet with Chinese and international experts to learn how they are making efforts to save this endangered species. You will also have a chance of meeting the local Qiang and Tibetan people. Return to Chengdu in the evening. (B-L-D)

Day 9 Chengdu-Kunming

Fly to Kunming this morning. Check in Hotel. Take a city tour in the afternoon. Visit **Yuantong Temple**, northern Yunnan's major Buddhist site and an active place of pilgrimage. Next visit **Golden Palace**, temple structure built later in 1671 with Buddhist statues, inscription boards, beams and pillars, **wall-screen** and other decorations, all made of copper. (B-L-D)

Day 10 Kunming

Today's excursion takes you to the **Stone Forest**, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) southeast of Kunming. Located in **Lunan Yi Nationality Autonomous County**, this area offers visitors a unique landscape of stark limestone pillars twisted and sculpted by the elements. From a distance, these stone pillars look indeed like a dense forest; hence the name of Stone Forest. It covers an area of 81,000 acres, yet only about 400 acres have been developed as scenic landscape open to public. Also, explore the local markets and villages of the ethnic Sani people. Return to Kunming in the evening. (B-L)

Day 11 Kunming

Today you will have a chance to visit **suburban hills** of Kunming and check out the intriguing Buddhist art at **Qiongzhu Temple**. Then visit **Daguan Lou (Grand View Pavilion)**, which was built in 1690. Stop by the Ethnic Village where the colorful cultures of Yunnan's different ethnic groups are represented. Later, go to the **Western Hill** to get a bird's-eye-view of the Dianchi lake. Enjoy a **Yunnan flavor dinner** this evening. (B-L-D)

Day 12 Kunming-Guilin

Fly to Guilin, one of China's most beautiful cities. Visit **Fubo Hill** for a panoramic view of Guilin and **Seven Star Park** for its huge caverns and charming pavilions. Enjoy a Sichuan flavor dinner at a local restaurant. (B-L-D)



Day 13 Yangshuo

Check out the **Elephant Trunk Hill** in the morning. Today's highlight is a 4-hour cruising down the **Li River**, which stretches 83 kilometers from Guilin to **Yangshuo**. The cruise will give you a chance to savor the lovely view of the area's extraordinary limestone peaks. Get off the boat in Yangshuo, and explore this small county town and its local markets on your own. Check in Hotel. (B-L)

Day 14 Guilin-Hangzhou

This morning you will have some free time to explore the beauty of Yangshuo's waters and mountains. If you like, hire a local fisherman's boat for a float on the charming Li River. Return to Guilin for an afternoon flight to Hangzhou later afternoon. Check in Hotel. (B-L)

Day 15 Hangzhou

Visit **West Lake** and **Huagang Park**. Go to the **Lingyin Temple (Temple of the Soul's Retreat)** initially built in 326 AD. On the outskirts of the city is the natural wonder of **Longjing Quan (Dragon Well Spring)** and the lush tea bushes of nearby Longjing Village that produce the highly regarded tea. Also, you will visit a Tea Museum located next to the plantation. (B-L-D)



Day 16 Hangzhou-Suzhou

Take a morning train ride to Suzhou, a famous garden city, check in Hotel. Founded in 514BC, Suzhou is known as the "Venice of the East". It was so named by early travelers because the town was built around a network of canals and 300 criss-crossing bridges that fanned out from the **Grand Canal**. The highlight of the day is a visit to

two of Suzhou's beautiful gardens - **Zhuozheng Yuan and Lion's Grove**. A boat ride on the **Grand Canal** reveals the traditional way of life for the people who have lived here for

generations. (B-L-D)

Day 17 Suzhou-Shanghai

You will begin the day with a stop at the ancient Women bridge and the relatively under-visited but intriguing Canglang pavilion. You will then visit **Suzhou Silk Museum**. A short train ride takes you to Shanghai, check in Hotel. On the Bund, this splendid row of early 20th century European buildings remains the quintessential Shanghai sight. A fabulous acrobatic show concludes your first day in Shanghai. (B-L-D)

Day 18 Shanghai

This morning you will visit **Yuyuan Garden**. It is a well-restored Suzhou-style garden that was created by a Ming Dynasty official in 1559. Visit the marvelous **Shanghai Museum**, a leading attraction of the city since it opened in 1994. Move on to the leafy Fuxing park and the architecture in the area. Tonight, you will enjoy a Shanghai cuisine dinner at Hotel. (B-L-D)

Day 19 Shanghai

Enjoy a relaxing day in Shanghai on your own. Great shopping opportunities abound in central Shanghai, and restaurants serving a full range of international cuisine can be found in every part of the town. (B)

Day 20 Return from Shanghai

Be transferred to the airport and prepare for boarding on your homebound flight. (B)

B:Breakfast L:Lunch D:Dinner

Hotel: (or the same standard)

Standard A (for 4-star hotel)

Beijing: ★★★★★ Guangxi Hotel

Xi'an: ★★★★★ Hotel Royal Garden Xi'an

Beijing

Chengdu: ★★★★★ Minshan Hotel

Kunming: ★★★★★ Jin long Hotel

Guilin: ★★★★★ Guilin Plaza Hotel

Yangsuo: ★★★★★ Paradies Hotel

Suzhou: ★★★★★ Guan Yun Lou

Hangzhou: ★★★★★ Best Western Hotel

Hotel

Shanghai: ★★★★★ Shanghai Hotel