

Beijing Great Wall Int'l Travel Agency

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(WT-001) Beijing-Xi'an-Hangzhou-Wuzhen-Suzhou-Tongli-Shanghai (14 Days)



Following this tour, will take you to the most important historical and modern cities in China. You will visit the major tour sites, such as the Great Wall, the Forbidden City in Beijing, Terra-cotta Warriors in Xian & the Oriental TV Tower in Shanghai.

We will also visit Jiangnan Region, and experience the charming and tranquil ancient water towns. There, you can see Chinese architectures dated more than 1000 years o ago, countless number of unique bridges on rivers and small Chinese boats going through them.

Day 1/Arrive in Beijing

Arrive in Beijing, the capital of China. Transfer to the hotel on arrival. (D)

Day 2/Beijing

Begin the day's activity with a visit to **Tian'anmen Square**, the largest urban square in the world. Tian'anmen was built in 1417 and served as the entrance gate to the Imperial Palace. Move on to visit the Imperial Palace, well-known as **Forbidden City** which is the large scale construction of the palace extended from 1406 to 1420. It was the imperial palace during the Ming and Qing dynasties. 24 emperors lived and ruled China from here. In the afternoon, visit **Temple of Heaven**, built in 1420 A.D., which was originally the platform to offer sacrifices to Heaven during Ming and Qing Dynasties. The buildings and parklands reflect an ancient Chinese thought of "the Heaven is round and the earth is square". Enjoy **Peking Duck** for Dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 3/Beijing

Today's highlight is the visit to the **Great Wall**, one of the "Seven Wonders of the World" and a symbol of Chinese civilization. Then, drive to visit the statue-lined **Shenlu (Spirit Road)** leading to the Ming Tombs, here you can see some marvelous stone sculptures. The Ming Tombs area is for 13 deceased emperors of the Ming Dynasty. Visit the **Changling Tomb** which is the largest of the 13 as you can imagine it is quite impressive. On the way back to the hotel, stop at **Olympic Park** and **outside view** the National Stadium (Bird's Nest, no entry) and the National Aquatics Center (Water Cube, no entry), which are the main stadium of the 29th Olympiad in 2008. (B,L,D)

Day 4/Beijing-Xi'an

Visit the enchanting **Summer Palace**, the largest and best-preserved imperial garden in China. As a masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design, it integrates the natural landscape of hills and open water with manmade features such as pavilions, halls, palaces, temples and bridges

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into a harmonious and aesthetically exceptional whole. In the afternoon, you will visit the **Yonghe Lama Temple**, the largest and most perfectly preserved Tibetan Buddhist Lama Temple outside Tibet. It was built in 1649 as the residence of Prince Yong of Qing Dynasty, and was converted to a temple after he became Emperor moving to Forbidden City. Take an overnight train to Xi'an with soft sleeper (the first class in China, 4 persons sharing one cabin). (B,L,D)

Day 5/Xi'an

Arrive in Xi'an in the morning, a city with incredible history, as well as a prosperous modern city. Transfer to the hotel on arrival and have breakfast. Climb the ancient **City Wall**, actually built on the fortifications of Tang Forbidden City, standing 12 meters high, 12-14 meters across the top, 15-18 meters thick at the bottom, 13.7 meter in length with a deep moat surrounding it. It is the most complete city wall that has survived in China, as well being one of the largest ancient military defensive systems in the world. Then, visit **Forest of Steles Museum**, with 900 years of history, it 3,000 pieces of the earliest stone steles of different periods, from the Han Dynasty to the Qing Dynasty. Then, pay a visit to the **Great Mosque**, built primarily in the Ming Dynasty when Chinese architectural elements were synthesized into mosque architecture, and it is the largest and best-preserved one of the early mosques of China. Enjoy a characteristic **Dumpling Dinner** in local restaurant. (B,L,D)

Day 6/Xi'an

After breakfast, visit **Shaanxi History Museum**, the first huge state museum with modern facilities in China, and given the reputation of "bright pearl of ancient city, treasure house of China". Then, visit once-in-a-lifetime viewing of the extraordinary **Terracotta Warriors and Horses**, 2,200-year-old underground army of the first feudal Emperor, Qin Shihuang. Life size terracotta figures of warriors and horses arranged in battle formations are the star features at the museum. Then, pay a visit to **Big Wild Goose Pagoda**, originally built in 652 A.D. in Tang Dynasty (618-907A.D.), it functioned to collect large volume of Buddhist scriptures that were taken from India by the eminent monk of Xuanzang. (B,L,D)

Day 7/Xi'an-Hangzhou

Take a morning flight to Hangzhou where is another ancient capital city in southern China and is famous for its natural beauty and historical and cultural heritages. Visit **Huqingyutang**, a pharmacy shop and museum of traditional Chinese medicine. Huqingyutang and Tongrentang in Beijing are the two most famous stores of traditional Chinese medicines in China, one in the south and the other in the north. Then, pay a visit **Former Residence of Hu Xueyan**, who set up Huqingyutang Drugstore and was called "the medicine king in south of the Yangtze River", boasts 13 towers, Zhiyuan Garden, pavilions, terraces, a small bridge over a flowing stream and bright verandas, all ingeniously designed. You will also visit **Pagoda of Six Harmonies**, highly erecting by Qiantang River, first built in 970 A.D. in Northern Song Dynasty. The name "Six Harmonies"

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comes from the six Buddhist ordinances, meaning "harmonies of the heaven, earth, east, west, south and north". The extant pagoda is octagonal, has thirteen levels on the exterior but seven levels on the interior, and is 59.89 meters high. (B,L,D)

Day 8/Hangzhou

Ancient Chinese people praised the West Lake area as a land of intoxicating beauty. "Ripping water shimmering on sunny day; Misty mountains shrouded the rain; Plain or gaily decked out like Xizi; West Lake is always alluring.", was composed by the famous Song Dynasty poet Su Dongpo (960-1127) to describe its beauty. Today's highlight is to appreciate the incomparably lovely **West Lake** with its soaring bridges and flower-bright islets. Enjoy a **boat ride** on West Lake. Visit the **Huagang Park (Flower Harbor Park)**, the most attractive waterside park. Enjoy a walk along the **Su Causeway** that is spanned with six bridges offering different views, the willows tossing among blooming peach flowers in spring. You will also visit **Tea Museum** showing the history and production of Chinese tea. Then, move on to visit the **Meijiawu Tea House**, the tea village of famous Dragon's Well Tea. (B,L,D)

Day 9/Hangzhou-Wuzhen

Drive to visit **Wuzhen Water Town**, lied at the north of Tongxiang City of Zhejiang Province. The town is divided into four zones by a cross-shaped river, with the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal running across the town, making the only ancient water town adjacent to the canal. Within the town, with a dense network of rivers and wharves, people build their houses along the river and establish markets close to bridges. Some railings and arch bridges, arched gates across the street, imposing dwellings and spacious courtyards, river banks and verandas are all well preserved, presenting an original ecological scene of a water town in Jiangnan (the South of Yangtze River). It is just like a natural museum of ancient architecture. Stay overnight in Wuzhen. (B,L,D)

Day10/Wuzhen-Suzhou

Proceed to Suzhou, known as "Venice in the East", was so named by early travelers because the town was built around a network of canals and 300 bridges. Begin today's highlight is to visit the **Humble Administrator's Garden (Zhuozheng Garden)**, the largest private garden in Suzhou with features of Chinese classical garden in Ming Dynasty. Then, pay a visit to **New Suzhou Museum**, the last design of Mr. I. M. Pei in his career. It is not only a public construction symbol in Suzhou, but also an innovative mark bridging Chinese architectural culture from the tradition to the future. Prompting the protection of Suzhou cultural heritage, the new museum also has turned a new page for Suzhou Museum. Grand Canal of China is the world's oldest and longest man-made canal. You will also visit **Silk Museum** to see how the world's most beautiful silk is produced. (B,L,D)

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Day11/Suzhou-Shanghai

Today's highlight is a visit to a famous water-town - **Tongli**, an aged-old but well-preserved water township with a history of more than 1,000 years, is located on the eastern shore of Taihu Lake. Take sightseeing of local stone streets, grand houses surrounded by water, small exquisite courtyard, charming private garden and characteristic bridges and appreciating the pure local customs with a sense of returning to nature. Then, drive to Shanghai, known as "Paris in the East". (B,L,D)

Day12/Shanghai

Visit **the Bund** in the morning, at the west shore of the Huangpu River, the splendid row of early 20th century Europe buildings remains the quintessential Shanghai sight. Travel up and down in double-decker elevators to visit **Oriental Pearl TV** (to the second ball), 468 meters high (1,536 feet), overlooking the Shanghai city. Pay a visit to **Yuyuan Garden**, a well-restored Suzhou-style garden, which was specially built for Pan's parents as a place to enjoy themselves a tranquil and happy time in their old age. The pavilions, halls, rockeries, ponds and cloisters are unique characteristic. And also take a walk through Chenghuangmiao (known as Yuyuan Garden Market) built in the fifteenth century during the Ming Dynasty. It filled with antique markets and specialty stores. Enjoy a fabulous **Acrobatic Show** in the evening. (B,L,D)

Day13/Shanghai

This morning, you will visit **Shanghai Museum**, a leading attraction of the city since it opened in 1994, containing some priceless collections of paintings, porcelains and bronzes. Then, visit **Jade Buddha Temple**, built in 1882 to keep two jade Buddha statues which had been brought from Burma by a monk named Huigen. The two precious jade Buddha statues, one sitting Buddha and one Recumbent Buddha, are carved with whole white jade. You will have some free time in the afternoon to explore the city. (B,L,D)

Day14/Depart from Shanghai

Transfer to the airport and prepare for boarding on your homebound flights. TOUR ENDS! (B)