



HEAVEN EARTH

Learn about Chinese view on man and nature – Shanghai, Huangshan, Zhangjiajie, Jiuzhaigou, Xi'an, and Beijing

Heaven and Earth are “God” and “nature” to the Chinese people. These two words are always used together when referring the power or force governing the world beyond human will and ability. We have heard about the Five Elements or Five Phases of “nature” or Earth, namely Wood, Fire, Soil, Metal, and Water. The following statement from Mozi, another important philosopher of Confucius time, talks about Heaven:

“I know Heaven loves men dearly not without reason. Heaven ordered the sun, the moon, and the stars to enlighten and guide them. Heaven ordained the four seasons, Spring, Autumn, Winter, and Summer, to regulate them. Heaven sent down snow, frost, rain, and dew to grow the five grains and flax and silk that so the people could use and enjoy them. Heaven established the hills and rivers, ravines and valleys, and arranged many things to minister to man’s good or bring him evil. He appointed the dukes and lords to reward the virtuous and punish the wicked, and to gather metal and wood, birds and beasts, and to engage in cultivating the five grains and flax and silk to provide for the people’s food and clothing. This has been so from antiquity to the present.”

17 Days (Tour Code-UHE)

This tour departs on Thursdays and returns on Saturdays. There are four tour departures during the year and the dates fall in the months of May, June, August, and October. Please refer to the [Dates & Prices](#) or Access China Tours website for 2012 “Tour Dates”, the current “Tour Land Price”, “Single Supplement Cost”, and “International Air Cost”. Call 1-800-788-1399 for more details.

Day 1 Depart North America

Fly to China from your nearest airport. Cross International Dateline.

Day 2 Arrive Shanghai

Arrive at Shanghai Pudong Airport. You are met by ACT service staff and transferred by vehicle to your hotel. Meet your fellow travelers at the Evening Reception and learn more about the upcoming activities.

<Evening Reception>

Four Seasons Hotel Shanghai

Day 3 Shanghai

After a hearty breakfast in your hotel, you will head out to visit the exquisite **Yuyuan Garden** and the European Art-Deco architecture of the **Bund**. Gaze across the river at the towering structures of Pudong district.

In the afternoon, visit the marvelous **Shanghai Museum**, whose well appointed galleries contain some of the world-class collections of ancient





art and artifacts dating back millennia. The Bronze Gallery is probably the world's finest, and a must-see section.

Wander around in the former **French Concession**, represented by the leafy **Fuxing Park** and colonial architecture in the area. Make a stop at **Xintiandi**, a redeveloped old neighborhood with trendy pubs, chic restaurants, coffee shops, and stores frequented by Shanghai's new wealthy citizens.

Enjoy a Shanghai Cuisine Dinner this evening.
<B-L-D> **Four Seasons Hotel Shanghai**

Day 4 Shanghai → Huangshan (Tunxi)

Enjoy some down time this morning in your hotel. Check out hotel before noon and visit **Jade Buddha Temple** for a view of the impressive Buddha statue carved out of one piece of Myanmar jade. Then tour **Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Center** and **Jinmao Tower** for a grand view of the city center.

Late afternoon, take a **Maglev Train** ride to Pudong Airport and board a short flight to Huangshan. Met and transfer to hotel upon arrival.

<B-L-D> **Huangshan International Hotel**

Day 5 Tunxi → Yellow Mountain

Start the day with an exploration of the **old town center** (called "*Laojie*") of Tunxi, Anhui province. With a history of over six hundred years, the streets in Tunxi are lined with nicely restored traditional style Ming & Qing residences and businesses. There are many interesting shops to pique your interest.

Next, we travel to the famous Yellow Mountain by vehicle. On the way, we will visit two of the many quaint villages representing the local Huizhou culture.

Qiankou Village – here we explore Zixia Manor, a rebuilt village estate using relocated Ming-style houses from surrounding locations displaying traditional Huizhou architecture. **Chengkan Village** – a living museum of Huizhou Culture (three million still speak the Huizhou dialect) with many residences of famous personalities, family temples, old bridges, all of which bear wonderful details of artistic design.

Arrive at the base of **Yellow Mountain** and start our ascent along the trails. There are several inviting temples and pavilions for us to explore along the way. Take cable car to reach the **Yupinglou**, a beautifully positioned pavilion on a rocky peak.

<B-L-D> **Jade Screen Hotel**

Day 6 Yellow Mountain

Most Chinese people consider "Huang-Shan", the **Yellow Mountain**, a World Heritage Site since 1990, the most beautiful among China's scenic mountains. The highest peak rises just 1870 meters (6,135 feet) above sea level, but the trails and stairs give both a good workout and reward of superb vistas.

Continue your ascent to the highest peaks, passing stunning scenery and enjoying magnificent views of forest and rock formations. Ultimately arrive at the peak and check into your mountaintop hotel.

The night is yours to take a much deserved rest or gaze at the stars over Anhui Province.

<B-L-D> **North Sea Hotel**



Day 7 Yellow Mountain → Zhangjiajie

Arise before dawn to see the famous **North Sea Sunrise**, a dramatic view across a sea of cloud and fog weather permitting. After breakfast in the hotel, we hike to Yungu and take a cable car ride back down the mountain.

Travel by vehicle to Nanjing (or Hangzhou) Airport for a late afternoon flight to Zhangjiajie. Met and transfer to hotel upon arrival.

<B-L-D> **Wulingyuan International Resort**

Day 8 Zhangjiajie

Enjoy a whole day sightseeing in the **Wulingyuan Scenic District**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which includes Zhangjiajie National Forest Park, Tianzishan Nature Preserve, and Suoxiyu Nature Preserve.

Inhabited by Tujia, Miao, and Bai ethnic minorities, this subtropical mountainous region sports 243 jagged peaks and more than 3,000 limestone karst upthrusts that together create a magnificent landscape. Today's exploration focuses on the Yellow Rock Village and Golden Whip Stream area.

Enjoy a traditional **Folklore Song & Dance Show** after a Local Cuisine Dinner.

<B-L-D> **Wulingyuan International Resort**

Day 9 Zhangjiajie → Chengdu

Continue our exploration in **Zhangjiajie** today. The park offers fantastic views of the magical landscape filled with caves, waterfalls, rare plants, and wildlife. Take a cable car up the **Emperor Mountain** and visit the West Sea Cloud and Kingbrush Peak.

Descend via Bailong Lift to the **Ten Mile Gallery**; visit the Yellow Dragon Cave and Baofeng Lake. The local markets are full of colorful minority handcrafts and artwork.

After dinner, transfer to airport and fly to Chengdu. Met and transfer to hotel upon arrival.

<B-L-D> **Sheraton Chengdu Lido Hotel**

Day 10 Chengdu → Jiuzhaigou

Enjoy a wonderful breakfast in the hotel. Then go to visit the Giant Panda Breeding Center for a close look at the lovely bear and the Jinsha Site & Museum where marvelous ancient Shu Culture relics are on display. Transfer to airport and take a short flight to Jiuzhaigou. Upon arrival, met and travel by vehicle to **Huanglong National Scenic Area**.

Huanglong Park features a unique high plateau travertine scenery. With a background of snow-capped peaks, the main scenic areas are within a U shaped Huanglong Valley, which is 3.5 kilometers long and contains more than 3,000 travertines in eight groups of colorful ponds.

Travel to Jiuzhaigou by vehicle later in the day and check in hotel and have dinner upon arrival.

<B-L-D> **InterContinental Paradise Resort**

Day 11 Jiuzhaigou

Jiuzhaigou National Park is a hidden jewel in the Minshan Mountain, a range marking the eastern edge of the Tibet-Qinghai Plateau. Inhabited by Tibetans and Qiang tribes, Jiuzhaigou is believed to be one of the most beautiful scenic areas in China.

Start the exploration from the entrance of the park

and you will first arrive at **Zharu Temple**, a wooden structure with cliffs rising behind. Farther along is **Heye Village**, where the stream drains out of a marshy tract known as **Reed Lake**. This in turn is fed by the more substantial **Shuzheng Lakes**, one of the largest, and with **Dege Mountain** rising behind.

Enjoy a Local Cuisine Dinner followed by a festive **Ethnic Song & Dance Show**.

<B-L-D> **InterContinental Paradise Resort**

Day 12 Jiuzhaigou

Continue your exploration today in Jiuzhaigou. Head for the **Nuorilang Falls**. Follow the trail into the **Primeval Forest**, a dense and very atmospheric belt of conifers. Other scenic spots include the **Changhai Lake** and **Swan Lake**. Then by bus to the stunning **Five-colored Lake** which, for sheer intensity, if not for scale, is unequalled in the whole park.

Dinner is on your own tonight.

<B-L> **InterContinental Paradise Resort**

Day 13 Jiuzhaigou → Xi'an

This morning, transfer to airport and fly to Xi'an, the ancient capital of many Chinese dynasties.

After refreshing in hotel, go to visit the massive ancient **City Walls**, the exquisite **Xi'an Museum**, and the **Small Goose Pagoda** revealing Indian influence.

Tonight, enjoy a special Xi'an Cuisine Dinner in an elite local restaurant.

<B-D> **Sofitel on Renmin Square**

Day 14 Xi'an → Beijing

Take a half-day excursion to Lintong to see the extraordinary 2,200-year-old **Terracotta Warriors** of China's first Emperor - Qin Shihuang, discovered in 1974 by farmers when digging a well in the field. This archaeological excavation site is a stunning exhibit of more than 7000 ancient terracotta life-size statues of soldiers, officers, horses, and chariots.

After lunch, transfer to airport for a flight to Beijing. On the way, visit **Yangling Archaeological Museum** that displays beautiful figurines and other treasures

unearthed in this Han imperial tomb.

Upon arrival at Beijing Capital Airport, you are met by ACT service staff and transferred by vehicle to your hotel. Evening is free.

<B-L> **The Peninsula Beijing**

Day 15 Beijing

Your exploration in Beijing starts in **Tiananmen Square** – the world's largest. Take a photo in front of the 'Egg' - **National Performing Arts Center**. Next, visit the **Forbidden City**, the magnificent imperial palaces of Ming and Qing dynasties.

After lunch, explore by a pedicab ride some of Beijing's old **Hutongs** (alleyways) and the traditional **courtyards**. Climb up the nearby **Drum and Bell Towers** for a great aerial view of the old traditional neighborhood, and also visit a private home of local residents to hear their life stories.

Return to hotel for relaxation. Enjoy a welcome banquet featuring Peking Duck this evening.

<B-L-D> **The Peninsula Beijing**

Day 16 Beijing

Visit the **Temple of Heaven** early this morning. Observe Beijing residents doing traditional Taichi and other exercises in the well maintained park. Behold the beautiful Hall of Prayers, an ornate structure built of wood without using a single nail.

Stop by the lively **Silk Market**, a bustling place where buyers and vendors bargain hard over clothes, accessories, beddings, traditional arts and crafts.

After lunch, take an excursion to the **Great Wall** of China. The picturesque Badaling Section represents the Ming era construction. Enjoy a pleasant hike or ascend to the top beacon tower via gondola.

Enjoy a memorable Farewell Dinner at Commune by the Great Wall.

<B-L-D> **The Peninsula Beijing**

Day 17 Return

Enjoy breakfast in hotel. Transfer to airport and fly home. Arrive North America on the same day.

