

# Gems of China

Exploring cultural heritage, historic attractions and natural wonders in Beijing, Xi'an, Longsheng, Guilin/Yangshuo, Hangzhou, Suzhou, and Shanghai

18 Days / 16 Nights

Departures: [April 09-26, 2017](#) [October 08-25, 2017](#) [April 08-25, 2018](#)



ACCESS CHINA TOURS



Group and Private Fine Touring in China and Asia

## Tour Program Summary

China is a land of history and refinement unparalleled in the world. Attentive visitors are immersed in a sea of visual and cultural experiences unlike any other they may have had elsewhere. Each geographic area in China teems with its own identity as an energetic variation on the great theme of Chinese civilization. You will be amazed at how regions differ vastly yet express similar values and ideas.

This journey begins in **Beijing** with an exploration of the beauty of the imperial city and meetings with urban Chinese residents. Discover the splendor of China's glorious past: the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, and Great Wall; also witness the dynamic and ever-changing life pace in today's capital of China.

Travel by air to **Xi'an**, once the largest city in the world. Visit and explore the Terracotta Warriors Museum in homage to Qinshihuang. It is considered China's preeminent archaeological discovery. Tour other important historic sites in the ancient Tang Dynasty capital.

Board a flight to **Guilin**, the south China region of picturesque karsts mountains rising from rice paddies and magnificent rice terraces cultivated by ethnic minorities. This is one of the most idyllic landscapes of China, and your cruise down the Li River will reveal its beauties at each bend of the river. Explore the small town of **Yangshuo** and the surrounding countryside, and ascend to the top of Dragon Spine Ridge in **Longsheng** for a sweeping view of Longji Rice Terrace.

Wing on to China's east coast city of **Hangzhou**, which was described as paradise on earth in ancient times. Enjoy boating on the beautiful West Lake; visit enchanting Buddhist temples; and sip the freshness of Longjing Tea grown on the rolling hills surrounding the city. Spend one relaxing day on your own to be mesmerized by the elegant lakeside pagodas, pavilions, bridges, and gardens among the charming setting. Hangzhou is voted the best livable city in China.

Travel by high-speed train to the garden and canal city of China—**Suzhou**, where literati gardens remain the way they have been for centuries with bamboo groves, rockery hills and miniature waterfalls splashing into pond-sized lakes filled with colored carp and lotus leaves. Suzhou is also noted for its silk embroidery. Also visit the water village of **Luzhi**.

The last stop on your tour is **Shanghai**, China's most populous city and economic powerhouse. The European Bund still retains the glamour of the colonial era; modern western pubs and bars and boutiques scatter all around the center of Shanghai. Visit the traditional Yuyuan Garden and spend some time exploring Shanghai Museum, the best in the country.

Fly back home from Shanghai or continue on to Hong Kong for an extension.

# Tour Daily Itinerary

Day 01 → depart Fly from North America to Beijing, China on your own cross-Pacific flight

Day 02 **Beijing** Arrive today in Beijing Capital Int'l Airport; you are greeted upon arrival by your Tour Manager and/or Beijing guide, and transferred to [Hilton Beijing Wangfujing \(deluxe room\)](#). Evening is free and have a good night sleep.



Day 03 **Beijing** Breakfast in hotel restaurant; meet your guide in the lobby at **9:30am** and go to visit [Tiananmen Square](#), the “Egg”- [National Performing Arts Centre](#), and [Dashilar Traditional Commercial Street](#) followed by a **lunch (2CSM with tea or coffee)** at [Capital M](#) next to the Square.

Afternoon enjoy a tour of the [Forbidden City](#), imperial palaces for the Ming and Qing Dynasties (*closed on Monday except in July & August*). After the tour, transfer back to hotel for rest and relaxation. Take an [Evening Walk](#) on Wangfujing Street (*Donghuamen Night Market*); enjoy a **Peking Duck Dinner** at [Dadong Restaurant](#). <B-L-D>

Day 04 **Beijing** Early breakfast in hotel. Start the day at **8:00am** and go to visit [Temple of Heaven](#) in the morning to see the locals doing various morning exercise and also visit the [Hall of Prayer for Harvest](#). Next, enjoy a “[Hutong & Courtyard](#)” [Tour](#) to in a traditional neighborhood of the city.

Return to hotel for a rest and your own lunch. In the afternoon, travel to [Summer Palace](#) for a tour of this massive imperial park with a boat ride on Kunming Lake.

Go straight to a former Qing official's residence-turned restaurant [Baijiadayuan](#) and enjoy an **Imperial Cuisine Dinner**. Return to hotel . <B-D>



Day 05 **Beijing** Breakfast in hotel. Take an excursion to the [Great Wall at Mutianyu](#) for an **D** unforgettable hike including round-trip cable car ride up the mountain; stop by the village Mutianyu for **lunch** at [The Schoolhouse](#).

Return to hotel in the afternoon and **remainder of the day is free for your own exploration or relaxation**. *Optional night-out at [Huguang Guild Hall](#)*

to see "Peking Opera" singing with snacks and tea. <B-L>

Day 06 → Xi'an

Breakfast in hotel. Morning transfer to airport and fly [MU2106 \(1050-1255\)](#) to Xi'an with your Tour Manager; met by your Xi'an guide and transfer to [Sofitel Legend Peoples Grand Hotel Xi'an \(premium room\)](#).

After a short rest and your own lunch, enjoy an afternoon tour by visiting the [Bell Tower](#) in the center of the city, the massive [Ancient City Wall](#), and the bustling [Muslim Market](#). Tonight, enjoy a [Local Cuisine Dinner](#) at [Baixing Chufang](#). Transfer back to hotel. <B-D>



Day 07 Xi'an

Breakfast in hotel. Morning excursion to the world renowned [Terracotta Warriors Archaeological Site & Museum](#) to view this remarkable discovery.

Return to the city and have a [Xi'an Dumpling Lunch](#) in a local restaurant. Next, visit the [Big Goose Pagoda](#), a structure that has been standing for over 1,000 years. Transfer [back to hotel late afternoon for your own relaxation and dinner](#). <B-L>

Day 08 → Guilin 𨮒  
Longsheng

Breakfast in hotel. Morning transfer to airport and fly [CZ6376 \(1050-1235\)](#) to Guilin with Tour Manager. Met by your Guilin guide upon arrival and travel by vehicle to the mountainous Longsheng County - to see beautiful [Rice Terraces](#) and visit [villages of ethnic Dong and Yao minority people](#).

Capture the splendid [View of Sunset](#) over the rice terraces with your camera. Stay overnight in the charming [Li'an Lodge \(terrace view room\)](#). Enjoy [dinner](#) in the [restaurant of the lodge](#). <B-L-D>



Day 09 Guilin

Get up early today and take a morning [Sunrise Walk](#) on the rice terraces, a mesmerizing experience. Return to lodge for breakfast and checking out.

Visit a local ethnic [Village Market](#) before driving to Guilin. Upon arrival, check in hotel and enjoy [lunch](#) in [hotel restaurant](#). [Time for rest](#).

Late afternoon visit to the [Panda Garden](#) in the Seven Star Park and followed by an evening [River & Lake Boat Ride](#) through the lit-up bridges and buildings in the scenic city of Guilin. Stay two nights in [Shangri-la Hotel Guilin \(deluxe river-view room\)](#). <B-L>

- Day 10 **Guilin** ➡↔ **Yangshuo** After breakfast in hotel, transfer to the pier and enjoy a breathtaking Li River Cruise from Guilin to Yangshuo with **buffet lunch** on board lux motorboat. After disembarking at Yangshuo, visit the West Street Market and a farming village in the beautiful countryside with Yulong River bamboo raft ride.  
After a **Local Cuisine Dinner** in the best local hotel restaurant, enjoy a sound & light show Impression Liusanjie (VIP Seats) on the Li River in the evening. Afterwards, drive back to your hotel in Guilin. <B-L-D>



- Day 11 ➔ **Hangzhou** Breakfast in hotel. **Enjoy some leisure time this morning.** Late morning transfer to airport, have **lunch** and fly **CZ3265 (1350-1545)** to Hangzhou.  
Met by your Hangzhou guide and transfer to Banyan Tree Hangzhou (water terrace suite). After check-in at the resort hotel, it is free time for you to relax and enjoy this charming traditional style architecture property. <B-L>

- Day 12 **Hangzhou** Breakfast in hotel. Enjoy a private boat ride on West Lake and visit lakeside parks and gardens. Tour Qinghefang Old Market Street and visit Lingyin Monastery in a small green valley where you find ancient sculptures of Buddha and other religious figures.  
After **Local Cuisine Lunch** in *Garden Restaurant*, visit the Longjing Tea Plantation and China Tea Museum. Late afternoon return to resort for your own relaxation. This evening, you may go to see *optional sound & light show 'Impression West Lake' (\$85 USD pp).* <B-L>

- Day 13 🚉 **Suzhou** Breakfast in hotel. Transfer to train station and take high speed train **G7576 (1107-1241; first class seat)** to Suzhou today (*luggage transported separately by vehicle*). Upon arrival, met by your Suzhou guide and transfer to Crowne Plaza Suzhou (deluxe lake view room) for check-in.  
After rest and refreshing, go to take visit Panmen Gate and take a cruise on the Grand Canal and City Moat. Have an evening tour of the classic Wangshi Garden before enjoying a **Suzhou Cuisine Dinner** in the famed *Songhelou Restaurant*. Transfer back to hotel after dinner. <B-D>



- Day 14 **Suzhou** Breakfast in hotel. Enjoy guided tours of a couple of more famous Suzhou literati gardens - Zhuozheng Garden and Lingering Garden. Enjoy a

relaxing walk along the atmospheric Pingjiang Road by the canal. Have a simple **lunch** in a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, visit the small yet interesting Suzhou Arts & Crafts Museum. Finally, visit the Silk & Embroidery Institute for an appreciation for the thousand year old industry and craftsmanship. Return to hotel for your own relaxation and dinner. <B-L>



Day 15 🇨🇳 **Shanghai** Breakfast in hotel. At **9:00am**, check out of hotel and travel by motor coach to Shanghai (**1.5hr**). On the way, stop at a traditional Water Village Luzhi for walking tour and exploration. Have **lunch** in a village restaurant. Arrive in Shanghai early afternoon and check in hotel for some rest.

In late afternoon, enjoy a Walking Tour of The Bund and a Huangpu River Cruise. This evening, enjoy a **Western Cuisine Dinner** in a nice *local western restaurant*. Transfer back to hotel after dinner. Stay for 3 nights in Fairmont Peace Hotel Shanghai (deluxe city-view room). <B-L-D>

Day 16 **Shanghai** After breakfast in hotel, first visit the People's Square and Shanghai Museum, one the best in China with beautiful exhibits and incredible collections. Then, move on to the classic Yuyuan Garden and Old Town area for an exploration.

Have **Steamed Soup Dumplings Lunch** at *Dingtaifeng Restaurant*. Afternoon visit Fuxing Park in the former French Concession and stop by Xintiandi for a glimpse of Shanghai's rejuvenated nightlife district.

Transfer back to hotel and remainder of the day is for your own leisure and relaxation. *Optional "Shanghai ERA Acrobatic Show" (\$80 USD pp)* this evening. <B-L>



Day 17 **Shanghai** Breakfast in hotel. This morning go across the river and have a bird's eye view of the whole city from the World Financial Center (*observation floor is 1555 feet high above ground*) in Pudong District.

Next, go to visit the Ohel Moshe Synagogue in the former Jewish Quarters during WWII. Take a walking tour of this historic neighborhood.

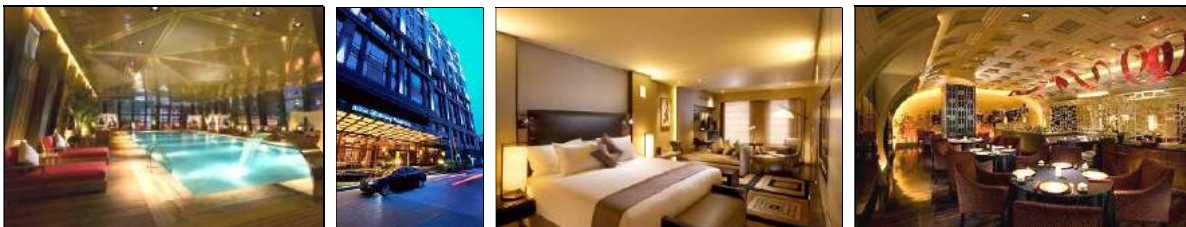
Transfer back to hotel and afternoon is free for your own exploration and relaxation. Tonight, enjoy a group **Farewell Shanghai Cuisine Dinner** in the exquisite *Xianqiangfang Restaurant*. Transfer back to hotel. <B-D>

Day 18 → return Breakfast in hotel. Morning is free for your own leisure. Picked up by guide and transfer to Shanghai Pudong Airport and fly home. Service ends. <B>

**Changes to Itinerary:** Access China Tours has made all possible attempts to ensure the accuracy of tour itineraries. Circumstances beyond our control may occur. We reserve the right to change itineraries, sightseeing activities, and common carriers, and to substitute hotels when necessary. Service of a similar category and standard will be maintained if such changes are made. The Service Voucher in your last pre-departure packet will provide the operational itinerary summary, final transport and hotel information.



## Luxury and Boutique Hotels Selected for Your Tour



Hilton Beijing Wangfujing



Sofitel Legend Peoples Grand Hotel Xi'an



Li'an Lodge Longsheng



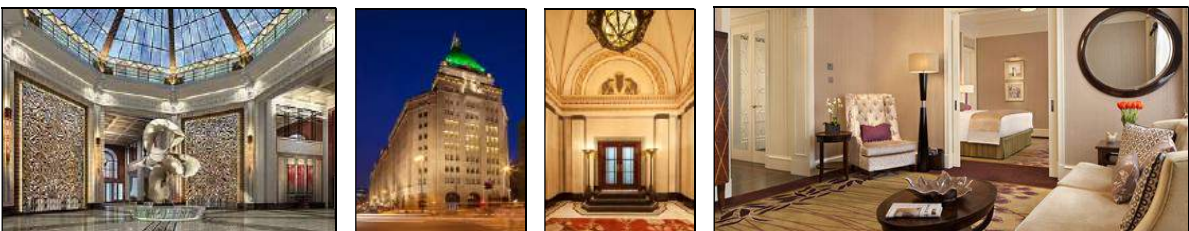
Shangri-la Hotel Guilin



Banyan Tree Hangzhou



Crowne Plaza Suzhou



Fairmont Peace Hotel Shanghai



## Tour Land Price Inclusions & Exclusions

**Tour Land Prices:**           **\$7,290 USD** per person, double occupancy (for a group of 2-5 travelers)  
  **\$6,980 USD** per person, double occupancy (for a group of 6-9 travelers)  
  **\$6,670 USD** per person, double occupancy (for a group of 10-16 travelers)

**Single Supplement Cost:** **\$2,850 USD** for single occupancy in hotels throughout the tour

### **What's Included in 'Tour Land Prices'**

- Luxury category and Boutique hotel double occupancy accommodations with breakfast
- Coach class China domestic air tickets and first class seats on high speed train
- Air-conditioned motor coach ground transportation
- All tour related Chinese domestic taxes
- Arrival and departure transfers on tour dates
- Transfers and luggage (1 piece of 45 pounds per person for domestic flights) handling
- Pre-departure information packets
- All sightseeing, visits, cultural events, and activities listed in the itinerary
- All meals (*all breakfasts, 11 lunches, and 8 dinners*) as specified in the itinerary
- Service of a private English-speaking Tour Manager/Escort (*for a group of 10 or more travelers*)
- Service of a private English-speaking local guide in each city
- Private, clean, and newer motor coach with air-conditioning and a professional driver
- Gratuities to local guides, drivers, and porters (*for a group of 10 or more travelers*)

### **What's Not Included in 'Tour Land Prices'**

- International air tickets (*will quote separately if requested*)
- Chinese visa processing ([www.mychinavisa.com](http://www.mychinavisa.com) or [www.mychinavisa.ca](http://www.mychinavisa.ca))
- Trip cancellation, baggage, accident, and medical insurance
- Meals not indicated as included and optional activities and events
- Gratuities to your Tour Manager/Escort; tipping for local guides and drivers (*for 2-9 travelers*)
- Items not listed and/or specified as included in the itinerary

**Cancellation Policy:** **\$600 USD pp deposit is required at sign up.** All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of receipt by *Access China Tours*. We assess cancellation fees of all tours according to the following schedule:

90 days or more prior to departure .....	\$300 per person *
89 to 60 days prior to departure .....	\$600 per person *
59 to 30 days prior to departure .....	\$900 per person *
29 to 15 days prior to departure .....	\$1200 per person *

\* Plus any charges assessed by government agencies, land suppliers, cruise companies and airlines.

Within 14 days of departure .....100% forfeiture of the tour price per person

*Access China Tours* will not grant partial refunds for any unused trip arrangements after the trip has commenced or any refunds to participants who do not complete any portion of the itinerary. Any airline tickets issued are subject to the carrier's refund and cancellation policy. **We strongly recommend you purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance to protect your travel investment.** If a tour is forced to be cancelled due to government's travel warnings, declared or undeclared wars, hostilities, civil disturbances, strike, riot, epidemic, and quarantines, *Access China Tours* will refund all participants' payment less any irretrievable expenses and loss (visa fees, airline penalties, communication cost, and non-refundable booking cost, etc.). However, *Access China Tours* will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by tour participants (e.g., non-refundable "advance purchase" air tickets, insurance & medical expenses, passport and visa expenses, etc.).