# INCREDIBLE CHINA TOUR



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## China Escorted Tour with Flights

Duration: 12 daysStay: 10 nights hotels, overnight flightTravel style: Escorted tour with flights from AustraliaBooking code: CHAV12M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience Email hello@mytravelxp.com

# 12 Days China Escorted Group Tour & Flights

#### About the holiday

Discover incredible China on a tour that takes you to Beijing, Wuxi, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Shanghai and Xi'an.

All that you've watched on documentaries or learned in the history books about the Middle Kingdom comes to life. Starting in Beijing, a tour of the city leads you through the capital's imperial treasures and iconic Tiananmen Square. Of course, spending time at the legendary Great Wall of China is a must and you'll visit one of its three most famous passes at the Juyongguan section.

Next, travel by high-speed train to Wuxi and by coach on to Suzhou, to spend time in its glorious UNESCO World Heritage gardens and admire beautiful silk works of art. Marco Polo once described Hangzhou as "the most beautiful and magnificent city in the world" and you'll see that it hasn't lost its charm. Drive to the dazzling city of Shanghai for a two-night stay, where you can admire the stunning skyline from the famous Bund promenade and wander through the Old Quarter to the historic Yuyuan Gardens. Then the final stop is Xi'an. Once the capital of eleven dynasties, today Xi'an is an archaeological treasure trove and it's where you'll marvel at the magnificent Terracotta Warriors.

#### Why we love this trip...

- Enjoy a worry-free tour for 10- 40 people & premium 4-star hotels
- Visit unmissable sights, like the Great Wall and Terracotta Army
- Travel by high-speed Bullet Train & dedicated air-conditioned vehicles
- This special deal includes airport transfers & flights from Australia

#### **Travel dates**

2024 - Departs Mondays from 5 August to 11 November\*

2025 - Departs Sundays from 2 March to 16 September\*

\*Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price may vary depending on your travel date. Please contact us for your preferred departure and current prices.

For the latest deals please call My Travel Experience on 1300 168 910

or email hello@mytravelxp.com



**Escorted Tour Package includes:** 

Flights - Return economy class flights from Australia to Beijing & from Xi'an Fly with China Southern or China Eastern Airlines Including 20kg checked luggage, all taxes & fees

Accommodation - 10 nights in 4-star hotels, based on twin share

- 3 nights Beijing
- 1 night Wuxu
- 1 night Suzhou
- 1 night Hangzhou
- 2 nights Shanghai
- 2 nights Xi'an

Meals - 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch

Transfers - Airport transfers on the first & last days of the tour

- Transportation Sightseeing as per itinerary in air-conditioned vehicles High-speed Bullet Train Beijing to Wuxi Train from Shanghai to Xi'an
- **Tour** Escorted by English-speaking local guides (not available on Bullet Trains) Services of local guides in all major cities

Sightseeing - In-depth sightseeing & entrance fees as per the itinerary

Package excludes:

China visa fees

Flight excess baggage & pre-booked seat allocation

Meals, other than those specified in the inclusions

Optional sightseeing tours & activities

Compulsory tipping for guides & drivers - AU\$12 per person, per day (paid in Beijing) Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry, WiFi etc.

Travel insurance is strongly recommended - we can provide a quote on request Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

Subject to confirmation by airlines, tour company, hotels & local operators. Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.



Tour Itinerary:

Day 1: Fly to China - Beijing Arrival

Welcome to Beijing - Capital of China!

Today begins your spectacular tour through China Upon arrival at Beijing Airport, you will be warmly greeted and escorted to your hotel to rest after your flight (you will most likely be arriving late in the evening).

Meals: In-flight meals

Accommodation: Ramada Beijing North Hotel 4\* or similar

#### Day 2: Beijing - Tiananmen Square

After breakfast, set out with your guide to discover the iconic imperial treasures of China's massive capital, Beijing. Stand in Tiananmen Square, one of the largest public squares in the world.

After our tour, you may explore the city at your own pace or instead, you may wish to take part in an optional excursion to enhance your experience. **Meals:** Breakfast

Accommodation: Ramada Beijing North Hotel 4\* or similar

**Remark:** If you do not join our optional tour, you will be dropped off and informed when and where to pick up to go back to hotel. (Normally it will be 4 - 5 hours later). If you do not want to wait this long, you can hail a taxi to hotel. The taxi fee is paid on your own.

#### **Optional tour: Forbidden City Tour**

We'll enter through the imposing walls of the palace complex, once the domain of the Ming Dynasty, for an exclusive tour of its courtyards and lanes. This area was considered by the emperor to be a divine place, and as such entry was exclusive to the imperial family and their court, hence the name, the Forbidden City. This is certainly not the case today: it now plays host to some 14 million visitors per year. The Forbidden City also now houses the National Palace Museum - one of the most comprehensive museums in all of China.

#### Optional tour: Beijing Golden Mask Dynasty Show

The large-scale, poetic, dancing drama, Golden Mask Dynasty Show, is based on a legendary age in China. Rated a "must see" for all visitors to Beijing. This quite remarkable show incorporates dancing, lighting, acrobatics and some magnificent costumes to recreate a wonderful legend. Get ready for a magical journey deep into the ancient and most golden dynasty in Chinese history.

#### Day 3: Beijing - Great Wall and Jade Carving Workshop

Today's excursion is one of the most anticipated of our trip - a visit to the **Great Wall of China**. Often recognized as one of the Seven Wonders of the World, this UNESCO World Heritage site is a staggering feat and a bucket list destination. We will be touring the Juyongguan section, one of the three most famous passes along the Great Wall. Located 60km from downtown Beijing, it used to be a stronghold that protected the northern access routes to the city. Here we'll get a chance to climb a portion of this architectural marvel, which stretches an astonishing 21,000km. En route back to the city we'll visit one of the largest jade exhibitions in China and learn all about China's most precious and celebrated stone.

Upon returning to Beijing, the rest of the day is yours to spend at leisure or to participate in one of our optional excursions.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Ramada Beijing North Hotel 4\* or similar

#### **Optional tour: Hutong Life Tour**

This tour will take you around the intricate winding hutongs to admire the old courtyards. They are maze-like and deep and exactly as they were a long time ago. You are invited to visit a local family's house to experience authentic Beijing life.

#### **Optional tour: Beijing Peking Duck Dinner**

An authentic Peking-duck banquet served with all the traditional accompaniments.

#### Day 4: Beijing - Bullet Train to Wuxi

After breakfast, you will begin our day at a Chinese herbal institute, where we will have the opportunity to learn about traditional Chinese medicine. Later you will pay a visit to the Temple of Heaven which is seen as the most holy of Beijing's imperial temples.

It has been described as "a masterpiece of architecture and landscape design". Morning is the best time to visit it. You will have an interesting experience watching local people doing morning exercises, like dancing, walking, practicing tai chi or playing games, as you walk to the temple.

In the afternoon we will board a bullet train to reach the city of Wuxi. China's bullet train network is now the most expansive in the world and you'll be rocketing towards Wuxi at speeds up to 300km/h. Upon arrival in Wuxi, you'll be met by our local representative and escorted to your hotel where you may spend the rest of the day relaxing, exploring or spending time with newly made friends. Meals: Breakfast Accommodation: Grand Park Hotel Wuxi 4\* or similar

Day 5: Wuxi - Suzhou

This morning our day begins with a visit to The Brilliance of Lake Lihu, a branch of Lake Taihu. The lake is well known for its gorgeous park and many interesting features. Locally it is famous thanks to the work of numerous scholars, who have written that notable historical figures, such as Fan Li and Xi Shi, boated here. While here we'll also visit a freshwater pearl farm. Travel by coach to Suzhou for our overnight stay.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Lakeside Hotel Suzhou 4\* or similar

#### **Optional tour: Wuxi Grand Canal Cruise**

Enjoy a cruise along the ancient canal from the city to the picturesque Grand Canal, which is the best way to appreciate the stunning views of a water town.

#### Day 6: Suzhou - Hangzhou

Suzhou's classical garden, called the Lingering Garden, is one of more than 60 in the city - it's recognized as having the most UNESCO World Heritage gardens in the world. After this we continue our journey to the Suzhou Silk Factory, which is said to be the largest silk manufacturer in the country. Here, we'll discover the incredible methods that lay behind silk harvesting.

In the afternoon we continue by coach on to Hangzhou, once described by Marco Polo as "the most beautiful and magnificent city in the world". Upon arrival in Hangzhou, you'll have the evening free to spend at your leisure: relax or take up our optional excursions, enjoying a performance.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Merchant Marco Garden Hotel Hangzhou 4\* or similar

#### Optional tour: Romantic Show of Song-Cheng

The Romantic show of Song Cheng is a symbolic show in Hangzhou. It has captivating song and dance, coupled with beautiful sound and light effects, and will thoroughly explain the history and mythology of Hangzhou. In this audio-visual performance, you'll be able to appreciate the daily life of Liang-Zhu people thousands of years ago, the splendid glory of the Southern Song Dynasty palace, the fierceness of the Yue family army, and the famous "Butterfly Lovers" and "Legend of the White Snake" operas.

#### Day 7: Hangzhou - Shanghai

The city of Hangzhou, also known as 'Paradise on Earth', has been immortalised by countless poets and artists. The most renowned feature here is the West Lake Cultural Landscape of Hangzhou, which has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. After our visit to the West Lake, we'll continue on to tea plantations to taste Dragon Well tea, otherwise known as Longjing - a much sought-after local green tea leaf. Green tea is said to be great for health and wellbeing, packed with antioxidants, and today you'll have the opportunity to learn more about China's tea culture.

Following lunch, we'll drive to Shanghai, on China's central coast. This evening, we'll have the opportunity to get a glimpse of Shanghai's dazzling skyline by joining the optional Huangpu River Cruise ride.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Novotel Shanghai Qingpu Excellence 4\* or similar

#### **Optional tour: Huangpu River Cruise**

Shanghai, a city that never sleep is beautiful in the daytime and magnificent at night. When night falls, people can enjoy the most shining lights cruising on the mother river of Shanghai - Huangpu River, which separates the city into two parts. On west side, you can enjoy the old skyline in shining lights, Gallery of World Architecture with the whole city as the background; while on east side, Lujiazui Financial and Trade Zone with all the new skyscrapers give you more enchanting views with dreaming colours of Shanghai.

#### Day 8: Shanghai

Enjoy a full day in Shanghai - a city of some 26 million people and an important global financial hub. After breakfast, we'll travel to the Bund, a famous waterfront area in Shanghai that's lined with colonial architecture of European design. The Bund is perhaps the best representation of Western influences from a bygone era, and is now called the 'Wall Street of the East'. Following our tour here, the rest of the day is yours to spend as you please - relax or enjoy one of our optional tours and activities to help enhance your experience.

#### Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Novotel Shanghai Qingpu Excellence 4\* or similar

#### **Optional tour: Shanghai Chinese Acrobatic Show**

As a multimillion-dollar stunning acrobatic extravaganza, the first of its kind in China, ERA is a multimedia odyssey whose inspiration is a direct result of the combination of traditional Chinese acrobatic arts and modern technology. Just like Shanghai, ERA evolves through a constant collision between the past and future.

#### Optional tour: Shanghai Insight Tour

This tour takes you to Lujiazui Financial & Trade zone, where the Jinmao Tower is located. Jinmao has 88 stories reaching a height of 420.5 meters and 290,000 square meter construction area, its name literally means "Gold Luxuriance Building" in Chinese. In here, you can find the perfect combination of traditional Chinese architectural style and the world's modern architectural technology. After this, we will visit another famous site in Shanghai - Xi'tian'di. It is an historical and cultural character of the city tourism attraction, its unique Shikumen Shanghai-based urban construction attracts people from the globe to explore this special leisure area.

#### Day 9: Shanghai - Xi'an

Today, travel by train from Shanghai to Xi'an. On arrival, pick up and transfer to visit the incredible Wild Goose Pagoda. The temple was originally used to keep the Buddhist scripts which were carried by the great monk Yi Jing from the Indian area and over time it has become a holy place for pilgrims. In the evening, be fascinated by the optional Grand Tang Everbright City and feast on a yummy Dumpling Banquet (not included)

#### Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Ramada by Wyndham Xi'an Chanba 4\* or similar

#### Optional tour: Grand Tang Everbright City & Dumpling Banquet

The Great Tang All Day Mall, also called Grand Tang Dynasty Ever Bright City, is a 1,500m (1,640yd) pedestrian street, located south of the Giant Wild Goose Pagoda and west of Tang Paradise. It is line with buildings featuring Tang Dynasty (618 - 907) architecture and sculptures telling Tang stories. In addition, you can enjoy street performances, a variety of food and shopping here. After that, you will enjoy with the Dumpling banquet.

#### Day 10: Xi'an

Today you will explore Xi'an on the Terracotta Warriors day tour. View the enigmatic ranks of the Terracotta Warriors in the company of our experienced local guide. You may have the opportunity to meet the man who discovered the Warriors and learn about the moment they were uncovered by talking to one of the farmers who stumbled upon them in 1974. Afterwards, visit the famous Moslem Street, where many delicious local snacks and souvenirs are available for purchase. **Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodation: Ramada by Wyndham Xi'an Chanba 4\* or similar

#### Day 11: Depart Xi'an - Fly to Australia

After breakfast, you are free time at leisure until we drive to the airport for flight back home. Overnight on plane. Meal: Breakfast

#### Day 12: Arrive in Australia

Welcome home! We hope you have enjoy a wonderful trip and My Travel Experience looks forward to welcoming you again!

Please note: The day-by-day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.

#### Information about this tour

The pace of this tour is moderate and you will encounter some uneven surfaces, stairs, steps and significant slopes. The Great Wall requires a climb up many steps, some of which have an incline. It is recommended to wear sturdy shoes, and people who have knee problems may want to carry a walking stick. Some tours require walking in the open air with no shade. Air pollution in China's major cities may pose an issue for some travellers. Please consult with your healthcare provider for specific recommendations.

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To talk with our travel experts, please call My Travel Experience on

1300 168 910

or email hello@mytravelxp.com

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### **BOOKING CONDITIONS**

#### Please read the following information prior to making your reservation

Our full set of terms and conditions can be <u>viewed and downloaded on our website</u>, or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.

#### This is a summary in brief for our customers:

- 1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
  - 2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
- 3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
- 4. 90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
  - 5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents via email.
- My Travel Experience manages a professional client operating account. All booking payments are held securely to pay for your travel services. We do not retain your money and funds are distributed promptly to travel service providers, including but not limited to, airlines, tour operators, cruise lines and hotels. We are required to pay the providers deposits and final payments and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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