

CHINA

GOLDEN TRIANGLE

XI'AN - BEIJING - WUXI - SUZHOU - HANGZHOU - SHANGHAI



2020 - 12 DAYS FROM

\$1599  
per person twin-share

This package offers an amazing opportunity to discover China's ancient history, rich culture, delicate cuisine, thriving industries, and modern architecture. Discover the incomparable mausoleum of China's first emperor, populated with an army of terracotta soldiers and their armoured horses. Walk along the Great Wall, and unfold the mystery of the Forbidden City in China's capital Beijing. Discover the exquisite cities Wuxi, Suzhou, and Hangzhou – known for their lakes, canals, and classical gardens. Finally, immerse yourself in the glamour of cosmopolitan Shanghai.

A wide range of optional activities, such as shows, cruises, and special meals, are available for you to tailor your holiday to your preferences.

Image: Terracotta Army, Xi'an


Nexus Holidays

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Images: 1. The Bund, 2. Tiananmen Square, 3. Summer Palace, 4. Wuxi, 5. Terracotta Army, 6. Suzhou, 7. Wild Goose Pagoda, 8. Great Wall, 9. Water Cube, 10. Enduring Memories of Hangzhou, 11. SPIRAL Acrobatic Show

HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the first emperor of China's incomparable **Terracotta Army**
- Walk on the incredible **Great Wall** near Beijing
- Sit by tranquil **West Lake in Hangzhou**, beloved by Marco Polo
- Stroll in one of the finest Chinese classical gardens in **Suzhou**
- Immerse yourself in the bustling metropolis **Shanghai**
- Enjoy a wide range of optional shows, activities, and special meals

Day 1: Arrive in Xi'an

Fly to Xi'an via connecting cities and transfer to the hotel. **Note:** Some flights may depart the day before.

Day 2: Xi'an (B, L, S)

The highlight today is a visit to the **Terracotta Army** to see the life-sized defending army of the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang. This site is among the top archaeological excavations of the 20th century. This will be followed by a visit to a ceramic art factory. In the evening, enjoy a special **Imperial Dumpling Banquet and traditional Tang Dynasty Singing & Dancing Show**.

Day 3: Xi'an ✈ Beijing (B, L)

After breakfast, visit the **Shaanxi Provincial History Museum**. The museum is one of China's largest, and houses over 370,000 items, including murals, paintings, pottery, coins, as well as bronze, gold, and silver objects. Enjoy a special noodle lunch including an interesting noodle making demonstration. Then visit the **Great Wild Goose Pagoda**, the symbol of the city. Later, walk along the **Ancient City Wall**, which is not only the most complete city wall to survive in China, but also one of the largest ancient military defence systems in the world. Fly out of Xi'an in the evening to continue your holiday.

Day 4: Beijing (B)

After breakfast, visit **Tiananmen Square** in the centre of Beijing. The square is named after the Tiananmen (Gate of Heavenly Peace) located to its north, which provides entry to the famed **Forbidden City**. The square contains the Monument to the People's Heroes, Great Hall of the People, National Museum of China, and the Mausoleum of Chairman Mao Zedong.

Optional activities

You may also wish to take an **optional Forbidden City Tour** (\$85): discover the former seat of the emperors throughout the Ming and Qing dynasties. It is a true architectural masterpiece, and is home to the fascinating National Palace Museum.

Peking Duck Lunch (\$50): Dine on Peking Duck.

Authentic Old Beijing Tour, with Temple of Heaven, Hutong Tour, and Dinner (\$115): The Temple of Heaven is recognised as a world heritage site by UNESCO. It is an architectural masterpiece, and was built between 1406 and 1460 AD. The temple was used by China's emperors for ceremonies honouring the god of harvests. Then, take a rickshaw tour of Beijing's ancient Hutong neighbourhoods, and visit a local family. This package also includes a traditional Beijing Noodle dish – zhajiangmian (fried bean sauce noodles) meal at a local restaurant. A speciality of Beijing, zhajiangmian is cooked by mixing noodles with vegetables and fried soybean sauce.

Day 5: Beijing (B, L)

Today's highlight is an excursion to the majestic **Great Wall**, one of the Seven Wonders of the World! You'll have a chance to climb a portion of this 6,000km marvel, at Juyong Pass. Then tour the iconic **Beijing 2008 Olympic Centre**; which includes the famous **Bird's Nest** and **Water Cube** stadiums, which now host many spectacular events. You'll see these magnificent structures from the outside, providing a perfect photo opportunity. You'll visit one of the largest jade exhibitions in Asia en route, and after lunch, see skilled artisans work at a cloisonné factory.

Optional activity

The Golden Mask Dynasty (\$75): Be amazed by the colour, music, and action of this large-scale stage production (evening).

Day 6: Beijing 🚄 / ✈ Suzhou (B)

Today, tour the exquisite **Summer Palace**, the largest preserved ancient garden in China, and formerly a summer resort for emperors. This is followed by a visit to a Chinese herbal medicine institute, and learn about this ancient medical tradition. Then, take a **high speed train** to Suzhou. Alternatively, the group may fly to Shanghai and travel the short distance to Suzhou by bus.

Note: The mode of transport (flight or train) will be confirmed by the time final documentation is ready hence within 2 weeks prior to departure.

Day 7: Suzhou 🚆 Wuxi (B, L)

Suzhou has long been known as the 'Venice of the East', for its exquisite canals, bridges, pagodas, and beautiful gardens, and is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. After breakfast, tour the **Lingering Garden**, a classic private garden with 500 years of history. Next, visit the largest silk factory in the country, and discover how silk is manufactured from mulberry-munching silkworms.

You may also take an **optional cruise along the Grand Canal** (\$45): Cruise on China's Grand Canal, at 1,776km long and reaching all the way to Beijing, this massive engineering feat was unparalleled in the ancient world.

Late afternoon, we continue to Wuxi and visit **Three Kingdoms City**, which is a major CCTV (China Central Television) production studio, and a renowned tourist attraction. The Romance of the Three Kingdoms, a historical TV series, was filmed there.

Day 8: Wuxi 🚆 Hangzhou (B, L)

This morning, tour beautiful **Li Lake** (Lihu), which is the most scenic corner of Wuxi's huge **Lake Tai** (Taihu), followed by a visit to a freshwater pearl exhibition and store. Continue on to Hangzhou, described by Marco Polo as "the most beautiful and magnificent city in the world". Upon arrival,

You may take an optional **cruise on the serene West Lake (Xihu)** (\$55), which the most renowned feature of Hangzhou, and is noted for its scenic beauty, which blends naturally with many famous historical and cultural sites.

In the evening, you may wish to attend **Enduring Memories of Hangzhou (Feb-Oct)** (\$95), and see the story of West Lake come alive before your eyes.



2020 DEPARTURES

29 Feb [^]	18 Apr ^{**}	13 Jun [*]	08 Aug	10 Oct [*]
07 Mar [^]	02 May	20 Jun ^{**}	15 Aug	17 Oct
14 Mar [^]	09 May	27 Jun ^{**}	22 Aug	24 Oct
21 Mar [^]	16 May	04 Jul ^{**}	29 Aug	31 Oct
28 Mar	23 May	18 Jul [*]	05 Sep	07 Nov
04 Apr ^{**}	30 May	25 Jul	12 Sep [*]	
11 Apr ^{**}	06 Jun	01 Aug	19 Sep ^{**}	

^{*}Shoulder season surcharge: \$100

^{**}Peak holiday surcharge: \$300

[^]Yangtze River Cruise Extension is not available
Single supplement: \$670

DEPARTURE OPTIONS

- SYD/MEL: Airfare included
- BNE/ADL/PER: +\$300

INCLUSIONS

- Full service Chinese carrier fares & taxes (eg. China Eastern/Southern Airlines or similar)
- 10 nights 3-4 star (local rating) hotel accomm.
- 10 breakfasts (B), 7 lunches (L) & 1 dinner (D)
- Xi'an to Beijing internal flight
- Beijing to Shanghai internal flight or High-speed bullet train from Beijing to Suzhou
- Coach transportation & transfers
- Selected sightseeing & entrance fees
- English speaking tour guide(s)

EXCLUSIONS

- Compulsory prepaid tipping: \$110
- China visa
- Optional programs
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)

AIR UPGRADES (long haul int'l sectors)

- Economy class: Cathay Pacific/Singapore Airlines fr \$500

EXTEND YOUR STAY

- Early Arrival/Stay Behind Fare Difference: fr \$250
- Hotel w/breakfast: \$75 twin-share, \$150 single
- Private transfer: \$120 per way (max. 3 ppl)

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION (or similar)

Xi'an	Titan Times Hotel
Beijing	Ramada Beijing North
Suzhou	Ramada Suzhou
Wuxi	Jinjiang Grand Hotel Wuxi
Hangzhou	Meiziqing Hotel Hangzhou
Shanghai	Crystal Orange Hotel Shanghai

OPTIONAL PROGRAMS (AUD)

Beijing	Forbidden City Tour	\$85
Beijing	Peking Duck Lunch	\$50
Beijing	Authentic Old Beijing Tour: Temple of Heaven, Hutong Tour & Dinner	\$115
Beijing	The Golden Mask Dynasty	\$75
Wuxi	Grand Canal Cruise	\$45
Hangzhou	West Lake Cruise	\$55
Hangzhou	Enduring Memories of Hangzhou	\$95
Shanghai	Half day tour to Jin Mao Tower and Xintiandi	\$85
Shanghai	SPIRAL Acrobatic Show	\$85
Shanghai	Huangpu River Cruise	\$75

All prices are per person twin-share in AUD unless otherwise stated and subject to revision without notice. Itineraries, airlines, hotels & ships are subject to availability and change. Hotel locations can be within or outside itinerary cities and may not be centrally located. Double-bedded rooms are not guaranteed. Nexus Holidays reserves the right to provide substitutes of similar quality and adjust the itinerary as we see fit to ensure smooth operations. Late March to early April is historically the best time to view cherry blossoms and early November to see crimson leaves, but is not guaranteed as they are highly seasonal and subject to climatic conditions. Passengers must remain with the group at all times. Fees may apply for deviations from the set itinerary. Total length of trip includes time spent in flight and is subject to flight schedule. Final itineraries and flight info may not be available until within 2 weeks before departure. Booking conditions apply, refer to website for latest information. ver30JUL2019



Day 9: Hangzhou Shanghai (B, L)

Experience tea-tasting at the **Dragon Well Tea Plantation**, which produces some of the the best 'Longjing' Green Tea in China. After lunch we drive to Shanghai. **The Bund**, on the **Huangpu River** and lined by historical architecture of European design, is the best place to capture the Western influences of the colonial era. Then, visit the **City God Temple Bazaar**, which is composed of stores selling traditional Chinese arts and crafts, medicine, and souvenirs. Tonight you can watch a thrilling **Chinese acrobatic show SPIRAL** (\$85): A thrilling Chinese acrobatic show, featuring dance, drama, music, and multimedia effects.

Day 10: Shanghai (B, L)

In the morning, tour **Shanghai Museum**, to see ancient Chinese art, furniture, and jade, followed by a visit to an emerald exhibition centre.

Optional activities

In the afternoon, you may enjoy an **optional half day tour of the Jin Mao Tower and Xintiandi** (\$85): visit the Jin Mao Tower Observation Deck on the 88th floor, for a panoramic view of the Huangpu River and the Bund. Xintiandi (New Heaven and Earth) holds the historical and cultural legacy of the city. It was the site of the first congress of the Chinese Communist Party, but is now the most expensive place to live in China.

You may enjoy an **optional Huangpu River cruise** (\$75): Get a glimpse of of Shanghai, with the colonial-era Bund on one side and the futuristic skyscrapers of Lujiazui financial district on the other.

Day 11: Depart Shanghai (B)

After breakfast, transfer to Shanghai airport to board your flight home. The trip may be over, but the experiences and memories will certainly last a lifetime.

Day 12: Arrive Home





A Yangtze River cruise is the thrill of a lifetime. You will enjoy the stunning picturesque scenery and amazing natural beauty of the famed Three Gorges: Qutang, Wu, and Xiling, while exploring historical relics and ancient cultural sites along the mighty river.

Enjoy shore excursions to explore the fascinating history and tranquil landscapes of the region, including the spectacle of Fengdu Ghost City, a peculiar site that contains statues of demons and ghosts that roam the after-world; the fun of drifting through Shennong Stream, which offers clear running waters, picturesque rock formations, and monkeys and goats along its banks; and the wonder of the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest.




VIP PACKAGE INCLUSIONS

Yangtze Gold Cruise ships: +\$150

- Free upgrade to higher floor (4th-5th floor)
- Complimentary coffee, tea & snacks at happy hour in the afternoon
- Access to VIP restaurant (an optional a la carte menu will be available at extra cost)
- Unlimited local wine, beer, and soft drinks at lunch & dinner
- Express check in and check out service
- Room turn-down service
- Welcome fruit basket in cabin
- VIP area reserved for evening entertainment
- 2 hours free internet for each sailing

Note: Inclusions & prices are subject to change without prior notice.

 YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

POST-TOUR EXTENSION Majestic Yangtze River Cruise 4 Nights

- from \$950; single supplement \$750; includes
- Economy class flights or high-speed train (subject to availability)
 - 4 nights standard Cabin with private balcony (twin-share)
 - 4 breakfasts (B), 3 lunches (L) & dinners (D)
 - All transfers
 - 3 shore excursions (subject to change & favourable weather conditions)
 - English speaking guide (on board)
- Excludes compulsory prepaid tipping: \$50 & optional shore excursions

Note: Aboard Yangtze Gold 1, 2, 6 or 7, President 7, or similar. Cruise ship is subject to change. Triple share is not available. Nexus Holidays reserves the right to substitute the ship with one of similar standard. Cruise itinerary including all arrival, departure times & shore excursions are subject to change.

Day 11: Shanghai / Yichang Yangtze River Cruise (D)

Arrive the port city of Yichang, the starting point of our Yangtze River Cruise for the next four nights. After dinner, we board the cruise and receive an introduction on cruise events and onboard activities.

Arr/Dept	Events
19:00-20:00	Board the ship at Yichang Dock
24:00	Departs Yichang

Day 12: Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D)

Today, your cruise enters the **Xiling Gorge**. Named for Mount Xiling, this is the longest of the Three Gorges. In fact, Xiling Gorge comprises four smaller gorges with rather poetic names; Precious Sword, Horse Lung & Ox Liver, Soundless Bell, and Shadow Play.

Arr/Dept	Events
08:00	Briefing on the cruise
08:00-09:00	Passing the Xiling Gorge (East Part)
09:00-11:00	Shore excursion: Three Gorges Dam Site
11:00-13:00	Shore excursion: Visit Ba and Tujia ethnic minorities of the Three Gorges. Experience a charming reenactment of traditional life ways in a peaceful hillside village setting (optional)
13:30-15:30	Passing the Three Gorges Dam
16:00	Sail through 5-stage shiplock
18:00	Captain's Welcome Dinner
20:00	Evening entertainment

Day 13: Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D)

Populated since at least the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD), this once-wild tributary to the Yangtze has calmed since the construction of the **Tree Gorges Dam**. This charming gorge and the surrounding forest park are named for Shen Nong, the mythical 'Divine Farmer', who is said to have taught the ancient Chinese the secrets of agriculture, herbal medicine, the solar calendar, and brewing tea.

Arr/Dept	Events
06:30	Breakfast
08:00-12:00	Shore excursion: Shennong Stream
13:30-17:00	Sail through Wu Gorge and Qutang Gorge
17:30	Shore excursion: White Emperor City (optional)

Day 14: Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D)

Arr/Dept	Events
07:00	Breakfast
08:30-10:30	Shore excursion: Shibaozhai Pagoda
10:30-12:30	Shore excursion: Fengdu Ghost City (optional)
14:00-16:00	Lectures
18:00	Farewell Dinner

Day 15: Depart Chongqing (B)

After breakfast, disembark from our cruise in the port city of Chongqing at 9am. Transfer to the airport to board your flight to home.

Day 16: Arrive Home

Images: 12. Yangtze River
13. Shore excursion
14. Yangtze Gold Cruise