

10 DAY STUNNING CHINA

DESTINATIONS

—
12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be effected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Destination	Beijing
Meals included	
Hotel	5 ★ Wyndham Beijing North, or similar

Welcome to China!

A city of roughly 22 million people, Beijing is bustling and energetic. There is plenty to see, do and, of course, eat – whether it's dumplings at a night food market or a taste of traditional Peking duck. Given the capital's rich history – 5,000 years of it – you'll find magnificent palaces, and luxurious royal gardens and mausoleums. It's home to important temples and several of China's most famous tourist attractions, like the Forbidden City.

Check in: Passengers will be arriving at various times throughout the day from as early as 6am through to late evening. If arriving prior to standard check-in time, which is generally 3pm local time, you are welcome to leave your luggage with hotel reception and explore your surroundings until check-in becomes available, as there are generally no scheduled activities on Day 1 of the itinerary. The hotel may grant early check-in, however this is strictly subject to availability and at the hotel's discretion.

No transfers provided for land-only bookings.

DAY 2

Destination	Beijing
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	5 ★ Wyndham Beijing North, or similar

We'll enjoy a full day of visiting the sights of this teeming metropolis that served as the capital of five dynasties over a period of 800 years.

First stop is Tiananmen Square, the site of several important events in Chinese history. At 440,000 square metres, it was built as a sign of the strength of Communism. It's designed to hold one million people. Tiananmen means 'Gate of Heavenly Peace' and the north side of the square is flanked by this gate that leads to the Forbidden City. The square holds great cultural significance and also contains the Monument to the People's Heroes, the National Museum of China and the Mausoleum of Chairman Mao Zedong.

Next we'll visit the Forbidden City, directly opposite Tiananmen Square. The former Chinese imperial palace is a famous landmark of Beijing and a great place to learn about Chinese culture and history. It was the centre of imperial China during the Ming and Qing dynasties. Don't miss the magnificent Meridien Gate or the Golden River Bridges, five richly-decorated white marble bridges. It's undoubtedly China's top tourist site so be prepared for crowds!

Tonight, indulge in a welcome banquet that includes the local delicacy, Peking roast duck with all the traditional accompaniments. This famous roasted duck dish dates back to the Ming Dynasty, some 600 years ago. Peking duck is named after Beijing – peking is an older spelling.

DAY 3

Destination	Beijing 🚗 Great Wall 🚗 Beijing
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	5 ★ Wyndham Beijing North, or similar

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Your excursion to the majestic Great Wall (Juyong Pass) won't disappoint – it's one of the Seven Wonders of the World and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy the rugged mountain scenery here at one of the most important forts on the Great Wall. You'll have a chance to climb a portion of this ancient wall.

On the way, we'll visit one of the largest jade exhibitions in Asia. Jade, known as the royal gem, has been a popular stone for prosperity and luck since ancient times.

After lunch, we'll see skilled artisans at work in a cloisonné factory.

Please note: The Great Wall of China does not have an option for a lift or gondola that takes you to the top. You will have 1 - 2 hours to visit. Usually, it takes 1.5 hours for portion that you will climb on tour.

OPTIONAL TOUR - GOLDEN MASK SHOW

A must-see production in Beijing, take in the colourful, spectacular performance of 'The Golden Mask Dynasty'. This large-scale musical drama tells this ancient romantic legend with dancing, acrobatics, magnificent costumes and one or two surprises.

DAY 4

Destination	Beijing
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	5 ★ Wyndham Beijing North, or similar

We'll start today's touring with the exquisite Summer Palace, the largest preserved ancient garden in China and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This former summer resort for emperors covers a vast expanse of 2.9 square kilometres, with water making up about three quarters of this beautiful landscape.

Then, enjoy the Beijing Zoo with a large variety of animals, including time in the Panda House to see celebrated giant pandas.

We'll also visit a Chinese Herbal Institute to learn about traditional Chinese medicine and enjoy a rejuvenating foot massage.

OPTIONAL TOUR - HUTONG LIFE TOUR

Go on a tour of Beijing's ancient Hutong neighbourhoods, and visit a local family where you will learn about tai chi, Chinese calligraphy, and cricket fighting.

OPTIONAL TOUR - KUNG FU SHOW

A must-see production in Beijing for tourists and Kung Fu lovers. A group of the best Kung Fu practitioners in China perform in this show, a mix of traditional martial arts and modern theatre. Enjoy stunning Kung Fu skills, exquisite ballet and music.

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DAY 5

Destination	Beijing 🚄 Wuxi
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel	4 ★ Days Hotel Baile Wuxi, or similar

We'll take the high-speed train to Wuxi today, an ancient city with beautiful landscapes and pleasant warm climate. Enjoy the scenery as we pass by renowned Lake Taihu, one of the largest freshwater lakes in China.

This evening in Wuxi, explore Nanchang Street, an ancient street that has been developed and modernised to turn it into an entertainment destination. Street hawkers offer local delicacies like tofu pudding and you'll find handicrafts, like sugar paintings, produced by folk artists.

OPTIONAL TOUR - GRAND CANAL CRUISE

The Wuxi Grand Canal runs through the entire city with a length of more than 40 kilometers. Taking a boat to sail along the river is the best way to experience life like the locals.

DAY 6

Destination	Wuxi 🚄 Suzhou
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	4 ★ Suzhou Qingshan Hotel, or similar

This morning we'll visit one of the largest freshwater pearl exhibitions in the country.

After lunch, we'll travel to Suzhou, also known as the Oriental Venice for its exquisite canals, bridges, pagodas and beautiful gardens. Nine of its classical gardens are UNESCO World Heritage Sites, admired as the most refined representations of the art of classical Chinese garden design.

We'll visit Lingering Garden, a classical private garden with 500 years of history.

DAY 7

Destination	Suzhou 🚄 Hangzhou
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	4 ★ Merchant Marco Hotel, or similar

China is renowned for its exquisite silk, so naturally this morning we'll visit a silk-spinning factory, to discover the intricacies of the silk-making process. After lunch, we'll travel to Hangzhou, one of the seven ancient capitals of China. It really is stunning, with lush hillsides and the mountain-fringed West Lake, another UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We'll visit West Lake on arrival to appreciate the ethereal beauty of Hangzhou's willow-draped islands. Enjoy a boat ride on the lake, a relaxing way to enjoy this delightful scenery.

The evening is free for you to relax or explore this delightful city.

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OPTIONAL TOUR - IMPRESSION WEST LAKE

This is a unique outdoor concert performed on West Lake. The stage platform lies three centimetres below the surface of the water and actors seemingly dance on the lake, like fairies. The grand open-air show captures the enchanting wonder of West Lake's natural and cultural beauty.

DAY 8

Destination	Hangzhou 🚗 Shanghai
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Howard Johnson Hongqiao Hotel, or similar

Regarded as the number one tea in China and known as the 'Green Queen', we'll visit the Dragon Well (longjing) tea plantation and taste this local favourite, with its strong fragrance and distinctive flavour. Learn more about this much-loved green tea and tea culture.

Then we'll head for Shanghai, the largest city by population in the world. Shanghai is renowned for its architecture, world-class museums and galleries. It's a city of contrasts and the interesting blend of old and new is part of its charm.

We'll take a walk along the famous Bund – this waterfront promenade along the Huangpu River is a great place to enjoy the combination of traditional Chinese and Western culture. You'll see historic buildings – a living museum of colonial history – and across the water, enjoy the contrast of the famous Shanghai skyline, with the modern skyscrapers of the Pudong District. Shanghai is home to some of the world's biggest buildings. Try to spot the 632m-tall Shanghai Tower and the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, with its distinctive pink spheres.

The rest of the day is free for you. If you feel like shopping, the pedestrian-friendly Nanjing Road is the best-known shopping street, also a thriving dining and entertainment precinct. It's all here – big chain stores, iconic Chinese department stores like Sincere and Wing On, expensive boutiques and street vendors.

OPTIONAL TOUR - SHANGHAI ACROBATIC SHOW

The Shanghai Acrobatic Show is, in our opinion, one of the best shows to see while on tour in China. It appeals to all ages, from young children to adults. It is very visual and the show is not made of "tricks", but feats of skill and fitness. It is comparable to many international Cirque-style shows but at a much lower price and an opportunity to sit much closer. Having seen all the acrobat shows in Beijing and Shanghai, we consider this one to be the best of the lot.

DAY 9

Destination	Shanghai
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel	4 ★ Howard Johnson Hongqiao Hotel, or similar

After breakfast, we'll visit the famous Jin Mao Tower for a different perspective of this enthralling city. We'll take the lift to the observation deck for a panoramic view of Shanghai from the 88th floor.

After lunch, we'll head to the Old Street near the City God Temple area, a bustling historic area where you'll find folk performances, interesting shops and street food. The temple complex consists of nine palaces and is dedicated to

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three city gods.

This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner with your group to celebrate your time in China.

OPTIONAL TOUR - HUANGPU RIVER CRUISE

Enjoy an evening cruising the Huangpu River, allowing you to take in the famous sites of Shanghai including the People's Hero Monument, the Bund, the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, the dramatic skyline of the Pudong business district, bustling Shanghai Cruise Port, the docks, Nanpu Bridge and Yangpu Bridge.

DAY 10

Destination	Shanghai
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	N/A

Enjoy one last delicious breakfast this morning, before your China adventure comes to an end.

We hope you've enjoyed this extraordinary journey.

Check out: Passengers will be departing at various times throughout the day. Standard hotel check-out times will apply no matter what time your flight is scheduled to depart. Check-out time is generally anywhere from 10am-12pm. You are welcome to leave your luggage at hotel reception and spend your final moments of free time exploring the area or, alternatively, please speak with hotel staff if you would like to extend your check-out time. Please note this service is subject to availability and will likely come at an additional cost. Your tour guide (or hotel staff) will confirm the time of your airport transfer with you directly.

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Inclusions

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Visa Gift Card to the value of \$50 per person
- 9 nights in 4 to 5-star accommodation
- Meals: Daily breakfast, 6 lunches and 4 dinners as per itinerary
- Group size up to 48 people, with local, English speaking guides throughout
- All tipping
- All transportation, rail and coach
- Activities indicated in the itinerary
- All accommodation as listed
- All entrance fees to the sites listed (except optionals)
- All activities listed in the itinerary unless a paid optional
- Comfortable, dedicated private transportation throughout
- 24/7 customer service and your own Dedicated Support Agent

SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

- Beijing – Visit the fascinating top tourist sites of Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the exquisite Summer Palace
- Beijing – Walk on the marvellous Great Wall of China, the largest man-made structure in the world
- Beijing – See adorable giant pandas at Beijing Zoo
- Wuxi – Enjoy free time to explore lively Nanchang Street
- Suzhou – Admire the refined art of classical Chinese garden design at the UNESCO-listed Lingerin Garden
- Suzhou – Visit a silk-spinning factory to learn more about China's exquisite silk
- Hangzhou – Discover the romantic beauty of West Lake's dreamy landscape, a cultural treasure
- Hangzhou – Learn about longjing tea and taste this local favourite at a charming tea plantation
- Shanghai – Admire the contrast of traditional and modern architecture as you wander The Bund waterfront promenade
- Shanghai – Get a bird's eye view of the dazzling Shanghai skyline from the 88th-floor observation deck of the Jin Mao Tower

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VISA GIFT CARD

Visa Gift Card to the value of \$50 per person.

Your Visa Gift Card will be posted to the lead passenger address provided on the traveller booking form, therefore please ensure that the details you provide are accurate at the time of submission. The Visa Gift Card will be issued following the release of your tour documentation 30 days before departure. You can expect to receive your gift card no later than 7 days before your departure from Australia.

Fine Print

HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

Deposit & Payment

- Book now and secure your package with only a \$150 deposit per person.
- You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure.

Booking Process

- Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)
- Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
- Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests
- Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
- Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment. You may also pay via BPAY (not available within 70 days of departure)
- Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
- Your booking is confirmed once your Booking Form is submitted and you can begin the countdown to your Inspiring Vacation!
- You will then be allocated and contacted by one of our Dedicated Support Agent's (within 48 hours) who will support you right up until you return from your journey

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EXTRA SERVICES

You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour, adding a stopover package en-route or booking a tour extension. On this tour you can choose from the following options:

Airport chauffeur

Take the hassle out of getting to the airport with private chauffeur transfers to and from your home airport. Your personal chauffeur will meet and greet you, attend to your luggage and drive you to your destination in a luxury vehicle.

- Within 30km of airport: \$139 per vehicle (max 2 guests)
- Outside 30km of airport: You may add this option to your booking and the final price will be adjusted based on the transfer distance.

Additional surcharges may apply depending on pick-up time, tolls and government levies.

Airport Chauffeur can be selected once you have finalised your tour purchase and paid your deposit. When completing your Passenger Booking Form, you will be asked if you would like to add this service, where any applicable cost will be added to your final balance.

Airport lounges

Escape busy airport terminals and relax at a cosy and catered lounge instead. Departure lounge access in Sydney \$70 per person (up to 6 hours); Melbourne & Brisbane \$55 per person (up to 3 hours).

Airport lounge passes can be selected once you have finalised your tour purchase and paid your deposit. When completing your Passenger Booking Form, you will be asked if you would like to add this service, where any applicable cost will be added to your final balance.

Pre and post-tour accommodation - Not available

Arrival and departure airport transfers - Not available

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OPTIONAL TOURS

To enhance your journey, we are offering a choice of the following optional activities:

- Beijing - The Golden Mask Dynasty - \$75 per person
- Beijing - Hutong Life Tour- \$70 per person
- Beijing - Chinese Kung Fu Show - \$75 per person
- Wuxi - Grand Canal Cruise - \$35 per person
- Hangzhou - Impression West Lake or similar - \$80 per person
- Shanghai - Chinese Acrobatic Show - \$75 per person
- Shanghai - Huangpu River Cruise - \$40 per person

The optional tours can only be purchased on-tour with your guide, and are payable in local currency (AUD prices are a guide only and are affected by currency exchange rates). Optional tours are subject to conditions such as traffic, weather and sightseeing schedules, as well as minimum numbers.

EXCLUSIONS

- International Airfares
- Airport Transfers
- Visas
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities
- Personal expenses

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Fitness Requirements

While the tour itinerary should give you some guidance and overview to the expected requirements, to determine if this tour is right for you we categorise each of our tours in terms of their intensity. These guidelines are to ensure that each tour group is conducted as expected and to ensure the overall satisfaction of all Inspiring Vacations customers.

As a general rule, portage is not included, therefore at all times you are expected to handle your own luggage where help may not be available.

This particular tour is categorised as a "3".

3 – Moderate Tour: A good level of fitness and mobility is required, as this tour includes a moderate level of physical activity and is considered a medium-fast paced tour. You should be able to walk up and down stairs, get on and off the coach and able to walk reasonable distances of approximately 2 kilometres per day or more with ease. Any physical ailments you may have must be disclosed at the time of booking to

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determine your suitability. If you have any form of walking aids, other than a walking stick or hiking poles, then this tour is not suitable.

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences however any changes are beyond our control.

Single Supplement

Single supplement is \$599 person in addition to the twin share price.

Triple Share

Available. Please call us on 1300 88 66 66 to request this option. Each guest will still be charged the Twin Share price.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is required to protect yourself against the unexpected.

We have partnered with nib to offer our customers competitive rates for their travel insurance. You can book comprehensive or budget cover simply by clicking [HERE](#) to arrange your policy.

Visa & Passport information

It is the travellers responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of 6 months from your intended date of return to Australia.

All Australian passport holders will require a e-visa to enter China.

The best way to apply for your Visa is directly with the Chinese Visa Application Service Centre in your nearest capital city. We recommend you to organise an appointment online to arrange a date and time.

You will require specific documents to apply for your visa which we will provide you closer to your departure date. Please keep in mind you are unable to apply for your visa until you are within 3 months of your travel date.

Please note that these details are subject to change without notice. We recommend visiting <https://smartraveller.gov.au> for up to date information in terms of entry requirements. Visa's should not be applied for before receiving your final documentation.

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Tour Documentation

Final documentation including e-tickets and hotel details will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

Group Size

2-48 people

Trip Style - Group Tour

Our Group Tours offer unparalleled value for money and are the perfect style of travel for those on a budget, though still eager to pack as much in to their itinerary as possible. These tours tick all the boxes with an abundance of inclusions such as sightseeing highlights, expert tour guides, quality accommodation, transfers, coach transportation, some meals and more. Please note that the maximum group size will vary between deals and will be mentioned within the Fine Print of each deal page.

Children

Children must be 2 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are the same price as adults.

Tour Length

The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule, please refer to the day by day itinerary for the time spent on land.

WHAT CLIMATE TO EXPECT

For more information on the weather in China, click [HERE](#).