

China Essence - Group Tour 2016 - 11 Days

This classic tour covers the most of the must-see destinations in China. In eleven days, you will visit the ancient cultural cities of Beijing and Xi'an, enjoy the dynamic Shanghai and get impressed by the most graceful and charming city of Suzhou.

Date	Destinations	Attractions, Meals & Transport
1	Day 1 (Wed) Arrive Beijing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">airport-hotel transfer in Beijingbreakfast, lunch<i>Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City, Summer Palace, optional program</i> The Tian'anmen Square is the world's largest and renowned public square where many historical events once took place.
2	Day 2 (Thu) Beijing	<p>The Forbidden City (UNESCO) is the imperial place where the emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties ruled for nearly 500 years (1420-1911). Experience the architectural splendor of the palaces, ceremonial courtyards, and private quarters.</p> <p>The Summer Palace (UNESCO) is the largest imperial garden in the world. Emperors of successive dynasties created a summer retreat of Chinese gardens and pavilions, around the tranquil waters of Kunming Lake.</p> <p>Optional program: Kung Fu Show with Peking Duck dinner (USD 60 per person)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">breakfast, lunch<i>Great Wall, Bird's Nest & Water Cube, a jade stone workshop en route</i> The Great Wall is one of the most spectacular structures ever built by humans and is the only one visible from space.
3	Day 3 (Fri) Beijing	<p>Take an outside tour to the Olympic Stadium, nicknamed Bird's Nest, and the National Swimming Centre, also known as the Water Cube.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">breakfast, lunch<i>Temple of Heaven, Hutong Tour, a pearl workshop en route</i> The Temple of Heaven (UNESCO), where ancient Chinese emperors made sacrifices to Heaven and prayed for bountiful harvests, demonstrates the supreme achievement of traditional Chinese architecture.
4	Day 4 (Sat) Beijing	<p>Take a Hutong Tour to explore the oldest part of the city and gain insight into the traditional lifestyle and customs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">hotel-airport transfer in Beijing, airport transfer in Xi'anbreakfast, lunch<i>Shaanxi History Museum, Big Wild Goose Pagoda</i> The Shaanxi History Museum, a national comprehensive museum in Xi'an, highlights the development of Chinese civilization more than 5,000 years.
5	Day 5 (Sun) Beijing - Xi'an (by air)	<p>The Big Wild Goose Pagoda, a Tang Dynasty landmark, is a seven-story pagoda initially constructed in 652 AD. One of the pagoda's many functions is to hold sutras and figurines of the Buddha that were brought to China from India by the Buddhist translator and traveler - Xuanzang.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">breakfast, lunch & special dinner<i>Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses, a ceramic & pottery workshop en route, Dumpling Banquet & Tang Dynasty Show</i> The Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses (UNESCO) is one of the greatest archaeological discoveries in the world. More than 6000 life-sized terra cotta warriors, archers, infantrymen, horses, and bronze chariots have silently guarded the tomb of China's First Emperor for over 2,200 years.
6	Day 6 (Mon) Xi'an	<p>Enjoy a tasteful Dumpling Banquet followed by an exquisite traditional Tang Dynasty Show.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">hotel-airport transfer in Xi'an, airport-hotel transfer in Shanghaibreakfastbreakfast, lunch, dinner<i>Yu Garden, Shanghai Museum, Bund, Xintiandi Street, Acrobatic Show</i> Owing to its ingenious design in Ming and Qing dynasties, the Yu Garden becomes a real museum of Chinese ancient architecture.
7	Day 7 (Tue) Xi'an - Shanghai (by air)	<p>The Shanghai Museum has a collection of 120,000 pieces of Chinese ancient treasures.</p> <p>The Bund, featured outstanding European colonial architectures, is full of new skyscrapers and historical buildings in the center of Shanghai.</p> <p>Take a stroll along the Xintiandi Street, a boutique area highlights a harmonious merger of classic and modern Shanghai.</p> <p>After your dinner, enjoy a spectacular Acrobatic Show, known as one of the most fabulous performance arts in China.</p>
8	Day 8 (Wed) Shanghai	

9	Day 9 (Thu) Shanghai - Suzhou - Shanghai (by automobile)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transfer of Shanghai/Suzhou/Shanghai • breakfast, lunch • <i>Master of Nets Garden, Grand Canal, Pingjiang Road, a silk factory en route</i> The Master of Nets Garden, the smallest and most proportional of all the beautiful gardens in Suzhou, is in the mood of tranquility and harmony. Take a small boat trip along the Grand Canal and get close to the world's oldest and longest canal. Pingjiang Road, a ancient street along the Grand Canal, is filled with snack shops, tea houses, ping-tan museums, and boutique shops.
10	Day 10 (Fri) Shanghai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • breakfast • hotel-airport transfer in Shanghai

Tour Dates:

Fixed departures based on minimum of 2 travelers

Accommodation:

Beijing International Hotel
Xi'an Jianguo Hotel
Shanghai Ocean Hotel

Tour Includes :

- English-speaking guide
- Air-conditioned coach or van
- Land transfers between airport and hotel.
- Entrance tickets as listed
- Chinese lunch and dinner as listed
- Hotels with daily breakfast
- Domestic flight ticket with taxes
- Service charge & government taxes

Tour Excludes :

- International flight tickets
- Personal expenses such as laundry, drinks, phone bills, optional activities
- Tips for guides and drivers (Suggested tipping amount per person per day: USD 5-7 for the guide and USD 3-5 for the driver)
- Chinese Visa
- Travel insurance

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