info@cits.com.cn +86-10-65222991

# Spirit of China - 10 Days

Discover China’s ultimate classic highlights on a 10-day private tour covering Shanghai, Suzhou, Hangzhou, Xi'an, and Beijing. Cruise Hangzhou's West Lake and Suzhou's Grand Canal, marvel at the Terracotta Warriors, and walk the iconic Great Wall with seamless high-speed train and flight connections. Fully customizable and compatible with China's 240-Hour Visa-Free Transit policy.

## Tour Highlights

**UNESCO Heritage Wonders:** Explore Beijing's imperial grandeur at the **Forbidden City**, **Temple of Heaven**, **Summer Palace**, and **Badaling Great Wall**, then stand face-to-face with Xi'an's ancient **Terracotta Warriors**.
**Classical Jiangnan Gardens & Historic Streets:** Discover Suzhou's delicate **Master of Nets Garden**, stroll down ancient **Pingjiang Road**, and wander Hangzhou's vibrant **Qinghefang Historical Street**.
**Scenic Waterways & Ancient Towers:** Enjoy relaxing boat trips along Suzhou's historic **Grand Canal** and Hangzhou's picturesque **West Lake**, plus visit the iconic **Six Harmonies Pagoda**.
**Modern & Classic Transit:** Speed across China aboard modern high-speed **bullet trains** and efficient domestic flights connecting classic destinations seamlessly.
**100% Private & Custom:** Enjoy a flexible, private guided journey with dedicated local English-speaking guides and private vehicles tailored to your personal preferences.

| Date | Destinations | Attractions, Meals & Transport |
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| 1 | Day 1 Arrival in Shanghai | airport - hotel transfer in Shanghai |

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| 2 | Day 2 Shanghai \| Yu Garden & The Bund | breakfast, lunch<br><br>**Yu Garden, The Bund, Shanghai Old Town**<br>Built in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Yu Garden is a classic example of a Jiangnan region garden and the most famous of five classical gardens in Shanghai. The Yu Garden compound consists of more than 30 halls and is divided into six sections by "dragon walls", tall white walls with undulating grey tiled ridges each terminating in a dragon's head. Next to the garden is Yuyuan Bazaar, a labyrinth of small streets and lanes where you can find a large number of restaurants, tea houses and shops. The most popular restaurants are NanxiangMantou Restaurant, famous for its xiaolongbao, Lubolang Restaurant and Old Shanghai Restaurant.<br>One of the city's most recognisable landmarks and the pride of Shanghai for over one hundred years, the Bund is a mile-long stretch of waterfront promenade along the Huangpu River. On the west side of the road stand 52 buildings of various architectural styles, including Gothic, baroque, and neoclassical styles. It is often called an outdoor museum of buildings.<br>Step back in time and experience the historical heart of the city at Shanghai Old Town, where classic Jiangnan-style architecture and bustling street markets offer a fascinating contrast to the city's futuristic skyscrapers. Anchored by the 16th-century Yu Garden and the lively bazaar surrounding the City God Temple, this vibrant district allows you to wander through labyrinthine alleys lined with traditional gray-brick buildings, cross the iconic Nine-Turn Bridge, and sample world-famous local delicacies like Xiaolongbao (soup dumplings) at historic eateries.<br><br>**Leisure Time & Optional Experiences**<br>**Huangpu River Cruise**: See Shanghai's iconic skyline from the water on a Huangpu River Cruise. Sail past the Bund's 52 historic colonial buildings and the futuristic skyscrapers of Lujiazui, including the Shanghai Tower and Oriental Pearl Tower. Choose a day cruise for clear architectural details or a night cruise (highly recommended) to see the city illuminated in a dazzling light show.<br>**Shanghai Tower Skywalk Experience**: Soar to new heights at the Shanghai Tower, China's tallest building at 632 meters. Ride the world's fastest elevator (18m/s) to the 118th-floor Top of Shanghai Observatory. Enjoy 360°panoramic views of the city, including the Bund's colonial architecture, the Oriental Pearl Tower, and the winding Huangpu River. |
| 3 | Day 3 Shanghai to Suzhou by bullet train \| Master of Nets Garden | hotel - train station transfer in Shanghai, train station transfer in Suzhou<br><br>breakfast, lunch<br><br>**Master of Nets Garden, Grand Canal, Pingjiang Road**<br>The Master of Nets Garden (built in 1174 A.D.) is an outstanding example of the small gardens in Suzhou. The garden covers only 0.6 hectare, small in size but very elegant. It keeps the traditional appearances of the time-tested and well-known residence in Suzhou, and it features the landscape garden in combination with the living quarters. The garden was inscribed on the World Heritage List by UNESCO in 1997.<br>Take a small boat trip along the Grand Canal and get close to the world's oldest and longest canal.<br>Pingjiang Road, a ancient street along the Grand Canal, is filled with snack shops, tea houses, ping-tan museums, and boutique shops. |

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| 4 | Day 4 Suzhou to Hangzhou by bullet train \| West Lake | hotel - train station transfer in Suzhou, train station transfer in Hangzhou<br>breakfast, lunch<br>**West Lake , Six Harmonies Pagoda, Qinghefang Historical Street**<br>The West Lake (UNESCO) is famous for its natural beauty and historic relics and it has has influenced numerous painters, poets, and garden designers throughout Chinese history. You will take a short cruise on the picturesque West Lake.<br>The Six Harmonies Pagoda is a masterpiece of ancient Chinese architecture. You can get a panoramic view of the Qiantang River on the very top.<br>The Qinghefang Historical Street has been the most flourished street in the city since the ancient time. Hangzhou's century-old shops are all located in this area. |
| 5 | Day 5 Hangzhou to Xi'an by flight \| Ancient City Wall | hotel - airport transfer in Hangzhou, airport transfer in Xi'an<br>breakfast, lunch<br>**Ancient City Wall**<br>Located in the centre of Xi'an, the Xi'an City Wall was built in the early Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) over the previously existing palace walls of the Tang Dynasty. It is the best-preserved and largest city wall in China and extends a total of 13.74 kilometres. The wall has a moat, draw bridges, watchtowers, corner towers and other military defences. |

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| 6 | Day 6 Xi'an \| Terracotta Warriors & Muslim Quarter | breakfast, lunch<br><br>**Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses (UNESCO), The Bell and Drum Tower Square, The Muslim Quarter (Huimin Jie)**<br>Unearth the secrets of the world's most significant archaeological discovery. Face the silent ranks of over 6,000 life-sized warriors, archers, and bronze chariots that have guarded the tomb of China's First Emperor for over 2,200 years.<br>Located at the very center of ancient Xi'an, the Bell and Drum Tower Square is a grand landmark that beautifully connects China's imperial past with its vibrant modern energy. This spacious public square offers a stunning vantage point between two magnificent Ming Dynasty masterpieces: the majestic Bell Tower, which marks the geographical heart of the city, and the historic Drum Tower, which stands at the entrance to the famous Muslim Quarter. Visited by millions each year, the square provides an exceptional setting to admire traditional triple-eaved wooden architecture, which comes alive at night with a spectacular display of colorful illuminations.<br>Steeped in over a millennium of history, the Muslim Quarter is a vibrant sensory feast and the heart of Xi'an's legendary food culture. As you wander through its ancient stone-paved lanes, you are greeted by an incredible array of mouth-watering delicacies and authentic Silk Road flavors. From the savory aroma of charcoal-grilled lamb skewers to the rhythmic pounding of traditional nut candy, this bustling historic enclave offers an unparalleled glimpse into the heritage and culinary soul of the city's Hui community. It is the ultimate destination to immerse yourself in the lively atmosphere and rich, diverse tastes of old Xi'an.<br><br>**Leisure Time & Optional Experiences**<br>**Evening Recommendation**: Indulge in a celebrated Xi'an Dumpling Banquet, followed by an enchanting Tang Dynasty Music and Dance Show—a vibrant revival of China's golden age of art and culture.<br>**Extended Exploration**: If your schedule allows, we highly recommend a journey to Mount Hua to witness its breathtaking natural peaks.<br>**Regional Highlights**: For a deeper dive into Buddhist history, consider a bullet train excursion to Luoyang to marvel at the Longmen Grottoes, one of China's three most renowned ancient cave complexes. |
| 7 | Day 7 Xi'an to Beijing by Bullet Train \| Hutong Tour | hotel - train station transfer in Xi'an, train station transfer in Beijing<br><br>breakfast<br><br>**Beijing Hutongs & Rickshaw Tour**<br>Dive into the heart of old Beijing with a visit to the Hutongs—a maze of historic, narrow alleys lined with traditional courtyard houses. To experience this vibrant neighborhood like a local, you will take a traditional rickshaw tour. Sit back and relax as your driver wheels you through the lively lanes, passing by local markets, ancient doorways, and hidden gardens. It is a wonderful, nostalgic journey that offers an intimate look at the city's traditional lifestyle away from the modern skyscrapers. |

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| 8 | Day 8 Beijing \| Forbidden City & Temple of Heaven | breakfast, lunch<br>**Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City (UNESCO), Temple of Heaven (UNESCO)**<br>Stand in the heart of modern China at the world's largest public square, a site of profound historical significance and grand architectural scale. Walk into or drive through (sedan/minivan) Tian'anmen Square to marvel at its iconic surroundings, including the Monument to the People's Heroes and the Great Hall of the People.<br>Constructed from 1406 at the very centre of Beijing, the Palace Museum is more widely known as the Forbidden City. Previously home to 24 different emperors, it is the largest palace complex in the world at approximately 720,000 square metres. Note: Closed on Mondays. In case of closure or ticket unavailability, the itinerary adjusts to Jingshan Park for a premier panoramic view overlooking the entire Forbidden City.<br>Completed in 1420, the Temple of Heaven is the largest complex of sacrificial buildings in China that still stands to this day. The temple was visited by Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1636-1912) emperors on an annual basis to pray to the heavens for a good harvest. The subtle employment of acoustic principles used in the construction of the Echo Wall, Triple Sound Stone and Dialogue Stone reflects the advanced architectural technology in use in ancient China.<br><br>**Dinner Suggestions**<br>Iconic Peking Duck Dinner: Indulge in a signature feast at a renowned, time-honored restaurant. Savor the legendary roast duck, celebrated for its signature crispy skin, tender meat, and the subtle aroma of fruit-wood roasting. |
| 9 | Day 9 Beijing \| Great Wall & Summer Palace | breakfast, lunch<br>**The Great Wall (UNESCO), The Summer Palace (UNESCO)**<br>The Great Wall is the largest ancient defensive project ever undertaken in China and even the world. Built continuously over 2,000 years starting in the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046-771 BC), the Great Wall now snakes its way across vast areas of northern and central China and has a total length of more than 20,000 km. The wall is a physical illustration of the Chinese philosophy of defending and tolerating rather than expanding and invading.<br>This Qing Dynasty (1636-1912) imperial palace and garden (1636-1912) is the largest and best-preserved imperial garden in China. Modelled on the West Lake in Hangzhou and borrowing design techniques and artistic ideas from the gardens of Jiangnan south of the Yangtze River, this landscaped park offers the perfect summer retreat. |
| 10 | Day 10 Beijing Departure | hotel - airport transfer in Beijing<br>breakfast |

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: What Suzhou and Hangzhou attractions are included in this 10-day tour?

**A:** In Suzhou, you will visit the UNESCO-listed Master of Nets Garden, cruise the Grand Canal, and explore Pingjiang Road. In Hangzhou, you will enjoy a West Lake boat cruise, visit Six Harmonies Pagoda, and stroll along Qinghefang Historical Street.

Q: Does this tour include high-speed train tickets and domestic flights?

**A:** Yes. The package includes bullet train tickets (Shanghai to Suzhou, Suzhou to Hangzhou, and Xi'an to Beijing), an economy domestic flight (Hangzhou to Xi'an), and all private transfers between airports, stations, and hotels.

Q: Is this 10-day itinerary customizable to add other destinations or activities?

**A:** Yes. All CITS private tours are 100% customizable. You can adjust the itinerary length, select preferred hotel categories, or add optional activities such as an evening acrobatic show or a food tasting tour.

Q: Is this 10-day Shanghai-to-Beijing route compatible with China's 240-Hour Visa-Free Transit?

**A:** Yes. Qualified international travelers transiting through China to an eligible third country or region (e.g., flying into Shanghai and departing Beijing for Hong Kong) can travel under China's 240-Hour Visa-Free Transit scheme.

## Tour Includes :

- Private tour guide
- Private air-conditioned car or coach
- Land transfers between airport or train station and hotel
- First entrance tickets as listed
- Chinese lunch as listed
- Centrally located hotels with breakfast
- Domestic flight ticket with tax and train tickets (2nd class seat) as listed
- Service charge & government taxes

## Tour Excludes :

- International flight
- Personal expenses such as laundry, drinks, phone bills, optional activities
- Tips for guides and drivers
- China Visa
- Travel insurance

## About Shopping or No-shopping Tours

Since October, 2013, CITS offers truly alternative prices of tours with or without shopping. Exceptionally, some tours only have one type price, such as seat-in-coach, hiking, self-driving and luxury tours, etc. Click here know more details.