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China Essence with Suzhou & Hangzhou (No Shopping) - 10 Days

This No-shopping tour not only features must-see sites in Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai, but also takes you to admire the elegant gardens and Grand Canal in Suzhou and cruise on the legendary West Lake in Hangzhou.

240-Hour Visa-Free Transit in China

China is implementing a 10-day (240 hours) visa-free transit policy. The transit program allows visitors who have existing flight bookings from China to a third country (region) to snag a visa on arrival at a Chinese airport (port) and stay for 10 days before departure. Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan all count as third destinations.

Passport holders of 55 countries, including the United States and the United Kingdom, can enter visa-free through any of the 60 open airports (ports) in 24 provincial regions, covering popular tourist cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, Chengdu and Guangzhou.

Read more about 240-Hour Visa-Free Transit in China.

Meanwhile, citizens from 47 countries can enter China visa-free for up to 30 days.

Date	Destinations	Attractions, Meals & Transport
1	Day 1 Beijing	airport-hotel transfer in Beijing

2	Day 2 Beijing	breakfast, lunch **Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City (UNESCO), Temple of Heaven (UNESCO)** 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. 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. 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. **Good to know:** Usually the guide service for a full day tour is about from 9:00 to 17:00, and the evening time is on your own. If needed, your guide is happy to offer some tips or help you buy tickets for evening entertainment. **Ideas for leisure time:** If you are interested in Chinese Kung Fu, the Legend of Kung Fu is a good choice for tonight. It is stunning Kung Fu show with a great story line and martial arts skills.
3	Day 3 Beijing	breakfast, lunch **The Great Wall (UNESCO), The Summer Palace (UNESCO)** 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. 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. **Ideas for leisure time:** 1. Enjoy the Peking Duck dinner at time-honored restaurant - Quanjude or Bianyifang. The duck is characteristic with its crispy skin, tender meat and the fragrance from the fruit-wood. 2. Watch a breathtaking acrobatic show at Chaoyang Theater or Tiandi Theater.
4	Day 4 Beijing – Xi'an (by bullet train)	hotel - train station transfer in Beijing, train station - hotel transfer in Xi'an breakfast

5	Day 5 Xi'an	breakfast, lunch **Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses (UNESCO), Big Wild Goose Pagoda** 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. 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. **Ideas for leisure time:** Enjoy a tasteful Dumpling Banquet followed by an exquisite traditional Tang Dynasty Show. **Good to know:** If you have an extra day in Xi'an, you could explore the Mount Hua and get impressed of its unique natural beauty. Or to take a day trip to Luoyang by bullet train and visit the Longmen Grottoes, one of the Three Most Famous Buddhist Grottoes in China.
6	Day 6 Xi'an - Hangzhou (by air)	airport transfer in Xi'an, airport - hotel transfer in Hangzhou breakfast, lunch **Ancient City Wall** 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.
7	Day 7 Hangzhou - Suzhou (by bullet train)	train station transfer in Hangzhou, train station - hotel transfer in Suzhou breakfast, lunch **West Lake , Six Harmonies Pagoda, Qinghefang Historical Street** 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. 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. 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.

8	Day 8 Suzhou - Shanghai (by bullet train)	train station transfer in Suzhou, train station - hotel transfer in Shanghai breakfast, lunch **Lingering Garden, The Surging Wave Pavilion, Pingjiang Road, Master of Nets Garden, Optional night tour in the Master of Nets Garden** The Lingering Garden is known as one of the “Four Famous Classic Gardens” in China, and was listed as the World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in 1997. The garden was built in the year of 1593. As a classic example of the refined art of gardening in ancient China, it highlights the delicate courtyard, magnificent halls, the green mountain, clear water and luxuriant trees. The Surging Wave Pavilion was built in 1045 AD. Being the oldest extant garden in Suzhou, it has retained its original feature of "luxuriant plants, tall mountain, and expansive waters". Its natural scenery and simple design have earned the fame of "a mountain forest in urban surroundings". Pingjiang Road, a ancient street along the Grand Canal, is filled with snack shops, tea houses, ping-tan museums, and boutique shops. 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. Optional night tour in the Master of Nets Garden: The Master of Nets Garden (built in 1174 A.D.) provides an atmosphere of peace and calm in the evening. Inside the small and exquisite garden, the yellowish lights and red lanterns outline the pavilions and chambers built by water, displaying the nobleness and elegance of the Chinese garden. Besides, visitors can enjoy performances such as Kunqu Opera and Suzhou Pingtan in the garden. The night garden tour is available during mid-March to mid-November.

9	Day 9 Shanghai	breakfast, lunch **Yu Garden, Jade Buddha Temple, Shanghai Museum, The Bund** 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. The Jade Buddha Temple is famous for its two precious jade Buddha statues brought from Burma, which are not only rare cultural relics but also exquisite artworks. The Shanghai Museum has a collection of 120,000 pieces of Chinese ancient treasures. Optional tour: Top of the Pyramid - The Exhibition of Ancient Egyptian Civilization is on display from July 19th, 2024 to August 17th, 2025. 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. **Ideas for leisure time:** 1. Acrobatic Shows in Shanghai are known as the best in China. You can never imagine how exciting the show is. 2. Or you could take a Huangpu River Night Cruise which is the perfect way to enjoy the gorgeous night view of Shanghai.
10	Day 10 Shanghai	hotel - airport transfer in Shanghai breakfast

Note:
This is a NO-SHOPPING tour, so you don't need to worry about any time-wasting tourist shopping stop.

Tour Includes :

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

Tour Excludes :

-- International flights with taxes
-- 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.