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

Bullet Train Tour of Magnificent China - 14 Days

Embark on a grand 14-day high-speed rail adventure connecting China's greatest imperial capitals, ancient Buddhist wonders, and poetic water towns. Journey through Beijing, Xi'an, and Luoyang to uncover the Great Wall, Terracotta Warriors, and Longmen Grottoes. Continue by bullet train to the scenic landscapes of Hangzhou, classical gardens of Suzhou, and the historic water town of Tongli before concluding along Shanghai's iconic Bund.

Tour Highlights

All-in-One High-Speed Rail Journey: Travel seamlessly across six iconic destinations on China's world-class high-speed bullet train network.
UNESCO World Heritage Treasures: Marvel at the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Terracotta Warriors, Longmen Grottoes, West Lake, and Classical Gardens of Suzhou.
Cradle of Chinese Buddhist Culture: Visit the monumental Longmen Grottoes and the historic White Horse Temple, the earliest Buddhist temple in China.
Poetic Jiangnan Water Town & Gardens: Cruise along the ancient Grand Canal, wander the picturesque water village of Tongli, and explore the Master of the Nets and Lingering Gardens.
Imperial Grandeur Meets Modern Skyline: Experience ancient city walls and imperial palaces before wrapping up amid Shanghai's cosmopolitan waterfront.

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

2	Day 2 Beijing | Forbidden City & Temple of Heaven	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. **Dinner Suggestions: Iconic Peking Duck** 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.
3	Day 3 Beijing | Great Wall & Bird's Nest & Water Cube	breakfast, lunch **The Great Wall (UNESCO), Bird's Nest & Water Cube** 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. Take an outside tour to the Olympic Stadium, nicknamed Bird's Nest, and the National Swimming Centre, also known as the Water Cube.
4	Day 4 Beijing to Xi'an by Bullet Train | Hutong Tour	hotel - train station transfer in Beijing, train station - hotel transfer in Xi’an breakfast **Beijing Hutongs & Rickshaw Tour** 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.

5	Day 5 Xi'an | Terracotta Warriors & Muslim Quarter	breakfast, lunch **Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses (UNESCO), The Bell and Drum Tower Square, The Muslim Quarter (Huimin Jie)** 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. 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. 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. **Leisure Time & Optional Experiences** **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. **Extended Exploration**: If your schedule allows, we highly recommend a journey to Mount Hua to witness its breathtaking natural peaks. **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.
6	Day 6 Xi'an to Luoyang by Bullet Train | Ancient City Wall	train station transfer in Xi'an, train station - hotel transfer in Luoyang 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 Luoyang | Longmen Grottoes & White Horse Temple	breakfast, lunch **Longmen Grottoes, White Horse Temple** The Longmen Grottoes is one of the Three Major Buddhist Grottoes in China. Carved 1500 years ago, the grottoes is the long-established art form which plays a significant role in the evolution of Buddism in Asian. It has over 100,000 Buddhist images and statues inside. The White Horse Temple was etablished in the year 68 AD, and it was the first Buddhism temple in China. According to historical record, there was a white horse that first carried the Buddhism script from India to here, hence it was named White Horse Temple.
8	Day 8 Luoyang to Hangzhou by Bullet Train	train station transfer in Luoyang, train station - hotel transfer in Hangzhou breakfast
9	Day 9 Hangzhou | West Lake & Six Harmonies Pagoda	breakfast, lunch **West Lake , Six Harmonies Pagoda** 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.
10	Day 10 Hangzhou to Suzhou by Bullet Train | Dragon Well Tea Plantation	train station transfer in Hangzhou, train station - hotel transfer in Suzhou breakfast, lunch **Qinghefang Historical Street , Dragon Well Tea Plantation** 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. The Dragon Well Tea Plantation is one of the origin places of Dragon Well Tea, also called Longjing Tea. The first picked tea leaves of the new harvest were once reserved solely for the Emperor and transported to him via the Grand Canal in ancient China.

11	Day 11 Suzhou | Master of the Nets Garden & Lingering Garden	breakfast, lunch **Master of Nets Garden, Grand Canal, Lingering Garden, Optional night tour in the Master of Nets Garden** 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. Take a small boat trip along the Grand Canal and get close to the world's oldest and longest canal. 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. 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.
12	Day 12 Suzhou to Shanghai by Private Car | Tongli Ancient Town	private transfer breakfast, lunch **Tongli Ancient Town** The Tongli Ancient Town earns a reputation of a peaceful ancient town which is located a short drive from Suzhou. The town is characterized by exquisitely designed bridges and well preserved ancient architecture of the Ming and Qing dynasties.

13	Day 13 Shanghai | Yu Garden & The Bund	breakfast, lunch **The Bund, Yu Garden, Shanghai Old Town** 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. 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. 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. **Leisure Time & Optional Experiences** **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. **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.
14	Day 14 Shanghai Departure	hotel - airport transfer in Shanghai breakfast

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: Is the entire intercity journey conducted by bullet train?

A: Yes, the major intercity legs (Beijing to Xi'an, Xi'an to Luoyang, Luoyang to Hangzhou, and Hangzhou to Suzhou) are all operated on high-speed bullet trains, while the short trip from Suzhou to Shanghai includes a private vehicle transfer with a stop at Tongli Ancient Town.

Q: How are luggage transfers handled on high-speed trains?

A: Your private guide and driver assist with luggage transfers to and from railway stations and hotels. Passengers carry their own bags onto the train carriages, where convenient overhead racks and end-of-car storage are provided.

Q: How physically demanding is the tour at Longmen Grottoes and the Great Wall?

A: Both locations involve moderate walking and stone steps. Paved walking paths are available at Longmen Grottoes, and the Great Wall visit can be tailored with cable car options to ensure a comfortable pace.

Q: What is special about visiting Tongli Ancient Town?

A: Tongli is one of the most well-preserved canal towns in eastern China, celebrated for its tranquil waterways, historic stone bridges, and traditional Ming and Qing dynasty courtyard residences.

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
- 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

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