



# China Essence Tour with Suzhou-Hangzhou

Beijing - Xian - Guilin - Shanghai - Suzhou - Hangzhou - Shanghai | Duration:13 Days | Hotels:4 Stars +

## Availability & Prices 2013

Year of 2013	Departure Dates (Arrival at Beijing Airport)				ADULT ( per person)	CHILD ( without bed)	CHILD ( with bed)
March							
April	7	14	21	28	US\$1669	US\$1469	US\$1669
May	5	12	19	26	US\$1669	US\$1469	US\$1669
June	3	9	16	23	US\$1599	US\$1399	US\$1599
July	7	14	21	28	US\$1599	US\$1399	US\$1599
August	4	11	18	25	US\$1599	US\$1399	US\$1599
September	1	8	15	22	US\$1669	US\$1469	US\$1669
October	6	13	20	27	US\$1669	US\$1469	US\$1669
November	3	10	17		US\$1599	US\$1399	US\$1599



## Special Remarks

- ◆ **Tipping US\$130/person:** The above rates do NOT include the tipping to guide or driver. Tipping should be paid at the time of booking.
- ⊘ **Single room supplement US\$549:** The above rates apply to U.S. Dollars per person. Two travelers share a double room (with two single beds or one king-size bed). Any traveler requiring a single room will need to pay supplement of US\$549.
- ⊞ **Shopping Stops:** Beijing - Pearl + Chinese Herb; Xian - Terracotta Sculpture; Guilin - Jade; Suzhou - Silk; Hangzhou - Tea; Shanghai - Emerald.
- ? **Group Schedule:** The group has fixed itinerary and schedule. Every member must follow the group during the **13 days**. Any traveler leaves the group before the tour ends, he/she needs to pay **US\$100/day**. And the prepaid amount won't be refunded.
- ✈ **China Internal Flights Included:** Flight from Beijing to Xian : Economy-class tickets; Flight from Xian to Guilin : Economy-class tickets; Flight from Guilin to Shanghai : Economy-class tickets.

## Price Inclusions

- ✓ Hotel accommodation (8 nights in 4 or 5-star hotels);
- ✓ Buffet breakfasts in hotels;
- ✓ Coach transportation in each city;
- ✓ Meals of China delicacy as specified in itinerary;
- ✓ English-speaking tour guide service;
- ✓ Entry tickets of tourist sites as indicated in itinerary.

## Price Exclusions

- ✗ Int'l airfare /airport tax / fuel surcharge;
- ✗ China Visa;
- ✗ Travel Insurance (recommended)
- ✗ Optional tours;
- ✗ Tipping to the tour guide or the driver;
- ✗ Single room supplement.

### Day 01 Arrival Beijing

Hotel: **Mercuré Beijing Downtown** ★★★★★☆

The tour guide will wait for you at Beijing airport. After warm welcome, you will be transferred to check in the hotel we have reserved for you. Free at your own leisure for the rest of the day.

### Day 02 Beijing (B+L)

Hotel: **Mercuré Beijing Downtown** ★★★★★☆

Enjoy buffet breakfast in hotel and then start your Beijing sightseeing with the local guide. First stop will be the world's largest city plaza – **Tiananmen**, also the iconic symbol of China politics nowadays. It is a part of imperial complex **Forbidden City** where you will also visit this morning. It was ever the permanent residence of the emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Civilians were ever not allowed to enter the buildings, hence its name Forbidden City. Proceed to **Beijing Hutongs** and hop on a rickshaw, riding along these narrow valleys. Visit a local family and have lunch of family dishes with the host. After lunch, say farewell to the family and drive to **Summer Palace** - the world's largest extant royal garden. Its 70,000 square meters of building space features a variety of palaces, garden and other ancient-style architectural structures.

### Day 03 Beijing (B+L+D)

Hotel: **Mercuré Beijing Downtown** ★★★★★☆

Today's highlight will be hiking on the **Great Wall**. The total length of the Wall would exceed 50,000 kilometers (31,000 miles). Today you will visit the **Mutianyu Section**. 75km from the center of Beijing, Mutianyu Section is famed for enthralling surroundings. It used to be the northern barrier defending Beijing city and imperial tombs. Nowadays it is one of the most preserved sections of the Great Wall, with vegetation, green pines and cypresses covering 90 percent of the section. Enjoy **KUNGFU** show in the evening. Lunch will be reserved with a decent restaurant nearby the Great Wall. Dinner will be mouthwatering **Peking Duck**.

### Day 04 Beijing ✈️ Xian (B)

Hotel: **Grand New World Hotel** ★★★★★

Continue your Beijing tour this morning by visiting **Temple of Heaven** - a masterpiece of China's architectural art. It was the place where emperors worshipped heaven and prayed for good harvests, the largest extant one of its kind. This morning you will also stop by **Bird's Nest** and **Water Cube** - the main venues of Beijing Olympics. Some photo-taking time outside the two sites will be available. Lunch will be of your own arrangement. This afternoon, you will be transferred to Beijing airport. Board the flight to Xian. Your Xian tour guide will pick you up at Xian airport and assist you to check in Xian hotel.

### Day 05 Xian (B+L)

Hotel: **Grand New World Hotel** ★★★★★

Today you will be escorted to **Terracotta Warriors and Horses** - the most attractive site of Xian to most visitors. It is deemed as the most significant archeological excavation in the 20th century. Dating from 3rd century BC, Qin Shi Huang, China's first Emperor had the terracotta army built in the hope that they would protect him as well in his afterlife. It is estimated that there are 3 pits containing over 8,000 soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses and 150 cavalry horses, with most of them unexcavated yet. After day excursion to this man-made wonder, get driven back to hotel. On the way, make a stop at **Big Wild Goose Pagoda** (exterior), a seven-storey pagoda of 64m in height. It was originally built in 652 to house Buddhist scriptures taken from India by the hierarch Xuanzang..

### Day 06 Xian ✈️ Guilin (B+L)

Hotel: **Guilin Bravo Hotel** ★★★★★☆

In the morning, you will be guided to visit **Xian City Wall**. Xian is one of the Great Four Ancient Capitals in China. Many historic sites can still be traced now. Xian City Wall is the best preserved city wall in China, with sophisticated design and construction dating back to some 600 years ago. **Grand Mosque** is also on today's visiting list. It was built in year of 742 as a result of the introducing of Islam and the gradually expanding community. Different from most mosques in Mid East or Arab countries, the construction and architectural style of Great Mosque is in Chinese style except for some Arabic lettering and decorations. Take afternoon flight to Guilin and check in hotel with assistance of your Guilin tour guide.

### Day 07 Guilin (B+L)

Hotel: **Guilin Bravo Hotel** ★★★★★☆

A Chinese saying goes "East or West, Guilin is best", which highly hail the breathtaking beauty of Guilin landscape. Today the tour guide will escort you to explore the enthralling land of Karst. **Elephant Trunk Hill** is the first stop. It is deemed as the symbol of Guilin and looks like an elephant drinking water (hence the name). Climb top of the mountain and get a grand view of rivers below. Then proceed to **Reed Flute Cave** of daedal stalactites, stone pillars and rock formations, gradually formed since some 180 million years ago. Walking along the 240-meter cave, get your eyes pleased with fantastic natural spectacle with colored lightening. Also today you will visit **Seven-Star Park**, Guilin's largest park where Bill Clinton gave his speech when he visited Guilin in 1998.

### Day 08 Guilin 🚢 Yangshuo (B+L)

Hotel: **New Century Hotel Yangshuo** ★★★★★

Out of question, **cruising on Li River** is a must-do for any visitor to Guilin. This morning with the escort of the local guide, board a ferry on the river and cruise down. You will never get disappointed by the sight of various Karst peaks reflecting on limpid river, water buffalo patrolling fields along two banks, peasants working in rice paddies, school kids and fishermen floating by on bamboo rafts. Disembark at Yangshuo and take a bike ride (or electric bicycle) to Yangshuo countryside. Exotic rurality together with China ethnic minority customs will definitely impress you much. Get back to Yangshuo township and check in hotel for overnight.

### Day 09 Yangshuo 🚗 Guilin ✈️ Shanghai 🚗 Suzhou (B)

Hotel: **Howard Johnson Wuzhong Business Club Hotel Suzhou** ★★★★★☆

Check-out of Yangshuo hotel and get driven to Guilin airport. Board the flight to Shanghai. Meet your local guide at Shanghai airport. Meet your Shanghai tour guide upon arrival and then get driven to check in your Shanghai hotel.

### Day 10 Suzhou 🚗 Hangzhou (B+L)

Hotel: **Pujing Garden Hotel** ★★★★★☆

With the local guide, this morning you will visit **Lingering Garden** - one of the Great Four Classical Gardens in China. Take a boat cruise on the **Grand Canal** – the world's longest man-made canal. Suzhou Silk enjoys high fame worldwide. So also today, you should not miss a visit to **Suzhou Silk Factory** and check out how these fabulous silk products are made. Get driven to Hangzhou in the afternoon and check in the comfortable hotel. Evening activity will be an optional tour to watch the show **Night of West Lake** showcasing Hangzhou culture in songs, dances, opera, acrobatics and stunts.

### Day 11 Hangzhou 🚗 Shanghai (B+L)

Hotel: **Holiday Inn Vista Shanghai** ★★★★★☆

Start your Hangzhou sightseeing this morning. Take a boat cruise on the picturesque **West Lake**, experience Chinese tea culture on **Meijiawu Tea Plantation** and view a poetic scene of "flowers touching the fish and the fish kissing the flowers" at **Flower Harbour**. Enjoy some Hangzhou dishes as lunch after which you will be driven to Shanghai. Check in your Shanghai hotel. **Huangpu River Cruise** will be the optional activity tonight. It's the most enthralling way to enjoy the nightview of Shanghai.

### Day 12 Shanghai (B+L)

Hotel: **Holiday Inn Vista Shanghai** ★★★★★☆

The first stop of your Shanghai schedule will be **Shanghai Museum**. Over 120,000 pieces of its collections mainly focus on valuable Chinese bronze, ceramics, paintings and calligraphy, and artifacts. Then proceed to **Yu Garden** – Shanghai No.1 classical garden. Built some 400 years ago by a wealthy merchant, it is the elite of China ancient horticulture, with delicate pavilions, rockeries, halls, ponds and corridors. After lunch, wander along **The Bund** – dubbed as Gallery of World Architecture. Along this 1500-meter waterfront, there are 52 buildings of various architectural styles such as Romanesque, Baroque, Neo-Classical, Beaux-Arts, Gothic and Renaissance. Then continue to visit **Tianzi Fang** ('Art Street'). Walking down the narrow lanes, you'd be wondering if you were really in cosmopolitan Shanghai. At a glance, Taikang Lu features a mix of old and refurbished brick houses but gathers art studios, fashion shops, cafes, bars and clubs.

### Day 13 Exit Shanghai (B)

Free at your own leisure till the hotel check-out time (before 12:00 noon). Free transfer from hotel to airport will be available at 09:00am. Transfer request of other time will be US\$35/person. Or you can organize it on your own. (Extension booking of the hotel room and extension tour to other China cities can be arranged at request with extra charge.)