



Highlights of China: Beijing to Shanghai

12 days | 15 days with Hong Kong extension

The influence of China's ancient, powerful dynasties is still present today. Long-standing culinary traditions thrive, and architectural wonders stand amidst the hustle and bustle of big city life. Visiting the Forbidden City, Great Wall, and Terracotta Army will introduce you to China's rich history. Marveling at the scenery in Reed Flute Cave and along the Yulong River will open your eyes to a new side of this age-old country.



Your tour package includes

10 nights in handpicked hotels
10 breakfasts
4 lunches
5 dinners with beer
1 tasting
11 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach
3 on-tour flights

Included highlights

Forbidden City
Great Wall
Temple of Heaven
Xi'an city walls
Terracotta Army
Reed Flute Cave
Yulong River bamboo raft ride
Rice paddy visit
Shanghai Maglev Train ride
Jade Buddha Temple
Yuyuan Garden

Tour pace

You will walk for about 2.5 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and unpaved trails, with some hills and stairs.

Group size

15-35

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Beijing today.

Beijing → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Beijing

Welcome to China! Settle in to your hotel this evening.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Beijing

Included meals: breakfast, welcome lunch

Delve into more than 2,000 years of Beijing's history with a local guide.

- Stroll across the expanse of Tiananmen Square
- Wander through the Imperial Palace, also referred to as "The Forbidden City"
- Walk through Meridian Gate and see the Palace of Heavenly Purity, where the Ming dynasty emperors lived
- Admire the Imperial Garden's traditional design features
- Exit through the Gate of Divine Prowess
- Get to know your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a family-style welcome lunch

Spend a free evening in Beijing or add an excursion.

+ Hutong Rickshaw Ride Family Visit & Dinner

Day 4: The Great Wall

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Head outside of Beijing to marvel at one of the world's most impressive structures: the Great Wall.

- Stop at a Jade Factory on the way to watch a demonstration of how the gemstone is carved to create impressive sculptures
- Tour the Great Wall at the Juyong Pass
- Enjoy free time to explore the many ramparts and towers, admiring panoramic views as you go
- Sit down for an included family-style lunch before traveling back to Beijing

Please note: The Juyong Pass cannot be reached by cable car or elevator. Walking is required to reach this less crowded, more scenic section of the Great Wall.

Enjoy a free evening in Beijing or add an excursion.

+ Kung Fu Show

Xi'an → 2 nights

Day 5: Tai Chi lesson, sightseeing tour of the Temple of Heaven & flight to Xi'an

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Discover Beijing's modern and ancient traditions on today's tour.

- Participate in a Tai Chi lesson alongside locals in Temple of Heaven Park
- Discover the health benefits of this traditional form of exercise, which combines easy, flowing arm and leg movements
- Enter the Temple of Heaven for a guided tour
- Walk down the Long Corridor to enter the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests
- Learn about the history of the Ming Dynasty at the Imperial Vault of Heaven

Fly to Xi'an this afternoon and sit down for an included family-style dinner.

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Xi'an & Terracotta Army

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Take a panoramic tour of Xi'an, one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China and the starting point of the Silk Road.

- Pass the Drum Tower and the Bell Tower, which marks what was once the center of the city
- Walk along the 14th-century city walls to see watchtowers and ramparts that were built by the Ming Dynasty

Head outside of the city this afternoon to visit one of the country's most famous UNESCO World Heritage Sites—the Terracotta Army.

- Visit a local workshop to learn how the clay statues were made
- See some of the 8,000 life-size pottery soldiers that represent the expansive army of the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang
- Watch a noodle-making demonstration and enjoy an included family-style lunch
- See Emperor Qin Shi Huang's mausoleum

- Visit the Exhibition Hall to see two sets of bronze chariots and horses that were excavated from the archaeological site in 1980

Please note: Depending on flight times on day 5, you may visit the Xi'an City walls on the afternoon of day 5.

Spend a free evening in Xi'an or add an excursion.

+ Tang Dynasty Evening

Guilin → 1 night

Day 7: Flight to Guilin & Reed Flute Cave

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Fly to Guilin this morning. Then, meet up with a local guide to explore the stunning Reed Flute Cave.

- Walk along the pathways as colorful lights illuminate the stalactites and stalagmites
- Learn about the cave's unique geological features and see some of the markings on the walls that date back to the Tang Dynasty

Next, pay a visit to a tea plantation located on the foothills of Yao Mountain. You'll pick tea leaves and learn about the tea-making process. Then, enjoy an included family-style dinner.

Yangshuo → 2 nights

Day 8: Yangshuo via Fuli & rice paddy visit

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

As you travel to Yangshuo, stop in the ancient town of Fuli for a guided tour.

- Walk along the cobblestone streets to explore the town, which sits on the banks of the Li River
- Visit a local shop to learn about the town's artistic roots and how local shopkeepers design traditional fans and scroll paintings

Next, a guided tour takes you through the Chinese countryside and introduces you to the people who call this area home.

- Stop at a local farmer's house to meet the family and find out how they tend to their rice paddy
- Learn about what the family's daily life is like

Continue on to Yangshuo and sit down for an included family-style dinner. Then, explore the bustling markets that line West Street with your Tour Director.

Day 9: Yulong River bamboo raft ride

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

This morning, board a bamboo raft and leisurely float down the scenic Yulong River. Pass by towering limestone peaks, grassy rice paddies, and grazing water buffaloes as you go. Then, enjoy an included family-style lunch. Spend a free evening in Yangshuo or add an excursion.
+ Yangshuo Market Visit & Cooking Class

Shanghai → 2 nights

Day 10: Flight to Shanghai & Maglev train ride

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Fly to Shanghai this morning. Then, ride the Shanghai Maglev train—a magnetic levitation train that’s distinguished as one of the fastest trains in the world—on your way to your hotel. Sit down for an included family-style dinner. Then, enjoy a free evening in Shanghai or add an excursion.
+ Acrobatic Show

Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Shanghai

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, farewell dinner

Meet up with a local guide to learn about Shanghai’s culture on today’s tour.

- Enter the Jade Buddha Temple to see the white jade statues of sitting Buddha and reclining Buddha
- Visit a silk factory to learn how the fabric is produced
- Stroll through the Yuyuan Garden, the “Garden of Happiness”
- Enjoy free time to shop at the Yuyuan Bazaar before taking part in a traditional Chinese tea ceremony
- Walk along the Bund, Shanghai’s historic waterfront promenade

Celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner in Shanghai’s French Concession neighborhood this evening.

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue on to explore Hong Kong.

+ Hong Kong extension

Hong Kong is a place of complexity and contrast, where skyscrapers of glass and steel mingle with views of green mountains and tranquil bays. Fly to the city to uncover its ancient culture on a guided tour, and then look to your Tour Director for more expert suggestions.

Hong Kong → 3 nights

Day 12: Flight to Hong Kong

Included meals: breakfast

This morning, fly to Hong Kong, a former British colony known for its striking skyline and range of global influences, and enjoy a free day in the city.

Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Hong Kong

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Uncover Hong Kong on a guided tour.

- Take a bus ride up to Victoria Peak and enjoy panoramic views of the city’s world-famous skyline
- Visit the Aberdeen Fishing Village before enjoying an included family-style lunch
- Pass Deep Water Bay and Repulse Bay on your way to visit Stanley Market

Later, enjoy a free evening in Hong Kong or add an excursion.

+ Hong Kong by Night

Day 14: Free day in Hong Kong

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in Hong Kong or add an excursion. Tonight, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers.
+ New Lantau Island Tour

Flight Home

Day 15: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.ca/CHI | 1-800-754-5066

Day 3: Hutong Rickshaw Ride Family Visit & Dinner
\$99CAD/\$109CAD* (3.5 hours, departs in the evening)

Explore the old residential area of Beijing on a rickshaw tour. This ancient area is laid out in clusters of neighboring siheyuan, or quadrangles, which create small alleys known as hutong in the Peking dialect. These hutongs have a far-reaching history, which dates back to the Yuan Dynasty during the 13th century A.D. Explore these old walking alleys as you drive through on a rickshaw, passing ancient living residences along the way. Learn more about life in the area as you talk with a local family during a visit to their home. Then, enjoy a boat ride along the lakes that converge to create the scenic Shichahai area. End the evening with dinner at a local restaurant. Please note: The boat ride is seasonal and runs from April through October.

Day 4: Kung Fu Show

\$89CAD/\$99CAD* (3 hours, departs in the evening)
This exciting theatrical performance, The Legend of Kung Fu, tells a story of a young boy who dreams of becoming a kung fu master one day. The show's performers, a collection of some of the country's best kung fu artists, put on a spectacular display that will leave you mesmerized.

Day 6: Tang Dynasty Evening

\$125CAD/\$135CAD* (4 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)
Colorful neon lights illuminate Xi'an's skyline as you make your way to a local theater for a multi-course Chinese dinner. Then, enjoy a colorful performance dramatizing the famous Tang Dynasty's period of rule over Xi'an, portrayed through traditional Chinese dances, music, and costumes.

Day 9: Yangshuo Market Visit & Cooking Class

\$79CAD/\$89CAD* (3.5 hours, departs in the afternoon)
Pay a visit to a local Chinese market where your guide will introduce you many of the ingredients you'll be using during your cooking class. Then, step off Yangshuo's busy streets and head over to a cooking school overlooking the Li River where you'll try your hand at preparing traditional Chinese recipes. A local chef will show you the tricks of the trade as you craft two to three dishes that are authentic to the Guangxi region. Guangxi cuisine is simple, yet flavorful and often incorporates a wide variety of foods that grow in this fertile region. During this hands-on class, you'll also learn about the local culture and customs from your head chef. Cap off the class by enjoying your freshly prepared cuisine for dinner.

Day 10: Acrobatic Show

\$59CAD/\$69CAD* (3.5 hours, departs in the morning)

You'll be treated to a gravity-defying acrobatic show this evening, which highlights Chinese traditions dating back to 200 BC. With amazing music, creative stage props, and incredibly talented performers, the impressive acts can only be likened to the world-renowned performances of Cirque du Soleil.

Extension excursion options

Day 13: Hong Kong by Night

\$219CAD/\$229CAD* (5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)
Tonight, experience the magic of Hong Kong while taking in the city's bustling nightlife. Pass by the Central District as you make your way to the waterfront, where you'll set off on a leisurely cruise of Victoria Harbor. As you enjoy some included drinks, admire the glittering skyline while floating past the Western District, West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade, and Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter. Then, disembark and drive up to Victoria Peak Tower to soak in panoramic views of the city. After an included dinner, you'll visit the world-famous Temple Street Night Market—the perfect place for bargain hunting and mingling with the locals. Wander through the market at your leisure before heading back to your hotel. Please note: If a minimum of 15 Go Ahead Tours travelers have not reserved this excursion, travelers from other tour groups may join.

Day 14: New Lantau Island Tour

\$219CAD/\$229CAD* (7 hours, departs in the morning)
When you first arrived in Hong Kong, you may have noticed that mountains rather than high-rises dominate the view—especially to the south, where a giant Buddha sits perched on a hilltop. This is Lantau Island, a unique island filled with temples, rugged mountain paths, and wandering cattle. On this full-day excursion, you'll visit the Po Lin Monastery and the Tian Tan Buddha. You'll also enjoy a cable car ride over the island and the South China Sea. Please note: If a minimum of 15 Go Ahead Tours travelers have not reserved this excursion, travelers from other tour groups may join.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.ca/terms