



China: Beijing, Yangtze River Cruise & Shanghai

15 days | 18 days with Hong Kong extension

China's sheer size is impossible to fathom until you walk across the expanse of Tiananmen Square or gaze at the seemingly endless Great Wall. Take a leisurely cruise down the Yangtze River and ride the world's fastest train. Discover this magnificent country, from pristine landscapes and towering cityscapes to ancient sites and modern marvels.



Your tour package includes

- 9 nights in handpicked hotels
- 4 nights aboard Yangtze River Cruise ship
- 13 breakfasts
- 11 lunches
- 5 dinners, select meals with beer
- 1 tea tasting
- 12 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 3 on-tour flights
- 1 train ride

Included highlights

- Forbidden City
- Temple of Heaven
- Summer Palace
- the Great Wall
- Yangtze River cruise
- Jiefangbei Market
- Terracotta Army
- Jade Buddha Temple
- Yuyuan Garden

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 2 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 → 4 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

Later, get to know your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a family-style welcome lunch.

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

Day 5: Tai Chi lesson, Temple of Heaven & Summer Palace

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

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
- Watch a demonstration and enjoy free time to shop at a pearl factory
- Sit down for an included family-style lunch
- Wander through the vast Summer Palace and see its Long Corridor and Marble Boat
- Cruise along Kunming Lake to soak in local scenery
- Stop at Beijing's Olympic Park, home of the 2008 Summer Games, where you'll view the intriguing stadium known as the Bird's Nest

Spend a free evening in Beijing or add an excursion.

+ Peking Duck Dinner & Qianmen Street

Yangtze River Cruise → 4 nights

Day 6: Flight to Yichang & cruise embarkation

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Spend a free morning in Beijing or add an excursion.

Enjoy an included family-style lunch in Beijing. Then, fly to Yichang and embark on a cruise of the Yangtze River, the longest river in Asia. Sit down for a light family-style dinner aboard the ship this evening.

+ Hutong Rickshaw Ride & Family Visit

Day 7: Three Gorges Dam

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Step on shore at the man-made Three Gorges Dam, where a guide will explain its interesting history.

- Learn about the history, construction, and lasting impact of the dam

- Spend the afternoon at Xiling Gorge, the first and largest of the Three Gorges
- Choose to learn about the native tribes that have inhabited the gorges on a shore excursion to a recreated village
- Enjoy an included buffet lunch aboard the ship

Please note: All shore excursions are available for an additional cost and are booked through the river cruise boat.

Sit down for an included family-style dinner aboard the ship this evening.

Day 8: Lesser Three Gorges

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Drift along the Daning River and Shennong Stream, passing the mysterious ancient hanging coffins.

- Board a wooden boat called a sampan to explore the river's tributaries
- Enjoy an included buffet lunch aboard the ship
- Cruise through the Wu and Qutang Gorges and gaze upon the Meng Liang Staircase

Choose to book a shore excursions to the White Emperor City, the Return to the Three Gorges Show, or enjoy a free afternoon aboard the boat.

Please note: All shore excursions are available for an additional cost and are booked through the river cruise boat.

Sit down for an included family-style dinner aboard the ship this evening.

Day 9: Mount Shuanggui

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

This morning, choose from the ship's shore excursions to visit Fengdu, known as the Ghost City, or to the Mt. Wuling Great Rift Valley, a scenic and lush area filled with wildlife, plants, and stunning scenery.

- See the red, wooden pagoda that's perched on the side of the hill
- Discover why the pagoda is called the Pearl of the Yangtze
- Enjoy an included buffet lunch aboard the ship

Later, visit the Mount Shuanggui, known for its picturesque scenery within its national forest park and has been a favorite destination for literature lovers and artists for centuries.

Please note: All shore excursions are available for an additional cost and are booked through the river cruise boat.

Sit down for an included family-style dinner aboard the ship this evening.

Xi'an → 2 nights

Day 10: Cruise disembarkation, Jiefangbei market, tea ceremony & flight to Xi'an

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, tasting

Disembark in Chongqing and get to know the city with a local guide.

- Explore the Jiaochangkou market and pay a visit to various street food stalls trying barbecue and desserts like the famous Tang yuan
- Walk through the Hanlin Academy to the garden tea house and take part in a traditional Chinese tea ceremony
- Sit down for an included family style lunch if Ciqikou

Transfer to the airport and board your flight to Xi'an.

Day 11: 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
- See the 14th-century city walls, 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
- 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

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

+ Tang Dynasty Evening

Shanghai → 3 nights

Day 12: Flight to Shanghai & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Fly to Shanghai this morning. Then, ride the Shanghai Maglev Train—a magnetic levitation train that's distinguished as the fastest train in the world—on your way to your hotel. Later, get to know the local culture during today's activities.

- Enjoy an included lunch at a local restaurant
- Stroll through the Yuyuan Garden, the "Garden of Happiness"
- Enjoy free time to shop at the Yuyuan Bazaar
- Walk along the Bund, Shanghai's historic waterfront promenade

Day 13: Jade Buddha Temple & Dumpling demonstration

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, tasting

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
- Visit a local restaurant for a demonstration on how to make Chinese dumplings
- Enjoy an included lunch

Spend a free evening in Shanghai or add an excursion.

+ Acrobatic Show

Day 14: Free day in Shanghai

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Spend the day exploring Shanghai at your leisure or add an excursion.

This evening, celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner.

+ Zhujiajiao Water Village & Lunch

Flight Home

Day 15: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home, or fly to Hong Kong to continue your trip.

+ 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 15: 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 16: 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 Aberdeen Fishing Village and enjoy 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 17: Free day in Hong Kong

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in Hong Kong or add an excursion.

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ New Lantau Island Tour

Flight Home

Day 18: 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.com/ICH | 1-800-597-0350

Day 4: Kung Fu Show

\$65/\$75* (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 5: Peking Duck Dinner & Qianmen Street

\$55/\$65* (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Peking duck is one of the most storied dishes in Beijing—and for good reason. This meal's roots can be traced all the way back to the year 386 and the dish later rose to popularity during the Ming Dynasty. You'll head to a local restaurant to try the roasted duck and some of the famously thin, crispy duck skin for yourself. After your dinner, head out on an evening walking tour along Qianmen Dajie. This famous pedestrian street features architecture from the Qing Dynasty and is lined with a variety of shops, theaters, and traditional decor. You may also opt to explore the local workshops located down the surrounding hutongs, or streets. Please note: Vegetarian options are available for the included dinner.

Day 6: Hutong Rickshaw Ride & Family Visit

\$75/\$85* (2.5 hours, departure time varies)

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 AD. Explore these old walking alleys as you drive through on a rickshaw, passing ancient living residences along the way. Then, learn more about life in the area as you talk with a local family during a visit to their home.

Day 11: Tang Dynasty Evening

\$89/\$99* (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 13: Acrobatic Show

\$55/\$65* (3.5 hours, departs in the evening)

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.

Day 14: Zhujiajiao Water Village & Lunch

\$95/\$105* (7 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)

Make your way to Zhujiajiao, an almost 2,000-year old town located in the watery regions south of the Changjiang River. This small, well-preserved spot is known as "Pearl Stream" and is crisscrossed by rivers, stone bridges, and narrow streets. Visit Kezhi Garden to stroll past the serene ponds and through the pavilions, which combine both traditional Chinese and Western design style. Then, explore the town on a canal boat ride, where you'll pass ancient row houses, tea houses, and buildings dating back to the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Float under the Setting Fish-Free Bridge, the Shanghai region's largest stone bridge, before disembarking to visit the Qing Dynasty Post Office. Enjoy a Chinese lunch at a local restaurant followed by free time to explore the village's main street at your leisure. Please note: This excursion includes a significant amount of walking. Travelers also must be comfortable getting in and out of boats.

Extension excursion options

Day 16: Hong Kong by Night

\$159/\$169* (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 17: New Lantau Island Tour

\$159/\$169* (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.com/terms