

# 16 DAY CHINA DISCOVERY

## Asia Vacation Group – Authentic Asia!

Local knowledge, adventures of a lifetime.

Discover Asia with our team of experts, and a carefully selected, value-packed exploration of Asia's most iconic destinations. Our tours offer must-visit sights, rich experiences and quality inclusions all at an unbeatable prices. Your bucket list dreams are ticked off on these all-encompassing vacations.

Travel with the confidence. Your trip has been carefully crafted by our team with you in mind and it's that same team that takes you on the journey. One amazing team to help and guide you, not only as your local travel expert but also as a friend with helpfulness and sincerity.

Specialists in Asia touring since 2015, we are proud to be the people who craft your itinerary, help you at each step, plus guide and operate your tour.

Unbeatable Price Deal	Returned Flight Included	7 Day Change Of Mind to Refund
Fully escorted by English-speaking local tour guide		

## Day by Day Itinerary

Beijing, Suzhou, Wuxi, Hangzhou, Shanghai, Xi'an, Yangtze River Cruise

## HIGHLIGHTS

Discover the Incredible China at an unbelievable price. Explore Beijing, Hangzhou, Suzhou & Shanghai

- **Return flight from/to Australia**
- **Compulsory Tipping for driver and tour guide (AU\$12 per person/day)**
- Incredible sightseeing, including Beijing, Wuxi, Suzhou, Hangzhou, Shanghai, Xi'an and Yangtze River Cruise.
- Comfortable group experience with no more than 40 persons
- Airport transfers included on the first and last day of tour
- 14 night hotel accommodation including 4 –nights on Yangtze Cruise.
- Dedicated transportation in comfortable, air-conditioned vehicles
- Daily Breakfast Buffet
- Fully escorted by English-speaking local guides
- In-depth sightseeing and all entry fees as per the itinerary

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Beijing Arrival

Welcome to Beijing – Capital of China!

Today begins your spectacular tour through China! Upon arrival at Beijing Airport, you will be warmly greeted and escorted to your hotel to rest after your flight (you will most likely be arriving late in the evening).

**Meals:** In-flight meals

**Accommodation:** Ramada Beijing North Hotel 4\* or similar

### Day 2: Beijing – Tiananmen Square

After breakfast, set out with your guide to discover the iconic imperial treasures of China's massive capital, Beijing. Stand in Tiananmen Square, one of the largest public squares in the world.

After our tour, you may explore the city at your own pace or instead, you may wish to take part in an optional excursion to enhance your experience.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Ramada Beijing North Hotel 4\* or similar

**Remark:** If you do not join our optional tour, you will be dropped off somewhere and informed when and where to pick up to go back to hotel. (Normally it will be 4 – 5 hours later). If you do not want to wait this long, you can hail a taxi to hotel. The taxi fee is paid on your own.

### **Day 3: Beijing - Great Wall and Jade Carving Workshop**

Today's excursion is one of the most anticipated of our trip – a visit to the Great Wall of China. Often recognized as one of the Seven Wonders of the World, this UNESCO World Heritage site is a staggering feat and a bucket list destination. We will be touring the Juyongguan section, one of the three most famous passes along the Great Wall. Located 60km from downtown Beijing, it used to be a stronghold that protected the northern access routes to the city. Here we'll get a chance to climb a portion of this architectural marvel, which stretches an astonishing 21,000km. En route back to the city we'll visit one of the largest jade exhibitions in China and learn all about China's most precious and celebrated stone.

Upon returning to Beijing, the rest of the day is yours to spend at leisure or to participate in one of our optional excursions.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Ramada Beijing North Hotel 4\* or similar

### **Day 4: Beijing - Bullet Train to Wuxi - Sightseeing**

After breakfast, you will begin our day at a Chinese herbal institute, where we will have the opportunity to learn about traditional Chinese medicine. Later you will pay a visit to the Temple of Heaven which is seen as the most holy of Beijing's imperial temples. It has been described as "a masterpiece of architecture and landscape design". Morning is the best time to visit it. You will have an interesting experience watching local people doing morning exercises, like dancing, walking, practicing tai chi or playing games, as you walk to the temple.

In the afternoon we will board a bullet train to reach the city of Wuxi. China's bullet train network is now the most expansive in the world and you'll be rocketing towards Wuxi at speeds up to 300km/h. Upon arrival in Wuxi, you'll be met by our local representative and escorted to your hotel where you may spend the rest of the day relaxing, exploring or spending time with newly made friends.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Grand Park Hotel Wuxi 4\* or similar

### **Day 5: Wuxi - Suzhou**

This morning our day begins with a visit to The Brilliance of Lake Lihu, a branch of Lake Taihu. The lake is well known for its gorgeous park and many interesting features. Locally it is famous thanks to the work of numerous scholars, who have written that notable historical figures, such as Fan Li and Xi Shi, boated here. While here we'll also visit a freshwater pearl farm.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Lakeside Hotel Suzhou 4\* or similar

### **Day 6: Suzhou - Hangzhou**

The classical garden called the **Lingering Garden** is one of more than 60 in the city – it's recognized as having the most UNESCO World Heritage gardens in the world.

After this we continue our journey to the **Suzhou Silk Factory**, which is said to be the largest silk manufacturer in the country. Here, we'll discover the incredible methods that lay behind silk harvesting.

In the afternoon we continue on to Hangzhou, once described by Marco Polo as "the most beautiful and magnificent city in the world". Upon arrival in Hangzhou you'll have the evening free to spend at your leisure: relax or take up our optional excursions, enjoying a performance.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Merchant Marco Garden Hotel Hangzhou 4\* or similar

### **Day 7: Hangzhou - Shanghai**

The city of Hangzhou, also known as 'Paradise on Earth', has been immortalised by countless poets and artists. The most renowned feature here is the West Lake Cultural Landscape of Hangzhou, which has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

After our visit to the West Lake, we'll continue on to tea plantations to taste Dragon Well tea, otherwise known as

Longjing – a much sought-after local green tea leaf. Green tea is said to be great for health and wellbeing, packed with antioxidants, and today you'll have the opportunity to learn more about China's tea culture. Following lunch, we'll drive to Shanghai, on China's central coast. This evening, we'll have the opportunity to get a glimpse of Shanghai's dazzling skyline by joining the optional Huangpu River Cruise ride.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Novotel Shanghai Qingpu Excellence 4\* or similar

#### **Day 8: Shanghai**

Enjoy a full day in Shanghai – a city of some 26 million people and an important global financial hub. After breakfast, we'll travel to the Bund, a famous waterfront area in Shanghai that's lined with colonial architecture of European design. The Bund is perhaps the best representation of Western influences from a bygone era, and is now called the 'Wall Street of the East'. Following our tour here, the rest of the day is yours to spend as you please – relax or enjoy one of our optional tours and activities to help enhance your experience.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Novotel Shanghai Qingpu Excellence 4\* or similar

#### **Day 9: Shanghai - Xi'an**

Pick up and transfer to visit the incredible Wild Goose Pagoda. The temple was originally used to keep the Buddhist scriptures which were carried by the great monk Yi Jing from the Indian area and over time it has become a holy place for pilgrims. In the evening, be fascinating by the optional Grand Tang Everbright City and feast on a yummy Dumpling Banquet (not included)

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Ramada by Wyndham Xi'an Chanba 4\* or similar

#### **Day 10: Xi'an**

Today you will explore Xi'an on the Terracotta Warriors day tour. View the enigmatic ranks of the Terracotta Warriors in the company of our experienced local guide. You may have the opportunity of meeting the man who discovered the Warriors and learn about the moment they were uncovered by talking to one of the farmers who stumbled upon them in 1974. Afterwards Visit the famous Moslem Street, where many delicious local snacks and souvenirs are available for purchase.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Ramada by Wyndham Xi'an Chanba 4\* or similar

#### **Day 11: Xian - Yichang**

Fly to Yichang. Pick up and transfer to the pier to board the cruise. Yichang, the gateway to the Yangtze River, is the starting point of our Yangtze River Cruise, your home for the next four nights as you sail along the Yangtze River. Once you've settled into your room, join your fellow travelers in the main hall for the Captain's welcome speech and safety instruction.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Victoria Cruise 5\* or similar

#### **Day 12: Yangtze River Cruise**

Today's activities include a morning Tai Chi lesson and an included shore excursion to the Three Gorges Dam Site. The Three Gorges Dam Site is one of the largest construction projects undertaken by mankind and is the biggest hydropower project in the world. You may also want to visit the Tribe of the Three Gorges (not included), the only large scenic spot that has not been influenced by the Three Gorged Dam project, which showcases the abundant Ba and Shu cultures. Later today, sail through Xiling Gorge, the longest (41 miles) and deepest of the Three Gorges. This evening attend the Captain's Welcome Banquet and enjoy the evening entertainment with a Chinese dancing ball.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Victoria Cruise 5\* or similar

#### **Day 13: Yangtze River Cruise**

Today you will enjoy shore excursion to Lesser Three Gorges – a shining pearl hidden in remote mountains. You will leave your cruise ship and board smaller vessels to sail through the narrower and breathtaking Lesser Three Gorges region, lined by sheer cliffs and mountains. Along the river you may see the ancient plank road and the Hanging Coffins. You may also want to visit the White Emperor City (not included), an ancient temple that is located atop

Baidi Mountain on the northern bank of the Yangtze River in Fengjie County. You will then return to the ship and continue sailing into the 25-mile-long Wu Gorge, known for its quiet beauty, forest covered mountains, and cliffs so sheer that the sun barely penetrates the precipices. Then sail through Qutang Gorge, the shortest (5 miles), narrowest (500 feet), and most dramatic gorge.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Victoria Cruise 5\* or similar

#### **Day 14: Yangtze River Cruise**

Today you will join the included excursion to visit Xiaoguanshan Ancient Folk Culture Park, a noted site for the relocation and reconstruction of architectural relics after the water rose on the Yangtze as a result of the Three Gorges Dam Project, and scenic Mt. Shuanggui, a national forest park. Additional optional shore excursion to the Fengdu Ghost City (not included) to see why it's regarded as the "City of Ghosts". The temples built on Ming Mountain depict the punish instruments and demon paintings, demonstrating the Chinese people's imagination of hell. Return to the ship and continue to pass through the mountains of Eastern Sichuan. Tonight enjoy the farewell dinner and pack your bags in preparation for disembarking tomorrow.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Victoria Cruise 5\* or similar

#### **Day 15: Arrive Chongqing - Home**

This morning you will disembark the cruise in the city of Chongqing. You can explore this beautiful city at your own pace. Alternatively, you can join our well-planned optional insight tour (not included). On this sightseeing tour you'll explore the many landmarks of Chongqing including Hongyadong Folk Custom Scene Area, Ciqikou ancient town, Panda House and three Gorges Museum.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** On Plane

#### **Day 16: Home**

You arrive at your home today and we hope you enjoy your China trip with Asia Vacation Group.

## **INCLUSIONS**

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- **Return flight from/to Australia.**
- 02 water bottles per person per day
- Airport transfers included on the first and last day of tour
- 14 night hotel accommodation including 4 nights on Yangtze Cruise.
- Dedicated transportation in comfortable, air-conditioned vehicles
- Daily Breakfast Buffet, 5 lunches, 2 dinners
- Bullet train from Beijing to Suzhou
- Bullet train from Shanghai to Xi'an
- Bullet train from Xi'an to Wuhan then to Yichang or flight from Xian to Yichang (economic class)
- Fully escorted by English-speaking local guides
- In-depth sightseeing and all entry fees as per the itinerary

## **EXCLUSIONS**

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- Meals and drinks are not mentioned in the program
- Visa fee in China
- **Compulsory Tipping for driver and tour guide (AU\$12 per person/day)**
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance (we strongly recommend you hold a valid travel insurance policy for all domestic and overseas travel)
- Trip delay or interruption by airline schedule change
- Extra cost or missing tour caused by flight delay or cancel

- Any service not clearly mentioned in the program

## DEPARTURE DATES: PRICE IS QUOTED IN AU\$ PER PERSON

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
<b>Sunday</b> 05 May 2024	<b>Monday</b> 20 May 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Saturday</b> 11 May 2024	<b>Sunday</b> 26 May 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Thursday</b> 23 May 2024	<b>Friday</b> 07 Jun 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Sunday</b> 02 Jun 2024	<b>Monday</b> 17 Jun 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Monday</b> 10 Jun 2024	<b>Tuesday</b> 25 Jun 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Sunday</b> 16 Jun 2024	<b>Monday</b> 01 Jul 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Sunday</b> 07 Jul 2024	<b>Monday</b> 22 Jul 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Sunday</b> 21 Jul 2024	<b>Monday</b> 05 Aug 2024	AU\$3,199		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Sunday</b> 04 Aug 2024	<b>Monday</b> 19 Aug 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Sunday</b> 11 Aug 2024	<b>Monday</b> 26 Aug 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Sunday</b> 18 Aug 2024	<b>Monday</b> 02 Sep 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Sunday</b> 25 Aug 2024	<b>Monday</b> 09 Sep 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Monday</b> 16 Sep 2024	<b>Tuesday</b> 01 Oct 2024	AU\$3,199		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Monday</b> 14 Oct 2024	<b>Tuesday</b> 29 Oct 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Sunday</b> 20 Oct 2024	<b>Monday</b> 04 Nov 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Sunday</b> 27 Oct 2024	<b>Monday</b> 11 Nov 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Sunday</b> 03 Nov 2024	<b>Monday</b> 18 Nov 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>
<b>Sunday</b> 10 Nov 2024	<b>Monday</b> 25 Nov 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
<b>Sunday</b> 17 Nov 2024	<b>Monday</b> 02 Dec 2024	AU\$2,799		<a href="#">Book</a>

## OPTIONAL TOURS

## FINE PRINT

### FLIGHT INFORMATION

This package includes international flights from Sydney/Melbourne and surcharge from Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, Tasmania or other city if requested when selecting your departure city.

#### Interstate Surcharge

Surcharge of **AU\$400** for departures from Adelaide & Brisbane, **AU\$500** for departures from Perth and **AU\$ 300** from Tasmania

In this packages, we will use some different airlines such as: China Southern Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, ... or similar (20/23kg for checked baggage per passenger and 7kg hand luggage per passenger, 01-piece check-in baggage).

- Some flights will require a minimum of 1 transit (maximum 2).
- All tickets will include 23 kilos checked baggage per person, along with 7 kilos of hand luggage.
- Despite the airlines baggage allowance, we recommend travelling with 20 kilos per person due to restrictions with internal flights (where applicable), as well as coach and train transportation. Also, you will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters is not included. If travelling over this amount, you will be liable for any excess baggage fees enforced by the airline, payable direct.
- Once ticketed, flights are non-refundable. Any changes will be subject to the airline rules, Airline change fees and an Asia Vacation Group change fee of \$250 per person.
- Full names as per passport (including all middle names) are required. Any error in the names submitted will be subject to an Asia Vacation Group name change fee of \$150 plus any applicable fees charged by the airline, or the ticket may be non-refundable with the purchase of a new ticket required.
- Any airline schedule changes or cancellations are beyond our control. It is important that you, as the customer, stay up-to-date with the latest airline schedule information prior to your departure. If a schedule change results in extended transits or an earlier/later departure from your destination, any additional accommodation or alternative arrangements will be at the traveler's expense.
- Any airline 'extras' such as pre-allocated seating is at your own arrangement (additional charges apply)
- After booking, the price payable may be subject to change as a result of factors beyond the control of Asia Vacation Group. Asia Vacation Group reserves the right to increase the price payable and this will be reflected on the customer's invoice. Increases may be in relation to, but not limited to, currency fluctuations, airline taxes, airfare increases and fuel surcharges.
- Internal airfares (where applicable and included in the itinerary) will be using a local carrier and may include low-cost carriers without meals or entertainment. Checked baggage will still be included for each passenger. Any additional baggage required is payable at time of check-in.
- If you are travelling with another party on a separate booking, we cannot guarantee that the same flights will be booked for all parties, as this strictly depends on availability.
- You will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters are not included. If travelling over the recommended amount, you will be liable for any excess baggage fees enforced by the airline, payable directly.
- In the event of that you no-show on your scheduled flight, please be aware the airline will require you to pay a no show fee, Airline reissue fee plus any additional airfare and taxes. Asia Vacation Group will also charge a \$250 admin fee to assist re accommodating you on the next available flight. Please note that depending on the airline's policy, purchasing a new ticket may be required.

#### Flight requests, amendments or preferences

We understand customers may wish to request changes to their included airfares. If you wish to fly with a certain airline, land at a certain time or change your flight in other ways we will gladly provide you with a personalized

quote tailored to your specific requirements.

We would be more than happy to provide you with a quote for the following requests:

Airline Preferences – You may wish to fly with a particular airline

Cabin Preferences – These include upgrading to premium economy or business class

Extensions (start and end cities must remain the same) – You may request to extend your stay pre or post tour.

Meal Requests – You may request a specific meal for dietary requirements.

Seat Requests – If you would like to request particular seating. However please note, not all airlines allow the selection of pre-purchased seat arrangements.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **COVID-19**

Due to COVID there may be disruptions to standard operating schedules of particular components of this itinerary. Should a component be effected a substitute will be confirmed prior to departure.

### **Physical Requirements**

A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

### **Tipping**

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package. Please be advised that tipping for tour guides, drivers and bellmen are required and will be collected by our tour guide when you arrives in China. A **compulsory gratuity of AUD12 per person/day** can make a big difference to locals employed in the tourism industry as they have done an impeccable job to serve you through your holiday.

### **Accommodation**

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences however any changes are beyond our control.

### **Single Supplement**

Single supplement is **AU\$1,090 per person** in addition to the twin share price.

### **Paired Solo Traveler**

Not available.

**Group size:** min from 10 pax

### **Triple Share**

Upon your request except for cruises

### **Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is recommended to protect yourself against the unexpected. In addition to the support that a policy may provide, you may be asked to present a copy of your travel insurance documentation while traveling.

We have partnered with NibTravel Insurance to offer our customers competitive rates for their travel insurance.

You can book Comprehensive or Essentials cover for your domestic, international or multi-trip journeys simply with us.

### **Visa & Passport information**

It is the traveler's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the intended date of return and must have more than 2 blank pages.

A tourist visa for China is a strict requirement if travelling on an Australian Passport. Please note as of today you are required to attend a Chinese Visa Application Service Centre in person to apply for a visa. China Visa Application Service Centres can be found in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane.

Please visit <https://www.visaforchina.cn/> for more information.

You will be able to start your visa application process once you receive your final travel documentation approximately 6 weeks prior to departure.

Important:

- Please start arranging your visa three weeks before departure to account for any delays due to consulate operating hours.
- Visa rules may have changed since Covid-19. Some countries and airlines may require you to obtain an additional visa before arrival. Please check with the nearest embassy, consulate or immigration department of

the destination you're entering.

Please note:

- Passengers who are not Australian citizens must also check with the respective consulate or visa agency to determine what their visa requirements are and what personal identification is required.
- It is also important to note that some areas of employment, such as journalism, government authorities and charity organizations, may have additional restrictions in applying for Visas. This may, in turn, affect the type of application required.

Please note that these details are subject to change without notice. We recommend visiting <https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/> for up-to-date information in terms of entry requirements.

#### **Tour Documentation**

Final documentation, including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

#### **Children**

Children must be 2 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are the same price as adults.

#### **Tour Length**

The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule, please refer to the day-by-day itinerary for the time spent on land.

### **HOW TO EXTEND YOUR STAY**

You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour. On this tour you can choose from the following options:

#### **Pre Tour Accommodation**

**AU\$190** per room, per night based on double/twin room share

**AU\$140** per vehicle per way

#### **Post Tour Accommodation**

**AU\$130** per room, per night based on double/twin room share

**AU\$95** per vehicle per way

Please select the number of extra nights required in the 'Additional Nights Accommodation' field when making your purchase. The additional cost for these arrangements will be added to your final payment invoice and are subject to availability.

**ASIA VACATION GROUP**

Australia Call: 1800 229 339