



# Exploring China

Beijing • Hangzhou • Shanghai



## Day 1 • Departure

Our journey begins as we board our international flight bound for Beijing, China.

## Day 2 • Beijing

Upon arrival at the Beijing airport we meet our tour guide and motor coach and transfer to our hotel. At a welcome dinner this evening a speaker provides us with an introduction to China. **D**

## Day 3 • Beijing

Our day begins with exercise to shake off the effects of our long trip. We transfer to the **Temple of Heaven**, where we can join local citizens in their daily fitness routines. Martial arts, anyone? This magnificent outdoor setting represents the pinnacle of Ming and Qing architecture, where the emperors worshiped and prayed. In the afternoon we spend some time on **Tian'anmen Square**, considered the largest in the world, where on October 1, 1949 Chairman Mao Zedong proclaimed the birth of the Peoples' Republic of China before one million people. We also visit the **Imperial Palace**, commonly called the Forbidden City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Tonight we enjoy Chinese "ethnic" cuisine – a "western" dinner! **B/L/D**

## Day 4 • Beijing

Today we experience one of humankind's most stunning achievements as we hike along the **Great Wall**, construction of which began in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. The Great Wall is the only man-made object visible from the moon. After lunch we drive to the **Changping area** west of Beijing for a visit to the imperial tombs of the Ming Dynasty. We tour a tomb called *Dingling*, the burial site of the emperor Zhu Yijun and his two empresses, the only tomb to be excavated to date. **B/L/D**

## Day 5 • Beijing

A special day awaits us as we visit **Beijing Village**, a private charity which provides a home and schooling for children whose parents are in prison. Our stay includes an orientation to the work of the village as well as the opportunity to interact with students in their classrooms. We also have a lesson in Chinese calligraphy. In the afternoon we participate in a service project at the village, such as tree planting on the agency's farm. *[Cost of any donated items or materials included in tour price.]* **B/L/D**

## Day 6 • Hangzhou

This morning we begin an exploration of the *hutongs*, planned residential neighborhoods, some of which date back to the Yuan Dynasty of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. The *hutongs* surrounding the Forbidden City were intended for relatives of the imperial family and other aristocrats. Farther away, plainer, simpler housing served the needs of ordinary citizens. A rickshaw (or Peditaxi) ride through the narrow streets and across the ancient squares (*sihayuan*) of these neighborhoods provides some

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insight into the everyday lives of the Chinese. This afternoon we board a flight to **Hangzhou**, the political, cultural and commercial center of Zhejiang province located in a beautiful natural setting. **B/L/D**

**Day 7 • Hangzhou**

Our day begins with a **crui**se on charming **Xizi Lake** (West Lake). The surrounding landscape has an surreal quality, almost like a painting. Are we traveling through a fairyland? We stop along the shore for a visit to the **Longjing Tea Plantation**. We walk through the terraces rising from the lake and watch the people at work. They can even show us how to pick tea ourselves! Following lunch we tour the **Lingyin Temple**, one of the best-known Buddhist monasteries in China. Dating from the 4<sup>th</sup> century, its main hall, a one-story building, rises over 100 feet. **B/L/D**

**Day 8 • Hangzhou**

After breakfast we transfer to a local school where we have an opportunity to attend classes and participate in musical and athletic activities with the students. We eat lunch with the students. This afternoon we visit the **Baochu Pagoda**, Hangzhou’s landmark, set on Baoshi Hill above the West Lake. Climbing the hill becomes a team competition and group-building activity. **B/L/D**

**Day 9 • Shanghai**

We depart for Shanghai this morning. En route we visit **Wuzhen**, one of the ancient water towns along the banks of the southern Yangtze River. The sharp contrasts in the town’s colors bring to mind a Chinese ink and wash painting. Lunch is at a local restaurant. Following our visit we continue on to Shanghai, a dynamic metropolis, which ranks alongside New York and Paris as a global center of culture, commerce, and research. **B/L/D**

**Day 10 • Shanghai**

The final day of our tour is full. Our first visit is to the **Yu Garden**, the largest and most beautiful of Shanghai's ancient gardens with architectural styles from the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Next we visit the impressive **City Planning Exhibition Center** to learn about the vision for this and other Chinese cities. Emphasis is placed upon plans which extend decades into the future. After lunch we visit a “**Children’s Palace**,” designed for the children of working parents to study and engage in extra-curricular activities after school. We can interact with them as they practice dance, singing, drama, instrumental music (traditional and western instruments), ballet and computer sciences. This evening we enjoy a farewell dinner. **B/L/D**

**Day 11 • Return**

Our exploration of China draws to a close as we transfer to the Shanghai airport to board our homebound flight. We return with a wealth of knowledge of this ancient yet dynamic land, its people and its culture. *Zàijàn!* **B**

**Abbreviations for Meals: B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner**

<p><b>Cost of tour: \$1,659*</b>  <i>Land portion only</i>  <i>*Based on minimum of 20 paying participants</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Included</u></b></p> <p><b>Transportation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach</li> <li>• China domestic flight from Beijing to Hangzhou including taxes</li> </ul> <p><b>Accommodations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-bedded superior tourist class and first class hotels</li> </ul> <p><b>Meals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily</li> </ul> <p><b>Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admission to all activities as indicated in itinerary</li> </ul> <p><b>Tour Guides</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional tour director</li> <li>• Local guides for city tours and major attractions</li> </ul> <p><b>Taxes and Tips</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All taxes and tips for provided services except for end of tour tip for driver and tour director</li> </ul> <p><b>Complimentary Tours</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One tour per 10 paying participants</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Not included</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roundtrip air transportation</li> <li>• China visa fee</li> <li>• Meals not indicated in the itinerary</li> <li>• Beverages, except with breakfast</li> <li>• End of tour tip for driver and tour director</li> <li>• Items of a personal nature such as passport fees</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel Insurance</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>This tour can be customized to your specifications.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tour Code: SPXE10</p>

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