

China's Golden Triangle Tour – May 18 – 28, 2021

Beijing - Xi'an - Hangzhou - Suzhou – Shanghai

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 Monday, May 18 - Depart USA for Beijing

Day 2 Tuesday, May 19 - Beijing

Arrive in Beijing. Transfer to your hotel.

Day 3 Wednesday, May 20 - Beijing

Depart after breakfast for a tour of Tian'anmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Temple of Heaven. Tian'anmen Square is the world's largest and renowned public square where many historical events once took place. The Forbidden City (UNESCO) is the imperial place where the emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties ruled for nearly 500 years (1420-1911). Experience the architectural splendor of the palaces, ceremonial courtyards, and private quarters. The Temple of Heaven (UNESCO), where ancient Chinese emperors made sacrifices to Heaven and prayed for bountiful harvests, demonstrates the supreme achievement of traditional Chinese architecture. In the evening, enjoy a Welcome Dinner of traditional Peking Duck at time-honored restaurant. The duck is characteristic with its crispy skin, tender meat and the fragrance from the fruit-wood.

Overnight: Beijing: Traveler Inn Huaqiao Hotel*** or similar

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner



Day 4 Thursday, May 21 – Beijing

After breakfast we depart for The Great Wall, one of the most spectacular structures ever built by humans and the only one visible from space. Then take the *optional* cable car ride to the Mutianyu Great Wall, one of the best-preserved and best-known Great Wall sections. The Great Wall at Mutianyu has breath-taking scenery yet less tourists. Then we visit the Summer Palace, (UNESCO) the largest imperial garden in the world. Emperors of successive dynasties created a summer retreat of Chinese gardens and pavilions around the tranquil waters of Kunming Lake. Next, we stop at a jadestone workshop to witness how this precious stone is carved into beautiful jewelry and other artifacts. In the evening, join the *optional* Chinese Kung Fu Show. This stunning Kung Fu performance exhibits a great story line and demonstrates exceptional martial arts skills.

Optional: Mutianyu Great Wall (AM) and Chinese Kung Fu Show (PM)

Overnight: Beijing: Traveler Inn Huaqiao Hotel*** or similar

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner



Day 5 Friday, May 22 - Beijing - Xian (by bullet train)

After breakfast, take the *optional* tour to the renowned Beijing Zoo where we will have a chance to view the famous Panda house. Then we depart our hotel for the train station where we will embark on an unforgettable journey aboard the high-speed bullet train from Beijing to Xi'an. Have lunch on your own onboard the train. Upon arrival in Xi'an, transfer to the hotel.

Optional: Beijing Zoo with Panda House

Overnight: Xi'an: Bell Tower Hotel**** or similar

Meals: Breakfast, dinner



Day 6 Saturday, May 23 - Xian

After breakfast, we depart for the Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses (UNESCO), one of the greatest archaeological discoveries in the world. More than 6000 life-sized terra cotta warriors, archers, infantrymen, horses, and bronze chariots have silently guarded the tomb of China's First Emperor for over 2,200 years. Next we visit the Big Wild Goose Pagoda. This Tang Dynasty landmark is a seven-story pagoda initially constructed in 652 AD. One of the pagoda's many functions is to hold sutras and figurines of the Buddha that were brought to China from India by the Buddhist translator and traveler Xuanzang. Tonight we enjoy a tasty Dumpling dinner followed by an *optional* exquisite traditional Tang Dynasty Show.

Optional: Traditional Tang Dynasty Show

Overnight: Xi'an: Bell Tower Hotel**** or similar

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner



Day 7 Sunday, May 24 - Xian - Hangzhou (by air)

After we visit the Ancient City Wall, one of the oldest city walls in China and still encompasses the center of Xian today. Then transfer to the airport for your included intra-flight from Xi'an to Hangzhou breakfast, lunch and dinner



Overnight: Hangzhou: Best Western Hotel**** or similar

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 8 Monday, May 25 Hangzhou - Suzhou (by bullet train)

After breakfast, depart for the train station for your memorable high-speed bullet train ride to Suzhou. Upon arrival, visit the West Lake, Six Harmonies Pagoda, Qinghefang Historical Street, Dragon Well Tea Plantation. The West Lake (UNESCO) is famous for its natural beauty and historic relics and it has influenced numerous painters, poets, and garden designers throughout Chinese history. You will take a short cruise on this picturesque West Lake. The Six Harmonies Pagoda is a masterpiece of ancient Chinese architecture. You can get a panoramic view of the Qiantang River at the very top. The Qinghefang Historical Street has been the most flourished street in the city since ancient times. Hangzhou's century-old shops are all located in this area.



Overnight: Suzhou: Holiday Inn Jasmine Hotel**** or similar

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 9 Tuesday, May 26 - Suzhou - Shanghai (by bullet train)

This morning we visit the Master of Nets Garden, Grand Canal, Pingjiang Road, and then stop at a silk factory en route. The Master of Nets Garden, the smallest and most proportional of all the beautiful

gardens in Suzhou, possesses the mood of tranquility and harmony. We take a boat ride along the Grand Canal, the worlds oldest and longest canal. Pingjiang Road, an ancient street along the Grand Canal, is filled with snack shops, tea houses, ping-tan museums, and boutique shops. Next we take another scenic journey from Suzhou to Shanghai by high-speed bullet train. In the evening after dinner enjoy the *optional* Acrobatic Show known to be one of the best in China.



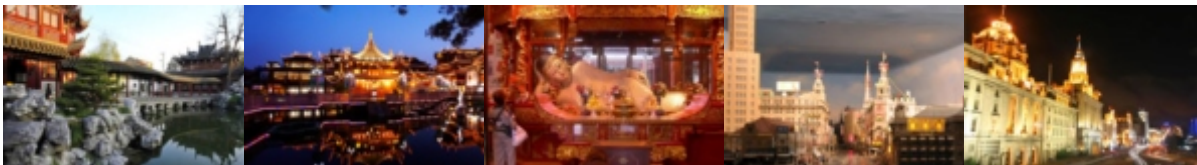
Optional: Shanghai Acrobatic Show

Overnight: Shanghai: Holiday Inn Express Zhabei Hotel*** or similar

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 10 Wednesday, May 27 - Shanghai

Our first stop this morning is at the Yu Garden. Owing to its ingenious design from the Ming and Qing dynasties, the Yu Garden is an outstanding museum of Chinese ancient architecture. Next we visit the Jade Buddha Temple, famous for its two precious jade Buddha statues brought from Burma, which are not only rare cultural relics but also exquisite works of art. Then we have a chance to explore the Shanghai Museum which has a collection of 120,000 pieces of Chinese ancient treasures. Finally, we'll stop at The Bund, an area full of new skyscrapers and historical buildings in the center of Shanghai. After a delicious farewell dinner at a local restaurant, take an *optional* Huangpu River Night Cruise which is the perfect way to enjoy the gorgeous night views of Shanghai.



Optional: Huangpu River Night Cruise

Overnight: Shanghai: Holiday Inn Express Zhabei Hotel*** or similar

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 11 Thursday, May 28 - Shanghai - USA

Transfer from the hotel to the Shanghai International Airport for your return flight back to the USA.

Meals: Breakfast