

ASIA LEADER ADVENTURES

CHINA EXPRESS

8 days · Beijing to Shanghai

*Great Wall · Forbidden City · Terracotta Warriors · Classical Gardens of Suzhou
Shanghai City Walk*

Route Overview

8 days · 4 cities · one unforgettable journey

Beijing

Days 1–3

Great Wall · Forbidden City
Beijing's old Hutongs

Xi'an

Days 3–4

Terracotta Warriors
City Wall

Suzhou

Days 4–5

Classical Gardens
Shantang St

Shanghai

Days 6–8

City Walk
Museum · Depart

Good to Know

1 Chinese Special Cuisine

Two Chinese special meals are complimentary during the itinerary.

3 100% shopping-free tour

The tour is completely shopping-free with no scheduled shopping stops.

2 Group size

Maximum participants: 16

Average participants: 8-10

4 Gift

Each guest joining our tour will receive a complimentary small gift embodying Chinese culture.

Highlights

- ✓ Great Wall excursion
- ✓ Beijing Hutong Exploration
- ✓ Tiananmen Square & Forbidden City guided tour
- ✓ Terracotta Warriors guided tour
- ✓ The Humble Administrator's Garden tour
- ✓ Shanghai orientation walk
- ✓ All transport between destinations & to/from activities
- ✓ Your Discover Moment: Shanghai

Itinerary



DAY 1

Beijing(Arrival day)

Arrive at any time. Your tour guide meets you at the airport for a private transfer to the hotel.

Beijing, China's capital, perfectly combines splendid imperial heritage and modern urban vitality. Home to the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and numerous UNESCO heritage sites, it carries thousands of years of Chinese history. Wander through old hutongs, taste local delicacies and explore the contrast between ancient traditions and contemporary cityscape. It is an essential destination to understand oriental civilization.

Among them are our Tour Guide who help open doors to the city's most extraordinary experiences.

Accommodation

Jin Jiang West Capital Intl Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

🕒 Today's Activities

Private Vehicle: Airport Pick-up Service

Your Tour Guide Meets You

DAY 2

Beijing • Great Wall • Beijing's old Hutongs

After breakfast, , your guide will pick you up at your hotel and take you to **the Great Wall at Mutianyu**. This section is the longest and best-preserved restored part of the wall, with fewer crowds and 23 Ming-era watchtowers.

Take the cable car up to the 14th watchtower and hike west along the wall. The surrounding area is covered with green pines and cypresses, offering some of the most stunning natural scenery along the entire wall. If you're feeling adventurous, challenge yourself to reach the 20th watchtower for the best views.

Today,You will have ample time today to enjoy the beauty of the Great Wall to the fullest. Hiking on the Great Wall is highly recommended.The walk is approximately 5 kilometres and will take 2 to 3 hours depending on your level of fitness.

later in the afternoon explore **Beijing's old Hutongs**. These narrow alleys are where ordinary Beijingers have lived for centuries. You'll pass traditional courtyard homes and local markets.

Accommodation

Jin Jiang West Capital Intl Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

🕒 Today's Activities

Mutianyu Great Wall Visit

4h

explore Beijing's old Hutongs

1h30m-2h

Optional Activities

Day 2 · make the day yours

🕒 Today's Activities

Toboggan at the Great Wall

Slide back down instead of taking the cable car!

Mutianyu

100–140 CNY

Cable Car at the Great Wall

5-minute ride to Tower 14; walk on to Tower 20, the highest point.

Mutianyu

100–140 CNY

Rickshaw at Beijing's old Hutongs

The Hutong rickshaw ride is a local cultural experience in Beijing's old Hutongs.

Beijing

100-200 CNY

DAY 3

Beijing • the Forbidden City • Tian'anmen Square / Xi'an

Take Beijing metro to visit the Forbidden City.

Located in the heart of Beijing, the **Forbidden City** served as the imperial palace for the Ming and Qing dynasties. Built from 1406 to 1420, it was home to 24 emperors over more than 500 years.

As the largest and best-preserved ancient wooden palace complex in the world, it was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. The whole complex follows a strict symmetrical layout along the central axis, divided into the Outer Court for state ceremonies and the Inner Court for royal daily life. Surrounded by high walls and a wide moat, golden roof tiles and red palaces display supreme imperial dignity. Today known as the Palace Museum, it houses countless precious cultural relics, recording the splendid history of ancient China.

In the afternoon, your guide will take you to **Tian'anmen Square**, the world's largest public square and a symbol of modern China. Framed by the Gate of Heavenly Peace with its Mao portrait, Mao's Mausoleum, the Great Hall of the People, the National Museum, and with elaborate flag raising and lowering ceremonies at dawn and dusk, it's a place of pilgrimage for the Chinese who consider it the heart of their nation.

After finishing the visit to Tian'anmen Square, then board High-speed train to Xi'an.

⚠ Forbidden City daily capacity is now 50,000. If tickets can't be secured, we visit Temple of Heaven instead.

Accommodation

Jin Jiang West Capital Intl Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

🕒 Today's Activities

Forbidden City Tour

3h-4h

Tian'anmen Square

1h30m

High-speed Train

4h30m

DAY 4

Xi'an • Terracotta Warriors • City Wall • Muslim Quarter / Suzhou

In the morning, we will visit **Terracotta Warriors**, one of the greatest archaeological discoveries in the world. Visiting the Terracotta Warriors allows travellers to witness the glory of ancient China and the remarkable achievements of early Chinese sculpture.

After lunch, we will visit **Xi'an Ancient City Wall**. It is the largest and best-preserved ancient city rampart in China, built in the Ming Dynasty. The total perimeter reaches 13.74 kilometers. Cycling on top of the city wall is a classic local experience. Riding along the ramparts, visitors can overlook the ancient downtown area inside the wall and the modern city outside. The striking contrast between ancient fortifications and contemporary urban scenery creates amazing views.

In the late afternoon, we will proceed to the **Muslim Quarter**. It is famous for various authentic Shanxi snacks and traditional local cuisine. Visitors can wander along lively streets, taste local delicacies and experience the unique blend of Hui culture and ancient Chang'an culture.

At the end of the day, we will transfer you to the railway station. overnight sleeper train to Suzhou.

Accommodation

Overnight Sleeper Train (Xi'an – Suzhou)

Train

☉ Today's Activities

Terracotta Warriors Guided Tour

3h

Xi'an Ancient City Wall

1h–1h30m

Muslim Quarter Visit

1h–1h30m

Basic Overnight Train

14h–16h

DAY 5

Suzhou • the Humble Administrator's Garden • Shantang Street

Arrive by morning train, visit **The Humble Administrator's Garden**. Chinese classical gardens are a unique art form of oriental landscape architecture. Integrating architecture, rock, water, plants, poetry and painting, they pursue a harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. Suzhou's classical gardens are the most celebrated type, representing the peak of private literati garden design in ancient China.

wander **Shantang Street**. Shantang Street is a well-known ancient water town street in Suzhou with a history of over 1,200 years. Lined with old houses, stone arch bridges and canal views, it perfectly showcases the classic Jiangnan water town scenery. Walking along the street in the evening, you can appreciate the tranquil riverside scenery and experience the charming night view of ancient Suzhou.

Accommodation

Suzhou Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

☉ Today's Activities

Humble Administrator's Garden

2h30m

Shantang Street Canal Walk

2h30m

DAY 6

Suzhou / Shanghai • Nanjing Road walk

High-speed Train to Shanghai, **Bund & Nanjing Road orientation walk** with Tour Guide.

The Bund is Shanghai’s iconic waterfront landmark. Along the Huangpu River stands a row of magnificent historic buildings known as the “Gallery of World Architecture”. Across the river, the modern skyscrapers of Lujiazui form a striking contrast. Nanjing Road is the most famous commercial shopping street in Shanghai, featuring countless shops, restaurants and bustling city atmosphere. Combining historic architecture and modern urban glamour, a walk covering the Bund and Nanjing Road lets visitors experience the unique charm of Shanghai.

 Accommodation

Shanghai Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

 Today's Activities

High-speed Train

30 min

Shanghai Orientation Walk

1h

DAY 7

Shanghai • City Walk • Shanghai Museum

This morning, join your Tour Guide for an orientation **walk around** the city to see the shops and historic buildings. Join your Tour Guide at the Shanghai Museum or head out to venture through this beautiful city on your own.

Located at People's Square in downtown Shanghai, **Shanghai Museum** is a top-tier national museum dedicated to ancient Chinese art. Founded in 1952, its distinctive building features a round roof and square base, embodying the ancient Chinese philosophy of “round heaven and square earth”.

The museum preserves a massive collection of cultural relics. Its highlights include ancient bronzes, ceramics, calligraphy, paintings, jade carvings, Ming and Qing furniture, sculptures and ancient coins. The bronze and ceramic collections enjoy world-wide reputation.

 Accommodation

Shanghai Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

 Today's Activities

Huangpu District Orientation Walk

2h

Shanghai Museum Visit

1h30m

DAY 8

Shanghai(Depart at any time)

Depart at any time. Your tour guide can assist with travel arrangements if you wish to extend your stay in Shanghai.

What's Included

1 Domestic Transportation

Domestic flights (economy class) or high-speed trains (second class) listed in the itinerary.

3 Professional Guide Service

Professional English-speaking local guide.

5 Sightseeing

Admission tickets and activities listed in the itinerary.

7 Comprehensive Service

Our service from tour planning, handling, operational and finishing your trip.

2 Hotel Accommodation

Accommodation will be provided in hotel or train sleeper berths.

All hotels: 3-star, rooms are twin rooms.

Full details are indicated in the itinerary.

4 Private Vehicle Service

Experienced drivers & air-conditioned vehicles.

6 Insurance

Travel accident insurance for travel within China.

8 Arrival/Departure Transport

Arrival/departure flights or train on the first and last day.

What's Excluded

1 International Airfare

Travel to and from the arrival and departure location as indicated in Detailed Itinerary

3 Meals

Apart from the complimentary meals, all self-pay for maximum flexibility.
the group often dines together voluntarily.

5 Tips

Tips or gratuities for guides and drivers

2 Visa

Entry visa fees

4 Solo travellers

No single room supplement fee. Solo guests are paired with another same-sex traveller in twin/shared rooms. Independent private room bookings incur separate charges.

6 Other Expenses

Emergency medical evacuation insurance (required)

Other expenses of a personal nature (some alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.)

Essential Travel Info

#	Trip Information
1	Itinerary Disclaimer While it is our intention to adhere to the route described, the itinerary has built-in flexibility and changes may occur due to local conditions. All travel times listed are approximations only. No specific site visits are fully guaranteed.
2	Pre-Trip Important Notes Combo Trip This tour may combine with other Asia Leader Adventures groups; fellow travellers or staff may join before Day1 or continue travelling after Day 8. Internet Access in China Google, Gmail, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WordPress and other overseas sites are blocked. A VPN is recommended before arrival if you need access to these platforms. Peak Season (Golden Week: May1-7&Oct 1-7) Mass domestic tourist crowds; accommodation and transport sell out fast – book well in advance. Accommodation Facilities Some small two-story hotels have no elevators; luggage stair climbing may be required.
3	Role of Tour Guide • Full-time group leader throughout the tour • Full English-speaking service during the tour • Provides local cultural, historical and travel guidance • Recommends restaurants, free-time activities and local hidden gems • Not a formal licensed site guide, but holds broad regional cultural knowledge • Resolves travel troubles and coordinates all included group activities
4	Transport Modes Used High-speed High-speed Trains, overnight sleeper trains, city metro, private vehicle/vans, walking tours. China Train & Metro Banned Items • All knives, scissors • Strong odour food (e.g. durian) • Opened alcohol bottles (sealed unopened bottles allowed) • Pressurized spray containers over 120ml (sunscreen, hairspray, mosquito repellent) Extra Ban for Guangxi Trains (Guilin/Yangshuo) Mosquito repellent liquid, self-heating hot pot/rice, plus all items listed above.
5	Joining Instructions • Day 1 is arrival day with no scheduled morning activities; welcome meeting 5pm–7pm at joining hotel lobby. • Check hotel lobby noticeboard or ask reception for Tour Guide welcome meeting details. • Pre-bookable airport arrival transfer available via sales agent;

#	Trip Information
	Late arrivals who miss welcome meeting will receive a written note at reception with next-day instructions.
6	Emergency Contact Numbers - China Local Operator Head Office: +86 18980653282 - HONG KONG Operator Head Office: +852 69441680
7	Packing & Luggage Rules - Self-carry luggage required; recommended weight: 10–15kg / 22–30lb - Medium rolling suitcase acceptable (must fit under sleeper train beds; extra large suitcases forbidden) - Separate small daypack for daily excursions (water, camera, electronics) - All blades/knives prohibited on trains; any knives bought overseas must be mailed home before entering China Packing Checklist - Documents (Mandatory): Passport (6+ months validity), flight e-tickets, travel insurance, visa documents, tour vouchers (carry physical printed copies + digital backups) - Seasonal Clothing Cold (Nov–Apr): Long sleeves, sweater, gloves, scarf, warm waterproof jacket, hat Warm (Apr–Aug, rainy southern China): Sandals, lightweight quick-dry trousers, sun hat, waterproof rain jacket - Daily Essentials: Reusable water bottle, toiletries, outlet adapter, lock for luggage, money belt, ear plugs, small travel towel, sunglasses - Health Kit: Hand sanitizer, face masks, sunscreen, anti-diarrhoea medicine, painkillers, insect repellent, personal prescription drugs, first aid bandages - Travel Extras: Camera + spare batteries, flashlight/headlamp, noise-cancelling headphones, reusable cutlery (train travel), hiking shoes for Great Wall Laundry Most hotels offer paid laundry service; biodegradable travel soap recommended for self-washing.
8	China Visa Requirements - Reference Information--Visa-free Countries Entering China: https://asialeadertravel.com/visa/ - Travellers shall apply for China entry visa on their own. - For visa matters, please consult Chinese embassies and consulates overseas.
9	Currency & Spending Exchange rate reference (Apr 2026): 1 USD = 6.95 CNY - WeChat Pay / Alipay dominant in China; set up accounts and link bank cards before travel - Carry physical cash as backup; credit cards only widely accepted at large tier-1 city hotels/malls - Emergency reserve fund: USD 200 cash for unexpected route changes - China departure tax is included in all flight tickets (no separate fee)
10	Tipping Guidelines Tipping is not traditional local custom but appreciated for tourism service staff: Local drivers/site guides: 1–3 USD per person per day

#	Trip Information
	• Tour Guide (at trip end): Suggested 5 USD per person per day (fully voluntary) • Tips can be collected anonymously in envelopes for group presentation.
11	Safety Rules • Wear money belt/neck wallet for passport, cash and valuables; store spare valuables in hotel safe deposit boxes • Avoid unguided night wandering; travel in small groups and take taxis after dark • Leave expensive jewellery at home; luggage padlocks recommended • Avoid protest/demonstration gatherings and evacuate immediately if encountered • All water activities are undertaken at your own risk; unguided water excursions are not supported by Tour Guide • Illegal drugs and solicitation of prostitution result in immediate expulsion from the tour with no refund
12	Cultural Dress Code Conservative loose long clothing recommended for Asia. Cover shoulders/knees when visiting temples, mosques and historic sacred sites; avoid ultra-short shorts, singlets and tank tops.
13	Age Restrictions • Independent travellers minimum age: 18 • Minors aged 12–17 may travel with guardian aged 21+ • Special insurance premium for seniors aged 70 and above (inclusive). You may purchase it according to your personal physical condition. A health commitment letter and a consent form confirming that relatives are aware of your participation in the tour shall be signed.
14	Other Policies • Trip feedback reward: Submit review within 2 weeks post-tour to receive 5% discount (max USD 100) on next booking.

See You in China!

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Emergency contacts

China Local Operator: +86 189 8065 3282 · Hong Kong Office: +852 6944 1680

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