

Beijing to Shanghai Express

9 days | Beijing to Shanghai



SEMI INDEPENDENT: This whistle stop tour of China uncovers some of China's bustling cities and stunning landscapes. From watching the sun rise along the world-renowned Great Wall to the capitals most iconic imperial sites; from the breath-taking scenery in Hangzhou, to the incredible Shanghai skyline.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Beijing – roam the streets of China's fascinating capital independently. Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Silk Alley markets, Hutong area of Beijing, Chinese Acrobatic Show
- Great Wall of China – hike to unrestored sections of the wall, set up camp on a deserted section and watch the sunrise on one of the Wonders of the World
- Mandarin Challenge – enjoy Mandarin lessons with your guides and a lesson with professional teachers in a local language school
- Hangzhou – enjoy scenic boat trip on the West Lake

- Shanghai – explore China's biggest city independently. The Bund, People's Square, former French Concession
- KTV – sing your heart out in some of China's beloved KTV rooms (optional)
- ZhuJiaJiao - Travel to the Italian Venice of China (optional)
- Nine Creeks – hike to the spectacular waterscape in Misty Forest

What's Included

- 6 nights hostel accommodation, 1-night camping & 1-night sleeper train (6 berth sleeper cabins)
- Basic Mandarin lessons with your tour leader & lesson at Mandarin Garden Chinese School
- All relevant transfers and transportation using public transport
- Train tickets from Denqing – Shanghai
- Local guides for scheduled sightseeing in Beijing, Hangzhou and Shanghai. Unescorted travel between cities
- Hiking along unrestored parts of The Great Wall of China

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa.
- Food and drink not listed in the itinerary, laundry, items of a personal nature
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

ITINERARY

Day 1 : The Great Wall

Welcome to China! Our big adventure begins this morning at Spring Time Hostel at 10am. We have some time at leisure to relax and use the shower rooms and common areas. This afternoon we begin making our way to today's highlight – The Great Wall. We'll stop at a local farming village for lunch (at your own expense) and to gain access to the 'locals only' section of the wall; deserted sections where we'll have the place to ourselves to set up camp. Walk along the wall as the sun sets before returning to camp for our first basic Mandarin lesson with our trip leader.

(Please note due to cold weather we stay at a local guesthouse near the Wall from before the end of April and after September).

Overnight - Camping on Great Wall

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Days 2-3 : Beijing



Rise and shine early this morning to witness the sun rise on the Great Wall, one of the most iconic sun rises of our lives. Return to Beijing where we have the remainder of the afternoon and next day at leisure to explore the capital's iconic sites. Take a stroll through Tiananmen Square, one of the largest public squares in the world and home to the National Museum of China, Great Hall of the People and Monument to the People's heroes. Visit the iconic Forbidden City for a close up of the largest palatial complex in the world, boasting over 980 buildings and an insight into the history of the 24 emperors that lived there. For a bird's eye view of these iconic sites we recommend heading up to Jingshan Park. Head to one of the three fake goods markets to buy souvenirs for your friends and family or stroll along the capital's hutongs in the Nanluo district. In the evening we recommend trying the famous Peking Duck dish, once enjoyed exclusively by royalty or perhaps watch a stunning acrobatics performance. **Overnight - Beijing**

Day 4 : Beijing to Hangzhou

Beijing - Hangzhou. Our final day in Beijing is spent at leisure to visit any last-minute sites. Visit the Temple of Heaven, a temple used by emperors for sacrifices to appease the heavens and grant good crops and prosperity for its worshipers, and the largest sacrificial building in China. This evening we board an overnight train to Hangzhou (approx. 14 hours). **Overnight - Sleeper Train**

Day 5 : West Lake

Arrive early into scenic Hangzhou, the southern terminus of the Grand Canal and an important centre for silk, tea and paper-making. After settling into our accommodation, we embark on a scenic boat

trip to Lesser Yingzhou Isle on the West Lake which is dotted with various islands and causeways, whilst the shoreline offers wonderful vistas of green trees, hills, flowers, pavilions, pagodas and boats. We take some time to walk around the island and see the three pools mirroring the moon. Return to dry land for some free time to relax or perhaps visit the National Tea Museum or National Silk Museum.

This afternoon we hike up Jiuyao Mountain to soak up the views of the sunset descending over the lake – a truly breath-taking sight. Return to the city for a group meal and an evening at leisure (not included). Walk along the beautifully lit waterfront or wander through the streets of the Old Town.

Overnight - Hangzhou

Days 6-8 : Hangzhou to Shanghai

Hangzhou - Shanghai. This morning we venture out of the city and head to the luscious Misty Forest to hike along the Nine Creeks trail, passing verdant valleys and undulating hills. We return to the hostel for some time to freshen up before making our way to the station for our onward train to Shanghai. On arrival jump on the metro to our accommodation and have the rest of the evening free to explore this futuristic city. On Saturday nights there is an optional Shanghai bar crawl on offer (not included).

Day 7 is at leisure to further explore Shanghai. Visit one of the many museums to gain an insight into the city's unique history, take a stroll down one of the many markets for an array of collectables to take home for your friends and family, or try some of the local cuisine – we recommend grabbing some of the food from the city's bustling street food markets.

On the morning of day 8 we have our final Mandarin lesson in the Mandarin Garden Chinese Language School before spending

the remainder of the day at leisure. There is an optional visit to the classical Yu Gardens along the Yangtze River, cross the zig zag bridge and mid-lake pavilion and marvel at one of the three famous jade rocks in south of Yangtze. Or perhaps continue to People's Square in the heart of the city which attracts visitors from all over the world with its many museums, parks, local restaurants and more. Witness the bright neon lights on Nanjing Road, the world's busiest shopping street and marvel at the timeless colonial style buildings and modern skyscrapers at The Bund. We end our walk with a drink on the top floor of one of the skyscrapers, while sitting in hot tubs and admiring the panoramic views of the Paris of the East.

Overnight - Shanghai

Day 9 : Shanghai

Today is our final day in bustling Shanghai. There is the optional walk through the former French concession for an insight into the city's international history. The first stop is to a secretive propaganda history museum, continue onto TianZiFang lane - a local artisan lane filled with stone doored houses and remains of the French style architecture. The final stop is to the ultra-modern financial district on the east side of the Huangpu River, housing dozens of high rise buildings and urban parks. We return to collect our bags and bid farewell to the group. Departure transfers can be arranged upon request. We would be delighted to help you extend your stay in Shanghai and book more nights for you if you're still not quite ready to head home.

PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. Prices shown are per person travelling based on mixed dormitory rooms. 'Twin/Double' upgrade prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single

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travellers and needs to be added to the 'Dormitory' price.

PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
22 Mar	USD 795	USD 795
23 Mar	USD 795	USD 795
25 Mar	USD 795	USD 795
30 Mar	USD 795	USD 795
01 Apr	USD 795	USD 795
06 Apr	USD 795	USD 795
13 Apr	USD 795	USD 795
15 Apr	USD 795	USD 795
22 Apr	USD 795	USD 795
27 Apr	USD 795	USD 795
04 May	USD 795	USD 795
13 May	USD 795	USD 795
20 May	USD 795	USD 795
27 May	USD 795	USD 795
01 Jun	USD 795	USD 795
03 Jun	USD 795	USD 795
08 Jun	USD 795	USD 795
10 Jun	USD 795	USD 795
15 Jun	USD 795	USD 795
17 Jun	USD 795	USD 795
22 Jun	USD 795	USD 795
01 Jul	USD 795	USD 795
08 Jul	USD 795	USD 795
13 Jul	USD 795	USD 795
15 Jul	USD 795	USD 795
20 Jul	USD 795	USD 795
27 Jul	USD 795	USD 795
29 Jul	USD 795	USD 795
03 Aug	USD 795	USD 795
05 Aug	USD 795	USD 795
12 Aug	USD 795	USD 795
17 Aug	USD 795	USD 795
19 Aug	USD 795	USD 795
24 Aug	USD 795	USD 795
26 Aug	USD 795	USD 795
02 Sep	USD 795	USD 795
09 Sep	USD 795	USD 795
14 Sep	USD 795	USD 795
16 Sep	USD 795	USD 795
23 Sep	USD 795	USD 795
28 Sep	USD 795	USD 795
30 Sep	USD 795	USD 795
07 Oct	USD 795	USD 795
14 Oct	USD 795	USD 795
19 Oct	USD 795	USD 795
21 Oct	USD 795	USD 795
28 Oct	USD 795	USD 795

PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
04 Nov	USD 795	USD 795
11 Nov	USD 795	USD 795

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
09 Nov	USD 795	USD 795
16 Nov	USD 795	USD 795

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
21 Mar	USD 795	USD 795
23 Mar	USD 795	USD 795
30 Mar	USD 795	USD 795
06 Apr	USD 795	USD 795
13 Apr	USD 795	USD 795
18 Apr	USD 795	USD 795
20 Apr	USD 795	USD 795
27 Apr	USD 795	USD 795
04 May	USD 795	USD 795
11 May	USD 795	USD 795
18 May	USD 795	USD 795
23 May	USD 795	USD 795
25 May	USD 795	USD 795
01 Jun	USD 795	USD 795
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29 Jun	USD 795	USD 795
06 Jul	USD 795	USD 795
13 Jul	USD 795	USD 795
18 Jul	USD 795	USD 795
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27 Jul	USD 795	USD 795
03 Aug	USD 795	USD 795
08 Aug	USD 795	USD 795
10 Aug	USD 795	USD 795
17 Aug	USD 795	USD 795
22 Aug	USD 795	USD 795
24 Aug	USD 795	USD 795
31 Aug	USD 795	USD 795
07 Sep	USD 795	USD 795
14 Sep	USD 795	USD 795
19 Sep	USD 795	USD 795
26 Sep	USD 795	USD 795
28 Sep	USD 795	USD 795
05 Oct	USD 795	USD 795
12 Oct	USD 795	USD 795
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