Grand Tour of China

22 Days

Beijing, Xi'an, Yangtze River Cruise, Chengdu, Guilin, Yangshou, Suzhou, Shanghai

Tour Highlights

- Walk on the incredible **Great Wall**
- Unfold the mystery of the **Forbidden City**
- Stroll in the exquisite **Summer Palace**
- Marval at the ancient **Terracotta Warriors & Horses**
- Cruise down the magnificent **Yangtze River**
- Explore the fascinating history and tranquil landscapes through the **Yangtze Three Gorge**
- Get up close to the adorable **Giant Pandas in Chengdu**
- Ponder the picturesque scenery in **Guilin**
- Cruise along the Li River to **Yangshou Village**
- Stroll in one of the finest Chinese gardens in **Suzhou**
- Immerse yourself in the bustling metropolitian **Shanghai**

Peking Roast Duck

Tiananmen Square

Day 1 • New Zealand ✈ Beijing
Fly to Beijing, the capital city of China, via a connecting city. Upon arrival, you will be warmly greeted at the airport by your tour guide and transferred to your hotel. (Note: Some flights may depart the night before.)

Day 2 • Beijing • (S)
Arrive in Beijing. We will be warmly greeted at the airport by our tour guide and transferred to our hotel. Our welcome banquet includes the local delicacy, **"Peking Roast Duck"**.

Forbidden City

Temple of Heaven

Day 3 • Beijing • (B, L, D)
Beijing has served as the capital of five dynasties over a period of 800 years. Today we start our city tour with a visit to **Tiananmen Square**, the second largest public square in the world, followed by a visit to the **Forbidden City**, the Chinese imperial palace from the Ming to Qing dynasty. In the afternoon, we continue to the **Temple of Heaven**, which was used by emperors in ancient times to offer sacrifices to heaven and pray for good harvest. After dinner, you can choose to attend an optional large scale dramatic musical, **"The Golden Mask Dynasty"** (at your own expense).

Summer Palace

Bird's Nest

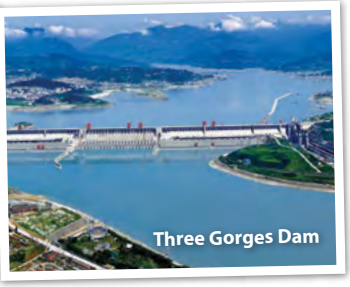
Day 4 • Beijing • (B, L, D)
Our highlight today is an excursion to the majestic **Great Wall** at Juyong Pass, the most famous image of China. After lunch, see skilled artisans at work at a Cloisonné Factory. Later, visit the **Changling Exhibition Hall of the Ming Tombs** where thirteen out of the sixteen Ming dynasty emperors are buried.

We cap off the day by attending a superb and thrilling **Chinese Acrobatic Show** in the evening.

Day 5 • Beijing • (B, L)
This morning we tour the exquisite **Summer Palace** (Imperial Garden), the largest preserved ancient garden in China and a former summer resort for Emperors, followed by an outside view of the beautiful **Bird's Nest** (National Stadium) and **Water Cube** (National Aquatics Centre), both purposely built for the 2008 Olympics. In the afternoon, we explore Beijing's ancient alleyways **"Hutong"** by pedicab, followed by a stroll in **Wangfujing**, one of Beijing's most famous shopping streets.

Day 6 • Beijing ✈ Xi'an • (B, L, S)
This morning we fly to Xi'an, the first Chinese city to open its doors to the world during the Tang dynasty and capital for eleven dynasties over a period of more than 2,000 year. Our highlight today is a visit to the **Terracotta Warriors & Horses Museum** to see the life-sized defending army to the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang. This site is among the most significant archaeological excavations of the 20th century. Later, visit a Ceramics Art Factory, followed by a special **Dumpling Banquet**, while enjoying **a performance of music and dance from the Tang Dynasty**.

Ancient City Wall


Three Gorges Dam

Day 7 • Xi'an • (B, L, D)
This morning we visit the fascinating **Shaanxi Provincial Museum**, followed by lunch featuring a noodle making demonstration. After lunch we visit the **Ancient City Wall**, the most complete ancient city wall that has survived in China. Then we visit the **Big Wild Goose Pagoda**, the symbol of the city.

Day 8 • Xi'an ✈ Wuhan 🚌 Yichang 🚢 Yangtze River Cruise • (B, L, D)
This morning we fly to Wuhan and transfer by coach (approx 4-5 hours) to Yichang, the starting point of our **Yangtze River cruise** for the next four nights. We board the "Yangtze 2" (cruise ship is subject to change) in the evening and receive an introduction on cruise events and onboard activities.

Day 9-11 • Yangtze River Cruise • (B, L, D)
We enjoy a tour to the **Three Gorges Dam**, the world's largest dam, before cruising on the Yangtze River. Over the next few days, relax and enjoy the beautiful scenery as we cross through the **Yangtze Three Gorges: Xiling Gorge, Wu Gorge and Qutang Gorge**. Enjoy shore excursions to explore the fascinating history and tranquil landscapes.

Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding

Day 12 • Yangtze River Cruise Chongqing Chengdu • (B, L, D)
We disembark from our cruise in the port city of Chongqing this morning and transfer (approx 5 hours drive) to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province. This evening we will feast on sumptuous **Sichuan cuisine**.

Day 13 • Chengdu Leshan Chengdu • (B, L, D)
Today we will travel to Leshan to marvel at the **Grand Buddha**, an enormous statue carved into the side of the Lingyun Mountain. The Buddha is over 71m tall and is wide enough for over 100 people to sit between its feet. Later, return to Chengdu and explore the dynamic folk custom street, **Jin Li**, and experience the lifestyle of Old Chengdu. This evening, you can watch a **fascinating show featuring "face changing"** (at your own expense), a kind of magic traditional Chinese dramatic art that is the pride of Sichuan opera.

Day 14 • Chengdu Guilin • (B, L, D)
Today's highlight is a visit to the **Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding**. This is the best place to see Chengdu's most famous residents being reared in surroundings resembling their natural habitat. This evening we will be transferred to the airport to board our flight to Guilin, one of China's most picturesque cities.

Yangshuo Village

Wu Gorge

Day 15 • Guilin Yangshuo • (B, L, D)
Today we enjoy a relaxing cruise along the **Li River**. The journey offers 30 miles of breathtaking scenery. We arrive in **Yangshuo Village** in the afternoon and walk along the 1,400 year old **West Street** and explore the beautiful Yangshuo local village. You may enjoy an optional show tonight - **"Impression Liu San Jie"**, a large scale ethnic performance over the Li River (at your own expense).

Tongli Town

Grand Canal

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Day 16 • Yangshuo Guilin • (B, L, D)
With its name translating to "Forest of Sweet Osmanthus", Guilin has long been renowned for its unique scenery, amazing karst landscapes and rich ethnic cultures. This morning we tour **Elephant Trunk Hill** and the **Reed Flute Caves** and will be amazed by the extraordinary karst limestone formations.

Day 17 • Guilin Shanghai Suzhou • (B, L, D)
This morning we fly to Shanghai, the modern metropolis and commercial centre of China. Upon arrival, we travel by coach to **Tongli Town**, a quiet and beautiful ancient water town with more than 1,000 years history. We then proceed to Suzhou which has been praised as "Paradise on Earth" since ancient times.

Day 18 • Suzhou • (B, L, D)
As a large area of the city is covered by water, including a vast number of ponds and streams, Suzhou is known as "Venice of the East". Suzhou is also known as the "Garden City", due to its many classical gardens known for their charming natural beauty and harmonious construction. This morning we take a cruise on the **Grand Canal** and visit the **Lingering Garden**, one of the four greatest Chinese gardens and a UNESCO world heritage site. We then visit a Silk Spinning Mill and learn how silk is created from mulberry-munching silkworms to produce the finest thread and cloth.

Day 19 • Suzhou Shanghai • (B, L, D)
This morning we travel by coach back to Shanghai and walk along the famous **Bund**, a mile-long stretch along the Huangpu River. Lined by the colonial architectures of European design, this area is the best place to capture the western influences of the old days. We then continue to the **Old Town** which is a perfect combination of gardens, temples, old architecture, civil culture, business, souvenirs and food. After dinner, you may join an optional **Night Cruise on the Huangpu River** (at your own expense) and get a glimpse of the dazzling and charming night view of Shanghai.

Day 20 • Shanghai • (B, L, S)
This morning we visit the **Shanghai Museum** to see ancient Chinese art, furniture and jade. Then we explore the **Xintiandi Area**, an affluent and fashionable pedestrian street composed of unique Shikumen (stone gate) and modern architecture style. Our farewell dinner this evening will be a banquet of delicious **Shanghai cuisine**. You can cap off the celebrations by attending a thrilling optional Chinese acrobatic show-**"ERA: The Intersection of Time"** (at your own expense).

Day 21 • Shanghai New Zealand • (B)
Enjoy the morning at leisure before we transfer to Shanghai airport to board your flight to New Zealand via a connecting city. The trip may be over, but the experiences and memories will certainly last of life time.

Day 22 • New Zealand
Arrive home today.

B = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner **S** = Special Banquet

All prices, itineraries, airlines, hotels and cruise ships are subject to availability and change without prior notice. CTS tours reserves the right to provide substitutes of similar standard and adjust the itinerary as we see fit to ensure the smooth running of the tour. The itinerary and sites to be visited are subject to change due to local and seasonal conditions, time and other unforeseen constraints beyond our control. Passengers must remain with the tour group at all times and must not deviate from the set itinerary. 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.

Guilin & Yangshuo

Terracotta Warrior, Xi'an

Wu Gorge, Yangtze River

Li River, Guilin

The Bund, Shanghai

This comprehensive Grand Tour of China is designed to be a trip-of-a-lifetime and showcases China's amazing history, rich culture, natural wonders, charming landscapes, and dramatic economic, social and architectural changes that characterise its future.

Commencing in China's capital city, Beijing, you will walk along the Great Wall, discover the mystery of the Forbidden City and the Temple of Heaven. Marvel at the life-size Terracotta Warriors in Xian and relax on a luxury cruise whilst travelling along the mighty Yangtze River.

Get up close and personal with the endearing giant pandas in Chengdu and stand at the foot of the Grand Buddha in Leshan. Visit Guilin, one of the most picturesque places in the world and stroll through the streets of the global village - Yangshuo; observe locals going about their daily business and visit the local markets. Discover the exquisite historic city of Suzhou with its canals, stone bridges and meticulously designed gardens and immerse yourself in the bustling metropolis of Shanghai.

In 22 days you will experience the very essence of this amazing country. The combination of places visited encapsulates China's past, present and future. This is a magnificent tour of amazing and unforgettable experiences!

Optional Programs

Get to know China better with our list of in-depth excursions recommended to enhance your total experience! Prepay for all optional programs to receive a NZD$20 discount off the total price.

Beijing	The Golden Mask Dynasty	NZD$80
Chengdu	Face-Changing Show	NZD$60
Guilin	Impression Liu San Jie	NZD$85
Shanghai	ERA: The Intersection of Time	NZD$80
Shanghai	Huangpu River Night Cruise	NZD$60

The Golden Mask Dynasty

Face-Changing Show

Impression Liu San Jie

ERA: The Intersection of Time

Huangpu River Night Cruise

2018 Guaranteed Departures	Package Price (NZD) per person twin-share	Single Supplement
08 Apr* 17 Jul* 07 Oct* 06 May* 12 Aug 04 Nov 03 Jun* 02 Sep*	$6,299	$1,650

Package Inclusions:
- Economy class international airfares, taxes and fuel surcharges departing Auckland flying China Southern Airlines
- 15 nights hotel accommodation
- 4 nights on board Yangtze River Cruise
- Daily meals as listed on the itinerary (B, L, D)
- All transportation: coach, internal fights, cruise, rail & transfers
- Admissions to scenic attractions
- English speaking tour guide(s)

Package Exclusions:
- Tipping prepaid in New Zealand: NZD$275
- China Visa
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenditure

Price Guide:
- *Peak Season Surcharge: NZD$880
- Stay Behind Surcharge: From NZD$275 surcharge (subject to availability and applicable fare difference)
- Pre/Post-Tour Accom (incl. breakfast): From NZD$80 pp twin-share NZD$165 pp single per night
- Please Note: Flight itineraries are not available until approximately 3 weeks before departure and involve transits
- Child Price: Same as adult

Hotel Accommodation *All hotels based on local ratings*

Beijing	Hotel Jen Upper East Beijing	5 Star or similar
Xian	Titan Times Hotel	5 Star or similar
Yangtze River	Yangtze No. 2	5 Star or similar
Chengdu	Sheraton Hotel	5 Star or similar
Guilin	Grand Link Hotel	5 Star or similar
Yangshuo	Jasper International Hotel	5 Star or similar
Suzhou	Pan Pacific Hotel	5 Star or similar
Shanghai	Wyndham Bund East Hotel	5 Star or similar

Your Travel Agent