

Canadians travel to China visa-free for 30 days

19-DAY 5-star Essence of China with Chongqing

BEIJING-SUZHOU-WUXI-HANGZHOU-SHANGHAI-CHANGSHA-FENGHUANG-ZHANGJIAJIE-CHONGQING

Tour Code: **26ESSZC19**

Departure dates (Dates arrivals Beijing):

Mar: 10,17 May: 5,12,19,26 Jun: 2 Aug: 4,11,18

Sep: 2 Oct: 13,20,27 Nov: 3

A:Tour Itinerary

DAY 1 Beijing Arrival (PEK or PKX)

Welcome to Beijing! Upon arrival at Beijing Airport, you will be escorted to your hotel.

Arrival day airport transfer: For flights arriving between 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM, we will arrange three free airport pick-ups depending on the actual situation. For flights arriving outside of these times, additional pick-up fees \$50/P will apply.

DAY 2 Beijing – Leisure Day

Today is a leisure day to relax and explore at your own pace.

You may choose to unwind at the hotel, enjoy the stylish comfort and modern amenities of your hotel. If you prefer an adventure, consider a trip to **Universal Studios** with your family. We offer complimentary shuttle service and ticket booking—just be sure to let us know at least two weeks in advance. You could also visit **Wanli**, a modern designed new lifestyle hub combines outlet shopping, art spaces, entertainment, and dining etc.

Breakfast / Jianguo Hotel Beijing Universal or similar 5*

DAY 3 Beijing – Tiananmen Square & Hutong

Visit the immense **Tiananmen Square** and explore its sacred grounds. Following the tour, enjoy free time to explore the city at your leisure, or opt with one of our optional excursions. In the afternoon, immerse yourself in the charm of old Beijing on our complimentary **Hutong Life Tour**. Stroll through narrow lanes lined with traditional courtyard houses, observing local life and architecture.

Optional tour: Forbidden City Tour (\$80.00/pp)

Step into the world-famous Forbidden City, the vast complex that served as the imperial palace for centuries during the Ming and Qing dynasties.

Optional tour: Peking Duck Banquet (\$50.00/pp)

Your lunch features a culinary highlight: an authentic Peking Duck banquet. The star dish is served with all its traditional sides, accompanied by an array of other exquisite Chinese specialties.

Breakfast/Double Tree by Hilton Beijing Badaling or similar 5*

DAY 4 Jade Carving Workshop and the Great Wall

Today, visit the Great Wall at **Juyongguan Section**, Situated 60km from Beijing, it once served as a vital fortress guarding the city's northern gateway. Then visit China's premier **Jade Exhibitions** to discover the story behind this celebrated stone. The rest of the day is yours at leisure or join an optional excursion.

Optional tour: Dream of the Great Wall Show (only staged between May and October) (\$80.00/pp)

It is a breathtaking large-scale live performance set against the venue of the World Horticultural Exposition under the Great Wall of China. This epic performance masterfully blends cutting-edge technology with traditional Chinese arts.

Breakfast / Double Tree by Hilton Beijing Badaling or similar 5*

DAY 5 Beijing to Suzhou by high-speed train

Your day begins with a visit to a **Traditional Chinese Health Center** for an introduction to the world of traditional Chinese medicine. In the afternoon, you'll explore the Temple of Heaven, Beijing's most sacred imperial temple and a UNESCO-listed masterpiece of architecture and landscape design. Afterwards you will experience China's world-class high-speed rail network to Suzhou. Upon arrival, a local guide will escort you to your hotel.

Optional tour: Summer Palace with meal (\$ 90.00/pp)

The Summer Palace is a UNESCO-listed masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design. It perfectly harmonizes breathtaking architecture with natural scenery. Be sure to admire the iconic Long Corridor with its intricately painted scenes, gaze across the serene **Kunming Lake**, and see the famed **Marble Boat** that never sets sail. It's a living journey through imperial history and artistic brilliance. Your visit will be complemented by an exquisite Chinese meal.

Breakfast / Double Tree by Hilton Suzhou Wujiang or similar 5*

DAY 6 Suzhou - Wuxi by coach

Suzhou is home to more UNESCO World Heritage-listed gardens than any city on earth. Begin your exploration at the **Lingering Garden**, a jewel in Suzhou's crown of classical gardens. Next, immerse yourself in the art of silk at the Suzhou **Silk Factory**, considered the largest in China, where you'll learn about the intricate journey from cocoon to luxurious fabric. Concluding with an optional canal cruise, you'll then embark on a picturesque one-hour drive to Wuxi.

Optional tour: Suzhou Grand Canal Cruise (\$60/pp)

Step aboard a traditional boat and slip into the serene, watery heart of old Suzhou. The Canal Cruise along the historic **Shan Tang Street** offers a peaceful escape and a unique perspective on a city celebrated for its canals. The journey shows you the "Venice of the East" not as a museum, but as a living, breathing community.

Breakfast/ Radisson Blu Resort Wetland Park Wuxi 5* or similar

DAY 7 Wuxi - Hangzhou by coach

This morning, visit **Lihu Lake**, a scenic inlet of the larger Taihu Lake. Renowned for its beautiful parkland and unique attractions. Afterwards, you will visit a **Freshwater Pearl Farm** by Taihu Lake, where generations have been cultivating pearls in its waters, and their products are sold worldwide. This afternoon, you continue to Hangzhou. After you arrive, you'll have a free evening to explore at your own pace.

Optional tour: "Romantic Show of Song Cheng" (\$105/pp)

The "Romantic Show of Song Cheng" is a must-see cultural icon in Hangzhou. This grand-scale theatrical experience combines powerful performances with impressive sound and light design to narrate the epic story of the city. It transports you through from the imperial grandeur of the Southern Song Dynasty to the bravery of the Yue Army, culminating in beloved legends like "The Butterfly Lovers" etc.

Breakfast/ Wyndham Hangzhou East or similar 5*

DAY 8 Hangzhou - Shanghai by coach

Hangzhou, known as "Paradise on Earth". Your visit centers on its jewel: the UNESCO-listed **West Lake Cultural Landscape**, a masterpiece that has captivated generations. You'll then venture into the rolling hillsides to taste the world-renowned Dragon Well tea, a premium green tea cherished for its healthful antioxidants and cultural significance in a **Tea Plantation**. In the afternoon, you depart for the bustling metropolis of Shanghai.

Breakfast/ Crowne Plaza Shanghai Xiayang Lake or similar 5*

PRICE	CAD
Adult(18 Yrs+)	\$2199.00/pp
Single Supplement	\$1220.00/pp
Pre-Pay Gratuity	\$270.00/PP

Extra night hotel: \$190.00/Room/night

Jianguo Hotel Beijing Universal or similar 5*

Optional tour: Huangpu River Cruise(\$80.00/pp)

Shanghai is a city that captivates both day and night. A night cruise offers a front-row seat to its sparkling spectacle, the historic **Bund** glows under shimmering lights, presenting a grand gallery of world architecture against the city skyline, the futuristic towers of Lujiazui dazzle with a vibrant palette of dreamlike colors, creating an unforgettable panorama.

Optional tour: Shanghai ERA Chinese Acrobatic Show(\$105.00/pp)

As a multimillion-dollar stunning acrobatic extravaganza, the first of its kind in China, ERA is a multimedia odyssey whose inspiration is a direct result of the combination of traditional Chinese acrobatic arts and modern technology.

DAY 9 Shanghai

Breakfast / Crowne Plaza Shanghai Xiayang Lake or similar 5*

Today's exploration starts at the historic **Bund**, where you can stroll along the waterfront and admire its famous row of European-style buildings—a stunning architectural legacy. In the afternoon and evening, you can relax at your own pace or opt for a curated tour to discover more of what makes Shanghai extraordinary.

Optional tour: Shanghai Insight Tour(\$70.00/pp)

Venture into the heart of Shanghai's financial prowess at Lujiazui, where you'll encounter the majestic **Jinmao Tower**. Soaring 420.5 meters over 88 floors, the building epitomizes a harmonious fusion of timeless Chinese design principles with contemporary global engineering. Next, experience a different side of the city at **Xintiandi**, it celebrated area retains the charm of Shanghai's signature "**Shikumen**" architecture, now revitalized into a stylish cultural and leisure quarter.

DAY 10 Shanghai – Changsha by high-speed train or flight

Breakfast / Steigenberger Hotel Changsha or similar 5*

Today you will take a bullet train (A domestic flight may be provided in place of high-speed rail journey) to Hunan Province, a land where chili peppers and fervor intertwine, and where the beauty of mountains and rivers abounds. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to the hotel. You can relax at your own pace today.

DAY 11 Changsha

Breakfast / Steigenberger Hotel Changsha or similar 5*

Today's first stop is the **Hunan Provincial Museum**, a window into Hunan's historical culture, renowned for the artifacts unearthed from the Han Dynasty (202 BC – 220 AD) tombs at Mawangdui. The millennia-old female corpse and the plain silk garment are among the precious relics that will leave you in awe. Next, walk around the **Flower and Bird Market**, then landmark building—the IFC, and stroll along **Huangxinglu Pedestrian Street** and **Pozi Street**, the bustlin Later on, visit **Wenheyou**, where it feels like you've time-traveled back to China in the 1980s. Later, head to Changsha's central commercial district of Changsha, brimming with a variety of cuisines, shopping, and entertainment. In the evening, visit the **Yangfan Night Market**, where an array of snacks and specialty goods will keep you enthralled until midnight.

DAY 12 Changsha - Fenghuang Ancient Town by coach

Breakfast / Fenghuang Kasheng Hotel or similar 5*

This morning, you'll transition from the bustling city to the tranquil small town of **Fenghuang** by the river, often hailed as "China's most beautiful town." This place is noted for its unique ethnic customs, architecture, attire, and cuisine. You will take a **boat ride** along the Tuojiang River, admiring the ancient stilt houses and the verdant hills and clear waters on both banks. Visit the **Hongqiao Art Building**, an ancient bridge that is a vital thoroughfare and an art sanctuary. The evening, you enjoy the ancient town's night view.

DAY 13 Fenghuang Ancient Town - Zhangjiajie by coach

Breakfast / Pullman Hotel Zhangjiajie or similar 5*

Today, you start a picturesque journey to Zhangjiajie, it is well known to the world because of its amazing landscapes and for being the inspiration for the floating Hallelujah Mountains in the movie Avatar. Visit **Tianmen Mountain** and take the **world's longest alpine cable car** directly to the summit, overlooking the magnificent karst landscape. Challenge the **glass walkway**, almost a mile (1,430 meters) above the ground, a transparent path suspended over a cliff, with a bottomless chasm beneath your feet, testing your courage and bravery while enjoying the stunning mountain views. **Tianmen Cave**, literally 'Heaven's Gate Hole', is well-known for being glided through by a world-class stuntman in a wing suit. To reach the hole, you'll have direct access via an escalator, allowing you to experience the incredible gifts of nature. In the evening, visit Zhangjiajie's new iconic attraction, the **72 Marvelous Tower**. You will be amazed by this unique architecture and the breathtakingly beautiful lighting.

DAY 14 Zhangjiajie

Breakfast / Pullman Hotel Zhangjiajie or similar 5*

You will visit **Wulingyuan Scenic Area**, where Zhangjiajie National Forest Park is located. Being an UNESCO World Natural Heritage site, Wulingyuan is famed as a "miniature fairyland and an enlarged bonsai," it boasts a forest of peculiar peaks shrouded in mist and clouds, resembling a scene straight out of a mythical realm. Take **Bailong Elevator**. This glass elevator was built on the side of a cliff, and it claims to be the world's highest of its kind. It takes only 2 minutes to ascend to its peak. Delight in the stunning sights of Avatar Hallelujah, First Bridge, Mihuntai, and more. Hike along the Golden Whip Stream, a picturesque and unforgettable watercourse. Afterward, we'll hop on a small train to traverse the Ten Miles Gallery, renowned for its distinctly shaped mountains, rock formations, and stunning landscapes.

DAY 15 Zhangjiajie

Breakfast / Pullman Hotel Zhangjiajie or similar 5*

Today, you explore the newest **Grand Canyon Glass Bridge**, which stands as the world's highest and longest glass bridge. This remarkable structure spans approximately 430 meters across the Grand Canyon, with a height of roughly 300 meters from the canyon floor, the bridge deck is entirely paved with transparent glass. After admiring so much of Zhangjiajie's natural beauty, in the afternoon, visit a traditional wet market, explore the variety of vegetables, meats, and fruits that are staples in the Chinese diet.

DAY 16 Zhangjiajie - Chongqing by high-speed train

Breakfast/Glenview ITC PLAZA Chongqing or similar 5*

Today we take a high-speed train to Chongqing City, it is renowned as a river city and the foggy capital, as well as famous for its mountainous terrain. In the afternoon you will visit the **Liberation Monument Pedestrian Street** and **Bayi Road Food Street**. Afterwards, experience the **deepest subway station** in China and take a ride on the metro. Explore **Shancheng Alley**, where you'll find the ancient city wall built in the early 15th century, foreign consulates and churches constructed in the late 19th century. Tonight you will visit the world's largest hot pot restaurant, where you can savor the uniquely distinctive Chongqing hot pot (on your own cost). This hot pot restaurant is capable of accommodating ten thousand people dining at the same time.

DAY 17 Chongqing

Breakfast/ Glenview ITC PLAZA Chongqing or similar 5*

Explore the World Cultural Heritage site of **Dazu Rock Carvings**. These sculptural works, which originated in the early 7th century and have endured for a millennium, are renowned for their grand scale, exquisite carvings, diverse themes, rich connotations, and remarkable preservation. Upon returning to the city, Marvel at the unique sight of the metro train passing through a residential building at **Liziba**, visit the **ancient town of Ciqikou**, and in the evening, take in the night view of **Hongya Cave**.

DAY 18 Chongqing (CKG)Departure

Breakfast

Today marks the final day of your China tour. We hope you've had an amazing trip and are heading back with fantastic memories. Safe travels ahead! **Departure day airport transfer:** For flights departing between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM, we will arrange three free airport transfers depending on the actual situation. For flights departing outside of these hours, an additional fee of \$50 per person will be charged.

DAY 19 Arrive Home

You will arrive home today. Thank you for traveling with us, and we hope you return with memories that will last a lifetime.

Inclusions

17 nights accommodation in 5-star hotels
Daily hotel buffet breakfast
High-speed train tickets as specified (Second Class ticket)
Services of professional English-speaking tour guides
All land transportation via air-conditioned coach
All entrance fees for scheduled sightseeing activities
Two bottles of water on each full sightseeing day

Exclusions

International airfare to and from China
Chinese visa application and processing fees
Comprehensive travel insurance
Any personal expenses and meals not outlined in the itinerary
Costs associated with optional activities and excursions
Prepaid Mandatory Tipping \$270.00/pp
Personal shopping, laundry, telephone calls, and other incidental expenses

Important information

- 1, Itineraries and schedules are subject to change without notice. No refunds or price adjustments will be issued for changes made under these circumstances.
- 2, The price is for double occupancy, if a guest cancels the trip, the roommate needs to pay for a single supplement or cancel the trip also. For a third person sharing the room, a sofa bed or a cot will be provided.
- 3, This tour is for participants aged 18 and over, any participant under 18 is subject to a supplemental fee of \$180.00/pp, full payment is required for all optional activities and gratuities.
- 4, One free airport transfer in Beijing and one for departure in Chongqing are arranged. Pls see Day 1 and Day 18 for Details. Transfers outside the timing periods can be arranged privately for an additional fee of \$50.00/pp, 2 people or more per time.
- 5, All guests must follow the published group itinerary. The local service provider reserves the right to cancel any onward travel arrangements for guests who deviate from the planned schedule. This requirement does not apply to optional tours.
- 6, If you choose not to join an optional tour, your guide will drop you at a designated location and tell you when and where to rejoin the group. If you prefer to return to the hotel or explore independently, your guide can help arrange a private transfer for you in advance, the cost of any private transfer will be your own expense.
- 7, Cancellation & Refund Policy: Cancellations made 16 or more days prior to the scheduled departure date are eligible for a partial refund with a handling fee \$200.00/pp reduced. No refunds will be granted for cancellations made within 16 days of departure.