

Canadians travel to China visa-free for 30 days

11-DAY 5-star Essence of China Holiday

BEIJING - SUZHOU - WUXI - HANGZHOU - SHANGHAI

Tour Code: 26ESS11

Original price: \$1500/pp

Departure dates (Dates arrivals Beijing):

Mar: 10,17 Apr: 4 May: 5,12,19,26 Jun: 2,27 Aug: 4,11,18
Sep: 2,19 Oct: 13,20,27 Nov: 3,10

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 to rest.

Meals: In-flight meals

Accommodation: Jianguo Hotel Beijing Universal or similar 5*

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 and recover from last night's journey, while enjoying the stylish comfort and modern amenities of our brand-new property.

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, one of China's largest newly opened lifestyle hubs. It combines outlet shopping, art spaces, entertainment, and dining all under one roof. It will be a memorable experience.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Jianguo Hotel Beijing Universal or similar 5*

DAY 3 Beijing – Tiananmen Square & Hutong

After breakfast, set out with your guide to discover Beijing's iconic imperial treasures. 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 for an enhanced experience 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 at a leisurely pace. This intimate experience offers a unique glimpse into the city's vibrant history and hidden corners.

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. Explore this architectural wonder and discover the priceless collection of the National Palace Museum within its walls.

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.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Double Tree by Hilton Beijing Badaling or similar 5*

DAY 4 Jade Carving Workshop and the Great Wall

Today holds a true bucket-list destination: the Great Wall of China. Recognized as one of the Seven Wonders of the World and a UNESCO treasure, the Wall is a breathtaking feat of human endeavor. Your visit focuses on the **Great Wall at Juyongguan section**, one of its three great passes. Situated 60km from Beijing, it once served as a vital fortress guarding the city's northern gateway. Here, you'll have the unforgettable opportunity to walk a winding path along this 21,000 km-long marvel.

On the way, you'll stop at one of China's premier **Jade exhibitions** to discover the story behind this celebrated stone. Once back in Beijing, the evening is yours to relax or enhance your journey with an optional activity.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Double Tree by Hilton Beijing Badaling or similar 5*

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

This is a breathtaking large-scale live performance set against the venue of the World Horticultural Exposition under the Great Wall of China. It is a powerful artistic journey that uses the Great Wall—a symbol of Chinese perseverance and civilization—as its central character. It incorporates renowned figures, literary works, stories, and anecdotes related to the Great Wall, integrating music, dance, costumes, poetry, and folk customs to highlight the unique cultural essence of the Great Wall. This epic performance masterfully blends cutting-edge technology with traditional Chinese arts.

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. Following this, you may wish to join our optional tour.

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. The walk to the temple offers a fascinating glimpse into local life, with residents often seen practicing Tai Chi, dancing, or walking with pet birds.

Afterwards you will experience China's high-speed rail network firsthand, boarding a bullet train that will whisk you towards Suzhou at speeds of up to 300 km/h. Upon arrival, a local representative will greet you and escort you to your hotel.

PRICE	CAD
Adult(18 Yrs+)	\$900.00/pp
Single Supplement	\$690.00/pp
Pre-Pay Gratuity	\$150.00/PP

Extra night hotel: \$190.00/Room/night



Your travel agent

Please note that Suzhou and Wuxi are neighboring cities. Your bullet train may be scheduled to arrive at Wuxi East Station. Please adhere to the details on your train ticket, which will be provided by your Beijing guide.

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

The Summer Palace is a UNESCO-listed masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design. Originally an imperial retreat, 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. More than just a park, it's a living journey through imperial history and artistic brilliance. Your visit will be complemented by an exquisite Chinese meal.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Double Tree by Hilton Suzhou Wujiang or similar 5*

DAY 6 Suzhou - Wuxi by coach

Begin your exploration at the Lingering Garden, a jewel in Suzhou's crown of classical gardens. With over 60 such gardens, Suzhou is home to more UNESCO World Heritage-listed gardens than any city on earth. 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.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Radisson Blu Resort Wetland Park Wuxi 5* or similar



DAY 7 Wuxi - Hangzhou by coach

This morning begins with a visit to **Lihu Lake**, a scenic inlet of the larger Taihu Lake. Renowned for its beautiful parkland and unique attractions, the lake also holds a special place in Chinese culture. Its fame is largely attributed to scholars throughout history, who chronicled that legendary figures like Fan Li and Xi Shi once boated upon these waters. 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 we continue to Hangzhou, a city Marco Polo famously declared the world's most beautiful and magnificent. After we arrive, you'll have a free evening to explore at your own pace or opt for an evening excursion to enjoy a local performance.

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, historic stories including the bravery of the Yue Army of Song Dynasty, and the love legend like "The Butterfly Lovers" etc.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Wyndham Hangzhou East or similar 5*

DAY 8 Hangzhou - Shanghai by coach

Known as "Paradise on Earth," Hangzhou's beauty has been celebrated through the ages. 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. To cap off the day, consider the optional Huangpu River cruise, a spectacular way to witness the city's dazzling neon skyline come to life at night.

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 and 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)

ERA is a grand-scale multimedia spectacle, a breathtaking feat of acrobatics and technology unique in China. It draws its power from the dynamic fusion of traditional artistry and modern innovation.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Crowne Plaza Shanghai Xiayang Lake or similar 5*



DAY 9 Shanghai - Home by flight

Immerse yourself in the vibrant pulse of Shanghai, home to 26 million and a powerhouse of global finance.

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 that now anchors the city's "Wall Street of the East." With the rest of the afternoon and evening free, you can relax at your own pace or opt for a curated tour to discover even 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, its name evokes "golden prosperity." 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**, its celebrated area retains the charm of Shanghai's signature "Shikumen" architecture, now revitalized into a stylish cultural and leisure quarter that draws a global audience.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Crowne Plaza Shanghai Xiayang Lake or similar 5*

DAY 10 Shanghai (PVG or SHA)- Home by flight

Today marks the final day of your China tour. Enjoy a free morning before your airport transfer for your flight home or next destination. We hope you've had an amazing trip and are heading back with fantastic memories. Safe travels ahead!

Meals: Breakfast

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 11 Arrive Home

You will arrive home today, we hope you return with memories that will last a lifetime.

Inclusions

9 nights of accommodation in 5-star hotels
Daily hotel buffet breakfast
High-speed train tickets as specified (Second Class)
Services of professional English-speaking tour guides
All land transportation via an 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
Mandatory prepaid tipping: CAD \$150 per person for whole trip
Any personal expenses and meals not outlined in the itinerary
Costs associated with optional activities and excursions
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 Shanghai are arranged. Pls see Day1 and Day10 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 \$100.00/pp reduced. No refunds will be granted for cancellations made within 16 days of departure.