

# Eastern China Explorer

Exploring the natural wonders, historic monuments, cultural heritage,  
and culinary delights in Shanghai, Suzhou, Nanjing, and Hangzhou

11 Days / 09 Nights

Well tested itinerary and ready-to-go for any group size - pick your own dates



ACCESS ASIA TOURS

Group and Private Fine Touring in China & Asia

## Tour Program Summary

**China** as a whole consists of centuries-old history and diverse culture. The country amasses a large amount of land and the country is divided into several regions. Each region has its own fascinating and completely unique culture and history, which is the reason why China has such a diverse culture. The development of the culture south of the Yangtze River, gave way to its political and economic status. In the 4<sup>th</sup> Century, the Jin Dynasty was established in Nanjing and since then the Song, Qi, Liang, and Chen Dynasties changed in-turn and had dominated the Yangtze River region for 272 years. During this period, China was divided into two large-scale dynasties for the first time in the history. It greatly promoted the development of the Jiangnan region, especially in 12<sup>th</sup> Century, after the Jingkangchange occurred during the Southern Song Dynasty. Thus, Lincang became the capital city and the economic center transferred to the South.

Your tour begins in **Shanghai**, China's most populous city and economic powerhouse. The European Bund still retains the glamour of the colonial era; modern shopping malls, Chinese specialty stores, western pubs & bars, and boutique shops scatter all around the center of Shanghai. Visit the traditional Yuyuan Garden and spend some time exploring Shanghai Museum, the best in China. Also, visit the newest member to the Disney family, Shanghai Disneyland which opened last year and is truly a sight to behold.

Travel by high-speed train to the garden and canal city of China—**Suzhou**, where literati gardens remain the way they have been for centuries with bamboo groves, rockery hills and miniature waterfalls splashing into pond-sized lakes filled with colored carp and lotus leaves. Suzhou is also noted for its silk embroidery. Also, visit the water village of Luzhi.

Take a high-speed train to **Nanjing**, it is one of the most delightful destination of China. Nanjing is well known as the old capital city of 10 dynasties in ancient Chinese history. A visit to Dr Sun Yat Sen Mausoleum, seeing his relics of his life as well as the evidences of why he became the father of modern China. Then pay a visit to Confucius temple; it was the biggest testing center in Jiangnan region of ancient China. You could also see what innovation Confucius brought to Chinese ancient Chinese education system.

Travel by train to **Hangzhou**, which was described as paradise on earth in ancient times. Enjoy boating on the beautiful West Lake; visit enchanting Buddhist temples; and sip the freshness of Longing tea grown on the rolling hills surrounding the city. Spend one relaxing day on your own to be mesmerized by the elegant lakeside pagodas, pavilions, bridges, and gardens among the charming settings. Hangzhou is voted the best livable city in China.

### Tour Itinerary Key:

- Things that are on your own
- Hotel accommodations
- Time/ dates
- Shows/ lessons
- Optional Activities at extra charges
- =flights that are not included in the itinerary
- =fly, 🚗=drive, 🚤=cruise (included in the itinerary)
- Meals and the restaurant name. <B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner>

## Tour Daily Itinerary

- Day 01** → Depart Fly from your departure city in North America to Beijing, China [on your own booked cross-Pacific flight](#) (ACT will assist upon request).
- Day 02** → **Shanghai** Arrive in Shanghai today; met by your English-speaking guide and driver upon arrival at Pudong Airport and transfer to [Grand Central Hotel Shanghai \(deluxe room\)](#) for check-in; **this evening is free at your leisure and dinner is on your own.**
- Day 03** **Shanghai** **Breakfast** in hotel; met by your guide and driver in the hotel lobby and visit the famous Bund; then, move on to the classic [Yuyuan Garden](#) and the [Old Town Area](#) for an exploration. Have a **steamed soup dumplings lunch** at [Dingtaifeng Restaurant](#).
- In the afternoon, visit [People's Square](#) and [Shanghai Museum](#), one of the best in China with beautiful exhibits and incredible collections. Later, stroll around [Fuxing Park](#) in the former [French Concession](#) and stop by [Xintiandi District](#) for a glimpse of Shanghai's rejuvenated nightlife district.
- Tonight, enjoy a group **Welcome Shanghai cuisine dinner** in the exquisite [Xianqianfang Restaurant](#). Transfer back to hotel after the dinner. <B-L-D>



- Day 04** **Shanghai** **Breakfast** in hotel; met by your guide and driver in the hotel lobby and transfer to [Shanghai Disneyland](#) for a full-day exploration of the park.
- After **lunch** in a local restaurant, transfer back to the hotel in the late afternoon and **dinner is on your own**. Meet your guide and driver in the hotel lobby this evening and set out for a **Shanghai ERA Acrobatic Show**. Transfer back to your hotel after the show. <B-L>
- Day 05** → **Suzhou** **Breakfast** in hotel. Transfer to the train station and take high-speed train [G7042 \(10:09am – 10:41am; first-class seats\)](#) to Suzhou this morning. Upon arrival, met by your Suzhou guide and transfer to [Crowne Plaza Suzhou \(deluxe lake view room\)](#) for check-in. **Lunch is on your own.**
- This afternoon, visit [Panmen Gate](#) and take a cruise on the [Grand Canal](#) and [City Moat](#). Have an evening tour of the classic [Wangshi Garden](#) before enjoying a **Suzhou Cuisine Dinner** in the famed [Songhelou Restaurant](#). Transfer back to hotel after dinner. <B-D>



**Day 06 Suzhou**

Breakfast in hotel. Enjoy guided tours of a couple of more famous Suzhou literati gardens - Zhuozheng Garden and Lingering Garden. Enjoy a relaxing walk along the atmospheric Pingjiang Road by the canal. Have a simple **lunch** in a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, visit the small yet interesting Suzhou Arts & Crafts Museum. Finally, visit the Silk & Embroidery Institute for an appreciation for the thousand-year-old industry and craftsmanship. Return to hotel after your day tour; **evening is free at your leisure and dinner is on your own.** <B-L>

**Day 07 Shanghai**  
 **Nanjing**

**Breakfast** in hotel; met by your guide and driver in the hotel lobby and transfer to the train station for **G112 (8:05AM – 9:19AM; first-class seats)** to Nanjing in the morning. Met by your Nanjing guide and driver upon arrival and transfer to the Presidential Palace, originated in the Ming Dynasty (1368 – 1644) as a royal residence, is now the biggest China Modern History Museum. Have a **lunch** in the **1912 Area**, located right beside the palace.

In the afternoon, visit Dr. Sun Yat Sen’s Mausoleum. Dr. Sun Yat-sen (1866 – 1925) was a great forerunner of the Chinese democratic revolution and led by Dr. Sun the Chinese people brought down the corrupt rule of the Qing Dynasty (1644 – 1911) and ended 2000 years of the feudal monarchy system, which led the people into a new age. Afterwards, transfer to Narada Boutique Hotel Nanjing (king or twin room) for check-in; **evening is free at your leisure and dinner is on your own.** <B-L>

**Day 08 Nanjing**

**Breakfast** in hotel; met by your guide and driver in the hotel lobby and transfer to visit Xiaoling Mausoleum of Ming Dynasty (UNESCO), which is the one of the biggest imperial tombs in China. Have a **local cuisine lunch** at Nanjing Green Tea Restaurant.

In the afternoon, take an excursion to see Zhonghua Gate (the Gate of China), a gate and defensive complex on the city wall of Nanjing, China. It is the southern gate of Nanjing city. It is a renowned ancient city gate in China and the city gate with the most complex structure in the world. Then, pay a visit to Memorial Hall to the Victims in the Nanjing Massacre.

Tonight, enjoy a **local cuisine dinner** in Wanqinglou Restaurant and return to the hotel afterwards. <B-L-D>



**Day 09 Nanjing**   
**Hangzhou**

**Breakfast** in hotel; met by your guide and driver in the hotel lobby and transfer to the train station for **G1503 (8:32AM – 9:55AM; first-class seats)** to Hangzhou.

Met by your Hangzhou guide and driver upon arrival and transfer to [Hangzhou Tea Boutique Hotel \(superior room\)](#) for check-in. **The rest of the day is free; lunch and dinner are on your own. <B>**

**Day 10 Hangzhou**

**Breakfast** in hotel; met by your guide and driver in the hotel lobby and enjoy a private boat ride on the [West Lake \(UNESCO\)](#) to see the lakeside parks and gardens. Tour [Qinghefang Old Market Street](#) and visit [Lingyin Monastery](#) in a small green valley where you find ancient sculptures of Buddha and other religious figures.

After a **local cuisine lunch** in a garden restaurant, visit the [Longjing Tea Plantation](#) and [China Tea Museum](#) before returning to the hotel in the late afternoon. Enjoy a **Farewell local Hangzhou cuisine dinner** with your group with evening, followed by the famous **“Impression West Lake” Sound and Light Show. <B-L>**



**Day 11**  **Return**

**Breakfast** in hotel; met by your guide and driver in the hotel lobby and transfer to the airport (*approximately 2.5 hours by private vehicle*) for your home bound flight. Service ends. **<B>**

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**Changes to Itinerary:** Access Asia Tours has made all possible attempts to ensure the accuracy of tour itineraries. Circumstances beyond our control may occur. We reserve the right to change itineraries, sightseeing activities, and common carriers, and to substitute hotels when necessary. Service of a similar category and standard will be maintained if such changes are made. The Service Voucher in your last pre-departure packet will provide the operational itinerary summary, final transport and hotel information.

## First-Class Hotels Selected for Your Tour

Please Note: The photos below are representative of one category of rooms. Actual rooms may vary from what is shown.



Grand Central Hotel Shanghai



Pan Pacific Hotel Suzhou



SSAW Boutique Hotel Nanjing Qinhuai River



Hangzhou Tea Boutique Hotel

## Tour Land Price Inclusions & Exclusions

**Tour Land Price Starting at: \$3,490 USD** per person, double occupancy (*for 2 travelers or more*)

### **What's Included in Tour Land Prices:**

- Designated hotel accommodations, double occupancy with daily breakfast
- All high-speed trains and ground transportation while on tour
- All tour related Chinese domestic taxes
- Arrival and departure transfers on tour dates
- Transfers and luggage (1 piece of 50 pounds per person) handling
- Pre-departure information packets
- All sightseeing, activities, and cultural events listed in the itinerary
- All meals specified in the itinerary
- Service of a private professional Spanish-speaking local tour guide in each city
- Private, clean, and newer vehicles with air-conditioning and a professional driver

### **What's Not Included in Tour Land Prices:**

- International air tickets (*AAT will assist upon request*)
- Chinese visa processing  
[www.MyChinaVisa.com](http://www.MyChinaVisa.com), use Group Code **ACT2018** to receive your discount
- Trip cancellation, baggage, accident, and medical insurance
- Gratuities to guides and drivers
- Items not listed and/or specified as included in the itinerary

**Cancellation Policy:** 20% of Total Tour Price as deposit to be paid at the time of signing up. Tour Balance is due **90 days** prior to tour date. All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of receipt by Access Asia Tours. We assess cancellation fees of all tours according to the following schedule:

90 days or more prior to departure *.....	10% of Total Tour Price
89 to 50 days prior to departure * .....	30% of Total Tour Price
49 to 30 days prior to departure * .....	50% of Total Tour Price
29 to 15 days prior to departure * .....	70% of Total Tour Price

\* Plus any charges assessed by government agencies, land suppliers, cruise companies and airlines.  
Within 14 days of departure .....100% forfeiture of the tour price per person

Access Asia Tours will not grant partial refunds for any unused trip arrangements after the trip has commenced or any refunds to participants who do not complete any portion of the itinerary. Any airline tickets issued are subject to the carrier's refund and cancellation policy. **We strongly recommend you purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance to protect your travel investment.** If a tour is forced to be cancelled due to government's travel warnings, declared or undeclared wars, hostilities, civil disturbances, strike, riot, epidemic, and quarantines, Access Asia Tours will refund all participants' payment less any irretrievable expenses and loss (visa fees, airline penalties, communication cost, and non-refundable booking cost, etc.). However, Access Asia Tours will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by tour participants (e.g., non-refundable "advance purchase" air tickets, insurance & medical expenses, passport and visa expenses, etc.).