

## 12 Days | 4 Star Highlights Of China | With Flights | 2025

Beijing - Wuxi - Suzhou - Hangzhou - Shanghai - Chengdu

From **\$2,999** ✈ pp twin share



Return international airfares from Australia to China

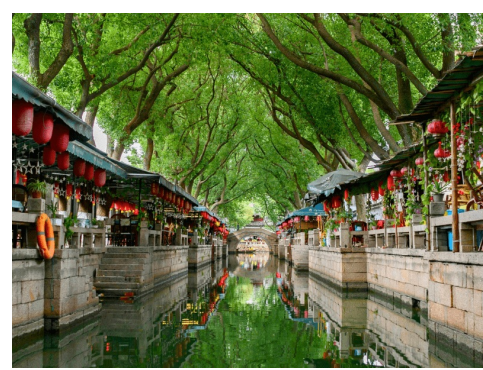
11 nights in 4-Star hotel accommodation with transport

Spend time in Chengdu and meet Giant Pandas

Highlights include the Great Wall and the Forbidden City

## Description

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See the icons like the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and the Giant Panda on this ultra affordable **4-Star Highlights Of China Discovery** tour with airfares from Australia

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China tour packages including airfares from Australia rarely come this cheap, but that doesn't mean skimping on quality. Begin your journey in Beijing, the capital of China, where ancient history blends seamlessly with modernity. Start with iconic landmarks such as the Forbidden City, a sprawling palace complex that once housed emperors, and the nearby Tiananmen Square. A visit to the Great Wall of China is essential, offering breathtaking views and a chance to walk along one of the world's most famous structures. Explore the traditional hutongs - narrow alleyways filled with local life - and enjoy the culinary delights of Beijing's street food.

Next, travel to Wuxi, a city known for its scenic beauty and cultural heritage. Situated on the shores of Taihu Lake, Wuxi offers tranquil boat rides and picturesque landscapes. Visit the Lingshan Grand Buddha, one of the largest Buddha statues in China, and take a moment to admire the surrounding peaceful gardens. Don't miss the chance to explore the city's thriving silk industry, where you can learn about the history of silk production and purchase exquisite handmade items.

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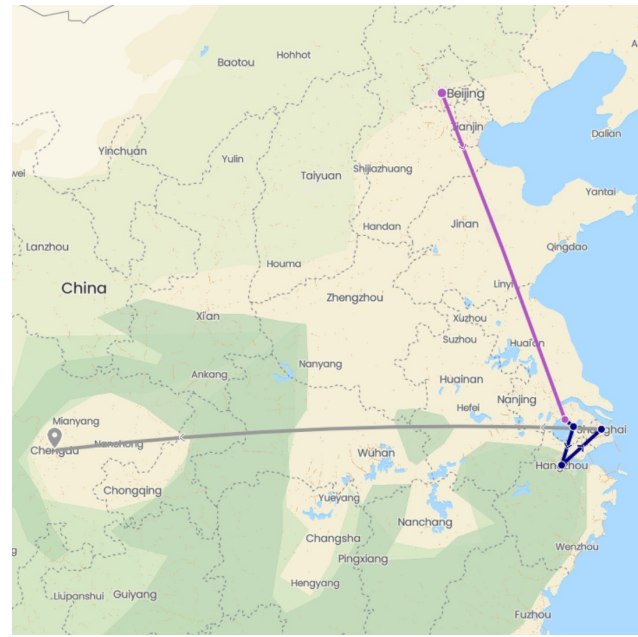
In Suzhou, often referred to as the "Venice of the East," immerse yourself in the city's intricate network of canals, classical gardens, and traditional architecture. Stroll through the famous Humble Administrator's Garden, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its beautiful ponds, rock formations, and pavilions. Take a relaxing boat ride along the canals to experience the charm

of Suzhou's old town, where you can witness artisans at work and shop for silk and embroidered goods.

We continue to the vibrant metropolis of Shanghai, a city that epitomises China's rapid modernisation. Marvel at the futuristic skyline of Pudong from the Bund, a historic waterfront area along the Huangpu River. Visit the Yuyuan Garden, a serene oasis in the heart of the city, and explore the bustling streets of Nanjing Road for shopping and entertainment. As evening falls, enjoy a river cruise or dine in one of Shanghai's top restaurants, savouring the perfect blend of tradition and innovation that defines this cosmopolitan city.

We conclude our tour in Chengdu, the vibrant capital of Sichuan province in southwest China - a place renowned for its relaxed atmosphere, rich culture, and, most famously, its connection to giant pandas. The city is home to the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, a sanctuary dedicated to the conservation of these beloved animals. Visitors can observe pandas in a naturalistic environment, learning about their behaviour, diet, and the ongoing efforts to protect them from extinction. Chengdu's commitment to panda conservation, combined with its spicy Sichuan cuisine and historical attractions, makes it a must-visit destination for nature lovers and culture enthusiasts alike.





## Itinerary

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### Day 1

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#### Australia ✈ China

Welcome to China! Upon arrival, your dedicated tour representative will warmly greet you at the airport, and coordinate a smooth and comfortable transfer to your hotel in Beijing. Please note that depending on your flight times and schedule, you may actually depart Australia on Day 0 before arriving in China on Day 1.

**Meals:** Inflight Menu

**Accommodation:** 4-Star Beijing Chun Hui Yuan Resort or similar

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### Day 2

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#### Beijing

After breakfast, we start our tour of China with a visit to a Jade Museum, where we will delve into the fascinating history of this material. In Chinese culture, jade is known as "Yu" and boasts a history spanning at least four thousand years. In addition, witness skilled local artisans busy at work, as they craft intricate designs using a wide variety of methods.

Following your museum visit, enjoy a scenic drive through picturesque countryside and mountainous landscapes as we make our way to China's most iconic monument, the Great Wall. Before our arrival, we'll also sample a range of local Beijing dishes for lunch.

The visual and historical impact of the Great Wall of China cannot be overstated. Stretching over 5,600 kilometres, the Great Wall winds through China's northern mountain ranges from the Yellow Sea to the Gobi Desert. After our meal, we'll explore the less-travelled Juyong Pass, which offers a more authentic experience away from the more crowded sections of the Wall.

#### *Optional Activity: Hutong Pedicab Tour & Dinner*

In the afternoon, take the opportunity to join an optional tour of Beijing's 700-year-old hutongs (narrow lanes or alleys) by pedicab. These neighbourhoods are some of the oldest in the city, and provide a unique insight into Chinese culture. The tour will also visit a local family for a chance to enjoy a delicious home-cooked dinner, and learn more about local customs. The tour will also include a visit to Shichahai, a historic scenic area consisting of three lakes (Qianhai, Houhai and Xihai) which surround places of cultural interest, natural beauty and remnants of more old-style hutongs and local residences.

**Meals:** Breakfast and Lunch

**Accommodation:** 4-Star Beijing Chun Hui Yuan Resort or similar

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## Day 3

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### Beijing

Once we've finished breakfast, we'll make our way to Tong Ren Tang to explore the fascinating world of traditional Chinese medicine. Next, we visit Tiananmen Square - one of the largest public squares in the world, and a place of significant historical significance - on our way to the Forbidden City.

Considered a trip highlight, we will tour the Imperial Palace, officially known as The Palace Museum. Originally constructed between 1406 and 1420 under the reign of Emperor Yong Le, the Forbidden City has experienced numerous events throughout its long history, including fires, invasions and renovations. As a result, much of the architecture seen today reflects styles from the 1700s and beyond, showcasing the enduring legacy of this remarkable site.

It's **important to note** that due to the daily limit on ticket availability for the Forbidden City, entry cannot be guaranteed. If tickets cannot be secured due to limited availability, an alternative visit to the Temple of Heaven will instead be provided. As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Temple of Heaven stands as one of China's most revered architectural wonders. Rivalling the grandeur of the Forbidden City, this sacred complex was constructed in the 15th century and served as a sacred site where emperors would perform rituals to seek divine favour and ensure good harvests.

*Optional Activity: The Golden Mask Dynasty*

Featuring a blend of dance, acrobatics and special effects that even include an on-stage waterfall, the Golden Mask Dynasty Show is an enchanting theatre performance set in ancient China. The show tells the romantic and dramatic tale of a queen of the mythical Golden Mask Dynasty, and her love for a rival general.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** 4-Star Beijing Chun Hui Yuan Resort or similar

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## Day 4

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### Beijing Wuxi

Get ready for an exhilarating day as we embark on a high-speed train journey south to the city of Wuxi. After our transfer to the railway station, you'll experience the thrill of travelling at speeds of up to 350 kilometres per hour. Once we arrive in Wuxi, we'll make our way to our next hotel and relax for the afternoon.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** 4-Star Rezen Shuguangwei Hotel or similar

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## Day 5

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### Wuxi Suzhou

Today we'll get a unique insight into China's vast manufacturing and production capabilities with a visit to a local pearl factory. Here, we'll learn all about freshwater pearls - an important export commodity, with deep cultural significance that dates all the way back to the Han dynasty.

Next up, we'll explore Lihu Park, an oasis located along the picturesque shores of Lake Lihu. Here, expect to find lush greenery, scenic walking paths and charming bridges, perfect for taking a moment to appreciate the serenity. Keep an eye out for locals cycling around the lake, fishing and boating on the water.

In the afternoon, we'll continue by road onto Suzhou to check into our hotel and relax for the afternoon.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** 4-Star Suzhouwan Holiday Inn Express Hotel or similar

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## Day 6

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### Suzhou Hangzhou

With a history that dates back to 514 BC, Suzhou is often referred to as the "Venice of the East" thanks to its beauty. During your visit, we'll explore the renowned UNESCO listed Linger Garden, celebrated for its stunning landscape and classical design. Following this, our next stop is to a local silk spinning factory, where you can witness first hand the exquisite craftsmanship that has made China famous for its luxurious silk.

*Optional Activity: Grand Canal Cruise*

This is your chance to experience the enchanting Grand Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the oldest man-made waterways in the world. Expect scenery that includes traditional buildings, vibrant gardens and a glimpse into day-to-day life in China. Despite it's calming and relaxing atmosphere, the historic canal is also a bustling trade route, offering a unique perspective.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** 4-Star Jinhuating International Hotel or similar

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## Day 7

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### Hangzhou 🚗 Shanghai

Celebrated as one of China's tea capitals, our adventure to Hangzhou will include a visit to the Tea House at Meijiawu Tea Village. Located in the scenic hinterland of West Lake Park, a key area for Longjing tea production, the village is home to over 500 families and has produced green tea for over 600 years. Immerse yourself in the beautiful surroundings of the mountain region, and learn all about the art of making tea - from picking the leaves, right through to frying and tasting the brew.

After our time in the countryside, we make our way to the UNESCO listed West Lake district to enjoy a short boat ride. There are numerous temples, pagodas, and islands that can be found here, but the enchanting views of the willows are considered a key highlight.

Before wrapping up our day, we'll drive to Shanghai to visit the iconic Bund district, where modern skyscrapers on the eastern side of the Huangpu River starkly contrast with the traditional European style architecture on the western side.

#### *Optional Activity: ERA & The Intersection of Time*

Merging traditional artistry with modern performance techniques, the "ERA & The Intersection of Time" is a dazzling Chinese aerobatic show. Featuring breathtaking stunts, intricate choreography and stunning visual effects, each act tells a captivating story that highlights China's rich cultural heritage while celebrating the connection between past and present.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** 4-Star Fangta Holiday Inn Express or similar



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## Day 8

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### Shanghai

Today, we learn more about the fascinating stories of this city at the Shanghai History Museum, a landmark that provides a thorough insight into the city's rich heritage. In the afternoon, take the time to unwind or select one of the optional activities to explore Shanghai the way you want to.

#### *Optional Activity: Half Day Shanghai Tour*

Discover the vibrant blend of tradition and modernity in China on this half day tour of Shanghai. Start your adventure at Yu Garden, a stunning green space filled with intricate rockeries and tranquil ponds that showcase the city's rich history. Next, explore the charming Xintiandi district, known for its unique stone architecture, laneways and trendy boutiques. Immerse yourself in local culture as you stroll through the historic Old Town, before experiencing the contrast of Nanjing Road - Shanghai's premier shopping street. In simple terms, this half day tour offers the perfect mix of history, culture and contemporary flair.

#### *Optional Activity: Huangpu River Night Cruise*

Experience the magic of Shanghai by boat, and spend the evening on the Huangpu River - where the city's stunning skyline shines under the stars and the bright lights of the towering buildings. Cruise along the river in style, and take in views of iconic local landmarks like the Oriental Pearl Tower and Bund district. The illuminated waterfront showcases the harmonious blend of tradition and modernity that defines Shanghai.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** 4-Star Fangta Holiday Inn Express or similar

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## Day 9

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### Shanghai ✈ Chengdu

Today, we head west by air to Chengdu, a lively city celebrated for its flavourful spicy cuisine and as the home of the cherished Giant Panda. Upon arrival, you'll be transferred to your hotel, where you can unwind and enjoy some leisure time to relax and recharge before your next adventure begins.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** 4-Star Yajue Hotel or similar

## Day 10

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### Chengdu

Enjoy a leisurely morning to explore the hotel surroundings or join our optional visit to the Giant Panda Breeding Centre. In the afternoon, we'll head to the historic Luodai Ancient Town, where you can stroll through charming streets lined with traditional architecture and vibrant local shops. Afterwards, discover Kuanzhai Alley, a beautifully preserved area that combines ancient and modern elements, showcasing quaint teahouses, boutiques, and delicious street food vendors. As night falls, be captivated by the stunning view of the Jiuyan Bridge, illuminated against the night sky - perfect for memorable travel photos. This delightful day offers a wonderful mix of history, culture, and scenic beauty in Chengdu.

#### *Optional Activity: Chengdu Panda Breeding Research Centre*

Join us for a half-day tour of the Chengdu Panda Breeding Research Centre, a leading facility dedicated to panda conservation. Upon arrival, you'll have the chance to observe adorable giant pandas and red pandas in their natural habitat, watching them as they eat bamboo, play, and interact. Accompanied by an experienced guide, you'll learn about the centre's vital conservation efforts and breeding programs, gaining insight into the significance of pandas in Chinese culture. Enjoy ample photo opportunities to capture these charming creatures, and visit the gift shop for unique panda-themed souvenirs that support the centre's initiatives. This optional tour promises a memorable and educational experience for animal lovers and visitors alike. Please note that the optional tour is not included and must be paid for on-site.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** 4-Star Yajue Hotel or similar

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## Day 11

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### Chengdu

Experience a full day of exploration in Chengdu, starting with a visit to the Sichuan Brocade Museum, where you'll discover the intricate art of traditional brocade weaving and its historical significance. Next, wander through the charming Jinli Old Street, filled with vibrant shops, local snacks, and cultural souvenirs, allowing you to immerse yourself in the city's rich heritage.

Afterwards, head to Eastern Suburb Memory, a creative space that showcases local art and culture, providing a unique glimpse into Chengdu's contemporary scene. In the afternoon, stroll along Chunxi Road, Chengdu's bustling shopping district, where you can enjoy both international and local brands. Finally, conclude your tour at IFS, an iconic shopping centre known for its upscale boutiques and striking architecture, making it the perfect spot for leisurely shopping or a relaxing coffee break. This day promises a delightful mix of culture, history, and modernity in the heart of Chengdu.

#### *Optional Activity: Sichuan Opera & Hotpot Dinner*

For an unforgettable evening in Chengdu, join us for an optional Sichuan Opera performance paired with a delicious hotpot dinner. Immerse yourself in the vibrant world of Sichuan Opera, renowned for its dramatic face-changing acts, colourful costumes, and captivating music, all while enjoying a traditional hotpot meal. As you savour the flavours of this iconic dish, featuring a variety of fresh ingredients cooked in a spicy broth, you'll be entertained by the dynamic performance unfolding before you. This unique experience combines Chengdu's rich cultural heritage with its renowned culinary delights, offering a truly immersive and memorable night. Please note that the optional tour is not included and must be paid for on-site.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** 4-Star Yajue Hotel or similar

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## Day 12

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### China ✈ Australia

After making the most of your last breakfast in China, it's time to make your way back to Australia. Once you're ready, our transfer service can safely get you back to the airport, where you'll check in for your flight home. Please note that depending on your flight times and schedule, you may actually arrive back in Australia on Day 13. Safe travels!

**Meals:** Breakfast and Inflight Menu

## Inclusions & Exclusions

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### Inclusions

- Return economy class airfares to China from Australia
- One way domestic flight from Shanghai to Chengdu
- High speed 2nd Class train from Beijing to Wuxi
- 11 nights in 4-Star hotel accommodation on twin share basis
- 11 Breakfasts and 1 Lunch (local specialities)
- Sightseeing fees when specified in the itinerary
- Return group airport transfers
- All transport by modern air-conditioned private vehicle
- Services of your English-speaking tour leader, who will be on hand with advice and tips to ensure that you get the most from your trip

**Optional Tours:** Designed to be flexible, there are a range of optional day tours and activities available on this package - please refer to the itinerary for further details and pricing

Day 2 - Hutong Pedicab Tour & Dinner - \$300 CNY per person

Day 3 - Golden Mask Dynasty - \$330 CNY per person

Day 6 - Grand Canal Cruise - \$220 CNY per person

Day 7 - ERA & The Intersection Of Time - \$390 CNY per person

Day 8 - Half Day Shanghai Tour - \$240 CNY per person

Day 8 - Huangpu Evening River Cruise - \$280 CNY per person

Day 10 - Chengdu Panda Research Centre - \$280 CNY per person

Day 11 - Sichuan Opera & Hotpot Dinner - \$380 CNY per person

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### Exclusions

- Tips and gratuities (compulsory \$20 AUD per person, per day)
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Optional add-on tours
- Any meals and drinks not mentioned
- Any personal expenses

**Group Size:** The typical group size on this program is between 25-35 guests, with a minimum of 20 guests required to confirm the tour

**Single Supplement:** Travelling solo? The solo supplement price for this package is available for \$650 to have your own room, and is available via check out

**Visa Information:** Australian and New Zealand passport holders no longer need a visa for China for visits less than 15 days in duration

**Child Policy:** Please note that this tour is designed for adults. Any children wanting to join over 6 years will need to pay an additional surcharge.

**Health & Fitness:** This tour is available for travellers from 6 to 80 years, providing that all guests are reasonably fit and active

**Travel Insurance:** We recommend Covermore travel insurance. To quote and book, please click [HERE](#)