14 Day Confucius China & Yangtze Cruise

Beijing
Tai'an
Hangzhou
Suzhou
Shanghai
Yangtze River

www.inspiringvacations.com
14 Day Confucius China & Yangtze Cruise

FROM
$1,699
PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE
Tour China’s most inspiring & fabled destinations on this 14-day tour. Be awed by Beijing’s imperial treasures and storied hutongs. Let the Great Wall take your breath away. Be enchanted by the huge West Lake of Hangzhou. And take in the impossibly large city of Shanghai in all its glittering glory.

Book Now

TOUR ITINERARY

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DAY 1
Destination: Home ➔ Beijing
Meals included: 
Hotel: 5★ Chunhuiyuan Hot Spring Holiday Resort, or similar

Your phenomenal tour through China awaits! Begin your trip with an international flight to Beijing. Upon arrival to the Beijing Capital International Airport you will be greeted by your tour guide and transferred to your hotel. Take the evening to settle in and prepare for your first day of touring tomorrow.

DAY 2
Destination: Beijing
Meals included: Breakfast
Hotel: 4★ Park Plaza Beijing Science Park, or similar

Today you will be discovering some of Beijing's extraordinary imperial treasures. You will begin at Tiananmen Square, one of the largest and grandest public plazas in the world and the site of several important events in Chinese history. From here you will proceed to the expansive Forbidden City, an iconic palace complex in central Beijing. Enter its imposing walls and tour this vast network of courtyards and lanes that was once the exclusive domain of the Ming Dynasty.

Optional Tour: Hutong Tour and Lunch - Enjoy an exciting rickshaw tour through the traditional Hutong areas, famous for the old-style buildings and time-honoured workshops. Enjoy a meal with a friendly local family before returning to your hotel.

DAY 3
Destination: Beijing
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel: 4★ Park Plaza Beijing Science Park, or similar

It's the day you've been waiting for - the astounding visit to the Great Wall of China! Travel into the rugged mountain landscapes north of the city to the magnificent Great Wall. Once on top of this incredible ancient structure, you'll experience some steep climbs, magnificent views and enjoy a truly unforgettable experience. From here you will continue to the largest Jade factory in Beijing where you will learn all about China's most precious and celebrated stone. Before returning to your hotel, you'll also experience a complimentary oriental foot massage at a traditional Chinese medical center where you will learn about alternative treatments for illness and have the chance to consult a Chinese Medical professional.

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Call 1300 88 66 88 Email support@inspiringvacations.com www.inspiringvacations.com
DAY 4
Destination Beijing - Jinan - Tai'an
Meals included Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel 4★ Four Points by Sheraton Tai'an, or similar

This morning you will experience the exhilaration of the mind-blowing bullet train as you travel from Beijing to Jinan, the capital of eastern China’s Shandong province. Upon arrival in Jinan, you will be greeted by your guide before beginning a tour of one of city’s main natural and cultural landmarks, Daming Lake. The “Lake of the Great Splendour”, as it is also known, covers 81 hectares in the centre of the city and retains a constant water level throughout the year. From here you will proceed to the Black Tiger Spring. According to the old myth, there was a black rock in front of the cave that resembled a tiger and the sound of the water rushing out echoed its roaring. Later this evening you will be transferred to Tai’an where you will check into your hotel and spend the rest of the night at leisure.

DAY 5
Destination Tai’an
Meals included Breakfast
Hotel 4★ Four Points by Sheraton Tai’an, or similar

Enjoy a day of leisure, exploring the city at your own pace. Tai’an is host to a great number of historical and cultural sites. Alternatively, you can join a selection of optional tours with our experienced local guide.

Optional Tour: The Confucius Temple Complex - Located in the center of Qufu City, this temple was originally built as early as 478BC, one year after the great philosopher’s death, to commemorate Confucius. The temple was built according to the specification for imperial palaces; it is one of the three greatest ancient building complexes in the country.

Optional Tour: Ancient Village tribe of Shandong - Enjoy a folk performance and watch the art of paper cutting.

Optional Tour: The Feng Shan Sacrifice Performance - also called the emperors' sacrificial ceremonies, are a kind of religious ritual conducted by China’s ancient emperors on Mount Tai. The performance’s greatest feature is the use of 180-degree natural landscape panoramas as the stage. The audience will be immersed in the stunning natural theatre while the impressive large-scale casts interpret local culture through modern sound and light technology and unique choreography.
DAY 6
Destination: Tai’an ➔ Hangzhou
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel: 4★ Hangzhou holiday Inn Xiaoshan, or similar

This morning you will travel to Hangzhou by bullet train. Upon arrival you will embark on a tour of Hangzhou city - renowned for its beauty and abundance of cultural heritage. Hangzhou is also the political, economic and cultural center of the Zhejiang Province and one of the most popular tourist destinations in China. After this you will visit the picturesque West Lake area, comprising of the West Lake and the surrounding hills, which have inspired famous poets, scholars and artists since the 9th Century. It is considered one of the most beautiful landscapes in China, and is home to numerous temples, pagodas, pavilions, gardens, causeways and artificial islands. While you’re in the West Lake scenic area, you’ll be visiting a tea plantation where you can learn all about tea picking and processing.

DAY 7
Destination: Hangzhou ➔ Suzhou
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel: 3★ Ramada Suzhou Luzhi, or similar

Today you will travel to Suzhou and explore the lovely Master of the Nets Garden, one of the finest gardens in China, and for which Suzhou is renowned. You will explore the beautiful garden and admire the effortless cohesion of art, nature, and architecture that has attracted thousands of visitors since 1140CE.

Optional Tour: Grand Canal - After lunch, you will have the option to take a boat trip along the longest canal in the world - Suzhou’s Grand Canal. Some sections date as far back as the 5th century BC and it is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are many beautiful homes to admire along this impressive waterway.

DAY 8
Destination: Suzhou ➔ Shanghai
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel: 5★ Royal International Hotel Shanghai, or similar

After breakfast, spend the morning perusing the most famous silk factory in China to understand the manufacturing processes of silk and its rich history in China before being transferred to Shanghai via bus. Upon arrival, you will visit...
the Nanjing walking district, one of the world’s busiest shopping streets featuring over 600 businesses. From here discover the history and culture of Shanghai at the Shanghai Museum. The building’s impressive architecture features a round top and a square base, symbolizing the ancient Chinese philosophy of “round sky, square earth”. You will then continue to the renowned Shanghai waterfront, the Bund by the Huangpu River, where you will witness the collision of the old and new sides of the city.

Optional Tour: Huangpu River Cruise - Enjoy an optional evening tour on the Huangpu River Cruise, allowing you to take in the most famous sites of Shanghai including: the People's Hero Monument, the Bund, the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, the dramatic skyline of the Pu Dong business district, the bustling International Passenger Station of Shanghai Harbour, the docks and the Wu Song ancient gun fort relics.

DAY 9
Destination Shanghai ➙ Yichang ➙ Yangtze Cruise
Meals included Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel 5★ Yangtze Gold 6, or similar

Today, you will be transferred from Shanghai to the port city of Yichang by high-speed train. Upon arrival, you will board your Yangtze River Cruise ship and settle in before departure tomorrow. The expansive Yangtze River is the largest river in Asia and the third largest in the world. It is renowned not only for its impressive size, but also for the natural beauty of its surroundings. The river begins in the remote mountainous regions and winds its way through stunning gorges, lush fertile regions and connects with numerous lakes and waterways.

DAY 10
Destination Yangtze River Cruise
Meals included Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel 5★ Yangtze Gold 6, or similar

Begin your morning with an invigorating exercise on board in the presence of the beautiful Gorges. Spend your day at leisure on the boat or participate in one of our optional excursions. This evening you will attend the Captain’s Welcome Banquet and enjoy the evening entertainment of a Chinese dancing ball.
Optional tour: Three Gorges Dam Site Excursion - The Three Gorges Dam Site is one of the largest construction projects undertaken by mankind and is the biggest hydropower project in the world. It is certainly a sight to behold and a must-see while cruising the mighty Yangtze.

Optional tour: Tribe of the Three Gorges Excursion - You may also want to visit the Tribe of the Three gorges, the only large scenic spot that has not been influenced by the Three Gorges Dam project, which showcases the abundant Ba Culture and Shu Culture.

**DAY 11**

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<th>Destination</th>
<th>Yangtze River Cruise</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meals included</td>
<td>Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner</td>
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<td>Hotel</td>
<td>5★ Yangtze Gold 6, or similar</td>
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Today, you may choose to embark on the exciting optional excursions or opt for a leisure day on board the ship. In the afternoon you will continue to cruise into the western section of Xiling gorge.

Optional tour: Lesser Three Gorges Excursion - Explore the Lesser Three Gorges, a shining pearl hidden in the remote mountains. You will leave your cruise ship and board smaller vessels to sail through the narrower and breathtaking Lesser Three Gorges region, lined by sheer cliffs and mountains.

Optional tour: White Emperor City Excursion - You may also choose to visit the ancient White Emperor City, located atop Baidi Mountain on the northern bank of the Yangtze River in Fengjie County. The city received its name from a rebel general who, after coming to the mouth of Qutang Gorge, saw white fog in the shape of a flying dragon rising from a well. He took this as an omen and built the city here, calling himself the “White Emperor”.

**DAY 12**

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Today you will pass through the exquisite mountains of Eastern Sichuan. Choose to participate in the optional excursions or pamper yourself with a massage and relax for your last full day onboard. This evening enjoy the farewell dinner to celebrate your memorable trip through China. Pack your bags in preparation for disembarking tomorrow.
Optional tour: Fengdu Ghost City Excursion - If you're feeling brave today you can choose to visit the Fengdu Ghost City to see firsthand why it's regarded as the “City of Ghosts.” The temples built on Ming Mountain depict instruments of punishment and demon paintings, demonstrating the Chinese people's imagination of hell.

Optional tour: Shibaozhai Excursion - Shibaozhai is a 12-story wooden pagoda built against the rock in the 18th century. It is located in Zhong County on the south bank of the Yangtze River. There are intriguing steles and inscriptions of past dynasties on each floor. Visitors will also appreciate the spectacular views of the Yangtze River from the windows of each floor during climbing.

**DAY 13**

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<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Yangtze Cruise Chongqing Home</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meals included</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<td>Hotel</td>
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Today after disembarking your cruise you will be transferred to Chongqing Airport for your scheduled flight home. Saw farewell to your guide and fellow travellers knowing that you’ve made some lifelong connections and enduring memories. We hope you enjoyed your journey to China with us!

**DAY 14**

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<th>Destination</th>
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<tr>
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Arrive home today, with memories to last a lifetime.

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Inclusions

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**
- Return international flights with a full service airline
- 8 nights accommodation in 4 star hotels
- 4 nights on-board a 5 star Yangtze cruise in a balcony cabin
- Return airport transfers
- Daily breakfast, 8 lunches, 6 dinners
- Dedicated air conditioned coach transportation
- All highspeed rail tickets as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees to unforgettable scenic attractions as per the itinerary
- Professional English speaking tour guides
- All tipping

**SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS**
- Beijing - The Great Wall of China
- Beijing - The Forbidden City
- Beijing - Tiananmen Square
- Jinan - Black Tiger Spring
- Hangzhou - West Lake area
- Suzhou - Master of the Nets Garden
- Shanghai - Shanghai Museum
- Shanghai - The Bund
- Yangtze River - Cruise this majestic waterway

**CRUISE DETAILS**
For further information on your cruise, click HERE.

Fine Print

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**How to Book & Payments**

- Secure your package with a deposit of $500 per person.
- Pay a 2nd instalment of $900 per person within 28 days.
- You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure.

**Book Process**

- Select the purple 'Sign Up For Full Details' tab to begin your booking (you must sign up first by entering your email and creating a password)
- Then select the purple 'Book now' tab
- Select your Departure Date, Departure City, number of Passengers, Room Configuration, and enter any Special Requests
- Click the purple 'Proceed to secure checkout' tab
- Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment
- Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a booking form so that we can fulfil your booking
- Your booking is confirmed once your booking form is submitted and you can begin the countdown to your Inspiring Vacation!

**Flights, Upgrades & Extensions**

**Airfare Information**

- Full service airlines used will be China Southern, China Eastern, Sichuan Airlines or similar.
- Cathay Pacific is available from $400 per person (subject to availability)
- Flights will require a minimum of 1 transit (maximum 2).
- Passengers will be ticketed on the best available full service airline at the time.
- All tickets will include 20 kilos checked baggage per person, along with 7 kilos of hand luggage.
- Despite the airlines baggage allowance, we recommend travelling with 20 kilos per person due to restrictions with internal flights (where applicable), as well as coach and train transportation. Also, you will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters is not included. If travelling over this amount, you will be liable for any excess baggage fees enforced by the airline, payable direct.
- Once ticketed, flights are non-refundable. Any changes will be subject to the airline rules and change fees.
- Full names as per passport (including all middle names) are required.

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• Any airline schedule changes or cancellations are beyond our control.

**Premium Economy or Business Class upgrades**

• Premium Economy - Not available.
• Business Class available from an additional $3,000 per person (subject to availability).

Please specify any of these options as a 'Special Request' when completing your booking and you will be quoted for the additional fare. In the event your selection is unavailable, or that you are dissatisfied with the quote, you will be provided with a full refund.

**Airline Upgrade**

Cathay Pacific is available from $400 per person (subject to availability). In the ‘special requests’ please mention ‘Cathay Pacific’. You will be contacted after purchase for collection of this payment.

**Land Only discount (if booking your own flights)**

A $500 per person reduction from the twin share price applies if you wish to arrange your own airfares. Should you wish to purchase land only, please select this option in the booking process, under ‘Departure City’.

Please note, airport transfers are still included if selecting this option. However customers must arrive and depart on the same day as the standard package (Between 9AM - 9PM). Please ensure you let us know your flight arrangements so we can arrange the transfers accordingly.

For customers wanting to arrive outside of the standard arrival and departure dates and times, airport transfers are not included when selecting land only and must be arranged at your own expense.

**How to extend your stay**
In order to bring you this great price the package cannot be altered. Customers wishing to extend their package, add a stopover or amend their flights will need to purchase the land only option and arrange their own airfares to suit their requirements.

**Optional Tours/ Shore Excursions**

**Optional Tours**
- Hutong Tour & lunch (Day 2) - $70pp
- Confucius Temple (Day 5) - $50pp
- Ancient Village tribe of Shandong (Day 5) - $80pp
- Feng Shan Performance (Day 5) - $80pp
- Grand Canal cruise (Day 7) - $40pp
- Huangpu river cruise (Day 8) - $50pp

Payable on tour in local currency.

**Shore Excursions**
- Three Gorges Dam Site Excursion (Day 10)
- Tribe of the Three Gorges Excursion (Day 10)
- Lesser Three Gorges Excursion (Day 11)
- White Emperor City Excursion (Day 11)
- Fengdu Ghost City Excursion (Day 12)
- Shibaozhai Excursion (Day 12)

**Exclusions**
- Visas
- Travel insurance (recommended)
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities
- Personal expenses

**Important Information**

**Fitness Requirements**
While the tour itinerary should give you some guidance and overview to the expected requirements, to determine if this tour is right for you we categorise each of our tours in terms of their intensity. These guidelines are to ensure that each tour group is conducted as expected and to ensure the overall satisfaction of all Inspiring Vacations customers.
As a general rule, porterage is not included, therefore at all times you are expected to handle your own luggage where help may not be available.

This particular tour is categorised as a “4” active tour. A very good level of fitness and mobility is required for you to enjoy all aspects of the itinerary, as this is considered a fast-paced tour. While there is some free time scheduled either in the morning or afternoon, there are many full days of sightseeing with minimal rest and some early starts. You will be required to walk up and down stairs, get on and off the coach and participate in all scheduled sightseeing that may be conducted on uneven ground and terrain. Any physical ailments you may have must be disclosed at the time of booking to determine your suitability. If you have any form of walking aids, other than a walking stick or hiking poles, then this tour is not suitable.

**Accommodation**
The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences however any changes are beyond our control.

**Single Supplement**
$650pp in additional to the twin share price.

**Triple Share**
Not available. Third traveller must purchase the Single Supplement surcharge.

**Travel Insurance**
We strongly encourage all travellers to purchase travel insurance to protect yourself against the unexpected.

We have partnered with QBE Insurance to offer our customers competitive rates for their Travel Insurance. You can book comprehensive or budget cover, earn Qantas Frequent Flyer points and save 25% on retail rates.

Simply click [HERE](#) to arrange your policy.

**Visa & Passport information**
It is the travellers responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of 6 months from your intended date of return to Australia.
Australian passport holders will require a visa to enter China

Please note the visa is only valid for 3 months from date of issue

How: In person/Online

Cost: $105 per person + processing fee (subject to change)

Visa Type: Tourist Visa / Single Entry

When to apply: 30 days prior to departure

Please note: Do NOT apply for your visa until you receive your tour documentation from Inspiring Vacations 30 days prior to your departure.

Tour Documentation
Final documentation, including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

Group Size
2 - 40 people

Children
Children must be 5 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are the same price as adults.

Tour Length
The total length of the tour in days includes time spent inflight and is subject to change, depending on the flight schedule. Please refer to the day-by-day itinerary for the time spent in your destination(s).