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China's Golden Triangle & Gardens of Suzhou - 9 Days

CN-04



This incredible tour provides a wonderful opportunity to uncover the highlights of China and delve into the unique character of some of its most remarkable cities. Given China's vast size, its immense cities serve as focal points for travelers, providing exceptional museums, galleries, shops, restaurants, and architectural wonders. Each city boasts its distinct identity, people, and style, offering a diverse tapestry of experiences.

In addition to exploring vibrant urban centers, this tour takes you to the renowned gardens of Suzhou, where you'll immerse yourself in a harmonious blend of natural beauty. This journey promises a rich tapestry of cultural, historical, and natural wonders, allowing you to truly understand the multifaceted charm of China.

DEPARTURE DATES:

05.25.2024; 06.01.2024; 06.08.2024; 06.15.2024; 06.22.2024; 06.29.2024; 07.06.2024; 07.13.2024; 07.20.2024; 07.27.2024; 08.03.2024; 08.10.2024; 08.17.2024; 08.24.2024; 08.31.2024; 09.07.2024; 09.14.2024; 09.21.2024; 09.28.2024; 10.12.2024; 10.26.2024; 11.09.2024; 11.23.2024; 12.07.2024; 12.21.2024; 12.28.2024.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Beijing

Upon your arrival at the airport, our driver will be there to greet you and provide transportation to the hotel. The journey kicks off by delving into Beijing's past with a focus on the famous 'hutongs'-ancient city areas characterized by narrow streets and alleys. The term 'hutong' traces its origins back to the 13th century during the Yuan Dynasty. A rickshaw ride through these historic areas will immerse you in the city's architectural evolution, providing a firsthand look at the development over the centuries. (D)

Day 2 - Beijing

Today's exploration begins in the heart of the city, at Tiananmen Square. This expansive square, ranking as the fourth largest globally, spans an impressive 440,000 square meters. Dominating the square is the Tiananmen Gate (the Gate of Heavenly Peace), serving as the entrance to the Forbidden City. A guided tour of the Forbidden City and the Imperial Palace follows. Recognized by UNESCO as the largest collection of preserved ancient wooden structures worldwide, the Forbidden City has transformed into the Palace Museum, showcasing an extensive array of Chinese artwork. The journey continues with a visit to the elegant Summer Palace, celebrated for its Chinese landscape garden design and natural beauty. As the day concludes, indulge in a delightful roast duck dinner, savoring this renowned culinary treat. (B,L,D)

Day 3 - Beijing

Embark on a journey to meet China's most iconic symbol - the Great Wall! Today's destination is the Badaling Great Wall, located in Yanqing County, approximately 70 kilometers (44 miles) north of Beijing. This section is renowned for being the most well-preserved part of the Wall, and its grandeur is easily evident, contributing to its designation as a wonder of the world and inclusion on the

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included

Accommodation
Full board meals
Train - 2nd class (day / night)
English - speaking guides
Guided tours & entrance fees
Airport & railway transfers

Not included

Personal travel insurance
Optional excursions
Meals on the train

Practical information

<u>Chinese visa procedure</u> <u>Book with Confidence - Covid FAQs</u>

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UNESCO World Heritage List. Following this awe-inspiring visit, explore the site of the Olympic Green and the Olympic Park, constructed in Beijing for the 2008 Summer Olympics. As the day unfolds, prepare to be captivated by the mesmerizing performances of Beijing's finest Acrobatic Shows in the evening. (B,L,D)

Day 4 - Beijing - Xian

Embark on a taste of ultra-modern China as you board the morning bullet train to Xian. This high-speed train journey covers an impressive 711 miles from Beijing to Xian in just 4 hours and 40 minutes, allowing you to enjoy the passing countryside. Upon your arrival, you'll be met at the station and commence your Xian city tour. As one of the four ancient capitals of China, key sights on your itinerary include the Big Goose Pagoda, Little Goose Pagoda, the City Wall (the most intact city wall in all of China), the Bell Tower (which signaled the city gates opening at dawn), and the Great Mosque, one of the first mosques built in China. A stop for lunch at a local restaurant is included, and the evening will be highlighted by the Tang Dynasty Singing & Dancing Dinner Show. (B,L,D)

Day 5 - Xian

A true Chinese highlight awaits you today: the magnificent Terracotta Army, a site that captivates millions of tourists from around the globe each year. Listed on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list since 1987, this extraordinary archaeological discovery was accidentally unearthed in 1974 by local farmers. The famed stone army comprises over 8,000 soldiers, 520 horses, and 130 chariots, and you'll have the opportunity to examine the excavation pits and ascend the burial mound of the emperor. Following this awe-inspiring visit, the journey continues to Shanghai to board an overnight sleeper train. Our driver will meet you in the hotel lobby to transfer you to the railway station for your train to Xian. A choice of 2 and 4 berth compartments is available for your comfort. (B,L,D)

Day 6 - Shanghai

Upon your arrival from the train, our team will meet you and take you to the hotel to drop off your luggage. The exploration of this fascinating city begins promptly. Shanghai, being the largest and busiest city in China, offers a captivating blend of ultra-modern architecture, serene gardens, People's Square, the renowned Shanghai Museum, and the iconic Bund-a mile-long riverside promenade. Today's itinerary ensures you get to experience the vibrant tapestry of Shanghai, from its bustling cityscapes to its tranquil gardens. (B,L,D)

Day 7 - Shanghai

Today's tour offers a delightful blend of old and new, immersing you in the contrasting facets of Shanghai. Begin in the historic part of Shanghai, where you'll visit a serene garden located next to the City God Temple. Encompassing five acres, this peaceful retreat features a rockery, a chamber of ten thousand flowers, pavilions, and towers, allowing you to experience the charm of traditional Chinese landscapes. Transition into the future with a visit to the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, a distinctive structure built in 1994 that boasts 15 viewing levels,

providing panoramic perspectives of the city. Conclude the day's exploration on Nanjing Road, Shanghai's main shopping street and the longest shopping street in the world, spanning 5.5 kilometers. (B,L,D)

Day 8 - Shanghai

Today, your journey takes you to Suzhou, often referred to as the 'Eastern Venice,' renowned for its expertise in the art of islands, waterways, and landscape design. In Suzhou, a harmony between natural beauty and man-made structures awaits. You'll embark on a boat trip along the Grand Canal, offering a unique perspective of the city and showcasing its picturesque landscapes. During your visit, there will also be an opportunity to stop at a silk factory, where you'll gain insights into the intricate process of crafting this delicate fabric. This stop is intended for educational purposes, providing you with an understanding of the craftsmanship involved. In the evening, you'll transfer back to Shanghai. (B,L,D)

Day 9 - Shanghai

Our driver will meet you in the hotel lobby and take you to the airport to catch your flight home. (B)

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

PREMIUM - 4* PACKAGE

Dates	Tour Price	Single suppliment	Train upgrade
05/25/2024 - 06/02/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
06/01/2024 - 06/09/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
06/08/2024 - 06/16/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
06/15/2024 - 06/23/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
06/22/2024 - 06/30/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
06/29/2024 - 07/07/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
07/06/2024 - 07/14/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
07/13/2024 - 07/21/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
07/20/2024 - 07/28/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
07/27/2024 - 08/04/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
08/03/2024 - 08/11/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
08/10/2024 - 08/18/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
08/17/2024 - 08/25/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
08/24/2024 - 09/01/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
08/31/2024 - 09/08/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
09/07/2024 - 09/15/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
09/14/2024 - 09/22/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
09/21/2024 - 09/29/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
09/28/2024 - 10/06/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
10/12/2024 - 10/20/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
10/26/2024 - 11/03/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
11/09/2024 - 11/17/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
11/23/2024 - 12/01/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
12/07/2024 - 12/15/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
12/21/2024 - 12/29/2024	\$1995	\$345	\$295
12/28/2024 - 01/05/2025	\$1995	\$345	\$295

ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organized group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday arrangement or an extension to a regular "Go Russia" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please contact us for a quote.

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Based on your chosen tour we believe you might be interested in alternative trips listed below:

- > Beijing Explorer Uncover the Wonders of the Chinese Capital 6 Days (CN-02), Price from \$895, 6 days
- > China's Golden Triangle: Unveiling the Wonders of Beijing, Xian and Shanghai 8 Days (CN-03), Price from \$1,795, 8 days
- > Great Chinese Discovery with Majestic Yangtze River Cruise 12 Days (CN-06), Price from \$2,895, 12 days
- > Highlights of Trans-Mongolian Railway: Irkutsk Baikal Mongolia Beijing (TS-14), Price from \$2,495, 12 days

INFORMATION ABOUT VISAS

Go Russia provides assistance in processing visas and visa fees are included in the cost of most of our trips as detailed in the tour dossier. The visa application process is very straightforward. We have years of practical experience in dealing with tourist visas, and our in-house visa team provides assistance with completing the forms and checking the documents before consular submission. Please do not worry that your application will be unsuccessful (unless you have had any immigration issues with the relevant authorities in the past). All our tourists get their visas.

All nationalities require a full passport valid for at least six months beyond the intended length of stay. Please also make sure there are enough blank pages in your passport: Russian consulate requires minimum two blank pages.

USA, UK, Germany, France, Spain residents

We have in-house visa teams in the US, UK, Germany, France and Spain. Upon your booking we will email you detailed guidance notes how to fill in the visa forms and what additional documents depending on nationality and your immigration status will be required. You will need to post your application pack to our visa processing office including your original passport. Please allow about two weeks for each visa application to be processed. Please advise us if you require your passport urgently, we can arrange urgent processing for an additional charge.

Non-USA, UK, Germany, France, Spain residents

If you are not resident in the USA, UK, Germany, France or Spain, we will issue official paperwork and email the required documents to you. You will need to apply for your visa at the local consulate. The process is very straightforward and we can assist you with completing the visa forms. You will have to pay the correct visa fee at the consulate in the country of your residence.

You can read more information about visa and application forms on our website: www.justgorussia.com/us/visa_services.html

HOW TO BOOK

Step 1 - Choose Your Holiday & Departure Dates

It is important that you choose a trip that is well suited to your interests, capabilities and experience. All our staff has first hand experience of a range of Go Russia holidays and will be happy to talk to you about your chosen trip, enabling you to assess its suitability. We also recommend that you read the descriptions of the relevant region, general information about our services, booking conditions, and trip dossiers carefully. Once you know what tour is right for you, as well as your departure dates, you can start your booking.

Step 2 - Complete the Booking Form

Online: log on to www.justgorussia.com and open the tour you wish to book and click "Book now". To provide you with a more personalised and relevant experience in all your contact with Go Russia, when you book online we ask you to register on our system. Once registered you can retrieve your bookings, brochure requests, lecture participation, update newsletter subscriptions, passenger and emergency contact details, submit special dietary requests, view invoices and receipts, download trip documents.

Email: alternatively, you can book your tour per email - info@justgorussia.com, or

Phone: call us on +1 (917) 259 13 33

When booking by email or over the phone please confirm your personal details (full name and address), chosen tour, departure date, package type (hotel / cabin category), and available upgrades.

Step 3 - Confirmation of your booking

On receipt of your booking form, we will make any necessary reservations for you and send you confirmation invoice,

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including the flight details, and additional information about your destination: advice on visas, vaccinations and what to take. The invoice will also show you the exact due date of the payment.

Step 4 - Payment

Please note, if your departure date is more than 56 days you will need to pay the deposit, which should cover the full cost of the flight (if applicable), plus 10% of the land-only arrangements (minimum \$250) per person towards your tour. The outstanding payment must be made 56 days prior to departure. If you book less than 56 days before departure, full payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer or credit card (2% surcharge applies for credit card payments). You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

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YOUR NOTES

On request we can organise an additional programme for you, please $\underline{inquire}$ about the price and availability of the optional excursions.

Please find below some space to write down your queries or comments regarding this trip.			

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