

## Senior Program

### CN13 - Waterways, Architecture and Gardens of China – 12Days



#### Detailed Day-by-Day Itinerary

##### Day 1: Arrive Shanghai

Upon arrival in Shanghai, meet and transfer to your hotel. We stay overnight at the **4 star Shanghai Broadway Mansion Hotel** or similar. Welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight at the Shanghai Broadway Mansion Hotel or similar.

Meals: B, L, D

##### Day 2: Shanghai

We start our tour with a stroll on Shanghai's great landmark, **the Bund**, where the great foreign commercial houses and banks built their imposing office buildings in the first half of the twentieth century. Our walk takes us along the edge of the Huangpu River, affording a sweeping view of the architectural splendor of the entire Bund, and our guide points out to us some of the buildings that are most interesting from the point of view of architecture and history. We then take a **ferry** across the Huangpu River to ultra-modern Pudong and spend an hour in Shanghai's fascinating, state of the art **Shanghai Museum of History**, where the dioramas bring Shanghai's extraordinary past to life.

We then move on to the old Chinese city and the **Yu Gardens**, where we have a light lunch of Shanghai's famous dumplings, "xiao long bao." The Yu Gardens are the most celebrated classical Chinese gardens in Shanghai, capturing the essence of southern China landscape design from the Ming and Qing dynasties and characterized by an exquisite layout, beautiful scenery, and artistic architecture.

Afterwards, we pay a visit to the **Shanghai Museum**, which contains one of the world's finest collections of Chinese art, all housed in a state of the art museum. We move through the museum and have audio self tour. And then spend a few minutes in the

museum shop browsing among the many excellent books available on Chinese art, history, and culture.

Overnight at the Shanghai Broadway Mansion Hotel or similar.

Meals: B, L, D

### **Day 3: Shanghai to Suzhou to Shanghai**

In the morning, we will drive to Suzhou, the ancient city famed for its gardens and silk. The town is built on a network of interlocking canals whose waters feed the series of renowned classical gardens. We will explore the **Garden of the Master of the Nets** - the smallest but most exquisite and best-preserved garden of all old residential gardens in Suzhou.

Suzhou is considered the center of silk and embroidery in China, and after lunch, we visit the **Silk Museum** before heading to the **Suzhou Embroidery Institute** where we will have the opportunity to partake in the art of embroidery making. In late afternoon, we drive back to Shanghai.

Overnight at the Shanghai Broadway Mansion Hotel or similar.

Meals: B, L, D

### **Day 4: Shanghai to Xitang to Wuzhen to Hangzhou**

After breakfast, we will drive for an hour and a half to **Xitang**, an ancient town that has retained much of its original architecture despite the urban sprawl from Shanghai. As we stroll the narrow streets, our guide leads us through the town's history, pointing out the significance of each architectural detail and their place within the theory of Chinese fengshui -- a key foundation of Chinese design. After lunch, we will drive to **Wuzhen**, a town famous for its charming old streets, tea houses and well-preserved buildings. The residents of Wuzhen often paint the walls of their houses black (we in regional dialect) hence the town's name. A peek into old pawnshops and visits to **local museums** gives us insight into East China's culture and folk art. In late afternoon, we drive to Hangzhou.

Overnight at the 4 star Hangzhou Wanghu Hotel or similar.

Meals: B, L, D

### **Day 5: Hangzhou**

Hangzhou became the capital of the Southern Song when the invading Jurchen -- ancestors of the Manchus -- forced the Song out from its capital, Kaifeng, in 1126. Situated on the Qiantang River, the city was once a bustling and prosperous trading center until it was sacked during the Taiping Rebellion in 1861.

In the morning, we visit **Lingyin Temple**, one of the biggest temple complexes in China. It is most famous for its "laughing Buddha," and today is an attractive working temple with daily services.

After lunch, we will visit the **Tea Museum** and the **Longjing village** to sample its famous green tea and listen to the tea culture presentation from our **local tea expert**. In late afternoon, we will take a stroll on the bank of **West Lake**, considered to be one of China's most beautiful lake, and for the Chinese, a lake laden with literary and historic association.

Tonight we will have buffet dinner in the hotel.

Overnight at the 4 star Hangzhou Wanghu Hotel or similar.

Meals: B, L, (**Optional Dinner**)

#### **Day 6: Hangzhou to Tunxi via Hongcun**



We leave Hangzhou in the morning and embark on a four-hour drive to Huangshan City (Tunxi), an old trading town located 70 km (44 mi) southeast of Huangshan. **Huangshan's Old Street** is lined with ancient wooden buildings from the Song dynasty, many of which have been converted into antique shops selling furniture and souvenirs. En route we will stop at **Hongcun**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site housing typical South Anhui architecture. The town is built along the banks of Nan Lake - a fine place for photographs of its traditional architecture. The water from the lake wraps around the houses and underneath your footsteps -- walking down the streets is like walking down an outdoor museum with richly decorated porticos and sagging rooftops, which are

treasures in their own right.

Overnight at the 4 star Huangshan International Hotel or similar.

Meals: B, L, D

#### **Day 7: She County**

This morning, we drive to **She County**. She County blossomed in the seventeenth century after local salt merchants started building elaborate town houses and intricately carved stone archways. The area became famous for Hui ink stones and fine-grained She ink sticks. We will photograph the **Archway, Garden and Ancient village**. Afterwards, we drive back to Huangshan city. Tonight, we have a Western-style dinner at our hotel. We will invite a **local architecture expert** or artist to join our dinner and share his point of view about Hui style architecture and Chinese garden, etc.

Overnight at the Huangshan International Hotel or similar.

Meals: B, L, D

### Day 8: Hiking in Huangshan



Starting the day early, we take a 1.5-hour drive to reach the foothills of **Huangshan**. We will ascend the western side of Huangshan by cable car, then begin our 7 km (4.3 mi) walk to our hotel. Huangshan is one of China's most famous landscapes, so be prepared to share the trails with others. While the scenery is truly striking, this is not the place to come for quiet contemplation! We will overnight at the summit, and weather permitting, take in a beautiful sunset and sunrise

Overnight at 4 star Beihai Hotel or similar.

Meals: B, L, D

### Day 9: Huangshan to Guilin

After breakfast, we'll descend Huangshan by cable car. After lunch, we fly to Guilin via Guangzhou. This afternoon will be free explore Guilin city.

Overnight at the Guilin Bravo Hotel or similar.

Meals: B, L, (Optional Dinner)

### Day 10: Li River Cruise, Guilin to Yangshuo



We will take a **3-hour boat ride** down the Li River, which is considered by many as one of the most beautiful rivers in China. Cruising along the river, you may feel as though you are idling along a corridor of landscape paintings of limestone pinnacles set against terraced rice fields and picturesque villages. We will disembark the cruise boat in **Xingping**, which is an ancient town where locals have been living along the ancient street for many generations. After exploring Xingping Old Town, we drive to visit **Fuli Old Town** before we arrive in Yangshuo. We will have free time for you to explore and have dinner on West Street.

Overnight at the Yangshuo Paradise Hotel or similar.

Meals: B, L, D

### Day 11: Biking in Yangshuo

We start our morning optional **biking exploration** by heading towards Aishan village via the old country road to Yongcun village. We pass by picturesque hamlets, tucked among subtropical plants and stretched in between rice paddies. As we bike, in the distance we will see the famous Moon Hill. We can get to the summit of **Moon Hill** after climbing 819 steps to have a bird's-eye-view of the surrounding hills and have a close look of the "Moon" which used to be the underground river canal. We return to Yangshuo for lunch then spend the afternoon exploring the countryside by bike. If the season is right, we are certain to see water buffalo, rice farmers and cormorant fisherman. Riding through the serene villages, we can stop to chat with local farmers. For those who do not want biking tour, we will have a half day **fishing and walking** tour instead to explore the local life.

Overnight at the Yangshuo Paradise Hotel or similar.

Meals: B, L, D

### **Day 12: Trip Ends**

After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for departure flights to home or connect to our extension trips. Trip ends

Meal: B

**Quotation for group (more than 4pax, guaranteed group departure)**

2008

**Land Prices (CAD)**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>11-22May</b>	<b>07-19Sep</b>	<b>12-24Oct</b>	<b>02-14Nov</b>
Land cost: 4-22pax	3,840	3,840	3,840	3,840
Single supplement	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,320

**Flights**

Call for international air.

Call your tour expert for tailor-made your private journey

**Discount**

CAD100 discount for senior traveler who choose half-board meal service. (Two nights' optional meals arrangement)

**Price includes:**

- Domestic economy flights and airport taxes.
- Land transfers for whole trip
- All accommodations on a twin-sharing basis, at the hotels specified in the itinerary where available
- All admissions and activity expenses as noted on itinerary
- Meals, drinking water, and soft drinks during meals as program indicates
- All programs as per itinerary
- Private tour guide and driver
- Tour leader and local experts service along the whole trip

**Price excludes:**

- Discretionary gratuities for drivers, local guides, and experts
- Expenses of personal nature, e.g. mini-bar, laundry, telecommunications, alcoholic beverages etc.
- Travel insurance
- Excursions not included in the itinerary
- International flights and airport taxes
- GST