

Beijing Great Wall Int'l Travel Agency

Tel:(+86)10-8446 6033 / 8446 6213 / 8446 6032 ext .801,802 ,803 Fax:(+86)10-8446 6212

Chinese Tea Culture Tour

(GW-CTC-001)

**Beijing-Wuxi-Yixing-Suzhou-Hangzhou-Yellow Mountain-Wuyishan-Shanghai
(17days)**



Day01 Arrive in Beijing

Arrive in Beijing in the morning, the capital of China. Pick up from the airport. Begin the day's activity with a visit to **Tian'anmen Square**, the largest urban square in the world. Tian'anmen was built in 1417 and served as the entrance gate to the Imperial Palace. Move on to visit the Imperial Palace, well-known as **Forbidden City** which is the large scale construction of the palace extended from 1406 to 1420. It was the imperial palace during the Ming and Qing dynasties. 24 emperors lived and ruled China from here. In the afternoon, visit **Temple of Heaven**, built in 1420 A.D., which was originally the platform to offer sacrifices to Heaven during Ming and Qing Dynasties. The buildings and parklands reflect an ancient Chinese thought of "the Heaven is round and the earth is square". (L,D)

Day02 Beijing

Today's highlight is the visit to the Great Wall, one of the "Seven Wonders of the World" and a symbol of Chinese civilization. Climb **Mutianyu Great Wall** (excluded cable car) to avoid the crowds. Just like a gigantic dragon, the Great Wall winds up and down across mountains. In the afternoon, visit the enchanting **Summer Palace**, the largest and best-preserved imperial garden in China. As a masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design, it integrates the natural landscape of hills and open water with manmade features such as pavilions, halls, palaces, temples and bridges into a harmonious and aesthetically exceptional whole. On the way back to the hotel, stop at **Olympic Park** and **outside view** the National Stadium (Bird's Nest, no entry) and the National Aquatics Center (Water Cube, no entry), which are the main stadium of the 29th Olympiad in 2008. You could have your pictures taken by these marvelous buildings! (B,L,D)

Day03 Beijing-Wuxi (overnight train)

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In the morning, you will take a rickshaw through some old “**Hutongs**”, lanes or alleys formed by lines of Siheyuan (a compound with houses around a courtyard). In the afternoon, visit **Maliandao Tea Street**. Take overnight train to Wuxi with soft sleeper (the first class in China, 4 persons sharing one cabin). (B,L,D)

Day04 Wuxi-Yixing

Arrive in Wuxi and transfer to Yixing, local pottery production has a history of more than 3,000 years, longer than local recorded history. You will see most teapots, and other pieces, big and small, some with painting and calligraphy, but all exquisite in workmanship, in the world. Begin today's activity with the visit to **Yixing Pottery Museum**, a type of Chinese palace with green roof tiles, wonderfully ancient in appearance. It has, in excess of, 10,000 ceramic pieces in its collection. Some of these pieces were excavated from the local area, and some of these pieces were donated by the artists. Then, you will visit the **Purple Sand Pottery Factory**, then, pay a visit to **Red Pottery Arts Factory**. Traditional craft techniques were taught in these factories. There are dozens series product, such as pot, cup, bottle and oven, with flower carving, poem and picture on pottery. (B,L,D)

Day05 Yixing-Suzhou

Drive to Suzhou in the morning, known as “Venice in the East”, so named by early travelers because the town was built around a network of canals and 300 bridges. Today's highlight is visit the famous private garden in Suzhou. Visit to **Lion's Grove Garden**, the representative of Yuan Dynasty. A part of the Imperial Summer Resort of the Qing Dynasty in Chengde of Hebei Province was a mimic of Lion Grove Garden. Move on to visit **Garden of the Master of the Nets**, the smallest of the Suzhou residential gardens, the most impressive because of its use of space which creates the illusion of an area that is much greater than its actual size. You will also visit **Silk Museum** to see how the world's most beautiful silk is produced. Grand Canal of China is the world's oldest and longest man-made canal. Enjoy a **boat on the Grand Canal** reveals the traditional way of lift for the people who have lived here for generations. China's emperors took such route many times to inspect their territory and people in the South, leaving lots of legends and stories in the history. (B,L,D)

Day06 Suzhou-Hangzhou

Drive to Hangzhou, en route, pay a visit to **Biluochun tea plantations** on Taihu Lake. Biluochun is a famous green tea originally grown in the Dong Ting mountain of Taihu Lake. Hangzhou is another ancient capital city in southern China, and is famous for its natural beauty and historical and cultural heritages. Visit **Lingying Temple**, passing by a series of rock carvings on the “**Peak that Flew from Afar**”. Lingyin Temple is one of the best-known Buddhist monasteries in China and it was built in 326 A.D. at the foot of Lingyin Mountain. Then, pay a visit to **Tiger Running Spring (Hupao Spring)**, ranked the third in China, according to scientific research on the quality of the water of the spring, followed by Leng Spring in Zhejiang and Hui Spring in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province. Hupao Spring is well famed for its unique fountain. People of all ages highly praise it after tasting a cup of Longjing Tea made of water from Hupao fountain. You will also visit **Tea Museum** showing the history and production of Chinese tea. (B,L,D)

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Day07 Hangzhou-Tunxi (Huangshan city)

Ancient Chinese people praised the West Lake area as a land of intoxicating beauty. “Ripping water shimmering on sunny day; Misty mountains shrouded the rain; Plain or gaily decked out like Xizi; West Lake is always alluring.”, was composed by the famous Song Dynasty poet Su Dongpo (960-1127) to describe its beauty. Today’s highlight is to appreciate the incomparably lovely **West Lake** with its soaring bridges and flower-bright islets. Enjoy a **boat ride** on West Lake. Then, transfer to Tunxi, stop to visit some **Huangshan Tea Plantation** en route. Stay overnight in Tunxi. (B,L,D)

Day08 Yellow Mountain

This morning, you will ascend the Yellow Mountain, characterized by the four wonders, namely, odd-shaped pines, grotesque rock formation, seas of clouds and crystal-clear hot springs. Yellow Mountain was listed as one of the World Natural and Cultural Heritages in 1990. Ride [Yungu \(Cloud Valley\) station cable car](#) up to Yellow Mountain, and the full day is visiting Yellow Mountain including Beginning-to-Believe Peak, the Lion Peak, Cloud-Dispelling Pavilion, Flying-over Rock, Bright Summit and sun-set. (B,L,D)

Day09 Yellow Mountain-Jingdezhen

Get up early in the morning to watch the sun-rise. After breakfast, a 3.5-hour hike will be conducted to enjoy the premium views of the **western side of Huangshan Mountain** including the Sea-Turtle Peak, Lotus Peak, Jade Screen Peak, Guest-welcoming Pine before taking the [Yuping cable car](#) down the mountain and transfer to Jingdezhen, the capital of “China Porcelain”. Check in hotel on arrival. (B,L,D)

Day10 Jingdezhen-Wuyishan

After breakfast, pay a visit **Jingdezhen Ceramics Museum**, a special museum of Chinese ceramics. This museum, seized about 18,000 collections, showed the ceramic development history of Jingdezhen. Move on to visit **Jingdezhen Ceramic History Museum**, composed of historical museum and ancient kiln workshop. Here the visitors learn the history behind the city, famed for its ceramics. Then, visit **Hutian Ancient Kiln Site** which represents the development of porcelain-making techniques, artistic quality and production scale, and provides important concrete materials for the research into the developing history of Chinese porcelain. Also the **Gaoling Mountain Original Kaolin Mine** near the village of Gaoling. In China, the name “Gaoling” or “Kaoling” has been for centuries the term for the clay of porcelains. In this busy day, you also have some opportunity to make ceramics on your own. Then, transfer to Wuyishan (330km). Check in hotel on arrival. (B,L,D)

Day11 Wuyishan

In the morning, visit **Dahongpao (Big Red Robe) Park** and walk to the **Water Curtain Cave**. Meet **Tea Master (Traditional Rock Oolong Tea)**, from his garden to his workshop, the tea master will show you the entire process of picking and producing traditional rock oolong teas. He will teach how different bushes, soils, roasting techniques, and grades all yield different flavors of oolong. Come thirsty...we'll

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taste a lot of tea today! Stay overnight in Wuyishan. (B,L,D)

Day12 Wuyishan

Wuyishan (Mount Wuyi) is located in northern Fujian Province, with an area of 70 sq. km, the area has what is probably the largest, most typical and best-preserved humid subtropical native forest in the world. The Wuyi mountain range, usually called Greater Mt. Wuyi, straddles the border of Fujian and Jiangxi provinces, stretching over 500 km. The average height of the peaks is over 1,000m above sea level. In the morning, you will visit **Clouds and Mist Nest, Floating Top** and **Peach Blossom Taoist temple**. In the afternoon, take a **bamboo raft** sightseeing of **the Stream with Nine Turnings**. Mt. Wuyi has a long cultural history, pay a visit to the site of the **Wuyi Palace** built in the seventh century for emperors to conduct sacrificial activities remains today. Then, visit Zhuxi Garden and walk around **Song Dynasty Ancient Street**. (B,L,D)

Day13 Wuyishan

Today's highlight is to visit **Tong Mu Village (Lapsang Souchong Black Tea)**. You'll take a break from oolongs to visit Tong Mu Village, nestled in the Tong Mu Natural Preserve, which is the home of Lapsang Souchong. You'll meet the family who has been responsible for authentic Lapsang Souchong for many generations, and see a 100-year-old tea factory constructed entirely of wood. You'll learn why this tea is smoky and have an opportunity to witness the whole process of making this special tea, starting with the famous black tea bush, the "Zheng Shan Xiao Zhong", in family's wild tea garden. Stay overnight in **Bao Dao Hotel** in Wuyishan. (B,L,D)

Day14 Wuyishan-Shanghai

Today's highlight is to know **Wuyi Yan Tea (Wuyi Rock Tea)**. Visit the local villages, historical **Caogong village** and **Yulonggu Waterfall**. Then, transfer to the railway station, and take overnight train to Shanghai with soft sleeper (the first class in China, 4 persons sharing one cabin). (B,L,D)

Day15 Shanghai

Arrive in Shanghai in the morning, known as "Paris in the East". Pick up from the railway station, and transfer to the hotel for breakfast. Visit **the Bund** in the morning, at the west shore of the Huangpu River, the splendid row of early 20th century Europe buildings remains the quintessential Shanghai sight. Pay a visit to **Yuyuan Garden**, a well-restored Suzhou-style garden, which was specially built for Pan's parents as a place to enjoy themselves a tranquil and happy time in their old age. The pavilions, halls, rockeries, ponds and cloisters are unique characteristic. And also take a walk through **Chenghuangmiao** (known as Yuyuan Garden Market) built in the fifteenth century during the Ming Dynasty. It filled with antique markets and specialty stores. Enjoy a fabulous **Acrobatic Show** in the evening. (B,L,D)

Day16 Shanghai

This morning, you will visit **Shanghai Museum** (excluded audio guide), a leading attraction of the city since it opened in 1994, containing some priceless collections of paintings, porcelains and bronzes. Then,

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move on to check out **Xujiahui Cathedral (St. Ignatius Cathedral)**, Shanghai's great cathedral, opened by the Jesuits who'd had a church here as early as 1608 (today's structure dates to 1910). Walk around **Shanghai French Concession**, the area of Shanghai once designated for the French since the mid-19th century, which now is a busy shopping street where the combination of leafy, tree-lined avenues, European-blended-with-Chinese architectures and shopping boutiques is unique. Also pay a visit to **Dongtai Road Antique Market**, a great place to go treasure hunting in Shanghai. Just located south of Huaihai Zhonglu, it is the only remaining flea market in Shanghai area tha is still devoted to selling antiques. Most antiques here are replicas, but you will find plenty of vintage items, traditional crafts, curios and assorted knick-knacks. (B,L,D)

Day17 Depart from Shanghai

Transfer to the airport and prepare for boarding on your homebound flight. TOUR ENDS! (B)

Note: B-Breakfast L-Lunch D-Dinner

Hotel list (or the same standard):

Beijing: *** Ping An Fu Hotel Beijing

Nanjing: ** Jin Inn near Fuzimiao Nanjing

Suzhou: *** Chang Men Hotel Suzhou

Hangzhou: **(*) Wan Kai Hotel Hangzhou

Huangshan(Tunxi): ***(*) Huangshan Tiandu International Hotel

Huangshan (on the mountain): Lodge Cabin of Beihai Hotel

Jingdezhen: *** Xin Changjiang Hotel Jingdezhen

Wuyishan: *** Bao Dao Hotel Wuyishan

Shanghai: *** New Asia Hotel Shanghai

Include:

- 14 nights twin sharing accommodation with buffet breakfast
- Train ticket (soft sleeper): Beijing-Wuxi, Wuyishan-Shanghai
- Lunch and Dinner as mentioned in the itinerary
- (first) Entrance fee mentioned above
- Special visit to the tea plantations
- English speaking accompanying guide through out program on all days with excursions
- All Transfers specified in the itinerary by air-conditioned vehicle

Exclude:

- Chinese visa
- International Flight and airport tax

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- Tips, personal expenses
- Transfer for “day at leisure”
- Guide Service during the plane and train