



## Beijing / East-Central China 8-Day Tour (CITT08)

Beijing 北京 – Wuxi 无錫 – Suzhou 苏州 – Hangzhou 杭州 – Shanghai 上海

### Please note:

\* **At this time, only Chinese-speaking tour guides are available for this tour.**

\* **A minimum tour group size of 10 people is necessary for the tour to proceed.**

\* **The Chinese names listed in the itinerary are written with the simplified characters used in Mainland China.**

### Day 1: U.S.A. – Beijing

Today you will board a plane bound for China, where you will witness the vicissitudes of China's five thousand-year history. Your tour will begin with the dynamic capital city of Beijing.

### Day 2: Arrival in Beijing

Today, after arriving in Beijing, you will be greeted at the airport by CIT's professional bilingual tour guide and escorted to the hotel where you will be staying overnight.

### Day 3: Beijing (B/L/D)

Today you will visit **Tiananmen** (“the Gate of Heavenly Peace”) **Square**. You will make a special trip to see the **National Grand Theatre**, whose exterior looks like an enormous eggshell. Next, you will tour the **Forbidden City**, which served as the royal palace for 24 consecutive emperors. There you can explore art museums from every dynasty, exhibitions of Qing Dynasty cultural relics, the **Three Great Halls**, the **Palace of Heavenly Purity**, the **Imperial Garden**, and other attractions. In the evening you will stroll along the shore of **Shicha Hai**, a picturesque man-made lake.

#### Day 3 Attractions:

**Tiananmen Square** (天安门广场, Tiānānmén Guǎngchǎng)

**National Grand Theatre** (国家大剧院, Guójiā Dàjùyuàn)

**Forbidden City** (故宫, Gù Gōng, or 紫禁城, Zǐjìn Chéng)

**Three Great Halls** (三大殿, Sān Dàdiàn)

**Imperial Garden** (御花园, Yùhuā Yuán)

**Palace of Heavenly Purity** (乾清宫, Qiánqīng Gōng)

**Shicha Hai** (什刹海, Shíchà Hǎi)

### Day 4: Beijing (B/L/D)

Today you will visit the **Great Wall of China**, one of the Eight Wonders of the Ancient World. You can climb up to the highest point and admire the spectacular view of mountains arrayed around you. Afterward, you will tour the **Summer Palace**, used by the imperial family during the Qing Dynasty. Later, you will visit the famous sites of many 2008 Olympics events: the National Aquatics Center, or “**Water Cube**,” and the National Stadium, or “**Bird's Nest**.” For dinner, you will enjoy a meal of Peking Duck.

#### Day 4 Attractions:

**Great Wall of China** (万里长城, Wànlǐ Chángchéng)

**Summer Palace** (颐和园, Yíhé Yuán)

**Water Cube** (水立方, Shuǐ Lìfāng)

**Bird's Nest** (鸟巢, Niǎo Cháo)

**Special Arrangements:** **Peking duck** (烤鸭, kǎoyā)

### Day 5: Beijing – Shanghai – Wuxi (B/L/D)

After breakfast, you will take a flight to Shanghai, China's largest city. From there you will proceed by coach to “Little Shanghai”—the prosperous city of Wuxi. Wuxi combines stunning “mountain-and-water”



scenery, beautiful lake and river views, and human ingenuity. There you will visit **Lake Tai's** famous **Turtle Head Isle**, which features a vast expanse of emerald water and peaks that appear and suddenly disappear in the lake mist, creating a magical, constantly changing scene. Climb up to the top of the turtle's "head" and let the view take your cares away. Afterward, you will take a tour of a **freshwater pearl farm** at Lake Tai, then enjoy a lunch of Wuxi's most famous dish, Wuxi-style spareribs. After lunch, you will visit **Three Kingdoms City** to follow in the footsteps of the heroes of the famous historical novel *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* (三国演义). Three Kingdoms City is a re-creation of a Three-Kingdoms era town, with painstakingly authentic buildings, clothing, activities, and atmosphere. Finally, you will take a boat ride on misty Lake Tai before heading to dinner, which will feature a sampling of delightful Lake Tai-style cuisine.

#### Day 5 Attractions:

**Lake Tai** (太湖, Tài Hú), including a boat ride

**Turtle Head Isle** (鼋头渚, Yuántóu Zhǔ)

**freshwater pearl farm** (淡水珍珠养殖场, Dànshuǐ Zhēnzhū Yǎngzhíchǎng)

**Three Kingdoms City** (三国城, Sānguó Chéng)

#### Day 6: Wuxi – Suzhou – Hangzhou (B/L/D)

After breakfast, you will head to Suzhou, where your first stop will be a place filled with poetic atmosphere: **Cold Mountain Temple**, made famous by the poem "Anchored at Night by Maple Bridge." Next, you will visit one of Jiangnan's four most famous classical gardens, the **Lingering Garden**, which features a variety of beautiful and interesting works of architecture and landscaping. As evening approaches, you will have some leisure time at **Shantang Street**, which has a history of more than 1100 years. Here you can admire row upon row of traditional houses and shops, many of which are sandwiched between the street and the canal behind them, and some of which even feature a connecting span built over the street itself. You can take a boat ride along the **Shantang Street Canal**, admiring the boats adorned with jasmine flowers, white orchids, and other decorations as they float to and fro. You can also enjoy a distant view of the faraway **Tiger Hill Leaning Tower** (also known as **Cloud Rock Pagoda**), which can be called China's Leaning Tower of Pisa. Afterward, you will proceed by coach to Hangzhou, where a Hangzhou-style "clay pot" dinner banquet awaits.

#### Day 6 Attractions:

**Cold Mountain Temple** (寒山寺, Hánshān Sì)

**Lingering Garden** (留园, Liú Yuán)

**Shantang Street** (山塘街, Shāntáng Jiē)

**Shantang Street Canal** (古运河, Gǔ Yùnhé)

view of **Tiger Hill Leaning Tower / Cloud Rock Pagoda** (虎丘斜塔, Hǔqiū Xiétǎ / 云岩塔, Yúnyán Tǎ)

#### Day 7: Hangzhou – Shanghai (B/L/D)

Today, you will first take a tour of **Lingyin Temple**, which according to legend was originally built by a Buddhist monk from India. (Those who would like to burn incense can do so at their own expense.) Nicknamed "Chan Temple of the Misty Forest," Lingyin Temple is one of China's "ten Chan (Zen) Buddhist temples." Next you will visit iconic **West Lake**, Hangzhou's most famous tourist attraction. We have made special arrangements for you to take a relaxing boat trip and enjoy the scenery of West Lake, which is bounded on one side by a modern downtown area and on the other sides by the natural beauty of Hangzhou's hills. This scenery is one of the main reasons for the Chinese expression "Up above, there's Heaven; down here, there's Suzhou and Hangzhou." We have also set aside plenty of time for you to walk along the shore of West Lake and take in its many famous sights, such as **Red Carp Pond** and **Liulang Wenying Park**. As evening approaches, you will once again head to Shanghai to visit the famous **Temple of the Town Gods shopping district**, where you will find goods of every description, including artworks, jewelry, clothes, snacks, souvenirs, toys, and special folk handicrafts. Afterward, you can enjoy the night scenery at the nearby **Bund**, a stretch of the Huangpu River lined with old colonial



buildings that stand across from an imposing cluster of skyscrapers in the **Pudong** district. Your dinner will feature authentic traditional Shanghai “Běnbāng” cuisine.

**Day 7 Attractions:**

**Lingyin Temple** (灵隐寺, Língyǐn Sì)

a boat ride on **West Lake** (西湖, Xī Hú)

**Red Carp Pond** (花港观鱼, Huāgǎng Guānyú)

**Liulang Wenying Park** (柳浪闻莺, Liǔlàng Wényīng)

**Temple of the Town Gods Old Street** (城隍庙老街, Chénghuáng Miào Lǎojiē)

the **Bund** (外滩, Wàitān)

view of **Pudong** (浦東, Pǔdōng)

**Day 8: Shanghai – U.S.A.**

Today you will say farewell to Shanghai and return to your home, sweet home. You will board the **Shanghai Maglev Train**, the world’s only commercial high-speed maglev train. The western end of the line leaves from Longyang Road Station on Shanghai’s No. 2 subway line, and its eastern end is at Pudong International Airport; its total length is 30 kilometers. With a maximum speed of 431 kilometers per hour, the train takes only 7 minutes and 20 seconds to transport you the entire length of the track to the airport, where you will take a flight back to the United States.

**Day 8 Attractions:**

**Shanghai Maglev Train** (磁浮列车, Cífú Lièchē)



**Tour Features:**

- 4- or 5-Star accommodations throughout the trip

**Complimentary Features:**

- travel accident insurance
- free air ticket extensions for those who wish to stay longer (entire trip must be no longer than 30 days)

**Tour price includes the following:**

1. round-trip international plane ticket
2. all domestic travel fares within China
3. tour guide fee
4. entrance fees and tickets for all places and programs listed in the itinerary (non-refundable)
5. three satisfying meals a day (except on international arrival and departure days and as noted in the itinerary)
6. travel accident insurance

**Tour price does NOT include the following:**

1. Chinese visa processing fee
2. air ticket fees and taxes
3. any and all personal expenses
4. tips for tour leader, tour guides, driver, bellhops, etc.
5. any other expenses caused by acts of God, natural disasters, fires, weather, acts of government or authorities, political changes, strikes, war, riots, quarantine, customs regulations, damages or injury caused by accidents beyond the responsibilities or control of travel agents

<b>Departure Date</b>	<b>Price</b> (not including fees and taxes)
through 3/31/10	\$688
4/1 – 6/2	\$799
6/3 – 9/1	\$1199
9/2 – 10/31	\$999
11/1 – 12/4	\$899
12/5 – 1/2/2011	\$1199

**China International Travel CA, Inc. cancellation policy:** Notice of cancellation must be received by fax or mail; verbal notice only will not be considered sufficient. Please contact CIT to confirm that we have received your cancellation notice. A cancellation fee will be charged according to the following criteria:

- 60 or more days prior to departure: \$200 per person will be assessed.
- 45-59 days prior to departure: \$300 per person will be assessed.
- 30-44 days prior to departure: \$400 per person will be assessed.
- 15-29 days prior to departure: \$500 per person will be assessed.
- 3-14 days prior to departure: \$1000 per person will be assessed.
- Less than 3 days or nonappearance: 100% of total charge.

If tickets for any form of transportation (including, but not limited to, airline, cruise, or train) have already been issued or final confirmation has been received at time of cancellation, an additional penalty will be assessed in accordance with the policies of the company providing the transportation.