

Classic China HOMESTAY



Highlights

- Yu Garden
- The Bund
- Shikumen House Museum
- Acrobatics Show
- Wuzhen Town
- Lingyin Temple
- West Lake cruise
- Tea Gardens
- Old Beijing/ Hutong
- Rickshaw ride
- Make Chinese dumplings
- Teach at school
- Great Wall of China
- Beijing National Stadium
- Temple of Heaven
- Forbidden City
- Tian'anmen Square

Itinerary

Shanghai (2) Wuzhen/Hangzhou (3) Beijing (3)

DAY 1 SHANGHAI Depart from your city to Shanghai, China.

DAY 2 SHANGHAI Welcome to Shanghai, the largest city in China. On arrival, your private bus and guide will escort you to orientation & transfer you to the hotel.

DAY 3 SHANGHAI Begin your day's tour at Yu Garden, a classical garden in downtown Shanghai. Travel on to visit The Bund, the birthplace of Shanghai and the most famous sightseeing spot in the region. Next, see the once ubiquitous Shikumen houses that are quickly disappearing in the city. The Shikumen House Museum will bring the traditional old Shanghai home to life in the context of Chinese history. Tonight, enjoy the famous Acrobatics Show, an interactive, gravity-defying production that transcends the language barrier.

DAY 4 WUZHEN - HANGZHOU Depart Shanghai for your home stay destination, Hangzhou. En route, stop in historic Wuzhen Town. The town has been beautifully preserved in ancient residential neighborhoods, workshops and shops still standing on the banks of the rivers. After your visit, continue on your journey to Hangzhou, where you will meet your new "family" at a local school.

DAY 5 HANGZHOU Join your group at the school and begin your day of discovery with a visit to Lingyin Temple, one of the best-known Buddhist monasteries in China. Return to the school with your host family and attend a class with your new friends. Return to your host family's home for the evening.

DAY 6 HANGZHOU Take a relaxing cruise on the West Lake, a fairy tale setting of hills rising above the peaceful waters, enchanted islands and charming pagodas. Visit the Tea Garden and learn how tea is made by hand at the Tea Making Center. Tonight,

enjoy a Thank You Dinner with local students and your home stay families. Transfer to the train station for your overnight train to Beijing.

DAY 7 BEIJING Arrive at the train station in the morning and transfer to your hotel for breakfast. Depart for a visit of Old Beijing, known as Hutong. Take an exhilarating rickshaw ride through the historic streets. This afternoon, learn to make traditional Chinese dumplings with a local family and enjoy your creation for dinner this evening.

DAY 8 BEIJING This morning, visit a local Beijing school and teach the students about your culture's customs while learning theirs. On today's guided tour, climb the Great Wall of China, the only man-made structure visible from the moon. See the setting of the spectacular 2008 Olympics, The Beijing National Stadium, then visit the cutting-edge National Aquatics Center, known as the "water cube". Top off your tour with a visit to the Summer Palace, an immense park that had long been a royal garden and was considerably embellished by Emperor Qianlong in the 18th Century.

DAY 9 BEIJING After breakfast, set off on a full day private tour of the Temple of Heaven, the Forbidden City and Tian'anmen Square. Continue on to visit The Forbidden City, a maze of palaces built between 1417 and 1420 as the residence of the emperor. The 9,000 halls and rooms contain many precious relics and make it the largest palace in the world. Your tour concludes at the famous Tian'anmen Square where one million people gathered in 1949 to hear Chairman Mao Zedong proclaim the birth of New China. This evening, enjoy a special farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY 10 BEIJING - USA After breakfast at your hotel, transfer to the airport for your flight home.