

Datong Extension 3 Days/ 2 Nights

An imperial city in the fourth and fifth centuries, Datong today is most famous for its proximity to the wonderful Buddhist caves at Yungang. Intricately carved during the region's glory days and cut into the cliffs of Wuzhou Shan, they now offer visitors a complex of over 50,000 religious statues. Datong is also the gateway to the region's other amazing treasure - a hanging monastery dating back 14,00 years and which clings dramatically to a wall just outside Hunyuan, 45 miles southeast of the city. The combination of these important sites makes Datong a fascinating place in which to spend a couple of days.

Tour Itinerary

Day 01: Travel from Beijing to Datong by train

Day 02: Full day Yungang Caves and Hanging Temple tour

Day 03: Return to Beijing by train

Gardens & Waterways Extension 4 Days/3 Nights

Suzhou and Hangzhou

During the 16th century, Suzhou was in its prime and widely regarded as one of China's most beautiful cities. With its classical gardens and picturesque canals, cobbled alleys and artist's pavilions, it was a wonderfully harmonious place. Much of its splendour has survived the passing centuries, making Suzhou a 'must' for many visitors to China. Once described by Marco Polo as 'one of the most splendid cities in the world', it is just an hour from Shanghai and provides a wonderful glimpse into China's classical past.

Hangzhou was at one time hugely prosperous. Today the city is a fairly quiet, modern affair but most people come for the sublime scenery around the glorious West Lake, an area that has inspired poets and painters for generations and now captivates visitors from all over the world.

Tour Itinerary

Day 01: Travel from Shanghai to Hangzhou by train
Afternoon West Lake Cruise

Day 02: Hangzhou tour and afternoon train to Suzhou

Day 03: Visit the gardens of Suzhou and the Silk Museum

Day 04: Transfer to Shanghai

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Panda & Mountain Extension 5 Days/4 Nights

Chengdu/Leshan/Mount Emei

The capital of Sichuan and home to some of China's most delicious and spiciest cuisines, Chengdu offers visitors temples and peaceful parks in which to drink tea, play mah-jong and people watch. To the north of the city is the world-renowned Giant Panda Breeding Base, a centre dedicated to helping preserve this rare and much loved creature from extinction.

Chengdu is also a gateway to a Buddhist pilgrimage route that includes Leshan with its giant Buddha statue towering a majestic 233ft and built over 1,200 years ago. South of Chengdu is Mount Emei - one of China's four famous Buddhist Mountains and home to many beautiful temples and monasteries which bring both a spiritual and ancient atmosphere to this scenic location. These two rather special destinations are both featured on UNESCO's list of world heritages sites.

Tour Itinerary

Day 01: Arrival in Chengdu

Chengdu tour including the Giant Panda Breeding Base

Day 02: Visit the Leshan Buddha and transfer to Mt. Emei

Day 03: Mt. Emei tour

Day 04: Sunrise on Mt. Emei and return to Chengdu

Day 05: Transfer to the airport for your onward flight

