



# Deeper Experience

of

# Beautiful Jiangnan

## *Huizhou Ancient Villages & Yellow Mountain via Shanghai/Suzhou/Hangzhou*

Would you like to see beautiful places that not many tourists have seen, step into the thickness of Chinese traditional culture, experience the traditional way of living, food, the arts, and life in rural villages?

Throughout Chinese history, Jiangnan (south of the Yangtze River) has always been known for its traditional villages by canals, ancient Chinese gardens, misty and romantic rain, delicate willows and flowers by the lake, silk and tea, poets and artists, beautiful physical features of people.

The Yellow Mountain (Huangshan) has been depicted widely in Chinese literature as the most beautiful mountain of all, and the villages around it are ancient, characteristic and less known to the outsiders.

In this unique tour, you will

- See a number of world-heritage listed natural and cultural beauties.
- Stroll into and/or stay in traditional rural villages and ancient towns.
- Observe and/or participate cooking delicious healthy home meals in rural China.
- Observe and/or participate in the making of various Chinese arts (among bamboo weaving, silk making, ink-making, cloth-dyeing, paint brush making, paper making, Chinese calligraphy, local opera and more)
- Participating in seasonal farming activities, such as harvest bamboo shoots, mulberry leaves, pick tea leaves, plant rice, forage for wild vegetables.
- Acquire beautiful souvenirs organically at your choice of time and leisure

Although a few sites are the must-see famous touristy spots, most of the destinations are on less-treaded paths, relaxing, flexible and accommodating, free from commercialism.

Quality Chinese meals included throughout the tour.

Accommodations are 4-star hotels and charming village living, twin share. Extra fee for single rooms.

All transport in China is taken care of, you arrange your own return flights to Shanghai.

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So Beautiful



## Day 1 Arrival in Shanghai in the evening

Our guide will meet you outside the arrival hall of the airport and escort you to check in the hotel, enjoy local cuisine and a good night rest.

## Day 2 Shanghai - Suzhou - Huangshan City

1.5hour drive to Suzhou, a city with classic Chinese gardens and a long history of silk culture. We'll visit **Zhuozheng Yuan** (the Humble Administrator's Garden, the largest garden in Suzhou and considered by one of the four most famous in China, along with other classical gardens of Suzhou was proclaimed a UNESCO heritage site. After visiting the **Shantang Street**, the miniature of the old Suzhou, we'll drive to the **No.1 Silk Factory** to get to know the silk culture, if you like, you may purchase some good silk products. During dinner, enjoy the Suzhou Pingtan, the local storytelling and ballad singing in Suzhou dialect. Then take the overnight train to Huangshan City (Ancient Huizhou City).



## Day 3 Ancient Huizhou: Tangmo Village

Witness the ancient Memorial Archways at **Tangyue Village**, browse through the over ten thousands of Penjing (Bonzai) at **Bao's Private Garden**, helping farmers with seasonal light work, such as picking tea leaves, mulberry leaves and silk making; enjoy the Shuikou Garden (Fengshui Garden) at the ancient **Tangmo Village**, learn stone tablet printing and local Huangmei Opera.



## Day 4 Ancient Huizhou (Huangshan City)

A leisurely early morning for you to relax, stroll down or cycle along the country roads. Then bus to visit traditional mountain village-**Yangchan**, earthen building with local rocks and wood. In the afternoon, bus to **Xin'an River** and boat to admire this beautiful ecological Landscape Gallery, and enjoy traditional fishing performance.



## Day 5 Yellow Mountain

Bus to the World Cultural and Natural Heritage Site and World Geological Park- Huangshan (**Yellow Mountain**), which has been immortalized in the elegant brushstrokes of Chinese landscape paintings. Cable car up the mountain, then spend the whole day enjoying the highlights in the North Sea (cloud sea) and the West Sea Scenic Area on the mountain, such as Lion Peak and Beginning-to-believe Peak. Cable car down and bus to **Huangshan Hot Spring**, and enjoy the natural hot springs after dinner.



## Day 6 Mukeng Bamboo Forest, picturesque ancient villages

Immerse yourself into the lush green and quiet **Mukeng Bamboo Forest**, it is one of the film sites of “Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon”, work with local farmers to dig fresh bamboo shoots. Enjoy the most beautiful wood carvings in **Lucun Village**, then visit the UNESCO heritage site **Hongcun Village** – a village in Chinese painting, with lots of Hui-style architecture.



## Day 7 Traditional activities in Nanping Village, and Grand Huiyun Performance

Get among the tall walls and deep alleys of the maze-like **Nanping Village**, learn bamboo weaving from traditional artists, pick fresh vegetables and wild herbs with locals, and cook lunch with farmers at their house. In the afternoon, learn natural cloth dyeing, and making Huizhou Cookies.

Drive to Tunxi. After dinner, you will enjoy the one-hour captivating performance: “**Picturesque Huizhou**” with English subtitles. The performance is one of the biggest in China.



## Day 8 Qiyun Mountain and its Daoism Culture

After breakfast, drive to one of the four Chinese Taoist Mountains- Mt. Qiyun (1 hour). Take the cable car up the mountain. Then visit Elephant Trunk Rock, Heavenly Street, Yuxu Temple etc. Learn Taiji from the local Taiji Master. In the afternoon, shuttle bus down the mountain, back to Tunxi.



## Day 9 Ancient Huizhou - Hangzhou

Visit the historic **Hukaiwen Inkstick Factory**, appreciating the art of ink making, try Miaojin – gold painting on inksticks, the last step in inkstick making. Then visit the **Tunxi Old Street** which is the best –kept ancient business street with the architectural style of Song, Ming and Qing Dynasty, experiment Chinese calligraphy in a local workshop and learn how to make Chinese paintbrush with the local master.

In the afternoon, drive to Hangzhou city and visit the **Grand Jinhang Canal Old Street** and its museums of Paper umbrella, Fans and scissors.



## Day 10 Hangzhou - Shanghai

Hangzhou was once claimed by Marco Polo to one of the most splendid cities of the world. The stunning **West Lake** with its beautiful surrounding including a pagoda, temples and nice gardens gives a unique atmosphere to the whole city. Take a boat cruise on West Lake, one of the few UNESCO- listed cultural heritage sites associating with a lake) . Visit Flower Harbour– scenic lakeside park with flowering trees and ponds. In the afternoon, take the bullet train to Shanghai and night cruise the **Huangpu River** and appreciate the splendid night Shanghai.



## Day 11 Shanghai ✈

Visit the most popular scenic spots in Shanghai City., including the 468m-high **Oriental Tower**, the landmark building of Shanghai; **the Bund**, a 4km-long waterfront where 52 buildings of different architectural styles such as Baroque, Gothic, Romanesque, Chinese and Renaissance are standing, and **Shiku men** (old stone-framed-door houses with western influence), **Nanjing Road** (It is the most famous shopping street in Shanghai where both time-honored Chinese and world-famous brands are located). Then drive to Pudong Airport for your departure.

