

# 9-Day Yangtze South

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Shanghai, Hangzhou, Huangshan, Wuzhen, Suzhou...



**Huangshan:** "Yellow Mountain" is one of the most notable mountains in China. World wide, it is as wonderful as the great Canyons or Niagara falls. It is renowned to be the most beautiful mountain range in the country. The startling, cloud-cloaked peaks of Huangshan have been celebrated by poets and painters for centuries. The area is famous for its scenery, sunset, peculiarly-shaped granite peaks, Huangshan pine trees, and views of clouds above.



**Hongcun:** Located in the southwest slope of Mt. Huangshan, the village is arranged in the shape of an “ox,” a typical example of a Hui-style residence. Today approximately over 150 residences dating back to the Ming and Qing Dynasties are said to be among the best of their kind in China.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

### Luxurious and atmospheric accommodations:

- Stay in the finest accommodations in each area including luxurious 4-5 star hotels in Shanghai, Hangzhou, and Suzhou.

### Special site arrangements:

- Visit Huangshan, where mountain peaks jut through a sea of clouds so close, you walk right through them. One of China’s top 10 sights, Huangshan is famous throughout Asia for scenery found nowhere else on the planet.
- Take one of 3 custom routes while hiking Huangshan; each designed for your personal physical strength level.
- Free time in Shanghai – a sleek cosmopolitan city with a distinct contrast between ancient memories and an ever-changing façade.
- Discover China’s gracefulness in disorder in Xidi and Hongcun. A location for the film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, Hongcun, reflects Anhui’s quiet beauty.
- See the essence of classic Chinese landscapes and architecture in Jiang Nan (Southern Yangtze). Gardens in this region are renowned as the essence of landscape art. In the “Venice of China,” or Wuzhen, see the mood of the Southern Yangtze reflected in this canal city with artistically inspirational scenery and ancient traditions.

### Trip flexibility and special comforts

- Each meal is unique and carefully selected to give you a true taste of local specialties in China’s Jiangnan region.
- VIP seats at the Shanghai Grand Theatre for the Shanghai Acrobat Troupe performance included.
- Maximum capacity 22 passengers per tour.
- Our all-inclusive tour package includes air tickets, hotels, most meals, transportations, admissions, and the services of escorted tour guides.

Quick Reference	
Pace	Slow – Fast ██████████
Walking distance	Short – Long ██████████
Sightseeing type	Cultural –Natural ██████████





**West Lake:** Undoubtedly the most renowned feature of Hangzhou. The lake is noted for its scenic beauty that blends naturally with the many famous historical and cultural sites. The lake's natural charm has been enhanced by artificial restoration since Tang and Song Dynasties.

## TODAY'S TRAVELS

### Day 1 • Depart North America for Shanghai, China

#### Day 2 • Arrive in Shanghai

Welcome to Shanghai, the financial and fashion center of China! Upon arriving at the airport, you will be escorted to your nearby hotel by a Signet representative where you can take time to rest for tomorrow's sightseeing. (D)

#### Day 3 • Shanghai • Hangzhou

Today's sightseeing journey begins in the New Pudong District. See cultural landmarks such as the Lu Jia Zui financial district, Oriental Pearl Tower, and walk along Binjiang Avenue for the best views of the historic Bund and riverside scenery. Next, visit the Old City God Temple and Yu Garden for shopping and dining. After lunch, lounge in the affluent Xin Tian Di Plaza, notable for its blend of traditional Chinese and modern Western style architecture. Before leaving for Hangzhou, explore the former residence of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, forefather of China's nationalist movement after the fall of imperialism. Tonight, check-in to your hotel with free time to stroll along the calm shores of West Lake before dinner. (B, L, D)

#### Day 4 • Hangzhou

Hangzhou is called "Paradise on Earth" by locals; a lofty nickname given for the beauty of the region's famous Xi Hu or West Lake. See the most of Xi Hu with our special planning; several ways to enjoy the scenery include a leisurely walk along the Bai Causeway, sampling Long Jing tea by the waterfront, and hopping aboard a traditional open top boat to view scenic spots up close. After lunch, visit Fei Lai Feng to see the stone grottos of the "Peak Flown From Afar", dating from the Song dynasty (1200 A.D.), and visit the Lingyin temple – one of the most famous in China for its elegant carvings. Depart Hangzhou for Huang Shan city, enjoy time to explore Tunxi. Preserved as a pedestrian-only area, the Ancient Street in Tunxi features many classic shops, 60 of which have been around for over 100 years. Famous local crafts include bamboo weavings, lacquer-ware, and ink sticks. (B, L, D)

#### Day 5 • Hangzhou • Huangshan

Visit the ancient town of Hongcun, chosen as a set for the film *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* for retaining its Ming and Qing Dynasty (1300-1600 A.D) architecture and atmosphere. Afterwards, begin your journey to Huang Shan (Yellow Mountain), renown through China as the pinnacle of all mountains in the country. Take an aerial lift which will take you from the Cloud Valley Temple to Shixin Feng (Beginning to Believe Peak). Here, see jaw-dropping views described as Chinese landscape paintings come to life. Xiyuan Huang, a famous Ming Dynasty poet, equated being here to standing in the middle of a Chinese painting or dreamland. See the fantastically shaped peaks at San Hua Wa (Sunken Flower bed) and the Cloud Dispersing Pavilion and its majestic natural scenery. (B, L, D)

**Wuzhen:** water town located south of the Yangtze River in the Zhengjiang province. Flat and low in elevation, the land allows lakes are seen dotted here and there, with rivers and canals crisscrossing in between.



## Day 6 • Huangshan • Hangzhou

Start from your hotel situated in the mountain and choose from 3 routes:

- A. Start with Bright Summit Peak, the second highest peak of Huang Shan at an elevation of 6,040 ft. As the best place for appreciating a concentration of Huang Shan's best scenic attractions-East Sea, West Sea, North Sea and Heavenly Sea, it is said that the real beauty of the mountain cannot be felt until you reach this area. Hike to Aoyu (Sea Turtle) Peak, where standing on its platform, you can be greeted by a precipitous scene of Lotus Flower, Jade Screen and Celestial Capital Peaks. The charming and sometimes scary views from here are simply unforgettable. Next, we go up the Hundred-step Cloud Ladder. With an actual total of 208 steps, this stairway is inlaid in a precipitous cliff rising up from a deep ravine. Stepping on it in a windy day, you feel as if you were walking into a sea of clouds and mist, thrilling and exciting. Pass by Lotus Flower Peak, Huang Shan's highest peak at 6,115 ft, on your way to Jade Screen Pavilion. (3 hour guided hike; average physical intensity)
- B. As group A is taking a cable car down the hill, we ascend to Fei Lai Shi (Rock Flown From Afar). Have lunch on Huang Shan before taking a cable car down from Cloud Valley Station. (4 hour guided hike; more intense climb)
- C. Take time on your own at the hotel and meet the group for lunch (no guide; most relaxed pace)

Together, we leave Huang Shan and travel to our hotel in Hangzhou for dinner. (B, L, D)

## Day 7 • Hangzhou • Suzhou

Visit the Venice of China – Wuzhen, an ancient water-town in Yangtze South. Boating around the water lanes, you can feel the serenity, romance, and subtle beauty of this small canal town. Next, explore Suzhou Liu Yuan (Lingering Gardens). Built during the Ming Dynasty, this traditional garden remains one of the most famous in China. Continue to the Dongling Silk Institute for a presentation of the silk making process. In the afternoon, travel to the famous Shantang Ancient Street where many shops have histories stretching back several centuries. Here, enjoy dinner with a live performance of PingTan, or musical storytelling, while dining in a local 100 year old restaurant. (B, L, D)

## Day 8 • Suzhou • Shanghai

So named for its resemblance to a crouching tiger, Tiger Hill is Suzhou's most famous scenic spot. With the oddly-tilted Yunyan Pagoda and mystical legends surrounding sites such as "Sword-Testing Rock and Sword Pond," Tiger Hill is a favorite for locals. Leaving Suzhou, travel to Shanghai for an afternoon of free activities. Maps and a mini guide included to let you see the city with your own special adventure. To enjoy a personal evening in town, dinner is on your own. Enjoy an optional night at the Shanghai Grand Theatre for an astounding performance by the Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe. (B, L)

## Day 9 • Hotel • Departure

After breakfast, a Signet Tours representative will escort you to the airport. Zai jian! (B)



**Pudong New Area:** Represented by modern-style architectural structures such as Century Park, Lu Jia Zui financial & Trading Zone, Oriental Pearl TV Tower, and Binjiang Avenue.