Lan Su Chinese Garden
14 Day Highlights of China Tour
Featuring Suzhou
April 29-May 12, 2018
Your Daily Itinerary

DAY 1, Sunday, April 29 - Depart for China
Depart Portland, Oregon for China

DAY 2, Monday, April 30 - Arrive in Shanghai
Arrive in cosmopolitan Shanghai, the fastest growing city in Asia, with its dramatic ever-changing skyline; transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to acclimate to this sparkling city and your new time zone. 
Overnight: Shanghai

DAY 3, Tuesday, May 1 - Shanghai City Tour, Yu Yuan Gardens, Jade Buddha Temple
This morning, join your Tour Manager and fellow travelers at a briefing on the extraordinary journey that lies ahead in China. Experience the old world charm of the Bund as you stroll along this park-like waterfront promenade surrounded by gorgeous vistas of old and new Shanghai. Along the way, visit a working silk carpet and embroidery shop, meet the craftsmen and learn more about this ancient Chinese skill.
Afterwards, visit the classical Yu Yuan Gardens (Garden of Happiness) in the Old Quarter, built during the Ming Dynasty. This beautiful and serene sanctuary features pagodas, ponds, lakes, and magnificent pavilions. Lunch at a local Chinese restaurant.
Next, on to the Jade Buddha Temple built during the Qing Dynasty to enshrine two stunning Buddha statues given as a gift from Burma. These rare and precious statues are carved with crystal-clear white jade, creating an aura of sanctity and purity. The rest of the afternoon is yours to discover the rhythm of this vivacious city on your own.
Tonight you will enjoy "Shanghai by night" beginning with dinner at a local restaurant.
From there you will drive to the pier near the Bund waterfront to board a ship for a 40 minute cruise on the Huangpu River, the mother river of Shanghai. On this tour you will learn more about and experience the 200 years of Colonial history in Shanghai. 
Overnight: Shanghai
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4, Wednesday, May 2 - Full Day Hangzhou with Lunch
Enjoy a full day tour to Hangzhou, with its enchanting natural beauty and fascinating cultural heritage, known as "Heaven on Earth." Travel aboard the new high-speed Bullet Train - a great experience! Once there, cruise on West Lake with its scenic beauty that blends naturally with the many surrounding historical and cultural sights. After lunch at a local restaurant return to Shanghai.
Visit famous Nanking Road, with time to shop to your heart's content in this elegant neighborhood with its astonishing array of international shops and boutiques. Overnight: Shanghai
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5, Thursday, May 3 - Travel to Suzhou
Following a free morning and hotel check out you will depart Shanghai headed east to Suzhou, a major city located in southeastern Jiangsu Province. Founded in 514 BC, Suzhou has over 2,500 years of history, with an abundant display of relics and sites of historical interest. The city is known for its canals, stone bridges and pagodas, but it is its meticulously designed gardens that has made Suzhou one of the top tourist attractions in China. The Classical Gardens of Suzhou were added to the list of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1997 and 2000. Suzhou is often dubbed the "Venice of the East" or "Venice of China." A late afternoon arrival is planned where dinner will be served at your hotel.
Overnight: Suzhou
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
DAY 6, Friday, May 4 -
Humble Administrator’s Garden, Pingjiang Road
Following breakfast, a full day tour is planned beginning with a visit to Humble Administrator’s Garden, Suzhou’s largest garden and considered one of the top four gardens in China. Here you will marvel at one of the best classical gardens designed from the Ming Dynasty style that was originally built in 1509 by retired magistrate Wang Xianchen. Touring resumes nearby from the Humble Administrator’s Garden with a visit to the old town of Suzhou and Pingjiang Road. Here free time will be given to enjoy the local cafes, little shops, bars and the feeling that you have stepped back in time. The day continues with a visit to the fascinating Suzhou Museum of Opera and Theater, located in a Ming dynasty theatre of latticed wood and has display halls with old musical instruments, hand-copied books, lyrics and scores, masks and costumes. Touring ends at the Suzhou No.1 Silk Factory where you will learn about the history and culture of silk in China and see how it is processed from worm to the final product. Shop wonderful silk home goods and clothing. A late afternoon return is planned to your hotel in Suzhou.

Overnight: Suzhou
Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7, Saturday, May 5 -
The Master of the Nets, Grand Canal Cruise, Panmen Scenic Area
Today brings you to our "Sister-Garden" - The Master of the Nets, recognized with other classical Suzhou gardens as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The garden epitomizes Chinese garden designers' genius for synthesizing art, nature, and architecture to create unique metaphysical masterpieces. The Master of the Nets is particularly regarded among garden connoisseurs for its exceptional technical elements of relative dimension, contrast, foil, sequence and depth, and borrowed scenery. The day continues with your arrival at the Xumen Pier for a cruise along the Grand Canal. This is the best way to see how locals live in and around the old town of Suzhou. It is then a short drive to Panmen Scenic Area to appreciate the “three fine sceneries” - Panmen Gate, Wu Men Bridge and Ruiguang Pagoda. A late afternoon return is then planned back to your hotel in Suzhou.

Overnight: Suzhou
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8, Sunday, May 6 -
Arrive in Xian, an Archaeological Treasure Trove
Following hotel check out you will transfer back Shanghai for your flight to Xian, the ancient capital of eleven dynasties and an archaeological treasure trove; arrive and transfer to your hotel. Time to relax before enjoying a unique dumpling dinner banquet, featuring over 20 different varieties of dumplings coupled with rice wine and hot pot soup. Enjoy this flavor-filled evening!

Overnight: Xian
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9, Monday, May 7 -
Xian, Visit and Lunch at Donghan Village
Begin the day at the magnificent South Gate (Yongning Gate) of the massive ancient city walls of Xian, built in the old Tang Dynasty and now completely restored. Xian was built as a defensive walled city, and even today the landmark wall divides the inner and outer parts of the city. Then, immerse yourselves in the local culture on a memorable visit to Donghan Village in Huxian County. This special experience starts with a visit to the village; see how country life hasn’t changed over the years. You are then invited to tour a villager’s home and enjoy their warm hospitality and friendship over lunch. Participate in the preparation of the meal - you’ll be an expert Chinese noodle maker when you leave! After a discussion about daily life and other interesting topics, admire the colorful peasant painting style inspired by traditional crafts and scenes from everyday rural life. A treasure trove of paintings will be unveiled to you at a painting studio along with exhibits of traditional Chinese brush painting and calligraphy. This evening, attend the Tang Dynasty Show that includes a six-course Imperial dinner. You’ll be entertained by Chang'an music and watch 1000-year-old dances performed by a passionate troupe. This historical performance is a national art, reflective of the glory and richness of China’s Tang Dynasty.

Overnight: Xian
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
DAY 12, Thursday, May 10 -
Great Wall of China, Visit Pandas at Beijing Zoo

An amazing day! Travel to the extraordinary 2000-year-old Great Wall of China, one of the most spectacular structures ever built by man, spanning nearly 4,000 miles of China's northern frontier. On your way, enter a jade shop to admire wares crafted with one of China's most precious and symbolic stones used for over 4,000 years. Then arrive in a less-crowded section in Badaling to avoid crowds and have a more leisurely experience. Mount the ramparts of this ancient wonder to view beautiful mountain passes, plateaus and grasslands from this 7th century defensive fortification. To aid local organizations, plant a tree along the ancient paths to commemorate your visit to the Great Wall. Linger over lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Beijing and then be ready to view the striking ultra-modern architectural site built for the 2008 Beijing Olympics; see the gigantic National Stadium and the Olympic Village. End the day with a visit to the Beijing Zoo with its ingeniously designed Panda houses. Meet one of the adorable Giant Panda Bears, China's most relaxed local celebrity and perhaps watch them munch on bamboo and watermelon!

Overnight: Beijing
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 13, Friday, May 11 -
Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Summer Palace

Your exploration of Beijing continues to Tiananmen Square, the largest public plaza in the world, built at the height of the Ming Dynasty. The square's Gate of Heavenly Peace was once used as a staging ground for Imperial edicts and by Mao Zedong to declare the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. Enter the Forbidden City, once residence of Chinese Emperors from the Ming to the Qing dynasties. This extraordinary walled complex, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is truly a masterpiece of Chinese architecture; its complex consists of 800 buildings with more than 9,000 rooms. After lunch at a local restaurant, continue to a pearl shop to learn about this popular export. End the day with a drive outside the city to the fabled Summer Palace, resort of the Empress Dowager. Bid farewell to your Tour Manager and fellow travelers at tonight's festive Peking Duck Dinner at a delightful restaurant.

Overnight: Beijing
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 14, Saturday, May 12 -
Depart China

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight back to Portland, Oregon.
Meals: Breakfast

For further details, contact:
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Your Package Includes:

- Flights Portland-Shanghai and Beijing-Portland (if airfare package selected)
- Airline taxes and fuel surcharges
- Internal flights Shanghai-Xian-Beijing
- 12 nights accommodations or similar
- 3 nights Crowne Plaza Shanghai Fudan, Shanghai
- 3 nights Pan Pacific Suzhou, Suzhou
- 3 nights Grand Park Xian Hotel, Xian
- 3 nights DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Beijing, Beijing
- 27 meals, 12 Breakfast, 7 Lunch, 8 Dinner
- Sightseeing via air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager
- Local guides as required
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Porterage on arrival and departure at each hotel

Land Only Price: $3,600 (double occupancy)
Land and Air: $4,700 (double occupancy)
Single Supplement: $350

*$1000 of package is tax deductible