

## 2 Days Suzhou and Tongli Water Town Tour

Tour Code: LCT- Suzhou & Tongli - 2D-01

Duration: 2 Days

Attractions: Humble Administrator's Garden, Lingering Garden, Shantang Street, Tiger Hill, Tongli Water Town

Overview: Praised as the Oriental Venice, Suzhou is definitely a place worth visiting. It's famous for the exquisite traditional Chinese private gardens and water towns. This tour offers you a great opportunity to admire the spectacular architectures and experience the laid-back local lives along the waterways. Prepare to be taken to a completely different world from other parts of China.

### Highlights:

1. Admire two of the top Chinese classic gardens - the Humble Administrator's Garden and Lingering Garden;
2. Shuttle back and forth on a rickshaw among the small alleys of Shantang Street;
3. Ride a gondola and have a great time in Tongli;
4. Taste the Suzhou delicacies in a local restaurant;
5. Enjoy a trouble-free transfer between Shanghai and Suzhou.

### Detailed Itinerary:

Day 1: Shanghai - Suzhou, Humble Administrator's Garden, Lingering Garden, Shantang Street

Your personal driver will be waiting for you at your Shanghai hotel lobby and take you to Suzhou where your guide is ready to host you upon arrival. The journey from Shanghai to Suzhou is about 1.5 hours when you can have some rest.

Your first sight today is the Humble Administrator's Garden, the largest classical Chinese garden in Suzhou. You will enjoy the beautiful scenes like pools, pavilions, corridors, man-made hills, rocks, bridges, and all kinds of plants.

At noon, your guide will recommend you some local delicacies like Squirrel-shaped Mandarin Fish, Whitebait Soup, and Biluo Shelled Shrimps for lunch.

Your afternoon tour starts with a visit to the Lingering Garden. Unlike the Humble Administrator's Garden, the Lingering Garden is smaller. Still, it's peaceful and comfortable, with all the clear

pools, small rock paths, little hills, old trees and fragrant flowers everywhere. You will feel like being in a fairyland.

Next, you will head for the Shantang Street where you can take a short rickshaw rick along the small alleys of Suzhou and explore the local life. You will see all kinds of characteristic stores selling souvenirs, antique boats shuttling back and forth in the canal, local people sitting on the bank and playing music, what a harmonious scene!

At the tour end, you will check in a Suzhou hotel and have a free evening savoring the charm of this water city.

#### Day 2: Tiger Hill, Drive to Tongli, Tongli Water Town

After breakfast, your guide and driver will take you to Tiger Hill first. It's said that the historically famous King Wu (ruled Suzhou during 495 B.C - 473 B.C) buried his father He Lv here and three days after the funeral, a white tiger crouched here. Therefore, King Wu named the place as the Tiger Hill. As small and low as the hill is, it's actually with spectacular views. Some of the most famous landscapes include the Yunyansi Pagoda, Sword Pool and the Qianren Stone. Some people even regard the Yunyansi Pagoda as the second leaning tower. You will also enjoy the picturesque Wanjing Mountain Villa and dense forest at the back of the Tiger Hill. What makes this place even more famous is that the annual local floral fair is held here, attracting tons of people to visit.

Have lunch at a decent Suzhou restaurant and drive to Tongli. Located about 25km from Suzhou city, Tongli Ancient Town is divided into 7 small islands by 15 interlacing rivers. Local residential buildings are lining up on both banks of rivers; stone bridges are arranged to connect all pathways; people are strolling leisurely along the stone alleys; all kinds of stores are decorated in old-fashioned styles; and the local snacks are constantly tempting your taste bud. You will find the views even more endearing on boat. Besides the waterways and featured architectures, you will also find some interesting gardens. One of these quite gardens is the Tuisi Garden, the only world cultural heritage in Tongli. We highly recommend you have a stroll inside the garden, you will be amazed.

After the tour, you will be escorted back to your Shanghai hotel.

#### **What's Important:**

What's included:

Air-conditioned vehicles with experienced driver.

Licensed Chinese- English bilingual speaking tour guide.

Entrance fee for sights mentioned.

Bottled water.

What's not included:

Meals

Personal expenses or private entertainment items at the sights.

Tips or gratuities for guide and driver if we did a good job (recommended)

Accommodation

What to take: smile and a relaxed, enthusiastic attitude.

**Good to Know:**

1. As our customer, your time is very valuable to us. We will never take you to any factories or shops for shopping.
2. For lunch, we will take you to a nice local restaurant, where you can enjoy the local food at a fair price. Please inform us about your food preferences in case you have any allergies.
3. The tour we provide you is based on days, not the hours. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours. In case you only need our service for between 6 hours to 8 hours in one day, we will consider it a day tour.
4. Please be aware that your itinerary can be changed at anytime. Whenever you want to adjust it, we will help you with that.
5. What we provide are high-quality private tours, you will only be with your families or friends. There are no other people joining your tour.
6. Wheelchairs are available, please advise prior to your trip in case you need any.
7. Please inform us in advance if you want to take train to get around. We include the second-class high-speed train tickets for you.

FAQ:

1. Can I change Tongli Water Town into Wuzhen Water Town?

Re: You can change the itinerary as you wish, but we are obligated to inform you that Wuzhen Water Town is farther from Suzhou than that Tongli (about 40km), which may incur extra cost for private transfer.

2. Can I replace the Lingering Garden with the Master of Nets Garden?

Re: Sure, you can choose whichever garden to visit in Suzhou.

3. Can I take train to Suzhou from Shanghai?

Re: Yes, you can take train to Suzhou and back to Shanghai. We will provide the train station transfers.

4. What is Suzhou known for?

Re: Suzhou is famous for the classical Chinese gardens, Suzhou cuisine and the picturesque water towns.

5. How far is Shanghai from Suzhou?

Re: Shanghai is about 90km from Suzhou. There are two ways to go to Suzhou from Shanghai, either by car or by train. If you choose private transfer, it takes about 1 hour, while the high-speed train only takes about 30min.

6. Which is better Suzhou or Hangzhou?

Re: Suzhou and Hangzhou are both the famous tourist cities in China. Suzhou is famous for the gardens and water towns, while Hangzhou is renowned for its West Lake and Longjing Tea Leaves. You can choose based on your own interests.

7. What's the best way to see Tongli Town?

Re: Tongli is a famous water town with featured architectures lining aside. You can choose to either walk on the bank or ride a local boat on the waterway.

8. Do you need to book in advance to visit Tongli Town?

Re: No, you just need to buy the tickets on spot. The ticket is 100 RMB per person.

9. When is Tongli Town open?

Re: The business hours of Tongli Water Town is from 07:30-17:15.

10. How do I get to Suzhou from Tongli Water Town?

Re: Private transfer is the best way to get to Tongli from Suzhou.