

Yangtze River Splendours - Group Tour 2016 - 15 Days

This newly released 15-day China tour features the pleasant Yangtze River cruise and many splendid attractions including the Great Wall and the Temple of Heaven in ancient Beijing, Terracotta Warriors and Horses in historical Xi'an. You will also visit subtropical Guilin - China's scenic paradise, and indulge yourself in the stunning Li River cruise.

| Date | Destinations | Attractions, Meals & Transport |
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| 1 | Day 1 (Wed) Arrive in Beijing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transfer: airport-hotel transfer in Beijing• breakfast, lunch• <i>Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City, Summer Palace, optional program</i> The Tian'anmen Square is the world's largest and renowned public square where many historical events once took place. |
| 2 | Day 2 (Thu) Beijing | <p>The Forbidden City (UNESCO) is the imperial place where the emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties ruled for nearly 500 years (1420-1911). Experience the architectural splendor of the palaces, ceremonial courtyards, and private quarters.</p> <p>The Summer Palace (UNESCO) is the largest imperial garden in the world. Emperors of successive dynasties created a summer retreat of Chinese gardens and pavilions, around the tranquil waters of Kunming Lake.</p> <p>Optional program: Kung Fu Show with Peking Duck dinner (USD 60 per person)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• breakfast, lunch• <i>Great Wall, Bird's Nest & Water Cube, a jade stone workshop en route</i> The Great Wall is one of the most spectacular structures ever built by humans and is the only one visible from space. |
| 3 | Day 3 (Fri) Beijing | <p>Take an outside tour to the Olympic Stadium, nicknamed Bird's Nest, and the National Swimming Centre, also known as the Water Cube.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• breakfast, lunch• <i>Temple of Heaven, Hutong Tour, a pearl workshop en route</i> The Temple of Heaven (UNESCO), where ancient Chinese emperors made sacrifices to Heaven and prayed for bountiful harvests, demonstrates the supreme achievement of traditional Chinese architecture. |
| 4 | Day 4 (Sat) Beijing | <p>Take a Hutong Tour to explore the oldest part of the city and gain insight into the traditional lifestyle and customs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• hotel-airport transfer in Beijing, airport transfer in Xi'an• breakfast, lunch• <i>Shaanxi History Museum, Big Wild Goose Pagoda</i> The Shaanxi History Museum, a national comprehensive museum in Xi'an, highlights the development of Chinese civilization more than 5,000 years. |
| 5 | Day 5 (Sun) Beijing - Xi'an (by air) | <p>The Big Wild Goose Pagoda, a Tang Dynasty landmark, is a seven-story pagoda initially constructed in 652 AD. One of the pagoda's many functions is to hold sutras and figurines of the Buddha that were brought to China from India by the Buddhist translator and traveler - Xuanzang.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• breakfast, lunch & special dinner• <i>Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses, Dumpling Banquet & Tang Dynasty Show, a ceramic & pottery workshop en route</i> The Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses (UNESCO) is one of the greatest archaeological discoveries in the world. More than 6000 life-sized terra cotta warriors, archers, infantrymen, horses, and bronze chariots have silently guarded the tomb of China's First Emperor for over 2,200 years. |
| 6 | Day 6 (Mon) Xi'an | <p>Enjoy a tasteful Dumpling Banquet followed by an exquisite traditional Tang Dynasty Show.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• hotel-airport transfer in Xi'an, airport transfer in Guilin• breakfast, lunch• <i>Reed Flute Cave</i> The Reed Flute Cave is a fascinating gallery of natural sculptures. Enjoy the radiating lights that illuminate the natural rock formation and stone pillars along the zigzag pathway in the cave. |
| 7 | Day 7 (Tue) Xi'an – Guilin (by air) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• take a cruise ship from Guilin to Yangshuo; transfer from Yangshuo to Guilin• breakfast, lunch• <i>Li River Cruise, leisure time in Yangshuo</i> In the morning, meet your guide at the hotel and transfer to embark on a memorable Li River Cruise. Through this 3-hour journey of China's best known natural scenery, you can appreciate unique karst landscapes as well as verdant hills and lovely waters. Then, arrive at Yangshuo at about 13:00 and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. |
| 8 | Day 8 (Wed) Guilin | <p>Ideas for leisure time in Yangshuo (optional tours): 1. Take a bamboo rafting on the Yulong River. Sitting in a chair on the raft and floating down the Yulong River, you will be impressed</p> |

by the amazing natural beauty in the countryside. 2. Yangshuo County is dotted with rolling hills, bamboo forests and local villages. Taking a walking tour with your guide and explore this scenic countryside is not a bad choice. 3. Or you could join in a 3-hour Chinese Cuisine Cookery Class. It is a great chance to learn a course of Chinese dish from local people. Your friends and family will be amazed when you make them Chinese dishes at the party.

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| 9 | Day 9 (Thu) Guilin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • breakfast • Free day in Guilin. <p>Optional program: one-day tour to Longsheng Dragon Spine Rice Terraces. (Price: USD 99 per person)</p> |
| 10 | Day 10 (Fri) Guilin - Chongqing (by air) - Yangtze Cruise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hotel-airport transfer in Guilin, airport transfer & port transfer in Chongqing • breakfast, lunch & dinner • <i>Chongqing Zoo, Embark on your Yangtze River Cruise Ship</i> The Chongqing Zoo is a popular park in the city. Giant pandas are the highlights for everyone and you could also see many rare animals such as golden monkeys and south China tigers in the park. Upon arrival in Yichang, transfer and embark on your Yangtze River Cruise Ship. The Yangtze River originates on the Tibetan Plateau and traverses a distance of 3900 miles before flowing into the East China Sea, near Shanghai. It has been the lifeline in China for millennia. |
| 11 | Day 11 (Sat) Yangtze Cruise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • breakfast, lunch & dinner • <i>Yangtze River Cruise (Shibaozhai)</i> Today, start sailing for a distance of 430 miles in all the great gorges. In the morning, you could enjoy the spectacular view from the deck or you could take an optional tour to Fengdu - China's "City of Ghosts" (CNY 280 per person). In legend, Fengdu was a ghost city and the entrance of heaven or hell, and the imaged ghost statues here reveal ancient Chinese religion and belief. After lunch, take a shore excursion to the Shibaozhai. The Shibaozhai is a 12-storey wooden pavilion built in the Ming Dynasty, which looks like a giant bonsai on the Yangtze River. A cofferdam was built around the Shibaozhai to protect it from the rising water level caused by the construction of the Three Gorges Dam. After returning to the cruise, you will be invited to the Captain's Welcome Party. |
| 12 | Day 12 (Sun) Yangtze Cruise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • breakfast, lunch & dinner • <i>Yangtze River Cruise (Shennong Stream)</i> This morning sail into Qutang Gorge, the shortest, narrowest and probably the most fascinating one. Later sail through Wu Gorge. It is well-known for the legend of 12 fairy maidens became the 12 peaks of Wu Gorge. Then you could take an optional tour to White Emperor Town, which is famous for historical temples and legends (CNY 280 per person). After lunch change to the "peapod" boat for sailing deep into the Shennong Stream for a 3 hours exploration. The contrasting heights of these gorges and the narrowness of the river make this area one of the most dramatic scenes in the world. Notice the ruins of the ancient plank road along the cliff face as well as the coffins suspended from the cliffs above. Afterwards, sail through the Five-step Ship Lock. |
| 13 | Day 13 (Mon) Yangtze Cruise - Yichang - Shanghai (by air) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • port-airport transfer in Yichang, airport-hotel transfer in Shanghai • breakfast, lunch • <i>Yangtze River Cruise (Three Gorges Dam Site) & disembark</i> In the morning take a shore excursion to the Three Gorges Dam Site, the largest dam and hydroelectric project in the world. Then sail down the Xiling Gorge. Later, disembark at Yichang and transfer to the airport or train station. |
| 14 | Day 14 (Tue) Shanghai | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • breakfast, lunch & dinner • <i>Yu Garden, Shanghai Museum, Bund, Xintiandi Street, Acrobatic Show</i> Owing to its ingenious design in Ming and Qing dynasties, the Yu Garden becomes a real museum of Chinese ancient architecture. The Shanghai Museum has a collection of 120,000 pieces of Chinese ancient treasures. The Bund, featured outstanding European colonial architectures, is full of new skyscrapers and historical buildings in the center of Shanghai. Take a stroll along the Xintiandi Street, a boutique area highlights a harmonious merger of classic and modern Shanghai. After your dinner, enjoy a spectacular Acrobatic Show, known as one of the most fabulous performance arts in China. |
| 15 | Day 15 (Wed) Depart Shanghai | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hotel-airport transfer in Shanghai • breakfast |

Tour Dates:

Fixed departures based on minimum of 2 travelers

Accommodation:

Beijing International Hotel
Xi'an Jianguo Hotel
Guilin Park Hotel
MV President Cruise
Shanghai Ocean Hotel

Tour Includes :

- English-speaking guide
- Air-conditioned coach or van
- Land transfers between airport and hotel.
- Entrance tickets as listed
- Chinese lunch and dinner as listed
- Yangtze Cruise Ticket (include accommodation, meals on board, the shore excursion in groups and daily activities)
- Hotels with daily breakfast
- Domestic flight ticket with taxes
- Service charge & government taxes

Tour Excludes :

- International flight tickets
- Personal expenses such as laundry, drinks, phone bills, optional activities
- Tips for guides and drivers (Suggested tipping amount per person per day: USD 5-7 for the guide and USD 3-5 for the driver)
- Chinese Visa
- Travel insurance

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