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15 days Essence of China with Yangtze River cruise tour

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Beijing
Xi'an
Guilin
Yangtze Cruise
Shanghai
Suzhou
Shanghai

Explore 5 highlight cities in China along with a Chongqing River cruise. Spectacular natural landscapes and cultural heritages are balanced to make your trip memorable. An elaborate ship and best service await during your cruise on the River.

Type
Private
Duration
15 days
Theme
1st Time travel to China, Culture and Heritage, Family focused, Natural scenery
Trip code
YCT-06
Price
From £ 1,570 per person

Itinerary

Travel from Beijing to Shanghai, stopping in 5 cities to visit their famous attractions along the way. This tour includes a Yangtze River Cruise tour experience. Be impressed by the unique and splendid scenery while sailing through the Three Gorges. More awaits as you disembark at Fengdu to learn about the unique ghost culture and visit the world's largest dam. Top services on board are provided to make your journey memorable.

Day 01 :

Arrive Beijing

Your Yangtze Cruise tour starts in Beijing, the capital of China. It is a historical city where you can see the majestic Great Wall and explore the real traditional culture of China. Upon arrival, Be greeted by your local guide and driver as they will drive you to the downtown hotel. The rest of the day is open and flexible for you to walk around for the first impression of this city. Overnight in Beijing.

Day 02 :

Beijing City Tour

Spend the whole day to visit three highlights in Beijing city: **Tiananmen Square**, **Forbidden City** and **Summer Place**. As the first sight in the morning, **Tiananmen Square** is almost synonymous with Beijing. Located in the heart of Beijing city, the square is worth a visit not just for its historical significance, but also for its size of being the largest public square in the world, which can accommodate up to a million people to hold ceremonies. Spend some time to walk around the square before you head to the north end and see the entrance of the Forbidden City.

Forbidden City once was the center of the imperial power and national politics during Ming and Qing dynasties. The majestic stone walkways and complex wooden structures reveal the power of both imperial and divine. According to the historical records, most parts of this imperial palace have been rebuilt several times because of the fire, so you can see lots of urns in all parts of the Forbidden City. They were kept filled with water in case of fire.

After lunch, continue a visit to the **Summer Palace**, which is an imperial garden built during Qing dynasty. During the visit, immerse yourself in the spectacular landscape design and architectures, which combines the natural scenery of rolling hills and open waterways with many elegant pavilions, temples and bridges. In the evening, enjoy a traditional Kong Fu Show and return to your hotel to retire. Overnight in Beijing.

Day 03 :

Beijing Great Wall Tour

Morning, drive to **the Temple of Heaven**, a religious place for the emperors in Ming and Qing dynasties to pray to God of Heaven for a good harvest. According to the traditional culture, the unique triple-gabled circular architectures in the garden symbolize heaven in ancient China. After that, continue an excursion to **Mutianyu**, one of the best sections to see the magnificent Great Wall. The drive takes about 1.5 hours. Once get there, spend 2 to 3 hours to hike along the Great Wall and view the breathtaking scenery. Being one of the notable masterpieces of Chinese ancient architectures, Great Wall served as a northern barrier to defend the capital and Chinese imperial tombs for thousands of years. While standing atop the watchtowers and seeing the wall winding its way across endless mountains, you still can feel its historical mission today. During your visit, the cable car is also available for those who require assistance in reaching the summit of the wall or just do not feel like walking up. Afterwards, drive back to the hotel and prepare for the next day of your tour in Beijing. Overnight in Beijing.

Day 04 :

Beijing Sightseeings - High-speed train to Xi'an

Morning have a half-day tour to visit the old part of Beijing -**Shichahai area**, here you will visit one of the old courtyards, and have a **Hutong tour by a rickshaw** to experience local life, you will have plenty time to explore this area to get to **Yandai Xiejie and Drum Tower**. In the afternoon, say farewell to your Beijing local guide as you drive to the railway station for the high-speed train to Xi'an. Your historical tour in Xi'an will start tomorrow. Overnight in Xi'an.

Day 05 :

Xi'an City Tour

After breakfast, drive to the **Terracotta Warriors** which is located in the northeast countryside of Xi'an. Regarded as the Eighth Wonder of World, Terracotta Warriors has attracted millions of travelers every year since it was first excavated by a local farmer in 1974. It is a magical experience to see thousands of subterranean life-size army standing guard over the soul of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang for over 2,000 years.

In the afternoon, drive back to Xi'an city for a visit to the **Big Wild Goose Pagoda**, which is a preserved ancient building to house the Buddhist sutras brought back from India. See a spectacular fountain show and take some photos as you walk by the square to the pagoda. The last part of the tour today is to explore the Muslim culture in Xi'an. Learn about Islam with a visit to the **Great Mosque**, one of the largest mosque in China and experience the local life of Hui (Chinese Muslim) people by walking around the **Muslim Quarters**.

In the evening, end the trip today by enjoying a Tang Dynasty Dinner Show along with the Dumpling Dinner. Overnight in Xi'an.

Day 06 :

Xi'an Sightseeings - Flight to Guilin

Continue your journey in Xi'an today by heading to the **Shaanxi History Museum**, which is one of the largest modern national museum to house the best heritage of Shaanxi Province. Learn about the systematic development process of Chinese civilization from your guide while seeing these exhibitions in the museum. As you leave the museum for the next sight, notice that the entire building complex of the museum assumes the architectural features of the Tang Dynasty.

Afterwards, take a walk along the **Xi'an City Wall**, one of the oldest and best preserved city wall in China. Followed by a visit to Shuyuan Men, a place that jammed with many shops for selling delicate traditional art crafts. After lunch, you will be driven to the airport for the flight to Guilin, a famous city with beautiful landscapes. Overnight in Guilin.

Day 07 :

Guilin to Yangshuo - Yangshuo Countryside Sightseeing

Morning transfer to Guilin Mopan Hill or Zhujiang wharf to **board your cruise down to Yangshuo along Li River**, considered to have the best mountains and river in China. The cruise journey takes around 4 hours. You will have lunch on board. Upon arrival Yangshuo, be picked up and transferred to the hotel. In the afternoon you could choose to ride bicycle/bamboo rafting to enjoy the nice countryside views along the Yulong river also as well the rural life in China, you will have a chance to visit local family during the tour. Overnight in Yangshuo.

Day 08 :

Drive to Longji Rice Terraces - Longji Rice Terraces sightseeing

Morning drives about 40 minutes to visit **Xianggong hill (Husband Mountain)**, it takes about 15 minutes to the top of the hill where you will be amazed by the breathtaking view of Li River and the surrounded Karst mountain peaks. Then head to **Longji Rice Terraces** for the splendid rice terraces and local ethnic minority villages, the drive takes roughly 3 hours, on the way

enjoy the nice mountain range views.

Upon arrival, spend a few hours to hike around at the Ping'an village to enjoy the rice terraces views and visit local minority villages. There are several hiking trails that you can choose depending on your physical condition, it could last from 1 hour up to 4 hours. So just tell your guide what you want, then he can recommend you the options.

Overnight in Ping'an village.

Day 09 :

Drive back to Guilin - High-speed train to Chongqing - Yangtze River Cruise check-in

Morning, drive back to Guilin railway station with 2 hours' drive to take the bullet/high-speed train to Chongqing (the train ride takes about 5 hours). Chongqing railway station pick-up and transfer to the wharf to board the Yangtze River Cruise. Overnight on the cruise.

Day 10 :

Yangtze River Cruise

Today is the first day cruising on the Yangtze River, the mightiest and longest river of China. As one of China's mother rivers and an important cradle for Chinese civilization, Yangtze River holds numerous cultural heritages and spectacular landscapes.

Fengdu Ghost City is the first heritage during your cruise. The town is located 170 km. (110 mi.) from Chongqing, forming a unique culture of ghost and afterlife. Learn about the interesting folktales of Chinese ancient ghost culture from your guide during your visit. Overnight on the cruise.

Day 11 :

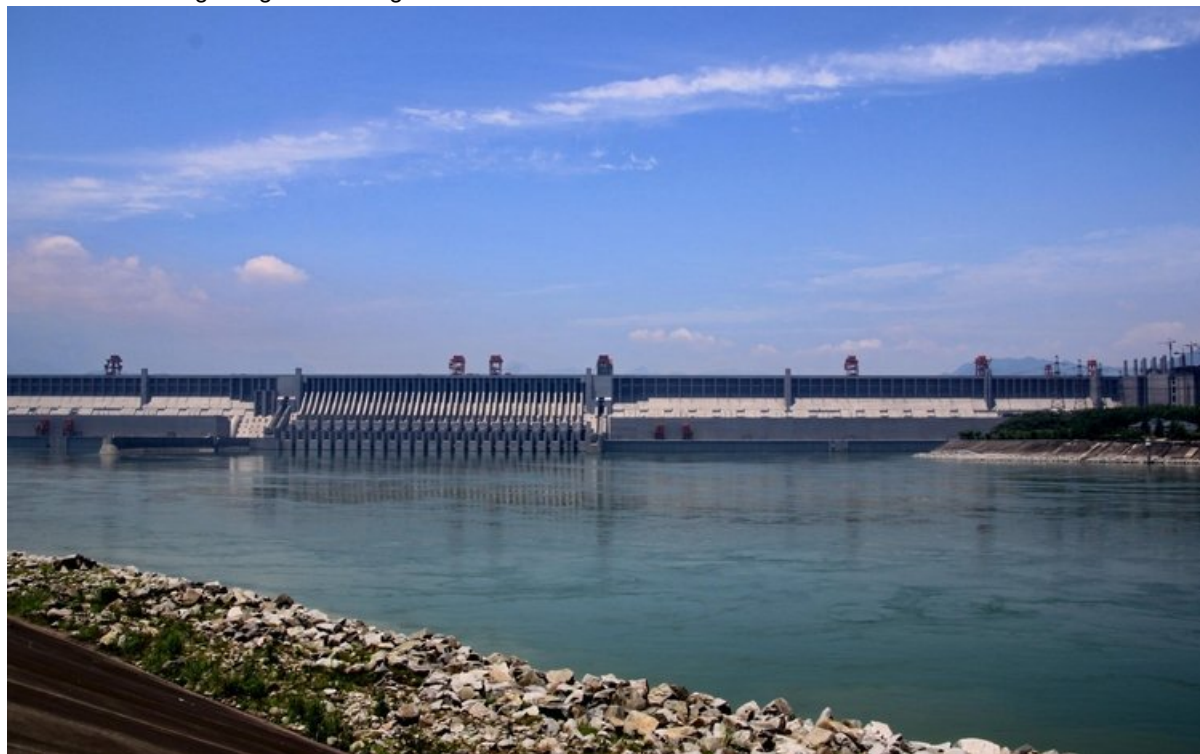
Cruise on Yangtze River

Cruising through the **Three Gorges** is the highlight of today. Start the passage with Qutang Gorge, the shortest but the grandest among three gorges. The majestic peaks and strangely shaped rocks can be seen everywhere along the two banks of the Yangtze River. Then pass the Wu Gorge, considered to be the most beautiful one where you will have a graceful view of the lofty and misty peaks.

During your visit through Wu Gorge, have a short cruise on Little Three Gorges or take a pea-boat floating along the verdant **Shennong Stream** (based on the seasons). Then continue sailing into Xiling Gorges, the last section of Three Gorges of the downstream cruise. Xiling gorges are considered to be the most exciting part among three gorges due to the countless reefs, riffles, and rocks along with the river. Overnight on the cruise.

Day 12 :

Cruise to Yichang - Flight to Shanghai



This morning, stop at the **Three Gorges Dam** to visit this largest and most magnificent hydroelectric project in world. Then check out from the ship in Yichang at noon. Once you disembark, be greeted and assisted to the airport by our guide for the flight to Shanghai. Get settled into the downtown hotel after your arrival in Shanghai. The rest of today is on your own. Overnight in Shanghai.

Day 13 :

Shanghai City Tour

Start today with a visit to **Yu Garden** in the old town of Shanghai. Compared with the imperial Summer Palace that you visit in Beijing, Yu Garden is an ancient folk garden that presents the architectural features of the Southeast region of China. Next to the garden is a market that jammed with many small shops for selling Chinese ancient arts and crafts, walk around here for some good bargains.

Next up with a visit to **Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Hall**. Learn about the development of modern Shanghai before you head to the **Shanghai Tower** to have a bird view of Huangpu River. Afterwards, come to **Nanjing Road** for a walk along the road. See the breathtaking scenery of the Bund or do some shopping. In the evening, experience a short cruise journey on Huangpu River to appreciate different scenes along both sides of the river. Overnight in Shanghai.

Day 14 :

Drive to Suzhou - Suzhou City Tour

Morning drive to Suzhou, a famous garden city in the southeast region of China. The first stop is the **Humble Administrator's Garden**, a natural and elegant garden that has almost 500 years' history. The main feature of Suzhou's gardens is that the landscapes are meticulously designed to make sure the visitors always gain surprises. During your visit, you will have no idea what the surprise you will see next while walking in the garden. Afterwards, have a **cruise on the Grand Canal**, the longest canal or artificial river in the world.

In the afternoon, take a visit to the **Lingering Garden**, another ancient garden in Suzhou. Be rewarded with scenes more splendid than the one you were just in while visiting in the garden. Late afternoon, drive back to the hotel in Shanghai to relax. Overnight in Shanghai.

Day 15 :

Departure from Shanghai

Your fantastic tour will come to an end today. Drive to the airport and railway station and say farewell to your local guide. Wish you have a pleasant journey home.

Inclusions

Tour notes:

Please note prices are based in CNY.

General inclusions:

2 bottles of mineral water provided daily.

All required government taxes and fees.

Your selection of 3, 4 or 5 Stars hotel (shared twin room, private bathroom and daily breakfast)

The hotel accommodation is based on two persons sharing one standard twin room with private facilities in all relevant locations. If a single client requests a twin room alone, the single room supplement will be charged.

Yangtze river cruise class is a Standard cabin located on the main deck.

All entrance tickets as noted in the tour's itinerary.

Yangtze river cruise services include all onboard meals and shore excursions to the Little Three Gorges, Shennong Stream and others.

Guide fluent in English, Chinese or Japanese that is certified by the state tourism build and from the local community. (If your native language is not listed please let us know, we are certain we can assist your needs.)

Airport and/or train station pick-up and drop-off.

All domestic flight and train tickets. Economy-class for flights and soft sleeper / seat for train tickets.

Transportation will be provided via a comfortable and clean car, minivan or tourist bus depending upon the groups size.

Meals as remarked in the itinerary. (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)

General exclusions:

Personal expenses such as laundry, drinks, internet access, fax, telephone calls etc.

Tips for your guide and driver.

Optional Attractions that are not specified in the itinerary.

Flight and/or railway ticket(s) to the first city of the tour and departure from the last city of the tour.

Meals not specified in the itinerary.

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