

CHINA VACATION

D15E

CHINA HIGHLIGHT & YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE – 15 DAYS

Shanghai, Suzhou, Hangzhou, Beijing, Xian, Chongqing, Yangtze River Cruise (Downstream), and Wuhan



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Shanghai:** Old Town, Huangpu River Bund, Shanghai Museum, Oriental Pearl Tower (Asia's Highest TV Broadcasting Station) (May 16 ~ Oct 15 Expo)
- Suzhou:** Panmen Scenic Area, Garden of Master Net, silk-weaving factory
- Hangzhou:** West Lake, Song Street
- Beijing:** The Great Wall, Forbidden City, Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square, Acrobatics
- Xi'an:** Terra Cotta Army, Wild Goose Pagoda, Ancient City Walls, Stage Show of Tang Dynasty
- Yangtze River:** Fengdu (Wanxian), Qutang Gorge, Wu Gorge, Xiling Gorge, Lesser Three Gorges, the Great Dam
- Wuhan:** Yellow Crane Tower

MEALS:

- 37 Meals: 13 breakfasts (B)
12 lunches (L)
12 dinners (D)

SPECIAL CUISINES:

- Shanghai:** Deluxe Courses
- Hangzhou:** Deluxe Local Cuisine
- Beijing:** Roast Duck Banquet, Sampling Imperial Cuisine at Fangshan Restaurant
- Xi'an:** Dumplings Banquet
- Chongqing:** Sichuan Local Cuisine
- Yangtze River:** Captain's Dinner Party

HOTELS:

- Shanghai:** Jinjiang Tower Hotel (Deluxe)
- Suzhou:** Garden View Hotel (Deluxe)
- Hangzhou:** Grand Metro Park Hotel (Deluxe)
- Beijing:** Presidential Hotel (Deluxe)
- Xi'an:** Sheraton Hotel (Deluxe)
- Yangtze River:** Victoria Cruise (Deluxe) or same level cruise
- Wuhan:** Shangri-La Hotel (Deluxe)

*China Vacation reserves the right to use other same-level hotels if necessary.

*Please refer to "Information and Booking Conditions" for more details.



Three Gorges Grand Dam, YANGTZE

Day 1: USA → Shanghai

Board your transpacific flight.

Day 2: Shanghai ⇄ Suzhou

Arrive in Shanghai and transfer to Suzhou—the ancient water city, 50 miles from the airport. Stay in Suzhou.

Day 3: Suzhou ⇄ Hangzhou

Your first stop is Panmen Scenic Area. Suzhou has a history of almost 3,000 years. Suzhou's highest stone arch bridge spans its Grand Canal. Dug in 506 B.C., the bridge is ten times longer than the Suez Canal in Egypt (20 times the Panama Canal), and is one of the three wonders of China. Next is the elegant Garden of Master Net, which exemplifies the Chinese garden-designing principle of "catching a world of beauty in a highly limited space." The Metropolitan Museum in New York has a copy of part of this garden. Your next stop is a time-honored silk-weaving factory. The reeling process for unwinding silk filaments from cocoons might be mystifying you. Continue bus tour to Hangzhou. You will stroll through the Song Street. Stay overnight in Hangzhou. (B/L/D)

Day 4: Hangzhou → Beijing

Hangzhou is praised along with Suzhou as an "earthly paradise". Today's activities include a boat trip on the lotus-lined West Lake, the setting of many Chinese love stories. Surrounding

the lake are pagodas, hills, gardens, grassy parks, and bridges. Stop by a typical Hangzhou teahouse (Hangzhou is famous for green tea). Return to Shanghai for the evening flight to Beijing. Stay overnight in Beijing. (B/L/D)

Day 5: Beijing ⇄

Beijing served as the capital for five dynasties over a period of 800 years. Attractions include Summer Palace, featuring the nearly half-a-mile-long covered corridor, the Marble Boat, and more. The next stop is the Palace Museum (Forbidden City), with 9,999 rooms, including a throne room, nuptial chamber, libraries, temples and a theater. It was reserved for the emperor's family and his concubines. It is the largest imperial palace in the world, with golden-glazed roofs, red lacquered pillars, and vermilion walls. Sightseeing continues at the Temple of Heaven, where emperors conducted annual ceremonies to pray for a good harvest. This evening you will enjoy a special imperial cuisine served at Fangshan Restaurant. (B/L/D)

Day 6: Beijing ⇄

Here is your chance to climb the Great Wall of China! Six U.S. presidents have visited this section of the 5,000 km wall with its scenic mountain views since 1972. You might also catch a glimpse of the National Stadium (also known as the bird's nest) while cruising in Beijing. This was the hosting site for the 2008 Olympic Opening and Closing cere-

monies. Tonight's special dinner gives you a taste of Peking Duck. Enjoy an acrobatic performance after dinner. (B/L/D)

Day 7: Beijing → Xi'an

In the morning stroll through the Tiananmen Square, the largest square in the world, and the site of many historical events. Then fly to Xi'an. Visit the Wild Goose Pagoda and the Ancient City Walls. In the evening, you will see a stage show from the Tang Dynasty after a sumptuous dumping banquet. Stay in Xi'an. (B/L/D)

Day 8: Xi'an

Xi'an was the capital of China for 73 emperors in 12 dynasties extending over 1,100 years. Here you will find the Terra Cotta Army, with some 8000 life-size infantrymen, archers, and cavalrymen each with distinct faces and holding swords, spears, axes, halberds, longbows, standing by next to their horses and chariots. These were arrayed to guard the tomb of Emperor Qin, which was discovered by a farmer in 1974 while he was digging a well. You might see some archaeologists working on-site to uncover the rest of the vast tomb. (B/L/D)

Day 9: Xi'an → Chongqing

Take a morning flight to Chongqing. Spend half the day touring the city. Enjoy traditional Sichuan cuisine. Then board the luxurious Victoria Cruise to start your Yangtze River journey. Stay three nights on Victoria Cruise. (B/L/D)

Day 10: Cruising along the Yangtze River

Cruise down the mighty Yangtze River (longest river in Asia and third longest in the world). Relax and enjoy the scenery of China's mid-region. Disembark at Fengdu (City of Ghosts). The life-like statues of ghost might startle you if you're not careful. (B/L/D)

Day 11: Cruising along the Yangtze River

Sail through the Outang Gorge and Wu Gorge, with misty canyons peaked with pagodas. These are the favorite motif of traditional painting. Each gorge is different in nature, and each bend of the river reveals a new view, more perilous than the previous. Disembark at Wushan and board a motor-boat to see the Three Lesser Gorges. This evening, Victoria Cruise will serve a Captain's dinner party. (B/L/D)

Day 12: Cruising along the Yangtze River

This morning you will arrive at Yang Jia Wang and visit Three Gorges Dam Site. It is the largest hydroelectric river dam in the world, more than five times the size of the Hoover Dam. Continue your cruise to Yichang, the "gateway to Southwest China". Take the bus tour to Wuhan, passing by Jingzhou, an important city in central China. Stay over night in Wuhan. (B/L/D)

* Day 9 to 12 is operated by Victoria Cruises. Itinerary arrangements are subject to change due to the Three Gorges Dam Project, the river's condition during flood season, and/or any temporary sailing arrangement announced by the Authorities. China Vacation is not responsible for any such changes.

Day 13: Wuhan → Shanghai

Today you will visit the famous Yellow Crane Tower for a commanding view of the mighty Yangtze River. Fly back to Shanghai. Stay in Shanghai. (B/L/D)

Day 14: Shanghai

Shanghai, the commercial and financial center of China, features the Shanghai Museum, one of China's best. Sightseeing includes the Old Town, a well-designed maze of elegant pavilions in the old section of the city. Then stroll along the Bund, China's most famous waterfront, stretches about one mile along the Huangpu River and is lined with buildings patterned after the Art Institute in Chicago, London's Big Ben, the Citibank Building and many Victorian-style buildings and classical Greek design, Then ascend the Oriental Pearl Tower (Asia's highest) From here you can marvel at the contrast of these traditional buildings and the modern Pudong District on the other side of the river. (B/L/D)

*The largest world expo will take place in Shanghai from May 16 to October 15, 2010. All tour participants traveling this time will enjoy a day at the expo, instead of the specified itinerary (B).

Day 15: Shanghai → USA

It is now time to fly homeward or on to your next destination. (B)

*You may choose to stay behind in China, Hong Kong, or stop over in other cities in Asia. Hotel and other services are available for an additional charge. Please ask your agent for details.



Captain's Party - VICTORIA CRUISES

DEPARTURE DATES & TOURS PRICES (D15E)				
YEAR	Departure Date	Return Date	LO/Cruise Prices	Single Room/Cabin
2010				
Apr	04/17	05/01	\$2,799	\$600/\$500
May	05/01	05/15	\$2,799	\$600/\$500
	05/08	05/22	\$2,799	\$600/\$500
	05/22	06/05	\$2,799	\$600/\$500
Jun	06/05	06/19	\$2,799	\$600/\$500
	06/12	06/26	\$2,799	\$600/\$500
Jul	07/03	07/17	\$2,799	\$600/\$500
	07/17	07/31	\$2,799	\$600/\$500
Aug	08/07	08/21	\$2,799	\$600/\$500
	08/21	09/04	\$2,799	\$600/\$500
Sep	09/04	09/18	\$2,899	\$600/\$500
	09/18	10/02	\$2,899	\$600/\$500
Oct	10/02	10/16	\$2,899	\$600/\$500
	10/16	10/30	\$2,899	\$600/\$500
Nov	11/06	11/20	\$2,799	\$600/\$500
	11/13	11/27	\$2,799	\$600/\$500

* Land only prices include China domestic air ticket, tax, and fuel charge

* Children under 11 years of age can share a room with two adult but will not be provided with an extra bed. Their price is 75% of adult price.