

CHINA TOUR & YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE



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China Escorted Tour & Yangtze Cruise with Flights

Duration: 14 days

Stay: 8 nights hotels, 4 nights cruise cabin, overnight flight

Travel style: Escorted tour with flights from Australia

Booking code: CHYCG14M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience

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14 Days China Escorted Group Tour & Flights

About the holiday

Discover dazzling cities, awe-inspiring temples, ancient cultural treasures and life along the world's third longest river on this enthralling tour of China.

The fascinating myths and legends of the Orient come to life as you travel from Shanghai to Beijing. Begin in the dynamic city of Shanghai, where you can admire the stunning skyline from the famous Bund promenade and wander through the Old Quarter to the historic Yuyuan Gardens. An internal flight takes you to Yichang, where you'll embark on a scenic journey on the fabled Yangtze River. Take in the beautiful river vistas and sail through Wu Gorge, that's famous for its magnificent Twelve peaks. There's the option to take a tour of the Three Gorges Dam or jump in smaller boats to journey up Shennong Stream.

Upon disembarking the cruise, fly to Xi'an. Once the capital of eleven dynasties, today Xi'an is an archaeological treasure trove and it's where you'll marvel at the magnificent Terracotta Warriors. Another domestic flight makes the most of your time exploring and you'll arrive in Beijing with time to begin to discover the wonders of the capital of modern China. A tour of the city takes you to the iconic sights, like the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square. Of course, spending time at the legendary Great Wall of China is a must and you'll get to enjoy a relaxing boat ride across the lake at the Summer Palace.

Travel in the comfort of air-conditioned coaches and enjoy premium hotels with daily breakfast, special dinners and expert tour guides!

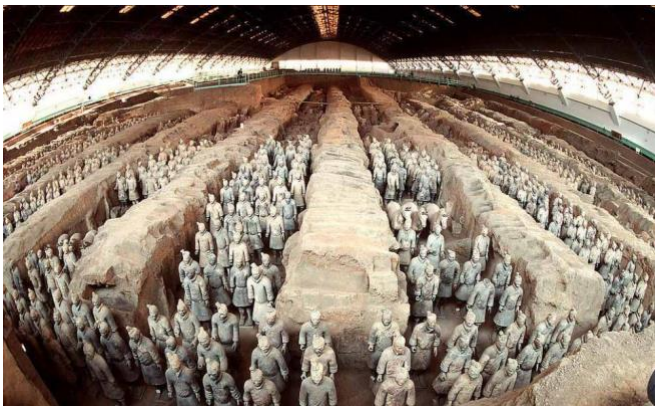
Why we love this trip...

- This 14-day tour ticks off the must-see sights and unique Chinese experiences
- Explore Shanghai, Xi'an and Beijing
- Cruise the Yangtze River for 4 nights on a modern 4-star ship
- Includes all domestic flights and return airfare from Australia!

Travel dates

2024 - See our website for current dates*

**Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price may vary depending on your travel date. Please contact us for your preferred departure and current prices.*



Escorted Tour Package includes:

Flights - Return economy class flights to Shanghai & from Beijing

Fly from Australia with a full-service airline, with all taxes & fees

One-way economy flights: Shanghai-Yichang, Chongqing-Xian & Xian-Beijing

Accommodation - 12 nights in first class accommodation, based on twin share

3 nights Shanghai

4 nights Yangtze River, cruise upstream on Victoria Cruise

2 nights Xi'an

3 nights Beijing

Meals - 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 7 dinners with beer

Transportation - Sightseeing as per itinerary in modern air-conditioned coach

Tour Guiding - Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout

Services of local guides in all major cities

Sightseeing - Entrance fees as per the itinerary

Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring

Package excludes:

China visa fees

Flight excess baggage & pre-booked seat allocation

Airport transfers - can be pre-booked on request for an additional fee

Meals, other than those specified in the inclusions

Optional sightseeing tours & activities

Gratuities for guides & drivers

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry, WiFi etc.

Travel insurance is essential

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

Subject to confirmation by airlines, tour company, hotels & local operators.

Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.

Highlights on tour:

- Explore the classical Yuyuan Garden and the Bund Riverside, Shanghai's popular promenade
- See the world-famous Terracotta Army, a collection of finely sculpted life-size soldiers, horses & chariots
- Visit the amazing Forbidden City, once residence of Chinese Emperors and Summer Palace
- Visit the 2000-year-old Great Wall, the World's longest man-made structure
- Savour a famous Peking duck dinner with wine

Tour Itinerary:

DAY 1, Thursday - Fly from Australia to China

Note: this flight could be on day 2, depending on airline schedules.

DAY 2, Friday - Arrive in Shanghai

Arrive in Shanghai, the thriving metropolis on China's eastern coast. This dynamic city is constantly changing and growing, with an unforgettable skyline. After making your own way from the airport to the hotel, the remainder of the day is at leisure

Overnight: Shanghai

DAY 3, Saturday - Shanghai City Tour

This morning, see some of the city's major highlights. Begin at the lively Bund, Shanghai's popular promenade; stroll along the park-like waterfront and experience the old world charm. After, visit the classical Yuyuan Garden in the Old Quarter, built during the Ming Dynasty, a quiet and serene sanctuary in this frenetic city, with its scenic pavilions, ponds and streams. Return to the hotel late afternoon and spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Tonight, attend an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager, followed by dinner

Overnight: Shanghai

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4, Sunday - Full Day in Shanghai

Today, is at leisure in Shanghai. Join the *optional* full day tour to Suzhou, including lunch and a cruise on the Grand Canal. Morning departure from Shanghai for the drive to Suzhou, known as the "Venice of the East." Upon arrival in this charming city, take a boat ride along the narrow waterways of the legendary Grand Canal. Later, walk along bustling Pingjiang Road, where locals gather for entertainment and have lunch at a local restaurant. Continue to the beautiful, fragrant Garden of the Master of the Nets, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return to Shanghai this evening

Optional: Full Day Suzhou with Lunch

Overnight: Shanghai

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5, Monday - Fly to Yichang, Embark Cruise

Morning is at leisure for independent explorations in Shanghai. In the afternoon, visit the Jade Buddha Temple, one of the most active Buddhist temples in Shanghai, dating back to the Qing Dynasty. Afterward, continue to a silk carpet and embroidery shop in Shanghai to understand more about this ancient Chinese craft; see some of the beautiful creations, unusual styles and masterful techniques. Lunch is at a local restaurant. Later, transfer to the airport for the flight to Yichang, the second largest city in Hubei province after Wuhan, its capital. Upon arrival, continue to the port for embarkation on your cruise ship. This evening, you'll begin the scenic journey on the fabled Yangtze, the longest river in China and the third longest river in the world. You'll be warmly welcomed aboard by the friendly international staff

Overnight: Yangtze River

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6, Tuesday - Xiling Gorge

This afternoon, an *optional* tour to the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest and most ambitious hydroelectric project ever undertaken by man, nearly six times the size of the Hoover Dam. In addition to producing electricity, the dam was constructed to increase the Yangtze River's shipping capacity and reduce the potential for floods. This project has forever changed the landscape surrounding the Yangtze River and has also forced the relocation of people who once lived along the river. Tour the massive site to see this impressive achievement of engineering. Following the visit, return to the ship as it cruises upstream and enters the dramatic Xiling Gorge, the longest and deepest section of the Three Gorges

Optional: Yangtze River Shore Excursion Package - Three Gorges Dam

Overnight: Yangtze River

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7, Wednesday - Wu Gorge & Qutang Gorge

Awake this morning to beautiful vistas on the river. Sail through the Wu Gorge, famed for its magnificent Twelve Peaks. Today, your *optional* tour will take you either on a scenic journey up Shennong Stream, traveling in small boats between rolling hills and rocky cliffs or on a scenic journey up Shennv Stream, the journey is accompanied by local folk songs and dances. Continue through the Qutang Gorge, the smallest of the three gorges, flanked by lush terraced hillsides

Optional: Yangtze River Shore Excursion Package - Shennv Stream or Shennong Stream

Overnight: Yangtze River

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8, Thursday - Cruise to Xiaoguanshan Ancient Folk Culture Park & Mt. Shuanggui*

This morning, the ship docks near Fengdu in Chongqing.

Today's *optional* tour allows for exploration of the Xianguanshan Ancient Folk Culture Park with its recreated ancient residential buildings, courtyards, temples, wood carvings and city gates. The park features lively performances like Sichuan opera and acrobatics. Adjacent to the park is Mt. Shuanggui, a national forest park, which offers scenic beauty and a rich history, with cliffs bearing calligraphic writings from the Song Dynasty and pavilions honouring historic figures. It's a captivating blend of nature and culture

**Depending on river conditions, this optional tour may be substituted with one that visits the Shibaozhai Temple*

Optional: Yangtze River Shore Excursion Package - Xiaoguanshan Ancient Folk Culture Park & Mt. Shuanggui

Overnight: Yangtze River

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9, Friday -Disembarkation, Flight to Xian

Disembark the Yangtze River cruise this morning in Chongqing, a major metropolis and one of the top emerging cities in China. Continue to Eling Park, located on a hill near the heart of the city. The park was established at the end of the Qing Dynasty in 1909 by a wealthy businessman. Discover hundreds of plant species during a stroll through the different parts of the well-tended gardens. Ascend to the lookout tower for stunning views of the Chongqing skyline. Later, transfer to the airport for the flight to Xian, ancient capital of eleven dynasties and an archaeological treasure trove

Overnight: Xian

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10, Saturday - The Terracotta Army

Morning visit to Xingqing Park, a hub of activity where you may have the chance to join the residents of Xian in their morning exercise, singing and dancing. Afterward, stop at a lacquer furniture shop to learn more about this technique. Lunch is a local restaurant. Then, an unforgettable experience! Visit the archaeological site of the magnificent Terracotta Warriors, a vast collection of life-size soldiers, horses and chariots that were entombed with China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang. This world-famous site, discovered by local farmers in 1974, is still being discovered and excavated today. This evening, an *optional* Tang Dynasty 6-course dinner followed by a historical dance performance by the Tang Dynasty troupe

Optional: Tang Dynasty Dinner & Show

Overnight: Xian

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 11, Sunday - Flight to Beijing

Depart Xian on a flight to Beijing, sprawling capital of modern China. The afternoon is at leisure. Feel the pulse of this city of contrasts with its astonishing history and wondrous sights.

Join the *optional* half day Hutong Tour which begins with a rickshaw ride through the old narrow streets and alleyways. See the courtyard homes which once covered all of Beijing - only a few still survive today. Hear more about "old China" from a local family who will welcome you to their home

Optional: Half Day Hutong Tour (PM)

Overnight: Beijing

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 12, Monday - Great Wall of China, Summer Palace

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. En route, stop at a local jade shop to admire wares crafted with one of China's most famous materials. Then it's time to climb the ramparts of this ancient wonder to view breathtaking mountain passes, plateaus, and grasslands from this 7th century defensive fortification. Afterward, a relaxing lunch in a local restaurant. Continue to the fabled Summer Palace, a resort of the Empress Dowager with its palace grounds, filled with a variety of picturesque gardens and architectural structures. Take a relaxing boat ride across the lake and admire the stunning scenery before strolling along the sprawling palace. Tonight, have dinner at a Beijing restaurant

Overnight: Beijing

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 13, Tuesday - The Forbidden City, Beijing Zoo

Start your day with a visit 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 himself to declare the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. Next, enter the Forbidden City, which served as the Imperial Palace until 1912. The extraordinary and immense walled complex is truly a masterpiece of Chinese architecture; its complex consists of 800 buildings with more than 9,000 rooms. Then, continue to a local pearl shop to learn about the famous Chinese pearls. Have lunch at a local restaurant before heading to the Beijing Zoo to see the famous Pandas. Tonight, savour dinner featuring China's famous Peking duck and bid farewell to your Tour Manager

Overnight: Beijing

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 14, Wednesday - Depart China, Fly to Australia

Check out of the hotel this morning and make your own way to the airport in time for your departure flight

Meals: Breakfast

Information about this tour

This active program covers a good amount of ground each day. Expect from three to four hours walking on some touring days. The pace is fast. You will encounter some uneven surfaces, stairs, steps and significant slopes. The Great Wall requires a climb of approximately 300 steps, some of which have an incline. It is recommended to wear sturdy shoes, and people who have knee problems may want to carry a walking stick. Some tours require walking in the open air with no shade. Air pollution is a problem in many of China's major cities. Please see the CDC website and/or consult with your healthcare provider for specific recommendations. The usage of a bandanna or, light scarf might help screen out some of the pollutants in the air. This is a Classic program.

Accommodation:

Hotels are subject to change to suitable alternatives at the discretion of the tour operator.

Shanghai: Courtyard by Marriott Shanghai Central

This deluxe hotel is located within the commercial centre of Shanghai.

Yangtze Cruise: Victoria Cruises on a 4-star ship

Xi'an: Ambassador International Hotel

This superior first class hotel is a short ride from the Big Wild Goose Pagoda.

Beijing: New Otani Chang Fu Gong

This first class hotel is located on the south side of Chang An Street, one of the most popular streets in Beijing.

Optional Tours:

Book your Optional Tours before you travel. See more, save time, save money.

- Tours often sell out & if purchased while travelling may cost extra 10% or more
- Save your cash. Credit card processing may not be possible locally
- Contact your My Travel Experience travel advisor to book these tours up to 1 week before your departure

Full Day Suzhou with lunch

This morning, depart your hotel for a 2.5 hour drive from Shanghai to Suzhou. Located in Jiangsu Province, this ancient city enjoys the name of "Venice of the East". Your day begins on the famous Grand Canal, the longest manmade Canal in the world. Travel leisurely down the narrow waterways and under the stone bridges.

From your boat you will see the daily life of the people who inhabit the banks of the canal in this ancient city. Later, enjoy free time along Pingjiang Road, a famous street in Suzhou among locals for gathering, entertainment and food, and a favourite among visitors for its rich culture and sightseeing opportunities. Stop for lunch at a local restaurant followed by a visit to the Garden of the Master of the Nets. This privately owned garden is one of the most perfectly proportioned in Suzhou. The garden demonstrates Chinese garden designers' adept skills for synthesizing art, nature, and architecture to create unique metaphysical masterpieces. Return to Shanghai late this evening.

Pickup details to be advised locally. Approximate tour duration is 11 hours.

Day #4	01 Jan 2024 - 31 Dec 2024	AU\$116.00
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Yangtze River Optional Shore Excursion Package

Upstream Itineraries:

(1) Visit Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest electricity-generating plant; (2) Visit the natural scenic wonders of the Shennong Stream or Shennv Stream;* (3) Visit the Xiaoguanshan Ancient Folk Culture Park and Shuanggui Mountain*

Please refer to the actual itinerary of when each tour will take place

Downstream Itineraries:

(1) Visit the Jade Emperor Scenic Area, home of the largest statue of the Jade Emperor in the world;* (2) Visit the natural scenic wonders of the Shennong or the Shennv Stream;* (3) Visit Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest electricity-generating plant

Please refer to the actual itinerary of when each tour will take place

For itineraries with Victoria Cruise Line

*The visit to Xiaoguanshan Ancient Folk Culture Park, Shuanggui Mountain and/or Shennong or Shennv stream is dependent upon water levels. A visit to Shibaozhai, which is known for its impressive wooden pagoda, may serve as an alternate excursion.

Day #5	01 Jan 2024 - 06 Nov 2024	AU\$115.00
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Tang Dynasty Dinner & Show

Dine on Imperial set menu of 6 courses. All while you enjoy the beat of Chang' an music. After dinner, enjoy the celebrated Tang Dynasty show, a one-thousand-year-old dance performed by the passionate Tang Dynasty Troupe. This historical performance is a national art, reflective of the glory and richness of China's Tang Dynasty. Transfers to and from your hotel included.

Pickup details to be advised locally. Approximate tour duration is 4 hours.

Day #10	01 Jan 2024 - 31 Dec 2024	AU\$85.00
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Half Day Hutong Tour

In Old China, Hutongs (lanes no wider than 9 meters) are formed by lines of siheyuan (compounds comprising of rooms around a courtyard) that connect the ancient city surrounding the Forbidden City. As is tradition, the houses of Old Beijing were constructed in this form on the basis of Fengshui: the ancient Chinese practice of design and spatial arranging. On this tour, travel by rickshaw through Beijing's unique Hutong area to absorb the culture and traditions of Old China, including a visit with a local family. Here you will have the opportunity to interact and discover the similarities and differences of the Hutong people. Transfers to and from your hotel included.

Pickup details to be advised locally. Approximate tour duration is 3 hours.

Day #11	01 Jan 2024 - 31 Oct 2024	AU\$35.00
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Please note: The day-by-day itinerary descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road & river conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the benefit of clients. It is essential that clients are understanding and flexible in this regard.

For more information, please call 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com

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MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE BOOKING CONDITIONS

Please read the following information prior to making your reservation

Our full set of terms and conditions can be viewed and downloaded on our website, or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.

This is a summary in brief for our customers:

1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
4. 90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents via email.

My Travel Experience manages a professional client operating account. All booking payments are held securely to pay for your travel services. We do not retain your money and funds are distributed promptly to travel service providers, including but not limited to, airlines, tour operators, cruise lines and hotels. We are required to pay the providers deposits and final payments and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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