

China Relaxation Tour with Yangtze River Cruise

Day 1| Hometown - Beijing

Fly to Beijing, you'll cross the International Date Line.

Day 2| Arrive - Beijing (D)

Arrive in Beijing, the capital of China. Your tour guide will greet you at the airport and assist with your transfer to your hotel for a great night's rest. A welcome dinner will be arranged for you in the evening (if your flight lands before 5 pm local time).

Day 3| Beijing (B, L, D)

Your China tour starts today from Beijing which has served as the capital of five dynasties over a period of 800 years. Start your tour with a visit to Tiananmen Square, the largest public square in the world. Our next stop is the Forbidden City. This complex is the largest and one of the most intact ancient imperial palaces still in existence. In the afternoon, continue to Temple of Heaven, which was used by emperors to offer sacrifices to heaven and pray for good harvest during ancient times. In the evening, you'll enjoy a fabulous Peking Roast Duck dinner; then return to your hotel, or join the optional Chinese martial art show - "The Legend of Kung-Fu" at your own expense.

Day 4| Beijing (B, L, D)

Today's highlight is a tour of the astonishing Great Wall. Much anticipated by our guests, the Great Wall serves as one of the most famous images of China. It is the only manmade object visible from the moon and one of the Eight Wonders of the World! After lunch, see skilled artisans at work at the Cloisonné Factory. Later, you'll walk the Sacred Path of Ming Tombs. Return to the city and have an up-close view of the beautiful Bird's Nest and Water Cube, both of which are national stadiums built for the 2008 Olympics. You'll also have an opportunity to visit one of the largest Jade Centers in Asia and learn Chinese jade culture. Shop for authentic jade souvenirs. After dinner, cap off your day and enjoy an exciting Chinese Acrobatic Show.

Day 5| Beijing (B, L)

In the morning, tour the exquisite Summer Palace (Imperial Garden), the largest ancient preserved garden in China with a boat ride on the Lake Kunming (weather permitting). Visit the China Medical Science Academy for an in-depth experience of ancient Chinese herbal medicine. After lunch, you'll have an afternoon free to explore as you wish! Join our optional Hutong Life tour at your own expense or stroll Wang-fu-jing Street at your leisure.

Day 6| Beijing - Xi'an (B, L, D)

Fly to Xian in the morning. Xian was the first Chinese city to open its doors to the world during the Tang Dynasty; it served as the Chinese capital for eleven dynasties, a period of more than 2,000 years. Upon arrival, visit the Terra Cotta Warriors Museum and see the life-sized defending army to the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang. This site is regarded as "the Eighth Wonder of the World" and is among the top archaeological excavations of the 20th century. Visit an Art Ceramics Factory followed by a special Imperial Dumpling Banquet and traditional Tang Dynasty Singing and Dancing Show at evening.

Day 7| Xi'an - Chongqing - Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D)

Visit the Shanxi Provincial Historical Museum in the morning. Enjoy a special noodle lunch and watch a Noodle Making Demonstration. Walk along Xian's Ancient City Wall, the most complete city wall that has survived in China; it also is one of the largest and most

complete ancient military defense systems in the world. Then you'll fly to Chongqing a mountainous city in the evening and board the deluxe Yangtze River cruise ship and start your adventure along the Yangtze River.



Day 8| Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D)

Our ship sails downstream. Shore excursions to Fengdu Ghost City, located on the north bank of the Yangtze River. A series of temples are built here. Each represents a different aspect of hell according to Taoist belief. The temples are dominated by statues, frescos, and carvings of ghosts and devils that are believed to govern Taoist hell. Locals gather here to pray for a good afterlife and a favorable reincarnation.

Day 9| Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D)

Disembark at Wushan where you'll board a small riverboat for a leisurely ride through Shennong Stream, which offers picturesque rock formations abound. See playful monkeys and mountain goats along the river banks. The cruise passes Badong, Zigui, and sail into the Xiling Gorge, which is renowned for being extremely perilous and is the longest one of the Three Gorges. The cruise will pass the ship-lock of the Three Gorges Dam, arrive at Sandouping in the evening.

Day 10| Yangtze River Cruise - Shanghai (B, L, D)

This morning begins with a stop at Taipingxi; disembark to visit the massive Three Gorges Dam Project, which is the world's largest dam, measuring 606 feet high and 6,500 feet long. In 1997, the cofferdam was completed and the main structure begun. The dam has two five-stage locks to raise and lower ships to the different river levels. Each lock in five stages is 65 feet high and 910 feet long. The ship arrives at your cruise destination Yichang by noon and then fly to Shanghai. Check into hotel followed by dinner.

Day 11| Shanghai - Suzhou (B, L, D)

Travel by coach to Suzhou, a city which has been praised as "Venice of the East". Take a relaxing stroll through one of Suzhou beautiful gardens, like the Garden of Master of Nest, one of the largest classical gardens in Suzhou as well as one of the most famous gardens in China. Enjoy a boat cruise along the Grand Canal, which is over 1,500 years old and connects Beijing to the rich coastal areas around Shanghai. Later visit a silk factory and enjoy a silk fashion show before a delicious local cuisines dinner.

Day 12| Suzhou - Wuxi (B, L, D)

Tour the Watertown of Tongli after breakfast. As ancient town with more than 1000 years history, Tongli features typically the water county of Southern China. There are 5 lakes surrounding Tongli from the outside, and the town is divided into 15 small islands by more than 10 rivers inside. Then head back to Wuxi Hotel.

Day 13| Wuxi - Shanghai (B, L, D)

Wuxi is famous for its landscapes which are truly something to marvel at. Visit the Lingshan Grand Buddha and the Freshwater Pearls Farm before you taste delicious local cuisines at dinner, including Wuxi Pork Ribs with special sauces. Then take motor coach

to Shanghai, the modern metropolis and commercial center of China. After dinner you may take an optional tour, the Night Cruise on the Huangpu River at your own expense.

Day 14| Shanghai - Shanghai (B, L)

This morning, start your memorable tour of Shanghai by walking along the famous Bund, a mile-long stretch along the Huangpu River. Lined by the colonial architectures of European design, this area is the best place to capture the western influences of the old days. Our next stop will be the bustling shopping district, Nanjing Road. Continue to visit the Ming Dynasty Yuyuan Garden which is considered to be one of four greatest Chinese gardens. This afternoon will be free for you to enjoy at your leisure.

Day 15| Shanghai - Hometown (B)

Your China journey is over all too soon... we will assist you in your transfer to the airport. You'll fly home and arrive home on the same day as you leave China. You have the option to extend your trip by including Hong Kong, the financial gourmet, and shopping paradise of Asia.

