

Best of China

17 day tour to Beijing, Xian, Chongqing, Yangtze Cruise, Shanghai, Suzhou, Longsheng & Guilin

This tour starts in the bustling city of Beijing where we'll visit the Forbidden City and walk along the Great Wall. Then tour the magnificent Terracotta Warriors and Horses, which are considered to be one of the greatest archaeological finds of the last century. Chongqing is a vibrant and rapidly growing city known for its unique geographical and cultural characteristics; we then board our deluxe cruise ship, home for the next 3 nights on one of the world's greatest waterways - the Yangtze River. Shanghai, the New York of the Orient. Here, we take a stroll along the Bund and the famous Nanjing Road, visit the beautiful Yu Garden and lively Yuyuan market and a memorable day trip to the garden city of Suzhou. Guilin is considered to be the pearl of China's thriving tourist industry on account of the natural beauty and historic treasures. The boat trip down the Li River will allow you to experience gorgeous scenery including various Karst mountain peaks, wildlife, rural villages and performers. The Longsheng Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces are the culmination of both the profound wisdom and strenuous labour of local minority Zhuang people.

Day 1 Australia ✈ Beijing Sunday

Depart on your flight to Beijing. Your tour guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel.

Day 2 Beijing Meal: B/L

Today's visit includes Tiananmen Square, the largest city square in the world. From Tiananmen Square enter the Forbidden City. This massive complex was the centre of the Ming and Qing dynasties. With almost 10,000 rooms, this well-preserved imperial palace is the largest in the world. After lunch, you will visit the Temple of Heaven, where emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties would make offerings to heaven and pray for good harvests.



Day 3 Beijing Meal: B/L

Today you experience the splendour of the Great Wall, the pride of China and one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It is an amazing manmade structure built over 2000 years ago to protect China from northern invaders. In the afternoon visit Summer Palace, the largest and best preserved of all imperial palace gardens. Be amazed with fascination at the Marble Boat and the ornately painted Long Corridor.

Day 4 Beijing - Xian Meal: B

This morning you are transferred to the train station and take high speed train to Xian. You will experience the high speed train which runs 300 km per hour and takes around 4.5 hours for this 1,216 kilometer long journey. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel. Xian is the most historic city in China and the capital of ancient China for 11 dynasties.

Day 5 Xian Meal: B/L/D

Today's touring is to the vast treasure of the underground army of the Terracotta Warriors. They are to be found at an archaeological site which so far has yielded some 8000 ancient terracotta soldiers and horses, each a unique, finely detailed sculpture. This afternoon, you visit the ancient city wall which is one of the best preserved in China. Evening enjoy famous dumpling banquet.



Day 6 Xian - Chongqing

Meal: B

Today you are transferred to the railway station for the bullet train to Chongqing about 5-6 hours. Chongqing, located in southwestern China, is a vibrant and rapidly growing city known for its unique geographical and cultural characteristics. It's a great place to explore with a mix of modern and traditional elements. Overnight in Chongqing.

Day 7 Chongqing – Embarkation

Meal: B/D

This morning you will tour around this mountain city, including Erling Park and Jiefangbei Pedestrian Street etc, you will also visit Panda at Chongqing Zoo. Transferred to board the cruise 5* MV Century Oasis in Chongqing between 16:30 -- 21:00. Embarkation buffet dinner onboard. Take part in the Safety Briefing, cruise around the ship at your leisure. Ship departs from the port around 22:00.

Remarks: 3 off-shore excursions to Fengdu Ghost City, Shennv Stream, and Three Gorges Dam Site are included. Other optional tours please book direct with the cruise when on board.



Day 8 Yangtze Cruise Meal: B/L/D

You will enjoy free morning tea and coffee in the bar. If the weather permits, you may practice Tai Chi with a professional trainer on the sunshine deck. After breakfast, take the excursion to Fengdu Ghost City (about 2 hours). It's known for the culture of ghosts and integrating of Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism with diverse of Chinese traditions. There are varieties of on-board activities & lectures will be available in the afternoon.



Day 9 Yangtze Cruise Meal: B/L/D

After breakfast, either takes part in the optional shore excursion to the historical and cultural site of White Emperor City or at your leisure on-board. The ship will sail through the spectacular Qutang Gorge, followed by the magnificent Wu Gorge. The guide will introduce the unique scenery on both sides of the sun deck.

After lunch, join the excursion at the Shennv Stream (about 3 hours). From your Century Ship transfer to a smaller boat, you will cruise up the newly created waterways between well-wooded hills and sheer cliffs where you can enjoy spectacular scenery and see the most famous hanging coffins. Return to cruise.

Day 10 Yangtze Cruise Disembarkation Fly to Shanghai Meal: B/L

After an early breakfast, you will join in the shore excursion to the Three Gorges Dam Site (about 3 hours), which is the largest water conservancy project in the world.

*Optional tour of the Three Gorges Dam Ship Elevator: Disembark at Maoping pier of Yichang and change to a smaller boat to experience the Three Gorges Dam Ship Elevator; then disembark at Sandouping pier of Yichang and join the tour to the Three Gorges Dam.

In the afternoon you are transferred to the airport for your flight to Shanghai. Shanghai, one of the largest city in China where east meets the west. Transfer to hotel. Overnight in Shanghai.

Day 11 Shanghai Meal: B/L

After breakfast, the day begins with a grand city tour of Shanghai – the classical Ming Dynasty Yu Yuan Gardens with pavilions, towers and terraces and Pudong, the new economic district across from the Bund. The tour continues after lunch with a stroll along the spacious promenade of the Bund and some window shopping along bustling Nanjing Road; then followed by a visit to Xintiandi, where “yesterday meets tomorrow in Shanghai today.” As a re-creation born out of the sprawls of Shikumen housing, which is the architectural symbol of Shanghai in the 20th century, Shanghai Xintiandi, “the City’s Living-room” is a place to unwind and relax after a long day. You can enjoy your shopping at the local market.



Day 12 Shanghai ⇄ Suzhou**Meal: B/L**

Today you take a day excursion to Suzhou. Suzhou, referred to as the “Venice of the East” because it was built around a network of canals and bridges which fan out from the Grand Canal. Suzhou is also famous for its charming gardens. Visit the picturesque Humble Administrator’s Garden, the most famous garden in Suzhou, then visit Panmen Gate and see the Grand Canal, followed by a stop at the Number One Silk Factory to witness the production of the finest silk in China. Late afternoon, board your coach back to Shanghai. Overnight in Shanghai.

Day 13 Shanghai ✈ Guilin**Meal: B**

This morning is at leisure. You will fly to Guilin in the afternoon. Check in at hotel for 3 nights.

Day 14 Guilin – Yangshuo - Guilin**Meal: B/L/D**

The highlight of Guilin is the Li River cruise, a 5-6 hour cruise from Guilin to Yangshuo passing through various strange and wonderful mountain formations. Upon arrival Yangshuo you will have time to roam the local market.

**Day 15 Guilin ⇄ Longsheng ⇄ Guilin****Meal: B/L**

Day excursion to Longsheng. Longsheng is located in the mountainous region on the north eastern part of Guilin. The natural beauty and the colourful ethnic Chinese cultures and customs attract people from all over the world. You visit old Zhuang village, and the beautiful terrace rice fields on summit of Longji (Dragon's backbone), which are built along the slope winding from the bottom of the valley to the mountain top, with the highest place of an elevation of 885m and the lowest 380m. Return Guilin in the late afternoon.

Day 16 Guilin – Guangzhou - Australia**Meal: B/L**

This morning, you tour the Reed Flute Cave, a wonderful limestone cave with a dazzling variety of stalactites and stalagmites and Fubo Hill. After Lunch, you will take high speed train to Guangzhou then transfer to Guangzhou Airport for your overnight flight bound for Australia.

Day 17 Australia

Arrive in Australia in the morning.