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Classic China with Yangtze Cruise Experience - 13 Days

This tour includes Beijing's imperial Forbidden City and the Great Wall. Afterwards, visit Xi'an, home to the renowned army of Terracotta Warriors before you sail through the picturesque Three Gorges region of the Yangtze River. A memorable journey in vibrant Shanghai and beautiful Guilin will be included as well.

Date	Destinations	Attractions, Meals & Transport
1	Day 1 Beijing	• airport-hotel transfer in Beijing
2	Day 2 Beijing	• breakfast, lunch • *Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City , Temple of Heaven, a silk gift shop en route* The Tian'anmen Square is the world's largest and renowned public square where many historical events once took place. The Forbidden City (UNESCO) is the imperial place where the emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties ruled for nearly 500 years (1420-1911). Experience the architectural splendor of the palaces, ceremonial courtyards, and private quarters. The Temple of Heaven (UNESCO), where ancient Chinese emperors made sacrifices to Heaven and prayed for bountiful harvests, demonstrates the supreme achievement of traditional Chinese architecture. **Good to know:** Usually the guide service for a full day tour is about from 9:00 to 17:00, and the evening time is on your own. If needed, your guide is happy to offer some tips or help you buy tickets for evening entertainment. **Ideas for leisure time:** If you are interested in Chinese Kung Fu, the Legend of Kung Fu is a good choice for tonight. It is stunning Kung Fu show with a great story line and martial arts skills.
3	Day 3 Beijing	• breakfast, lunch • *Great Wall, Summer Palace , a cloisonné workshop en route* The Great Wall is one of the most spectacular structures ever built by humans and is the only one visible from space. The Summer Palace (UNESCO) is the largest imperial garden in the world. Emperors of successive dynasties created a summer retreat of Chinese gardens and pavilions, around the tranquil waters of Kunming Lake. **Ideas for leisure time:** 1. Enjoy the Peking Duck dinner at time-honored restaurant - Quanjude or Bianyifang. The duck is characteristic with its crispy skin, tender meat and the fragrance from the fruit-wood. 2. Watch a breathtaking acrobatic show at Chaoyang Theater or Tiandi Theater.
4	Day 4 Beijing - Xian (by bullet train)	• hotel - train station transfer in Beijing, train station - hotel transfer in Xi'an • breakfast
5	Day 5 Xian	• breakfast, lunch • *Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, a ceramic & pottery workshop en route* The Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses (UNESCO) is one of the greatest archaeological discoveries in the world. More than 6000 life-sized terra cotta warriors, archers, infantrymen, horses, and bronze chariots have silently guarded the tomb of China's First Emperor for over 2,200 years. The Big Wild Goose Pagoda, a Tang Dynasty landmark, is a seven-story pagoda initially constructed in 652 AD. One of the pagoda's many functions is to hold sutras and figurines of the Buddha that were brought to China from India by the Buddhist translator and traveler - Xuanzang. **Ideas for leisure time:** Enjoy a tasteful Dumpling Banquet followed by an exquisite traditional Tang Dynasty Show. **Good to know:** If you have an extra day in Xi'an, you could explore the Mount Hua and get impressed of its unique natural beauty. Or to take a day trip to Luoyang by bullet train and visit the Longmen Grottoes, one of the Three Most Famous Buddhist Grottoes in China.
6	Day 6 Xian - Chongqing (by air) - Yangtze Cruise	• airport transfer in Xi'an, airport- port transfer in Chongqing • breakfast, lunch • *Ancient City Wall , Embark on your Yangtze River Cruise Ship* The Ancient City Wall is one of the oldest city walls in China and still encompasses the center of Xi'an today. Upon arrival in Chongqing, transfer and embark on your Yangtze River Cruise Ship. The Yangtze River originates on the Tibetan Plateau and traverses a distance of 3900 miles before flowing into the East China Sea, near Shanghai. It has been the lifeline in China for millennia.

7	Day 7 Yangtze Cruise	• breakfast, lunch, dinner • *Yangtze River Cruise (Shibaozhai)* Today, start sailing for a distance of 430 miles in all the great gorges. In the morning, you could enjoy the spectacular view from the deck or you could take an optional tour to Fengdu - China's "City of Ghosts" (CNY 280 per person). In legend, Fengdu was a ghost city and the entrance of heaven or hell, and the imaged ghost statures here reveal ancient Chinese religion and belief. After lunch, take a shore excursion to the Shibaozhai. The Shibaozhai is a 12-storey wooden pavilion built in the Ming Dynasty, which looks like a giant bonsai on the Yangtze River. A cofferdam was built around the Shibaozhai to protect it from the rising water level caused by the construction of the Three Gorges Dam. After returning to the cruise, you will be invited to the Captain's Welcome Party.
8	Day 8 Yangtze Cruise	• breakfast, lunch, dinner • *Yangtze River Cruise (Shennong Stream)* This morning sail into Qutang Gorge, the shortest, narrowest and probably the most fascinating one. Later sail through Wu Gorge. It is well-known for the legend of 12 fairy maidens became the 12 peaks of Wu Gorge. Then you could take an optional tour to White Emperor Town, which is famous for historical temples and legends (CNY 280 per person). After lunch change to the "peapod" boat for sailing deep into the Shennong Stream for a 3 hours exploration. The contrasting heights of these gorges and the narrowness of the river make this area one of the most dramatic scenes in the world. Notice the ruins of the ancient plank road along the cliff face as well as the coffins suspended from the cliffs above. Afterwards, sail through the Five-step Ship Lock.
9	Day 9 Yangtze Cruise - Yichang - Shanghai (by air)	• port - airport transfer in Yichang, airport-hotel transfer in Shanghai • breakfast • *Yangtze River Cruise (Three Gorges Dam Site) & disembark* In the morning take a shore excursion to the Three Gorges Dam Site, the largest dam and hydroelectric project in the world. Then sail down the Xiling Gorge. Later, disembark at Yichang and transfer to the airport or train station. **Ideas for leisure time:** If you arrives at early afternoon and have no plans, you could take an optional trip to Zhujiajiao. With a history of 1700 years, this is an ancient water town prized for its lovely rivers, stone bridges, and historical buildings.
10	Day 10 Shanghai	• breakfast, lunch • *Yu Garden, Jade Buddha Temple, Shanghai Museum, Bund, a local gift shop en route* Owing to its ingenious design in Ming and Qing dynasties, the Yu Garden becomes a real museum of Chinese ancient architecture. The Jade Buddha Temple is famous for its two precious jade Buddha statues brought from Burma, which are not only rare cultural relics but also exquisite artworks. The Shanghai Museum has a collection of 120,000 pieces of Chinese ancient treasures. The Bund,featured outstanding European colonial architectures, is full of new skyscrapers and historical buildings in the center of Shanghai. **Ideas for leisure time:** 1. Acrobatic Shows in Shanghai are known as the best in China. You can never imagine how exciting the show is. 2. Or you could take a Huangpu River Night Cruise which is the perfect way to enjoy the gorgeous night view of Shanghai.
11	Day 11 Shanghai – Guilin (by air)	• hotel - airport transfer in Shanghai, airport transfer in Guilin • breakfast, lunch • *Fubo Hill* The Fubo Hill is a perfect spot to explore the limestone karst landscape in Guilin.
12	Day 12 Guilin – Yangshuo - Guilin (by ship)	• take a cruise ship from Guilin to Yangshuo; private transfer from Yangshuo to Guilin • breakfast, lunch • *Li River Cruise, leisure time in Yangshuo, a pearl factory en route* In the morning, meet your guide at the hotel and transfer to embark on a memorable Li River Cruise. Through this 3-hour journey of China's best known natural scenery, you can appreciate unique karst landscapes as well as verdant hills and lovely waters. Then, arrive at Yangshuo at about 13:00 and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. Ideas for leisure time in Yangshuo (optional tours): 1. Take a bamboo rafting on the Yulong River. Sitting in a chair on the raft and floating down the Yulong River, you will be impressed by the amazing natural beauty in the countryside. 2.Yangshuo County is dotted with rolling hills, bamboo forests and local villages. Taking an walking tour with your guide and explore this scenic countryside is not a bad choice. 3.Or you could join in a 3-hour Chinese Cuisine Cookery Class. It is a great chance to learn a course of Chinese dish from local people. Your friends and family will be amazed when you make them Chinese dishes at the party.

13	Day 13 Guilin	• hotel - airport transfer in Guilin • breakfast

Tour Includes :

-- Private tour guide

-- Private air-conditioned coach

-- Land transfers between airport or railway station and hotel

-- Entrance tickets as listed

-- Chinese Lunch and dinner as listed

-- Centrally located hotels with breakfast

-- Yangtze Cruise ticket (include accommodation, meals on board, the shore excursion in groups and daily activities)

-- Domestic flights with taxes and train ticket (2^{nd} class seat) as listed

-- Service charge & government taxes

Tour Excludes :

-- International flights with taxes

-- Personal expenses such as laundry, drinks, phone bills, optional activities

-- Tips for guides and drivers

-- China Visa

-- Travel insurance

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