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Classic China with Yangtze Cruise Experience - 13 Days

Experience China's greatest imperial wonders and legendary waterways on this 13-day classic journey. Explore the Forbidden City, Great Wall, and Terracotta Warriors before boarding a deluxe cruise through the dramatic Three Gorges of the Yangtze River. Conclude your adventure amidst Shanghai's glittering modern skyline and the idyllic karst landscapes of Guilin and Yangshuo.

Tour Highlights

Deluxe Yangtze River Cruise: Sail through the magnificent **Qutang and Wu Gorges**, discover **Shennong Stream**, and visit the massive **Three Gorges Dam**.
Iconic World Heritage Wonders: Stand before the ancient **Great Wall**, walk through the imperial **Forbidden City**, and marvel at the **Terracotta Warriors**.
Picturesque Li River Cruise: Drift past world-famous limestone karst peaks and tranquil bamboo groves between **Guilin and Yangshuo**.
Modern & Imperial Contrast: Transition seamlessly from historic dynasty capitals to the cosmopolitan energy of **The Bund** in Shanghai.
Effortless Intercity Transit: Travel smoothly via modern high-speed bullet train, luxury cruise ship, and convenient domestic flights.

Date	Destinations	Attractions, Meals & Transport
1	Day 1 Arrival in Beijing	airport - hotel transfer in Beijing

2	Day 2 Beijing | Forbidden City & Temple of Heaven	breakfast, lunch **Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City (UNESCO), Temple of Heaven (UNESCO)** Stand in the heart of modern China at the world's largest public square, a site of profound historical significance and grand architectural scale. Walk into or drive through (sedan/minivan) Tian'anmen Square to marvel at its iconic surroundings, including the Monument to the People's Heroes and the Great Hall of the People. Constructed from 1406 at the very centre of Beijing, the Palace Museum is more widely known as the Forbidden City. Previously home to 24 different emperors, it is the largest palace complex in the world at approximately 720,000 square metres. Note: Closed on Mondays. In case of closure or ticket unavailability, the itinerary adjusts to Jingshan Park for a premier panoramic view overlooking the entire Forbidden City. Completed in 1420, the Temple of Heaven is the largest complex of sacrificial buildings in China that still stands to this day. The temple was visited by Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1636-1912) emperors on an annual basis to pray to the heavens for a good harvest. The subtle employment of acoustic principles used in the construction of the Echo Wall, Triple Sound Stone and Dialogue Stone reflects the advanced architectural technology in use in ancient China. **Dinner Suggestions: Iconic Peking Duck** Indulge in a signature feast at a renowned, time-honored restaurant. Savor the legendary roast duck, celebrated for its signature crispy skin, tender meat, and the subtle aroma of fruit-wood roasting.
3	Day 3 Beijing | Great Wall & Summer Palace	breakfast, lunch **The Great Wall (UNESCO), The Summer Palace (UNESCO)** The Great Wall is the largest ancient defensive project ever undertaken in China and even the world. Built continuously over 2,000 years starting in the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046-771 BC), the Great Wall now snakes its way across vast areas of northern and central China and has a total length of more than 20,000 km. The wall is a physical illustration of the Chinese philosophy of defending and tolerating rather than expanding and invading. This Qing Dynasty (1636-1912) imperial palace and garden (1636-1912) is the largest and best-preserved imperial garden in China. Modelled on the West Lake in Hangzhou and borrowing design techniques and artistic ideas from the gardens of Jiangnan south of the Yangtze River, this landscaped park offers the perfect summer retreat.
4	Day 4 Beijing to Xi'an by Bullet Train | Hutong Tour	train station transfer in Beijing, train station - hotel transfer in Xi'an breakfast **Beijing Hutongs & Rickshaw Tour** Dive into the heart of old Beijing with a visit to the Hutongs—a maze of historic, narrow alleys lined with traditional courtyard houses. To experience this vibrant neighborhood like a local, you will take a traditional rickshaw tour. Sit back and relax as your driver wheels you through the lively lanes, passing by local markets, ancient doorways, and hidden gardens. It is a wonderful, nostalgic journey that offers an intimate look at the city's traditional lifestyle away from the modern skyscrapers.

5	Day 5 Xi'an | Terracotta Warriors & Muslim Quarter	breakfast, lunch **Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses (UNESCO), The Bell and Drum Tower Square, The Muslim Quarter (Huimin Jie)** Unearth the secrets of the world's most significant archaeological discovery. Face the silent ranks of over 6,000 life-sized warriors, archers, and bronze chariots that have guarded the tomb of China's First Emperor for over 2,200 years. Located at the very center of ancient Xi'an, the Bell and Drum Tower Square is a grand landmark that beautifully connects China's imperial past with its vibrant modern energy. This spacious public square offers a stunning vantage point between two magnificent Ming Dynasty masterpieces: the majestic Bell Tower, which marks the geographical heart of the city, and the historic Drum Tower, which stands at the entrance to the famous Muslim Quarter. Visited by millions each year, the square provides an exceptional setting to admire traditional triple-eaved wooden architecture, which comes alive at night with a spectacular display of colorful illuminations. Steeped in over a millennium of history, the Muslim Quarter is a vibrant sensory feast and the heart of Xi'an's legendary food culture. As you wander through its ancient stone-paved lanes, you are greeted by an incredible array of mouth-watering delicacies and authentic Silk Road flavors. From the savory aroma of charcoal-grilled lamb skewers to the rhythmic pounding of traditional nut candy, this bustling historic enclave offers an unparalleled glimpse into the heritage and culinary soul of the city's Hui community. It is the ultimate destination to immerse yourself in the lively atmosphere and rich, diverse tastes of old Xi'an. **Leisure Time & Optional Experiences** **Evening Recommendation**: Indulge in a celebrated Xi'an Dumpling Banquet, followed by an enchanting Tang Dynasty Music and Dance Show—a vibrant revival of China's golden age of art and culture. **Extended Exploration**: If your schedule allows, we highly recommend a journey to Mount Hua to witness its breathtaking natural peaks. **Regional Highlights**: For a deeper dive into Buddhist history, consider a bullet train excursion to Luoyang to marvel at the Longmen Grottoes, one of China's three most renowned ancient cave complexes.
6	Day 6 Xi'an to Chongqing by Flight | Cruise Embarkation	airport transfer in Xi'an, airport- port transfer in Chongqing breakfast, lunch **Ancient City Wall , Embark on your Yangtze River Cruise Ship** Located in the centre of Xi'an, the Xi'an City Wall was built in the early Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) over the previously existing palace walls of the Tang Dynasty. It is the best-preserved and largest city wall in China and extends a total of 13.74 kilometres. The wall has a moat, draw bridges, watchtowers, corner towers and other military defences. 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 | Fengdu Shore Excursion	breakfast, lunch, dinner **Yangtze River Cruise (Fengdu ShuangGui Mt.)** Today, start sailing for a distance of 430 miles in all the great gorges. In the morning, you can enjoy a shore excursion to Fengdu "ShuangGui Mt.", or take an optional tour to the legendary Fengdu "Ghost City". After a buffet lunch, enjoy relaxed onboard cultural activities in the afternoon. Before dinner, you are cordially invited to the Captain's Welcome Reception. In the evening, an optional live-action outdoor show, "Romance of the Three Kingdoms", is also available.
8	Day 8 Yangtze Cruise | Three Gorges	breakfast, lunch, dinner **Yangtze River Cruise (Shennv Stream)** In the morning, you can take an optional shore excursion to White Emperor City or choose the panoramic views at the Peak of the Three Gorges. Afterward, return to the ship for a scenic sailing through the spectacular Qutang Gorge and Wu Gorge. Following a buffet lunch, enjoy a dramatic afternoon shore excursion as you board a smaller boat to explore the serene Goddess Stream. In the evening, savor the culinary highlights at the Captain's Farewell Dinner, followed by a vibrant Minorities and Dynasty Crew cabaret performance to celebrate your final night onboard.
9	Day 9 Yichang to Shanghai by Flight | Disembarkation	port - airport transfer in Yichang, airport-hotel transfer in Shanghai breakfast **Yangtze River Cruise (Three Gorges Dam Site) & disembark** After breakfast, enjoy an included shore excursion to the monumental Three Gorges Dam Site. For those looking to maximize their morning, you can take an optional additional tour to experience the TGP Ship's elevator or visit the Hometown of Qu Yuan. Afterward, take a shuttle transfer to Yichang. You will arrive at the Yichang Three Gorges Center Cruise Terminal for your onward departure. **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 | Yu Garden & The Bund	breakfast, lunch **Yu Garden, The Bund, Shanghai Old Town** Built in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Yu Garden is a classic example of a Jiangnan region garden and the most famous of five classical gardens in Shanghai. The Yu Garden compound consists of more than 30 halls and is divided into six sections by "dragon walls", tall white walls with undulating grey tiled ridges each terminating in a dragon's head. Next to the garden is Yuyuan Bazaar, a labyrinth of small streets and lanes where you can find a large number of restaurants, tea houses and shops. The most popular restaurants are NanxiangMantou Restaurant, famous for its xiaolongbao, Lubolang Restaurant and Old Shanghai Restaurant. One of the city's most recognisable landmarks and the pride of Shanghai for over one hundred years, the Bund is a mile-long stretch of waterfront promenade along the Huangpu River. On the west side of the road stand 52 buildings of various architectural styles, including Gothic, baroque, and neoclassical styles. It is often called an outdoor museum of buildings. Step back in time and experience the historical heart of the city at Shanghai Old Town, where classic Jiangnan-style architecture and bustling street markets offer a fascinating contrast to the city's futuristic skyscrapers. Anchored by the 16th-century Yu Garden and the lively bazaar surrounding the City God Temple, this vibrant district allows you to wander through labyrinthine alleys lined with traditional gray-brick buildings, cross the iconic Nine-Turn Bridge, and sample world-famous local delicacies like Xiaolongbao (soup dumplings) at historic eateries. **Leisure Time & Optional Experiences** **Huangpu River Cruise**: See Shanghai's iconic skyline from the water on a Huangpu River Cruise. Sail past the Bund's 52 historic colonial buildings and the futuristic skyscrapers of Lujiazui, including the Shanghai Tower and Oriental Pearl Tower. Choose a day cruise for clear architectural details or a night cruise (highly recommended) to see the city illuminated in a dazzling light show. **Shanghai Tower Skywalk Experience**: Soar to new heights at the Shanghai Tower, China's tallest building at 632 meters. Ride the world's fastest elevator (18m/s) to the 118th-floor Top of Shanghai Observatory. Enjoy 360°panoramic views of the city, including the Bund's colonial architecture, the Oriental Pearl Tower, and the winding Huangpu River.
11	Day 11 Shanghai to Guilin by Flight | Fubo Hill	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 to Yangshuo	Li River Cruise	take a cruise ship from Guilin to Yangshuo; private transfer from Yangshuo to Guilin breakfast, lunch **Li River Cruise, leisure time in Yangshuo** 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 Departure	hotel - airport transfer in Guilin breakfast

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: What is included during the Yangtze River cruise portion?
A: Your cruise package includes river-view balcony cabin accommodation, daily Western and Chinese buffet meals, captain's welcome parties, evening cultural performances, and guided shore excursions.

Q: How active is the sightseeing during the Yangtze and Li River cruises?
A: Both river journeys are very relaxing. Shore excursions along the Yangtze and visits around Guilin involve moderate walking on paved paths and stone steps.

Q: How are transfers coordinated between flights, bullet trains, and cruise ports?
A: Dedicated private guides and drivers handle all road transfers between hotels, airports, and train stations. At the cruise ports (such as Chongqing and Yichang), your vehicle will drop you off at the designated terminal entrance, and your guide will assist you and escort you on foot to the boarding pier and check-in desk.

Q: What is the best season to take this itinerary?
A: Spring (April to May) and Autumn (September to November) provide the most comfortable weather for walking the Great Wall, sailing the Yangtze gorges, and cruising the Li River in Guilin.

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

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

board, the shore excursion in groups and daily activities)

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

-- Service charge & government taxes

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