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China Senior Discovery Tour with Yangtze Cruise - 13 Days

This tour highlights a Yangtze River Cruise sailing through the picturesque Three Gorges and several onshore visit options. The luxury riverboat has walk-around passenger decks and upper and forward decks where you can relax, enjoy the sights and take photos. The trip also covers top cities in China, including imperial Beijing, ancient Xi'an and modern Shanghai. This relaxing and pleasant journey will make your China trip a lifelong memory.

240-Hour Visa-Free Transit in China

China is implementing a 10-day (240 hours) visa-free transit policy. The transit program allows visitors who have existing flight bookings from China to a third country (region) to snag a visa on arrival at a Chinese airport (port) and stay for 10 days before departure. Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan all count as third destinations.

Passport holders of 54 countries, including the United States and the United Kingdom, can enter visa-free through any of the 60 open airports (ports) in 24 provincial regions, covering popular tourist cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, Chengdu and Guangzhou.

Read more about 240-Hour Visa-Free Transit in China.

Meanwhile, citizens from 38 countries can enter China visa-free for up to 30 days.

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 (UNESCO), a silk gift shop en route** 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. **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 **The Great Wall (UNESCO), Bird's Nest & Water Cube, a cloisonné workshop en route** 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. Take an outside tour to the Olympic Stadium, nicknamed Bird's Nest, and the National Swimming Centre, also known as the Water Cube. **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	breakfast, lunch **Temple of Heaven (UNESCO), The Summer Palace (UNESCO)** 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. 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.
5	Day 5 Beijing – Xi'an (by bullet train)	hotel - train station transfer in Beijing, train station - hotel transfer in Xi'an breakfast
6	Day 6 Xi'an	breakfast, lunch **Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses (UNESCO), a ceramic & pottery workshop en route** 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. **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.
7	Day 7 Xi'an	breakfast, lunch **Shaanxi History Museum, Great Mosque, Muslim Snack Street** The Shaanxi History Museum, a national comprehensive museum in Xi'an, highlights the development of Chinese civilization more than 5,000 years. The Great Mosque, which blends Islamic mosque styles and traditional Chinese architectural elements, acts as one of the oldest and best-preserved Islamic mosques in China The Muslim Snack Street is full of mouth-watering delicacies and snacks.
8	Day 8 Xi'an - Chongqing (by air) - Yangtze Cruise	airport transfer in Xi'an, airport- port transfer in Chongqing breakfast, lunch **Embark on your Yangtze River Cruise Ship** Upon arrival in Yichang, 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.

9	Day 9 Yangtze Cruise	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.
10	Day 10 Yangtze Cruise	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.
11	Day 11 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** 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.

12	Day 12 Shanghai	breakfast, lunch **Yu Garden, The Bund, a local gift shop en route** 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. **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.
13	Day 13 Shanghai	hotel - airport transfer in Shanghai breakfast Service ends.

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 flight with taxes and train ticket (2nd 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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