

Mysterious Tibet & Yangtze Cruise Tour - 14 Days

This journey will make you get inspiration from the Tibetan Buddhism at Lhasa, the distant and mysterious land that you may have been dreaming to visit. This tour also gives you a unique experience by discovering the stunning natural beauty of the Yangtze River and staying in the fascinating cities of Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai.

Date	Destinations	Attractions, Meals & Transport
1	Day 1 Beijing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">airport - hotel transfer in Beijingbreakfast, lunch<i>Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, a silk gift shop en route</i> 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.
2	Day 2 Beijing	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">breakfast, lunch<i>Great Wall, Summer Palace, a cloisonné workshop en route</i> 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.
3	Day 3 Beijing	<p>Ideas for leisure time:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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.Watch a breathtaking acrobatic show at Chaoyang Theater or Tiandi Theater.
4	Day 4 Beijing - Xi'an (by bullet train)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">hotel - train station transfer in Beijing, train station - hotel transfer in Xi'anbreakfastbreakfast, lunch<i>Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, a ceramic & pottery workshop en route</i> 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.
5	Day 5 Xi'an	<p>Ideas for leisure time: Enjoy a tasteful Dumpling Banquet followed by an exquisite traditional Tang Dynasty Show.</p> <p>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.</p>
6	Day 6 Xi'an - Lhasa (by air)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">airport transfer in Xi'an, airport - hotel transfer in Lhasabreakfast, lunch<i>Ancient City Wall</i> The Ancient City Wall is one of the oldest city walls in China and still encompasses the center of Xi'an today.breakfast, lunch<i>Potala Palace, Sera Monastery</i> The Potala Palace, which used to be the residence of the Dalai Lama and seat of the Tibetan government, is currently converted into a museum. It is

7	Day 7 Lhasa	<p>Palace of the Dalai Lama and seat of the Tibetan government, is currently converted into a museum. It is comprised of over 200,000 statues, temples, shrines, and historical Tibetan relics. The Sera Monastery, one of the three most distinguished monasteries in Lhasa, is famous for its tantric teachings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • breakfast, lunch
8	Day 8 Lhasa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jokhang Temple, Barkhor Street, Norbulingkha</i> The Jokhang Temple, which commemorates the marriage of Tang princess Wencheng to King Songtsen Gampo, earns the reputation as the first Buddhist temple in Tibet. The Barkhor Street, Lhasa's old market, is full of vendors selling their wares. The smell of Yak butter is wafting in the air and hundreds of pilgrims are moving in a clockwise direction. The Norbulingkha is the summer palace of the Dalai Lama.
9	Day 9 Lhasa - Chongqing (by air) - Yangtze Cruise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hotel - airport transfer in Lhasa, airport & port transfer in Chongqing • breakfast, lunch • <i>Ciqikou Ancient Town, Stilwell Museum, Embark on your Yangtze River Cruise Ship</i> The Ciqikou Ancient Town used to be a busy port famous for porcelain production during the Ming and Qing Dynasties. It is a place full of religious temples, traditional buildings, ancient alleys with local teahouses and restaurants. The Stilwell Museum was the former office and residence of General Joseph Stilwell, the Commander of the US Forces during World War II. 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.
10	Day 10 Yangtze Cruise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • breakfast, lunch, dinner • <i>Yangtze River Cruise (Shibaozhai)</i> 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 statues 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.
11	Day 11 Yangtze Cruise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • breakfast, lunch, dinner • <i>Yangtze River Cruise (Shennong Stream)</i> 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.
12	Day 12 Yangtze Cruise - Yichang - Shanghai (by air)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • port - airport transfer in Yichang, airport - hotel transfer in Shanghai • breakfast • <i>Yangtze River Cruise (Three Gorges Dam Site), Disembark</i> In the morning, set sail into Xiling Gorge. Today you could enjoy the spectacular view from the deck or you could take an optional tour to Tribe of Three Gorges (CNY 280 per person). After lunch, take a shore excursion to the Three Gorges Dam Site, the largest dam and hydroelectric project in the world. Then the cruise transits the Five-step Ship Lock and sails through the second section of Xiling Gorge. Attend the Captain's Welcome Banquet in the evening. After breakfast, disembark in Chongqing and transfer to the airport or train for your departure. <p>Ideas for leisure time:</p> <p>If you arrive 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.</p>
13	Day 13 Shanghai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • breakfast, lunch • <i>Yu Garden, Jade Buddha Temple, Shanghai Museum, Bund, a local gift shop en route</i> 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.

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Day 14 Shanghai

- hotel - airport transfer in Shanghai
- breakfast

About Tibet Travel Permits:

1. All foreign travelers are required to have the Tibet Travel Permit (or Tibet Permit, Tibet Entry Permit) in hand before entering Tibet. The Tibet Travel Permit is issued by Tibet Administration to the authorized travel agencies, but not to individual travelers directly.
2. CITS handle Tibet Permit application for guests who booked Tibet tour package from us. Travelers can either take a tailored private tour or join in a group tour. The tour package should include services of tour guide, automobile, sightseeing & accommodation. Please be advised that we do NOT offer "permit-only" service.
3. The Tibet Permit needs to be applied **at least 20 days** prior to arrival in Tibet, so we suggest travelers send the tour inquiry **at least 30 days** in advance.
4. The general travel information (including tour dates, travelers' personal information, destinations in Tibet...) will be attached to the Tibet Permit, so the travel itinerary could not be changed once the tour is confirmed.
5. All travelers can get Tibet Permit through an authorized travel agency except diplomats, journalists, and government officials who should travel to Tibet under the arrangement by the Foreign Affairs Office of Tibet Government.

How to book a Tibet tour with Tibet Travel Permit:

Step1: Traveler sends a travel inquiry to CITS.

Step 2: CITS travel counselor sends you an itinerary and quote. We are pleased to make any changes as per your request before you are completely satisfied with the tour proposal.

Step 3: Book the tour and make the payment via bank transfer or PayPal. Payment needs to be received by us at least 20 days before your arrival.

Step 4: Send us the following document & information:

- A scanned copy of your passport (photo page);
- A scanned copy of your China visa (tourist visa);
- All travelers' information including full names, gender, date of birth, passport number, nationality and occupation;

Step 5: Your travel counselors will confirm the tour and send you an email attached with the confirmation & voucher.

Step 6: When you leave for Lhasa you will need to show the original copy of the Tibet permit when checking in at the airport or railway station. The permit will be delivered to our local office in the departure city. You will need to pick it up from the local office. If you booked the land service at that city, our guide will pass the permit to you.

Tour Includes :

- Private tour guide
- Private air-conditioned car or coach
- Land transfers between airport, railway station, port and hotel

- Entrance tickets as listed
- Chinese Lunch and dinner as listed
- Centrally located hotels with breakfast
- Domestic flights with taxes and bullet train ticket (2nd class seat) as listed
- Yangtze Cruise Ticket (include accommodation, meals on board, the shore excursion in groups and daily activities)
- Tibet Travel Permit
- 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

About Shopping or No-shopping Tours

Since October, 2013, CITS offers truly alternative prices of tours with or without shopping. Exceptionally, some tours only have one type price, such as seat-in-coach, hiking, self-driving and luxury tours, etc. [Click here know more details.](#)