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## 13 days China Highlights Tour with Yangtze River Cruise

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Beijing  
Xi'an  
Chengdu  
Chongqing  
Yangtze Cruise  
Shanghai

Discover China's 5,000 years history by visiting the most top cities in China - imperial palaces, hutongs and Terracotta Warriors. After enjoy the natural beauty on the splendid Yangtze Three Gorges Cruise, tours ends at Shanghai.

Type  
Private  
Duration  
13 days  
Theme  
1st Time travel to China, Culture and Heritage, Natural scenery  
Trip code  
YCT-05  
Price  
From £ 1,239 per person  
£ 1,239  
you save £ 0 (0%)

### Itinerary

This tour offers a balanced exploration of China's top cities, delving into their rich historical and cultural treasures, while also providing an unforgettable Yangtze River cruise experience. Begin in Beijing, where you'll discover cultural marvels like the Great Wall and Forbidden City. Continue to Xi'an to witness the awe-inspiring Terracotta Warriors, then venture to Chengdu to meet the adorable giant pandas. Sail through the dramatic natural landscapes of the Three Gorges along the Yangtze River. Conclude your journey in Shanghai, one of China's major cities. Prepare for an extraordinary adventure that awaits you!

Day 01 :  
Arrive Beijing



Upon arrive at the Beijing airport or railway station, be met and assisted to your hotel by the Beijing tour guide and driver. Rest of the day is on your own to explore this capital city.

#### Day 02 :

##### Beijing City Highlights - Forbidden City & Summer Palace (B)

Begin your first day in Beijing with a visit to **Tiananmen Square**, situated at the center of Beijing city. This iconic square, considered the largest in the world, holds great significance for the Chinese people, often serving as a venue for celebrations and important events. Then proceed to the **Forbidden City**, an extraordinary palace complex that housed 24 emperors during the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Explore the rich history and architectural wonders of this ancient site, which served as the imperial residence and administrative center for centuries.

Continue your journey to **Jingshan Park**, situated directly across from the Forbidden City. A climb to the park's summit will reward you with a breathtaking panoramic view of the Forbidden City and the vast Beijing cityscape.

After lunch, drive to visit **Summer Palace**, a royal garden that surrounding Kunming Lake and Longevity Hill more traditionally known as Wanshou Shan. It is one of the four classic gardens of China. This palace was built by the emperors during Qing dynasty as a summertime retreat. You will easily see many spectacular gardens, palaces and temples throughout.

#### Day 03 :

##### Beijing sightseeing - Temple of Heaven & Mutianyu Great Wall (B)

After breakfast, drive to visit the **Temple of Heaven** in south Beijing. It is a holy imperial temple where emperors once prayed for a good harvest and offered sacrifices to the God of Heaven during every winter solstice. You will have a glimpse of this masterpiece of architecture and landscape design.

Afterward, drive to **Mutianyu Great Wall**, one of the best section to explore the Great Wall of China. It will take about 2.5 hours to get there by private car. Upon arrival enjoy 2 to 3 hours of walking along with this ancient defense and have a glimpse of the magnificent scenery as the wall winds its way across the mountains. If you don't feel like walking up, you can also choose to ascend and descend via a cable car or slide your way down in a toboggan.

On the way back to your hotel, you may have a quick stop at the **Olympic Green** to overlook at Bird's Nest and The Cube. Then drop you off at your hotel, rest on your own for the rest of the day.

#### Day 04 :

##### Beijing Hutong Tour - High Speed train to Xi'an (B)

After breakfast, drive to visit the **Lama Temple**, which also known as the **Yonghegong Temple**. It is a temple and monastery of the Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism. It contains the largest wooden Buddha in the world. *(Optional: if you are more interested in the local people's life, You can visit Beihai Park instead).*

Afterward, you will have 1-2 hours to feel the traditional Hutong culture by visiting the Shichahai in west Beijing. Traveling by rickshaw through century-old Hutongs in Shichahai before their demolition. Walk along the old Yandai Xiejie which has an 800-year history surrounding Beijing's Drum Tower. Plenty of time for you to explore on your own to nearby Nanluoguoxiang for tasting some local snacks or buying some souvenirs from the many antique shows for your family and friends.

In the afternoon, **take the high-speed train to Xi'an** (about 5-6 hours). Upon arrival in Xi'an, to be picked up and transferred to the hotel.

Day 05 :

Xi'an City Tour(B)

The first spot of your tour today is one of the must-see attractions in China, the **Terracotta Warriors and Horses**, recognized as the 8th wonder of the world. 'Discovered by chance' by some local farmers in 1974, thousands of life-sized Terracotta Warriors, horses, and chariots were unearthed, those crafted figures date from 210 BC and were meant to guard the first emperor of China. Each year it attracts millions of tourists from all over the world.

Then head back to downtown and visit **Xi'an City Wall**, one of the oldest and best-preserved city walls across China, you can choose to take a walk along the city wall or rent a bicycle. Afterward, pay a visit to **Shuyuan Men ancient cultural street**, where you can find some traditional Chinese arts and crafts, a good spot for souvenirs. Finally, move to visit the **Muslim Quarter and Great Mosque** to feel the unique ethnic culture of Hui and try the local snacks.

Day 06 :

Half Day Xi'an City Tour - High Speed Train to Chengdu(B)

In the morning, drive to visit **Beilin Museum (Forest of Stone Steles Museum)**, it is a treasure trove of Chinese calligraphy, historical documents, and stone carvings, housing over 3,000 steles.

Continue with a visit to the **Big Wild Goose Pagoda**, a major landmark of Xi'an. First built in 652 during the Tang Dynasty, and many people believe that its main function was to protect and preserve the sutras and figurines of the Buddha that were brought back from India.

In the afternoon, take a high-speed train to Chengdu (3-4 hours). Upon arrival, Chengdu train station pick up and transfer to hotel. Overnight at Chengdu.

Day 07 :

Chengdu Panda Base - High Speed Train to Chongqing - Embark Yangtze Cruise (B/D)

After breakfast, head to the **Chengdu Panda Base** to see the adorable pandas. Morning is considered as the best time to visit Panda center as you will catch the feeding time and the pandas are at their most active. Walk through the forested landscape, watch as giant pandas play, nap, and munch bamboo; visit the panda nursery, subadult enclosure, and adult compound; and watch informational videos on panda behavior and the challenges of working with and breeding captive pandas.

If time is allowed, pay a visit to **People's Park**, a great place to get insight the daily life of locals who come here relax, exercise, play games like Mah-jongg and chess, sing and dance, or find love matches for their loved ones. You will be arranged to have a cup of tea like locals in the open-air Heming Tea House, a great place to slow down and rest your legs.

You will take afternoon high-speed train to Chongqing (about 2 hours), upon arrival, you will be ready to get on the luxury cruise at Chongqing Pier. The Yangtze River Cruise boarding time is from 16:30 to 21:00. Enjoy a buffet dinner on board. At 21:30 your memorable Yangtze River begins.

Day 08 :

Yangtze River Cruise with Shore Excursions to Mountain Shuanggui or Shibaozhai Wooden Pagoda (B, L, D)

Taking a Yangtze River Cruise might be the best way to explore the breathtaking natural landscapes and cultural heritage along the Yangtze River.

Morning take a shore excursion to **Mountain Shuanggui** near Fengdu. Depending on river conditions, an alternate excursion may be substituted to **Shibaozhai**, with its impressive wooden pagoda. Continue the cruise on Yangtze River. Dinner and Supper are offered on board.

***Optional shore excursions today (fee on your own):***

Depending on the river conditions, there is an optional shore excursion to **Fengdu ghost city**, Fengdu is an ancient town where you can experience the world of the afterlife in Chinese ghost folktales. Wreathed with numerous statues and interspersed by temples, the whole scenic area is a treasure house of art that combines the culture of Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism.

Day 09 :

Yangtze River Cruise - Enter the Three Gorges with Small Gorges of Goddess Stream (B,L,D)

In the early morning, you have the option to join an optional shore excursion to the historical and cultural site **White Emperor City** (additional fee applies). This renowned location offers stunning views of the Kuimen scenery and is often referred to as the "City of Poems." Immerse yourself in the rich history and soak in the breathtaking landscapes that surround you. Alternatively, you can choose to enjoy leisure time onboard the ship, relaxing and taking in the tranquil ambiance.

Afterwards, return to the ship and prepare to enter the **Three Gorges**, the highlight of your Yangtze River Cruise. Sail through the first two gorges, starting with the dramatic **Qutang Gorge**, known for being the shortest (5 miles), narrowest (500 feet), and most visually striking. Next is the picturesque **Wu Gorge**, stretching 25 miles and adorned with forest-covered mountains and sheer cliffs that allow only a gentle penetration of sunlight.

Later, you'll transfer to smaller boat for a delightful **excursion** through the enchanting gorges of either **Goddess Stream (Shennv Stream) or**, depending on river conditions, **Shennong Stream**. Experience the natural beauty and serenity of these captivating gorges. Finally, return to the cruise to continue your journey through Xiling Gorge, which holds the title of being the longest (41 miles) and deepest of the Three Gorges.

Day 10 :

Yangtze River Cruise - Visit Three Gorges Dam - Flight to Shanghai (B)

Disembark this morning and take a tour of the **Three Gorges Dam**, the grandest hydroelectric project in the world, which spans the Yangtze River at Sandouping in Xiling Gorge. The dam is designed to provide a huge source of hydropower for China and control the flood. After morning sightseeing, You will be provided a motor coach transfer to nearby Yichang by Cruise company. Upon arrival at Yichang, our Yichang local guide or driver will greet and assist you to Yichang airport for the flight to Shanghai. Upon arrival at Shanghai, airport picking up and transfer to your hotel.

**Optional shore excursions today (fee on your own):**

An additional optional shore excursion is also available (preceding the Three Gorges Dam tour) through the recently-completed **unique ship lock with a ship lift**, the world's largest.

Day 11 :

Shanghai City Tour (B)

In the morning, cross the Huangpu River and head to the **Oriental Pearl TV Tower** located at the tip of Lujiazui in the Pudong District. Recognized globally as the official landmark of Shanghai, it offers breathtaking views of the city and the Huangpu River. Next, visit **Yu Garden**, a beautiful garden established by a Ming Dynasty government officer, renowned for its intricate layout, stunning pavilions, and extensive use of rockeries and water features that capture the essence of nature. Afterwards, explore **Shanghai Old Street** to gain insights into Shanghai's history.

After lunch, head to **Xintiandi in the French Concession**. Originally the site of the first congress of China's Communist Party, it is now a vibrant cultural center of Shanghai featuring cafes, bars, bookstores, and boutiques.

Finally, experience the historical charm of **the Bund** along the Huangpu River. Your day tour in Shanghai ends at Nanjing Road, which offers a bustling shopping experience.

*In the evening you might consider to enjoy a spectacular Chinese Acrobatics show (available only on weekends) or take an evening cruise along the Huangpu River to enjoy the night view of the Bund (additional fee). Overnight stay in Shanghai.*

Day 12 :

One Day Excursion to Tongli Water Town (B)

In the morning drive to visit **Tongli water town** in Suzhou, an ancient town which has over 1,000 years' history. The town is famous for a system of canals and featured by water, bridges and ancient architectures. You will be arranged to have a boat tour on the canals for witnessing the breathtaking scenery of Tongli town. Walking on the small alleys to discover this ancient town. Drive back to Shanghai in the afternoon, freely explore Shanghai on your own.

Day 13 :

Departure from Shanghai (B)

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your departure flight to the next destination.

Notes: Shanghai has two airports - Hongqiao Airport and Pudong Airport. Please make sure you go to the right one for the departure.

**Inclusions**

**Tour notes:**

Please note prices are based in CNY.

**General inclusions:**

2 bottles of mineral water provided daily.

All required government taxes and fees.

Your selection of 3, 4 or 5 Stars hotel (shared twin room, private bathroom and daily breakfast)

The hotel accommodation is based on two persons sharing one standard twin room with private facilities in all relevant locations. If a single client requests a twin room alone, the single room supplement will be charged.

Yangtze river cruise class is a Standard cabin located on the main deck.

All entrance tickets as noted in the tour's itinerary.

Yangtze river cruise services include all onboard meals and shore excursions to the Little Three Gorges, Shennong Stream and others.

Guide fluent in English, Chinese or Japanese that is certified by the state tourism build and from the local community. (If your native language is not listed please let us know, we are certain we can assist your needs.)

Airport and/or train station pick-up and drop-off.

All domestic flight and train tickets. Economy-class for flights and soft sleeper / seat for train tickets.

Transportation will be provided via a comfortable and clean car, minivan or tourist bus depending upon the groups size.

Meals as remarked in the itinerary. (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)

**General exclusions:**

Personal expenses such as laundry, drinks, internet access, fax, telephone calls etc.

Tips for your guide and driver.

Optional Attractions that are not specified in the itinerary.

Flight and/or railway ticket(s) to the first city of the tour and departure from the last city of the tour.

Meals not specified in the itinerary.  
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