Itinerary

14 Day Luxury China & Yangtze River Cruise w/ Flights

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.**

Day 1: Australia ~ Beijing, China

Today you depart Australia for China. Upon arrival at Beijing Capital International Airport, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure to rest after your flight, adjust to the new environment, or explore the local area at your own pace.

NOTE: Depending on airline schedules, you may be required to depart on Day 0.

MEALS: In Flight

OVERNIGHT: Pullman Beijing South or similar

Day 2: Beijing ~ Tiananmen Square & Forbidden City

After breakfast, meet your guide and begin the day at Tiananmen Square, one of the largest public spaces in the world and steeped in history. From here, enter the awe-inspiring Forbidden City, home to Chinese emperors from the Ming dynasty (1420) to the end of the Qing dynasty in 1912. Explore its vast courtyards, ceremonial halls, and rich imperial legacy.

This evening, enjoy a welcome banquet featuring the famous local delicacy – Peking Duck – a delicious and traditional way to begin your journey in China.

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Pullman Beijing South or similar

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:

Day 3: The Great Wall of China

Today, prepare to explore one of the world's most iconic landmarks – the Great Wall of China. While the earliest sections date back over two thousand years, the majority of the structure you'll see today was built between the 14th and 17th centuries during the Ming dynasty. You'll visit the Juyong Pass, one of the most picturesque and historically significant sections of the wall. Set amidst dramatic mountain scenery, the views from the wall are breathtaking, and a walk along its ancient stones is an unforgettable experience.

En route, stop at one of Asia's largest jade exhibitions, where you'll learn about the history and cultural significance of jade, one of China's most treasured gemstones.

In the afternoon, continue to the Summer Palace, a vast imperial retreat covering over 716 acres, with landscaped gardens, elegant pavilions, and the man-made Kunming Lake. Originally developed in 1153 and expanded in 1750, this UNESCO World Heritage site was a favourite getaway for Qing dynasty emperors and empresses seeking tranquillity outside the city.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

OVERNIGHT: Pullman Beijing South or similar

Day 4: Beijing ~ Temple of Heaven

This morning, visit the magnificent Temple of Heaven, a spiritual complex once used by emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties for annual ceremonies to pray for good harvests. With its striking architecture and tranquil grounds, it remains a deeply symbolic cultural site.

Afterwards, visit a traditional Chinese medicine clinic, where you'll gain insight into ancient healing practices. Learn about herbal remedies and enjoy a rejuvenating foot massage, a customary form of relaxation and wellness in Chinese culture.

The afternoon is free at your leisure. You may wish to explore Wangfujing, Beijing's premier shopping street, known for its lively atmosphere, boutique stores, and street food stalls.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Pullman Beijing South or similar

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:

Hutong Rickshaw Ride with Homemade Lunch

Discover the charm of Beijing's historic Hutongs with a rickshaw ride through these narrow lanes lined with traditional courtyard residences. Enjoy a homemade lunch with a local family and get a glimpse into traditional life in old Beijing.

Day 5: Beijing ~ Xi'an

This morning, board a high-speed train to Xi'an, a journey of approximately five hours through China's scenic countryside. Sit back, relax, and enjoy views of rural landscapes as you travel to one of China's most historically rich cities.

Upon arrival in Xi'an, explore the lively Muslim Quarter, known for its vibrant street life, diverse food offerings, and unique blend of Chinese and Islamic culture. Wander through bustling alleyways lined with stalls selling everything from handmade dumplings to traditional sweets.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Titan Times Hotel or similar

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:

Tang Dynasty Music & Dance Show with Dumpling Banquet

Enjoy an evening of cultural entertainment with a dazzling Tang Dynasty performance, featuring traditional music, dance, and costumes from one of China's most prosperous eras. The show is paired with a delicious dumpling banquet, offering a variety of locally inspired flavours.

Day 6: Terracotta Warriors

Today begins with a visit to the awe-inspiring Terracotta Warriors, one of the world's greatest archaeological discoveries and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Discovered in 1974, this vast underground army of life-sized clay soldiers was built to guard the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, and stands as a powerful testament to ancient Chinese craftsmanship and military history.

Afterwards, visit a terracotta workshop, where you can see how replicas of these iconic figures are made and gain further insight into the artistry behind the original army.

Continue your cultural exploration with a visit to the Small Wild Goose Pagoda, a beautifully preserved Buddhist structure dating back to the Tang Dynasty, set within tranquil gardens in the heart of Xi'an.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

OVERNIGHT: Titan Times Hotel or similar

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:

Datang Everbright City Night Tour with Dinner

Spend the evening at Datang Everbright City, a lively pedestrian zone located at the foot of the Giant Wild Goose Pagoda. Enjoy a local dinner while taking in dazzling light shows, street performances, and immersive Tang Dynasty-themed experiences.

Day 7: Xi'an ~ Shanghai

This morning, transfer to the train station and board a high-speed train to Shanghai — a journey of approximately six hours through China's ever-changing landscapes. Experience the efficiency and comfort of the country's impressive rail network as you travel to China's modern metropolis.

Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and enjoy some time to relax, or step outside for a leisurely walk to explore your local surroundings and get your first taste of Shanghai's dynamic energy.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Handwritten Collection Shanghai Hongqiao or similar

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:

ERA: Intersection of Time Acrobatic Show

In the evening, you may choose to attend the spectacular ERA: Intersection of Time, a world-class acrobatic show that fuses traditional Chinese performance arts with stunning special effects and modern

technology. A thrilling and unforgettable experience!

Day 8: Shanghai City Tour

Today, explore Shanghai's most iconic landmarks with your guide. Begin at The Bund, a historic riverside promenade lined with grand colonial-era buildings and panoramic views of the futuristic Pudong skyline. Continue to Nanjing Road, the city's busiest shopping street, bustling with energy and modern flair. Then stroll through Xintiandi, a charming district known for its preserved Shikumen (stone-gate houses), blending traditional Shanghainese architecture with contemporary lifestyle and culture.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

OVERNIGHT: Handwritten Collection Shanghai Hongqiao or similar

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:

Shanghai Museum Bronze Collection Tour

Take a guided deep-dive into China's ancient craftsmanship through the museum's world-renowned bronze collection, with exhibits dating back thousands of years.

Huangpu River Night Cruise

Cap off your evening with a scenic cruise along the Huangpu River, taking in Shanghai's glittering skyline and iconic city lights from a unique water-level perspective.

Day 9: Shanghai ~ Yichang ~ Embark Yangtze River Cruise

Fly from Shanghai to Yichang. Upon arrival, meet your transfer and proceed to the cruise terminal where you'll board the Victoria Anna or similar. Settle into your comfortable cabin and take in your first views of the Yangtze River as you prepare for an unforgettable journey through China's heartland.

Enjoy a relaxing evening onboard, getting to know your fellow travellers and the facilities of your floating hotel.

Our tour guide will accompany the guests to the cruise terminal for check-in but will not travel with you on the cruise. Cruise staff will be available on board to assist with the optional excursions.

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Victoria Anna or similar

Day 10: Three Gorges Dam & Captain's Welcome Party

Today you'll cruise through the tranquil beauty of the Yangtze River. In the morning, relax onboard or join an optional cultural excursion. In the afternoon, visit the impressive Three Gorges Dam – one of the world's largest engineering marvels and a symbol of modern China's ambition.

This evening, enjoy the Captain's Welcome Party, a great opportunity to mingle with fellow guests and toast to the journey ahead.

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Victoria Anna or similar

NOTE: No Tour Guide today

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS: OnBoard Booking Only

Tribe of the Three Gorges

Visit a scenic riverside village where the Tujia people preserve their traditional way of life.

Quyuan Birthplace

Explore the historic home of poet and statesman Qu Yuan, recognised by UNESCO.

Three Gorges Dam Ship Lift

Ride the world's most sophisticated ship lift, rising over 113 metres.

Day 11: Wu Gorge, Qutang Gorge & Shennong Stream

Begin the day cruising through the spectacular Wu Gorge, known for its soaring cliffs and misty peaks. Continue through the dramatic Qutang Gorge, where you'll catch views of the famous Kuimen Gate. Later, enjoy a peaceful Shennong Stream excursion, drifting past untouched river landscapes on a traditional wooden boat.

The day concludes with rich storytelling and majestic views that bring the Yangtze's legends to life.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Victoria Anna or similar

NOTE: No Tour Guide today

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS: OnBoard Booking Only

White Emperor City

Visit an ancient literary and historic stronghold with stunning views.

Three Gorges Summit

Hike to a panoramic lookout over the majestic gorges.

Day 12: Folk Culture Park & Captain's Farewell Banquet

Delve into traditional culture with a visit to Xiaoguanshan Ancient Folk Culture Park, where historic Ming and Qing dynasty buildings have been carefully relocated and restored. Explore classic Chinese architecture and city gates that once stood in towns now submerged by the dam.

This evening, join the Captain's Farewell Banquet – a joyful celebration of your cruise adventure.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Victoria Anna or similar

NOTE: No Tour Guide today

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS: OnBoard Booking Only

Fengdu Ghost City

Learn about traditional beliefs in the afterlife at this spiritual and artistic mountain town.

Mt. Wuling Great Rift Valley + Lunch

Discover dramatic karst scenery, forests, and waterfalls in this emerald valley.

Day 13: Disembark Chongqing ~ Departure

After breakfast, your Yangtze River Cruise concludes in the bustling city of Chongqing. Disembark at Chaotianmen Dock by 09:00 where you will be transferred to the airport for your return trip home

MEALS: Breakfast, In Flight

OVERNIGHT: In Flight

Day 14: Arrive Australia

Today, you will arrive back in Australia. We trust your journey through the China Golden Triangle has left you inspired and enriched by all you've experienced.

MEALS: In Flight