

Provident  Travel

CLASSIC CHINA & THE YANGTZE RIVER

12 DAY TOUR FROM BEIJING TO SHANGHAI

OCTOBER 16–28, 2019



Three Gorges, Yangtze River

CLASSIC CHINA & THE YANGTZE RIVER

This tour through China, including a Yangtze River cruise, offers you the opportunity to see some of China's most historic sites, learn about the local culture, and witness spectacular scenery. Stay three nights each in Beijing and Shanghai, two nights in Xi'an, and three nights aboard a modern Yangtze River cruise ship (standard river view stateroom).

The fantastic historic sites include: Tian'anmen Square; the Forbidden City, once home to emperors; the Temple of Heaven, built in 1420; Dayan Pagoda, built in 652 AD; and Shibaozhai, a 12-story pagoda built high on a cliffside in the 18th century. No China tour would be complete without visiting the Great Wall. You'll walk along the wall to experience how expansive it is. In Xi'an, marvel at the Terracotta Warriors—roughly 8,000 soldiers, chariots, and horses constructed in 210 BC—all to help China's first emperor into the afterlife!

Relax, as you cruise down the Yangtze River, the world's third-largest river, and enjoy spectacular scenery and majestic peaks. See tiny villages clinging to the hillsides and visit Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest electricity-producing plant. To ensure that your vacation is unique, we've arranged special experiences such as a lunch featuring xiaolongbao, dumplings—Shanghai's most famous dish, and a rickshaw ride through Beijing's hutongs, the city's ancient alleys.

This is just a sampling of the historic sites, fun cultural experiences, and stunning scenery you'll enjoy on this awe-inspiring tour through China!

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS & INCLUSIONS

- Round-trip transfers to and from the Greater Cincinnati Airport
- Round-trip economy class airfare
- Land transportation
- Intra-tour Airfare
- Eight nights hotel accommodations
- Three nights river cruise ship accommodations—standard water view staterooms
- 24 meals—11 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 6 dinners
- All sightseeing and admissions, as mentioned
- All taxes on included features
- Baggage handling
- Services of a Globus Professional Tour Director
- A Provident Travel Chaperone will accompany the group with a minimum of 25 passengers



Forbidden Palace, Beijing



Terracotta Warriors

ITINERARY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17 | Arrive in Beijing, China

Welcome to China! Hotel rooms are available for mid-afternoon check-in.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18 | Beijing

Your full-day of sightseeing starts with a visit to Tian'anmen Square, the largest public square in the world. Next, explore the Forbidden City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the world's largest palace complex. Once the home of China's great emperors, today it showcases ancient Chinese architecture, landscaped gardens, and displays of rare art and artifacts. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant, followed by free time to explore on your own. This evening, savor a special Peking Duck Welcome Dinner. (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 | Beijing & The Great Wall

The Great Wall of China once stretched 4,000 miles across China's barren northern terrain from the Bohai Sea to the Gobi Desert. Head north to a village where the Great Wall is well preserved, and walk along the wall to enjoy sweeping vistas of this mammoth fortress. Return to Beijing for some time at your leisure. Tonight, you may choose to attend a performance of the Peking Opera, a traditional form of Chinese theater, or attend the Legend of Kung Fu Show, with a fusion of kung fu, dance, and acrobatics. (B, L)

Itinerary continued on next page.

ITINERARY, CON'T

SUNDAY OCTOBER 20 | Beijing–Xi'an

This morning, visit the Temple of Heaven and enjoy a rickshaw ride through one of Beijing's hutongs, the city's ancient alleys. Experience life in this historic neighborhood, as you are invited into the courtyard of a family's home to learn more about their life. Later, a short flight brings you to Xi'an. (B)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21 | Xi'an

Xi'an—one of the largest and wealthiest cities in the world when China dominated the silk trade—is an archaeological treasure trove. Sightseeing begins with the enormous tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huangdi, accidentally discovered by local farmers in 1974. Marvel at the legion of Terracotta Warriors that has been guarding the burial site for 2,000 years. During lunch, enjoy a noodle-making demonstration by a master chef, and learn how Chinese noodles are made by hand. Next, visit the Dayan Pagoda, built in 652 AD. This evening, attend the "Tang Dynasty" dinner show, featuring a colorful assemblage of classical performances. (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 | Xi'an–Chongqing (Embarkation)–Yangtze River Cruise

This morning, visit the Xi'an City Wall South Gate and attend a traditional Chinese calligraphy class. You may also see some local residents practicing morning tai chi. Next, fly to Chongqing, China's capital during World War II. Here, board your ship for a three-night cruise through the breathtaking Three Gorges of the Yangtze. (B, D)

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23 | Cruising: Shibaozhai

The morning is at your leisure to enjoy a variety of onboard activities. You may choose to start your day with a tai chi session on the Sun Deck or simply relax and enjoy the scenery. After lunch, take a walking tour of Shibaozhai, with its 400-year old, 12-story, red-wooden pagoda perched high on a cliff side. This evening, the Captain hosts a welcome party, followed by dinner and a special performance by the ship's crew. (B, L, D)

Note: Depending on river conditions, an alternate shore excursion may be offered.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 | Cruising: Qutang Gorge–Wu Gorge–Goddess Stream

Again, enjoy the morning at your leisure on the ship. You may choose to take an optional shore excursion to Fengdu, known by many Chinese as the "Ghost City," to visit the mountaintop shrines. Later in the morning, sail downstream through the first and second of the three gorges—Qutang Gorge, the shortest, but most dramatic gorge, and Wu, known for its quiet beauty and forest-covered mountains. You can nearly touch

the perpendicular walls rising from the riverbanks, as your Captain negotiates this narrow gap. After lunch, disembark for a boat excursion down Goddess Stream. Along the way, see picturesque scenery and the mysterious hanging wooden coffins. Before returning to your ship, you will also board a wooden boat on a smaller section of the stream, where the crew will sing songs as you glide across the stunning deep emerald-green waters surrounded by densely forested hills. (B, L, D)

Note: Depending on river conditions, the boat excursion may be on the Shennong Stream.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 | Cruising: (Disembarkation) Three Gorges Dam Site–Yichang–Shanghai

This morning, visit the Three Gorges Dam site, the largest dam of its kind in the world. After lunch in Yichang, transfer to the airport for your flight to Shanghai, China's most populous city and center of trade and industry. (B, L)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | Shanghai

Start your day with a stroll along the Bund, the city's riverfront boulevard lined with historic buildings, housing, banks, and trade houses. Then, visit Yu Yuan Gardens, dating back to the Ming Dynasty, and a silk factory to learn about the silk-making process. For lunch, stop at a local restaurant featuring xiaolongbao, Shanghai's most famous dish. These tasty soup dumplings are handmade with at least 18 intricate folds to close the top. The broth is the star so, to avoid wasting a single drop, gently pick up the dumpling, dip into sauce, and transfer to a Chinese soup spoon. Next, make a small hole to release the steam and allow the broth to cool. After it cools, sip up the broth and then swallow the dumpling. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. You may consider joining an optional tour to see a spectacular acrobatic show. (B, L)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 27 | Shanghai

This morning, take a walking tour of the former French Concession, once Shanghai's leading residential and retail area. Today, the qualities that made the area so popular endure—from quaint, tree-lined streets and exquisite architecture, to charming shops and fashionable restaurants and bars. Along the way, see the famous Art Deco Cathay Theatre, explore the narrow lanes of Xintiandi, and visit Fuxing Park, where locals play chess, dance, practice tai chi, and more. The afternoon is at your leisure. This evening, your Tour Director hosts a special farewell dinner. (B, D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28 | Shanghai

Your tour ends with breakfast this morning. (B)

The Great Wall of China



AIR SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Cincinnati to Detroit (Delta 5443)

Depart from Cincinnati..... 9:45am
Arrive in Detroit..... 11:00am

Detroit to Beijing (Delta 189)

Depart from Detroit 2:06pm
Arrive in Beijing 3:20pm (October 17)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

Shanghai to Detroit (Delta 582)

Depart from Shanghai..... 11:45am
Arrive in Detroit..... 1:43pm

Detroit to Cincinnati (Delta 4702)

Depart from Detroit 3:40pm
Arrive in Cincinnati..... 4:58pm

Air schedule is subject to change. Once air tickets are issued, they are non-refundable.

PICK-UP LOCATIONS

- Blue Ash Nature Park
- Kohl's—Tylersville Road
- 741 Center
- Mt. Pleasant Village and Medical Center
- Springdale Recreation Center
- Clermont Senior Services: Miami Township Center and Hampton Inn Eastgate
- Anderson Senior Center (Forestville Baptist Church)
- Campbell County Seniors (Furniture Fair—Cold Springs, KY)

PROVIDENT TRAVEL PRICE*

Double.....\$4,299

Single.....\$5,299

Single room accommodations are provided on a request basis. Triple room accommodations are not available.

Book by March 8, 2019 and save \$100 per person.

DEPOSIT: \$500 per person, due at time of booking

FINAL PAYMENT: Due by July 15, 2019

CANCELLATION:

4/9/19–7/15/19..... \$500 per person

7/16/19–9/12/19..... 60% of package price

9/13/19–Departure..... 100% of package price

TRAVEL PROTECTION: We strongly recommend travel protection. Please inquire at time of booking for options and pricing.

DOCUMENTATION: All U.S. citizens must present a visa to visit China, as well as a passport valid for at least six months from our return date of 10/28/19.

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFO:

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