

YANGTZE RIVER PANORAMA

25-night Escorted Tour

escape
WORLDWIDE

**BEIJING • CHENGDE • XIAN • YANGTZE RIVER • CHENGDU • KUNMING • LIJANG
ZHONGDIAN • DALI**

Admire some of the most spectacular scenery that China has to offer. Enjoy a four night cruise along the Yangtze River that passes through the dramatic Three Gorges and explore the beauty of Yunnan Province. Visit attractive Lijiang, discover the Tibetan town of Zhongdian and relax in delightful Dali.

FULLY INCLUSIVE TOUR

Tour prices include international flights, departure taxes, current fuel surcharges, domestic transportation, accommodation, all meals, daily tours, entrance fees, guides and visa fees for UK passport holders.

All you'll have to pay for locally is the compulsory tipping and personal expenditure such as souvenirs, drinks and any optional shows and excursions that aren't included in your itinerary. We pride ourselves on having 'no hidden extras'.



Days 1-2 : UK – Beijing

Fly overnight to Beijing, China's capital city. Our evening meal includes the local delicacy, Peking Duck.

Day 3 : Beijing

Walk on the Great Wall to appreciate its historical significance and then visit the unique Temple of Heaven. Enjoy a fascinating Chinese Acrobatic show in the evening.

FORBIDDEN CITY, BEIJING



Days 4-5 : Chengde – Beijing

Travel by train to Chengde, the former holiday resort of the Qing Dynasty and visit the imperial mountain villas and the exceptional temples built for Tibetan and Mongolian warlords. Stay overnight in Chengde and return to Beijing the next day.

Day 6 : Beijing – Xian

Sightseeing today includes a stroll through Tiananmen Square, past Chairman Mao's Mausoleum to the treasure-filled Forbidden City, which has the largest and best preserved collection of ancient buildings in China. We also tour the exquisite Summer Palace before boarding the overnight train to the former ancient capital of Xian.

TRADITIONAL CHINESE BOWL



Days 7-8 : Xian

Arrive in Xian and visit the Little Wild Goose Pagoda. In the evening we will enjoy a traditional Shui Jiao dumpling meal followed by a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing. The next day, visit one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th century – the Terracotta Warriors, followed by a walk along the Ancient City Wall.

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Day 9 : Xian – Wuhan

Visit the renowned Shaanxi Museum which is home to thousands of priceless relics. We also stroll through the lively Muslim Quarter, past the Great Mosque to explore the Islamic food markets before boarding the overnight train to Wuhan.

Day 10 : Yangtze River Cruise

Arrive in Wuhan in the morning. Visit the Yellow Crane Tower and East Lake. Transfer to Yichang to board our Yangtze River Cruise vessel.

Days 11-13 : Yangtze River Cruise

Enjoy a tour of the Three Gorges Dam before cruising upstream through some of the most dramatic scenery in the world. Over the next three days, we will take a side-trip to the striking Shennong Stream In a pea-pod boat or visit the Lesser Three Gorges and enjoy various shore excursions along the way.

Day 14 : Chongqing – Chengdu

Disembark from our cruise vessel this morning and transfer to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province. Visit Mt Qincheng, a holy Taoist mountain and explore the colourful markets. Enjoy a delicious Sichuan meal in the evening.

Days 15-16 : Chengdu – Kunming

Visit the famous Panda Reserve to see these adorable animals being reared in wooded surroundings reminiscent of their natural habitat. The next day, is at leisure before boarding the overnight train to Kunming, also known as the 'City of Eternal Spring'.

Days 17-18 : Kunming

Arrive in Kunming this morning and explore the flower market. In the evening we sample the famous Across the Bridge Noodles. The next day, explore the picturesque Stone Forest where the huge limestone columns form surreal shapes and images.

Day 19 : Kunming – Lijiang

Fly to Lijiang, a UNESCO world heritage site and wander through the quaint cobbled streets and along the meandering waterways of the Old Quarter. We also visit Black Dragon Pool.

Day 20 : Lijiang

Visit the impressive Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, which soars to a height of 5500m. Take a chairlift to explore one of the highest meadows and tour the Baisha Frescoes. In the evening, enjoy the acclaimed Naxi Ancient Music Show and admire the traditional costumes.

Day 21 : Lijiang - Zhongdian

Visit Tiger Leaping Gorge, one of the most dramatic and deepest gorges in the world and enjoy the truly breathtaking scenery that surrounds it. Continue by coach to Zhongdian.

TERRACOTTA WARRIOR, XIAN



GIANT PANDAS, CHENGDU



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Days 22-23 : Zhongdian

Explore the Baishui Terrace, where sparkling spring water cascades over layers of limestone pools. The next day, visit Napa Hai Lake and the Songshanlin Monastery built by a historical Dalai Lama over 300 years ago.

Days 24-25 : Dali

Travel by coach to the enchanting town of Dali. Here we explore Dali's Ancient Quarter and visit Xizhou Village to explore the bustling local market and the Yen Family House, an ancient courtyard home. We also see Bai women demonstrate their traditional tie-dying technique in Zhoucheng Village. The next day, visit the Three Pagodas and enjoy a cruise on Erhai Lake. In the evening, stroll down Foreigners' Street and soak in the lively atmosphere of the market.

DAZU



Day 26 : Dali - Kunming

Fly to Kunming. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Days 27-28 : Kunming - UK

Fly overnight to the UK via Hong Kong, arriving home the following day

ESCORTED TOUR

One of the very special features about this tour is the constant presence of the National Escort and Local Guides. They will meet you at the airport on arrival and will be with you throughout your tour right up to your departure. The National Escort will be with you throughout the tour, while a Local Guide will be in individual locations to share their expert knowledge with you. All of the guides are knowledgeable and proud to show off their English skills - they are completely dedicated to making every minute of your stay in their country an enjoyable one.



Tour details are correct to the best of our knowledge, however, they are provided for guidance purposes only. Please check the details of any features that are important to you at the time of booking.

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EXTENSIONS

Your tour can be extended with a few nights in one of a number of destinations, depending on the airline you choose. Stopovers in the Middle East are popular, with Dubai and Abu Dhabi being possible when flying with Emirates. Hong Kong also works well, with itineraries taking in Lantau Island or Macau also being possible. We can also arrange a beach extension in Sanya, or a visit to Japan taking in Tokyo, Mt Fuji and a ride on the Bullet Train!

Here's a few ideas for extensions to this tour:

HONG KONG & MACAU

3 nights from £370 per person



Spend 3 nights in Hong Kong with a half day island tour included, plus travel by hydrofoil to Macau for a day trip taking in St Paul's Church, Ama Temple and a casino.

3* BP International from £370 per person

4* Park Hotel from £400 per person

5* Intercontinental Grand from £500 per person

Prices exclude connecting flights from your tour and are subject to seasonal variations

TOKYO, MT FUJI & THE BULLET TRAIN

3 nights from £630 per person



Spend 3 nights in Tokyo and explore with a full day tour, before heading to Mt Fuji, the Five Lakes region and Lake Ashi, before returning to Tokyo by Bullet Train.

3* Tokyo Prince Hotel from £630 per person

4* Prince Park Tower from £770 per person

5* Hotel Nikko Tokyo from £920 per person

Prices exclude connecting flights from China and are subject to seasonal variations

Meals

All meals (excluding beverages) are included in the fully inclusive group tours. Breakfast is a mix of local and western food, usually served in a buffet style. Lunches and dinners consist of traditional local cuisine, with a wide range of dishes to choose from so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked. Meals on group tours start with lunch on the normal day of arrival and finish with lunch on the normal day of departure. As we offer a range of flight options, Passengers may arrive and depart at different times during the day.

Hotels

All of the hotels used in China are of international four-star or three-star superior standard. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. The hotels are selected for their comfort, convenience of location and character.



Group Sizes

All group tours are guaranteed to run subject to a minimum of 8 passengers. A National Escort will accompany the group subject with a minimum of 10 passengers. The maximum group size varies depending on the tour, but is never more than 28 passengers.

Tipping

As with most countries, tipping is a way of life in China. For our passengers' convenience we ask for a compulsory amount to be paid at the beginning of our group tours to cover tipping for guides, drivers, restaurant staff etc. For this itinerary, tips of approximately US\$95 per person is required. Exact tipping amounts will be stated in your final documentation pack.