

Dragon Boat Festival 15 days



Starting off in Beijing, take in the highlights of China from The Great Wall and the Summer Palace, to Xi'an and the famous Terracotta Warriors. Enjoy a three night cruise along the Yangtze River, through the spectacular Three Gorges before travelling onward to Suzhou and Jinji Lake for the electric atmosphere of the annual Dragon Boat Race before ending in metropolitan Shanghai.

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Beijing / Ends in: Shanghai
- Departs: 01 June 2013
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:14, Lunch: 5, Dinner: 6
- Hotel Rating: 3 4 star
- Tour Guide: Yes (for groups of 6 or more)

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE click here
- To book this trip click here
- To enquire about this trip click here



QUICK WEB LINKS

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on the god tours A World Of Discovery

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Day 1: Beijing

01 June 2013. Welcome to China and the start of your holiday! Enjoy an arrival transfer to our hotel. Overnight - Beijing Overnight - Beijing

Day 2: Forbidden City

After a short group meeting we embark on a sightseeing tour of the nation's capital and home of the 2008 Olympics. Tiananmen Square, partly framed by illustrious Chang-an Avenue, is essentially the heart of Beijing and is a public arena for the people and stage for Chairman Mao mausoleum. Across from the square is the Gate of Heavenly Peace. Up above the gate and looking out across to all his people, is Chairman Mao. Perhaps today, he is looking at a different Beijing, one that is quickly entering the 21st century. Heading back a few centuries, we step into the Forbidden City, the walled city of the former Chinese emperors, it was only opened after the last emperor was overthrown in 1911. Encompassing architecturally stunning temples and halls, the complex of the Forbidden city is an assault on the eyes.

Later, we take rickshaws to explore the Hutongs of Beijing. As our trusty rickshaw driver peddles us through the network of alleys and old back lanes, we gain a fascinating snapshot of the city's traditional way of life. Overnight - Beijing

Day 3: The Great Wall

Today, drive to Badaling, where we can walk on a section of the famous Great Wall. A symbol of total Chinese genius, the Great Wall is a cultural icon. At least 20 dynasties were involved in its construction. Stretching some 6700 kilometres, we walk along just a small chunk of this massive masterpiece of human endeavour. Later we visit a cloisonne workshop, viewing the step-by-step process of this curious, yet quite beautiful art form. Tonight we attend a Chinese Acrobatic performance. Overnight - Beijing



Day 4: Summer Palace

Beijing - Xi'an. At the Summer Palace on Kunming Lake, we view the lavishly decorated temples, halls and courts, reconstructed in

1902. The Long Corridor, a hand painted 730m covered walkway, offers gentle respite from the elements. This afternoon, even the most hardened non-shoppers can't help coming away with a few goodies at the Silk Alley markets. Name-brand attire, bling-bling jewellery, knock-off handbags and shoes are popular acquisitions. Later we travel by train to Xi'an viewing en route the Beijing 2008 Olympic Stadium and aquatic centre. Overnight - Sleeper Train

Day 5: Terracotta Warriors

Xi'an is Shaanxi Province is perhaps most famous for Emperor Qin's Terracotta Warriors. Discovered in 1974 by local farmers digging a well, the 7,000 life-sized soldiers, some 2,200 years old, stand battle-ready in excavated pits under the cover of a modern protective hanger. We tour the archaeological site and Terracotta warrior replica workshop. Tonight, we offer our Tang Dynasty dinner and show. Check out our Tang Dynasty bolton for more details. Overnight - Xi'an



Day 6: Xi'an's Old City Wall

Spend the morning at leisure before touring the Big Wild Goose Pagoda and taking a bike ride along the great Old City Wall. Peering from the Old City Wall offers spectacular, if not unique views of the city and residence going about their daily lives. Overnight - Xi'an

Day 7: Xi'an

Xi'an - Chongqing - Yangtze River cruiser. Spend the morning at leisure before flying to Chongqing, the start point for our exciting Yangtze River cruise. Before boarding the cruise the we can stroll along Chongqing's People's Square, in the city centre. Overnight - Yangtze River Cruiser

Days 8 - 9: Yangtze River Cruise

Yangtze River cruise. Good morning from the River Yangtze! At 6340km in length, the Yangtze is the 3rd longest river in the world, neatly dividing China into north and south and wending its way through eight very different provinces. The Gorges are a breathtaking sight! The first gorge we pass, Qutangxia Gorge is the









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shortest and narrowest yet the most impressive. Here, the dramatic 1200m limestone peaks are often shrouded in mist and the river shoots through the narrow entrance with great haste.

Next comes Wuxia Gorge, which straddles Sichuan and Hubei Provinces. Lined by twelve sheer peaks, Wuxia offers an spectacular vista for some 45km. Finally is Xiling Gorge, the longest at 75km and which comprises seven smaller gorges. During our cruise, we'll also sail through the new ship locks of the impressive Three Gorges Dam construction.

Whilst cruising, shore excursions are offered at no additional expense to Shibaozhai and Shennong stream, with its unique scenery and four natural gorges. Drift serenely along the stream in small, open 'pea pod boats', looking out upon lush greenery, jagged peaks and ancient villages of the Tujia people - one of the local ethnic minorities. Overnight - Yangtze River Cruiser



Day 10: Yichang

Yichang - Wuhan. After a morning shore excursion to visit the Three Gorges Dam we disembark from our cruise. We have a long afternoon of travel ahead of us and will stop for lunch en-route. After driving to Wuhan (approx 4 hours) we'll enjoy dinner at a local restaurant, hotel check in and overnight. Overnight - Wuhan

Day 11: Nanjing

Wuhan - Nanjing. This morning we take a high speed D3008 (Hankou - Shanghai) train bound for Nanjing. Departing at 8am and reaching speeds of over 250km we arrive to Nanjing in just a little more than 3 hours.

Upon arrival to Nanjing our city sightseeing tour will commence. Former capital of the Ming Dynasty and capital of Republican China, from 1911 - 1949, Nanjing holds a rich history of both ancient and modern China. This afternoon we visit the Fuzi Miao (Temple of Confucius) and the Memorial Hall of the Nanjing Massacre. A moving experience that charts the atrocities committed at this very site. Overnight - Nanjing



Day 12: The Dragon Boat Festival

Nanjing – Suzhou. Today we take an early train to ancient Suzhou, which is interwoven by a series of striking canals and pretty waterways, with classical gardens which date back to the Song dynasty, a thousand years ago.

We're met at the station and transferred to Jinji Lake, home to the epic Dragon Boat Festival 2013. We spend the day soaking up the atmosphere as teams compete to be the fastest dragon boat on the lake. There is also a whole host of weird and wonderful live entertainment, cultural performances and traditional games to observe or even take part in. Overnight - <u>Suzhou</u>



Day 13: Shanghai

Suzhou - Shanghai. This morning we take a guided tour of Suzhou before catching the afternoon train to Shanghai. Just the mere mention of 'Shanghai' conjures up mystery, romance and general decadence. Pre – 1949, cosmopolitan Shanghai was a magnet for seekers of wealth, idle colonialists, explorers and the dispossessed. The city's oddities were due to the unusual circumstances of the city's existence. Written into the Treaty of Nanjing was the notion of extraterritoriality, which translated as foreign nationals not being bound by Chinese law, but rather by the laws of their own consuls. Basically anything went. Until 1949, foreigners dominated commerce, banking and industry, amassing huge fortunes and transforming the landscape of foreign concessionary sections of









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Shanghai. Everything went belly up in 1949, when Mao and the communists took to power and swept the good times and rock and roll away rather swiftly. A legacy of these heady times, is Shanghai's Bund where on and around this waterfront promenade are a vast series of grandiose pre-1949 buildings. After four decades of austerity, economic reforms implemented by Deng Xiaoping, reawakened Shanghai. Overnight - Shanghai



Days 14 - 15: Shanghai

Day 14 is at Ispent at leisure in Shanghai, so feel free to explore the city your own way. Perhaps visit the Oriental Pearl TV tower, the Jade Buddha Temple, French Quarter, The Bund or the Old City.

On day 15 our tour ends after breakfast and included onward transfer to airport.

WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL Join the festive atmosphere on Jinji Lake as hundreds compete for the honour of Dragon Boat champion
- Beijing Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, UNESCO-listed Emperor's Summer Palace, Hutong areas of Beijing, Silk Alley markets, Cloisonne Factory, Chinese Acrobatic performance
- Badaling UNESCO listed Great Wall of China
- Xi'an UNESCO listed Terracotta Warriors and Clay warrior workshop, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, City Wall and bike ride
- Three Gorges/ Yangtze River cruise cruise from Chongqing – Yichang. Qutangxia Gorge, Wuxia Gorge and Xiling Gorge
- Nanjing Nanjing Memorial Hall, Fuzi Miao (Temple of Confucius), Mausoleum of Dr Sun Yatsen

- Suzhou UNESCO listed gardens, Grand Canal and waterways, Silk factory, Humble Administrator's Garden
- Shanghai free time. Visit the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, Jade Buddha Temple, The Bund and Old Shanghai, Yuyuan Garden and Huang River

What's Included

- Dragon Boat Festival entrance fee and transfers to and from Suzhou.
- 14 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 6 dinners including a Traditional Chinese meal in Beijing
- 10 nights 3 4 star hotels
 3 nights 4 star Yangtze River Cruiser, 1 overnight train soft sleeper cabin
- Chinese acrobatic performance
- Rickshaw through Beijing's Hutongs
- Xi'an bike ride on medieval City Wall
- Yangtze River cruise Chongqing Yichang via Three Gorges
- High speed train journey Wuhan Nanjing
- Suzhou historic Grand Canal cruise
- Economy class flight Xi'an Chongqing
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 and day 15
- Touring of Beijing, Xi'an, Nanjing and Suzhou
- Tour leader escorted (for groups of 6 or more)
- English speaking specialist guides at local sights
- All relevant transfers and transportation

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$3 -5 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

PRICES AND DATES: from USD \$3,159

Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged provided there is another single traveller booked on the tour date of your choosing.

2013

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
01 JUN - 15 JUN	USD \$3,159	USD \$1,279







