

ULTIMATE CHINA EXPERIENCE & MAGNIFICENT YANGTZE RIVER CRUISES

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2016 ESCORTED TOUR 20 AUG - 03 SEP

**ALL
EXCURSIONS
INCLUDED**



THE ULTIMATE CHINA EXPERIENCE & MAGNIFICENT YANGTZE RIVER

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ULTIMATE CHINA EXPERIENCE & MAGNIFICENT YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE

VISITING: **SHANGHAI, YICHANG, XILING GORGE, WU GORGE, QUTANG GORGE, SHIBAOZHAI, XIAN, XINGQING PARK, TERRACOTTA WARRIOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE. BEIJING, GREAT WALL OF CHINA**

DAY 1 - MALTA - CHINA

Meet the tour leader at Malta International Airport for your flight to China.

DAY 2 - SHANGHAI

Upon arrival you will be transferred to the 5* Shanghai Marriot Hotel Parkview. Shanghai, the thriving metropolis on China's eastern coast which is a dynamic city constantly changing and growing, with an unforgettable skyline.

DAY 3 - SHANGHAI CITY TOUR

Breakfast and morning briefing with your English speaking tour guide about the exciting trip that awaits you. Then, on to see some of the city's major highlights. Start at the classical Yu Yuan Gardens in the Old Quarter, built during the Ming Dynasty, a quiet and serene sanctuary in this frenetic city, with its scenic pavilions, ponds and streams. Continue to the lively Bund, Shanghai's popular promenade; stroll along the park-like waterfront and experience the old world charm. Tonight attend to a performance by the world-famous Chinese acrobats that includes dance, magic, acrobatics and beautiful music after dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

DAY 4 - FULL DAY SHANGHAI

After breakfast full day tour to Suzhou, including lunch and a cruise on the Grand Canal. Morning departure from Shanghai for the drive to Suzhou, known as the "Venice of the East". Upon arrival in this charming city, relax on a boat ride along the narrow waterways of the legendary Grand Canal followed by lunch at a local restaurant. Explore a silk factory to know about how silk is produced. End the day in Suzhou with a walk along bustling Guanquin Street, where the locals gather for entertainment and food.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch.

DAY 5 - SHANGHAI - YICHANG

Breakfast and free time to explore Shanghai by yourself before being transferred to the airport for your flight to Yichang, the second largest city in Hubei province after Wuhan, its capital. Upon arrival, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before continuing to Yichang Port for embarkation on the 5* Victoria Cruise ship. This evening, you'll begin the scenic journey on the fabled Yangtze, the longest river in China and the third longest river in the world. You'll be warmly welcomed aboard by the friendly international staff. A memorable voyage awaits you.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner.

DAY 6 - XILING GORGE

Breakfast and in the afternoon tour the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest and most ambitious hydroelectric project ever undertaken by man, nearly six times the size of the Hoover Dam. In addition to producing electricity, the dam was constructed to increase the Yangtze River's shipping capacity and reduce the potential for floods. This project has forever changed the landscape surrounding the Yangtze River and has also forced the relocation of people who once lived along the river. Tour the massive site to see this impressive achievement of engineering. Following the

visit, return to the ship as it cruises upstream and enters the dramatic Xiling Gorge, the longest and deepest section of the Three Gorges.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

DAY 7 - WU GORGE & QUTANG GORGE

Awake this morning to beautiful vistas on the river. Breakfast and sail through the Wu Gorge, famed for its magnificent Twelve Peaks. Today, your tour will take you either on a scenic journey up Shennong Stream, travelling in small boats between rolling hills and rocky cliffs or on a scenic journey up Shennv Stream, the journey is accompanied by local folk songs and dances. Continue through the Qutang Gorge, the smallest of the three gorges, flanked by lush terraced hillsides.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

DAY 8 - SHIBAOZHAI

Breakfast and the ship arrives this morning at Shibaozhai, built during the Ming Dynasty. This pagoda is sometimes referred to as one of the eight construction wonders of the world, built into the side of a rocky cliff face and constructed without use of nails. This vermilion 12-story pagoda stands impressively over 100 feet high. The tour highlights the main attraction of the temple, with its traditional Chinese design. The structure is inspired by the mountains with patterns and figures that vary from odd to extraordinary. Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

DAY 9 - XIAN

After breakfast disembark the Yangtze River cruise in Chongqing, a major metropolis and one of the top emerging cities in China. Transfer to the airport for the flight to Xian, ancient capital of eleven dynasties and an archaeological treasure trove. Upon arrival, visit the renowned Shaanxi Provincial History Museum, home to a wealth of historical artifacts and treasures. Check in at the 5* Grand Noble Hotel Xian. Time to relax before the late afternoon visit to the Muslim district of Xian; learn more about Chinese Muslims and witness the preparation of local foods in the market. Return to the hotel with a stop en route at the gigantic Bell and Drum Towers. This evening enjoy a Tang Dynasty 6-course dinner followed by a historical dance performance by the Tang Dynasty Troupe.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner.

DAY 10 - TERRACOTTA ARMY

After breakfast visit Xingqing Park, a hub of activity where you may have the chance to join the residents of Xian in their morning exercise, singing and dancing. Afterward, stop at a Terracotta Warrior workshop to learn more about this technique. Lunch at a local restaurant, and after proceed to an unforgettable experience. Visit the archaeological site of the magnificent Terracotta Warriors, a vast collection of life-sized soldiers, horses and chariots that were entombed with China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang. This world-famous site, discovered by local farmers in 1974, is still being discovered and excavated today, more than forty years since the time of its unearthing. At tonight's Dumpling Banquet, you can sample nearly

20 delicious varieties of dumplings. Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

DAY 11 - BEIJING

Breakfast and depart Xian for flight to Beijing, sprawling capital of modern China. Check in at the 5* Pentahotel Beijing. Afternoon at leisure - feel the pulse of this city of contrasts with its astonishing history and wondrous sights. Join a half-day Hutong Tour which begins with a Rickshaw ride through the old narrow streets and alleyways. See the courtyard homes which once covered all of Beijing - only a few still survive today and get to know about "old China" from a local family who will welcome you to their home.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 12 - SUMMER PALACE & THE FORBIDDEN CITY

After breakfast visit the fabled Summer Palace, resort of the Empress Dowager with its palace grounds, filled with a variety of picturesque gardens and architectural structures. Then continue to a local Pearl Shop to learn about the famous Chinese pearls. Have lunch at a local restaurant before continuing to huge Tiananmen Square, the largest public plaza in the world built at the height of the Ming Dynasty. The square's Gate of Heavenly Peace was once used as a staging ground for imperial edicts and by Mao Zedong himself to declare the founding of the People's Republic in 1949. Next, enter the Forbidden City, which served as the Imperial Palace until 1912. The extraordinary and immense walled complex is truly a masterpiece of Chinese architecture; its complex consists of 800 buildings with more than 9,000 rooms. Tonight, dinner at a Beijing restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

DAY 13 - GREAT WALL OF CHINA

An amazing day! After breakfast travel to the extraordinary 2000-year-old Great Wall of China, one of the most spectacular structures ever built by man, spanning nearly 4,000 miles of China's northern frontier. En route, stop at a local jade shop to admire wares crafted with one of China's most famous materials. Then it's time to climb the ramparts of this ancient wonder to view breathtaking mountain passes, plateaus and grasslands from this 7th-century defensive fortification. Afterwards lunch in a local restaurant. Drive via the site of the 2008 Olympics to see the National Stadium and the sprawling Olympic Village followed by a stop at the Beijing Zoo to see the famous Pandas - a must for all travelers to China. Tonight enjoy a Farewell Dinner featuring China's famous Peking Duck.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 14 - CHINA

Breakfast and day at leisure for personal sightseeing or shopping. Transfer to the airport for your departure flight to Malta.

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 15 - MALTA

Flight Beijing - Malta.

**ALL
EXCURSIONS
INCLUDED**



THE ULTIMATE CHINA EXPERIENCE & MAGNIFICENT YANGTZE RIVER



PACKAGE PRICE PER PERSON

BOOK	BEFORE 31 MAR	AFTER 30 MAR
TWIN SHARING	€ 2999	€ 3199
SINGLE	€ 3699	€ 3899

OUR PACKAGE INCLUDES

- ✓ RETURN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS MALTA/SHANGHAI/BEIJING/ MALTA
- ✓ ONE WAY FLIGHT FROM SHANGHAI TO YICHANG/CHONGQING TO XIAN/FROM XIAN TO BEIJING
- ✓ AIRLINE TAXES AND FUEL CHARGES
- ✓ 9 NIGHTS IN 5* ACCOMMODATION
- ✓ 3 NIGHTS YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE ON FULL BOARD BASIS
- ✓ ALL TRANSFERS
- ✓ ALL EXCURSIONS AS PER ITINERARY
- ✓ 30 MEALS : 12 BREAKFASTS, 9 LUNCHES , 9 DINNERS
- ✓ LOCAL ENGLISH SPEAKING GUIDE
- ✓ COMPREHENSIVE GUIDED SIGHTSEEING
- ✓ ACTIVE ITINERARY WITH UNIQUE CULTURAL FEATURES
- ✓ SERVICES OF AN EXPERIENCED ROCS TRAVEL TOUR MANAGER

VISA REQUIRED

All bookings are subject to our general information, booking conditions and information. Photographs of rooms are indicative of room type available. Facilities described may be seasonal. Rates are per person and include: return flights, accommodation as stated and airline taxes. Fuel surcharge may apply. Special offers applicable only in specific periods. Prices may vary without notice. For a full list of terms & conditions kindly visit www.rocsgrp.com/travel/terms. For a more detailed description, full details of facilities and supplements, please refer to our website. E&OE.