

Great Chinese Discovery with Majestic Yangtze River Cruise - 12 Days **CN-06**



Explore beyond the dazzling mega-cities of China and delve into the enchanting beauty of the Yangtze River. As one of the world's largest waterways, it meanders through diverse landscapes from its origin in Qinghai Province, spanning nearly 4,000 miles before reaching the East China Sea in Shanghai. This tour provides a captivating and enlightening journey, offering a glimpse of many of China's remarkable highlights, blending urban excitement with the natural majesty of the Yangtze.

DEPARTURE DATES: 20.07.2024; 27.07.2024; 03.08.2024; 10.08.2024; 17.08.2024; 24.08.2024; 31.08.2024; 07.09.2024; 14.09.2024; 21.09.2024; 28.09.2024; 12.10.2024; 26.10.2024; 09.11.2024; 23.11.2024; 07.12.2024; 21.12.2024; 28.12.2024.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Beijing

Upon your arrival at the airport, our designated guide and a driver will be readily available at the arrival sector. They will seamlessly transfer you to your hotel. To immerse yourself in the charm of old, authentic China, your exploration begins with a guided rickshaw tour through a Hutong neighborhood. Hutongs, characterized by narrow alleys, offer a glimpse into a disappearing aspect of the city with the rapid pace of development. Some preserved old Hutong areas hold a special status, contributing to the conservation of Beijing's cultural heritage. This tour provides a nostalgic journey back in time, allowing you to capture the essence of Beijing's rich history. (D)

Day 2 - Beijing

Commencing our day at Tiananmen Square, which gained global recognition when Mao Zedong declared the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949, this expansive square remains a central focal point of the city. Ranking as the fourth largest city square in the world, it boasts an impressive area spanning 440,000 square meters. From here, our journey takes us to the illustrious Imperial Palace, widely known as the Forbidden City, which served as the residence of Chinese emperors from the Ming to the Qing dynasties (1420-1924). Exploring its rooms reveals a wealth of one million treasures, with our seasoned guide highlighting the most captivating ones. Later in the day, we visit the splendid Summer Palace, an exceptional showcase of Chinese landscape garden design. As the day concludes, indulge in a well-deserved roast duck dinner, savouring this iconic Beijing dish. (B,L,D)

Day 3 - Beijing

Embarking on a journey to witness the iconic Great Wall of China, a symbol of Chinese civilization dating back to the 7th century BC, our destination is the Badaling Great Wall in Yanqing County, approximately 70 kilometers (44 miles) north of Beijing. Renowned as the most well-preserved section of the Wall, Badaling offers a captivating glimpse

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included

International flights
Domestic flights in China
Accommodation
Full board meals
High-speed day train
English - speaking guides
Guided tours & entrance fees
Airport & railway transfers

Not included

Personal travel insurance
Optional excursions
Meals on the train

Practical information

Chinese visa procedure
Book with Confidence - Covid FAQs

into this historical marvel. Following this exploration, the itinerary takes you to the Olympic Park, a testament to Beijing's hosting of the 2008 Summer Olympics. Marvel at architectural wonders such as the "Bird's Nest" Beijing National Stadium, the Aquatics Centre known as the "Water Cube," and the Green Hockey Field. As the day transitions into the evening, indulge in the cultural richness of Beijing with one of its finest Acrobatic Shows, a captivating display of skill and artistry. (B,L,D)

Day 4 - Beijing - Xian

Embarking on an exhilarating railway journey aboard a state-of-the-art high-speed train to Xian, covering the impressive distance of 711 miles from Beijing in just 4 hours and 40 minutes, you'll experience the comfort and efficiency of modern travel. Launched in 2012, this train offers Business, First, and Second class tickets. Upon a brief hotel transfer in Xian, your city tour begins with the exploration of the Big Goose Pagoda, a seven-story Buddhist temple dating back to the 7th century, and the Little Goose Pagoda. These temples were once part of a larger architectural ensemble and stand as beautiful examples of Tang dynasty masonry. A short walk from the City Wall, discover the Bell Tower, a historic symbol signaling the city gates' dawn opening, and the Great Mosque, one of the earliest mosques constructed in China. Enjoy a local lunch, and in the evening, treat yourself to dinner accompanied by the cultural richness of the Tang Dynasty Singing and Dancing Show. (B,L,D)

Day 5 - Xian - Chongqing

Accidentally unearthed in 1974 by local farmers near the city, the Terracotta Army has since become a global attraction, drawing millions of tourists each year. This remarkable site, estimated to include over 8,000 soldiers, 520 horses, and 130 chariots, offers a fascinating glimpse into ancient Chinese history. Explore the excavation pits, ascend the burial mound of the emperor, and benefit from your guide's detailed insights into the site and its archaeological significance. Recognized for its cultural importance, the Terracotta Army has held a place on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list since 1987. Subsequently, our driver will be waiting in the hotel lobby to transfer you to the airport for your flight to Chongqing, marking the beginning of your special cruise along the Yangtze River. (B,L,D)

Day 6 - Along the Yangtze

Today, the cruise ship will make a stop in Shibaozhai. You have the option to participate in some of the excursions available on board or explore the city independently. Enjoy the flexibility to tailor your day to your preferences, whether it's joining guided activities or venturing out on your own. (B,L,D)

Day 7 - Along Yangtze

Embarking on the eastward journey, your cruise will navigate through picturesque gorges, offering breathtaking scenery. The first, Qutang Gorge, spans a mere 500 feet in width and extends 5 miles, nestled between towering mountains. Following this, Wu Gorge, though less dramatic, stretches 25 miles with its

enchanted green mountains seamlessly merging with the river. Optional excursions present opportunities to enhance your experience. In the afternoon, the cruise will traverse the longest and deepest gorge on the river, Xiling Gorge, spanning an impressive 41 miles. As the day unfolds, the ship will reach the Three Gorges Dam locks, facilitating a crossing to the other side of the dam later in the evening. (B,L,D)

Day 8 - Along Yangtze - Yichang - Shanghai

Commencing your day, you will explore the renowned Three Gorges Dam, recognized as the largest dam in the world. Following this visit, you will disembark upon arriving in Yichang late in the morning. Our attentive driver will be waiting at the ship's entrance, ready to transfer you to the airport. Upon reaching the airport in Yichang, you'll catch your flight to Shanghai. Upon arrival in Shanghai, you will be warmly welcomed at the airport's arrival sector and smoothly transferred to your hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 9 - Shanghai

Shanghai, a perpetual highlight in any Chinese journey, stands as the largest and most bustling city in the country, offering a captivating blend of ultra-modern architecture and tranquil gardens. Embarking on a panoramic city tour by car, your first stop is the People's Square, a central hub that houses Shanghai's local government and serves as a popular meeting place for locals. The square is also home to the Shanghai Museum, which, with its new building, showcases the pinnacle of Chinese art, encompassing fine bronzes, paintings, calligraphy, and furniture. Continuing the exploration, immerse yourself in the local experience by strolling along the renowned Bund, a mile-long riverside promenade adorned with European-style buildings. Capture the essence of Shanghai's vibrant energy while enjoying the picturesque views. (B,L,D)

Day 10 - Shanghai

Embark on an exploration of Shanghai's highlights, delving into the enchanting Yu Garden, the iconic Oriental Pearl TV Tower, the modern New Bund, and the bustling Nanjing Road. Spread across five acres, Yu Garden captivates with its Suzhou-style design, featuring six main areas, including a rockery, a chamber of ten thousand flowers, multiple halls, and ponds. Contrasting with the traditional charm of Yu Garden, the Oriental Pearl TV Tower stands as a modern marvel. Erected in 1994, it reigned as China's tallest building for over a decade. Today, its impressive 468-meter tower offers 15 viewing levels, providing spectacular opportunities for photography. Don't miss the chance to stop for coffee at the revolving restaurant located at 267 meters.

Concluding the tour, immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of Nanjing Road, Shanghai's main shopping street, historically known as Park Lane until the mid-19th century. Join the millions of visitors who flock to this bustling street daily, experiencing the lively pulse of the city. (B,L,D)

Day 11 - Shanghai - Suzhou - Shanghai

Experience a delightful contrast to the bustling city life as

you venture into the greener landscapes of Suzhou, renowned as China's Garden City. Explore the city's striking landscape design, where walled gardens once served as havens from the outside world. A highlight of your visit includes a serene boat trip on the Grand Canal, offering a unique perspective of Suzhou from the water. Concluding your Suzhou tour, delve into the intricate world of silk production with a visit to a fascinating silk factory. This stop isn't merely for shopping but serves as an educational experience, allowing you to learn about the delicate process of crafting this luxurious fabric. As the day winds down, transfer back to Shanghai in the evening, reflecting on the natural beauty and cultural richness experienced in Suzhou. (B,L,D)

Day 12 - Shanghai

Our driver will meet you in the hotel lobby and take you to the airport to catch your flight home. (D)

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

PREMIUM - 4* PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
20/07/2024 - 31/07/2024	£3095	£3995	£595
27/07/2024 - 07/08/2024	£3095	£3995	£595
03/08/2024 - 14/08/2024	£3095	£3995	£595
10/08/2024 - 21/08/2024	£3095	£3995	£595
17/08/2024 - 28/08/2024	£3095	£3995	£595
24/08/2024 - 04/09/2024	£3095	£3995	£595
31/08/2024 - 11/09/2024	£3095	£3995	£595
07/09/2024 - 18/09/2024	£3095	£3995	£595
14/09/2024 - 25/09/2024	£3095	£3995	£595
21/09/2024 - 02/10/2024	£3095	£3995	£595
28/09/2024 - 09/10/2024	£3095	£3995	£595
12/10/2024 - 23/10/2024	£3095	£3995	£595
26/10/2024 - 06/11/2024	£3095	£3995	£595
09/11/2024 - 20/11/2024	£3095	£3995	£595
23/11/2024 - 04/12/2024	£3095	£3995	£595
07/12/2024 - 18/12/2024	£3095	£3995	£595
21/12/2024 - 01/01/2025	£3095	£3995	£595
28/12/2024 - 08/01/2025	£3095	£3995	£595

ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organised group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday arrangement or an extension to a regular "Go Russia" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please [contact us for a quote](#).

Based on your chosen tour we believe you might be interested in alternative trips listed below:

- > [Beijing Explorer - Uncover the Wonders of the Chinese Capital - 6 Days \(CN-02\)](#), Price from £795, 6 days
- > [China's Golden Triangle & Gardens of Suzhou - 9 Days \(CN-04\)](#), Price from £1,995, 9 days
- > [Best of China: Exploring Beijing, Xian, Guilin & Li River, Shanghai, Suzhou - 11 Days \(CN-05\)](#), Price from £2,945, 11 days
- > [Trans-Mongolian East-West: Beijing - Ulan Bator - Baikal - Yekaterinburg - Moscow - St. Petes \(TS-17\)](#), Price from £3,195, 20 days

INFORMATION ABOUT VISAS

Go Russia provides assistance in processing visas and visa fees are included in the cost of most of our trips as detailed in the tour dossier. The visa application process is very straightforward. We have years of practical experience in dealing with tourist visas, and our in-house visa team provides assistance with completing the forms and checking the documents

before consular submission. Please do not worry that your application will be unsuccessful (unless you have had any immigration issues with the relevant authorities in the past). All our tourists get their visas.

All nationalities require a full passport valid for at least six months beyond the intended length of stay. Please also make sure there are enough blank pages in your passport: Russian consulate requires minimum two blank pages.

UK, USA, Germany, France, Spain residents

We have in-house visa teams in the UK, USA, Germany, France and Spain. Upon your booking we will email you detailed guidance notes how to fill in the visa forms and what additional documents depending on nationality and your immigration status will be required. You will need to post your application pack to our visa processing office including your original passport. Please allow about two - three weeks for each visa application to be processed. The actual visa processing times are published on our website. Please advise us if you require your passport urgently, we can arrange urgent processing for an additional charge.

Non-UK, USA, Germany, France, Spain residents

If you are not resident in the above countries, we will issue official paperwork and email the required documents to you. You will need to apply for your visa at the local consulate. The process is very straightforward and we can assist you with completing the visa forms. You will have to pay the correct visa fee at the consulate in the country of your residence.

You can read more information about visa, processing times and application forms on our website:

www.justgorussia.co.uk/en/visa_services.html

HOW TO BOOK

Step 1 - Choose Your Holiday & Departure Dates

It is important that you choose a trip that is well suited to your interests, capabilities and experience. All our staff has first hand experience of a range of Go Russia holidays and will be happy to talk to you about your chosen trip, enabling you to assess its suitability. We also recommend that you read the descriptions of the relevant region, general information about our services, booking conditions, and trip dossiers carefully. Once you know what tour is right for you, as well as your departure dates, you can start your booking.

Step 2 - Complete the Booking Form

Online: log on to www.justgorussia.co.uk and open the tour you wish to book and click "Book now". To provide you with a more personalised and relevant experience in all your contact with Go Russia, when you book online we ask you to register on our system. Once registered you can retrieve your bookings, brochure requests, update newsletter subscriptions, passenger and emergency contact details, submit special dietary requests, view invoices and receipts, download trip documents.

Email: alternatively, you can book your tour per email - info@justgorussia.co.uk, or

Phone: call us on +44 (0)20 33 55 77 17

When booking by email or over the phone please confirm your personal details (full name and address), chosen tour, departure date, package type (hotel / cabin category), and available upgrades.

Step 3 - Confirmation of your booking

On receipt of your booking form, we will make any necessary reservations for you and send you confirmation invoice, including the flight details, and additional information about your destination: advice on visas, vaccinations and what to take. The invoice will also show you the exact due date of the payment.

Step 4 - Payment

Please note, if your departure date is more than 56 days you will need to pay the deposit, which should cover the full cost of the flight (if applicable), plus 10% of the land-only arrangements (minimum £100) per person towards your tour. The outstanding payment must be made 56 days prior to departure. If you book less than 56 days before departure, full payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer, debit or credit card, cheque, bankers draft or postal order. You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

