

13 DAYS 11 NIGHTS CHINA & YANGTZE EXPERIENCE 2008

BRAND NEW RENOVATED “YANGTZE EXPLORER”

The largest cabin size with private balcony.

\$2855 per person twin sharing plus tax and fuel surcharge

\$1094 as single supplement

Suggested departure date from U S A : May 14 and Nov 5, 2008.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:



- ❖ All 5 Stars Hotels: La Royal Meridien in Shanghai, Sofitel in Xian, and Shangri-la Kerry Center in Beijing.
- ❖ On board of total renovated 5 stars “Yangtze Explorer”
- ❖ House wine/beer/soft drinks/bottled water included for all meals on Yangtze cruise.
- ❖ Daily American breakfast, lunch and dinner of Chinese and Western menu, and Tang Dynasty Dinner Show
- ❖ Beijing: Great Wall, Forbidden City
- ❖ Xian: Terra Cotta Warriors Museum
- ❖ Chongqing: General Stillwell Museum, visit to Panda
- ❖ Shanghai: Shanghai Museum, The Bund, Yu Yuan Garden
- ❖ Cultural learning experience of morning exercise at Temple of Heaven, Traditional Chinese Tea Ceremony, dumpling making demonstrations and local family visit.
- ❖ Special farewell dinner

**DAY TO DAY ITINERARY FOR YANGTZE EXPERIENCE 2008
SHANGHAI/YANGTZE CRUISE/XIAN/BEIJING**

B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner

DAY 1 DEPART U S A TO SHANGHAI

Depart from West Coast gateway city. Enjoy the in flight service on board of a jumbo jet. Please arrive at the airport 2 hours prior the departure time.

DAY 2 ARR. SHANGHAI (D)

Welcome to the most modern city of China, Shanghai.
Arrive Shanghai. Meet & transfer to hotel by private coach.

Special welcome dinner at local restaurant.

Accommodation at *La Royal Meridien Hotel (5 stars)* or similar for 2 nights. Hotel located at the center of Nanjing Road.

DAY 3 SHANGHAI (B/L)

Buffet breakfast at hotel. You can taste the Continental, American and even Chinese breakfast.

Full day private tour, visit:

Yu Garden

Yu Garden, a classical garden in downtown Shanghai, boasts a history over 400 years. Each pavilion, hall, stone and stream in the garden is expressing the quintessence of South China landscape design from Ming and Qing Dynasty. Over forty spots, divided by dragon walls, wound corridors and beautiful flowers, form a unique picture featuring “one step, one beauty; every step, every beauty.”

It's reputed to be the most beautiful garden south of the Yangtze River. Built beside the Temple of the City God and covering only five acres, it follows the Suzhou garden design of a world in microcosm, with 30 pavilions linked by corridors, artificial hills, bridges over lotus pools, groves of bamboo and walls occupied by stone dragons. The surrounding bazaar is packed with traditional and modern shops, restaurants and temples.



The Bund

The Bund is the birthplace of Shanghai. Cruise boats meander eastward along the golden waterway to the intriguing "three-layer waters" at the Wusong Mouth. The Bund is the most famous sightseeing spot in Shanghai. The Waibaidu Bridge, the long embankment along the Hungpu River, and the imposing array of tall buildings known as "an international exhibition" together from a symbol of the East. The Bund has always been closely linked with the development of Shanghai.



Shanghai Museum

Shanghai Museum is situated at the southern side of the People's Square. Total construction

space is 38,000 square meters. The museum structure, 29.5 meters in height, includes five floors aboveground and two floors underground. Total investment of the museum is 432.69 million yuan. The museum opened to visitors at the end of 1995. The design of the museum, a square foundation supporting a circular roof, incorporates ancient Chinese philosophy that the sky is round and the earth is square. The museum has 10 showrooms featuring bronze wares, ceramics, ancient Chinese paintings, calligraphy works, sculptures, seals, coins, jade wares, furniture and handicrafts of Chinese minorities. The museum now collects some 120,000 pieces of precious antiques, accounting for almost half of the total such collections in the country. The museum is highly acclaimed internationally.

Dim Sum lunch at local restaurant

Nanjing Road

Nanjing Road, China's premier shopping street, 3.4-mile-long Nanjing Road, starts at the Bund in the east and ends in the west at the junction of Jingan Temple and Yan'an West Street. Today Nanjing Road is a must-see metropolitan destination attracting thousands of fashion-seeking shoppers from all over the world. Over 600 businesses on Nanjing road offer countless famous brands, superior quality, and new fashions. Many food vendors line both sides of the street. Upscale stores include Tiffany, Mont Blanc, and Dunhill. In addition, approximately a hundred traditional stores and specialty shops still provide choice silk goods, jade, embroidery, wool, and clocks.



Open-air bars, abstract sculptures, and lingering sounds from street musicians enhance evening strolls. A trackless sightseeing train provides a comfortable tour of the night-transformed pedestrian street. Flashing neon signs illuminate the magnificent buildings and spangle the night skyline of this lively city.

Silk workshop

Textiles have a very long history in China, as garments, currency, tax goods, and commodities. Chinese domesticated silkworms no later than 3,000 BCE, but archaeologists have discovered cocoons at Neolithic sites. The ancient Chinese also wove ramie and hemp, which were worn by the common people. Nowadays, silk production is still one of the important parts of the people's life.



In the Silk Museum, you will have a chance to see the complete process of making silk from silkworms; you even can see the old silk weaving machines, hand-making silk quilt...

Tonight you can try the many restaurants in Shanghai or join our optional dinner with Acrobatic show.

DAY 4

SHANGHAI/YICHANG

(B/-/D)

Breakfast at hotel

Free until transfer to the airport for the flight to Yichang. It's interesting to walk and enjoy the city on your own. You may find some local people want to practice English with you.

Lunch on own
Dinner at local restaurant.



Boarding MV Yangtze Explorer (22:00pm)

No trip to China is complete without an adventure to the world-famous, spellbinding Yangtze

River and its Three Gorges.

China's only five-star deluxe cruisers awarded by National Tourism Administration in year 1997 and renovated in early 2004 and 2006, now dubbed as the most expensive "facelift" in Yangtze River Cruise history. Similar in comfort and luxury, both ships offer the large passenger cabins available on the Yangtze River. Both cruises provide accommodations for 138 passengers including suites. Private balcony in each beautifully appointed stateroom offer breathtaking views of the scenery alongside the River. Both ships will meet the needs of the individual or the group travelers.

Business leaders like Bill Gates, Warren Buffet and Gerald Levin, among the few, are all one in choosing this cruise for their memorable journey to these unique wonders.

DAY 5

YANGTZE CRUISE

(B/L/D)

All meals on board.

Embarkation & Departing Yichang Pier 08:00 09:15

Passing Xiling Gorge - East Part 09:30 10:30

Xiling Gorge is famous for its strangely-shaped cliff faces and rock formations which have earned such names as Ox Liver, Horse Lungs, Yellow Cat and Precious Sword. The largest of the Three Gorges, it also used to be the most perilous part of the river journey, before its large river rocks were removed in 1950's. Now it is merely exciting, offering the "mountains beyond mountains" scenery of classic China.

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Arrive Yangjiawan Pier 11:00

Yangjiawan ("Yang Family Bay") is a mini port exclusively for cruise ships to visit the Three Gorges Project (TGP). Opened in 1997 after the first damming, the port is located at the north bank of the Yangtze River, connected to the south bank by the graceful Xiling Bridge. It is around 30 miles or 40 minutes away to the Yichang port in the center of the city. It is only 5 minutes to drive to the Tanziling (Jar Ridge), on top of the mountain overlooking the whole project.

Three Gorges Dam Project - Shore Excursion 14:00 17:00

One of the largest construction projects ever undertaken in the world, the Three Gorges Project will forever change the face of the Yangtze River as we know today. Possessing comprehensive utilization benefits mainly for flood control, power generation and navigation improvement. It will be a vital important and backbone project in harnessing and developing of the Yangtze River. The Dam site is situated in Sandouping of Yichang City, Hubei Province, 38km upstream from the Gezhouba Dam Lock. The project is designed to be built in three phases and is scheduled for completion in year 2009. Measures have been taken to preserve and move the historical and cultural relics found along its banks; however many scenic spots will be adversely affected. Unfortunately, the most dramatic section of the river, what we refer to as "the heart of the Yangtze"-the area from the Three Gorges all the way upstream to Chongqing-will eventually be drowned by the completion of the Three Gorges Dam, an integral part of the Three Gorges Project. We will only be able to experience the original wonders of the Three Gorges by boat until 2007, when water will cover forever the sights we cherish today.



Passing Three Gorges Dam 5-stage Shiplocks 18:00

Welcome dinner by the Captain.

DAY 6**YANGTZE CRUISE****(B/L/D)**

All meals on board.

Passing Xiling Gorge - West Part 07:00 08:00**Shennong Stream - Shore Excursion 10:00 13:00**

Shennong Stream starts at Mt. Shennong Jia in Hubei Province north of the Yangtze. It comprises of Parrot Gorge and Dragon Boat Gorge with breathtaking scenery. Sailing through the treacherous gorges with lush pine and translucent water, visitors can see spectacular sights like ancient plank roads, ancient cave coffins, aqueous caves, rainbow fountain and rare animals like macaques and mandarin ducks. It is also perfect to experience the culture of Tujia nationality.

**Passing Wu Gorge 13:30 16:00**

Passing through wondrous Wu Gorge, home of the twelve peaks of the Wu Mountains, experience a meandering landscape of dazzling peaks and rocks, forming a whimsical gallery of natural beauty. Shennong Stream is located in this gorge.

Passing Qutang Gorge 17:00 17:40

Qutang Gorge finds the river carving its way between sheer precipices of overhanging mountains on both sides. It is the shortest, narrowest and rockiest of the three gorges. Qutang Gorge is abundant with historical relics and cultural heritage and is home to one of the earliest human cultures ever discovered in Asia. Here one can see the original site of the famous Fenbi Wall, the ruins of ancient cliff roads and the Mengliang Steps before the expected high water levels causes by the Three Gorges Project forces the government to move them to higher ground.

DAY 7**YANGTZE CRUISE****(B/L/D)**

All meals on board.

Wanzhou - Shore Excursion 08:00 10:00

"Wanzhou" literally means "myriad-prefecture", where "myriad rivers converge and myriad traders gather". It was a city on its own right until 1997, when it was agglomerated with Chongqing. Due to the construction of the Three Gorges Dam, 47% of Wanzhou's old urban area will be underwater by the time the reservoir is filled. Buildings in the submerged area have been torn down and new ones rebuilt on higher ground.

DAY 8**CHONGQING/XIAN****(B/L/-)**

Breakfast on board.

On arrival Chongqing in the morning and disembark 09:00am*A short private day tour, visit:***Chongqing Zoo**

In Chongqing Zoo, there are more than ten enclosures for pandas, elephants, birds, monkeys, tigers and lions etc. It has now over 150 species of animals on display. The Panda house consists of 3 enclosed meadows where about 10 pandas live. On a fine day, one may see pandas sitting deep in through, or eating bamboo leaves slowly, staggering or lying on the grass at ease. Watching these funny clumsy pandas, one can't help laughing a healthy laugh. Indeed it is an interesting sight and a lovely scene for taking pictures.

Grand Hall

Architectural symbol of Chongqing built in 1951 and designed in the traditional symmetrical and beautifully-proportioned style of Ming and Qing Dynasty palaces, containing a 4000-seat auditorium.

General Stillwell Museum

Joseph W. Stilwell was a famous American 4-star General during World War II. Joseph W. Stilwell first came in 1911, since then he had returned several times. In 1912, when the Chinese people were in the most difficult condition during the Anti-Japanese War Gen. Stilwell, then later 60, was entrusted by the U.S. President Roosevelt to come to China for the fifth time. Stilwell lived and working in Chongqing and served the U.S.



Army Commander of the China-India-Burma Theater and Chief staff of Chiang Kai-shek under the Allied Army. The Chinese people, especially the people of Chongqing, hold high regard for General Stilwell for his contributions to the Chinese people because of national liberation. Joseph W. Stilwell is acknowledging being one of the most important figures in the history of Sino-US relations.

Transfer to airport for a flight to Xian.

Arrive Xian. Meet & transfer to Sofitel Xian or similar.

Special lunch of Sichuanese Cuisine.

Dinner on own. We suggest you enjoy a light dinner at hotel.

Accommodation at *Sofitel Xian (5 stars)* or similar for 2 nights

DAY 9

XIAN

(B/L/D)

Breakfast at hotel

Full day private tour, visit:



Terra Cotta Warriors

This is the reason most visitors come to Xi'an, and unlike many big sights in China, it does not disappoint. Amazingly, the warriors are just one piece of Qín Shi Huáng's attempt to reconstruct his empire for the afterlife. The tomb to the west is still to be fully excavated, and is said to include a full reconstruction of the ancient capital, complete with rivers and lakes of mercury. According to historian Sima Qian, over 700,000 workers were drafted for the project, and those involved in the construction of the tomb were rewarded with graves beside their emperor. Tourism officials pray that the warriors are "just the tip of the iceberg," but it is just as likely that the tomb was plundered during the Táng or Sòng dynasties.



City Wall

The Xi'an City Wall is not only the most complete city wall that has survived in China, but it's also one of the largest and most complete ancient military systems of defense in the world. The city walls here were actually built on the fortifications of the Tang Forbidden City. The military defense facilities here including the city wall, city moat, drawbridges, watchtowers, corner towers, parapet walls and gate towers once made up a complete city defense system. Many sections have since been destroyed and the city walls are incomplete. The 14 km of wall does not stretch around the entire city. You can get up on the walls at the east of the railway station and at the south gate adjacent to the provincial museum.

Chinese lunch



Pottery workshop

Make a pottery warrior at a workshop would give you an impressive experience to learn how a warrior is made.



Tang Dynasty Dinner Show

The Tang dynasty (618-907 A. D.) was the height of China's development in music and dance which have been very influential for both China and Japan. Elegance and dignity are at the core of Tang dynasty dance.



People now compose the dance by sorting out historical data and then put it on at the Tang Music Palace. The musicians present the music with the Tang-dynasty-style musical instruments and the dancers wear a Tang dynasty-style robe with long white silk sleeves. The most famous item is the Rainbow Skirt and Feathered Coat Dance. Accompanied with dinner, you will enjoy a national art that reflects the glory and richness of the Tang Dynasty era.

DAY 10 **XIAN/BEIJING** **(B/L)**
Breakfast at hotel

Morning flight to Beijing.
Arrive Beijing. Meet & transfer to Beijing China World Hotel.

Rest of day at leisure. You can explore the city by walking in the downtown shopping area or join the optional Summer Palace and Lama Temple.

Tonight join the optional Peking duck dinner with Opera show.

Accommodation at *Beijing China World Hotel (5 stars)* or similar for 3 nights, centrally located at Beijing.

DAY 11 **BEIJING** **(B/L/D)**
Breakfast at hotel.

Full day private tour, visit:

Great Wall

An exciting Great Wall climbing will let you see one of the most astonishing feats of human endeavor, which is the only man-made object visible from the moon. Construction of the Great Wall began in the seventh century BC and was extended in the following dynasties. Today we will hike on the Great Wall Ju Rong Guan Section



Jade Carving Workshop.

Jade has a history in China of at least four thousands years. Unknown to some, jade is found contained within the development of religion and civilization, having moved from the use of decoration on to the others such as the rites of worship and burial. Although other materials like gold, silver and bronze were also used, none of these have ever exceeded the spiritual position that jade has acquired in peoples' minds. Jade carving is a piece of art which is fascinating to see.

Hutong

A really unforgettable experience! Roaming through Beijing's old, narrow streets - hutongs, by old fashioned rickshaw to visit 'siheyuan', the old quadrangles, Visit a local family and chat about the daily life of the Chinese family.

Lunch at local restaurant
Enjoy western dinner tonight.

DAY 12 **BEIJING** **(B/L/D)**
Breakfast at hotel

Full day, private city tour, visit:



Join the local to do the morning exercise at the park. Following by tour the Temple of Heaven.

Temple of Heaven

The Temple of Heaven is a worthwhile visiting place in Beijing. It is much bigger than the Forbidden City and smaller than the Summer Palace with an area of about 2,700,000 square meters. The Temple was built in 1420 A.D. during the Ming Dynasty to offer sacrifice to Heaven. As Chinese emperors called themselves "The Son of Heaven", they dared not to build their own dwelling," Forbidden City" bigger than a dwelling for Heaven.



Tian'anmen Square

The square, located in the heart of modern Beijing, covers 44 hectares. Reputed as the largest square in the world, it can hold 500,000 people. The founding ceremony of the People's Republic of China was held here on October 1, 1949, which climaxed with 1 million people gathering to hear the late Chairman Mao Zedong proclaim the birth of New China.

Forbidden City

The Forbidden City, also known as The Imperial Palace, is a maze of palaces built between 1417 and 1420 as the residence of the emperor. It has 9,000 halls and rooms, containing many precious relics. It is the largest palace in the world and one of the mankind's major cultural legacies.



You will also learn about the **traditional Tea Ceremony** and have a sip of fresh brewed Chinese Tea.

Special Noodle Lunch.

Special Farewell dinner at courtyard style restaurant.

DAY 13 **DEPART BEIJING/USA** **(B/-/-)**
Breakfast at hotel
Free for shopping until transfer to the airport.
Transfer to airport for the int'l flight to home.

----- BON VOYAGE -----

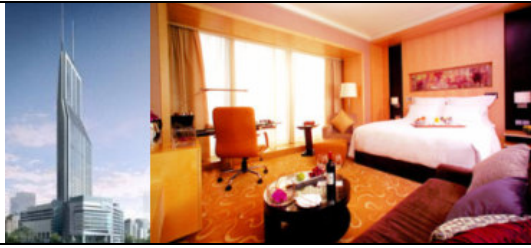
TOUR COST

\$ 2855+ tax per person on twin sharing \$1094 single supplement
Tax and airlines fuel surcharge to be confirmed at time of issue the ticket (current tax & fuel surcharge is \$300)

SERVICE INCLUDED

Shanghai (2 Nights) at Le Royal Meridien Hotel or similar (5 stars)

Address: 789 Nanjing Road East Shanghai, 200001, China
Tel: (86 21) 6361 6688
Fax: (86 21) 6361 3388
URL: www.lemeridien.com/shanghai



**Yangtze Cruise (4 Nights)
Yangtze Explorer**

Xian (2 Nights) at Sofitel on Renmin Square Xian (5 stars)

Address: 319 Dongxin Street, Shaanxi,
Xian, 710004 China

Tel: (86 29) 8792 8228

Fax: (86 29) 8792 8999

URL: http://www.accorhotels.com/accorhotels/fichehotel/gb/mer/5974/fiche_hotel.shtml



Beijing (3 Nights) Shangri-la Kerry Center Hotel (5 stars)

URL: <http://www.shangri-la.com/beijing/kerrycenter.com>



- ❖ House wine/beer/soft drinks/bottled water included for all meals on the Yangtze cruise.
- ❖ 28 meals include daily international breakfast buffet, Tang Dynasty dinner show, Dim Sum lunch and western dinner.
- ❖ All transfers and tours per itinerary
- ❖ Round trip international air from Los Angeles to China included.
- ❖ Domestic air from Shanghai to Yichang, Chongqing to Xian, Xian to Beijing on economy class.
- ❖ English speaking guide service in each city
- ❖ Fully escorted in China
- ❖ Domestic airport tax included
- ❖ All shore excursion included along Yangtze cruise

SERVICE NOT INCLUDED

- ❖ China visa fee
- ❖ Gratuity for escort, local guide, driver and cruise staff. We suggest \$4 pp per day for the escort, \$3 pp per day for local guide and \$2 pp per day for driver. For cruise, usually cruise suggest \$25 -\$30 pp for the staff on board
- ❖ Personal expenses and extra baggage