



SLOW BOAT TO CHINA

The Yangtze, one of the longest rivers in the world, has its origin in the vast Tanggula mountains and flows through the middle of China. It is connected to the East China Sea through the great Yangtze River Delta situated on the eastern coast of China.

Starting in Chongqing, one of China's largest cities, we will board the luxury cruise ship and begin an unforgettable voyage on the mighty Yangtze. After four relaxing days, we'll visit one of the most charming canal towns of China, Suzhou, where we will visit the famed Garden of the Master of Nets and explore the narrow cobbled streets and picturesque canals of Suzhou. And we'll finish in style with two exhilarating days in cosmopolitan Shanghai.

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ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Day 1: Arrive in Chongqing - Pandas at the zoo - Three Gorges Museum - Board cruise ship

Day 2: Yangtze River - Visit the ghost city of Fengdu - Tai chi and other activities

Day 3: Yangtze River - Sail through the Three Gorges - Excursion to Shennong Stream

Day 4: Yangtze River - Three Gorges Dam - Travel to Wuhan by train

Day 5: Wuhan tour - Guiyuan Temple - Visit a local market

Day 6: Classical Suzhou: classical gardens and silk

Day 7: Travel to Shanghai by train - Visit Jin Mao building and the old town

Day 8: Explore Shanghai on your own - Farewell dinner

Day 9: Departure service

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Day 1: Arrive in Chongqing - Pandas at the zoo - Three Gorges Museum - Board cruise ship

An Albatros Travel representative will meet you at the airport. Our first stop in this megacity is the city zoo where we'll pay the giant pandas a visit. After lunch we will head to one of the city's central squares where a replica of the [Temple of Heaven](#) in Beijing was built a few years ago. The building is now used as the city hall. After a tour of the hall and area, we gain invaluable background information about the majestic [Yangtze River](#) at the Three Gorges Museum. After dinner we board the cruise ship and begin our voyage of 2,660km on the fabled Yangtze River.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Victoria Cruise Ship



Day 2: Yangtze River - Visit the ghost city of Fengdu - Tai chi and other activities

After enjoying a peaceful morning onboard the luxury five-star ship, we make our first port of call at Fengdu, the city of ghosts, in the afternoon. There is no shortage of activities onboard. Enjoy the phenomenal view from the upper deck, sign up for various activities that include tai chi lessons, calligraphy demonstrations and talks on Chinese history and culture.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Victoria Cruise Ship



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Day 3: Yangtze River - Sail through the Three Gorges - Excursion to Shennong Stream

Today, our journey will take us through the second of the [Three Gorges](#), Wu Gorge, which is a narrow passageway with steep cliffs and forest-clad peaks. At the Wushan mountain, we'll transfer to small motorboats and sail down the Shennong stream, a tributary of the Yangtze. In the afternoon, back on the cruise ship, we'll sail through the Three Gorges ship locks.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Victoria Cruise Ship



Day 4: Yangtze River - Three Gorges Dam - Travel to Wuhan by train

Today we will see the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydroelectric dam. We'll get a closer look at the enormous turbines that power this massive plant. In the afternoon, we disembark from the cruise ship and travel to Wuhan by train. We'll check into our hotel and have dinner nearby.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Wu Han Dorsett Regency



SLOW BOAT TO CHINA

Day 5: Wuhan tour - Guiyuan Temple - Visit a local market

We start the day in Wuhan with a visit to Guiyuan Temple, one of Hubei province's four largest temples. One of the halls contains 500 golden statues of which no two are alike. It is said that if you count the number of statues corresponding to the years of your age, you can read your future from the last statue's facial expression. We will also call in at that Yellow Crane Tower, known as the symbol of Wuhan city.

After the tower, we will visit a local market and have time to browse through the numerous stalls and do a bit of shopping. After a late lunch, we catch the high-speed train to [Suzhou](#). On arrival, we check into the hotel and have a late dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Suzhou Garden Hotel



Day 6: Classical Suzhou: classical gardens and silk

With its numerous small canals, low whitewashed houses and peaceful gardens, Suzhou has always been a popular city. Our first stop is the [Garden of the Master of the Nets](#), one of the most famous gardens in Suzhou.

Suzhou has been China's silk capital since the Tang Dynasty. We'll visit a silk factory and be introduced to the intricate and labour-intensive process of silk-making. After lunch at the factory restaurant, we carry on to the old city gates. Next we visit the beautiful Suzhou Museum, designed by the Chinese-American architect I.M. Pei, who also designed the glass pyramid in front of the Louvre in Paris. Suzhou Museum has an interesting collection of historical Chinese arts and crafts. You're free to walk around this beautiful canal town for the rest of the afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Suzhou Garden Hotel



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Day 7: Travel to Shanghai by train - Visit Jin Mao building and the old town

After breakfast we'll travel by high-speed train to [Shanghai](#). Our first stop is the incredible Jin Mao building in the [Pudong district](#). From the 88th-floor we'll be able to enjoy phenomenal views of the sprawling metropolis. From Pudong, we journey into [Old Shanghai](#) and visit the Yuyuan bazaar and experience a slice of Shanghai history. Shop for trinkets and taste local eats. Next stop is Shanghai's main shopping street, Nanjing Lu, where major designer brands are represented. We'll walk to the Shanghai Museum from here. The museum has an impressive collection of bronze, porcelain, calligraphy, paintings, textiles and sculptures. The museum bookstore is a must for anyone who is interested in Chinese art and architecture.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Lodging: Shanghai Jiulong Hotel



Day 8: Explore Shanghai on your own - Farewell dinner

Today is a day for exploring Shanghai. Go back to Nanjing Lu and shop to your heart's content, or visit the Yuyuan Garden and have tea at the Huxinting Tea House, or have coffee at one of the many cafés in the [French Concession](#). Have a stroll along the [Bund](#) before the farewell dinner. We'll meet back at the hotel and drive to a restaurant serving local specialities for our farewell dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging: Shanghai Jiulong Hotel



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Day 9: Departure service

After checking out of the hotel, we will take you to the airport for your onward journey.

Meals: Breakfast



DATES AND PRICES

Additional information

A child is defined as 12 years or younger **and** below 1.20m in height.

All rates are based on double occupancy and it is therefore not possible to add additional cots or beds in the cabins.

INCLUDED

- Pick up and drop off service at hotel, airport or train station
- Professional local English-speaking guide
- Hotel accommodation and 3 nights on cruise ships
- Transportation according to the programme with car, coach or bus depending on group size
- Meals as stated in the itinerary B = Breakfast. L = Lunch D = Dinner. Breakfast is usually international breakfast buffet combined with local Chinese breakfast. Lunch consists of local Chinese dishes including meat and vegetables. Sometimes lunch is a western-style sandwich if the weather or programme so requires. Dinner is specialised Chinese meals from many different regions in China.
- All entrance fees to the sites mentioned in the itinerary
- Beverages (soft drinks or local beer) within a reasonable limit (2-3 glasses)
- English map of Beijing
- 24hr on-call service in case of emergencies

EXCLUDED

- Anything not in "Included" list above
- Any flights or transportation besides those mentioned in the "Included" list above
- Phone calls or other personal expenses
- Tips - We recommend that the guide receives 2 USD per person per day and 1 USD per person per day for the driver

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

We reserve the right to make improvements and changes to the itinerary due to local circumstances or events outside our control.

Tour starts/ends:

This tour starts Chongqing and ends in Shanghai.

An Albatros Travel representative will meet you at the airport. This tour includes pick-up and departure services. Please let us know your flight details, including flight number, arrival and departure times, in order for us to arrange your transfers.

Type of vehicles used:

For transfers between destinations we use modern and comfortable vehicles that have air conditioning.

Level of ability required:

This tour does not include any strenuous activity so no particular level of ability is required, however please be prepared for some walking. If you have any concerns or questions regarding disability access, please contact us in advance.

Food and dietary information:

If you have any particular dietary preferences or requirements, please make these clear when you make your booking. Most types of diet can be catered for. We will eat at local restaurants. It's not a problem to maintain a vegetarian diet in China.

Breakfast at the hotel is usually an international breakfast buffet.

Health and vaccinations:

In general, tourists do not need any vaccinations. Malaria vaccinations are not necessary in most parts of China. However, we advise you to consult with your doctor before travelling. For more information about health and vaccinations, please look at this [website](#).

Baggage and what to bring:

Baggage

For domestic travel by air, the baggage allowance is 20kg (44lbs) per person. Since we do not provide tours with international air travel, please check your airline's website for luggage weight limits.

Adaptors

Flat two pin outlets are used in China. European round two pin outlets can also be used but don't fit perfectly. A plug adaptor can be purchased in most electronic stores.

Visa requirements:

Most travellers need a tourist visa to China. Please consult the Chinese consulate or embassy in your country of residence for visa application. This [website](#) may be useful in providing information regarding the application procedure.

Cancellations:

If you need to cancel

We understand that your travel plans sometimes change and we try to be as flexible as possible. However as we have to book accommodation at hotels we are also bound by their cancellation policies. In general, the following rules will apply when cancelling a tour you have booked:

- If cancelling more than 45 days before commencement of our services there is no cancellation fee and we will refund 100% of your money
- If cancelling within 45 to 31 days before commencement of our services: 20 % of the total booking value will be levied
- If cancelling within 30 to 15 days before commencement of our services: 60 % of the total booking value will be levied
- We are unable to offer a refund if cancelling less than two weeks before commencement of our services

For full details of our cancellation terms, please see our general [Terms and Conditions](#).

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Beijing Albatros Travel Service Co. has implemented both the EU 'Law on Package Tours' and the regulations set forth by the China National Tourist Administration. In accordance with these laws, travel agencies must be able to document that they have drawn the attention of the consumer to all possible contingencies: the detailed itinerary, all formalities and expenses, possible changes, and the terms of agreement must be very clear when the tour is booked (i.e. before you confirm your booking by paying a deposit).

It is therefore very important that you have familiarised yourself thoroughly with the terms of agreement for a tour. The terms of agreement comprise the following elements: brochure and/or website information including price list and itinerary, invoice, terms and conditions.

If the tour is booked AND paid for on the Beijing Albatros Travel Service Co. website, chinatoursandholidays.com, the traveller is obliged to read and possibly print all relevant information and documents:

- A. Brochure and/or website information including price list and itinerary which contains a detailed description of the tour, current prices and a specification of expected extra expenses, as well as special regulations or information relevant to the specific tour. Flight times, visa requirements, etc., are frequently altered and information regarding these will therefore seldom be found in the printed brochures.
- B. The terms and conditions must be seen in context with the other relevant content of the terms of agreement as mentioned above. If there are conditions stipulated in the tour itinerary or practical information relating to the specific tour, these must be included in the information provided in our brochure and/or our website. Otherwise, you may assume that the general terms and conditions for Beijing Albatros Travel Service Co. are valid for your tour.
- C. Product liability insurance. In keeping with legislation regarding extended liability for tour operators, we always presume that our customers have familiarised themselves with the content of all of the distributed material.

1. Booking

A booking is binding for both customer and travel agency once the deposit has been paid.

2. Conditions of payment

The following rules apply unless other conditions are stipulated in the tour itinerary or practical information relating to the specific tour on our website.

At the time of booking, a deposit on 25% of the tour's total price per person, though no less than 300 USD, must be paid. The remaining payment must be submitted no later than 75 days prior to departure. If the deadline for the remaining payment is exceeded, there is no guarantee against otherwise unnecessary changes. Please note that some tours have different conditions of payment and often stricter conditions for cancellation, i.e. tours utilising chartered ships or flights. These conditions will be stated in the specific tour terms and conditions on our website.

3. Cancellation

The following rules apply unless other conditions are stipulated in the tour itinerary or practical information relating to the specific tour on our website.

Cancellation by the customer

If the customer cancels a tour up to 76 days prior to departure the deposit is lost. If cancellation is made within 75-15 days prior to departure, a handling fee of 85% of the total price of the tour will be charged. Later cancellations: The customer has no claim to reimbursement.

Should war and life-threatening epidemics break out, or natural catastrophes and similar events occur within 14 days prior to departure, the trip may be cancelled free of charge. This will, however, be on condition that the United Kingdom's Foreign Office directly advises against travelling to the specific area, and that the contingencies have arisen after the booking of the tour.

Cancellation by the travel agency

If the number of participants is insufficient for a scheduled group tour, it may be cancelled up to 14 days before departure. The minimum number of participants for a tour is 10 persons. The tour may also be cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control and which neither our partners nor we could foresee (force majeure). In such cases the customer has no right to compensation beyond a refund of the price of the trip. Should the aforementioned contingencies arise the travel agency will always try to offer an acceptable alternative.

4. Travel documents

If travel documents, other than the invoice, are required, these will be emailed or posted to the participants upon full payment.

Additional travel documents could include detailed flight schedules (if included in the purchase), vouchers and itinerary that include the pre-booked services at your destination. If you are participating in a tour with a guide or in an event described in our programme, you will not normally be given a voucher beforehand.

5. Passport and visa

Unless otherwise specified, obtaining the required passport and visa for travelling is the responsibility of the traveller.

The traveller must ensure he/she has a valid passport and visa and give the travel agency correct information regarding name and nationality, etc. We draw your attention to the fact that the processing of visa may take several weeks. The travel agency cannot be held responsible for travellers who, for whatever reason, may be denied entry at a border. Some countries require the traveller to be in possession of a suitable amount of currency, as well as a valid return ticket.

Please be aware that rules and regulations may change between booking and departure.

Please note that there are also visa requirements when in transit. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after returning from your destination.

6. Vaccination requirements

These should be obtained from your own physician. Information given by the travel agency about vaccination and/or prophylactic measures or other medical subjects should be considered a service that is under no medical liability.

7. Change of traveller

In keeping with legislation, and if practically possible, transferring one's tour (instead of cancelling it) to family or friends on the condition of paying a fee is an option. The size of the fee depends on the character of the tour. The travel agency does not carry out resale of tours already paid for, nor does the travel agency guarantee that a change of traveller can be effectuated.

8. Changes in prices

In accordance with legislation, tour operators may raise the agreed upon price as a result of increased transport costs (including increased fuel prices), altered taxes, tariffs and fees, as well as fluctuating exchange rates. Unfortunately, many sudden price increases occur as a result of fuel surcharges, increased safety taxes or other taxes. On many overseas travels, these extra costs may exceed several hundred USD. Price increases will take place according to the following principles:

- 1) Airfares, tariffs and taxes will be increased with the exact amount if this exceeds USD 50.
- 2) Alterations in currency rates with more than +5% or less than -10% in relation to the list price when published. The alteration in price will only include costs regarding the relevant currency and not the entire cost of the package. Please note that we continuously update our price lists, and that a tour will always be sold at the current price even though the customer may be in possession of an outdated price list. The same tour may have been sold at different prices, because we rarely permit price increases to influence the price of tours that have been booked prior to the price increase. General price reductions as a result of, for example, an exceptional reduction in airfares will benefit all customers, regardless of when a tour is booked or paid for.

9. Changes in the itinerary

In accordance with legislation, the travel agency cannot, in principle, make major alterations in the planned tour once it has been booked. It is therefore important that you draw the attention of the agency to any special wishes you may have in connection with the tour you have booked (e.g. hotel with a tennis court, golf, diving, etc.). Such wishes must be included on the invoice. The purpose of this is to guard you against an undesired product. On many of our more 'adventurous' tours, we operate (as far as possible) with late changes in order to create the best possible tour-taking climate, local conditions and events into consideration. Changes due to weather and infrastructure can occur and the traveller must see this as a natural part of the trip. Therefore, no compensation is paid for delays and changes within a 24hr duration.

10. Travel insurance

All travellers should be suitably insured. This is of paramount importance regarding transport in case of illness, as well as home transportation etc. All travellers are responsible for having the appropriate insurance coverage. Participation on a trip presumes responsible and considerate behaviour, and you are expected to comply with the directions of the travel agency and its representatives. It is not advisable for travellers to venture alone into unknown and remote areas especially after nightfall. If you wish to be independent, this should always be in consultation with the travel agency or its local representatives. Should the travel agency not be represented at certain destinations, please consult relevant guidebooks for advice on specific conditions.

11. Taxes and tariffs

A number of taxes and tariffs are levied upon issue of your ticket and are included in the price of the trip. However, a number of local taxes cannot be levied beforehand and must be paid for on the spot. These are often airport taxes, as well as tariffs in some national parks. These expenses will usually be stated in your itinerary for your information. We would, however, like to draw your attention to the fact that tariffs and taxes may be altered between the booking of a ticket and your departure.

12. Your responsibility

As already mentioned, your participation in a trip is subject to your being aware of the above information as well as the information on the website, on the invoice and in the itinerary, and to your following the aforementioned regulations. It is also expected that you seek publicised information about the current political, health, natural and climatic conditions at your destination. People travelling individually must pay attention to the fact that the information material does not mention all circumstances. Especially airline tickets, alteration of these, reconfirmation of itinerary, visa etc. need extra attention.

13. People with disabilities

It will always appear from the itinerary whether special demands on physical ability and health are required for completing the tour. A principal rule is that all travel participants must be self-reliant. Wheelchair users and people with a motor handicap are very welcome on many of our tours, but please consult the travel agency before booking a tour. The travel agency reserves the right to turn away participants who, based on the travel agency's professional opinion, will not be able to complete the tour on their own. The travel agency is not responsible for any such refusal.

14. Claims

Claims regarding shortcomings on a trip must be directed to the travel agency or to its local representative as soon as they are ascertained so that the agency can attempt to rectify the situation. The travel agency is regulated by the China National Tourist Administration. In case of disagreement between the travel agency and the traveller regarding shortcomings on a tour, you may place your complaint with the local China Tourist Administration on this website: <http://en.cnta.gov.cn/>

Any lawsuit or dispute with the travel agency will be ruled upon according to Chinese law.