

# Classic China, Tibet & Cruising the Yangtze River

14 - 30 October 2012  
By Smallgroup Travel



**TRAVELMANAGERS**  
personally yours

To express interest in this tour, please contact Sue Kuti at Smallgroup Travel  
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Phone: 1300 303 101 (outside Sydney) / (02) 9221 0266 Email: [tony@imperialchinatours.com](mailto:tony@imperialchinatours.com)

# Itinerary for Smallgroup Travel

## Day 1 Sun 14 Oct ► Sydney-Shanghai-Beijing Flight

Fly to Beijing. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to the hotel.

## Day 2 Mon 15 Oct ► Beijing

Your orientation tour will be a stroll in **Tiananmen Square**, look across the vast space to the Great Hall of the People. Lying behind is the **Forbidden City**, where the magnificent marble courtyards, huge halls, gilded temples and ornate pavilions frequented by the emperors are now open to your gaze. Experience a rickshaw tour of **Hutong District**, a fascinating maze of narrow alleys, old houses and hidden courtyards. A sumptuous **Peking Duck Dinner** completes a very special day. (B L D)

## Day 3 Tue 16 Oct ► Beijing

Today you will be taken north to pace the ramparts of China's famed **Great Wall**, originally built over 2000 years ago to keep northern invaders at bay. Returning to the city, you will make a **photo stop** at the **National Olympic Stadium**. (B L)

## Day 4 Wed 17 Oct ► Beijing

Today you visit the **Temple of Heaven**, where the emperors carried out the most important sacrifices and ceremonies of the year. Afternoon is at your leisure. (B)

## Day 5 Thu 18 Oct ► Beijing-Xian Flight

Fly to Xian. Transfer to the hotel upon arrival and visit the remarkable archaeological site where the **Terracotta Warriors and Horses** who guarded the tomb of China's great unifier and first emperor Qinshihuang who died in 210BC, were discovered. You will also walk along the massive **Xian City Wall** which of old encircles the inner city. (B L)

## Day 6 Fri 19 Oct ► Xian-Xining Flight Xining-Lhasa Overnight Train

Fly to Xining where you will have a city tour including the **monastery** and the restored **Residence of the Muslim Warlord Mabufang**. Later you transfer to train station to board a very special train, the 'Lhasa Express' to travel across the Tibetan Plateau to Lhasa. (B L D)

## Day 7 Sat 20 Oct ► Arrive Lhasa

Arrive in Lhasa and transfer to your hotel. (D)

## Day 8 Sun 21 Oct ► Lhasa

Today you visit the 1300-year-old **Jokhang Temple** around which pilgrims follow the **Barkohr**, the holy path of transformation. Lining this circuit are fascinating shops, stalls and teahouses. You then take a visit to the famous **Sera Monastery**, dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. (B L)

## Day 9 Mon 22 Oct ► Lhasa

Visit the imposing **Potala Palace**, once the centre of Tibetan government and the winter residence of the Dalai Lama. Enjoy your lunch at New Mandela Rooftop Restaurant and explore **Norbulinka**, a pleasant park containing small palaces and chapels. Also visit a **Tibetan Herbal Hospital** and a Tibetan **handicraft school**. (B L D)

## Day 10 Tue 23 Oct ► Lhasa-Chengdu Flight

Transfer to airport for flight to Chengdu. (B)

## Day 11 Wed 24 Oct ► Chengdu-Chongqing Train

Today you experience one of the most unique and special moments on this trip, a visit to see the pandas at the **Giant Panda Breeding Research Base**. Travel to Chongqing by train and take a **city orientation tour** before transfer to the pier to board on your luxury Yangtze Cruise ship. (B L D)

## Day 12-13 Thu 25-Fri 26 Oct ► Yangtze Cruise

You cruise the famous **Yangtze River** in a superbly cruise ship as it winds its way through the spectacular scenery of the Three Gorges. Along the way you stop and visit interesting places. (All meals on board)

## Day 14 Sat 27 Oct ► Arrive Yichang Yichang-Shanghai Flight

Disembark in Yichang and transfer to airport for flight to Shanghai. (B L)

## Day 15 Sun 28 Oct ► Shanghai

Walk along the famous **Bund**, past the colonial facades and soaring, multi-storey office complexes overlooking the Huangpu River and visit to the beautifully maintained **Yu Garden**, an outstanding example of a classical garden now surrounded by a bustling **market** area. Later you **cruise** across the **Huangpu River** to ascend the **Shanghai World Financial Centre Observatory** (100<sup>th</sup> floor), one of the world's tallest buildings, for an astonishing view over the whole city. (B L)

## Day 16 Mon 29 Oct ► Shanghai

Enjoy a half day excursion to **Fengjingting Water Town**. Fengjing town has a history of civilization over 1500 years and is known as 'Town of Lotus' with its gurgling water and elegant lotus. (B D)

## Day 17 Tue 30 Oct ► Shanghai-Sydney

Transfer to airport for your flight back home. (B)

### HOTELS:

Beijing – Novotel Peace Hotel (4 star/central location)  
Xian – New World Hotel (4 star/good location)  
Lhasa – Xinding Hotel (4 star+/central location)  
Chengdu – Tianfu Sunshine Hotel (4 star/central location)  
Yangtze Cruise – Victoria Selina (5 star)  
Shanghai – Central Hotel (4 star/central location)

### COST PER PERSON:

Twin Share: **\$4,865.00\***  
Single Supplement: **\$1,320.00**

\*Cost includes government airport taxes, airline fees and fuel surcharges in the amount of \$475.00 and is valid as at 27 April 2012. This is subject to change or withdrawal without notice. Tour prices are based on a minimum of 6 (Six) people travelling together. The costs are subject to change if the minimum number is not reached – see Imperial China Tours Terms & Conditions.

### INCLUSIONS:

International flights, internal flights & trains, overnight train in quad-share compartment, Superior twin share cabin on Main Deck of Victoria Selina, twin share accommodation at well-appointed hotels with daily full buffet breakfast, private group transfers, entrance fees, deluxe coach with English speaking local guide in each city, Chinese visa fee for Australian passport holder, meals as shown in the itinerary.

Meal Key: B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner.

### EXCLUSIONS:

Travel insurance, gratuities to guides & drivers, tipping on Yangtze cruise ship, personal expenses, anything not mentioned above.

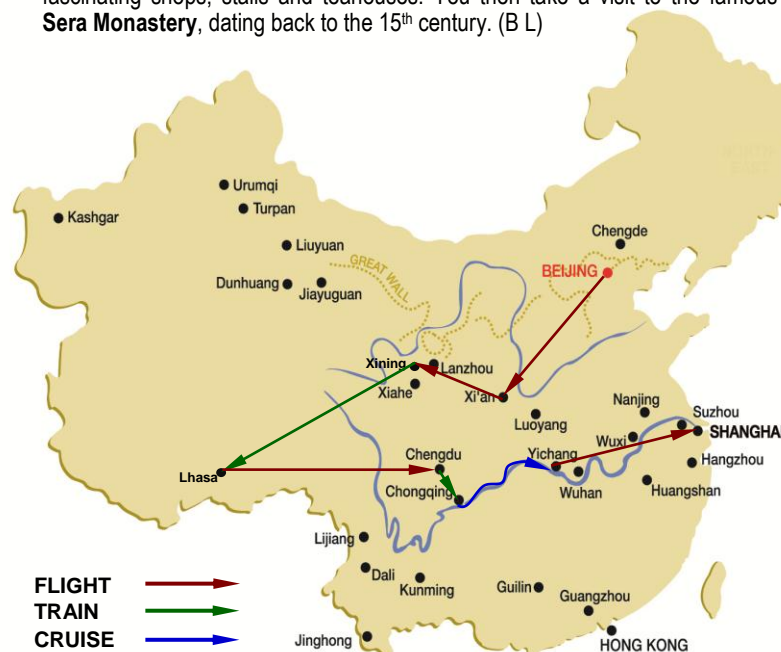
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