



## IMPERIAL CHINA TOURS

### The Foothills of Heaven & Yangtze Cruise

Itinerary Prepared for Sue Kuti at Small Group Travel

Beijing (4 nights)-Xian (1 night)-Lijiang (2 nights)-Zhongdian (2 nights)-  
Chengdu (1 night)-Chongqing-Yangtze Cruise (3 nights)-Yichang-Shanghai (3 nights)

14 – 30 October 2012

**Day 1 Sun 14 Oct**

**Sydney-Shanghai  
Shanghai-Beijing**

**MU562 1200-1920  
MU5186 2125-0005+1**

You transfer to your hotel.

**Day 2 Mon 15 Oct**

**Beijing**



After breakfast you will visit **Tiananmen Square**, look across the vast space to the Great Hall of the People and stand before the massive Tiananmen (Heavenly Peace) Gate bearing a huge portrait of Mao Zedong where he proclaimed the establishment of the People's Republic of China on 1 October 1949. Lying behind is the **Forbidden City**, as the former imperial palace is called, where the magnificent marble courtyards, huge halls, gilded temples and ornate pavilions, the residence of the emperors and their families, are now open to your wonderment.

After lunch there will be a rickshaw tour of Beijing's old **Hutong** District, a fascinating maze of narrow alleys, old houses and hidden courtyards dating from Yuan Dynasty times (14<sup>th</sup> century), where people who live and work here welcome you into their homes.

This evening a traditional **Peking Duck dinner** completes a very special day. (B/L/D)

**Day 3 Tue 16 Oct**

**Beijing**

You will be taken north today to pace the ramparts of China's famed **Great Wall**, originally constructed over 2000 years ago to keep northern invaders at bay.

On the way back to your hotel, you will make a stop at the **Beijing Olympic Stadium** to take some photos. (B L)

**Day 4 Wed 17 Oct**

**Beijing**

This morning you will visit the **Temple of Heaven**, where the emperors, for the good of the empire, carried out the most important sacrifices and ceremonies of the year. Set in a huge park planted with conifers, the beautiful blue tiled buildings here represent the epitome of Ming architecture.

Afternoon is at your leisure. (B)

**Day 5 Thu 18 Oct**

**Beijing-Xian**

**MU2106 1055-1310**

You transfer to the airport for your flight to Xian.

Over 1,000 years ago, Xian was the capital city of the Tang Dynasty and then the largest and most cosmopolitan city in the world.

After check into your hotel, you will visit the remarkable archaeological site where the **Terracotta Warriors**, who guarded the tomb of China's great unifier and first emperor, Qinshihuang who died in 210 BC, were discovered. View the army of some 6000 life-size terracotta warriors and their horses made and buried, lined up facing east in battle array. You will also visit the ancient **City Wall**. (B/L)

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**Day 6 Fri 19 Oct**

**Xian-Chengdu  
Chengdu-Lijiang**

**MU2341 0735-0950  
MU5856 1230-1350**

Transfer to the airport for flight to Lijiang via Chengdu, an 800-year-old city lying at 2400m at the foot of the imposing Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel and visit the **Old Town of Lijiang**. (B L D)

**Day 7 Sat 20 Oct Lijiang**

Today you ascend the stunning **Jade Dragon Snow Mountain**. It is the southernmost mountain in the Northern Hemisphere that is snow-capped year round. The scenery is dramatic and the vegetation fascinating. You later continue your tour visiting the small town of **Baisha**, where there are several buildings with fascinating murals depicting Buddhist and Daoist scenes painted in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries in a style that fuses Tibetan, Naxi and mainstream Chinese elements. Also visit **Yuhu Village** to see examples of authentic ethnic cultures. (B L)

**Day 8 Sun 21 Oct Lijiang-Zhongdian By Road**

This morning you visit the **Black Dragon Pool Park** with its interesting plants, architectural features and stunning mountain backdrop. Travel to Zhongdian by road, en route visit **Tiger Leaping Gorge**. After turning north at Shigu, the mighty Yangtze flows between charming villages, orchards and farms before surging through a narrow gorge between the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and the Haba Mountain opposite. The Tiger leaping gorge is one of the deepest in the world, the waters of the river flowing 3600m below the mountaintops above. Needless to say, the scenery is spectacular. (B L D)

**Day 9 Mon 22 Oct Zhongdian**

You will also visit **Sungtzing Monastery** and a **Tibetan village** and the **old quarter of Zhongdian**. Sungtzing Monastery, built in 1679, is a large Tibetan Buddhism complex richly decorated with murals and woodcarvings. (B L)

**Day 10 Tue 23 Oct Zhongdian-Chengdu MU5857 1920-2030**

Today you will visit **Napa Lake**, a state-designated wetlands area situated 8 km north of Zhongdian County. This wetlands area is a true paradise for all types of birds, most especially for water fowl. And visit **Ringsha Temple** before transfer to the airport for flight to Chengdu. (B L D)

**Day 11 Wed 24 Oct Chengdu-Chongqing Train**

This morning you will experience one of the most unique and special moments on this trip – a visit to see the **pandas**. Sichuan Province is home to China's most celebrated animal. Transfer to train station for bullet train to Chongqing. Upon arrival, you will enjoy a **city orientation tour** before transferred to the pier to board on your luxury Yangtze Cruise ship. (B L D)

**Day 12-13 Thu-Fri 25-26 Oct**

**Yangtze Cruise**

These days you cruise the famous **Yangtze River** in a superbly appointed cruise ship as it winds its way through the spectacular scenery of the Three Gorges. For many people a cruise along this famous river is a lifelong dream. At 6300 km, the Yangtze is the third longest river in the world, made famous today by its spectacular Three Gorges and the controversial Three Gorges Dam. The Three Gorges stretch for 193 km, along which are many historic sites such as Baidi City, cliff inscriptions, suspended coffins of the Bai Tribe, tombs of the Han Dynasty (prior to 220 AD), and battlefields of the Three Kingdoms period. Where the river widens, terraced fields spread out up mountain slopes, interspersed with orange orchards and tea gardens.



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The mist-shrouded landscape of the Yangtze Gorges is as lovely as a traditional Chinese painting. Along the way you stop and visit interesting places. (All meals on board)

**Day 14 Sat 27 Oct**

**Arrive Yichang  
Yichang-Shanghai**

**MU9366 1535-1705**

Disembark in Yichang.

You will be transferred to the airport for flight to Shanghai.

Transfer to hotel upon arrival. (B L)

**Day 15 Sun 28 Oct**

**Shanghai**

Dominating the Yangtze Delta, Shanghai is the pulsating commercial heart of China. Walk along the famous **Bund** past the facades of the colonial buildings lining the Huangpu River and look across to the fantastic skyscrapers of the Pudong district on the opposite side. After lunch you will visit the beautifully maintained **Yu Garden**, an outstanding example of a classical garden dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, now surrounded by a bustling **market area**. Later you will **cruise across Huangpu River** to ascend the **Shanghai World Financial Centre Observatory Tower** (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 **Fengjing Water Town**. Fengjing Town has a history of civilization over 1500 years, and it was ever divided and governed separately by Wu State and Yue State. As a typical market town south of the Yangtze River. Fengjing has long been known as "pass two bridges within a few steps, and a chance glimpse catches ten rivulets" for its surrounding water network and numerous rivulets inside. (B D)

**Day 17 Tue 30 Oct**

**Shanghai-Sydney**

**MU561 2020-1000+1**

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight. (B)



# IMPERIAL CHINA TOURS

<b>Hotels:</b>	Beijing-Novotel Peace Hotel (4 star/central location) Xian-New World Hotel (4 star/good location) Lijiang – Grand Hotel (4 star/by old town) Zhongdian – Song Tsam Hotel (4 star/Tibet Style) Chengdu – Tianfu Sunshine Hotel (4 star/central location) Cruise – Victoria Selina (5 star) Shanghai – Central Hotel (4 star/central location)
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## Land & Air with China Eastern Airlines

### Nett Cost per person:

<b>8pax without FOC:</b>	\$3,620.00 in twin share
Taxes and charges:	\$475.00
China visa fee:	\$110.00
<b>Total cost per person:</b>	<b>\$4,205.00 in twin share</b>

### INCLUSIONS:

<u>FLIGHTS:</u>	International & internal flights with China Eastern Airlines Sydney-Shanghai-Beijing-Xian-Chengdu-Lijiang//Zhongdian-Chengdu//Yichang-Shanghai-Sydney with airport taxes and surcharges included
<u>ACCOMMODATION:</u>	13 nights' twin share accommodation at well appointed hotels with American buffet breakfast daily
<u>TRAIN:</u>	1 <sup>st</sup> class/soft seat bullet train Chengdu-Chongqing
<u>YANGTZE CRUISE:</u>	3 nights' cruise on <b>Main Deck</b> in a superior twin share cabin on Victoria Selina Cruise (5 star) Chongqing-Yichang with all meals on board, shore excursions included
<u>TRANSFERS:</u>	Private transfers as specified in the itinerary
<u>GUIDE:</u>	A private vehicle with an English-speaking guide in each city
<u>TOURS:</u>	Entrance fees stated in the itinerary
<u>MEALS:</u>	Chinese lunches and dinners as indicated in the itinerary
<u>VISA FEES:</u>	Chinese visa application fees for Australian passport holder

### EXCLUSIONS:

- Gratuities to guides and drivers\*
- Porterage at hotels\*\*
- Service charge on Yangtze Cruise vessel
- Travel Insurance
- Personal Expenses
- Anything not mentioned above

#### \*Gratuities to guide & driver:

Western influences have resulted in changing attitude in China and tipping is now widely accepted to show appreciation of services – allow about \$9 per person per day between guides and drivers on tour.

#### \*\*PORTERAGE:

In China it will be easier and quicker to take own luggage to room on arrival and bring luggage down to the lobby on departure at each hotel. Alternatively if people would prefer the porters to send luggage to the room, it will take more time, and also the porter will expect some small personal gratuity of AU\$1.00 per bag.

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## **Dining Options on Victoria Cruise (In General)**

In regards to dining options for people on board Victoria Cruise, take note it varies depending on what type of cabin/suite is booked. Details below.

- **Superior Cabin on the Main Deck**

Option 1 – Included as part of the Superior cabin package, passengers have breakfast, lunch and dinner in the main dining room on board the cruise vessel.

Option 2 – If passengers would prefer to have **dinner** in the a-la-carte dining room, there is an additional cost of US\$45.00 per person (payable direct while on board cruise), each time the passenger wishes to dine in the a-la-carte dining room (per dinner).

- **Executive Suite**

For any passengers who purchase a Suite, they have the option to dine more privately in the Ala-carte dining room for breakfast, lunch and dinner (same food as from main dining room) at no extra charge. A la-carte dinner also possible at no extra charge.

## **SERVICE CHARGE ON VICTORIA CRUISES:**

From March 2011, Victoria Cruises will charge RMB 150 (approximately US\$22.50) for cruises of 5 days and under; RMB300 (approximately US\$45.00) for cruises of 7 days and over, to be billed on passengers' credit cards upon check-in (these amounts are lower than the current suggested tipping guideline). As with their current suggested tipping guideline, this service charge does not include a gratuity to the river guide or cruise director, which may be given at passengers' discretion based on their satisfaction with services received, as can gratuities for additional special services requested by passengers.

### **NOTE:**

Above costs are subject to currency fluctuation, airfare increase, availability and Imperial China Tours Terms & Conditions. Please note this is only quote and no space has been booked on behalf of the group. All space is subject to availability at time of booking. A minimum number of passengers travelling together is required. If the minimum number is not reached, the costs are subject to change.