



Great Southern Travel

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CHINA Yangtze River Cruise & Tour

**5 night Deluxe Yangtze River Cruise with balcony staterooms
and 10 night land tour with Deluxe 5-star hotels including
3 nights in Tibet**

September 27 – October 13, 2012

Prices begin at \$6699 per person based on double occupancy



FEATURES

- Roundtrip airfare from Springfield, Missouri (other cities upon request)
- All transfers
- 5 Nt deluxe Yangtze River Cruise aboard Viking River Cruises fabulous new Emerald ship (Built 2011)
- 5-Star hotels on land tour for ten nights featuring: Beijing (3), Xian (2), Lhasa 3 (Tibet) and Shanghai (2)
- Day tours (see brochure and itinerary for additional details)
- All meals within China & Tibet portion
- Welcome Cocktail & Farewell Dinner
- Cultural Highlights: Chinese acrobatic performance, tea with Tibetan family, Hubei Bronze Bells performance, school visit and more!
- Fully escorted from arrival to departure in China by local professional guide
- All intra-China flights
- All port charges and government fee's

Additional Details found in Viking River Cruise 2011/12 China brochure

All About Travel Radio Show / KWTO-AM 560 / weekly on Tuesday 10:00 – 11:00 am

China Cruise & Tour

September 27 – October 13, 2012

5 night Yangtze River Cruise & 7 night China Tour plus 3 nights in Tibet

Itinerary

Sept 27 Our overnight flight to Beijing will depart your home city today and most of you will change planes in Chicago enroute.

Sept 28 Welcome to Beijing, China's former imperial capital with many noted monuments and historic sites. We'll be met by Viking River Cruises representatives on arrival and transferred to our deluxe hotel. Balance of the day is at your leisure. Dinner this evening is the only meal not included in the program.

Sept 29 After breakfast, visit Tiananmen Square, which spans 100 acres, and the Forbidden City with its elegant palaces, pavilions and landscaped gardens. Stroll through its expansive courtyard, once open only to nobility. After lunch in a local restaurant, tour the 700 acres Summer Palace. Be awed by its landscaped grounds and take a dragon boat ride across the lake. Tonight's optional evening features a Peking duck dinner followed by the artistry of performers from the famed Peking Opera, or din and relax at your hotel.



Sept 30 Following breakfast, our motorcoach will travel north to the Great Wall of China and you can walk along its most famous steps and path. A local lunch is followed by a visit to the Sacred Way, where you walk among the huge animal sculptures that flank the tree lined avenue to the Ming Tombs.

Oct 1 See traditional Chinese life during your rickshaw tour along Beijing's hutongs and narrow alleyways. Then visit a silk carpet workshop and see this time-honored art in person. After lunch, fly to Xian, China's legendary home of the Tang Dynasty from 618-907 AD. Tonight, an optional performance of the Tang Dynasty Dances is available.

Oct 2 Today, tour Xian's archaeological wonder of 6,000 life-size terra cotta warriors buried with Emperor Qin Shi Huang. Get a bird's eye view of the army, each soldier and horse molded in incredible detail. Then, tour the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, a majestic 7 story square tower and a holy place for Buddhists. After a local dinner, visit the marketplace for a nighttime tour.



Oct 3 Morning free time in Xian. After lunch, fly to Lhasa, economic, spiritual and cultural center of Tibet. Experience Tibetan culture with a family-hosted tea followed by dinner at a local restaurant.

Oct 4 Today visit the 1300 year old Jokhang Temple, with its Buddhist worshippers. After a local lunch, explore the maze-like Barkhor Market in old Lhasa and tour the Tibetan Museum to learn about local history and culture. Tonight, enjoy a traditional Tibetan dinner.

Oct 5 This morning, tour the extraordinary 13 story Potala Palace, winter home of the Dalai Lama since the 7th century, however he is currently in exile. Later, visit the Sera Monastery, an active temple with three colleges for monks in training. Lunch and dinner are in a local restaurant.



Oct 6 After breakfast, fly to the mountain city of Chongqing to embark Viking Emerald for our five-night river cruise on the Yangtze.

Oct 7 Cruise this morning and following lunch visit the Shibaozhai Temple. Built into the Cliffside, this red pavilion is a gem of Chinese architecture from the Qing Dynasty. Climb up high to see amazing river views below. Dinner is served onboard; cruise through the night.

Oct 8 During breakfast, sail through the spectacular scenery of Qutang George, the shortest and narrowest of the three large gorges. See an ancient plank road carved into the mountains and the mysterious hanging coffins of the Ba people. Board a smaller boat for an excursion through the picturesque canyons and mountains of the Lesser Three Gorges. Stop for a barbecue lunch and take in the natural beauty.



Return to your ship and cruise through the most scenic area of the Yangtze-the Three Gorges. This afternoon, sail through Wu (Witches) Gorge, renowned for its 12 cloud covered towering peaks. Dinner is served aboard as you sail through the 5 stage locks of this engineering marvel.

Oct 9 After breakfast, disembark and tour the monumental Three Gorges Dam, scheduled for completion in 2009. The afternoon is highlighted by the Xiling Gorge, the longest of the gorges with the best scenery. Cruise through the night.

Oct 10 Following breakfast, travel to this rural village's elementary school, sponsored by Viking River Cruises. The children will warmly welcome you and love to share stories and photos. Return to your ship for meals and scenic cruising.

Oct 11 Disembark and tour the Wuhan Museum and experience the Hubei Bell Performance before your flight to Shanghai, China's largest city and modern metropolis. After checking in to your hotel, the rest of your day is at leisure.

Oct 12 Explore Shanghai today from Old Shanghai to the more modern riverfront Bund district. A local lunch is followed by a visit to the Shanghai Museum; see its ancient ceramics, bronzes and other artifacts. Dine in a local restaurant, then be awed by the dexterity of Chinese acrobats at tonight's performance.

Oct 13 After breakfast, check out of your hotel and we'll transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

Arrival back home will be today since we gain our lost time as we cross the International Dateline.

