

# *J Yang Tours* Customized Group Travel Specialist to Asia

China • Vietnam • Cambodia • Thailand • Laos • Bhutan • Japan • Mongolia

## **Classic China, Tibet with Yangtze Cruise**

**Duration:** 17 nights/18 days

**We visit:** Beijing, Xian, Xining, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Yangtze Cruise, Shanghai

This remarkable tour takes you to seven major centers in China. In Beijing you visit the great imperial sites as well as other significant places of interest. The archaeological wonders of Xian rise before you in the form of the Terracotta Warriors. You will visit the famous Buddhist monastery at Xining and move on to Lhasa in legendary Tibet and marvel at the wonders there. In Chengdu you will visit the panda bears and then move on to Chongqing to board your relaxing Yangtze River cruise with all the sights it presents. At tour end you will experience the pulsating vitality of Shanghai so bringing to an end your tour of classic China and Tibet which will not quickly escape your memory.

### **Highlights:**

- Beijing - Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Hutong Tour, the Great Wall, Photo stop at Olympic Stadium, the Temple of Heaven
- Xian - Terracotta Warriors & Horses, City Wall
- Xining - Residence of Mabufang, Monastery
- Lhasa - Potala Palace, Jokhang Monastery, Sera Monastery, Barkhor Square and Pilgrims Circuit, Tibetan Herbal Hospital, Tibetan Handicraft School, Diner & Folklore Show at Mad Yak
- Chengdu - Chengdu Panda Research Institute
- Yangtze Cruise - Chongqing to Yichang
- Shanghai - The Bund, Yu Garden and its market, Haungpu River Cruise, Shanghai World Financial Center Observatory, Acrobatic show

### **Tour Itinerary**

Day 1      **Arrive Beijing**  
Transfer to your hotel.

Day 2      **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 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. (B/L)

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Day 3 **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 photo stop at the Beijing Olympic stadium. (B/L)

Day 4 **Beijing**

Today 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 represent the epitome of Ming architecture.

Afternoon is at your leisure. (B/L)

Day 5 **Beijing-Xian**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Xian and on arrival check into your hotel. (B/L)

Day 6 **Xian**

Today you will visit the army of some 6000 life-size terracotta warriors and their horses made and buried, lined up facing east in battle array, over 2000 years ago to guard the tomb of Qinshihuang, the first emperor who died in 210 BC. Later you will walk along Xian's massive City wall, one of the best preserved in China. (B/L)

Day 7 **Xian-Xining-Lhasa**

You fly to Xining and on arrival, you will have a city tour including the monastery and the restored residence of the Muslim Warlord Mabufang.

You transfer to the train station to board a very special train, the 'Lhasa Express' to travel across the Tibetan Plateau to Lhasa. (B/L/D)

Day 8 **Arrive Lhasa**

You will be met on arrival in Lhasa and taken to your hotel. Lhasa is at 3500m and you will be able to rest and further adjust to the altitude. Dinner at the hotel (D)

Day 9 **Lhasa**

Enjoy a day of sightseeing in Lhasa, including the 1300-year-old Jokhang Temple around which pilgrims follow the Barkhor, the holy path of transformation. Lining this circuit are fascinating shops, stalls and teahouses. You also visit a local Tibetan Family. You then take a visit to the famous Sera Monastery, dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. (B/L)

Day 10 **Lhasa**

Today you visit the imposing Potala Palace, once the centre of Tibetan government and the winter residence of the Dalai Lama. Enjoy lunch at the New Mandela Rooftop Restaurant. After lunch you explore Norbu Linka, the former summer residence of the Dalai Lama, a pleasant park containing small palaces and chapels. Later you visit a Tibetan Herbal Hospital and Tibetan Handicraft School.

This evening you will enjoy a dinner and folklore show at the Mad Yak. (B/L/D)

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**Day 11 Lhasa-Chengdu**

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Chengdu  
The rest of the day is at your leisure. (B)

**Day 12 Chengdu-Chongqing**

Today 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.  
After lunch you will be transferred to the station for your fast train to Chongqing.  
Chongqing is an enormous modern city of over 30 million on the banks of the Yangtze. On arrival you enjoy an orientation tour of this enormous modern city of 30 million on the banks of the Yangtze River.  
You will be transferred to your luxurious Yangtze River cruise ship. (B/L/D)

**Day 13-14 Yangtze Cruise**

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 3915 miles, 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 120 miles, 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. 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 15 Arrive Yichang-Shanghai**

You disembark at Yichang and transfer to the airport for your flight to Shanghai, transferring to your hotel on arrival. (B/L)

**Day 16 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, one of the world's tallest buildings, for an astonishing view over the whole city. This evening you will be entertained by one of Shanghai's famous acrobatic troupes. (B/L/D)

**Day 17 Shanghai**

Today is at your leisure. (B)

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Day 18     **Depart Shanghai**

You transfer to the airport for your onward flight. (B)

For tour price or customize this itinerary, please contact us

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