

Tibet and Grand Yangtze Discovery 15 Days Tour

D3 | Beijing 🐼 Xian (L, D) 5/3

Titan Times Hotel 5star or equivalent

Our tour guide will pick up you at your hotel and fly to Xian in the morning. Xian was the first Chinese city to open its doors to the world during the Tang Dynasty. Over a period of more than 2000 years, Xian was the capital for eleven dynasties. Upon arrival, you will go to visit the **Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses Museum** and see the attached life-sized defending army to the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang. This site is regarded as “the eighth wonder of the world” and is among the top archaeological excavations of the 20th century. Visit an **Art Ceramics Factory** before we enjoy the special local **Imperial Dumpling Banquet Dinner** and the traditional **Tang Dynasty Singing and Dancing Show** in the evening.

D4 | Xian (B, L, D) 5/4

Visit the **Shanxi Provincial Historical Museum** in the morning. Enjoy a local special noodle lunch and watch a **Noodle Making Demonstration**. After lunch visit the **Ancient City Wall** which is not only the most complete city wall that has survived in China, but also one of the largest and most complete ancient military defense systems in the world. Then visit the **Big Wild Goose Pagoda**, the symbol of the city. It is said to have been built to house and protect Buddhist scriptures collected by the Chinese monk, Xuan Zang, the key figure in the classical Chinese novel, “Journey to the West”.

D5 | Xian 🐼 Lhasa (B, L, D) 5/5

Sunrise Hotel 4star or equivalent

This morning, fly to Lhasa, the capital city of Tibet. Upon arrival, transfer and check into your hotel. The elevation of over 3600 meters, and the very thin air, may cause some discomfort or altitude sickness.


D6 | Lhasa (B, L, D) 5/6

A memorable tour even this morning is a visit the spectacular **Potala Palace**. Built in the 17th century, it took 7000 workers and 1500 artists and craftsmen more than 50 years to build the adjoining White and Red Palaces. It is the largest lamasery of its type in the world. In the afternoon, visit the **Drepung Monastery**, which is the original home to monks before the Potala Palace.

D7 | Lhasa (B, L) 5/7

Today you will take a 70-mile scenic drive along Lhasa River and cross **Tsangpo River** (highest river in the world) to visit **Yamdruk Yumtso**, meaning **Jade Lake**. You will reach the highest altitude of your life at Khampa La Pass, 15,668 feet above sea level. You can see here the highest hydroelectric plant on the planet. You will enjoy the stunning beauty of the blue lake reflecting white clouds and snow-capped mountains; typical Tibetan shepherd

villages and hot springs on this mystic plateau. You will have a picnic lunch here. After returning to Lhasa, you will visit the 1,300-year-old **Jokhang Temple**, declared as an UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000. Built in 647, the temple has been a prime location considered sacred and holy to the Tibetans who have worshiped here. You will also find that in the temple sits the famous Sakyamuni Statue, believed to have been a key figure in Buddhism.

D8 | Lhasa  Chongqing – Yangtze River (B, L, D) 5/8 President Prime Cruise 5star or equivalent

In the morning, fly from Lhasa to Chongqing. Chongqing is the largest industrial and commercial city in Sichuan Province. During the Second World War, it was the headquarters for Chiang Kai-Shek and his nationalist government and also the base for the Flying Tigers who made their historic flights over the “Hump” (the Himalayan Mountain Range) to Burma. Visit the **Panda House** in the afternoon then boarding the President Prime Cruise to begin your highly anticipated grand Yangtze River adventure.

D9 | Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D) 5/9

Our cruise sets sail from Chongqing in the morning. The first shore excursion of our cruise will occur at one of two places depending on local river conditions: Fengdu or Wanzhou Relocation Villages. **Fengdu**, also called “Ghost City”, is a peculiar site that is accessed via cable car. It contains numerous statues of devils and ghosts that roam the afterworld. **Wanzhou Relocation Villages** were formed due to the New Three Gorges Dam Project. Shore excursion to the village includes a visit to the Hope Elementary School.

D10 | Yangtze River Cruise (B, L, D) 5/10

Enter the exciting part of your cruise journey, the famous Three Gorges. The ship sails through **Qutang Gorge**, the shortest, narrowest but most dramatic one of the Three Gorges. Next we pass through **Wu Gorge**, which is famous for its quiet beauty. Disembark at Wushan where you’ll board small riverboat for a leisurely ride through **Shennong Stream**, which offers clear running waters, picturesque rock formations, and even monkeys and goat along its banks. Reboard the cruise ship in the afternoon and then sail through Xiling Gorge, the longest one of the Three Gorges. We will then pass through the ship-lock of the new three gorges dam.

D11 | Yangtze River Cruise / Yichang  Shanghai(B, L, D) 5/11 Minya Hotel 5star or equivalent

The cruise ship will stop at Taipingxi (or Sandouping) in the morning. Disembark to visit the massive **Three Gorges Dam Project**, which is the world's largest dam, measuring 606 feet high and 6,500 feet long. In 1997, the cofferdam was completed and the main structure begun. The dam has two five-stage locks to raise and lower ships to the different river levels. Each lock in the five stages is 65 feet high and 910 feet long. The cruise ship arrives in Yichang city, the final destination of your cruise journey. Transfer to airport by motor coach and then fly to Shanghai, the modern metropolis and commercial center of China.

D12 | Shanghai – Tongli - Suzhou (B, L, D) 5/12

Gusu Jinjiang Tower 5star or equivalent

Fly to Shanghai this morning. Upon arrival, leave Shanghai to **Tongli**. As an ancient town with more than 1000 years history, Tongli features typically the water county of South China. There are 5 lakes surround Tongli from outside, and the town is divided into 15 small islands by more than 10 rivers inside. However, the islands are connected by more than 40 various style stone bridges which built in different dynasties, Tongli Town stayed away from wars since it was inaccessible in the old times, which made more ancient buildings well preserved. Then transfer to Suzhou Hotel.


D13 | Suzhou - Shanghai (B, L, D) 5/13

Minya Hotel 5star or equivalent

Suzhou has been praised as the “Paradise on the Earth” since ancient times. It is an extraordinarily delicate and elegant city. Known as “Venice of the East”, it is built around Grand Canal. Many excellent classical gardens have entitled Suzhou as the “Garden City”. Your tour starts with a visit to the **Garden of the Master of the Nets**. Then visit the **Silk Factory**, process to Shanghai by coach.

D14 | Shanghai (B, L, D) 5/14

Your half day city tour starts by walking along the famous **Bund**, a mile-long stretch along the Huangpu River. Lined by the colonial architectures of European design, this area is the best place to capture the western influences of the old days. Continue to visit the Ming Dynasty **Yuyuan Garden** which is considered to be one of the four greatest Chinese gardens. Our final stop will be the bustling shopping district, **Nanjing Road**. After dinner you may take optional tour, the **Night Cruise** on the Huangpu River at your own expense.

D15 | Shanghai  Hometown /Hongkong (B) 5/15

Your China journey is over all too soon as you go to the airport and board your homebound international flight. We know the trip is over, yet the experiences and memories will certainly last a life time. You'll get home the same day you leave China.

(If you like, you may extend your time in Hongkong.)