

China







Welcome

Thank you for selecting Uniworld River Cruises. We want to do everything we can to ensure you have the most enjoyable and worry-free vacation.

With that in mind, we have prepared this booklet for you, so you can plan your trip with the greatest of ease. Consider it a guideline to help you get ready for your upcoming trip. It contains valuable tips and advice on what to pack, your flight and transfer experience, onboard information, day-to-day details, and much more.

We highly look forward to hosting you onboard our beautifully appointed ships and making your vacation the most memorable and enjoyable experience possible.

Sincerely, The Uniworld Team

Icons and Symbols

The symbols below will help guide you through the following descriptions of the daily itineraries. They will give you an idea of the pace of the excursions for each day, and they will convey whether or not (and which) meals are provided.

UNIWORLD SIGNATURE ICONS

0	UNESCO Site	+	Flight
	Motorcoach	<u> </u>	Boat

🖗 Embark/Disembark

DINING SYMBOLS

СВ	Continental Breakfast	BB	Buffet Breakfast
L	Lunch	D	Dinner
WD	Welcome Dinner	FD	Farewell Dinner

TOUR DURATION SYMBOLS

¹ /4 Day		¹ /2 Day
³ /4 Day	۲	Full Day

SHORE EXCURSION SYMBOLS

All tours involve walking unless strictly noted as a panoramic tour. In many cases, the walking takes place over uneven ground, cobblestones, or flagstone walkways, and several tours involve stairs or short uphill climbs. Please wear comfortable, non-skid walking shoes while on all tours. These symbols suggest what to expect on each program.

Easy walking

Includes walking of 15 minutes or less from multiple motorcoach stops to and around historical sights. Possibly some steps, or gentle uphill and downhill walks.

Intermediate walking

Includes walks of up to two hours on uneven terrain. Limited seating at sites. Multiple stairs and/or uphill/ downhill walking.



Strenuous walking

Involves walking at all sites. Many stairs and uphill/ downhill passages. Those with physical limitations and those who may need private arrangements need to contact the Cruise Manager when onboard.

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SHORE EXCURSIONS

Highlights of China & the YangtzeBeijing to Shanghai | 11 Days23Treasures of China & the YangtzeShanghai to Beijing | 12 Days33China, Tibet & the YangtzeBeijing to Shanghai | 14 Days44Grand China & the Yangtze

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attention. If you have not completed this form, please visit our website at uniworld.com and complete the online Passenger Information Form in the "Before You Go" section. Each guest must complete the form. **Travel Protection:** Uniworld strongly recommends that each guest purchase a Travel Protection Plan. Please carry all policy information with you during the course of your trip.

CRUISE DOCUMENTATION

Uniworld sends all final cruise and air documents between 21 and 30 days prior to your trip departure, provided that Uniworld has received a completed Passenger Information Form and your booking is paid in full. All documents are sent via a priority mail delivery service such as UPS or Federal Express.

Passenger Information Form: By now, you should have completed the Uniworld Passenger Information Form. The information on this form is used to comply with certain foreign government and airline security restrictions in advance of your arrival onboard our ships. Please note that the name on your airline tickets must match your name exactly as it is shown in your passport. This applies to both international flights as well as the intra-China flights we will book for you, so please be

sure we have your name correct on your booking. If you have completed this form, we thank you for your prompt

Final Documentation Includes:

- Cruise/Tour Ticket
- Passenger Ticket Contract (which is legally binding between Uniworld and each guest)
- Airline Tickets or E-Ticket Confirmation (if international air ticket was purchased from Uniworld)
- Cruise and Tour Companion
- Baggage Tags
- Leave-Behind Communication Card
- Travel Protection Plan Pamphlet (if Uniworld travel protection was purchased)
- Optional Post-Cruise/Tour Extension Information (if trip extension was purchased)

BAGGAGE LIMITATIONS

Airline baggage restrictions change frequently and each guest needs to check with his or her specific air carrier for limitations concerning baggage weight, baggage size, carry-on regulations, and excess baggage or



Cruise Companion

Helpful Hints Before You Go travel documents

Passports: All Uniworld river cruise/tours require a passport. In most cases, passports must be valid for six (6) months after the scheduled return date from the trip. All itineraries will require visas. Each guest is fully responsible for obtaining and carrying the travel documents necessary for his or her travel itinerary. Uniworld will not be responsible for any delays, damages, and/or losses, including missed portions of your trip, related to improper travel documents.

Visa requirements for these itineraries for US and Canadian citizens can be found on page 16 or on the Uniworld website, uniworld.com, in the "Before You Go" section. Non-US or non-Canadian citizens must contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their particular trip. Uniworld provides information on our website for obtaining the required visas as a courtesy only. overweight charges. This information can be found on the carrier's website or at uniworld.com/baggage. Remember to check for both international (over the water) and domestic (intracontinental) regulations since limitations differ depending on flight routings.

Overweight or excess baggage charges vary, and guests who exceed an airline's recommended limit may be asked by the airline to pay fees ranging from \$25-\$80 US dollars (USD), or possibly more, per infraction. For intra-China air flights, only one (1) suitcase per person can be checked in, and it must weigh no more than 44 pounds (20 kg). You may be asked by the airline to pay fees of approximately \$1 USD per pound (0.45 kg) in excess of this weight limit. One (1) carry-on is allowed per person.

There are no restrictions concerning the number of bags each person can bring with them onboard the ships. However, baggage storage space onboard is limited. Guests are encouraged to limit their baggage to one (1) piece per person for their own comfort, and in cases of pre- or post-land stays, for their own convenience.

Keep an eye on your baggage and all personal belongings—they are your responsibility throughout the trip. Uniworld is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage to baggage and personal belongings. A Travel Protection Plan covering lost, stolen, or damaged baggage is highly recommended.

VACCINATIONS

All guests should direct questions about vaccinations to their personal physician.

As an additional resource, guests may consult the current recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC website is cdc.gov and the phone number is 1-800-232-4636.

You may also contact the consulates of the countries to be visited to determine vaccination requirements.

TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

The following items are essential to any destination:

comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses, sunscreen, a hat, an umbrella, and a lightweight raincoat or outerwear garment appropriate to the seasonal weather conditions. It is recommended that you bring duplicates of prescription eyewear, copies of prescriptions for any medicine, copies of credit card information, and a copy of your passport information pages. Make sure that your baggage has identification tags both inside and outside with your contact information and address clearly marked. Do not pack valuables or important medication in your checked baggage unless required by the airline to do so. Any valuables and important medication should be carried with you in your carry-on baggage. Please contact your air carrier for any additional regulations.

HEALTH AND MOBILITY

Physical Limitations: Uniworld trips are exciting and relatively active vacations. While there will be plenty of time to relax, there will also be much to see and do. Your included excursions generally require an extensive amount of walking, as well as the navigation of numerous steps and uneven pavement. Access to sites visited on shore excursions for guests with physical limitations is generally restricted. The use of mobility devices such as wheelchairs, walkers, scooters, etc., is not recommended for travel in China, and such devices cannot be readily obtained in the region. For your safety and enjoyment, we recommend all guests be in good physical condition. This is particularly important in Tibet, where the high altitude may make extensive walking difficult.

In addition, river ships, while spacious and elegant, are not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and most do not have elevators. Uniworld, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to refuse passage or to require a current passenger to end his or her trip if the passenger's state of health or physical condition may affect his or her own health, safety, and enjoyment, or that of other passengers.

Medical: There is a clinic with a doctor in most of the hotels used in China and on the ship. Medical expenses are the guest's own responsibility. Guests should bring their medication with them. Uniworld is not responsible for any costs incurred as a result of medical service, or for the quality of medical care received. A Travel Protection Plan covering medical expenses is highly recommended.

Special Diets: Please advise us in advance of your departure of any special dietary restrictions. This information will be provided to the proper personnel. To the extent possible, and in consideration of local conditions, every effort will be made to accommodate your needs. It is the guest's responsibility to provide us with as much detail as necessary concerning any medically related diet concerns. Not all dietary requests can be accommodated, and we appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Getting There

AIRPORT SECURITY AND CHECK-IN

It is advisable to contact the airline in advance of your departure to verify that there have been no changes to the flight number or schedule found on your travel documents. After your travel documents are issued and sent to you, Uniworld is not responsible for notifying guests of any changes in flight schedules.

Please make sure you arrive at the airport at least two-and-a-half (2.5) hours prior to your scheduled departure to complete check-in and security procedures. For peak travel times, you may even want to arrive three (3) hours prior to your scheduled departure time.

TRANSFERS

CRUISE COMPANION

Airport Arrival Transfers: If your cruise/tour package includes a group arrival transfer (and your flights coincide with our transfer guidelines and have been communicated to Uniworld), you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the hotel. You will be met as you exit the secure customs area. Please claim all of your baggage before exiting the baggage claim area. From the airport, you'll be transferred to the hotel. Please note that transfers are non-refundable.

There may be a waiting period of up to one (1) hour for scheduled airport transfers, depending on groupings of flight arrivals. Upon arrival in the tour start city, after you have cleared customs, look for the Uniworld representative outside the customs area. (He or she will have a Uniworld sign. Please be aware that it may take you some time to locate the sign among the many signs there.) If you cannot find our representative, please proceed to the information center in the arrival hall and ask the staff there to help you call the contact number of the Beijing office. The phone number for the Beijing office can be found on your Cruise/Tour Ticket.

Uniworld will not be responsible for missed cruise/tour days, late arrivals, missed transfers, or extra costs due to delayed or canceled flights.

It is required that flight information and pre-trip arrangements for all guests making their own flight arrangements be given to Uniworld no later than 45 days prior to departure in order for transfers to be properly arranged. Your flight arrangements must also be made in accordance with Uniworld's recommended transfer guidelines. For complete details, please see the "Terms and Conditions" section of our current brochure or our website, uniworld.com. Guests who have purchased an optional post-tour extension or extra nights with Uniworld hotel stays will be provided transfers as part of the extension or extra night purchase.

If your cruise/tour package does not contain transfers (i.e., for flights outside of Uniworld's recommended transfer time guidelines or if flight details have not been communicated to Uniworld in time), then please make your way to the hotel as per your trip itinerary at your own expense.

Airport Departure Transfers: If your cruise/tour package includes a group departure transfer (and your flights coincide with our transfer guidelines and have been communicated to Uniworld), you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home. For those guests with a post-cruise/tour extension, you will be transferred to the airport or hotel accordingly.

In accordance with Uniworld's recommended transfer time guidelines, all guests making their own flight arrangements are required to provide Uniworld with their flight information and pre-trip arrangements no later than 45 days prior to departure in order to receive transfers. For complete details, please see the "Terms and Conditions" section of our current brochure or our website, uniworld.com.

Guests who have purchased extra nights with Uniworld hotel stays will be provided transfers as part of the extra night purchase.

If your cruise/tour package does not contain transfers (i.e., for flights outside of Uniworld's recommended transfer time guidelines or if flight details have not been communicated to Uniworld in time), then please make your way from the hotel at your own expense.

Late Flight Arrivals/Missed Flights: If your package includes a Uniworld arrival transfer and you experience a travel delay of any kind, please adhere to the following instructions.

Upon arrival at the airport in the tour start city, after you have cleared customs, look for the Uniworld representative outside the customs area. If you cannot find our representative, please proceed to the pickup point at the arrival hall and stay there until our representative comes to you. If you are outside North America when you experience a travel delay, please contact our representative at +86-10-58694013 or +86-13501177374. For Hong Kong, after arrival at the airport, contact The Travel Advisers at +852-9025-6255. The staff at the airport's information center can help you place the call. Depending on the nature of the delay, Uniworld's ground staff can, at times, track flight changes. If your flight arrangements were drastically altered, it is unlikely that the ground staff will be notified in time of your specific flight changes. Due to security protocols enacted post-September 11, 2001, airlines very rarely provide updated flight information to third parties.

After arriving in China, if you cannot find the Uniworld representative, please contact the Transfer Provider in your arrival city. Their contact information is shown in the transfer section of your Cruise Ticket. The Transfer Provider, <u>if unable to match you up with a scheduled</u> group transfer, will ask you to make your way to the <u>hotel at your own expense. Costs incurred due to missed</u> transfers are the responsibility of the guest, and in most cases, compensation can be obtained from your Travel <u>Protection Plan provider or airline carrier</u>.

If your delay is serious enough that you miss the starting point of your cruise/tour, you will need to get to the next stop on the tour itinerary at your own expense. Please contact the Uniworld Beijing office, using the number on your Cruise/Tour Ticket, for the exact location of the city on your revised date of arrival. The office personnel will advise you on the best course of action. Uniworld is not responsible for missed transfers or additional costs incurred in getting to the next destination due to missed or delayed flights.

Baggage Delays: Baggage delays do unfortunately occur from time to time, especially during peak travel periods. First and foremost, do not leave the baggage area without completing a Lost Baggage Report with your air carrier. This report is essential to the tracking of your claim. If traveling with a companion, we recommend one (1) person exit the baggage claim area and locate the transfer representative to inform him or her of the situation. This will allow the representative to ensure transfers are properly provided. Give the air carrier a copy of your travel itinerary and the hotel and ship's contact information. Report your lost baggage to the Uniworld representative and provide him or her with a copy of your Lost Baggage Report. This will assist our staff in helping to locate your baggage as quickly as possible. Uniworld is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage to baggage and/or personal belongings. A protection plan covering lost, stolen, or damaged baggage is available through the Uniworld Travel Protection Plan.

OPTIONAL POST-CRUISE/TOUR EXTENSIONS

Daily breakfast and transfers are included. Most Uniworld optional extensions feature at least one (1) special sightseeing program. Your on-site Uniworld representative will host a welcome briefing upon your arrival to familiarize you with the scheduled program. Details of your optional post-cruise/tour hotel/land extension are included with your final documents.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT HONG KONG: Uniworld works with The Travel Advisers to make sure your visit to Hong Kong, where you will not have a tour manager or a local host, goes smoothly. We arrange transportation to and from the airport and coordinate your city tour, while leaving you with plenty of time to shop and explore on your own.

HOTEL CHECK-IN/HOTEL CHECK-OUT

Please note that every effort is made to ensure that your hotel room is available and ready for occupancy upon your arrival at the hotel. This is not always possible due to differences in hotel check-in/check-out times and scheduled airport-to-hotel or ship-to-hotel transfers.

Most hotels do not allow check-in earlier than 2:00 pm. If you arrive at the hotel before 2:00 pm, you may need to wait until the room becomes available. Hotel checkout must be no later than 12:00 pm. If your arrival or departure schedule does not coincide with these times, you may ask the hotel to store your baggage while you explore independently.

CRUISE COMPANION

About Your Cruise/Tour Package and Services

COMPLIMENTARY ONBOARD BEVERAGE PROGRAM

Complimentary red and white house wine, draught beer, and soft drinks will be included at dinner while onboard the *Century Legend* and the *Century Paragon*. Soft drinks and tea are included for lunches and dinner.

ELECTRICAL CURRENT

CRUISE COMPANION

Voltage is 220V/50Hz in all hotels and onboard the ship. To use any electrical product from the United States, you need a 3-pin plug adaptor and a voltage converter.

ELEVATORS ON SHIPS

The *Century Paragon* and *Century Legend* are equipped with 2 elevators that service all decks, except the Sun Deck.

FITNESS CENTER IN THE HOTELS AND ON THE SHIPS

There are fitness centers in all hotels. On the ship, the Fitness Center is located on the Sun Deck. Hours of operation are generally from 6:00 am until 10:00 pm, but may be adjusted based on each day's program.

GIFT SHOP

There are gift shops in all hotels. There are some gift shops onboard the ship with a limited selection of toiletries, souvenirs, and other sundries. All items may be charged to your shipboard account. The hours of operation are adjusted to each day's program.

GOING ASHORE

Because of the varying nature of the riverbank, methods of getting ashore may differ from time to time and, on occasion, access may be difficult. We will ensure that the gangways are safe and that crew members are on hand to assist you.

GRATUITIES

Gratuities are customary expressions of appreciation for a job well done, and it is our goal to ensure that you have the most enjoyable trip possible. Therefore, the amount of the gratuity you choose to give is entirely subject to your satisfaction with your travel experience. To assist you in determining the amount of your gratuities, we recommend the following as a guideline:

- Cruise/Tour Manager: \$8 to \$10 USD per guest, per day (given on the last day of the cruise/tour before departure)
- Ship staff and crew: \$25 USD per guest, on 3- or 4-night cruises to be shared among all staff and crew (this will be charged to your onboard account at the time you check in, and the amount can be adjusted by the Reception Desk onboard at the end of the cruise)

Tips and gratuities are included for local experts, drivers, local river guides, rickshaw drivers, and boatmen during your trip, as well as on post-cruise land extensions purchased in conjunction with your cruise/tour (excluding Hong Kong).

HANDICAPPED FACILITIES

Embarkation/disembarkation facilities may be impossible to navigate with wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, or any other mechanical devices. The cruise ships are not wheel-chair accessible, nor are they designed to accommodate physically challenged travelers.

Additionally, most shore excursions involve walking over uneven ground. Some excursions are walking tours only, and for your safety and enjoyment of the sightseeing tours, we recommend that all passengers be in good physical condition.

Uniworld, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to refuse passage or to require a current passenger to end his or her trip if the passenger's state of health or physical condition may affect his or her own health, safety, and enjoyment, or that of other passengers.

INTERNET ACCESS AT THE HOTELS AND ON THE SHIPS

Internet access is available in all hotels. While it is sometimes free, you may be charged \$15-20 USD per day (and possibly more) for this service.

Onboard the ship, our Wireless Internet Service (Wi-Fi) is free in the Executive Lounge area. The Internet Corner allows you to access the Internet for a small fee. To access your email account from the Internet Corner, you are required to contact the front desk and select the amount of access time you wish to purchase. Once you choose an access plan, your credit card will be billed the amount you've selected by the ship's onboard payment system. Internet service may not be available at all times, especially while cruising through the Three Gorges.

INTRA-CHINA DOMESTIC AIR TICKETS

Your intra-China domestic air tickets are issued in China. Your Cruise/Tour Manager will deliver the air tickets to all passengers while in China. Please note that the name on your airline tickets must match your name exactly as it is shown in your passport. This applies to both international flights as well as the intra-China flights we will book for you, so please be sure we have your name correct on your booking.

LAND TOURS AND SHORE EXCURSIONS

Each cruise/tour program includes comprehensive shore excursions led by a local English-speaking expert; these excursions have been designed to provide you with the best possible experience ashore. On motorcoach tours, we ask that passengers rotate to allow everyone to sit near the front. A complete day-by-day shore excursion itinerary is provided in this booklet. Details of your particular itinerary can also be found at uniworld.com.

LAUNDRY

CRUISE COMPANION

Laundry service is available in all hotels and onboard the ships for a fee. Self-service laundry facilities are not available in hotels or on the ships.

LOCAL AND ONBOARD MONEY MATTERS

Currency in China is the renminbi (RMB), also referred to as the yuan. Each yuan is divided into 10 jiǎo (which is then sub-divided into 10 fēn). The RMB comes in banknote denominations of 1 jiǎo to 100 yuan and coins have denominations from 1 fēn to 1 yuan.

Uniworld features a "cashless" environment onboard, and all charges are billed directly to each guest's onboard account. Currency accepted onboard for settlement of final bills is either USD, RMB, or Travelers Checks. The major credit cards accepted are Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. The ships do not have ATM machines onboard, but ATMs linked to major bank networks can be found throughout China. Most debit and major credit cards can be used for cash withdrawals ashore. Limited currency exchange is available onboard for the exchange of cash only. Credit cards cannot be accepted for money exchange. All hotels have exchange facilities. While on-board, guests can sign for all purchases and pay for their charges at the end of the cruise with their credit card, including Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.

Please note currency exchange transactions and ATM cash withdrawals always involve transaction fees. It is always best to inquire as to the fee before exchanging

any money. ATMs will typically ask you if you accept the fee before enabling the transaction.

Please contact your bank and/or credit card companies to let them know that you will be leaving the country to avoid any problems using your credit card(s) overseas.

RESPONSIBILITY AND WAIVER

The Passenger accepts the terms and conditions of the Passenger Ticket Contract when participating in any organized shore excursion/tour that is provided by Uniworld. Participation in some shore excursions or tours may also be subject to an independent operator's own Terms and Conditions.

RESTAURANTS

All breakfasts are buffets offering Western and Asian menu items. Most other meals onshore will be held at local restaurants with Chinese cuisine. Wine can be purchased in most restaurants. Onboard the ships, breakfast and lunch are sumptuous buffets featuring Chinese and some Western cuisine. Dinner onboard will feature Chinese cuisine served at the table. Please notify Uniworld in advance if you have any special dietary concerns or considerations that need to be taken into account while you are traveling with us. We will do our best to ensure your request is accommodated, but cannot guarantee this will happen in all cases.

SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX

There is a safe in your hotel room and stateroom onboard. We urge you to leave valuable jewelry at home. We are not responsible for any valuables left in the staterooms. Any charge to return "lost and found" property will be at the owner's expense. Please beware of pickpockets when ashore.

SHOPPING

Time for shopping is allowed for within the frame-work of most of the sightseeing programs. The actual amount of time available for shopping may be limited due to tour constraints. Shopping recommendations can be made by your Cruise/Tour Manager. Larger stores will accept most major credit cards, while market vendors and small stores will usually accept the local currency only. It is a good idea to take a small amount of cash to use for on-the-spot gratuities and purchasing souvenirs or sundries.

SMOKING

CRUISE COMPANION

The ship enjoys a non-smoking environment in all public areas and in the staterooms. Smoking is allowed only on the upper Sun Deck and balcony. Non-smoking rooms are requested in all hotels. For those passengers who smoke, we can request a smoking room in hotels with advance notice. For the comfort of all passengers, smoking is not permitted on sightseeing or transfer vehicles.

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL CHINA PROGRAMS

All US and Canadian citizens need a passport and visa for travel to China. Non-US or non-Canadian citizens should contact the Chinese consulate for proper requirements. It is the passenger's responsibility to obtain all necessary documentation. Visa requirements for US and Canadian citizens can be found at uniworld.com, under the "Before You Go" section. Uniworld provides information on obtaining the required visas as a courtesy only at uniworld.com.

Obtaining and carrying the proper documents, including passports, is solely the responsibility of the guest. Uniworld will not be responsible for any delays, damages, and/or losses, including missed portions of your cruise/tour, which are related to improper travel documentation. All guests are strongly advised to obtain the necessary visas well in advance to avoid unnecessary charges to expedite the processing of the visas.

When using a visa service, it is highly recommended that the service be provided with a copy of your entire travel itinerary. There are times when multiple entry visas may be required, or when there may be restrictions to entering one country from another, depending on your nationality. If the service does not have your full itinerary, this may result in improperly issued documentation.

For the "China, Tibet & the Yangtze" program, only a single-entry China visa is required. Uniworld will be responsible for your permit to enter Tibet. Please provide us with a legible copy of your passport (photo page) and a copy of your China visa no later than 45 days prior to your departure, so that we may obtain the Tibetan Entry Permit for you. Email the copy to **asiadepartment@uniworld.com** and be sure to include your booking number in the email.

During the cruise/tour, it is advisable to have copies of important documents (e.g., first page of your passport, photo, credit card numbers, and bank/credit card company phone numbers) in a separate packet, in case the originals are lost or stolen.

VOX

Uniworld is proud to use Vox portable audio headset system on shore tours, so that you will always be able to hear your local expert's commentary with ease and comfort.

WATER

Please do not drink the tap water anywhere in China, including onboard the cruise ship. Tap water should only be used for bathing and hand and face washing and should not be swallowed. All hotels and the ship provide two (2) complimentary bottles of water a day that can be consumed safely. Additional bottled water can be purchased throughout China.

WEATHER

Weather forecasts are widely available on the Internet. Uniworld's favorite resource for up-to-the-minute international weather is weather.com.

Average Temperatures (Fahrenheit):

Average Low/High (F)								
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
Beijing	43/70	54/82	63/89	69/90	67/88	56/81	43/69	
Shanghai	49/68	59/78	66/84	74/92	74/92	67/84	56/76	
Xi'an	46/72	44/81	64/91	70/93	68/90	58/79	47/69	
Lhasa	34/61	40/66	48/72	50/71	49/69	45/67	34/62	
Guilin	58/74	66/83	72/89	75/89	74/93	70/89	61/80	
Hong Kong	67/79	74/84	74/84	78/88	79/90	79/90	77/89	

Average Temperatures (Celsius):

Average Low/High (C)								
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
Beijing	6/21	12/28	17/32	21/32	19/31	13/27	6/21	
Shanghai	9/20	15/26	19/29	23/33	23/33	19/29	13/24	
Xi'an	7/22	7/27	18/33	21/34	20/32	14/26	8/21	
Lhasa	1/16	4/19	9/22	10/22	9/21	7/19	1/17	
Guilin	14/23	19/28	22/32	24/32	23/34	21/32	16/27	
Hong Kong	19/26	23/29	23/29	26/31	26/32	26/32	25/32	

WHAT TO WEAR

CRUISE COMPANION

Prepare for a variety of weather conditions, depending on the season and regions you will be traveling during your cruise/tour. Layering clothing items is smart because it allows each person to adjust to any temperature, including artificially maintained temperatures, by removing or adding items throughout the day.

Comfortable, sporty, smart-casual day wear is appropriate both onshore and onboard. For warmer temperatures, we suggest lightweight clothing that can be layered, such as a mix of sweaters, lightweight knit shirts, everyday khakis, slacks, skirts/dresses, and walking shorts. For early spring and late fall departures, you'll find sweatshirts, heavier cotton or wool tops and long-sleeved shirts, and corduroy or heavy khaki pants perfectly suitable. Mix-and-match solid color schemes work best to help keep baggage light.

You will engage in a significant amount of walking over uneven terrain during your time ashore. We recommend comfortable walking shoes with good ankle support. Sturdy sandals are another good option.

For evenings, any resort-type wear is perfectly suitable. Men may want to bring one sport jacket for the onboard Captain's Farewell Dinner. Women find a cocktail dress or two always come in handy, no matter the destination.

Don't forget to pack a lightweight, waterproof jacket (preferably hooded), or even a heavier-weight windbreaker, for colder temperatures.

OMISSIONS

Uniworld is not responsible for omissions or printing and/ or presentation errors in brochures, on Internet sites, or in any other media where such information may be presented; we reserve the right to make corrections as required.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What about the weather?

Prepare for a variety of weather conditions depending on your travel season and the river on which you will be cruising. Layering clothing items is always your best bet, as this allows each person to adjust to any temperature, including artificially maintained temperatures, by removing or adding items throughout the day.

What should I wear ashore?

Comfortable, sporty, smart-casual daywear is appropriate both onshore and onboard. For early spring and late fall departures, you'll find that coats, sweatshirts, heavier cotton or wool tops and long-sleeved shirts, and corduroy or heavy khaki pants are perfectly suitable. You will do a significant amount of walking over uneven terrain during your time ashore. We recommend comfortable walking shoes with good ankle support. Don't forget to pack a waterproof jacket (preferably hooded) or even a heavier-weight coat for colder temperatures.

I have concerns about my physical ability. What do I do?

Guests with mobility concerns need to discuss their concerns with Uniworld staff in advance of their departure. Guests requiring the use of a mobility device, such as a wheelchair, motorized scooter, or walker, may not be able to participate in many shore excursions or use them onboard the ships. Also, guests who may be limited in their ability to walk long distances may also have difficulties, as there is often uneven terrain on many shore excursions.

How accurate are the shore excursion/tour descriptions?

Uniworld does everything possible to ensure that shore excursions are performed as promoted and as outlined in the subsequent pages. In certain circumstances, or for reasons beyond the control of Uniworld, it may not be possible or practical for the excursion to be performed exactly as written. The decision not to operate, to alter the operation, change content, and/or otherwise adjust or modify any element of the excursion as advertised, is at the sole discretion of Uniworld, always taking into account the safety and best interests of the guests, and the overall product delivery. Any such modifications to excursions will not result in eligibility for a refund.

Can the itinerary change? What happens if it does change?

You can count on Uniworld's vast experience and regional knowledge to make sure you enjoy your cruise/ tour even when conditions beyond our control occur. The very nature of a river, its sources and networks of bridges and locks, means that there will be times when weather or other conditions in a region require Uniworld to make adjustments and modifications to the operation of an itinerary. Itineraries may need to be altered specifically because of water levels. Although every effort is made to keep itineraries as advertised. Uniworld reserves the right to make changes and substitutions as may be necessary to ensure the safety of our guests and the vessels. Time permitting, every possible effort will be made to alert guests in advance of boarding of any known changes. Otherwise, all guests will be informed onboard of changes and amendments. Any changes to itineraries, including the addition of extensive motorcoach touring to effect delivery of the intended itinerary operation, will not result in eligibility for a refund.

What time will excursions depart?

CRUISE COMPANION

All shore excursions are carefully coordinated to the ship's daily schedule. Prior to dinner each evening, your Cruise Manager will brief all guests about what activities will take place the next day. This briefing includes information about departure times, specifics about the shore excursions/tours not covered in this booklet, suggested shopping and restaurant recommendations, and other important information about the port of call. In addition to the briefing, a daily program will be distributed to each guest's stateroom every evening. This program provides a written overview of all events taking place the next day—whether onboard or ashore.

Does each motorcoach or walking group have its own tour guide?

Yes. Each motorcoach or walking group has its own English-speaking local tour guide. Uniworld tries very hard to ensure that our guides are of the highest quality and well versed in their subjects, making sure that you have the best possible time ashore.

What about tipping?

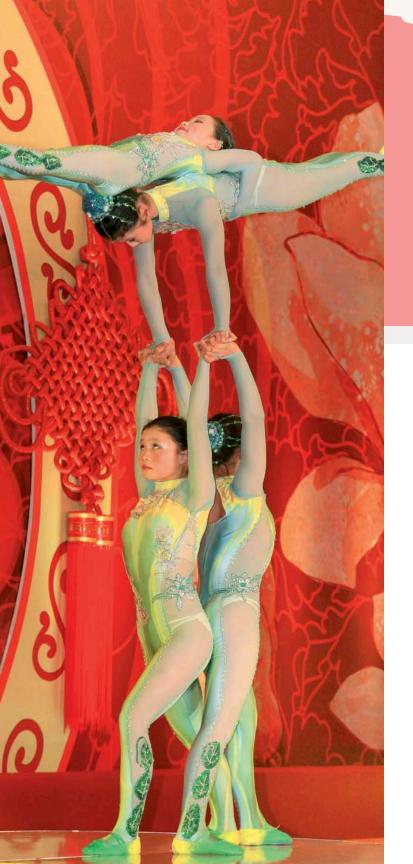
Gratuities should always be in accordance with each guest's personal satisfaction. And Uniworld endeavors to work with the best local guides available. Please refer to the "Gratuities" section of this book for specific recommendations and guidelines.

What is the transportation like on excursions?

Uniworld works with some of the world's best tour companies, all of which are chosen with our exacting standards in mind. To ensure your maximum enjoyment of each excursion, all motorcoaches seat 40–45 people and are air-conditioned whenever possible. There are a few destinations where the equipment may not be of a similar standard and, in such cases, the best possible transportation will be arranged. Rest stops will be provided throughout the course of the excursions, as most of the motorcoaches used for excursions will not have onboard toilets.

Is smoking allowed on shore excursions/tours?

Smoking is not allowed while on the motorcoach, and many historical venues now request that visitors not smoke anywhere on site. We ask all our guests who smoke not to do so while on excursions/tours.





Highlights of China & the Yangtze

Beijing to Shanghai | 11 Days

Watch the highlights of China unfold before you during this incredible adventure

A journey to China is an enchanting odyssey through more than five thousand years of history, recorded against a vast and stunning landscape. Discover the great diversity of this fascinating country, from rustic hamlets lining the Yangtze to Beijing and Shanghai two of the world's most sophisticated cities. Your tour provides insight into all the major destinations of this grand country.

Beijing, China's second-largest city, offers a plethora of world-class sites—the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, and the Great Wall—all of which you'll visit. In Xi'an, see Emperor Qin's life-sized Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses, a truly unforgettable sight, and experience a sumptuous Tang Dynasty dinner. Be swept up in the ethereal surroundings as you cruise the breathtaking Yangtze River and its famous Three Gorges. Finally, explore Shanghai—China's largest city and home to the legendary Shanghai Acrobats.



Arrive at the Beijing Airport and be greeted by a Uniworld representative who will escort you to your hotel.



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The political and cultural capital of China and home to more than 20 million people, Beijing exemplifies everything visitors find most intoxicating about China: spectacular ancient monuments contrast with ambitious modern high-rises, and traditional crafts flourish alongside booming international businesses. Exquisite art, stunning UNESCO sites, serene parks, and teeming streets all contribute to the unique flavor of this astonishing city.

Featured Excursions:

HIGHLIGHTS of CHINA

Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, and hutongs tour with home-hosted lunch 🖗 🖴

Tiananmen Square, the center of contemporary civic life in Beijing, was first laid out in 1651. Over the centuries the enormous square has been the scene of imperial ceremonies, political demonstrations, parades, and, in 2008, the Olympic opening festivities. Now surrounded by Communist monuments, including Mao Zedong's mausoleum (note the long line of people waiting to get in for a brief glimpse of the Chairman's remains), it is the gateway to the Forbidden City. Take a moment to pose with your fellow quests for a complimentary group photo to commemorate your visit. As you pass through Tiananmen Gate, also known as the Gate of Heavenly Peace, you step into one of Beijing's treasures, the Forbidden City. For over five hundred years the Forbidden City was home to the emperors and empresses of China, a place none could enter without imperial permission (hence its name), but in 1925 it became the Palace Museum—an institution noted for its unparalleled collections of Ming and Qing Dynasty treasures. The UNESCO-designated palace complex, with its temples, pavilions, courtyards, and gardens (covering some one hundred acres), offers visitors a glimpse into the lives and rituals of China's imperial families, as well as some of the world's most outstanding architecture and design.

Expand your experience of Beijing's amazing culture with a visit to the hutongs, the historic residential neighborhoods that developed around the Forbidden City during the 15th century. Traditional multigenerational homes

built around courtyards line the narrow lanes, along with tiny shops selling everything from luxury goods to everyday necessities. Not only are the sights along these winding streets fascinating, but you'll get to see them in the most traditional way—via rickshaw. What's behind the doors of these homes? Find out as you join a local family for a typical Chinese luncheon in their home.

Featured Excursion:

Peking duck Welcome Dinner with complimentary wine 🕒 🖪 🗎

Emperors were the first to enjoy this classic preparation of slow-roasted, crispy-skinned duck; in fact, the first mention of this delicacy dates back to the imperial kitchens in 1330, and it became eponymous with Beijing—or Peking, as it was then known—in the 1450s. Tonight it's your turn to enjoy Beijing's succulent signature dish, complete with complimentary wine.



Beijing

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Featured Excursion: The Great Wall 🕘 Ӣ 🚍

Stretching 5,500 miles (8,850 kilometers) through northern China–for comparison purposes, remember that the United States is about 3.000 miles (4.828 kilometers) wide-the Great Wall is the longest manmade structure on earth. The wall was begun in the third century BC as a way to keep out hostile invaders from the north; it proved so stalwart a defense that generations of warlords and emperors maintained and extended it, although it was never a continuous barrier. The section north of Beijing, on your itinerary for today, dates mostly to the Ming Dynasty. Now that its military purposes are firmly in the past, you may clamber up the steps and take a memorable walk along this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its stone and tamped-earth pathway offers an extraordinarily peaceful and awe-inspiring setting with expansive and magical mountain views.

Did You Know? Legend says that the mortar holding the wall's stones together was made of human bones. But legend lies-tests show that the mortar was made with rice flour.

Featured Excursion:

Kung Fu show at Beijing's Red Theatre 🕒 🖪 🚍

As the nation's cultural center, Beijing draws China's finest and most creative artists and performers from all over the country. Here's your chance to experience a remarkable combination of traditional martial arts and modern stage craft as you watch the country's best young performers (their average age is just 17) display their kung fu prowess, blended with acrobatics and dance theater. The action is breathtaking and the drama is poignant—and all of it is set off by costumes, set design, and special effects created by some of the best stage directors and designers in China. The actors don't speak, but you'll find English supertitles above the stage to keep you informed of the story line. This spectacular performance is truly the best in Beijing.

DAY Beijing, fly to Xi'an

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You'll fly to Xi'an later in the day, but you have more special excursions in Beijing to enjoy first.

Featured Excursion:

4

HIGHLIGHTS of CHINA

Temple of Heaven and Beijing Zoo giant panda visit

A UNESCO-designated Site completed in the 15th century, the Temple of Heaven (or Altar of Heaven) symbolizes the relationship between heaven and earth-and the emperor's place within that cosmography. Over the centuries, 22 Ming and Qing emperors fasted within these precincts and made ritual sacrifices at the Altar of Heaven for good harvests. The layout of the 92 buildings—containing some 6 hundred rooms—and gardens that make up this complex had a symbolic function; the shapes (mostly circular) gave physical expression to aspects of traditional Chinese philosophy and political worldview. Set amid beautiful parkland and lush pine forest, the buildings are masterpieces of design that exerted a profound influence over all later architectural styles in China. The area became a public park in 1918 and is popular with nearby residents: pause for a moment to watch the graceful movements of the many locals who practice the ancient art of tai chi here.

China's iconic giant pandas are next on the agenda, as you stop at the Beijing Zoo's panda houses for a glimpse of these fascinating and endangered creatures.

You can't visit China without visiting a silk carpet workshop and learning how a tiny worm became a precious and much sought-after commodity around the world. Many carpets are machine-made today, but hand-woven examples can still be readily found—though for a higher price because the quality is superior. You'll notice that the use of bright colors, as well as traditional symbols like the phoenix and the dragon, are still very common. To accentuate the design, sometimes the pile is carefully cut to create a difference in the surface level, adding to the carpet's sculptural quality.



Xi'an

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BB L D

The imperial capital for 10 ancient dynasties, Xi'an achieved its greatest renown under the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD), when it was a great international metropolis and the eastern terminus of the legendary Silk Road. Today it is the capital of Shaanxi Province and most famous for a museum devoted to the Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses.

Featured Excursion:

Museum of the Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses and City Wall

In 1974 a farmer digging a well stumbled upon one of the 20th century's most astonishing archaeological finds: a massive army of terra-cotta figures that stand guard over the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang (259-210 BC). Though thousands of members of this army have been excavated so far, many more remain; work uncovering the tomb complex continues, with the emperor's tomb chamber itself yet to be revealed. Terracotta acrobats, musicians, and officials were also created to accompany the emperor in the afterlife; all are now on display at a museum devoted to this incredible find. Each life-sized figure is unique—no mass production for those ancient craftsmen!--and as you explore the museum, you'll be amazed by the intricacy of the workmanship. This terra-cotta army was by no means Qin Shi Huang's only bequest to China: It might be fair to say that he created the nation of China, itself. He unified a vast swath of the country and established the administrative systems that governed China until 1911. In fact, he even gave his dynasty's name to the nation. Qin is pronounced "chin." and it is from this name that the modern word "China" comes.

Featured Excursion: Tang Dynasty dinner show () 🕅 🛱

Xi'an reached its apex during the Tang Dynasty, when Tang emperors laid out a city that became a model for Chinese urban development, so the era holds a special place in the hearts of Xi'an's citizens. A traditional Chinese dinner, complete with a milky rice wine that is served warm, is accompanied by a lavishly staged cultural performance that pays tribute to the music, folk dance, and beautiful silk costumes of the Tang era. The performance you'll see is rooted in early folk celebrations that honored the harvest and it blends ancient music and movements to visually express the splendor of the Chinese civilization.



HIGHLIGHTS of CHINA

Xi'an, fly to Chongqing, cruising the Yangtze River

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Featured Excursion: Big Wild Goose Pagoda () 🕅 🛱

One of the holiest Buddhist temples in China, Big Wild Goose Pagoda was built in the seventh century to house the Buddhist texts the temple's abbot, Xuanzang, brought back from India, where he spent sixteen years collecting them. He and his monks devoted many years to translating those texts into Chinese; their translations are still in use at the temple. Constructed of wood and white brick (all without mortar), the pagoda is an architectural wonder. It is located on the grounds of the still active Temple of Thanksgiving, and boasts a park and large plaza where locals sometimes gather to fly kites. Remember to put a few coins in your pocket for this excursion—tradition says that throwing them through the pagoda's window will bring you good luck. Who wouldn't want to give it a try?

Featured Excursion: Traditional Dumpling Banquet () 🕅 🚍

As part of a day immersed in cultural history (and sheer artistic beauty), enjoy the delights of a traditional Xi'an dumpling lunch in the city widely considered the home of this savory tidbit. Traditionally reserved for special occasions (perhaps because making them can be so labor-intensive), each little dumpling is a delectable work of art—and, after all, your visit to Xi'an is surely a special occasion, so you deserve every one of the 16 different kinds of dumplings that will be served.

Before you leave Xi'an for Chongqing, you have one more expedition: a visit to the Jade Carving Center, or Jade Factory, as it's also known. Jade has been cherished in China for 10 thousand years; it is valued for its intrinsic beauty, of course, but it also has tremendous symbolic meaning. Watch artisans carving intricate designs and learn what to look for when buying this special stone. Once you reach Chongqing, you'll board your elegant ship, the *Century Paragon* and embark on a river journey that will carry you through scenery that China's painters and poets have celebrated for a thousand years.

day 7

Cruising the Yangtze River, Shibaozhai BB L D

The Yangtze is the third-longest river in the world (only the Nile and the Amazon are longer), and the days you spend onboard your luxurious ship will show you some of its most beautiful sights. Limestone cliffs, sheathed in greenery, loom above the water; mountains, wreathed in mist, tower in the distance. The river itself, deep and powerful, busy and serene, will work its enchantment as it carries you past bucolic fishing villages, hillside rice paddies, ancient cliff carvings, and historic temples. Relax and prepare to be dazzled.

Optional Excursion:

Fengdu Ghost City 🕕 🌆

The "Ghost City" combines modern-day representations of demons and eternal damnation with far more ancient temples and statues that depict a uniquely Chinese view of the afterlife, in which the punishment is tailored to fit the crime. A visit to Fengdu offers both lively entertainment and a fascinating insight into Taoist beliefs.

Featured Excursion: Shibao Pagoda 🕕 🎜

Shibao Pagoda is a temple built directly into the side of a steep peak that is now an island, a result of the rising waters from the Three Gorges Dam. Painted a bright red (the color associated with happiness and good fortune) and featuring an elaborately carved entrance and unusual round windows, the 12-story pagoda is yours to explore. At one time the temple consisted of just the top three stories; the other nine were constructed essentially to house the ladder-like staircase that leads up to the top. It's something of a challenge to climb, which may be why legend

HIGHLIGHTS of CHINA

says reaching the top will make your dreams come true by your being here, we'd like to think they already have. (Don't worry—there's another, less strenuous way to get to the top: you can take a path up the hill and cross a bridge to the temple.) Shibao Pagoda is, quite simply, magical.

Once back aboard your ship, you will begin sailing toward the Three Gorges, where you'll encounter some of the most celebrated scenery in all of China—including cliffs that rise above you to heights of up to 4,000 feet (1,219 meters). This is a perfect opportunity to take advantage of the ship's decks for unimpeded views of the spectacular surroundings.

Enjoy the Captain's Welcome Reception before dinner.



HIGHLIGHTS of CHINA

Cruising the Yangtze River, Goddess Stream BB L FD

Optional Excursion:

White Emperor City 🕚 ಶ 🚍

A temple complex that has become an island linked to the shore by a covered bridge, White Emperor City was once known as the "City of Poems" because so many poets paid tribute to it over the centuries. Though many of the older temples have been submerged by rising waters, China has declared the remaining complex a national heritage site.

Featured Excursion: Explore Goddess Stream () 🕅 🛲

Climb aboard a small motorboat and enter a magical landscape today as you drift quietly along the Goddess Stream, a tributary of the Yangtze that flows through some of the most extraordinary scenery in the Three Gorges region. Pristine turguoise waters shimmer and bubble between the sheer cliffs that rise high overhead. Mysterious traces of ancient peoples appear in the cliff faces, including coffins suspended among seemingly unreachable rocks. There are those who believe the goddess of the stream created some of the ravishing peaks you can see from your boat: Does Feifeng Peak look to you like a phoenix about to drink from the stream's waters? Legend says that the goddess transformed a golden phoenix into the mountain. Whether you recognize a similarity or not, there's no denying the enchantment of this region.

Note: Due to water conditions, we may substitute a Shennong Stream boat tour for the Goddess Stream tour.

In the evening, you'll savor a special Captain's Farewell Dinner on this final night of your Yangtze River cruise.

DAY 9

Featured Excursion: Three Gorges Dam () 🕼 🚍

Today, you'll disembark the ship in Yichang and explore the Three Gorges Dam on foot. Get ready for some spectacular views and the exhilarating roar of rushing water, as you disembark and explore the Three Gorges Dam on foot. Known the world over, the dam harnesses the power of the mighty Yangtze in order to provide electricity to ever-growing China; it is the largest hydropower project ever undertaken. Talk of building such a system first began in 1919, but it wasn't until 1992 that the Chinese congress gave it the go-ahead. It opened in 2006, with the final generators being installed in 2012. The dam is also intended to control flooding on the Yangtze, which has been a severe problem for many centuries. It has not been without controversy, but it is an unparalleled expression of national ambition and a major new national landmark.

After your visit to the dam, you'll fly to Shanghai, where you'll settle into your room and relax over dinner at the hotel.



Shanghai

BB L

Nearly 24 million people live in Shanghai, China's largest city. An international economic hub, it has drawn entrepreneurs from all over the world for 150 years. But while Shanghai may be the "city of the future," you can still find remnants of its history in Old Town and the area known as the concessions, which were controlled by European interests in the 19th century.

Featured Excursion: Shanghai city tour with dim sum lunch ④ 🖟 🚍

Call it the once and future boomtown. Shanghai, China's onetime window to the West, is once again its commercial capital, and this morning's tour will take you to some of

this engaging city's most impressive sights. Begin with a stroll through Old Town—the original walled city, where you will find traditional teahouses, temples, narrow alleyways, and markets—for a taste of historic Shanghai. When you reach the Bund, Shanghai's famed waterfront promenade along the Huangpu River, you encounter the heart of the old colonial concessions: buildings here pay tribute to the English, French, or German consuls and businessmen who owned them. A plethora of art deco buildings demonstrate why Shanghai was known as the Pearl of the Orient in the 1920s. Today's Bund features exuberant street life as well as beautiful architecture. It's also an ideal spot for admiring the views of the Pudong district and its spectacular skyscrapers, among them the tallest building in Asia.

What would a visit to Shanghai be without a traditional dim sum lunch? Relax at your hotel over a delectable selection of savory dumplings, steamed buns, and rice noodle rolls with a variety of fillings.

For an added dose of culture and style, you'll tour a silk factory and learn more about this singular textile; it influenced every aspect of design, from clothing to interiors, and reached every corner of the world.

Featured Excursion:

Shanghai Acrobats performance 🕒 🕅 🚍

After dinner on your own, experience spinning plates, flying knives, and whirling Hula-hoops as agile acrobats dance across swaying tight ropes and perform deathdefying leaps. You'll be truly dazzled as the famous Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe performs their astonishing, gravity-defying routines.



Transfer to Shanghai Pudong International Airport for your flight home or continue the journey of a lifetime with one of our popular extensions.

Note: Visit uniworld.com for visa information in the "Before You Go" section.

Note: Order of sightseeing may change throughout the itinerary. Substitute visits to other sites may occur during your trip due to water levels, closures because of public holidays, or other uncontrollable factors.

Note: All extras, such as Tour Manager tips, Century Cruises onboard crew tips, bottled water, drinks, telephone calls, laundry, and items of a personal nature, are not included in the cost of the trip.



Treasures of China & the Yangtze

Shanghai to Beijing | 12 Days

Discover China's glorious past and present, from bustling Shanghai to the ancient Forbidden City

This odyssey through China will carry you from the skyscrapers of Shanghai to the ancient wonder of the Great Wall, revealing the great diversity—the Yin and Yang—of this amazing country. Follow the mighty Yangtze into the heart of China, reveling in the mist-shrouded shrines and fanciful weather-shaped rock formations of the ravishing Three Gorges.

Your journey will provide insight into the wonders of old and new China, with a focus on the great Yangtze River itself, bookended by two exciting cities: Shanghai and Beijing. Throughout your journey you'll experience a multitude of cultural pleasures, including a kung fu show in Beijing, a visit to breathtaking Shibao Pagoda, a Peking duck feast, and an acrobatic extravaganza in Shanghai.



Arrive in Shanghai and be greeted by a Uniworld representative who will escort you to your hotel.



Shanghai

Nearly 24 million people live Shanghai, China's largest city. An international economic hub, it has drawn entrepreneurs from all over the world for 150 years. But while Shanghai may be the "city of the future," you can still find remnants of its history in Old Town and the area known as the concessions, which were controlled by European interests in the 19th century.

Featured Excursion:

Shanghai city tour with dim sum lunch 🕼 🖽

Call it the once and future boomtown. Shanghai, China's onetime window to the West, is once again its commercial capital, and this morning's tour will take you to some of this engaging city's most impressive sights. Begin with a stroll through Old Town-the original walled city, where you will find traditional teahouses, temples, narrow alleyways, and markets-for a taste of historic Shanghai. When you reach the Bund, Shanghai's famed waterfront promenade along the Huangpu River, you encounter the heart of the old colonial concessions: buildings here pay tribute to the English, French, or German consuls and businessmen who owned them. A plethora of art deco buildings demonstrate why Shanghai was known as the Pearl of the Orient in the 1920s. Today's Bund features exuberant street life as well as beautiful architecture. It's also an ideal spot for admiring the views of the Pudong district and its spectacular skyscrapers, among them the tallest building in Asia. Relax over a traditional dim sum lunch—a selection of dumplings, steamed buns, and rice noodle rolls with a variety of fillings-at your hotel.

For an added dose of culture and style, you'll tour a silk factory and learn more about this singular textile; it influenced every aspect of design, from clothing to interiors, and reached every corner of the world.

Discover the tastes of Shanghai's international cuisine as you enjoy dinner on your own today.

Featured Excursion: Shanghai Acrobats performance 🕒 🔝 🚍

Plates spin, knives fly, Hula hoops get a workout, and agile acrobats perform death-defying leaps and dance across swaying tightropes. As you watch the famous Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe perform their dazzling routines, you'll be stunned by their seemingly impossible, gravity-defying stunts.

DAY 3

Shanghai, fly to Yichang

BB D

Take in one more intriguing destination—the Shanghai Museum-and relish lunch on your own before heading to Yichang, where you'll board your elegant ship, the Century Paragon, and begin your journey on the magnificent Yangtze River.

Featured Excursion: Shanghai Museum 🕕 🕅 🚍

In a stellar example of form following function, the Shanghai Museum is designed to resemble an ancient Chinese bronze ding, or footed cooking vessel. The museum houses an equally stellar collection of jade carvings; ancient bronzes, primarily from the Shang and Zhou periods (making them over thousands of years old); exquisite examples of calligraphy arranged in chronological order to reveal the history of the art; masterpieces of classical painting; and a superlative group of Ming and Qing furniture. No one interested in ancient Chinese art should miss this splendid collection.



Maoping, cruising the Yangtze River BB L D

The Yangtze is the third-longest river in the world (only the Nile and the Amazon are longer), and the days you spend onboard your elegant ship will show you some of its most beautiful sights. Your introduction to the river begins with the Three Gorges Dam, which is transforming this region and the river itself.

Optional Excursion:

Tribe of the Three Gorges 🕚 🚺

You'll find a living-history site as beautiful as it is interesting in this re-creation of traditional village life: stilt houses stand above the river: fishermen in traditional

garb pole along in their little boats; and women wash clothes in the stream. The setting is spectacular, and the folk performances haunting.

Featured Excursion: Three Gorges Dam () 🕅 🚍

Get an up-close view of a contemporary manmade wonder as your ship navigates the five-stage locks of the massive Three Gorges Dam, located in Maoping. Known the world over, the dam harnesses the power of the mighty Yangtze in order to provide electricity to ever-growing China; it is the largest hydropower project ever undertaken. Talk of building such a system first began in 1919, but it wasn't until 1992 that the Chinese congress gave it the go-ahead. It opened in 2006, with the final generators being installed in 2012. The dam is also intended to control flooding on the Yangtze, which has been a severe problem for many centuries. It has not been without controversy, but it is an unparalleled expression of national ambition and a major new national landmark.

You are invited to a Captain's Welcome Reception before dinner with complimentary wine.

Did You Know? Its name means "the long river," and it flows almost 4,000 miles (6,437 kilometers) from its headwaters on the Tibetan Plateau to its mouth at the East China Sea. The Yangtze is not just China's longest river: its waters irrigate about half the food grown in the country, and around 400 million people depend upon it for fresh water.



TREASURES of CHINA

Cruising the Yangtze River, Goddess Stream

BB L D

Relax and prepare to be dazzled as your ship carries you through some of the most glorious scenery in the world. Limestone cliffs, sheathed in greenery, loom above the water; mountains, wreathed in mist, tower in the distance. The river itself, deep and powerful, busy and serene, will work its enchantment as it carries you past bucolic fishing villages, hillside rice paddies, ancient cliff carvings, and historic temples.

Featured Excursion: Explore Goddess Stream () 🕅 🛲

Climb aboard a small motorboat and enter a magical landscape today as you drift quietly along the Goddess Stream, a tributary of the Yangtze that flows through some of the most extraordinary scenery in the Three Gorges region. Pristine turquoise waters shimmer and bubble between the sheer cliffs that rise high overhead. Mysterious traces of ancient peoples appear in the cliff faces, including coffins suspended among seemingly unreachable rocks. There are those who believe the goddess of the stream created some of the ravishing peaks you can see from your boat: Does Feifeng Peak look to you like a phoenix about to drink from the stream's waters? Legend says that the goddess transformed a golden phoenix into the mountain. Whether you recognize a similarity or not, there's no denying the enchantment of this region.

You'll return to your cruise ship later in the day and continue sailing down the Yangtze, where you'll float through a landscape that is straight out of a Chinese watercolor painting. Or you might like to join us on an optional excursion.

Note: Due to water conditions, we may substitute a Shennong Stream boat tour for the Goddess Stream tour.

Optional Excursion: White Emperor City () 🕅 🛱

A temple complex that has become an island linked to the shore by a covered bridge, White Emperor City was once known as the "City of Poems" because so many poets paid tribute to it over the centuries. Though many of the older temples have been submerged by rising waters, China has declared the remaining complex a national heritage site.



Tonight, enjoy evening entertainment.

BB L FD

DAY 6

Cruising the Yangtze River, Shibaozhai

Featured Excursion: Shibao Pagoda 🗊

Shibao Pagoda is a temple built directly into the side of a steep peak that is now an island, a result of the rising waters from the Three Gorges Dam. Painted a bright red (the color associated with happiness and good fortune) and featuring an elaborately carved entrance and

unusual round windows, the 12-story pagoda is yours to explore. At one time the temple consisted of just the top three stories; the other nine were constructed essentially to house the ladder-like staircase that leads up to the top. It's something of a challenge to climb, which may be why legend says reaching the top will make your dreams come true—by your being here, we'd like to think they already have. (Don't worry—there's another, less strenuous way to get to the top: you can take a path up the hill and cross a bridge to the temple.) Shibao Pagoda is, quite simply, magical.

This evening enjoy a Farewell Dinner onboard with complimentary wine and evening entertainment.



Chongqing, fly to Xi'an

☆ 国 → BB D

Disembark in the busy port of Chongqing, where you'll have time to see a few highlights before continuing your journey to Xi'an. The capital of western China and one of the largest cities in the country, Chongqing, located on the upper Yangtze, has seen explosive growth in the past half century.

The original city grew up on mist-wreathed hills at the confluence of the Yangtze and Jialing rivers, giving rise to its nickname "Fog City." The modern-day city is enormous, and your time here is brief—but it does include a stop at the zoo to see the endangered giant pandas. It's estimated that only about 16 hundred remain in the wild, but thanks to a massive international effort, the panda population is slowly increasing. You'll also have a chance to see the house museum dedicated to General Joseph Stilwell, who headed U.S. military efforts in China during WWII, and the People's Hall, a huge Ming-influenced compound of civic buildings built in the 1950s.

Enjoy lunch on your own before transferring to the airport to catch your flight to Xi'an. Once you reach Xi'an, you'll check into your hotel. Your introduction to the ancient capital of China starts with a gustatory encounter with Xi'an's famous dumplings.

Featured Excursion:

Traditional Dumpling Banquet 🕒 🔝 🚍

Relish the delights of a traditional Xi'an dumpling dinner in the city widely considered the home of this savory tidbit. Traditionally reserved for special occasions (perhaps because making them can be so labor-intensive), each little dumpling is a delectable work of art—and, after all, your visit to Xi'an is surely a special occasion, so you deserve every one of the 16 different kinds of dumplings that will be served.



Xi'an was the imperial capital for 10 ancient dynasties, achieving its greatest renown under the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD), when it was a great international metropolis and the eastern terminus of the legendary Silk Road. Today it is the capital of Shaanxi Province and most famous for a museum devoted to the Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses.

Did You Know? The Silk Road stretched more than 4,000 miles (6,437 kilometers) from the Mediterranean to Xi'an and included seaports in India. Silk was not the only item to travel along these routes—the Black Death, a plague that killed a third of Europe's inhabitants, was also carried from city to city on the Silk Road in the 14th century.

Featured Excursion:

Museum of the Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses and City Wall ④ 🕼 🚍

In 1974 a farmer digging a well stumbled upon one of the 20th century's most astonishing archaeological finds: a massive army of terra-cotta figures that stand guard over the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang (259-210 BC). Though thousands of members of this army have been excavated so far, many more remain; work uncovering the tomb complex continues, with the emperor's tomb chamber itself yet to be revealed. Terracotta acrobats, musicians, and officials were also created to accompany the emperor in the afterlife; all are now on display at a museum devoted to this incredible discovery. Each life-sized figure is unique-no mass production for those ancient craftsmen!—and as you explore the museum, you'll be amazed by the intricacy of the workmanship. This terra-cotta army was by no means Qin Shi Huang's only bequest to China: It might be fair to say that he created the nation of China, itself. He unified a vast swath of the country and established the

administrative systems that governed China until 1911. In fact, he even gave his dynasty's name to the nation. Qin is pronounced "chin," and it is from this name that the modern word "China" comes.

Your day's adventures don't end here: You'll also have a chance to examine the massive 15th-century defensive structure built around the city core by the first Ming emperor, China's oldest and best-preserved city wall, and visit the Jade Carving Center, or Jade Factory, as it's also known, where you can watch artisans at work carving their designs and learn what to look for when buying this special stone.

Featured Excursion: Tang Dynasty dinner show () 🕅 🚆

Xi'an reached its apex during the Tang Dynasty, when Tang emperors laid out a city that became a model for Chinese urban development, so the era holds a special place in the hearts of Xi'an's citizens. A traditional Chinese dinner, complete with a milky rice wine that is served warm, is accompanied by a lavishly staged cultural performance that pays tribute to the music, folk dance, and beautiful silk costumes of the Tang era. The performance you'll see is rooted in early folk celebrations that honored the harvest and it blends ancient music and movements to visually express the splendor of the Chinese civilization.

Xi'an, fly to Beijing

0 沖 🗒 BB D

You'll catch a plane to Beijing today and dive right into your exploration of China's capital with a visit to the magnificent Temple of Heaven, one of the city's most significant cultural sites. Following your excursion to the temple, you'll check into your hotel. Lunch today is on your own.

Featured Excursion: Temple of Heaven () 🖪 🛱

A UNESCO-designated Site completed in the 15th century, the Temple of Heaven (or Altar of Heaven) symbolizes the relationship between heaven and earth— and the emperor's place within that cosmography. Over the centuries, 22 Ming and Qing emperors fasted within these precincts and made ritual sacrifices at the Altar of Heaven for good harvests. The layout of the 92 buildings—and 6 hundred rooms—and gardens that make up this complex had a symbolic function; the shapes (mostly circular) gave physical expression to aspects of traditional Chinese philosophy and political

worldview. Set amid beautiful parkland and lush pine forest, the buildings are masterpieces of design that exerted a profound influence over all later architectural styles in China. The area became a public park in 1918 and is popular with nearby residents; pause for a moment to admire the fleeting calligraphy painted on the pavement with water or watch the graceful movements of the many locals who practice the ancient art of tai chi here.



Beijing

BBLD

The political and cultural capital of China and home to more than 20 million people, Beijing exemplifies everything visitors find most intoxicating about China: spectacular ancient monuments contrast with ambitious modern high-rises, and traditional crafts flourish alongside booming international businesses. Exquisite art, stunning UNESCO sites, serene parks, and teeming streets all contribute to the unique flavor of this astonishing city.

Featured Excursion: The Great Wall ④ 🎜 🚍

Stretching 5.500 miles (8.850 kilometers) through northern China–for comparison purposes, remember that the United States is about 3,000 miles (4,828 kilometers) wide-the Great Wall is the longest manmade structure on earth. The wall was begun in the third century BC as a way to keep out hostile invaders from the north; it proved so stalwart a defense that generations of warlords and emperors maintained and extended it, although it was never a continuous barrier. The section north of Beijing, on your itinerary for today, dates mostly to the Ming Dynasty. Now that its military purposes are firmly in the past, you may clamber up the steps and take a memorable walk along this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its stone and tamped-earth pathway offers an extraordinarily peaceful and awe-inspiring setting with expansive and magical mountain views.

Did You Know? Legend says that the mortar holding the wall's stones together was made of human bones. But legend lies-tests show that the mortar was made with rice flour.

Notes:

FREASURES of CHINA

DAY

Featured Excursion:

Kung Fu show at Beijing's Red Theatre 🕒 🖪 🚍

As the nation's cultural center, Beijing draws China's finest and most creative artists and performers from all over the country. Here's your chance to experience a remarkable combination of traditional martial arts and modern stage craft as you watch the country's best young performers (their average age is just 17) display their kung fu prowess, blended with acrobatics and dance theater. The action is breathtaking and the drama is poignant—and all of it is set off by costumes, set design, and special effects created by some of the best stage directors and designers in China. The actors don't speak, but you'll find English supertitles above the stage to keep you informed of the story line. This spectacular performance is truly the best in Beijing.



Featured Excursions:

Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, and *hutongs* tour with home-hosted lunch

Tiananmen Square, the center of contemporary civic life in Beijing, was first laid out in 1651. Over the centuries the enormous square has been the scene of imperial ceremonies, political demonstrations, parades, and, in 2008, the Olympic opening festivities. Now surrounded by Communist monuments, including Mao Zedong's mausoleum (note the long line of people waiting to get in for a brief glimpse of the Chairman's remains), it is the gateway to the Forbidden City. Take a moment to pose with your fellow guests for a complimentary group photo to commemorate your visit. As you pass through Tiananmen Gate, also known as the Gate of Heavenly Peace, you step into one of Beijing's treasures, the Forbidden City. For over five hundred years the Forbidden City was home to the emperors and empresses of China, a place none could enter without imperial permission (hence its name), but in 1925 it became the Palace Museum-an institution noted for its unparalleled collections of Ming and Qing Dynasty treasures. The UNESCO-designated palace complex, with its temples, pavilions, courtyards, and gardens (covering some one hundred acres), offers visitors a glimpse into the lives and rituals of China's imperial families, as well as some of the world's most outstanding architecture and design.

Expand your experience of Beijing's amazing culture with a visit to the *hutongs*, the historic residential neighborhoods that developed around the Forbidden City during the 15th century. Traditional multigenerational homes built around courtyards line the narrow lanes, along with tiny shops selling everything from luxury goods to everyday necessities. Not only are the sights along these winding streets fascinating, but you'll get to see them in the most traditional way—via rickshaw. What's behind the doors of these homes? Find out as you join a local family for a typical Chinese luncheon in their home.

Did You Know? One lavish courtyard house, built by a powerful 18th-century courtier, inspired the setting for China's most famous novel, Hónglou Mèng, or Dream of the Red Chamber, which was made into one of China's most popular TV series in 1987.

Featured Excursion:

Peking duck Farewell Dinner with complimentary wine

Emperors were the first to enjoy this classic preparation of slow-roasted, crispy-skinned duck; in fact, the first mention of this delicacy dates back to the imperial kitchens in 1330, and it became eponymous with Beijing—or Peking, as it was then known—in the 1450s. Tonight it's your turn to enjoy Beijing's succulent signature dish, complete with complimentary wine.



Depart Beijing

Today, you'll be transferred to Beijing Airport for your flight home. Or continue the journey of a lifetime with a four-day Hong Kong extension.

Note: Visit uniworld.com for visa information in the "Before You Go" section.

Note: Order of sightseeing may change throughout the itinerary. Substitute visits to other sites may occur during your trip due to water levels, closures because of public holidays, or other uncontrollable factors.

Note: All extras, such as Tour Manager tips, Century Cruises onboard crew tips, bottled water, drinks, telephone calls, laundry, and items of a personal nature, are not included in the cost of the trip.

Notes:

REASURES of CHINA



China, Tibet & the Yangtze

Beijing to Shanghai | 14 Days

Experience a soul-enriching journey every step of the way on this UNESCO World Heritagerich program

This is a trip that will reward your senses. You'll begin this adventure in world-class Beijing, then travel to some of the region's most sacred, idyllic, and awe-inspiring sites before heading into bustling Shanghai. From manmade wonders to natural splendor, you'll experience the grand sweep of ancient and modern China on this extraordinary expedition.

Lhasa means "place of the gods," and Lhasa—the ancient capital city of Tibet—feels holy indeed. It is the soul of the region, in existence since the 17th century and ruled by the Dalai Lamas from the early 1600s to 1959. After your visits to Beijing, Xi'an, and Tibet, you'll set sail on the most scenic passage of the magnificent Yangtze River, where you'll enjoy special tours of the Goddess Stream, a tributary of the Yangtze, and the monumental Three Gorges Dam. Throughout the trip you'll witness the Yin and Yang of life in China: the extraordinary balance of burgeoning urban centers and the spiritual Shangri-la of Tibet.



Beijing

Arrive in Beijing and be greeted by a Uniworld representative who will escort you to your hotel.

2 Beijing O BB L WD

The political and cultural capital of China (and home to more than 20 million people), Beijing exemplifies everything visitors find most intoxicating about China: spectacular ancient monuments contrast with ambitious modern high-rises, and traditional crafts flourish alongside booming international businesses. Exquisite art, stunning UNESCO sites, serene parks, and teeming streets all contribute to the unique flavor of this astonishing city.

Featured Excursions: Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, and *hutongs* tour with home-hosted lunch ④ 🖗 🖴

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Beijing

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Featured Excursion: The Great Wall ④ 🎜 🚍

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Did You Know? Legend says that the mortar holding the wall's stones together was made of human bones. But legend lies-tests show that the mortar was made with rice flour.

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Beijing, fly to Xi'an

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Featured Excursion:

Temple of Heaven and Beijing Zoo giant panda visit () 🕼 🚍

A UNESCO-designated Site completed in the 15th century, the Temple of Heaven (or Altar of Heaven) symbolizes the relationship between heaven and earth-and the emperor's place within that cosmography. Over the centuries, 22 Ming and Qing emperors fasted within these precincts and made ritual sacrifices at the Altar of Heaven for good harvests. The layout of the 92 buildings-containing some 6 hundred rooms-and gardens that make up this complex had a symbolic function; the shapes (mostly circular) gave physical expression to aspects of traditional Chinese philosophy and political worldview. Set amid beautiful parkland and lush pine forest, the buildings are masterpieces of design that exerted a profound influence over all later architectural styles in China. The area became a public park in 1918 and is popular with nearby residents; pause for a moment to watch the graceful movements of the many locals who practice the ancient art of tai chi here.

Notes:

China's iconic giant pandas are next on the agenda, as you stop at the Beijing Zoo's panda houses for a glimpse of these fascinating and endangered creatures.

You can't visit China without visiting a silk carpet workshop and learning how a tiny worm became a precious and much sought-after commodity around the world. Many carpets are machine-made today, but hand-woven examples can still be readily found—though for a higher price because the quality is superior. You'll notice that the use of bright colors, as well as traditional symbols like the phoenix and the dragon, are still very common. To accentuate the design, sometimes the pile is carefully cut to create a difference in the surface level. adding to the carpet's sculptural quality.

After lunch, you'll fly to the ancient city of Xi'an. Your introduction to the ancient capital of China starts with a gustatory encounter with Xi'an's famous dumplings.

Featured Excursion: Traditional Dumpling Banquet 🕚 🖪 🚍

Relish the delights of a traditional Xi'an dumpling dinner in the city widely considered the home of this savory tidbit. Traditionally reserved for special occasions (perhaps because making them can be so labor-intensive), each little dumpling is a delectable work of art-and, after all, your visit to Xi'an is surely a special occasion, so you deserve every one of the 16 different kinds of dumplings that will be served.



0 BB L D

Xi'an was the imperial capital for 10 ancient dynasties, achieving its greatest renown under the Tang Dynasty (618-907), when it was a great international metropolis and the eastern terminus of the legendary Silk Road. Today it is the capital of Shaanxi Province and most famous for a museum devoted to the Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses.

Did You Know? The Silk Road stretched more than 4.000 miles (6,437 kilometers) from the Mediterranean to Xi'an and included seaports in India. Silk was not the only item to travel along these routes-the Black Death, a plague that killed a third of Europe's inhabitants, was also carried from city to city on the Silk Road in the 14th century.

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In 1974 a farmer digging a well stumbled upon one of the 20th century's most astonishing archaeological finds: a massive army of terra-cotta figures that stand guard over the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang (259-210 BC). Though thousands of members of this army have been excavated so far, many more remain; work uncovering the tomb complex continues, with the emperor's tomb chamber itself yet to be revealed. Terra-cotta acrobats, musicians, and officials were also created to accompany the emperor in the afterlife; all are now on display at a museum devoted to this incredible find. Each life-sized figure is unique-no mass production for those ancient craftsmen!—and as you explore the museum, you'll be amazed by the intricacy of the workmanship. This terra-cotta army was by no means Qin Shi Huang's only bequest to China: It might be fair to say that he created the nation of China, itself. He unified a vast swath of the country and established the administrative systems that governed China until 1911. In fact, he even gave his dynasty's name to the nation. Qin is pronounced "chin." and it is from this name that the modern word "China" comes.

Your day's adventures don't end here: You'll also have a chance to examine the massive 15th-century defensive structure built around the city core by the first Ming emperor, China's oldest and best-preserved city wall, and visit the Jade Carving Center, or Jade Factory, as it's also known, where you can watch artisans at work carving their designs and learn what to look for when buving this special stone.

Featured Excursion: Tang Dynasty dinner show 🕚 🖪 🚍

Xi'an reached its apex during the Tang Dynasty, when Tang emperors laid out a city that became a model for Chinese urban development, so the era holds a special place in the hearts of Xi'an's citizens. A traditional Chinese dinner, complete with a milky rice wine that is served warm, is accompanied by a lavishly staged cultural performance that pays tribute to the music, folk dance, and beautiful silk costumes of the Tang era. The performance you'll see is rooted in early folk

celebrations that honored the harvest and it blends ancient music and movements to visually express the splendor of the Chinese civilization.

day 6

Xi'an, fly to Lhasa

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Today, you'll fly to Lhasa, the ancient cultural and religious center of Tibet—where you may feel as though you're on top of the world. Today's lunch will be on your own.

Upon arrival in Lhasa, you'll check in to your accommodations and have time to relax before enjoying dinner at the hotel.



High on the Tibetan Plateau, Lhasa, the cultural and historical capital of Tibet, is both a thriving modern town and a mystical destination of pilgrimage.

Featured Excursions: Jokhang Temple and Tibet Museum () 🕅 🛱

Gold-domed Jokhang Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the holiest temple in the holy city, contains the most revered icon of Tibetan Buddhism, a seventh-century statue of Buddha known as the Jowo Sakyamuni. Throughout the day you can see Tibetan pilgrims following the sacred circuit, some prostrating themselves every few feet, that leads to this statue. Inside this beautiful building, which incorporates Indian, Chinese, and Nepalese architectural elements, you'll find restored sculptures (a reminder of the struggles Tibet has endured), ritual paintings on silk called *thangka*, and 18th- and 19th-century murals. The extraordinary beauty of the place is made all the more ethereal by dramatic views of Potala Palace looming above the temple and the surrounding snowcapped mountains.

You'll learn more about the history of the region and traditional Tibetan life as you tour the Tibet Museum, which houses a rich collection of prehistoric artifacts, some dating back 50 thousand years. The museum is a modern building (it opened in 1999) that fuses traditional Chinese and Tibetan architecture. You'll also get a taste of daily contemporary life as you visit a Lhasa family's home, and then savor dinner accompanied by a traditional folk show.

Did You Know? Legend has it that the site of the temple was the gateway to both the underworld and the heart of a demon that sleeps under Tibet.



Lhasa

Featured Excursion: Potala Palace () 🕅 🚍

Potala's two palaces, the Red and the White, perched 12,100 feet (3,700 meters) above the valley floor, dominate Lhasa. Originally built in 637, the existing palace—vast and beautifully preserved—dates to the 17th century. Now designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it was the seat of Tibet's government and the winter residence of the Dalai Lama for centuries. As you wander through its rooms (there are over a thousand), you'll discover chapels, prayer halls, tombs, altars (where pilgrims still make offerings), and priceless collections of jade, porcelain, silver, and paintings.

Featured Excursion: Sera Monastery ① 🖪 🚍

Founded in 1419, this important Gelugpa monastery, located just outside Lhasa at the base of Mt. Phurbuchok, once housed more than five thousand monks, who traveled from all over Tibet to study at one of the monastery's three great colleges. The monastery was shut down in 1959 and used for a time as an army barracks, but monks were permitted to return to Sera in the 1980s. They have rebuilt much of the monastery, and today they conduct daily philosophical debates under the watchful eye of Manjashuri, the God of Wisdom, in the courtyard of Sera Je Tratsang temple. As you tour the monastery's numerous temples—each filled with amazing collections of carefully preserved murals and statues of Maitreya, Bodhisattva, and Arhat—you may begin to share the mystical sense of peace espoused by the Buddha and his disciples.



Lhasa, fly to Chongqing, cruising the Yangtze River

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Check out of your hotel and fly to Chongqing, the booming capital of western China. Although Chongqing is a major metropolis, the area is known chiefly for its mountainous landscape and the dense forests that shroud temples, tombs, and caves. Your elegant ship, the *Century Legend*, awaits you here.

Notes:

day 10

Cruising the Yangtze River, Shibaozhai

BB L D

Relax and prepare to be dazzled as your ship carries you through some of the most glorious scenery in the world. Limestone cliffs, sheathed in greenery, loom above the water; mountains, wreathed in mist, tower in the distance. The river itself, deep and powerful, busy and serene, will work its enchantment as it carries you past bucolic fishing villages, hillside rice paddies, ancient cliff carvings, and historic temples.

Optional Excursion:

Fengdu Ghost City 🕕 🎜 🚍

The "Ghost City" combines modern-day representations of demons and eternal damnation with far more ancient temples and statues that depict a uniquely Chinese view of the afterlife, in which the punishment is tailored to fit the crime. A visit to Fengdu offers both lively entertainment and fascinating insight into Taoist beliefs.

Featured Excursion: Shibao Pagoda ()) 🎜

Shibao Pagoda is a temple built directly into the side of a steep peak that is now an island, a result of the rising waters from the Three Gorges Dam. Painted a bright red (the color associated with happiness and good fortune) and featuring an elaborately carved entrance and unusual round windows, the 12-story pagoda is yours to explore. At one time the temple consisted of just the top three stories: the other nine stories were constructed essentially to house the ladder-like staircase that leads up to the top. It's something of a challenge to climb, which may be why legend says reaching the top will make your dreams come true -by your being here, we'd like to think they already have. (Don't worry-there's another, less strenuous way to get to the top: you can take a path up the hill and cross a bridge to the temple.) Shibao Pagoda is, guite simply, magical.

Once back aboard your ship, you will begin sailing toward the Three Gorges, where you'll encounter some of the most celebrated scenery in all of China—including cliffs that rise above you to heights of up to 4,000 feet (1,219 meters). This is a perfect opportunity to take advantage of the ship's decks for unimpeded views of the spectacular surroundings. Enjoy the Captain's Welcome Reception with complimentary wine before dinner. Later, you'll be treated to some evening entertainment.

DAY 11

Cruising the Yangtze River, Goddess Stream

BB L FD

Featured Excursion: Explore Goddess Stream ()) 🖪 -----

Climb aboard a small motorboat and enter a magical landscape today as you drift quietly along the Goddess Stream, a tributary of the Yangtze that flows through some of the most extraordinary scenery in the Three Gorges region. Pristine turguoise waters shimmer and bubble between the sheer cliffs that rise high overhead. Mysterious traces of ancient peoples appear in the cliff faces, including coffins suspended among seemingly unreachable rocks. There are those who believe the goddess of the stream created some of the ravishing peaks you can see from your boat: Does Feifeng Peak look to you like a phoenix about to drink from the stream's waters? Legend says that the goddess transformed a golden phoenix into the mountain. Whether you recognize a similarity or not, there's no denying the enchantment of this region.

Note: Due to water conditions, we may substitute a Shennong Stream boat tour for the Goddess Stream tour.

Optional Excursion: White Emperor City () 🕅 🛱

A temple complex that has become an island linked to the shore by a covered bridge, White Emperor City was once known as the "City of Poems" because so many poets paid tribute to it over the centuries. Though many of the older temples have been submerged by rising waters, China has declared the remaining complex a national heritage site.

You're invited to a special Captain's Farewell Dinner with complimentary wine on this final night of your Yangtze River cruise. After dinner, enjoy evening entertainment.

Notes:



Cruising the Yangtze River, Maoping, Yichang, fly to Shanghai

❀ 圖 → BB L D

Featured Excursion: Three Gorges Dam () 🖪 🚍

Get an up-close view of a contemporary manmade wonder as your ship navigates the five-stage locks of the massive Three Gorges Dam, located in Maoping. Known the world over, the dam harnesses the power of the mighty Yangtze in order to provide electricity to ever-growing China; it is the largest hydropower project ever undertaken. Talk of building such a system first began in 1919, but it wasn't until 1992 that the Chinese congress gave it the go-ahead. It opened in 2006, with the final generators being installed in 2012. The dam is also intended to control flooding on the Yangtze, which has been a severe problem for many centuries. It has not been without controversy, but it is an unparalleled expression of national ambition and a major new national landmark.

After your visit to the dam, you'll fly to Shanghai, where you'll settle into your room and relax over a leisurely buffet dinner at the hotel.



Shanghai

BB L

Nearly 24 million people live in Shanghai, China's largest city. An international economic hub, it has drawn entrepreneurs from all over the world for 150 years. But while Shanghai may be the "city of the future," you can still find remnants of its history in Old Town and the area known as the concessions, which were controlled by European interests in the 19th century.

Featured Excursion:

Shanghai city tour with dim sum lunch

Call it the once and future boomtown. Shanghai, China's onetime window to the West, is once again its commercial capital, and this morning's tour will take you to some of this engaging city's most impressive sights. Begin with a stroll through Old Town—the original walled city, where you will find traditional teahouses, temples, narrow alleyways, and markets—for a taste of historic Shanghai. When you reach the Bund, Shanghai's famed waterfront promenade along the Huangpu River, you encounter the heart of the old colonial concessions: buildings here pay tribute to the English, French, or German consuls and businessmen who owned them. A plethora of art deco buildings demonstrate why Shanghai was known as the Pearl of the Orient in the 1920s. Today's Bund features exuberant street life as well as beautiful architecture. It's also an ideal spot for admiring the views of the Pudong district and its spectacular skyscrapers, among them the tallest building in Asia. Relax over a traditional dim sum lunch—a selection of dumplings, steamed buns, and rice noodle rolls with a variety of fillings—at your hotel.

For an added dose of culture and style, you'll tour a silk factory and learn more about this singular textile; it influenced every aspect of design, from clothing to interiors, and reached every corner of the world.

Check out one of Shanghai's fabulous restaurants for dinner on your own before your included entertainment, the amazing Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe.

Featured Excursion:

Shanghai Acrobats performance 🕒 🛤 🚍

Plates spin, knives fly, Hula hoops get a workout, and agile acrobats perform death-defying leaps and dance across swaying tightropes. As you watch the famous Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe perform their dazzling routines, you'll be stunned by their seemingly impossible, gravity-defying stunts.

Depart Shanghai

DAY

14

You'll check out of your hotel and be transferred to the Shanghai Pudong International Airport for your flight home as your exciting Asian adventure comes to an end—unless you are extending your trip with one of our optional Asian destinations.

Note: Visit uniworld.com for visa information in the "Before You Go" section.

Note: Order of sightseeing may change throughout the itinerary. Substitute visits to other sites may occur during your trip due to water levels, closures because of public holidays, or other uncontrollable factors.

Note: All extras, such as Tour Manager tips, Century Cruises onboard crew tips, bottled water, drinks, telephone calls, laundry, and items of a personal nature, are not included in the cost of the trip.

Notes:



Grand China & the Yangtze

Beijing to Hong Kong | 18 Days

Experience the best of China—from its bustling cities to its breathtaking natural splendors—all in one grand journey

This is the voyage to experience the grand sweep of ancient and modern China in one extraordinary expedition. You'll visit the world-class cities of Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. You'll see monumental manmade wonders like the Great Wall and the Terracotta Warriors and Horses. You'll explore the natural splendor of Suzhou, one of the country's most beautiful water towns, and the stunning karst mountains of Guilin.

Whether touring the cities or sailing the magnificent Yangtze and Li rivers, you'll be immersed in a landscape made famous by Chinese artists—and even more famous by the Westerners who visited and returned with glorious tales of the exotic Far East. But the sensory indulgences don't stop at the eyes. Throughout the tour you'll enjoy outstanding culinary pleasures, including Peking duck, dumplings, dim sum, and a Tang Dynasty dinner that will include a special performance. You'll be awed by the many facets of China and inspired by its people.



Beijing

Arrive in Beijing and be greeted by a Uniworld representative who will escort you to your hotel.

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The political and cultural capital of China (and home to more than 20 million people), Beijing exemplifies everything visitors find most intoxicating about China: spectacular ancient monuments contrast with ambitious modern high-rises, and traditional crafts flourish alongside booming international businesses. Exquisite art, stunning UNESCO sites, serene parks, and teeming streets all contribute to the unique flavor of this astonishing city.

Featured Excursions: Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, and foot massage ④ 🎜 🚍

Tiananmen Square, the center of contemporary civic life in Beijing, was first laid out in 1651. Over the centuries the enormous square has been the scene of imperial ceremonies, political demonstrations, parades, and, in 2008, the Olympic opening festivities. Now surrounded by Communist monuments, including Mao Zedong's mausoleum (note the long line of people waiting to get in for a brief glimpse of the Chairman's remains), it is the gateway to the Forbidden City. Take a moment to pose with your fellow guests for a complimentary group photo to commemorate your visit. As you pass through Tiananmen Gate, also known as the Gate of Heavenly Peace, and step into one of Beijing's treasures, the Forbidden City. For over five hundred years the Forbidden City was home to the emperors and empresses of China, a place none could enter without imperial permission (hence its name), but in 1925 it became the Palace Museum-an institution noted for its unparalleled collections of Ming and Qing Dynasty treasures. The UNESCO-designated palace complex, with its temples, pavilions, courtyards, and gardens (covering some one hundred acres), offers visitors a glimpse into the lives and rituals of China's imperial families, as well as some of the world's most outstanding architecture and design.

And what better way to finish a walking tour than with a traditional Chinese foot massage? You'll feel relaxed and pampered and ready to enjoy an evening in Beijing after indulging in one of the most delightful customs to be found in China.

Did You Know? One lavish courtyard house, built by a powerful 18th-century courtier, inspired the setting for China's most famous novel, Hónglou Mèng, or Dream of the Red Chamber, which was made into one of China's most popular TV series in 1987.

Featured Excursion:

Peking duck Welcome Dinner with complimentary wine 🕒 🕅 🖴

Emperors were the first to enjoy this classic preparation of slow-roasted, crispy-skinned duck; in fact, the first mention of this delicacy dates back to the imperial kitchens in 1330, and it became eponymous with Beijing—or Peking, as it was then known—in the 1450s. Tonight it's your turn to enjoy Beijing's succulent signature dish, complete with complimentary wine.

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Featured Excursion: The Great Wall 🌒 Ӣ 🚍

Stretching 5,500 miles (8,850 kilometers) through northern China-for comparison purposes, remember that the United States is about 3.000 miles (4.828 kilometers) wide-the Great Wall is the longest manmade structure on earth. The wall was begun in the third century BC as a way to keep out hostile invaders from the north; it proved so stalwart a defense that generations of warlords and emperors maintained and extended it, although it was never a continuous barrier. The section north of Beijing, on your itinerary for today, dates mostly to the Ming Dynasty. Now that its military purposes are firmly in the past, you may clamber up the steps and take a memorable walk along this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its stone and tamped-earth pathway offers an extraordinarily peaceful and awe-inspiring setting with expansive and magical mountain views.

Did You Know? Legend says that the mortar holding the wall's stones together was made of human bones. But legend lies-tests show that the mortar was made with rice flour.

Featured Excursion:

Kung Fu show at Beijing's Red Theatre 🕒 🔝 🚍

As the nation's cultural center, Beijing draws China's finest and most creative artists and performers from all over the country. Here's your chance to experience a remarkable combination of traditional martial arts and modern stage craft as you watch the country's best young performers (their average age is just 17) display their kung fu prowess, blended with acrobatics and dance theater. The action is breathtaking and the drama is poignant—and all of it is set off by costumes, set design, and special effects created by some of the best stage directors and designers in China. The actors don't speak, but you'll find English supertitles above the stage to keep you informed of the story line. This spectacular performance is the best in Beijing.

Beijing DAY 4 0

Featured Excursion: Temple of Heaven 🕕 🖪 🖴

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A UNESCO-designated Site completed in the 15th century, the Temple of Heaven (or Altar of Heaven) symbolizes the relationship between heaven and earth-and the emperor's place within that cosmography. Over the centuries, 22 Ming and Qing emperors fasted within these precincts and made ritual sacrifices at the Altar of Heaven for good harvests. The layout of the 92 buildings-containing some 6 hundred rooms-and gardens that make up this complex had a symbolic function; the shapes (mostly circular) gave physical expression to aspects of traditional Chinese philosophy and political worldview. Set amid beautiful parkland and lush pine forest, the buildings are masterpieces of design that exerted a profound influence over all later architectural styles in China. The area became a public park in 1918 and is popular with nearby residents; pause for a moment to watch the graceful movements of the many locals who practice the ancient art of tai chi here.

You can't visit China without visiting a silk carpet workshop and learning how a tiny worm became a precious and much sought-after commodity around the world. Many carpets are machine-made today, but hand-woven examples can still be readily found-though

Notes:

GRAND CHINA

for a higher price because the quality is superior. You'll notice that the use of bright colors, as well as traditional symbols like the phoenix and the dragon, are still very common. To accentuate the design, sometimes the pile is carefully cut to create a difference in the surface level, adding to the carpet's sculptural quality.

Featured Excursions:

Hutongs tour with home-hosted lunch and boat ride on Shichahai Lake 🕕 🖪 🚍 💳

Expand your experience of Beijing's amazing culture with a visit to the *hutongs*, the historic residential neighborhoods that developed around the Forbidden City during the 15th century. Traditional multigenerational homes built around courtyards line the narrow lanes, along with tiny shops selling everything from luxury goods to everyday necessities. Not only are the sights along these winding streets fascinating, but you'll get to see them in the most traditional way—via rickshaw. What's behind the doors of these homes? Find out as you join a local family for a typical Chinese luncheon in their home.

Your day's adventure offers another scenic destination near the *hutongs*, Shichahai Lake, which provides a lovely respite from the city bustle. Take a seat in a rowboat and drift past the historic mansions and pleasure gardens that line the shores of the three ornamental lakes collectively known as Shichahai. A beloved ice-skating spot in the winter, the lake is also delightful in the warmer months; people line its banks, placing flickering candles in little paper boats and launching them on the water. The festive atmosphere invites you to imagine yourself back in the days of the Ming or Yuan dynasties.

Tonight's dinner will be on your own.

Did You Know? The song may claim that there are nine million bicycles in Beijing, but that number has been steadily dropping as residents switch to cars. Estimates are that only about 17 percent of the population bikes these days, down from 60 percent just a dozen years ago.



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Leave Beijing today and fly to the ancient city of Xi'an.

The imperial capital for 10 ancient dynasties, Xi'an achieved its greatest renown under the Tang Dynasty (618-907), when it was a great international metropolis and the eastern terminus of the legendary Silk Road. Today it is the capital of Shaanxi Province and most famous for a museum devoted to the Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses.

Featured Excursion: Welcome Ceremony () 🕅 🚍

During the Tang Dynasty, high-ranking guests were greeted at the North Gate of the massive city wall with a special ceremony. Today you'll be welcomed into the city with a re-creation of that ceremony as you are ushered down the red carpet and through the vermilion doors of the gate. You'll also explore the massive 15th-century defensive structure built around the city by the first Ming emperor; it is China's oldest and best-preserved city wall.

Featured Excursion: Tang Dynasty dinner show () 🕅 🚍

Xi'an reached its apex during the Tang Dynasty, when Tang emperors laid out a city that became a model for Chinese urban development, so the era holds a special place in the hearts of Xi'an's citizens. A traditional Chinese dinner, complete with a milky rice wine that is served warm, is accompanied by a lavishly staged cultural performance that pays tribute to the music, folk dance, and beautiful silk costumes of the Tang era. The performance you'll see is rooted in early folk celebrations that honored the harvest and it blends ancient music and movements to visually express the splendor of the Chinese civilization.

Did You Know? The Silk Road stretched more than 4,000 miles (6,437 kilometers) from the Mediterranean to Xi'an and included seaports in India. Silk was not the only item to travel along these routes—the Black Death, a plague that killed a third of Europe's inhabitants, was also carried from city to city on the Silk Road in the 14th century.



Xi'an

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Featured Excursion:

Museum of the Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses

In 1974 a farmer digging a well stumbled upon one of the 20th century's most astonishing archaeological finds: a massive army of terra-cotta figures that stand guard over the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang (259-210 BC). Though thousands of members

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of this army have been excavated so far, many more remain; work uncovering the tomb complex continues, with the emperor's tomb chamber itself yet to be revealed. Terra-cotta acrobats. musicians. and officials were also created to accompany the emperor in the afterlife; all are now on display at a museum devoted to this incredible find. Each life-sized figure is unique-no mass production for those ancient craftsmen!--and as you explore the museum, you'll be amazed by the intricacy of the workmanship. This terra-cotta army was by no means Qin Shi Huang's only bequest to China: It might be fair to say that he created the nation of China, itself. He unified a vast swath of the country and established the administrative systems that governed China until 1911. In fact, he even gave his dynasty's name to the nation. Qin is pronounced "chin." and it is from this name that the modern word "China" comes.

Then it's on to the Jade Carving Center, or Jade Factory, as it's also known. Jade has been cherished in China for 10 thousand years; it is valued for its intrinsic beauty, of course, but it also has tremendous symbolic meaning. Watch artisans carving intricate designs and learn what to look for when buying this special stone.

Featured Excursion: Traditional Dumpling Banquet () 🕅 🚔

At the end of a day immersed in cultural history (and sheer artistic beauty), enjoy the delights of a traditional Xi'an dumpling dinner in the city widely considered the home of this savory tidbit. Traditionally reserved for special occasions (perhaps because making them can be so labor-intensive), each little dumpling is a delectable work of art—and, after all, your visit to Xi'an is surely a special occasion, so you deserve every one of the 16 different kinds of dumplings that will be served.

day 7

Xi'an, fly to Shanghai, Tongli, Suzhou **①** ➡ → BB L D

You'll fly from Xi'an to Shanghai and then travel to Tongli, en route to Suzhou.

Featured Excursion: Tongli city tour () 🖪 🚍

Idyllic Tongli shows you a storybook China, one without automobiles. One of the best-preserved of eastern China's famous water villages, Tongli, built on seven islands, boasts a picturesque collection of ancient bridges crisscrossing meandering canals. Willows dip their leaves into the water, and boatmen pole along the canals accompanied by cormorants that ride on the prows of the little boats. You can imagine that you have stepped into the past as you stroll through its narrow alleyways, passing enchanting teahouses and handsome period houses.

A short journey from Tongli takes you to Suzhou. It's a major city with a modern skyline, but it boasts a 2,500-year-old historic core with world-famous gardens and gentle waterways.

Featured Excursion: Evening performance in a traditional garden () 🕅 🚍

Discover the romance of an exquisite Suzhou garden this evening, as you enjoy an enchanting performance of traditional music and dance in a perfect setting. The Master of the Nets garden, originally laid out in the 12th century and brought back to life in the 18th by a retired government official, is considered one of the country's most perfect residential gardens, so called because the grounds both enhance and conceal a residence. With its graceful pagodas and lily-dotted reflecting pools, the Master of the Nets garden—the smallest of Suzhou's famous gardens—is a paragon of proportion, conveying an air of spaciousness by perfectly framing views.



Suzhou, Shanghai

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Featured Excursions: Humble Administrator's Garden and Embroidery Research Institute visit ④ 🖟 🚍

The world-renowned Humble Administrator's Garden is, at more than 12 acres (5 hectares), the city's largest and most significant garden. Dating to 1509, it has been home to a scholar, a poet, a military official, and a merchant, and at one point it served as a monastery. Each owner altered and cultivated the garden to express an idealized philosophical worldview in a private setting, so its design synthesizes traditional Chinese ideas about art, nature, and philosophy. Every pond, bridge, stone, and carefully planned view is intended to convey a specific meaning. Today the garden is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the definitive expression of Chinese classical garden design.

Learn more about China's traditional arts at the nearby Embroidery Research Institute, which is located in a garden house known as the Mountain Villa with Embracing Beauty. Established in 1957, the institute guards the two-thousand-year-old legacy of Suzhoustyle embroidery by training modern craftspeople in the old techniques. Suzhou was once a capital of the silk trade. During your visit, you'll have the opportunity to purchase handmade pieces to take home with you.

You'll return to Shanghai and check into the hotel where you'll enjoy a delicious dinner.

Did You Know? Suzhou owes its ancient prosperity to the Grand Canal, the longest canal in the world. Major work on it commenced in the seventh century; it ultimately grew to 1,200 miles (1,931 kilometers) and linked most of China's great rivers, including the Yangtze and the Yellow. It still flows through the city.



Shanghai

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Nearly 24 million people live in Shanghai, China's largest city. An international economic hub, it has drawn entrepreneurs from all over the world for 150 years. But while" Shanghai may be the "city of the future," you can still find remnants of its history in Old Town and the area known as the concessions, which were controlled by European interests in the 19th century.

Featured Excursion: Shanghai city tour with dim sum lunch ④ 🕼 🚍

Call it the once and future boomtown. Shanghai, China's onetime window to the West, is once again its commercial capital, and this morning's tour will take you to some of this engaging city's most impressive sights. Begin with a stroll through Old Town—the original walled city, where you will find traditional teahouses, temples, narrow alleyways, and markets—for a taste of historic Shanghai. When you reach the Bund, Shanghai's famed waterfront promenade along the Huangpu River, you encounter the heart of the old colonial concessions: buildings here pay tribute to the English, French, or German consuls and businessmen who owned them. A plethora of art deco buildings demonstrate why Shanghai was known as the Pearl of the Orient in the 1920s. Today's Bund features exuberant street life as well as beautiful architecture. It's also an ideal spot for admiring the views of the Pudong district and its spectacular skyscrapers, among them the tallest building in Asia.

What would a visit to Shanghai be without a traditional dim sum lunch? Relax at your hotel over a delectable selection of savory dumplings, steamed buns, and rice noodle rolls with a variety of fillings.

For an added dose of culture and style, you'll tour a silk factory and learn more about this singular textile; it influenced every aspect of design, from clothing to interiors, and reached every corner of the world.

Featured Excursion: Shanghai Acrobats performance () 🕅 🚍

After dinner on your own, experience spinning plates, flying knives, and whirling Hula-hoops as agile acrobats dance across swaying tight ropes and perform deathdefying leaps. You'll be truly dazzled as the famous Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe performs their astonishing, gravity-defying routines.



Shanghai, fly to Yichang

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Featured Excursion: Shanghai Museum 🕒 🚮 🚍

In a stellar example of form following function, the Shanghai Museum is designed to resemble an ancient Chinese bronze ding, or footed cooking vessel. The museum houses an equally stellar collection of jade carvings; ancient bronzes, dating mostly to the Shang and Zhou periods (making them thousands of years old); exquisite examples of calligraphy arranged in chronological order to reveal the history of the art; masterpieces of classical painting; and a superlative group of Ming and Qing furniture. No one interested in ancient Chinese art should miss this splendid collection.

Today's lunch is on your own: select one of the many cuisines available in this international city.

From Shanghai you'll fly to Yichang, where you'll board your elegant ship, the *Century Legend*, and begin your journey on the magnificent Yangtze River. The next few days will offer unparalleled visual splendor as you sail through some of the most extraordinary and dramatic landscapes in the world.

day 11

Maoping, Cruising the Yangtze River

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The Yangtze is the third-longest river in the world (only the Nile and the Amazon are longer), and the days you spend onboard your ship will show you some of its most beautiful sights. Limestone cliffs, sheathed in greenery, loom above the water; mountains, wreathed in mist, tower in the distance. The river itself, deep and powerful, busy and serene, will work its enchantment as it carries you past bucolic fishing villages, hillside rice paddies, ancient cliff carvings, and historic temples. Relax and prepare to be dazzled.

Optional Excursion:

Tribe of the Three Gorges 🕚 🚮

You'll find a living-history site as beautiful as it is interesting in this re-creation of traditional village life: stilt houses stand above the river; fishermen in traditional garb pole along in their little boats; and women wash clothes in the stream. The setting is spectacular, and the folk performances haunting.

Featured Excursion: Three Gorges Dam () 🚯 🚍

Get an up-close view of a contemporary manmade wonder as your ship navigates the five-stage locks of the massive Three Gorges Dam, located in Maoping. Known the world over, the dam harnesses the power of the mighty Yangtze in order to provide electricity to ever-growing China; it is the largest hydropower project ever undertaken. Talk of building such a system first began in 1919, but it wasn't until 1992 that the Chinese congress gave it the go-ahead. It opened in 2006, with the final generators being installed in 2012. The dam is also intended to control flooding on the Yangtze, which has been a severe problem for many centuries. It has not been without controversy, but it is an unparalleled expression of national ambition and a major new national landmark.

You are invited to a Captain's Welcome Reception before dinner. Later, enjoy evening entertainment.

Did You Know? Its name means "the long river," and it flows almost 4,000 miles (6,437 kilometers) from its headwaters on the Tibetan Plateau to its mouth at the East China Sea. The Yangtze is not just China's longest river: its waters irrigate about half the food grown in the country, and around 400 million people depend upon it for fresh water.



Cruising the Yangtze River, Goddess Stream

Featured Excursion: Explore Goddess Stream () 🕅 🛲

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Climb aboard a small motorboat and enter a magical landscape today as you drift quietly along the Goddess Stream, a tributary of the Yangtze that flows through some of the most extraordinary scenery in the Three Gorges region. Pristine turquoise waters shimmer and bubble between the sheer cliffs that rise high overhead. Mysterious traces of ancient peoples appear in the cliff faces, including coffins suspended among seemingly unreachable rocks. There are those who believe the goddess of the stream created some of the ravishing peaks you can see from your boat: Does Feifeng Peak look to you like a phoenix about to drink from the stream's waters? Legend says that the goddess transformed a golden phoenix into the mountain. Whether you recognize a similarity or not, there's no denying the enchantment of this region.

Note: Due to water conditions, we may substitute a Shennong Stream boat tour for the Goddess Stream tour.

Optional Excursion: White Emperor City () 🕅 🛱

A temple complex that has become an island linked to the shore by a covered bridge, White Emperor City was once known as the "City of Poems" because so many poets paid tribute to it over the centuries. Though many of the older temples have been submerged by rising waters, China has declared the remaining complex a national heritage site.

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Cruising the Yangtze River, Shibaozhai

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Featured Excursion: Shibao Pagoda ()) 🎜

Shibao Pagoda is a temple built directly into the side of a steep peak that is now an island, a result of the rising waters from the Three Gorges Dam. Painted a bright red (the color associated with happiness and good fortune) and featuring an elaborately carved entrance and unusual round windows, the 12-story pagoda is yours to explore. At one time the temple consisted of just the top three stories; the other nine stories were constructed essentially to house the ladder-like staircase that leads up to the top. It's something of a challenge to climb, which may be why legend says reaching the top will make your dreams come true—by your being here, we'd like to think they already have. (Don't worry-there's another, less strenuous way to get to the top: you can take a path up the hill and cross a bridge to the temple.) Shibao Pagoda is, quite simply, magical.

This evening enjoy a Farewell Dinner onboard.



Chongqing, fly to Guilin

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Disembark in the busy port of Chongqing, where you'll hop on your flight to Guilin.

Featured Excursion: Guilin Zoo giant panda visit () 🕅 🚍

Stop at the zoo to see the endangered giant pandas. Enjoy a rare opportunity to see these elusive and endangered gentle giants, China's beloved national symbol. Only a thousand or so pandas are believed to still exist in the wild, and Chinese zoo experts hope that the country's protected reserves will help facilitate successful panda breeding programs.



Guilin, cruising the Li River, Yangshuo

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Poets have long paid tribute to Guilin's extraordinary natural beauty, but terraced hillsides growing rice and tea reveal additional riches; you will have a chance to explore both aspects of this remarkable landscape during your stay.

Featured Excursion: Li River cruise ④ 🕅 🛱 💳

Astonishing conical peaks jut above the serene waters as your boat floats down the meandering Li River toward Yangshuo. Chinese poets and painters have celebrated these mist-wreathed peaks, all that remains of an ancient sea bed, for centuries. Quaint villages, fishermen plying the water in tiny boats, and grazing water buffalo will make you feel that time has stood still in this enchanted place, a world away from the hustle and bustle of modern life. Once you reach Yangshuo, you'll experience a town that has been a leading economic and cultural center since the Tang Dynasty and is now a popular destination for adventure travelers seeking to hike, bike, or climb the nearby peaks.



Guilin, fly to Hong Kong

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Featured Excursion: Tea plantation visit () 🕅 🚍

You've seen them everywhere on your journey—cups filled with pale, delicately scented tea—and have probably sipped your share. It's the most commonly consumed liquid on the planet after water. Today, you'll see just where China's iconic beverage comes from as you visit a tea plantation that dates back four hundred years, when tea was grown there for Ming emperors. Terraced rows of compact shrubs carpet the hillsides; you may even have a chance to see workers harvesting and sorting the leaves the traditional way—by hand.

Featured Excursion: Reed Flute Cave () 🚯 🚍

Some see dragons and other mythological creatures; others see vegetables—and even the Statue of Liberty in the weird shapes created by eons of dripping water. Visitors began marveling at the stalactites and stalagmites of the Reed Flute Cave during the Tang Dynasty, as inscriptions from that era attest. Almost forgotten for a millennium, the cave was rediscovered in the 1940s by refugees seeking to escape Japanese troops. Now the spectacular formations in the limestone cave are illuminated with colored lights that accentuate the wonderful shapes.

Following your visit to the Reed Flute Cave, you'll catch your flight to Hong Kong, China's most dynamic city.

Note: Uniworld works with The Travel Advisers to make sure your visit to Hong Kong, where you will not have a local host, goes smoothly. We arrange transportation to and from the airport and coordinate your city tour, while leaving you with plenty of time to shop and explore on your own.



Hong Kong

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This vertical city, with its hundred-story skyscrapers clinging to the shore of the deep harbor that first attracted international merchants, blends East and West, modern and ancient, in truly unique ways.

Featured Excursion:

Exclusive Hong Kong Island tour with boat ride through Aberdeen Fishing Village () 🕼 🚍 🚥

Reunited with China in 1997 after years of British rule, dynamic Hong Kong reinvents itself constantly. A commercial center that attracts entrepreneurs from all over the world, a shopping mecca offering everything from Gucci handbags and custom tailoring to disposable cell phones, Hong Kong never sleeps. Take a trip to Victoria Peak, the "Mountain of Great Peace," featuring the world's steepest funicular railway, to get a not-to-bemissed panoramic view of the city's glittering skyscrapers, colonial buildings, and romantic harbor. Then ramble through the Aberdeen Fishing Village on the south side of the island for a look at Hong Kong's traditional fishing life, which still survives there. Your tour also includes a nearby gem factory, where you can see artisans at work creating jewelry, and a stop at Stanley Market, the bustling street market long renowned for its excellent bargains.



Depart Hong Kong

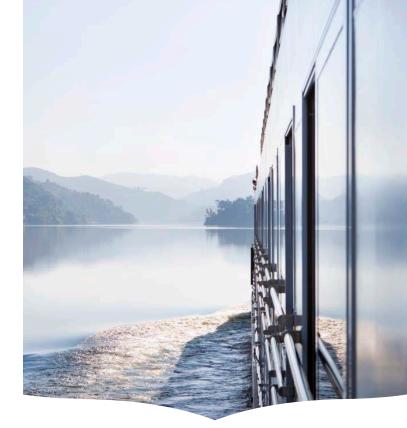
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You've been on the adventure of a lifetime with your grand China tour; today, you will be transferred to the Hong Kong International Airport for your flight home, carrying marvelous memories—and perhaps some wonderful souvenirs as well—with you.

Note: Visit uniworld.com for visa information in the "Before You Go" section.

Note: Order of sightseeing may change throughout the itinerary. Substitute visits to other sites may occur during your trip due to water levels, closures because of public holidays, or other uncontrollable factors.

Note: All extras, such as Tour Manager tips, Century Cruises onboard crew tips, bottled water, drinks, telephone calls, laundry, and items of a personal nature, are not included in the cost of the trip.



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