



# Imperial Jewels of China

*A 5-Star, Comprehensive 13 day/11 night Journey to China including*

TRIPS has created the ultimate lifetime moments tour to China just of you! From Shanghai to Beijing, we've developed an itinerary that includes all the sites you've read about! We invite you to join us on the brand new Century Paragon, whose maiden voyage was in March of 2013. We selected this 5-star ship, the newest cruising the Yangtze River, to make your experience the best! From the indoor swimming pool, spa, cinema and breathtaking 7 story atrium, you'll find the Paragon to be truly luxurious! And it is one of the only ships cruising the Yangtze with a restaurant that offers both Western Cuisine and Chinese Cuisine! In addition, TRIPS has arranged for complimentary cabin upgrades to the Bridge Deck which would come with an additional charge if traveling with other tour companies. As you start your journey in mesmerizing Shanghai, you'll be starting the tour of China that you've always dreamed of! You'll see the legendary Bund, regarded as the symbol of this historic city along with an included performance of Chinese acrobats! Then, cruise through the spectacular Three Gorges on the Yangtze, stand before the Terra Cotta warriors in Xi'an and walk along the Great Wall with its breathtaking views. This truly is the China you've imagined! In Beijing, we have included a Peking Duck dinner and a performance of the Peking Opera which is regarded as a cultural treasure in China! Unlike other tour companies, TRIPS has included this dying art in your tour, and we know you'll agree that it's a must do!

## **Day 1 - Your Journey Begins!**

You board your international flight bound for Shanghai, China!

## **Day 2 - Welcome to Shanghai!**

You'll be met at the **Shanghai** airport by your English speaking guide and assisted with your hotel transfer. You'll have time to unpack, as this will be your home for the next 2 nights!

**Overnight:** Shanghai

## **Day 3 - Old Shanghai**

This morning, you board your motor coach for a tour of the legendary **Bund**, the city's riverfront promenade. You'll enjoy the wonderful view of the **Huangpu River** and the interesting architecture of the modern buildings. You'll visit the **French Concession**, an area that was occupied and governed by the French starting in 1849 for nearly 100 years. You'll learn about its history, architecture and its current use. Then, enjoy a **Dim Sum lunch** in a local restaurant. Next, tour a **silk carpet** workshop for demonstrations of this ancient art form! Tonight, enjoy an **included Chinese Dinner** followed by an amazing **acrobatic show!**

**Overnight:** Shanghai

(B/L/D)

## **Day 4 - From Shanghai to the Yangtze!**

This morning, visit the **Shanghai Museum** with its collection of bronze, ceramic, jade, paintings and seals! The audio tour allows you to view the highlights at your own pace. Later, you'll transfer to the airport for your local **flight to Yichang**, spanning the Yangtze River. On arrival, you'll enjoy a city tour before boarding the deluxe **5-star MV Century Paragon**. With her maiden voyage in 2013, the Paragon sets a new standard of luxury! All cabins have balconies and mini-fridge and the ship features two dining rooms, an indoor pool and cinema!

(B/D)

## **Day 5 - Magnificent Three Gorges Dam!**

Today, you experience the majestic gorges of the Yangtze! The 49 mile **Xiling Gorge**, the longest of the Three Gorges, is the first you encounter and is seen as the most exhilarating part of the river. There is an optional tour to **Tribe of the Three Gorges** which provides an opportunity to glimpse the local life in the Xiling Gorge region. After lunch on board, tour the **Three Gorges Dam** site where you learn about this immense engineering masterpiece and what it means for the Chinese people. Once, boats could only travel by means of trackers—men who pulled the ships by ropes as they walked along the slippery rapids. Now, the scenic gorges are accessible and travelers can delight in the misty beauty of lush greenery, towering cliffs and the vestiges of traditional life along the river's banks! Tonight, attend the Captain's welcome party and dinner followed by entertainment!

(B/L/D)

## **Day 6 - The Breathtaking Three Gorges!**

Today, you'll cruise through the **Wu Gorge**, at 25 miles in length, one of the most enchanting. Weather permitting, you'll take a motorized boat up the **Daning River**, a major tributary of the Yangtze to view the **Lesser 3 Gorges**. This is a truly beautiful excursion! Return to the Century Paragon and continue sailing the **Qutang Gorge**. It is the narrowest and with mountains rising 4,000 feet on each side, this is the most spectacular of the gorges. You'll have an option today to see **Baidicheng**, White Emperor City, a famous historical town that was established nearly 2000 years ago!

(B/L/D)

## **Day 7 - An Ancient Temple!**

This morning, you will visit the **Shibaozhai Temple**, a 12 story wooden pagoda built in 1650 and perched on a sheer cliff high above the Yangtze! This temple is a **gem of Chinese architecture** and was built during the Qing Dynasty. You'll drive through the scenic countryside and see the river from a different angle before returning to the ship and continuing. The afternoon is yours onboard the luxurious Century Paragon to relax, enjoy a massage or watch the water traffic on the great **Yangtze!** This evening, enjoy the **Captain's farewell banquet!**

(B/L/D)

## **Day 8 - See the Pandas!**

You arrive this morning at **Chongqing** where you disembark after breakfast and visit the **Chongqing Zoo** to see the **giant pandas** and other exotic species. You'll then transfer to the airport for your flight to Xi'an. This was once China's key city from the Tang Dynasty. You'll transfer to your hotel

and enjoy dinner here.

**Overnight:** Xi'an

(B/D)

### **Day 9 - The Amazing Terra Cotta Warriors!**

After breakfast, you will tour the amazing **Terra Cotta Museum** and see the underground army pits of the **1st Qin Emperor**. You'll stand in astonishment as you view the more than **8,000 life sized terra cotta warriors**, archers and infantrymen that were buried. Each man, and his horse, is molded with his own distinct features and their solemn assignment was to protect the Emperor Qin Shihuangdi in the afterlife. Discovered in 1974, it is estimated that it took nearly 38 years and 700,000 workers to complete and is one of the most significant archeological finds of our time. After lunch, tour the **Small Wild Goose Pagoda** built during the Tang Dynasty. Tonight, **dinner will include a Tang Dynasty show!**

**Overnight:** Xi'an

(B/L/D)

### **Day 10 - Xi'an has a wall too!**

This morning, you'll tour the **fortifications of Xi'an**, one of the oldest and best preserved Chinese city walls. The existing wall was started by the Ming Dynasty in 1370. After, you'll transfer to the airport and fly to **Beijing**. On arrival, you'll be assisted with your transfer to your 5-star deluxe hotel. Dinner this evening is at a local restaurant. Then, enjoy the **traditional Peking Opera** before returning to your hotel.

**Overnight:** Beijing

(B/D)

### **Day 11 - The Heart of Beijing!**

This morning, visit the enormous **Tiananmen Square**, the world's largest public square, which can accommodate over 1 million people! Just opposite is the **Beijing's Forbidden City**, home to Chinese Emperors since 1420. Nearly 800 buildings and 10,000 rooms make up this amazing site. Its acres of elegant palaces, pavilions, courtyards and gardens served as the imperial palace for nearly five centuries and exemplifies traditional Chinese Imperial architecture. After lunch with families in the **Hutong**, take a **pedicab ride** through Beijing's old hutong (or neighborhood) and Courtyard. You'll learn and experience Chinese culture by seeing some of the few remaining residential areas planned during China's dynastic period.

**Overnight:** Beijing

(B/L/D)

### **Day 12 - Stand on the Great Wall!**

After breakfast, travel to the **Mutianyu** to see one of the most impressive and best preserved sections of the **Great Wall of China!** Walk along its winding path ways and marvel at the magnificent views. Stretching nearly 4,000 miles, it is the largest man-made structure ever built! After enjoying the scenery, take the **cable car down** or for the more adventuresome, take the luge! After lunch in a local restaurant, visit the **Sacred Way**, part of the **Ming Tombs** complex. This tree lined avenue is guarded by massive sculptures of elephants, lions and camels! This evening, say good-bye to China with a **Farewell Peking Duck dinner!**

**Overnight:** Beijing

(B/L/D)

### **Day 13- Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow!**

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel this morning, prior to be transported to the airport in Beijing for your flight home! Your memories of your **"Imperial Jewels of China"** cruise/tour are sure to last a lifetime!

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## **Inclusions**

- Round trip airport transportation
- Round trip international airfare to China
- 5 Day/4 night cruise in your selected stateroom category on board the deluxe, 5-star, Century Paragon. Your Bridge Deck Cabin upgrade is included!
- 2 nights accommodation in a 5-star hotel in Shanghai pre cruise
- 2 night accommodation in a 5-star hotel in Xian
- 3 nights accommodation in a 5-star hotel in Beijing post cruise
- 3 Inter-China Flights
- 11 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches and 10 Dinners which includes "Welcome to China" Dinner and a "Farewell Peking Duck" dinner
- All transfers between airports/ship/hotels with English speaking assistance
- Both Chinese and Western Style cuisine featured while onboard your ship
- All sightseeing tours and daily shore excursions as described in the detailed itinerary including the Shanghai Museum, 3 Gorges Dam, Shiboazhai Pagoda, Chongqing Zoo and the Pandas, Terra Cotta Museum, Small Wild Goose Pagoda, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Hutongs of Beijing, Great Wall, Ming Tombs and more!
- Porterage of 1 suitcase per person on the tour
- All port charges, hotel and air taxes, and fees
- TRIPS ticket wallet & luggage tags

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