



CHINA & THE YANGTZE RIVER

BOOK EARLY AND
SAVE \$200 PP



SMALL GROUP

FEATURING A YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE
SEP 12-28, 2027 | 17 DAYS | 38 MEALS

JOURNEY LEADERS: WENDY AND RON MARSHALL

Traditional cormorant fishing along the Li River

This journey traces a path from the Chinese imperial power centers of the north to the ethereal landscapes and ancient water towns of the south. In the north, we witness the dynastic legacy of the Ming and Qing empires, whose golden-roofed palaces and sacred altars have stood as symbols of authority for centuries. As we travel south, our experiences shift toward China's deep connection with its iconic waterways. Along the banks of the Li and Yangtze rivers, culture is shaped by the dramatic limestone peaks and rural traditions that have inspired poets and scholars for generations. We have designed this tour to balance the grand scale of the Middle Kingdom with the intimate, lived experiences of today. From the quiet rituals of local families in Beijing's ancient alleyways to the vibrant energy of Shanghai's waterfront, you will connect with the people and traditions that define this enduring civilization.

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE LIMITED TO 25 MEMBERS

Tour Highlights

- **UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** Terracotta Army, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Mutianyu Great Wall, Summer Palace, Giant Wild Goose Pagoda, Tian'anmen Square, Humble Administrator's Garden, and Master of the Nets Garden
- **Scenic Cruises & Nature:** Li River and Yangtze River cruises, Suzhou canal excursion, Reed Flute Cave, Yu Garden, Elephant Trunk Hill, and Three Gorges Dam
- **Authentic Cultural Immersion:** Hutong rickshaw tour, private family visit with dumpling-making lesson, Daxu Ancient Town, silk factory, countryside experience in Xi'an, and a cooking demonstration in Yangshuo
- **Spiritual & Artistic Wonders:** Stele Forest Museum, Jade Buddha Temple, and Fengdu Ghost City
- **Captivating Performances:** Tang Dynasty dinner show and Shanghai acrobatic show
- **Urban Exploration:** Shanghai Old Town, Xi'an City Wall, local markets in Beijing, Guilin, and Yangshuo

Journey Leaders

Meet your journey leader, **Wendy Marshall**, a retired science teacher from Woodstock, ON, who loves sharing her love of travel. Since 2019, she has been leading Craig Travel tours, most recently to South Africa, Costa Rica, and Morocco. When not travelling, Wendy lives on a dairy farm with her husband, **Ron**, where they produce their own milk and cheese. In her free time, she enjoys quilting, singing in choirs, and playing the tenor drum in the Ingersoll Pipe Band. Wendy and Ron look forward to welcoming you on this exciting journey!



Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare from Canada to China
- All domestic flights in China
- Accommodation in first-class hotels as indicated
- 3-night deluxe cruise on the Century Victory
- 38 meals included as noted in the itinerary (B - 15 Breakfasts, L - 13 Lunches, D - 10 Dinners)
- Services of your journey leader plus our professional national tour guide
- All surcharges, taxes, and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

Our Riverboat • Century Victory

Sail the Yangtze in style aboard one of its newest ships, the Century Victory. Built in 2022, this sleek, eco-conscious vessel spans seven decks and is staffed by a welcoming, English-speaking crew.

All cabins are designed for comfort and elegance, with most offering private viewing balconies overlooking the Yangtze River. Each room is arranged to create a calm and relaxing atmosphere.

Onboard, guests can enjoy captivating performances in the Century Grand Theatre, unwind in the fitness centre, library, spa, or on the sun deck, and savour meals in the dual-deck Globe Dining Room, VIP Restaurant, and scenic observation areas.



SEP 12, Sunday**CANADA / BEIJING**

Today we depart for Beijing, China.

SEP 13, Monday**BEIJING**

After arriving in Beijing, we transfer to our hotel for dinner.

New Otani Chang Fu Gong Hotel (4 nights)

D

SEP 14, Tuesday**BEIJING**

Our journey starts at Tian'anmen Square, the world's largest public plaza. We then step into the Forbidden City, an ancient complex of golden-roofed palaces home to 24 emperors for over five centuries. We will explore these legendary courtyards to witness the peak of Ming and Qing dynasty power and artistry. Then, we discover the Temple of Heaven, a serene park where Ming and Qing rulers performed rituals to ensure bountiful harvests. We will marvel at the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests, a circular wooden masterpiece built without a single nail.

BL

SEP 15, Wednesday**BEIJING**

Winding through the heart of the city are the hutongs, a network of narrow alleyways central to Beijing's community life for centuries. We will navigate these neighbourhoods by rickshaw to witness daily life and visit with a local family. We will shop at a local market for fresh ingredients, then learn to make Chinese dumplings together for a rewarding family lunch. Later, we visit the Summer Palace, an imperial retreat with China's best-preserved royal garden. We will enjoy a cruise on Kunming Lake for majestic views of the complex.

BL

SEP 16, Thursday**GREAT WALL OF CHINA**

Today's highlight is a visit to the Great Wall of Mutianyu, whose origins date back over 2,000 years to the reign of Emperor Qin. The section we will explore at Mutianyu was built during the Ming Dynasty and is among the best-preserved. Back in Beijing, we stop at the National Stadium, known as the Bird's Nest, for photos before enjoying a special Peking Duck dinner this evening.

BLD

SEP 17, Friday**BEIJING / XI'AN**

Xi'an, once the starting point of the Silk Road, combines the heritage of an ancient capital with the energy of a modern city. After lunch at a local restaurant, we'll head to Hui District to experience rural life and learn about the region's traditional folk-art traditions.

Crowne Plaza Xi'an (2 nights)

BL

SEP 18, Saturday**XI'AN**

Uncovered by chance in 1974, the Terracotta Army is a monumental UNESCO World Heritage Site guarding the tomb of China's first emperor. We will explore massive excavation pits to marvel at thousands of life-size terracotta warriors, archers, and cavalry. Later, we head to the Beilin Museum, a treasure house of Chinese calligraphy and historical records. We then celebrate the region's golden age during a Tang Dynasty dinner show. This immersive performance recreates the prosperity of ancient Chang'an through traditional music, colourful dance, and acting.

BLD

SEP 19, Sunday**XI'AN / GUILIN**

We visit the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built over 1,300 years ago to house sacred Buddhist scriptures brought from India. Next, we explore the Xi'an City Wall, one of the oldest and best-preserved military defence systems in the world. Standing atop this massive rectangular fortification, we can admire the contrast between the ancient city centre and the modern skyline stretching beyond. Late this afternoon, we transfer to the airport for our flight to the scenic city of Guilin.

Sheraton Guilin Hotel (2 nights)

BL

SEP 20, Monday**GUILIN**

Our day begins at Daxu Ancient Town, a historic riverside settlement where cobblestone streets and traditional wooden houses offer a glimpse into the local lifestyle. We



The Great Wall of China



Discover the Forbidden City



See the impressive Terracotta Warriors



Shanghai's iconic skyline

continue to the city's iconic symbol, Elephant Trunk Hill, named for its striking resemblance to a giant elephant drinking from the Li River. We then step into the natural wonder of Reed Flute Cave, a spectacular cavern illuminated by dramatic rock formations that have inspired travellers since the Tang Dynasty. BLD

SEP 21, Tuesday GUILIN / YANGSHUO

We board a scenic cruise along the Li River, a journey defined by dramatic limestone peaks and lush bamboo groves. As we sail toward Yangshuo, we will enjoy lunch on board while passing traditional fishing villages and paddy fields. Upon arrival, we wander around town before visiting a local school for a cooking demonstration and a shared dinner. **Green Lotus Hotel** (1 night) BLD

SEP 22, Wednesday YANGSHUO / GUILIN / CHONGQING

A high-speed train takes us from Guilin to the mountain city of Chongqing. After embarkation, the festive Captain's Welcome Reception marks the beginning of our Yangtze River cruise. **Century Victory** (3 nights) BD

SEP 23, Thursday YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE

Our first shore excursion brings us to Fengdu Ghost City, a hillside complex of temples and statues overlooking the river. This legendary site portrays the Chinese afterlife through a vivid blend of Taoist and Buddhist lore, featuring mythological demons and scenes of moral justice. We return to the ship for an entertaining onboard show. BLD

SEP 24, Friday YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE

Dramatic scenery awaits as we sail through Qutang Gorge, the shortest yet grandest of the Three Gorges, and Wu Gorge, famous for its mist-covered peaks. We will listen to expert commentary while passing these legendary peaks. Later, we board smaller motorboats to explore Shennv Stream, also known as Goddess Stream, where emerald waters wind through towering mountains. This pristine area offers an intimate look at local flora and a rare, authentic glimpse into the quiet rural life of the Yangtze. BLD

SEP 25, Saturday YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE

After disembarking, we witness a marvel of modern engineering at the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydroelectric project. We will explore the site and the dedicated engineering museum before heading into Yichang. The afternoon is spent discovering the local charm of the city, including a visit to the Yichang Museum. Then, we transfer to the airport for our flight to the cosmopolitan metropolis of Shanghai. **Crowne Plaza Shanghai** (3 nights) BL

SEP 26, Sunday SHANGHAI

We enter Old Town to explore Yu Garden, a classic Ming Dynasty masterpiece featuring elaborate pavilions and glittering ponds. After free time to wander nearby, we walk along the Bund. This waterfront promenade contrasts colonial-era buildings with futuristic skyscrapers. We continue to the Jade Buddha Temple, home to two magnificent white jade statues brought from Myanmar. This evening, we gather for dinner and a world-class acrobatic show. BLD

SEP 27, Monday SHANGHAI / SUZHOU

Known as the "Venice of the East," Suzhou is famous for its intricate canals and stone bridges. We will explore the Humble Administrator's Garden, a UNESCO World Heritage Site representing the peak of Ming Dynasty design. After visiting the intimate Master of the Nets Garden, we enjoy a traditional canal cruise and learn about the local industry at a silk factory. Late this afternoon, we return to Shanghai for our farewell dinner. BLD

SEP 28, Tuesday SHANGHAI / CANADA

We transfer to the airport for our flight back to Canada. B

CT Rating 3/5 - Moderately Challenging: This program involves long travel days and significant walking, often over uneven stone surfaces and stairs at historical sites. Participants should be prepared for large crowds at major landmarks and the use of traditional facilities where Western-style amenities may be unavailable. While your local guide is always present, English translations and signage may be limited at certain local sites. Meals are primarily traditional Chinese cuisine served family-style.



**Book Early
and Save \$200 Per Person**



Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Land Only* (Join / Leave at hotel).....	\$8,125
Vancouver	\$10,175
Victoria / Calgary / Edmonton.....	\$10,225
Regina / Saskatoon / Winnipeg	\$10,425
Toronto	\$10,425
Montreal / Ottawa	\$10,525
Halifax / St. John's / Fredericton	\$10,655
Single Supplement	\$1,995

*Land only members join at the Beijing hotel and leave at the Shanghai hotel. The land only price includes domestic flights within China but does not include international airfare or airport transfers.

Airfares and air carriers are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Refer to inclusive features for details.

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy and a minimum of 20 members. Price is based on taxes, surcharges, and exchange rates effective May 2026 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Group will be escorted with a minimum of 20 members.

Visa requirements for Canadian passport holders are currently waived through 2026. Entry regulations are determined by immigration authorities and remain subject to change.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended, contact our staff to receive a quote. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information, and for terms and conditions.

Deposit is \$900 per person

Final payment is due June 10, 2027

To reserve your spot on this tour, book online through our website or submit an enrollment form with your deposit to:

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