

12 Day Classic China with 3 Day Yangtze River Cruise

October 30 – November 10, 2008

Guided Package Includes

- Flights Washington, DC (IAD-Beijing, Shanghai-IAD). Other departure cities/dates available.
- Airline fuel surcharges
- Intra-flights
- 10 nights First Class accommodations
- 3 nights **Best Western**, Beijing
- Overnight transportation between cities Beijing & Xian via **rail** with reserved cabin
- 1 night **Garden Hotel**, Xian
- 3 nights cruise downstream on the **Victoria Rose**, Yangtze River
- 2 nights **Galaxy**, Shanghai
- All transfers
- 20 meals: 10 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 4 dinners
- Sightseeing per itinerary in a modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking assistant on overnight train
- Services of English-speaking local guides
- Entrance fees per itinerary
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Special Features:

Great Wall of China
Terracotta Army

DAY 1, Thursday - Depart USA

Depart the USA to China. Your flight includes meals, drinks, and in-flight entertainment for your journey

DAY 2, Friday - Arrive in Beijing

Arrive in Beijing and transfer to your hotel. Balance of the day at leisure

Overnight: Beijing

DAY 3, Saturday - Beijing

Enjoy a full day tour of the Forbidden City and the Summer Palace. Begin at Tiananmen Square, the largest public plaza in the world. Erected in 1417 at the height of the Ming Dynasty, the square was renovated and renamed two centuries later at the onset of the Great Qing Dynasty. View several impressive monuments outlining the Square's perimeter, including the Great Hall of the People, the Mausoleum of Mao Zedong and the Square's famed ceremonial gateway. From here, venture north for a visit to the Forbidden City (Imperial Palace), a construction comparable to the Pyramids in Egypt. Known today as the Palace Museum, the entire site is comprised of 800 buildings with more than 9,000 rooms. Enjoy lunch at an authentic Chinese Restaurant close to the Forbidden City, before a visit to the Summer Palace

Optional: Peking Duck Dinner

Overnight: Beijing

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4, Sunday - Great Wall of China

Enjoy a full-day excursion to the Great Wall of China, the longest man-made structure on Earth, spanning nearly 4,000 miles of China's northern frontier. Walk along the promenades and enjoy the unrivaled scenic views of beautiful mountain passes, plateaus and grasslands from this 7th-century defensive fortification. Afterwards, depart for lunch at a local Chinese restaurant. Following lunch, continue for a tour of the Ming Tombs before returning to Beijing

Overnight: Beijing

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5, Monday - Beijing, Xian

Morning at leisure in Beijing. This afternoon enjoy a tour to the 15th century Temple of Heaven, where the Emperor, once considered the "Son of Heaven," displayed his respect to the heavens through ceremonial prayer. The Temple is the grandest of the four great temples located in Beijing and is famous for its white-marbled, circular altar. Then, transfer to a local restaurant where you will enjoy dinner, before **boarding the train** for your overnight journey to Xian



Overnight: Train

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6, Tuesday - Xian

This morning, transfer to your hotel for breakfast, and afterwards, enjoy a tour of Xian's antiquities. Your tour includes the archaeological site at the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang (259-210 B.C.), where more than 8,000 finely sculpted, life-size terracotta soldiers and horses were discovered by local farmers in 1974. The archaeological excavation of the three pits where the Terracotta Army was found continues today, more than thirty years since the time of its unearthing.

Optional: Xian Dumpling Dinner

Overnight: Xian

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 7, Wednesday - Xian, Chongqing

This morning, enjoy a half day sightseeing of the City Wall. Xian's City Wall is one of the largest and oldest military fortifications built during the Tang Dynasty. In the afternoon, transfer to the airport for your flight to Chongqing. Upon arrival, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant, then transfer to board your ship on the Yangtze River

Overnight: Yangtze River

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8, Thursday - Yangtze River Cruise

Cruise to Fengdu, the "Ghost City," and view the temples at Mingshan Hill. (Alternatively, the cruise may visit Wanxian or Shibaozhai)

Overnight: Yangtze River

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9, Friday - Yangtze River Cruise

Sail through Qutang Gorge, the smallest of the three Yangtze gorges, and dock at Wushan for an excursion through the Small Three Gorges along the Daning River. Enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding mountain passes as you sail through the 25-mile long Wuxia (Witches) Gorge, famous for its fabled Twelve Peaks. According to legend, the peaks are believed to be the spirits of 12 fairies, the most famous of them being the Shennu Feng (Goddess) Peak, which is topped by a huge rock resembling a kneeling maiden

Overnight: Yangtze River

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10, Saturday - Yangtze River Cruise, Shanghai

Sail downstream through Xiling Gorge. The longest section of the Three Gorges system, it comprises the Xietan, Qintan, and Kongling rapids in what is known as the Three Rapids of Xiling. Visit the Three Gorges Dam near Sandouping Village. The dam is the largest hydroelectric dam in the world, nearly six times the size of the Hoover Dam. This afternoon, disembark at Yichang to board your flight to Shanghai. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel

Overnight: Shanghai

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 11, Sunday - Shanghai

This morning, tour the major attractions of Shanghai. Wander the classical Yuyuan Gardens, built during the Ming Dynasty by the high-ranking government official Pan Yunduan. The Gardens total area occupies 20,000 square meters (about five acres), and features pavilions, ponds, rockeries, cloisters, and streams all within six scenic zones, including the Sansui Hall and Wanhua Chamber. In existence for 400 years, the Gardens were specifically constructed for Pan's aging parents as a sanctuary in which to live out their lives. Next, experience the old world charm of the Bund, the former "Wall Street" of the foreign powers. Walk along its park-like waterfront promenade between the Wusong River and Old Town. Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure

Optional: Acrobatic Show

Overnight: Shanghai

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 12, Monday - Depart for USA

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

Meals: Breakfast

Rates \$2,758.00* per person based on double occupancy.

(*Airlines include fuel surcharges, taxes, and fees assessed by the airlines and are subject to increase without notice.)

Deposit: \$250 per person upon booking. Final balance due August 1, 2008. Payments plans can be arranged. Optional insurance: \$159.00 each. Passport and visa required. Deposits non-refundable.

All travel arrangements by Colesville Travel

Cynthia Amin Hall

P.O. Box 4844

Silver Spring, MD 20914

Phone: 301.989.1654. Fax: 301.989-8473

Email: cindy@colesvilletravel.com

Website: www.colesvilletravel.com

OPTIONAL TOURS

**Book your Optional Tours before you travel and see more, save time, and save money. Tours purchased while traveling cost at least 10% more! Tours often sell out - avoid disappointment!
Save your cash - many countries do not accept credit cards.**



Peking Duck Dinner with R/T Transfers	Day #3	01 Mar 2008 - 30 Jun 2008	\$32
		01 Jul 2008 - 31 Jul 2008	\$35
		01 Sep 2008 - 31 Mar 2009	\$32

The Peking Duck Dinner has the reputation of being the most culturally famous meal in China. It is a must to experience during your visit to the country. Enjoy the culinary presentation as the chef roasts the duck directly over the fire and then slices the meat tableside. The duck is served with very thin pancakes, Chinese onions and special sauce. Transfers to and from your hotel included.



Xian Dumpling Dinner with R/T Transfers	Day #6	01 Apr 2008 - 31 Mar 2009	\$31
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This evening, enjoy a delicious dumpling banquet featuring nearly 20 varieties of jiaozi, or dumplings, stuffed with an assortment of vegetables, meats, and seafood. The traditional banquet also includes rice wine and bronze hot pot soup. Pick up from your hotel at 6:30pm. Drop off at your hotel at approx. 8:30pm.



Acrobatic Show in Shanghai	Day #11	01 Apr 2008 - 31 Jul 2008	\$31
		01 Sep 2008 - 31 Mar 2009	\$31

Having undergone thousands of years of evolution, the Shanghai acrobatic arts has now blossomed into a unique style. The Shanghai Circus death-defiers will amaze and astound you with their high-flying versatility, fearlessness, and flexibility. This evening, enjoy a world-class performance that includes dance, magic, acrobatics and beautiful music. Departs at 6:45 p.m. Pick up and drop off at the hotel