



## 2012 Yangtze & Yunnan

18 days / 17 nights

### Highlights

Beijing, Great Wall, Summer Palace, Terracotta Warriors, Yangtze River, Three Gorges, Shanghai, Zhujiajiao, Kunming, Dali, Lijiang, Tiger Leaping Gorge, Zhongdian

### Yangtze & Yunnan

Cruise past sheer gorges and mountain villages on the mighty Yangtze. The Three Gorges Dam Project is the perfect illustration of Mother Nature's limitless power and humankind's determination. Get to know vibrant Beijing and the cultural capital of Xian. Explore modern Shanghai after three nights on China's great river. You're sure to find plenty to love about the 'Pearl of the Orient' and nearby Zhujiajiao. Finish up with a week amidst spectacular scenery in the legendary Shangri La.

The quality of accommodation is a real highlight of this trip. Hotels are usually centrally located three or four-star hotels with private, western style bathrooms, air-conditioning, IDD phones and TVs. All road travel is in comfortable minibuses or mid-sized coaches. Your journey is escorted by both a Western tour leader, based on a minimum of seven travellers, and a local English-speaking guide in each location. Groups are never more than 16 travellers in size.

### Tour grading - Moderate

Suitable for travellers with an average level of fitness and independent mobility. The tour involves walking, several rides on small boats and six domestic flights. You will need to be able to handle your own luggage boarding and disembarking the cruise ship. While accommodation is three to four-star, this is not 'sanitised' travel; by day you will walk through markets and villages, meet local people, and sample local food. English is not widely spoken and a degree of patience and appreciation is required for travel through developing cities and stays in Chinese operated hotels.

### What's included

- 14 nights accommodation
- Three nights Yangtze cruise ship
- Breakfast daily, four lunches and two dinners
- All transfers and road transport in modern, air-conditioned vehicles
- Three domestic flights
- All sightseeing as specified and entrance fees included
- Expert Western tour leader (group size seven minimum) and local guides throughout
- Tour arrival and departure transfers

### Climate

Southern China is hot and humid from May to August, and cool from November to February. Northern China is hot and humid from June to August, very cold and dry from November to February, and otherwise pleasant and generally clear. Kunming has a temperate year-round climate whilst the mountains towns are pleasantly warm in summer (June to August) and cool to cold in spring and autumn (April/May and Sept/Oct) with cold nights.

### Itinerary

#### DAY 1 - ARRIVE BEIJING

Upon arrival in Beijing you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Tonight meet your tour leader (or local guide) for welcome drinks and a tour briefing. **YONG AN HOTEL - 3 nights**

#### DAY 2 - BEIJING

Explore Beijing's fascinating hutongs by rickshaw, visit the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and the Drum Tower.

#### DAY 3 - BEIJING

See the Great Wall at Mutianyu.

#### DAY 4 - BEIJING TO XIAN

Visit the Temple of Heaven, Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall and Summer Palace before catching your flight to Xian. **UAA HOTEL - 2 nights**

#### DAY 5 - XIAN

The Terracotta Warriors are Xian's crowning glory, but you will also enjoy the colourful Muslim Quarter, city wall and pagodas.

#### DAY 6 - XIAN TO YANGTZE RIVER

Visit the Terracotta Warriors and then fly to Chongqing to board your cruise ship. **VICTORIA GRACE CRUISE SHIP - 3 nights**

#### DAYS 7-8 - YANGTZE RIVER

Cruise away from busy Chongqing and enjoy views of passing boats and stunning gorges.

#### DAY 9 - YANGTZE RIVER TO SHANGHAI

The dam is an incredible undertaking that will leave you in awe. This morning, visit the Three Gorges Dam Site on shore before disembarking from the ship and flying to Shanghai. **RENDEZVOUS MERRY - 3 nights**

#### DAY 10 - SHANGHAI

Experience the regal Bund, Yu Gardens, Shanghai Museum and Urban Planning Exhibition Centre, before taking in a spectacular acrobatics performance.

#### DAY 11 - SHANGHAI

Take a half day trip to the canal town of Zhujiajiao before flying to Kunming. **GOLDEN DRAGON - 1 night**

#### DAY 12 - KUNMING TO DALI

Fly on to Dali, an ancient town near Erhai Lake. Visit Xizhou Village and explore the Three Pagodas. **ASIAN STAR - 1 night**

#### DAY 13 - DALI TO LIJIANG

Drive to Lijiang where you will discover an enchanting canal town of winding cobbled streets. **GRAND LIJIANG - 2 nights**

#### DAY 14 - LIJIANG

Visit the gorgeous Baisha village - old world China. Also see Yufeng Monastery, the home of botanist Joseph Rock, the Dongba Museum of Naxi Culture. Climb Lion Hill for great views over the old town.

#### DAY 15 - LIJIANG TO ZHONGDIAN

Be inspired by the magnificent Tiger Leaping Gorge, where the Yangtze River has carved one of the world's deepest chasms. Stay in Zhongdian, a town on the Tibetan frontier. **GYALTHANG DZONG - 2 nights**

#### **DAY 16 - ZHONGDIAN**

Visit the magnificent Tibetan Songzanlin Monastery, Napa Lake and the great prayer wheel of Zhuangjin Lou.

#### **DAY 17 - ZHONGDIAN TO KUNMING**

Return to Kunming to explore the city's fascinating ethnic minority museum and peaceful Green Lake. **GOLDEN DRAGON - 1 night**

#### **DAY 18 - DEPART KUNMING**

Today you will be transferred to the airport for your onward journey.

*Cruise boats and itineraries are subject to change depending on weather conditions and water levels*

#### **Hotel brief**

##### **Beijing - YONG AN HOTEL**

Located within easy reach of transport, shopping, restaurants and bars this hotel offers modern facilities and services and serves as a convenient base in the capital.

##### **Xian - UNION ALLIANCE ATRAVIS EXECUTIVE (UAA) HOTEL**

Comfortable rooms with a great location, this hotel is situated in a quiet street, right in the heart of Xian within the Old City Walls.

##### **Yangtze Cruise Ship - VICTORIA GRACE**

Compact but comfortable twin cabins with balconies and private bathrooms in well appointed four-star international standard cruise ship.

##### **Shanghai - RENDEZVOUS MERRY**

Located just a short ride from Shanghai's majestic Bund, the Rendezvous Merry offers spotless, comfortable rooms and a delicious breakfast.

##### **Kunming - GOLDEN DRAGON HOTEL**

Modern, three-star hotel with good facilities and breakfast. Comfortable rooms and convenient to shops and restaurants.

##### **Dali - ASIAN STAR HOTEL**

Welcoming hotel, with comfortable rooms and friendly staff.

##### **Lijiang - GRAND LIJIANG HOTEL**

The best in this remote town. Great location in the old town with surprisingly good facilities and pleasant rooms.

##### **Zhongdian - GYALTHANG DZONG HOTEL**

Boutique Tibetan style hotel surrounded by beautiful wild rugged countryside. Lovely colourful local décor and furnishings make this a cosy and unique place to stay.

#### **Visa requirements**

All persons entering China require a visa. Travellers need a tourist visa which must be obtained from a Chinese Embassy or Consulate abroad before arrival and is valid for all international points of entry into China. More detailed visa information is available in our pre-departure information. It is your responsibility to make sure that visa requirements are fulfilled.

#### **Health issues**

Good medical advice usually recommends vaccinations/prophylactics in advance of travel to China. We suggest that you consult with your doctor to discuss health care needs specific to your holiday.

#### **Travel insurance**

You must be comprehensively insured as a condition of travelling with Travel Indochina. Insurance should include cover for personal accident and medical expenses, evacuation and repatriation, baggage loss, and cancellation or curtailment of your holiday. Your booking will not be confirmed if you cannot confirm possession of appropriate insurance, and our ground operations have the right to prevent you from travelling in the event that you cannot present your insurance details at the start of the tour. Your travel agent can organise travel insurance for you.

#### **Recommended reading**

- River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze - Peter Hessler
- The River at the Centre of the World - Simon Winchester
- Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China - Jung Chang
- China Wakes: The Struggle for the Soul of a Rising Power - Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl Wudunn
- Red China Blues - Jan Wong
- From Rice to Riches: A Personal Journey through a Changing China - Jane Hutcheon
- Lost Horizon - James Hilton
- Oracle Bones - Peter Hessler
- Bamboo Goalposts - Rowan Simons

#### **A responsible Travel Indochina**

Travel Indochina practices a thorough, realistic responsible travel policy, full details of which can be found on our website. Our policy includes our downloadable 'Tread Lightly' booklet, full of useful pointers which will make you a more 'responsible' traveller in Asia.

#### **Pre and post tour arrangements**

If you would like to book pre or post tour hotel arrangements or are interested in doing additional quality touring before or after your Small Group Journey, either contact Travel Indochina or your local travel agent.

#### **What next**

Once your booking has been confirmed and you have paid in full you will receive a detailed itinerary for this tour, detailing day by day arrangements, as well as a pre-departure guide containing valuable information designed to help you get the most out of your holiday.

#### **About Travel Indochina**

Travel Indochina has been operating Small Group Journeys to Asia since 1993. Based in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, our idea is simple - escape the tourist traps to explore the essence of Asia's history, culture, natural beauty and most importantly, Asia's people. Another feature is the quality, character and location of our accommodation. Our travellers enjoy the combination of well thought out itineraries, tasteful accommodation, insightful Western and local leaders, value for money, and our experience and base in the region.

#### **Disclaimer**

Information in this document was correct at the time of its preparation. Travel Indochina reserves the right to make itinerary changes as operational or other circumstances require.