



HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA

Beijing – Xian – Yangtze River Cruise – Guilin – Yangshuo – Shanghai

Small Group Tour | 14 nights | May 2025

Day 1: Beijing

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Upon arrival at Beijing Airport, we will be greeted in the arrival hall by our local guide and transfer to our hotel. As the capital of the People's Republic of China, Beijing boasts an unparalleled historical legacy, having been the centre of various empires and cultures throughout its long history. With its ancient monuments, rich historical narratives, and vibrant modern cityscape, Beijing is a destination not to be missed!

Day 2: Beijing

B, L, D

Today promises a full day of exploration, with up to 4 hours walking around this captivating city.

We start at **Tiananmen Square**, one of the largest public squares in the world, which was developed under Chairman Mao Zedong. It can accommodate over one million people.

Next, we'll visit the **Forbidden City**, which served as the sacred heart of the Chinese empire for 500 years and was the residence of the Ming and Qing dynasties. This vast complex includes over 900 buildings and spans 180 acres.

Later, enjoy a leisurely stroll through the labyrinthine of **hutongs**. These traditional alleyways were established by Mongol rulers in the 13th century to accommodate the city's growing population, and were designed according to Feng Shui principles. Typically, four hutongs converge around a central courtyard known as a Siheyuan. We meet a local family in their home.

Finally, immerse yourself in the tranquil ambiance of the **Temple of Heaven**. Set within a 267-hectare park and encircled by a long wall with gates at each compass point, this temple is a prime example of Ming architecture and offers a serene escape from the city.

Tonight, enjoy a traditional Peking duck dinner - a favourite of the emperor's court and the upper-class elite during the Qing Dynasty.

Day 3: The Great Wall

B, L, D

Rise early for a 2-hour journey to the Juyongguan Pass, where you'll receive an introduction to the Great Wall's unique history and a briefing on the various walking routes. You'll then have approximately 2.5 hours of free time to explore the **Great Wall** at your own pace, taking in its impressive structure and the surrounding dramatic scenery.

Afterward, visit the **Summer Palace**, a beautiful example of traditional Chinese garden design. The palace showcases the Feng Shui principles of 'Mountain' and 'Water,' with the serene Kunming Lake and the majestic Longevity Hill providing a perfect backdrop.

Day 4: Beijing – Xian

B, L, D

This morning, we board a bullet train for a 5-hour journey to Xian. On arrival, we'll stretch our legs roaming through the **Muslim Quarter**, the hub of Xian's Islamic community and home to many stalls selling a myriad of snack foods and oriental knick-knacks. This evening we dine on lip-smacking traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and followed by a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

Day 5: Xian

B, L, D

We'll journey an hour outside the city to spend the morning admiring the mysterious life-sized **Terracotta Warriors**. The museum features the warriors in three distinct 'pits,' which are ongoing archaeological excavations. The extensive site requires about 2.5 hours to fully explore.

Next, visit the **Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Workshop** to observe the creation of smaller Terracotta Warrior models.

In the afternoon, enjoy a leisurely stroll along the beautifully preserved 14th-century city walls that surround Xian's old town. Our local guide will allow you ample time to explore the ancient walls at your own pace. You can choose to rent a bicycle or an electric cart (at your own expense) to travel along the length of the wall, or do it on foot.

Day 6: Xian – Yangtze River Cruise

B, L, D

Transfer to the airport for a 1.5-hour flight to Yichang, then transfer to Maoping docks and board our cruise ship where we'll spend the next 4-nights. The **Yangtze River** is one of the world's greatest waterways, flowing 6,300km from the snow-covered mountains Tibet to the ocean in Shanghai. It is estimated that the banks of this river are home to almost a third of China's population so there's always plenty to see as we're floating along during the day.

Day 7: Yangtze River Cruise

B, L, D

Disembark the ship for a short drive to the viewing area above the ship locks where you will be able to truly appreciate the scale of the **Three Gorges Dam**, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world. There is also a small museum here which is very interesting. Later, return to the ship and sail through the impressive **Xiling Gorge**, the longest and deepest of the three gorges.

Day 8: Yangtze River Cruise

B, L, D

Transfer to smaller vessels for a tranquil excursion through the **Shennong Stream gorges**. Although narrower than the Three Gorges, these gorges are equally impressive. As the cruise ship continues upstream, get ready for spectacular views as you navigate through Wu Gorge and Qutang Gorge. Wu Gorge is renowned for its serene beauty, lush, forested mountains, and sheer cliffs, while Qutang Gorge, the shortest and narrowest, is known for its dramatic and striking scenery.

Day 09: Yangtze River Cruise

B, L, D

Continue cruising along the mighty Yangtze River. Relax onboard or disembark to visit the **Snow Jade Cave**, aptly named for the stalactites inside the cave that are “white as snow and pure like jade”.

Day 10: Yangtze River Cruise – Guilin

B, L, D

Check out of your cabin early this morning and disembark in Chongqing. We'll have a short visit to **Chongqing Zoo's Panda House** before boarding the bullet train for a 5-hour journey to **Guilin**.

Guilin is one of China's most stunning and panoramic cities and was founded during the reign of the first Chinese empire, the Qin Dynasty. It is renowned for the unique beauty of the mountains that fringe it.

Day 11: Guilin – Yangshuo

B, L, D

Embark on a leisurely 4-hour cruise along the scenic **Li River** to the enchanting village of **Yangshuo**, where we'll stay the night. As we glide along the river, each bend reveals awe-inspiring views of rugged peaks towering over picturesque green landscapes, grazing buffalo, and traditional fishermen.

Yangshuo is a charming town celebrated for its stunning landscapes and tranquil rural atmosphere. Nestled amid dramatic karst formations and beautifully positioned on the Li River, it is one of China's most coveted destinations for natural beauty. We'll have time to explore the local markets before settling into our hotel.

Day 12: Yangshuo – Guilin

B, L, D

Yangshuo is set in a stunning rural area, surrounded by vibrant green rice fields and dramatic limestone karsts. In the morning, enjoy a leisurely 1.5-hour walk through the countryside before driving about an hour back to Guilin. On the way, visit the **Reed Flute Caves** to marvel at the dazzling colors of the stalagmites and stalactites. Afterward, stop by the **South China Pearl Factory** before heading to the Li River to witness **fishermen** using trained **cormorants** to catch fish.



Day 13: Guilin – Shanghai

B, L, D

After breakfast, take a leisurely stroll around the picturesque **Ronghu Lake**, where you can admire the **Sun and Moon Pagodas**, stunning examples of traditional Chinese-Buddhist architecture, and visit the Ancient South Gate. In the afternoon, we fly to the vibrant city of Shanghai for a 2-night stay.

In the evening, embark on a panoramic cruise along the **Huangpu River**, where you'll experience breathtaking views of the city's skyline. Shanghai, once dubbed the 'Paris of the East,' is now one of Asia's most dynamic cities. The city's blend of modern skyscrapers and 1920s 'shikumen' buildings draws millions of visitors each year. As you cruise, you'll witness the striking contrast between the historic Bund architecture and the sleek, modern Pudong skyline. At night, the banks of the Huangpu River come alive with dazzling neon lights, transforming Shanghai into a glowing wonderland.

Day 14: Shanghai

B, L, D

Today's adventures include a visit to the serene **Yu Garden** and a tour of the **historic old town**, where you can admire the stunning colonial architecture and take a leisurely stroll along the Bund. We'll also explore the fascinating world of **silk** production and delve into the history of the Silk Road. To wrap up our tour, enjoy a delightful dinner featuring exquisite **Shanghainese cuisine**.

Days 15: Depart Shanghai

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Check out of hotel and transfer to airport for your flight home.

Date

Departs Beijing | 19 May 2025

Ends Shanghai | 02 June 2025

Price

NZ\$8365 per person twin share

NZ\$9865 single

If you are travelling solo and would like to twin share, let us know and we'll aim to find you a room-mate.

Includes

- 10 nights accommodation 4* hotels
- 4 nights onboard a Victoria Cruises ship - superior balcony main deck cabin
- All meals
- Tipping
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation & airport transfers
- Internal economy class flights
- 2nd class soft seat trains
- English-speaking Local Guides
- Escorted from NZ by Marie Coles from Roam Travel with minimum 7 guests



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Excludes

- International Airfares
- Travel Insurance (mandatory)
- Personal expenses, eg. drinks
- Optional excursions or shows
- Early or late hotel check in/out
- Portage

Tour Size

Minimum 7 / maximum 12

Visa

China Visas are NOT required for New Zealand and Australia passport holders for stays 15 days and under. If you hold another passport, please check with Roam what your requirements are.

Fitness

A good level of fitness is required for this adventure. There is plenty of walking and you will encounter stairs most days. You are expected to be able to carry your own luggage on / off the train.

Itinerary

The routing may change, specially on the cruises due to water levels.

To Book

Fill out the booking form on www.roamtraveladventures.com. \$500 non-refundable deposit is due on confirmation. Balance due 31/1/25. Ask about best international flight options at the time of booking.

