

2010 Three Gorges Discovery

12 days / 11 nights

Highlights

Beijing, Great Wall, Summer Palace, Terracotta Warriors, Yangtze River, Three Gorges, Shanghai, Zhujiajiao

Three Gorges Discovery

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. Cruise past settlements soon to meet their fate under the currents of the Yangtze, but only after you 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.

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 18 travellers in size.

Tour grading - EASY to MODERATE

Suitable for travellers with an average level of fitness and independent mobility. The tour involves walking, several rides on small boats and three 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

- Eight 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.

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. **Three nights YONG AN HOTEL**

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

Visit the Temple of Heaven, Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall and Summer Palace before catching your flight to Xian. **Two nights BELL TOWER HOTEL**

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. **Three nights VICTORIA ROSE CRUISE SHIP**

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. **Three nights RENDEZVOUS MERRY**

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

After your trip to Zhujiajiao, you explore the backstreets of the Old Chinese Quarter on foot.

Day 12 - Shanghai

Today transfer from your hotel to the airport for your onward flight.

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

Information in this dossier was correct at the time of its preparation.

Travel Indochina reserves the right to make itinerary changes as operational or other circumstances require.

VERSION 1.0

Hotel Brief

Yong An Hotel in Beijing

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.

Bell Tower in Xian

This hotel is all about location, location, location - sitting directly beside its namesake in the dead centre of town. Good service and comfortable rooms add to the appeal.

Victoria Rose Yangtze Cruise Ship

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

Rendezvous Merry in Shanghai

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

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.

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
- 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 in our website. Our policy includes a 'Guide to Responsible Travel', 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.

Information in this dossier was correct at the time of its preparation.

Travel Indochina reserves the right to make itinerary changes as operational or other circumstances require.