



Roof of the World

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Day 1 — Shanghai, China

Fly to Shanghai, China's largest city, then transfer to your hotel. See the modern financial district juxtaposed with the older sections of the city.

Day 2 — Shanghai, China

This morning, tour Old Shanghai and travel along the elegant Bund, stopping to admire some of its historic buildings and city views. Spend some time at the exquisite Yuyuan Garden, dating back to the Ming Dynasty. After lunch in a local restaurant, tour the Shanghai Museum. Dine locally before seeing the world-famous Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe from the best seats in the house. (B, L, D)

Day 3 — Shanghai, China

Today visit the Hubei Provincial Museum, where you hear the chimes of ancient bronze bells and view fascinating relics from 400 BC. Return to the ship and set sail this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 4 — Wuhan, China

After breakfast, prepare for your flight to Wuhan. Upon arriving, transfer to your ship docked close to Wuhan's historic waterfront. You are welcomed on board with a Western meal. (B, L, D)

Day 5 — Jingzhou, China

After a morning of sailing, arrive in Jingzhou. Visit an elementary school sponsored by Viking River Cruises where you are greeted and entertained by the children. (B, L, D)

Day 6 — Wu Gorge, China

This morning, cruise through Xiling Gorge, the longest of the Three Gorges. After lunch, disembark for a tour of the Three Gorges Dam, where you learn about this immense engineering masterpiece and what it means for the Chinese people and the Yangtze. Return to your ship and sail through the 5-stage locks of the Three Gorges Dam. Dock overnight at Badong. (B, L, D)

Day 7 — Wu Gorge, China

During breakfast, cruise through Wu ("Witches") Gorge, renowned for its magnificent scenery. Then, board a smaller boat for an excursion through the Goddess Stream. Along the way, see fascinating sites including the hanging coffins of the Ba people and the ancient plank road carved into the cliffside. Return on board for lunch, then spend the afternoon sailing through Qutang Gorge, the shortest, narrowest and most spectacular of the three large gorges. Dine on board. (B, L, D)

Day 8 — Shibaozhai, China

After a morning of scenic cruising along the Yangtze, tour the 12-story Shibaozhai Temple, an impressive example of Qing Dynasty architecture set on the banks of the river. Dine on board. (B, L, D)

Day 9 — Chongqing, China

This morning, disembark in the mountain city of Chongqing. Enjoy a visit to the Chongqing Zoo and lunch, then fly to Lhasa, the economic, spiritual and cultural center of Tibet. Experience Tibetan life with a family-hosted tea followed by dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

Day 10 — Lhasa, Tibet

Today, visit 1,300-year-old Jokhang Temple. After a local lunch, explore the maze-like Barkhor Market in Old Lhasa and tour the Tibetan Museum to learn about the area's history and culture. Tonight, enjoy a traditional Tibetan dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 11 — Lhasa, Tibet

This morning, tour the 13-story Potala Palace, home of the Dalai Lama. Later, visit Sera Monastery, an active temple with monks in training. Lunch and dinner are in local restaurants. (B, L, D)

Day 12 — Xian, China

Fly to Xian, key city of the Tang Dynasty. From 618 to 907 AD, this dynasty presided over one of China's most glorious cultural periods. (B, L, D)

Day 13 — Xian, China

Today, tour Xian's archaeological wonder: thousands of life-sized Terra Cotta Warriors buried with Emperor Qin Shi Huang, each soldier and horse molded in incredible detail. This evening, you may choose to dine surrounded by the song and dance of this colorful era, or have dinner and relax at your hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 14 — Beijing, China

Fly to Beijing, China's imperial capital whose rich history dates back more than 3,000 years. Check in to your hotel and dine there; your evening is free to relax. (B, L, D)

Day 15 — Beijing, China

After breakfast, travel to the Badaling Hills. There, you behold one of the most impressive and best preserved sections of the Great Wall of China. This 4,000-mile-long series of sandstone and earthwork fortifications was built and maintained between the 5th century BC and the 16th century AD, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore its winding pathways and marvel at the panoramic views from its ramparts.

After a lunch of local specialties, visit the Sacred Way, a tree-lined avenue guarded by massive sculptures of elephants, lions and camels leading to the Ming Dynasty tombs. This evening, dine at a local restaurant and relax at your hotel, or enjoy an optional Peking duck dinner, the region's famous dish. (B, L, D)

Day 16 — Beijing, China

After breakfast, visit massive Tiananmen Square, then see the Forbidden City with its elegant palaces, pavilions and landscaped gardens, once open only to nobility. Enjoy a free afternoon before tasting some local specialties at dinner, or attend The Legend of Kung Fu for a beautiful display of this performance art, which has roots that date back 4,000 years. (B, L, D)

Day 17 — Beijing, China

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and proceed to the airport for your return flight. Or, continue your China journey with 3 nights in Hong Kong. (B)

* One shore excursion included per port as indicated (included); all others available at an extra charge. Depending on your stateroom category, shore excursions may be reserved beginning 90 days before your cruise sails.