

# China & The Yangtze River



**BEIJING | XI'AN | HANGZHOU | SHANGHAI**



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**OCT. 28-NOV. 11, 2015**

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## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover Beijing's historic landmarks, including the **Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven** and the **Great Wall**.
- See the **Terra Cotta Warriors** and enjoy special access to the Xi'an **Archaeological Research Institute**.
- **Cruise the scenic Yangtze River** aboard the Century Paragon and marvel at the **Three Gorges**.
- Discover **Hangzhou's** spectacular natural beauty during a cruise on lovely **West Lake**.
- Visit **Wuzhen**, a picturesque ancient water town.
- Tour the highlights of **Shanghai**, including the **Bund** and **Yu Garden**, and enjoy time to explore on your own.



*Described by Napoleon as a “sleeping giant,” China is home to one of the world’s oldest and largest civilizations. The vast nation is rife with both historic and contemporary treasures to behold. From the 3,000-year-old city of Beijing and sparkling Shanghai to the welcoming farming and riverbank villages, discover the secrets of China’s mystique and explore the landmark sights of its finest cities and breathtaking interior countryside.*

### | UNESCO |

Six of China's UNESCO World Heritage sites are featured in this comprehensive program: **the Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing dynasties, Temple of Heaven, Great Wall and Summer Palace, Beijing; the Mausoleum of the first Chinese Emperor, Xi'an; and the West Lake Cultural Landscape of Hangzhou.**



*Majestic wonders and rich culture unfold before you  
as you traverse the storied Yangtze River.*

## **Howdy, Ags!**

We are excited to invite you on a transformative cultural expedition to China & the Yangtze River. Our comprehensive itinerary, carefully crafted by experienced travel professionals, allows you to unearth the history and explore the culture of this ancient land.

Set out on this exceptional voyage in the company of expert local guides, and discover a country with a past as compelling as its present. Tour the world-renowned historic landmarks of Beijing, Xi'an, Hangzhou and Shanghai, including visits to six UNESCO World Heritage sites. See the lush beauty of interior China along the Yangtze River, the longest in China, on a three-night cruise aboard the new Century Paragon.

Dig deeper into China's long history with an exclusive visit to the Archaeological Research Institute in Xi'an. Enjoy a scenic cruise on Hangzhou's breathtakingly beautiful West Lake.

Take advantage of this unparalleled opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture, cuisine and landscapes of China on a deluxe travel program. A dedicated travel staff is committed to ensuring your trip creates many fond memories. Enjoy exclusive transports and the finest Western-style accommodations, chosen for their amenities, location and reflection of the hospitality of the region.

With all its special features, this once-in-a-lifetime adventure is an incomparable value. Space is limited to 36 passengers, and the trip is sure to sell out quickly, so make your reservations today!

Gig 'em!

*Jennifer Bohac*

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.

Director, Travel Programs

The Association of Former Students



A Beijing hutong

## | ITINERARY |

Begin in Beijing and visit the Forbidden City, the wondrous Great Wall and the *hutongs*. In Xi'an, marvel at the Terra Cotta Warriors and enjoy special access to the Archaeological Research Institute. Engage with local families in a relocation village along the Yangtze River. Cruise the Yangtze and savor the natural beauty of China's gorges, then explore the scenic landscape of Hangzhou. End your journey in the glittering metropolis of Shanghai. You'll have no doubt that this sleeping giant has awakened.

### DAY ONE

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Depart your gateway city for Beijing, China.✦  
✦ *Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.*

### DAY TWO

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#### BEIJING

Upon arrival, transfer✦ and check in to the Four Seasons Hotel Beijing. Join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception.

### DAY THREE

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B | D

#### BEIJING

**Excursion: *Beijing*.** Explore Tiananmen Square, one of the world's largest public spaces and the site of numerous momentous events in China's history. Step inside the Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing dynasties, also known as the Forbidden City, a palace complex known for its architectural and artistic treasures.

Experience the culture of the *hutongs*, Beijing's labyrinthine streets lined with traditional courtyard residences, and meet a local family in their home.

**Local Flavor:** The painstaking preparation of Peking Duck once meant it was served only to the royal court. Savor this traditional dish during a meal at a Beijing restaurant.

### DAY FOUR

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B | L

#### BEIJING | GREAT WALL

**Excursion: *The Great Wall*.** Journey to Badaling to walk along the ramparts of the Great Wall, begun in the seventh century B.C. and completed over the course of 20 dynasties. Encounter the breathtaking view of the wall snaking along the surrounding hills.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy a multicourse lunch at a restaurant near the Great Wall.

**Excursion: *Summer Palace*.** Explore the ornate imperial complex that was a favorite of Qing Dynasty Empress Dowager Cixi. Located on the banks of Kunming Lake, this royal retreat is renowned for its classical Chinese garden and collection of elaborate halls.

**Optional Excursion: *Acrobatics Show*.** Witness an engaging performance of Chinese dance, acrobatics and martial arts.

### DAY FIVE

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B

#### BEIJING | XI'AN

**Excursion: *Temple of Heaven*.** Step inside the 15th-century temple, used by emperors to pray for bountiful harvests, and stand on the Imperial Vault's raised center stone, which was designed to channel the emperor's voice directly to heaven.

This afternoon, fly to Xi'an and check in to the Shangri-La Hotel.



Forbidden City, Beijing



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**DAY SIX**

**B**

**XI'AN**

**Excursion: Terra Cotta Warriors.** Marvel at the 8,000 life-size soldier replicas — each with its own hairstyle and facial expression — that have stood guard for more than 2,000 years over the tomb of Qín Shi Huáng, the founding father of the Chinese empire.

**Independent Exploration.** Spend the rest of the day at leisure.

**Optional Excursion: Tang Dynasty Dinner Show.** Xi'an, cosmopolitan capital of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), was an important city on the Silk Road. Positioned on the crossroads of commerce and culture, Xi'an's affluence and influence grew. The arts flourished as rulers embraced the many cultures introduced to the city. This excursion highlights the culture of this Chinese Golden Age. Try regional cuisine and enjoy the culture of this period in Chinese history.

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**DAY SEVEN**

**B I D**

**XI'AN | CHONGQUING | YANGTZE CRUISE**

**Excursion: Archeological Research Institute.** Enjoy special access to the

research institute that studies, excavates and preserves the ancient artifacts of China, and view acquisitions not on public display.

This afternoon, fly to Chongqing. Visit the Chongqing Zoo to see China's most iconic animal, the Giant Panda. Afterward, embark the Century Paragon.

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**DAY EIGHT**

**B I L I D**

**YANGTZE CRUISE | SHIBAO PAGODA**

**Excursion: Shibao Pagoda Relocation**

**Village.** When the Three Gorges Dam was built in the 1990s, displacing more than a million people whose homes would be submerged by the Yangtze River, the Chinese government also built relocation villages. Stop to visit one of the new communities and learn how the families are adapting.

This evening, attend a Captain's Welcome Dinner and a Welcome Show performed by the crew.

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**DAY NINE**

**B I L I D**

**YANGTZE CRUISE**

Cruise through the Qutang and Wu gorges.

**Excursion: Shennong Lesser Gorges.**

Board small boats to explore the soaring cliffs, thundering waterfalls and verdant bamboo groves of the Shennong Xi tributary.

This evening, enjoy a Talent Show by the crew aboard the ship.

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**DAY TEN**

**B I L**

**THREE GORGES DAM | HANGZHOU**

Sail through the east section of the Xiling Gorge, the final of the Three Gorges.

**Excursion: Three Gorges Dam.** Visit this controversial dam, which is more than five times the size of the Hoover Dam.



Terra Cotta Warriors, Xi'an

This afternoon, disembark in Yichang, fly to Hangzhou and check in to the JW Marriott Hotel.

## DAY ELEVEN

B I L

### HANGZHOU

**Excursion: West Lake Cruise.** West Lake has been a source of inspiration for poets, artists and writers since the 9th century. During a relaxing cruise, admire its willow-lined banks, ancient pagodas, pavilions and

artificial islands surrounded by mist-covered hills. After the cruise, visit Lingyin Temple, one of the oldest Chan Buddhist temples remaining in China today. The temple features a number of grottoes and religious rock carvings.

**Optional Excursion: Impression West Lake.** Take in a thrilling spectacle of light, music, dance and theatrics staged entirely upon West Lake — the stage itself is built three centimeters below the lake's surface.

## | ACCOMMODATIONS |

### Century Paragon

Explore the Yangtze River aboard the Century Paragon, a 196-stateroom, six-deck river cruiser. Built in 2012, this ship features all outside-facing cabins with balconies. The ship represents a new generation of super 5-star river cruisers, with an eye toward "green" technologies.

Your English-speaking crew and staff are devoted to creating an exceptional cruising experience. Enjoy lectures and classes that enhance your journey, or take advantage of the fitness center, heated pool, spa, library or game rooms. Live entertainment is presented nightly. Other amenities include sun decks, shops and an HD cinema. Wi-Fi is available on the ship.

Each day, enjoy a buffet for breakfast and lunch, offering local cuisine and Western dishes, and table service for a single-seating dinner of local specialties.

Each guest cabin is equipped with an LCD television, satellite programming, automatic climate controls and a safe. Bathrooms have separate tubs and showers and a hair dryer.





**Left:** Yangtze River | **Right:** Shennong Lesser Gorges



## DAY TWELVE

B I L

### WUZHEN | SHANGHAI

En route to Shanghai, stop in the charming ancient water town of Wuzhen. First settled over a thousand years ago, Wuzhen teems with well-preserved ancient residential and commercial buildings, flagstone walkways and stone bridges.

Arrive Shanghai in the afternoon and check in to the Fairmont Peace Hotel.

## DAY THIRTEEN

B

### SHANGHAI

**Excursion: Shanghai.** See the highlights of the city. Walk along the Bund, Shanghai's iconic waterfront boulevard, and admire the striking Renaissance, baroque and art deco architecture. Stroll through the lush jasmine thickets of Yu Garden in the Old City.



### FOUR SEASONS HOTEL BEIJING

The luxurious Four Seasons Hotel Beijing is located in the Chaoyang business district, within walking distance of many shops and restaurants. The hotel offers in-room Wi-Fi, two signature restaurants and three lounges, a well-equipped fitness center, an indoor pool overlooking the city, a whirlpool and a full-service spa.

### SHANGRI-LA HOTEL | XI'AN

Located close to many attractions and shopping venues, the Shangri-La Hotel is one of the most luxurious in Xi'an. The hotel offers in-room Wi-Fi, a health club, an indoor pool, a sauna, a full-service spa, a beauty salon, shops and four restaurants specializing in Cantonese, Xi'an, Thai and international cuisines.

## DAY FOURTEEN

B

### SHANGHAI

**Independent Exploration:** The day is at leisure to explore Shanghai on your own. Your Travel Director can provide sightseeing, shopping and restaurant suggestions.

This evening, gather with your fellow travelers for a Farewell Reception.

## DAY FIFTEEN

B

After breakfast, transfer✈ to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

**Note:** *Itinerary schedule may change due to local conditions. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking. Optional Excursions are available at an additional cost.*

*Included meals indicated each day as B/L/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.*

**Above right:** Morning exercises on the Bund, Shanghai  
**Right:** Canal in Wuzhen



### JW MARRIOTT HOTEL | HANGZHOU

Centrally located within easy access to West Lake and close to shopping and restaurants, the JW Marriott Hangzhou offers luxurious accommodations with many amenities including Wi-Fi. The hotel boasts four restaurants and two lounges, an indoor pool, a well-equipped fitness center and a spa.

### FAIRMONT PEACE HOTEL | SHANGHAI

Old glamour meets modern sophistication at the Fairmont Peace Hotel, which overlooks the Huangpu River. Situated at Bund promenade and near the vibrant shops of Nanjing Road, the hotel boasts 270 guest rooms, Wi-Fi, six dining and entertainment venues, a spa, a fitness facility, a swimming pool and a business center.



# Reserve your trip to China, today!

**Trip #:8-21999W**

Send to: The Association of Former Students  
Attn: Traveling Aggies  
505 George Bush Drive  
College Station, TX 77840-2918  
Phone: **979-845-7514**  
Fax: **979-845-9263**  
Toll Free: **800-633-7514**

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport): \_\_\_\_\_

Guest 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing room/cabin with \_\_\_\_\_ (Form sent separately.)

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year

**I/we authorize you to make my/our reservation(s) as follows:**

**Cabin category desired: 1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_**

### Land/Cruise Program and AHI FlexAir

I/we reserve the Land/Cruise Program and request the AHI FlexAir to Beijing, China, with a return from Shanghai to depart from:

\_\_\_\_\_ Departure City

- Please contact me regarding air options.
- Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

### Land/Cruise Only Program

- I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.
- I prefer single accommodations at an additional cost (limited availability).
- I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Reservations are subject to availability and are processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations are to be paid in full by Aug. 14, 2015 (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa or Discover. Make checks payable to AHI International.

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Enclosed is a deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$600 per person required) to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).

- Accept my check made payable to **AHI International**.
- Charge my:  MasterCard  Visa  Discover Expires \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

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(Signature as it appears on credit card)

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**BAGGAGE:**Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

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**CANCELLATION:**In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$250 per person administrative fee. (Please note that you may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following.) Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75-30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE.** All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.

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# LAND | CRUISE PROGRAM

**Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2015**

Category-Deck	Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*
D-Upper	\$4,245	\$250	\$3,995*
C-Promenade	\$4,645	\$250	\$4,395*
B-Bridge	\$5,045	\$250	\$4,795*
A-Executive Suites	\$5,445	\$250	\$5,195*

All cabins feature a balcony.

\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT is an additional \$395 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Single prices are available upon request (limited availability).

## AHI FLEXAIR

**Oct. 28-Nov. 11, 2015**

Our personalized air program allows you to select your flights, routing, class of service and dates of travel in consultation with one of our experienced Passenger Service Representatives. Airfares will vary, depending on airline, routing and class of service. In most cases, transfers between the airport and hotel/cruise ship will be included on arrival and departure days. Your Passenger Service Representative will provide you with all of the details you need to guarantee your transfer. Book your air with us to ensure assistance in the case of schedule changes or delays that may impact your air travel plans.

## ITINERARY

- Day 1** Depart Gateway City<sup>†</sup>
- Day 2** Arrive Beijing, China
- Day 3** Beijing
- Day 4** Beijing
- Day 5** Beijing
- Day 6** Xi'an
- Day 7** Xi'an/Chongqing
- Day 8** Cruise the Yangtze River
- Day 9** Cruise the Yangtze River
- Day 10** Yangtze River/Hangzhou
- Day 11** Hangzhou
- Day 12** Shanghai
- Day 13** Shanghai
- Day 14** Shanghai
- Day 15** Return to your gateway city.<sup>†</sup>

**NOTE:** This itinerary schedule may change due to local conditions. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.

<sup>†</sup>Provided for AHI FlexAir participants only.



*Left: Markets and shops, Shanghai*

*Above: West Lake*

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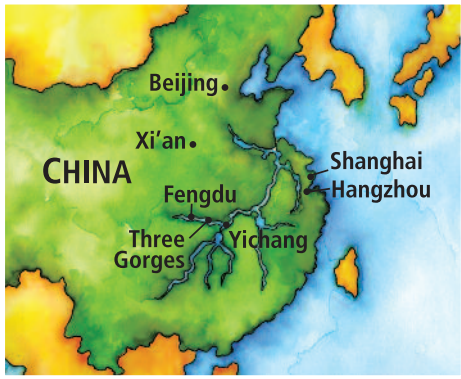
## | INCLUDED FEATURES |

### Accommodations

- **Three nights** in **Beijing, China**, at the **Four Seasons Hotel Beijing**.
- **Two nights** in **Xi'an** at the **Shangri-La Hotel**.
- **Three nights** aboard the **Century Paragon**.
- **Two nights** in **Hangzhou** at the **JW Marriott**.
- **Three nights** in **Shanghai** at the **Fairmont Peace Hotel**.

### Transfers and Porterage

- Flights from Beijing to Xi'an, Xi'an to Chongqing and Yichang to Hangzhou.
- Deluxe motor coach transfers from the Beijing hotel to the airport, round trip between the airport and the hotel in Xi'an, from the Chongqing airport to the ship, from the ship to the Yichang airport, from the Hangzhou airport to the hotel and from the Hangzhou hotel to the Shanghai hotel, including baggage handling.



### Meals

- Enjoy an **extensive meal program**, including 13 breakfasts, six lunches and four dinners. Tea or coffee is included with all meals.
- Sample authentic regional specialties at local restaurants.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try local cuisine independently.
- Attend a special Welcome Reception.
- Gather for a Farewell Reception.

### Your Exciting Travel Program

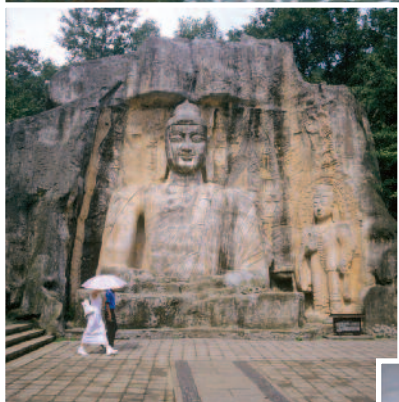
*(For full details see the day-by-day itinerary.)*

- **Informative educational programs**, presented by local experts, will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions:**
  - Explore the highlights of Beijing, including the Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the labyrinthine *hutongs*.
  - Step back in time with a walk along the Great Wall.
  - Visit the opulent Summer Palace on Lake Kunming.
  - Admire the intricate and ancient Terra Cotta Warriors.
  - Enjoy special access to the Archaeological Research Institute in Xi'an.
  - Relax and relish the scenery on a Yangtze River cruise, including visits to Three Gorges Dam, a relocation village and the Shennong Lesser Gorges.
  - Take in the stunning cultural landscape of Hangzhou's West Lake.
  - Visit Lingyin Temple, one of China's oldest Chan Buddhist temples and admire its ancient religious rock carvings and grottoes.
  - Tour the bustling city of Shanghai, including the iconic Bund and the classical Yu Garden.

### Many Included Extras

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Travel Director** and **expert English-speaking local guides** throughout your stay.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist you in your planning.
- Tipping of excursion guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

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**Top to bottom:**  
*Summer Palace*  
*Rock carvings, Lingyin Temple*  
*Tang Dynasty Show*  
*Mother and child, Chongqing*  
**Cover photos (clockwise):**  
*Great Wall, Beijing | Panda Musician, Xi'an | Yangtze*

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***In AHI Travel's care, you can rely on:***

- **An exceptional travel value.** It would be impossible for an independent traveler to arrange all these unique experiences, inclusions and services at a comparable price.
- **Unique access to local sites.** Take advantage of more than 50 years of travel experience to gain preferred entrance to popular sites and to uncover the region's hidden treasures.
- **Experienced Travel Directors** who attend to every detail of your journey.
- **Expertise of local guides** who possess authoritative knowledge of the region and offer personal insight into local culture.
- **Flexibility and customization.** Free time during the trip allows you to pursue your own interests. They will also help you tailor your dream trip with add-ons and extensions.
- **Safety and security.** In a country where you might not know the language or culture, their professional staff is on hand to ease your way and get you any help you need.



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