



Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF
The Association of Former Students



The Association of Former Students of
Texas A&M University presents

CHINA, TIBET & THE YANGTZE RIVER

October 5-23, 2017

19 days for \$7,187 total price from Houston
(\$6,695 air, land & cruise inclusive plus \$492 airline taxes and fees)



TRAVEL+
LEISURE
WORLD'S
BEST
AWARDS

This tour is provided by
Odysseys Unlimited,
six-time honoree
Travel & Leisure's World's
Best Tour Operators award.

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
Aggies & Friends of Texas A&M University



Howdy, Ags!

Join the Traveling Aggies on an exclusive 19-day journey to discover the highlights of China, including the mysteries of Tibet and the grandeur of the Yangtze River. Our small group will share special experiences, such as a rickshaw ride through Beijing’s ancient *hutongs* and a meeting with a Tibetan family.

Begin in 2,000-year-old Beijing, site of Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, and the legendary Great Wall. Next, fly to Xian, where you’ll see the intact life-size army of 7,000 Terra Cotta Warriors. Then, we fly to Lhasa in the remote Chinese province of Tibet, the “roof of the world.” With three days here, we’ll explore the city’s sacred temples and its vast Potala Palace and absorb Tibet’s pervasive Buddhist spirituality. Enjoy a three-night cruise on the Yangtze River and conclude your tour in Shanghai, the “Paris of the East.”

With space for only 24 guests on this exclusive Traveling Aggies departure, we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today to secure your spot!

Gig ’em,

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac ’87, Ph.D.
Director of Travel Programs

TRAVELING AGGIES RESERVATION FORM: CHINA, TIBET & THE YANGTZE RIVER

Enclosed is my/our deposit of \$_____ (\$500 per person) for _____ person/people on **China, Tibet & the Yangtze River** departing **October 5, 2017**. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. Please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and mail check (along with completed registration form) to: **The Association of Former Students, 505 George Bush Drive, College Station, Texas 77840-2918. Or you may call the Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514 or toll-free at 800-633-7514. You may also fax your reservation form to 979-845-9263.**

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Badge Name _____ Class Year _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Badge Name _____ Class Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Ph. (____) _____ Bus. Ph. (____) _____

Please book my/our air from _____ I/we request a Business Class upgrade

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability)

Post-Tour “Shanghai” Extension: Please sign me/us up

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for **China, Tibet & the Yangtze River, October 5-23, 2017**, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Method of Payment Check American Express Discover MasterCard VISA

Account # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.

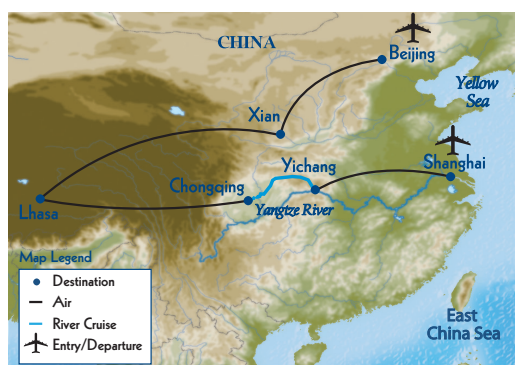
Tour membership limited to 24 Traveling Aggies and friends

CHINA, TIBET & THE YANGTZE RIVER

19 days for \$7,187 total price from Houston

(\$6,695 air, land & cruise inclusive plus \$492 airline taxes and fees)

This distinctive small group journey combines a special visit to remote, spiritual Tibet with a memorable cruise on the Yangtze, China's fabled "long river." Adding grace notes to this highly popular itinerary: intriguing Beijing, the extraordinary Terra Cotta Warriors of Xian, and cosmopolitan Shanghai. East meets West in a joyful convergence.



| Avg. High (°F) | Oct | Nov |
|----------------|-----|-----|
| Beijing | 66 | 55 |
| Lhasa | 61 | 52 |
| Shanghai | 72 | 63 |

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Beijing touring, including Tiananmen Square, Temple of Heaven, Great Wall ... Beijing hutong tour and home visit ... Dazu Rock Carvings ... Three-night visit to fascinating Tibet ... Lhasa's 1,000-room Potala Palace ... Visit with a Tibetan family ... Three-night Yangtze River cruise, including Three Gorges ... Terra Cotta Warriors of Xian ... Shanghai touring

| Day | Itinerary | Hotel | Rating |
|-------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Depart U.S. for Beijing | | |
| 2-5 | Beijing | Sofitel Wanda Beijing | Deluxe |
| 6-8 | Xian | Wyndham Grand Xian South | Deluxe |
| 9-11 | Lhasa, Tibet | Shangri-La Hotel Lhasa | Deluxe |
| 12 | Chongqing | JW Marriott Chongqing | Deluxe |
| 13-15 | Yangtze Cruise | Victoria Cruises | Sup. First Class |
| 16-18 | Shanghai | Hilton Shanghai | Deluxe |
| 19 | Depart Shanghai for U.S. | | |

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Days 1-2: Depart U.S. for Beijing, China We arrive in the Chinese capital and transfer to our hotel. After time to relax, we embark on a brief walking tour. Dinner tonight is on our own.

Day 3: Beijing After this morning's briefing about the journey ahead, we begin our discovery of this 2,000-year-old city at vast Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, seat of imperial power from 1368–1911. Tonight we enjoy a traditional Peking Duck dinner at a local restaurant. **B,D**

Day 4: Beijing/Great Wall This morning we enjoy a small-group highlight, as we ride rickshaws through Beijing's ancient back roads and alleys (*hutongs*) and enjoy a home visit, giving us a glimpse of the traditional communal lifestyle. Then we stop at Olympic Park, site of the 2008 Olympic Games. This afternoon we head to the Mu Tian Yu section of the Great Wall, the network of ancient defense installations that stretches more than 5,500 miles. **B,L,D**

Day 5: Beijing This morning we tour the splendid Temple of Heaven complex, where China's rulers once worshipped. This afternoon we visit the Summer Palace, the former royal retreat, now a lovely park. **B,L**

Day 6: Beijing/Xian We fly this morning to Xian, a provincial backwater until the accidental discovery of the Terra Cotta Warriors in 1974. Upon arrival we visit the Yangling Mausoleum, a Han Dynasty tomb dating to 153 CE. After lunch at a local restaurant we tour Xian's impressive nine-mile city wall and moat. Tonight we enjoy a special dumpling dinner. **B,L,D**

Day 7: Xian Our day begins with a visit to the revered Small Wild Goose Pagoda (c. 652 CE). After lunch we tour the museum housing the army of 7,000 life-sized Terra Cotta Warriors that had lain buried and forgotten for more than two millennia. **B,L,D**

Cover Photo: On Day 11, we tour Tibet's Potala Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site.



China's Great Wall winds across deserts and grasslands, mountains and plateaus for more than 5,500 miles.

Day 8: Xian This morning we tour the Shanxi Provincial Museum, with an acclaimed collection of historic and cultural artifacts. We eat lunch in a local restaurant then visit a typical farming village where we meet the local people and see their life-style up close. **B,L**

Day 9: Xian/Lhasa Early today we fly to Lhasa, Tibet's capital and only major city. Sitting on a plateau between two Himalayan ridges, the Chinese province of Tibet covers an area as large as Western Europe. On the way to our hotel we stop to visit with a Tibetan family in their home. Since the altitude here is approximately 12,000 feet above sea level, we spend the remainder of the day acclimating. **B,L,D**

Day 10: Lhasa Our day begins in the heart of the old city at Jokhang, Tibet's holiest temple. Built in 647, Jokhang is an intriguing complex that attracts pilgrims day and night. Surrounding Jokhang is Barkhor, a plaza lined with chanting monks, street performers, and vendors. Later we tour the summer palace of the Dalai Lamas at Norbulinka; tonight, we enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. **B,L,D**

Day 11: Lhasa Opened to foreigners only since 1984, Tibet is a profoundly spiritual place where Buddhism has infused all aspects of life for 13 centuries. We see evidence of this at 17th-century Potala Palace, with 200,000 Buddha images and 1,000 rooms, some of which we explore this morning. This afternoon we visit the vast Sera Monastery. **B,L,D**

Day 12: Lhasa/Chongqing We fly today to Chongqing, where we visit the local zoo to see the beloved pandas. **B,L,D**

Day 13: Chongqing/Dazu/Board Ship Today's excursion features the Dazu Rock Carvings dating back more than a millennium – and now a UNESCO World Heritage site. These cliffside carvings reflect Buddhist teachings, tenets of Confucianism, and local folklore. Tonight we board our river ship and set sail downstream. **B,L,D**

Day 14: Yangtze Cruising – Shibaozhai or Fengdu Prized for its haunting natural beauty, the Yangtze is one of the world's longest (3,600 miles) and busiest rivers. This afternoon we visit either the Red Pagoda in Shibaozhai or the “ghost city” of Fengdu. **B,L,D**

Day 15: Yangtze Cruising – Qutang Gorge/ Wu Gorge/Small Gorges/Xiling Gorge Today we pass through narrow Qutang Gorge followed by tranquil Wu Gorge. Then we board a small *sampan* for a cruise through the stunning Small Gorges. Back on board our Victoria Cruises ship this afternoon, we enter 42-mile Xiling Gorge. **B,L,D**

Post-Tour Extension

October 23-25, 2017

SHANGHAI – ON YOUR OWN

3 days/2 nights for \$245 total price

Single Supplement: \$195

Spend additional time exploring dynamic Shanghai, China's most prosperous, vibrant, and cosmopolitan city.

Your Tour Price Includes

- 2 nights' accommodations at Hilton Shanghai (Deluxe)
- 2 meals: 2 breakfasts
- Transfer to the airport

"STUDY THE PAST
IF YOU WOULD
DEFINE THE FUTURE."

– LAO-TZU

Day 16: Yangtze Cruising – Three Gorges Dam/Shanghai After visiting the site of the immense Three Gorges Dam we continue on to Yichang, where we disembark and fly to Shanghai, the “Paris of the East.” *B,L*

Day 17: Shanghai Our day begins with a walking tour of the Xin Tian Di shopping and entertainment area of reconstituted traditional homes. We continue on to beloved 16th-century Yu Yuan Gardens, whose plantings, courtyards, and pavilions create the illusion of mountains, caverns and lakes. Then after lunch together we tour the acclaimed Shanghai Museum of ancient Chinese art and artifacts. Tonight we dine on our own then attend a lively acrobatics show. *B,L*

Day 18: Shanghai This morning we visit the Bund, the mile-long riverside embankment where foreign investors – and their buildings – once held sway. Then the remainder of the day is at leisure. Tonight we toast our China adventure at a farewell dinner. *B,D*

Day 19: Depart for U.S. We depart Shanghai for our return flight to the U.S. *B*



Nanjing Road, Shanghai's premier shopping street

Victoria Cruises Premier Ships



Launched/Rebuilt: 2004-2011 Air Conditioning: Yes
Registry: Chinese Decks: 5 or 6
Crew: 121-189 Passenger Capacity: 218-378

All Cabins: Private balcony; satellite TV with HBO

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within itinerary
- 17 nights' accommodations: 3 nights aboard Superior First Class ship of Victoria Cruises; 14 nights in Deluxe hotels
- 43 meals: 17 breakfasts, 14 lunches, 12 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip, including on shore excursions
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Tour Departs: October 5, 2017

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

| | |
|--|---------|
| Los Angeles, San Francisco | \$6,787 |
| Portland (OR), Seattle | \$6,987 |
| Boston, Chicago, New York, Phoenix, Washington, DC | \$7,087 |
| Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa | \$7,187 |
| Land Only (transfers not included) | \$5,895 |

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy in an outside cabin and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$492, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,695. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Pacific flight: \$3,695 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Due to Chinese visa restrictions, no new registrations can be accepted within 65 days of the tour.

Please Note: This trip involves full days of sightseeing and significant amounts of walking. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour. Lhasa's altitude (12,090 feet) could pose problems for travelers with certain health conditions. You should consult with your physician if you have concerns.

For more information and reservations, please call The Traveling Aggies at **979-845-7514**, or toll-free at **800-633-7514**

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Tour Price

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odyssey Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities \$10-\$15 per day, per traveler); optional sightseeing or shore excursions; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odyssey Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; cancel 94-95 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odyssey Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.**

Upon reservation you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.

No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

Responsibility

The liability of The Association of Former Students, as sponsor, and Odyssey Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odyssey Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The Association of Former Students and Odyssey Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues

We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odyssey Unlimited, Inc. tour. There is a significant amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own.** We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, The Association of Former Students and Odyssey Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information

Odyssey Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odyssey Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of our operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odyssey Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**



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College Station, Texas 77840-2918

Presorted
Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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JOIN US ON AN EXCLUSIVE
TRAVELING AGGIES TOUR TO
CHINA AND TIBET!

*Guaranteed Small Group:
Limited to 24 Guests*

