

Highlights of China

Including Yangtze River Cruise

Tour Length: 20 Days

Tour Departs: 19 May 2027

China, as one of the largest and most populous nations on earth, has so much to offer the traveller. A journey through China is a journey through 5000 years of history with the ancient and the modern standing side-by-side, and of course the history and culture is very different from our own. As was evidenced during the very successful Olympic Games in Beijing and the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai, China is changing. The last 20 years has seen this vast country rapidly progress to become a major player in the industrial and commercial world, but let's not forget the history and mystery of ancient China spanning 5000 years – it is never far away...

Highlights

- Beijing – the nation's capital and heart and soul of Chinese politics and society for over 5000 years.
- Xi'an – home to the incredible "Terracotta Warriors" – they must be seen to be believed.
- Shanghai – the most prosperous city in China where the old and the new sit side by side
- Yangtze River Cruise – The tour will spend 4 nights on board the Yangtze Paragon. The three great gorges in Sichuan and Hubei provinces are regarded as one of the greatest scenic attractions in China.

Tour Costs Per Person

Per Person Share Twin/Double Room

$13,950

Per Person Single Room

$16,700



Tour Costs

Inclusions

- Economy Class air travel from Auckland – cost for upgrade to Premium Economy or Business Class provided on request
- Prepaid airport/government/airline/ security charges and taxes
- Superior grade accommodation throughout
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Superior air-conditioned coach transportation for all touring
- Deluxe Cabins on the Yangtze River cruise ship
- All sightseeing as indicated in the itinerary
- Services of Local and regional guides for all sightseeing
- Baggage handling at hotels – where possible
- Tips and gratuities to local and national guides, coach drivers, cruise staff and baggage handlers
- Fully escorted by a Maher Tours Leader (subject to minimum numbers)

Exclusions

- Passport and visa fees, travel insurance (advice and assistance given)
- Any optional sightseeing tours offered in the course of the tour
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, room service, drinks, telephone charges etc

Booking Conditions

- Initial Deposit due at time of booking:
  NZD$3,000 per person
- Second Deposit due Wednesday 16 December 2026
  NZD$3,000 per person
- Final Payment Balance
  Due Tuesday 16 March 2027
- This tour is not suitable for those that require wheelchair assistance or mobility assistance. A good level of health and fitness required.

To register for this tour please contact us at 0800 500 518 or tours@mahertours.co.nz

Tour Itinerary

20 Days

Day 1 | Home – Shanghai

WEDNESDAY 19 MAY

Late this evening, we report to the airport and join the overnight flight to Shanghai.

Day 2 | Shanghai

THURSDAY 20 MAY (B,D)

We arrive in Shanghai early this morning and after clearing Customs and Immigration formalities, we are met and transferred to our hotel for our overnight stay. There is time to rest up after the flight until mid-afternoon when we enjoy a tour of the Pudong area. Dinner is included this evening.

Day 3 | Shanghai – Yichang – Yangtze Cruise

FRIDAY 21 MAY (B,L,D)

This morning we catch the high-speed train from Shanghai to Yichang. On arrival, there is time for a short city tour before we transfer to our first-class river ship for the start of our 4 nights on the Yangtze River with a buffet dinner onboard.

Day 4 | Three Gorges Dam

SATURDAY 22 MAY (B,L,D)

The Three Gorges Dam is the largest water conservancy project ever undertaken by man. The Dam is 2,335 metres long, 185 metres high, 18 metres wide on the top and 130 metres wide at the bottom. The Dam has raised the river to a level of 175 metres above sea level. The construction of the dam formally began in 1994. The body of the dam was completed in 2003, and power generation began in 2005. We enjoy a shore excursion to the Three Gorges Dam. Alternatively, you have the opportunity to pass through the Ship Lift (optional) and then visit the Three Gorges Dam.

Day 5 | Qutang & Wu – Lesser Three Gorges

SUNDAY 23 MAY (B,L,D)

Before breakfast, the ship approaches the entrance of the second of the Three Gorges – Wu Gorge. Below Wushan is the 25-mile-long Wu Gorge, with cliffs so sheer that the sun barely penetrates the precipices. This middle gorge is best known for twelve unique peaks. Often hidden in swirls of mist, six peaks line the north side of the river, and six staggered peaks stand to the south. After breakfast, on arrival in Wushan we will disembark for a shore excursion to Shennv Stream. Return to the ship, and lunch is served. Continue sailing upstream to the Qutang Gorge – the last, shortest and most dramatic of the Three Gorges. This afternoon you have the opportunity to take part in an optional shore excursion to White Emperor City..

Day 6 | Fengdu

MONDAY 24 MAY (B,L,D)

After breakfast, we disembark for our shore excursion to Fengdu Ghost City with 2000 years' history. According to the Chinese legend, two officials named Yin and Wang from the Han Dynasty became immortals through practicing Taoist teachings and were then worshipped as the "Ghost King" and "Ghost Queen" after their deaths. Over time, Fengdu became associated with the afterlife and was believed to be where the dead passed through to reach the netherworld. We return to the ship for lunch and spend the remainder of the day cruising on the scenic Yangtze River.

Day 7 | Fuling – Chongqing - Xian

TUESDAY 25 MAY (B,L,D)

We disembark from our river cruise ship in Chongqing after breakfast and then onto Chongqing Zoo to see the Pandas before joining the high-speed train to Xian, arriving late evening.

Day 8 | Xian

WEDNESDAY 26 MAY (B,L,D)

Today we visit the most significant archaeological excavations of the 20th century, the life-sized Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses as they guard the tomb of Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of China. The life-sized terracotta soldiers and their horses were discovered in 1974 having been preserved in an underground vault of earth and timber for 2000 years. At the completion of our visit, we return to the city and see the ancient City Wall and Grand Mosque. This evening, we enjoy a Tang Dynasty dinner and cultural show featuring music, dance, and traditional costumes.

Day 9 | Xian - Beijing

THURSDAY 27 MAY (B,L,D)

After a leisurely breakfast we join our high-speed train through to Beijing. Arriving late afternoon, the remainder of the day is at leisure until we meet for dinner this evening.

Day 10 | Beijing

FRIDAY 28 MAY (B,L,D)

Our full day tour takes us 40 miles north of the city to the Great Wall. The original construction of the Great Wall started in the 7th century B.C. to keep out the warring invaders. Additional sections were added for nearly 4,000 miles. A walk along this Great Wall is truly inspiring. The afternoon is equally as memorable and of a different era as we visit the icons of the Beijing Olympics – Bird Nest and Water Cube.

Day 11 | Beijing

SATURDAY 29 MAY (B,L,D)

Beijing has been the heart and soul of Chinese culture, politics and society for over 5000 years. We commence our sightseeing program of this fascinating city with a walk through the landmark Tiananmen Square, followed by a visit to the Forbidden City – the largest and most complete ancient imperial palace in the world. Thereafter, we spend time at the Summer Palace – once a summer retreat for the emperors and their families and now one of China's best-preserved imperial gardens. Enjoy this masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design. Tonight, enjoy a western dinner.

Day 12 | Beijing

SUNDAY 30 MAY (B,L,D)

This morning, we visit the Temple of Heaven where the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties worshipped. The surrounding grounds of the Temple will give us an insight into the locals' daily activities. In the afternoon we visit Beijing's famed Hutongs near Houhai Lake. This evening, we get together to enjoy the traditional Peking duck dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 13 | Beijing - Suzhou

MONDAY 31 MAY (B,L,D)

Today we take the high speed train to Suzhou. Upon arrival, we are met and transferred to our hotel. A city, often called the "Oriental Venice", and famous for its classic gardens. We spend two nights in Suzhou.

Day 14 | Suzhou

TUESDAY 01 JUNE (B,L,D)

On our tour today, we visit the Master of the Nets Garden which is a typical and recognized garden in China and the Panmen (Pan Gate) which dates back to 514 BC. It is the only intact land- and -water city gate remaining in China. Later, we board a traditional boat in Suzhou and cruise the canals that date back 1,000 years.

Day 15 | Suzhou – Wuzhen - Hangzhou

WEDNESDAY 02 JUNE (B,L,D)

This morning, we depart Suzhou and drive to Hangzhou, En route, we visit Wuzhen – a river village known for its ancient bridges. This is the China of picture books, complete with narrow streets, simple homes, tea houses and intriguing shops. We arrive in Hangzhou in the afternoon, where we spend two nights.

Day 16 | Hangzhou

THURSDAY 03 JUNE (B,L,D)

A full day tour visiting the Hua Gang Park and West Lake. You will appreciate the fabled scenery, such as 'Broken Bridge', 'Autumn Moon over the Calm Lake' and 'Three Pools Mirroring the Moon'. We take a short cruise tour on the West Lake then visit the Traditional Chinese Medicine Museum. The museum presents visitors with a style of antique architecture, alongside a treasury of traditional Chinese medical science and technology. With Hangzhou being famous for Longjing Green Tea, we visit a tea plantation to taste its famous tea and learn about the ancient tea making process.

Day 17 | Hangzhou – Shanghai

FRIDAY 04 JUNE (B,L,D)

Enjoy some free time this morning until we depart by coach for Shanghai.
We arrive into Shanghai late afternoon for a two night stay. We enjoy dinner together this evening and take the Shanghai Night River Cruise.

Day 18 | Shanghai

SATURDAY 05 JUNE (B,L,D)

Stroll the Bund promenade along the Huangpu River, where the old meets the modern in Shanghai; then to the Old Town with its winding alleyways lined with shops, tea houses, restaurants and to the elegant and tranquil Yu Garden. Xintiandi is a new attraction in downtown Shanghai, featuring the city's unique "Shikumen" houses and a maze of narrow alleys which have been converted into cafes, restaurants, bars, art and retail shops. In the evening, enjoy the breathtaking Shanghai Acrobats whose circus-like acts originated during the Han Dynasty more than 2,000 years ago

Day 19 | Shanghai - Auckland

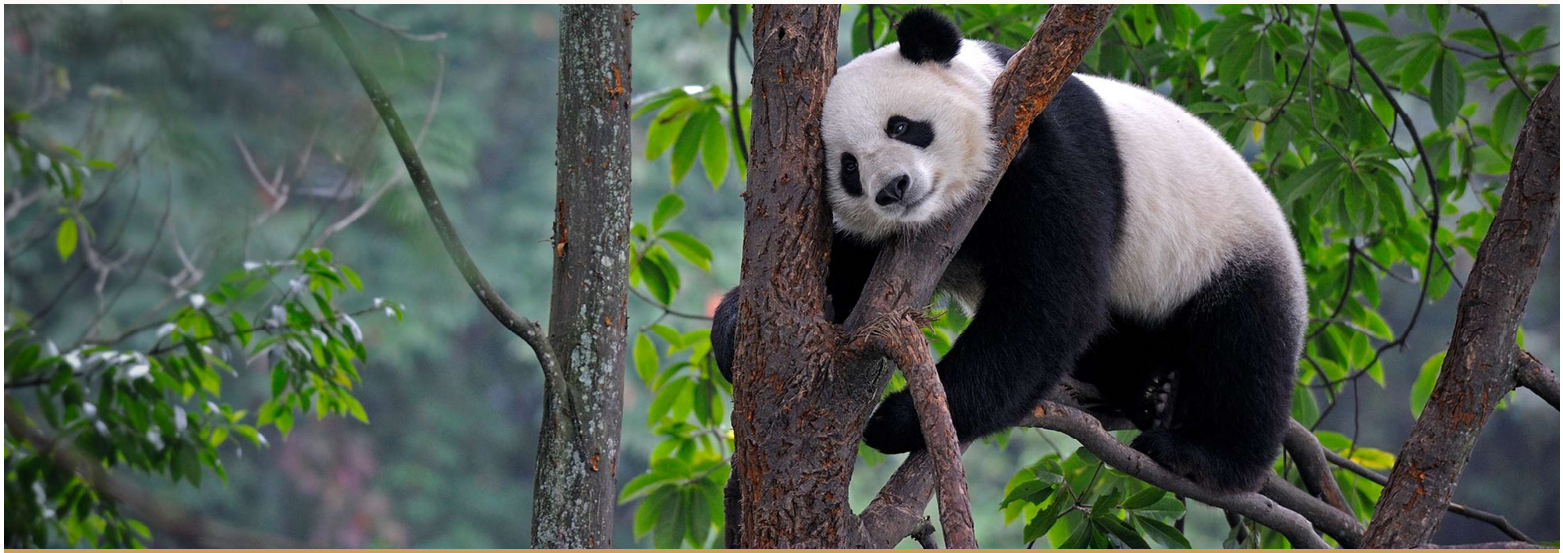
SUNDAY 06 JUNE (B)

A leisurely morning before we make our way to the airport to join our direct flight back to Auckland.

Day 20 | Arrive Auckland

MONDAY 07 JUNE

We arrive in Auckland early morning.





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Including Yangtze River Cruise

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FULLY ACCREDITED

IATA TAANZ

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