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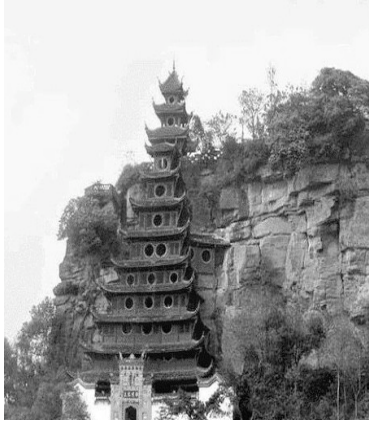


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Day One Depart Chicago on an overnight flight to Beijing.

Day Two We arrive in **Beijing** this afternoon and transfer to our hotel, where you will have time to freshen up before a fabulous welcome dinner.

Day Three This morning, we visit the famous sites of Beijing. We see **Tiananmen Square**, which came to the world's attention during the political demonstrations that took place there, the city gates (each with a specific use and interesting history), Chairman Mao Memorial Hall, and much more. Around each corner is a fabulous building, a delightful vista or an intriguing piece of history. This afternoon, we visit the incredible **Forbidden City**, an UNESCO World Heritage site. Built on 178 acres and containing over 8600 rooms, this is a palace like no other. We see the Hall of Supreme Harmony, the most stately of all buildings, the Baohe-dian—the most decorative hall which is used for banquets, and the Imperial Gardens. We end the day with a stop at the **Temple of Heaven** (UNESCO site).

September 29-October 15, 2013

\$ 7595.00 Double Occupancy, Per person

\$ 840.00 Single Supplement

Combine with Myanmar \$11,995—save \$2195

Day Four Our touring today brings us to one of the Man Made Wonders of the World—**The Great Wall of China** (UNESCO). In Badaling, the Great Wall is over 20 feet tall and over 18 feet wide. We will climb to the top of the Wall, see the watchtowers and marvel at this ancient feat of construction. We continue to the Sacred Way on the way to the **Ming Tombs** which is lined with 24 stone animals including lions, unicorns, camels and elephants and larger than life stone statues of soldier and officials.

Finally, we stop at the ornate Ming Tombs (UNESCO). Built at tremendous cost, the Ming Tombs were built for the emperors.

Day Five We visit the **Summer Palace** (UNESCO) this morning. While no less grand than the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace is completely different. The Summer Palace was built around a lake and the buildings harmonize with their surroundings, the ornate buildings, walkways and bridges accentuate the natural beauty of the area. This afternoon, we fly to Chongqing, where we tour the Chongqing Museum before boarding our ship for the **cruise down the Yangtze River**. This evening, we have a Welcome Party aboard the ship.

Day Six This morning, we arrive in **Shibaozhai**, where we wander the cobblestone streets and see the thatched roof cottages typical in this region, the town is a gem of Chinese architecture. We enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Yangtze River this afternoon as we cruise



along.

Day Seven Today we cruise the **Three Gorges**. Qutang Gorge is known for its high walls and harrowing passage. The Wu Gorge has the most breathtaking scenery including the highest of all mountain peaks in the ChangJiang. We leave the ship this morning to explore the Shennong Stream and return to the cruise ship for lunch. This afternoon, we travel through the Xiling Gorge, the longest of the three gorges. It is said to be inhabited by the Dragon Kings fiercest dragons. The final highlight of the day is the **5 step ship lock** at the 3 Gorges Dam.

Day Eight This morning we explore the 3 Gorges Dam. This is the **world's largest hydro-electric dam**. This is the largest construction project in China since the Great Wall. We leave the ship today and fly to Shanghai. This evening we enjoy dinner and traditional Chinese entertainment.

Day Nine Today we tour Shanghai. We begin at the Shanghai Museum where we learn about the history and culture of this historic city. We continue to the lovely

Yuyuan Garden, designed over 400 years ago. Our final stop is the Bund, the main promenade in Shanghai.

Day Ten Our tour continues on to **Xian** today, known throughout the world for the Terracotta Army, but there is much more to see. There are the **Wild Goose Pagodas**, with origins in India, the Great Mosque, Bell Tower and Drum Tower and the Banpo Museum—an **archaeological site 6000 years old**.

Day Eleven The **terracotta army** and Mausoleum of the first Qin Emperor (UNESCO) await us today. Eight thousand terracotta soldiers protect the tomb of the first Qin emperor, located approximately 4 miles away. We tour the 3 vaults where the soldiers are depicted holding crossbows, bells and drums, and charioteers command horses. Each soldier has a unique face and their uniforms and armor depict their rank. Over 700,000 people worked on the underground tomb for almost 40 years. An evening flight brings us to Chengdu.

Day Twelve Today is Panda day. We will visit the famous **Panda Breeding center** in Chengdu. You will get closer and see more pandas than anywhere else on earth. Also bred here are the Lesser Red Panda. We will also visit Wuhou Temple and Jinli Street

Your Tour Includes:

Roundtrip airfare from Chicago
First class Hotel Accommodations
Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
Yangtze River cruise
All Breakfasts, Lunches & Dinners
Services of an Expert Guide throughout
Baggage Handling
Roundtrip airport transfers
All gratuities

which is renowned for its striking architecture.

Day Thirteen Today we will visit one of the great natural wonders of the world and a UNESCO site—the **Stone Forest of China**. Here limestone pillars resemble a true forest creating one of the most intriguing national parks on earth.

Day Fourteen More nature today as we visit Lake Erhai which not only is beautiful by itself but the nearby **Three Pagodas** make this a must see site.

Day Fifteen Another UNESCO site is the **Old Town of Lijiang**. This is one of those hidden treasures with its cobblestone streets, maze like narrow streets and its many canals. It is like combining Venice with the Kasbah. Here the Naxi People—one of the minority of China—live and we will learn and see their unique customs including falconry.

Day Sixteen One last UNESCO site and another natural wonder—the **Tigers Leap Gorge**. This is the deepest gorge in the world and one of the most scenic. The fast moving river cut deep into the rock bed to create one of the marvels of nature.

Day Seventeen We fly home today with memories of one of the greatest cultures the world has known.

By the Numbers...

10 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
5 "1000 Places to See Before You Die"
1 Wonder of the World