

# 13 Day Dream of the Dragon

## Yangtze Odyssey

USA – Shanghai – Suzhou – Wuhan – Jinzhou – Yichang – Yangtze River Cruise (Three Gorges) – Chongqing – Xian – Beijing – USA

**\*\*\*Guaranteed departures with SMALL group of no more than 18 passengers\*\*\*  
**Premium service with professional guides, deluxe hotels and sumptuous meals****

**Featuring China’s most famous highlights and our popular “People to People Contact”**  
*Cruise the scenic Yangtze, tour Great Wall, Forbidden City, Terra Cotta Warrior and Shanghai Museum*  
*Visit Giant Pandas Zoo, take photo of 2008 Beijing Olympic Venues: Bird Nest and Water Cube*  
*Visit a village school and a peasant’s home, interact with farmers and different walks of life,*  
*also includes Rickshaw ride, Peking duck dinner, Acrobatic Performance and Dumpling Banquet.....*

<b>2010</b> <b>Guaranteed Departures</b>  Mar 17, 2010 Apr 14, 2010 Sep 15, 2010 Oct 13, 2010 Nov 10, 2010	<b>FULL PACKAGE</b> Includes int'l airfare from USA Please inquire for special rates for departures from other US cities		<b>LAND ONLY</b> Not include the int'l airfare Own arrangement for flights USA – Shanghai, Beijing – USA (Domestic flights within China is included)	<b>Single Supplement</b>
	<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>New York</b>		
	<b>2660</b>	<b>2840</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>672</b>

\*Choose your own departure date .....and enjoy **VIP Private Journey** – accompanied by a private English speaking guide, a chauffeur and an air conditioned car exclusively (based on min. of 2 passengers)! Simply add **\$140** per person on our LANDONLY cost and enjoy premium service with maximum flexibility and personal attentions!

For full package with int'l airfare, US tax and fuel surcharge of \$188, China domestic flight tax of \$ 88 per person is extra  
 LAND ONLY packages is not subject to US tax / fees. Only the China domestic air tax of \$ 88 per person will apply.  
 Rates for departures from other major US gateway cities are available upon request.

Operated by *Orient Odyssey*



*B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner, F-In flight meals, SL / SD-Special local flavor meal or banquet*

**Day01 USA - Shanghai**

Depart from Los Angeles, or New York. Enjoy award winning in-flight meals and services.

Move the watch one day ahead as we cross the international dateline. \*Prices for departing from other major gateway cities are available upon request. F

**Day02 Arrive in Shanghai**

We reach Shanghai in the evening. After immigration and customs, our representative will greet and accompany us to the 4 star, deluxe, *Argyle Ryden International Hotel Shanghai*. Enjoy a restful night to recover from jetlag. F

**Day03 Shanghai**

Back in what some might consider its glamorous colonial days, Shanghai was called the “Paris of the East”. Once a muddy fishing village, the region was already a trading centre in 960 AD. As a result of the Opium Wars in the 1840s, the British imposed upon China the **Treaty of Nanking**, which, among many things, opened up Shanghai other four ports to foreign commerce

and residence. Foreign residents were given immunity from the Chinese laws, and settlements, or “concessions” were set-aside for them. Soon Shanghai became the place to be – a city with the best culture, the most opulent dance halls, the largest volume of business, the tallest buildings. It became a mix of cultures that was always to define its internationalism, even up to present times. New ideas also allowed for radicalism – a Shanghai tradition. The Communist Party was founded in the city in 1921, and the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s not only began here, but had its headquarters in Shanghai. Today, Shanghai has undergone an impressive transformation that leaves one



breathless. Where there were once neighborhoods of small houses, there are now high-rises. Where there were once handsome colonial-era buildings, there are now glitzy hotels. In the late 1990s, Shanghai required so many construction cranes that there was a regional shortage in the rest of Asia. It has now become a city of more than 4,000 high-rise buildings. Land that was rice paddies and farmland just a few years ago is suddenly dominated by skyscrapers and instant communities. Marking this ambition is the Shanghai World Financial Center, which will be one of the worlds’ tallest building at 492 meters (1,614 feet) high, just completed in 2008. We have a full day to explore the wonders of cosmopolitan Shanghai. First we tour the famous [Jade Buddha Temple](#), home of over 70 monks and [two precious rare Buddha statues](#) that were carved from a piece of white jade brought from Burma in 1882.



We then visit [the “Bund”](#), the legendary [waterfront promenade](#) with the most impressive skyline in the Far East - from 1920’s neoclassic buildings fully restored to their original beauty, to the ultra modern 1,380 feet Jinmao Tower, one of China’s highest buildings. Locals call here [Waitan](#), meaning outside beach. During Shanghai’s heyday, the European, American and Japanese banks, trading houses, clubs, consulates and hotels built a collection of buildings in various styles, and gave the Bund its reputation as a “*Museum of Architecture*”. After liberation, all were taken over by the Communist Party.

Today, these neo-classical buildings have been renovated and are beautifully lit up at night. Many of the old masters - banks and other institutions have moved back in. We will visit the [Shanghai Museum](#), one of China’s finest museums housing precious relics from the imperial dynasties to the colonial days. The bronze collection is reputedly the best in the world. We will stroll on [People’s Square](#), bounded on all sides by compelling buildings such as the stunning [Shanghai Grand Opera House](#), and the [Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Hall](#). Always busy, this has become the heart of the new Shanghai where we can observe all kinds of activity, kite flying, ballroom dancing, or folks out for a leisurely promenade. The highlight of the day will be a visit to a [local home](#) – part of *Orient Odyssey’s* “**People to People Contact**” program. We will chat with family members, and enjoy an in-depth view of normal Chinese city life. We will also visit a [kindergarten](#) where enthusiastic youngsters exhibit their talents. After dinner, we attend a world famous [Acrobatic Performance!](#) **B/L/D**



#### **Day04 Suzhou Excursion**

We enjoy a scenic coach ride through [verdant rice fields](#), passing [villages](#), [small towns](#) and [markets](#) of Eastern China to Suzhou, often referred to as “[Venice of the East](#)”. It is a 2,500 year old city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, renowned for her traditional gardens, ancient canals and silk production. The construction of the [Grand Canal](#) began 1,500 years ago for transporting goods to the northern capital of Beijing, over 600 miles away. With prosperity came prestige. As merchants and artisans plied their trades, elaborate gardens were built. We will board a wooden boat to [cruise the Grand Canal](#), [observing the bustling riverfront life](#). Then we tour the [silk spinning mill](#) to [learn how silk is created](#) from the mulberry munching silk worms, to thread producing, to cloth weaving. **Marco Polo** once reported that so much precious silk was produced in Suzhou that



every citizen was clothed in it. A highlight of the day will be a tour of [The Fisherman's Net Garden](#), intricately designed with changing scenes at each turn. We will stroll among the pagodas, pavilions, rockeries, fountains, ancient



trees and precious flowers.

Regarded as one of China's best antique gardens, the principle of Chinese garden construction –

creating an illusion of the universe in a small space – is clearly evident here. Our tour will end at the [National Embroidery Institute](#), where artists present the [double side embroidery](#) frequently used as state gifts to world leaders. A scenic coach ride takes us back to Shanghai. [B/L/D](#)

#### **Day05 Shanghai – Wuhan – Yichang**

This morning we fly to Wuhan via [Shanghai Airlines'](#) flight FM9361, departing at 8:40 a.m., arriving at 10:15 a.m.. Welcome to central China's most massive and upbeat cities, the important transportation hub that links China's East and West, North and South. Centuries of trade have flooded into here along the impressive Yangtze River, and the city's tight clutch of buildings on the waterway pump with levels of money and modernity to rival Shanghai. Enjoy the [short drive into the city](#). [Drive by the waterfront promenade](#), the [concession-era streetscapes](#), and the recently rebuilt [Yellow Crane Tower](#). We also drive on the impressive [bridge](#) that spans across the mighty Yangtze. After lunch, we continue on a scenic bus journey passing verdant rice fields, small villages



and little towns to ancient city of [Jinzhou](#). Rarely visited by conventional tour packages to China, here was once a famous stronghold in the turbulent Three Kingdom Era in ancient Chinese history. Pass the ancient [city wall](#), one of the best preserved in China, we head to [Jinzhou Museum](#). Observe the amazing collection of priceless treasures excavated from a [Han Dynasty tomb](#). One will be amazed by the well preserved artifacts, including large pieces of 2,000-year-old silk embroidered with strikingly beautiful patterns. In the evening we reach Yichang. After dinner, we board the 4.5 star,

deluxe, cruiser [M. S. Victoria III \(CCOTC\)](#) or similar class. Settle into the cabin and check out amenities onboard. This is one of the most deluxe vessels on the Yangtze. All cabins are exterior with a large picture window. There is a shopping arcade, sauna, massage room, banquet hall, observation deck, beauty salon, library.....etc. During the cruise one can enjoy lectures on Chinese history, calligraphy or painting, and take morning Taichi lessons led by the master. The vessel will stay in port during the night and set sail early in the morning. [B/L/D](#)

\*Shore excursion and cruiser schedule is subject to change due to local weather and condition. Captain will have the final say in view of the safety of the vessel and the passengers.

#### **Day06 Yangtze Cruise – Three Gorges Dam**

The Yangtze River originates on the Tibetan Plateau and traverses a distance of 3,900 miles



before flowing into the East China Sea near Shanghai. It is the third longest river in the world. With over 700 tributaries, the Yangtze has been the lifeline and major commercial

thoroughfare in China. Our ship will stop at [Sandouping](#) – the site of China's most ambitious engineering project, the massive [Three Gorge Dam](#). We will [walk on the dike](#) and [take a close look](#). Upon completion, the dam will be 610 feet high and over a mile wide. The hydro electrical power plant will be driven by the world's largest turbines and have the generation capacity of 18 nuclear power plants. A reservoir 372 mile long will be created, flooding thousands of towns and villages, and requiring one and half million people to be relocated. Entire cities will be rebuilt in higher elevations. Centuries old lifestyles will be altered forever. This afternoon our cruiser will enter [Xiling Gorge](#) – the first of the magnificent [Three Gorges](#), sailing through [narrow cliffs](#) and past [dramatic vistas](#). For the next 150 miles, the Yangtze winds through a spectacular [barrier of limestone ridges](#). Tonight we enjoy [Captain's Welcome Banquet](#). [B/L/D](#)



### Day07 Yangtze Cruise – Smaller Gorges

Another day of incredible scenery awaits us! Upon entering [Wu Gorge](#), we will see [softly layered peaks](#) forming a surreal backdrop as the ship courses through the [rugged canyons](#). Wu Gorge, celebrated for [twelve soaring misty peaks](#), has inspired Chinese painters and poets for thousands of years. We will change to a smaller motorized [wooden sampan](#) for an excursion to



the smaller gorges of [Daning River](#) or [Shennong Stream](#). Navigate through the clear emerald water surrounded by deep, lush gorges and high

forested peaks. Notice [ruins of the ancient plank road](#) built along the cliff face and the mysterious [hanging coffins](#) of the local Ba people. [Group of monkeys](#) sometimes appear from the dense forest near the water. We will return to our cruiser after the excursion. Tonight's dinner is [local style cuisine](#). We will also enjoy the onboard entertainment. B/L/D

### Day08 Yangtze Cruise – Fengdu

We sail into [Qutang Gorge](#) - the shortest and narrowest of Three Gorges, which is also the most spectacular section. Perpendicular walls rise from the river, narrowing it to a width of 328 ft and requiring the helmsman to exert great concentration in steering the vessel through the narrow passage. Today's



shore excursion goes to [Fengdu](#) - the legendary "[City of Ghosts](#)". Walk up the hill to enjoy the interesting collection of [ancient shrines and temples](#) dedicated to the gods of the underworld, depicting the "after death" experience. (Based on water and weather condition, this excursion may be replaced by a visit to [Wanzhou](#) – a fascinating town with a bustling market and a museum, or [Shibaozhai](#) – an ancient 12 storey wooden pagoda built along a sheer rock cliff amidst the mighty Yangtze). B/L/D

### Day09 Chongqing – Xian

Our Yangtze cruise will end at [the mountain city of Chongqing](#) – China's largest metropolitan area with a population of over 30 million. We will enjoy a rare opportunity to [see the Giant](#)

[Pandas](#) - China's national treasure at [the Chongqing Zoo](#). We then fly to Xian via [Hainan Airlines'](#) flight HU7291 departing at 2:40 p.m., arriving at 3:50 p.m.. Check-in at the 5 star, luxurious, [Grand New World Hotel](#). Xian has a rich culinary tradition. Tonight we will enjoy the famous local delicacy - a specially prepared [Dumpling Banquet!](#) After dinner, we will enjoy the evening at leisure. B/L/SD



### Day10 Xian – Beijing

Welcome to Xian, the capital for the Middle Kingdom for eleven dynasties (from the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C. to the 10<sup>th</sup> century A.D.), once among the world's largest and richest metropolises. As early as the 10<sup>th</sup> century, its population already exceeded one million. Today's program calls for a visit to one of China's greatest archeological discoveries – the site of the [Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses](#). Undisturbed for 2,200 years, over 6,000 life sized clay soldiers, each with different costumes and unique facial expressions, stand underground in battle formation guarding the tomb of China's



First Emperor [Qingshihuang](#). The figures are arranged in typical battle formation in 11 columns comprised of officers, soldiers holding spears and swords (many of them authentic weapons), and others steering horse-drawn chariots. In 1974, a well-digging peasant serendipitously uncovered the first of three massive earthen and timber vaults. It became one of the century's greatest archaeological finds. Archeologists unearthed [life sized terra cotta warriors](#), each individually sculpted, with the physical characteristics of the



humans they were modeled after. Also found were [archers](#), [infantrymen](#), [horses](#) and [exquisite bronze imperial chariots](#). We will see a movie depicting the history and secrets of the site, and then walk on the ramp that encircles the [main pit](#) for a sweeping perspective of the excavated artifacts. We will then watch the on-going excavations in

[pit number 2 and 3](#). In the afternoon we head to the ancient [City Wall](#) – one of the best preserved in China. The legendary Silk Road began here, which linked the Middle Kingdom and the Empire of Rome into a trading network of Silk and Tea. Next is a visit to a [local farmer's house](#). As part of *Orient Odyssey's* “[People to People Contact](#)” program, we will [interact with peasants and their family members](#) to gain an fascinating insight into China's rural village life. We also visit a [local village school](#) and [interact with students and teachers](#). After dinner, our train Z20 will depart at 8:16 p.m.. Enjoy the scenic and smooth ride cross the vast Northern China Plain, passing small towns, villages and cities. *Overnight Train (Deluxe Soft Sleeper Class)* 4 beds per compartment. [B/L/D](#)

### Day11 Beijing

Our train reaches Beijing at 7:17 a.m.. The local representative will greet us on the platform and accompany us for breakfast and fresh up at the hotel. Over the past 1,000 years, Beijing has served as the primary residence for three major dynasties. Under the rule of Kublai Khan in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the city was known as Khanbaliq – the City of the Khan, and it was a magnificent winter residence for the Yuan dynasty emperor. During the Ming dynasty, which replaced the Yuan, Beijing received the layout that survives today. The Qing emperors lived in the place until the dynasty collapsed in 1911. A highlight in the morning will be a [Rickshaw ride](#) through old Beijing's atmospheric [Hutongs](#), a network of



centuries old courtyard homes and narrow lanes that once pervaded the traditional city, once the center of daily life for Beijing citizens living outside the Imperial Palace. Each Hutong once has its own community with its own history. The alleys - some are so narrow that only one person can walk by at a time - are usually flanked by the gates and walls of [siheyuan](#) - [the traditional courtyard homes](#). Passing through maze like alleyways, we observe locals go about their daily life. At the road side elders are playing a game of Chinese chess or mahjong. Shopkeepers are selling traditional snacks like *jian bing* (pancakes) and *baozi* (steamed buns). Enjoy *Orient Odyssey's* “[People to People Contact](#)” program, we will [visit an old courtyard home, chatting with residents](#). The clash of new and old are apparent: with the capital's rapid development,

Hutong, along with the century old life styles are disappearing fast. After lunch we will check-in at the 4.5 star, deluxe, *Comfort Suites by Choice Hotels Beijing*. This afternoon we soar to the vast enclave of the imperial court, the magnificent [Forbidden City](#), also called [Ta Nei](#), “[The Great Within](#)”, a 9,999 room compound, the royal residence of the imperial family for over 500 years. In 1421, after 17 years of construction, the Ming emperor Yongle moved into the new palace. Until the founding of the republic in 1911, the palace was the imperial residence and center of the Middle Kingdom



during the reign of 24 emperors, from the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) until Puyi, the last emperor of the Qing dynasty, and of China. We will

experience the architectural splendor of the [grand palaces and halls](#), beautiful [ceremonial courtyards](#) and exquisite [private quarters](#). An estimated 8,000 – 10,000 people once lived here, including 3,000 eunuchs, as well as maids and concubines. Behind walls that are more than 30 ft high, and within the 160 ft broad moat, life in the Imperial Palace was dictated by complex rules and rituals. Entry was denied to ordinary people. Today gates lead to a fascinating display of Chinese history in what may be the best preserved site of classical Chinese architecture at its pinnacle. We exit the palace by walking through



[the Gate of the Heavenly Peace](#) under the famed portrait of Chairman Mao, and enter [Tiananmen Square](#) – [the largest public plaza in the world](#) that can hold a million people. We [stroll across](#) its vast expanse and [see](#) an [assortment of historical buildings, monuments and museums](#), including Chairman Mao's' Mausoleum, the Monument to the People's Heroes, and the Great Hall of the People – home of the National People's Congress. [B/L/D](#)

### Day12 Beijing

A scenic drive through countryside takes us to the most famous monument in China – [the Great Wall](#). The “original” wall was built in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC to exclude foreign invaders. Construction continued for centuries, eventually

linking up the walls of the former independent kingdoms. The Great Wall stretches through



China's northern mountain ranges from Yellow Sea to the Gobi Desert – a distance of over 3,500 miles. We will

enjoy ample time to walk the wall at our own pace, and take in the enormity of this edifice. From the high points we can view the breathtaking scenery, where the mighty wall climbs and descends a lovely mountain landscape. On route back to the city, we will visit a cloisonné factory and observe the painstaking labor intensive procedure, creating unbelievable art pieces. This afternoon we explore the idyllic Summer Palace - the "Garden of Cultivated Harmony" built by the notorious Empress Dowager Cixi, using money intended for the creation of a naval fleet. Originally a concubine of the third rank, Cixi had placed herself on the Dragon Throne after the death of the emperor and

ruled in an unscrupulous and self-centered way for 50 years, initially in the name of her young



child. By deploying young women and other earthly distractions, she kept him away from matters of government until his death at the age of 18. Bypassing the legal inheritance, she installed her young nephew as emperor and governed from "behind the throne" until he was of age. She then retired to the Summer Palace, but continued to meddle in court politics until she died in 1908. We will explore this beautiful imperial resort, with its temples, lakes and pavilions. Enjoy a leisurely stroll through the Long Corridor – of light wooden construction and decorated with painted scenes from Chinese mythology. The 2,572 ft covered pathway runs parallel to the Northern shore of the picturesque Kunming Lake to a decorated marble boat where



Ci Xi, looking out over the lake, took tea. On route return to the city we take a picture stop in front of the famous 2008 Beijing Olympic

Venues: The Bird Nest and Water Cube. Tonight we enjoy the delicious farewell dinner. The multi-plate feast includes the famous local

flavor dish of Peking Duck, roasted to the crispy perfection. Red wine is on us! **B/L/SD**

### **Day13 Beijing – USA**

After breakfast, we savor the memory of our splendid **China odyssey**, and board homebound flight, arriving USA on the same day. **B/F**

#### **\*Optional Extension**

Our programs are flexible! You can extend your stay in Beijing to explore more historic highlights, or shop for antiques at local markets. Or, travel on to Hong Kong, Shangri-la or even Tibet! Please contact us for more information.

#### **\*International Flights**

Orient Odyssey features *Northwest, Delta Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, Continental Airlines, Asiana Airlines* or *Korean Airlines* as the international carrier for this package. Based on your departure cities and tour logistics, Orient Odyssey reserves the right to choose and secure other major international carriers for your journey. Flight arrangements will be finalized at least 60 days before departure.

\*Sample int'l flight schedules are as follows – note schedules are subject to change:

From Los Angeles (LAX):

DEP:	OZ203	Los Angeles – Seoul	0020 / 0520
	OZ361	Seoul – Shanghai	0940 / 1040
RTN:	OZ336	Beijing – Seoul	1600 / 1900
	OZ204	Seoul – Los Angeles	2020 / 1520

From New York (JFK):

DEP	OZ221	JFK – Seoul	0030 / 0410
	OZ361	Seoul – Shanghai	0940 / 1040
RTN	OZ336	Beijing – Seoul	1600 / 1900
	OZ222	Seoul – JFK	2000 / 2100

#### **\*Note**

Fuel surcharges and taxes are subject to change. Updated and accurate amount will be advised before the ticketing deadline. Tour cost is quoted based on

current foreign exchange rate as of November 1, 2009.  
Price is guaranteed once full payment is received.

*Kindly refer to General Terms & Conditions*

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