

photo: Philip Larson



photo: Pete Stewart

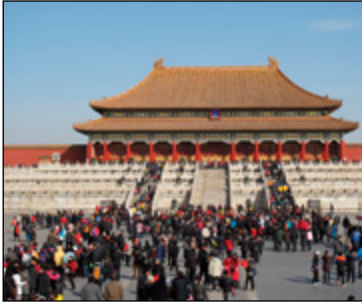


photo: Willuz4



ULTIMATE HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA

BEIJING – LONGMEN – DENG FENG – ZHENGZHOU – YICHANG – YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE (SHENNONG STREAM – XILING, WU & OUTANG GORGES – FENGDU) CHONGQING – GUILIN – YANGSHUO – XI'AN – SUZHOU – TONGLI – SHANGHAI

October 17 – November 3, 2017 (18 days)

Day 1 Tue, October 17

CANADA – BEIJING

Departure for Beijing.

Day 2 Wed, October 18

ARRIVE BEIJING

We arrive in China's imperial capital whose rich history dates back more than 3,000 years. Upon arrival, we will be greeted by our local guide, transfer to the hotel and later dine at the hotel. (D)

Day 3 Thu, October 19

BEIJING

We begin our exploration of the heart of Beijing with the vast **Tian'anmen Square**. Large enough to hold up to one million people, this infamous site has been the scene of many political dramas. From here we will see the Monument of the People's Heroes, the Great Hall of the People and the National Museum of China before entering the **Forbidden City**. The royal Residence for many of China's emperors during nearly 500 years, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is the world's largest surviving palace complex. This afternoon, we tour the **Summer Palace**, a beautiful 700-acre oasis situated on the man-made Kunming Lake, where we can stroll through an enchanting landscape of gardens dotted with pagodas and pavilions. We'll also have an opportunity to visit a local **pearl factory**. This evening we will enjoy a special **Peking Duck Dinner** and an exciting bus tour to experience **Beijing by Night**, which will take in Donghua Gate Food Market & Sanlitun Bar Street. (B,L,D)

Day 4 Fri, October 20

BEIJING

Today begins with a drive through the countryside to one of the great Wonders of the World, the **Great Wall of China** (Mutianyu Great Wall). Here we will have time to explore some of its pathways and enjoy breathtaking views from its ramparts. After lunch, we journey to the 15th century tomb of Emperor Yongle at Chang Ling via the Sacred Way, a tree-lined avenue guarded by massive animal sculptures which leads to the famous **Ming Dynasty Tombs**. Thirteen of the sixteen Ming Dynasty Emperors rest in this area,



photo: Pzzhou

laid out by Yongle who moved the capital from Nanjing to Beijing. we'll make a stop at the 'Bird's Nest', Beijing's Olympic Stadium. This evening's entertainment is a dazzling **Beijing Acrobatic Show**. (B,L,D)

Day 5 Sat, October 21

BEIJING – LONGMEN

We begin the day with a visit to the beautiful **Temple of Heaven**, then take a **Rickshaw Tour** around the ancient alleyways of Beijing's Hutong, a 700-year-old traditional cottage neighbourhood. We'll visit a family in one of the "Quadrangles". After lunch, we have a few hours to relax on the high-speed train to Longmen. (B,L,D)

Day 6 Sun, October 22

LONGMEN – DENG FENG – ZHENGZHOU

This morning, you will be amazed by **Longmen Grottoes** where we will see the statues that remain of the more than 100,000 that once beautifully displayed the evolution of Buddhist art. We visit the famous **Shaolin Temple** next, birthplace of Chinese Shaolin Kungfu and of Chinese Zen Buddhism. First we'll see a **Martial Arts Performance** by the monks and then visit the **Forest of Pagodas**, final resting place for many of the monks, this serene locale contains more than 200 stone funerary pagodas. We continue finally to Zhengzhou city. (B,L,D)

Day 7 Mon, October 23

ZHENGZHOU – YICHANG – YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE

This morning we start with a short visit to **Zhengzhou city** and then enjoy the high-speed train (4 hours) to Yichang city where the cruise begins. (B,L,D)

Day 8 Tue, October 24

YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE

After a brief Cruise orientation, a shore excursion at Sandouping takes us to **Three Gorges Dam**, the biggest hydroelectric dam in the world. Returning to the ship, we sail through the Three Gorges Dam Shiplocks and pass **Xiling Gorge**, the longest and historically the most hazardous of the famous Three Gorges. Tonight, we have a **Captain's Welcome Party**, followed by a Crew Cabaret Show. (B,L,D)

Day 9 Wed, October 25

YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE

We begin with an excursion to **Shennong Stream** to see cascading waterfalls, steep cliffs, karst caves, tricolored springs, and an amazing array of fish, birds, and monkeys as they play near the water's edge. We return to the ship and

continue sailing through the second gorge, **Wu Gorge**, known for its odd, misty rock formations and backdrop of soaring mountains. The third, **Qutang Gorge**, is next - the shortest but the most dramatic of the Three Gorges with ancient relics scattered along its steep cliffs. (B,L,D)

Day 10 Thu, October 26

YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE

Arriving in **Fengdu**, we'll enjoy a morning shore excursion to the 'Ghost City', known for its statues of ghosts and devils on Mingshan Hill. Tonight we gather for the **Captain's Farewell Banquet**. (B,L,D)

Day 11 Fri, October 27

CHONGQING – GUILIN

Today we disembark for **Chongqing**, capital during the Second World War. We'll visit **Chongqing Zoo** to see the famous pandas. Later we take a flight to **Guilin**, and can enjoy an evening tour to the **Night Market**. (B,L,D)

Day 12 Sat, October 28

GUILIN -YANGSHUO

This morning we can indulge in a scenic **Cruise on the Li River**. Then we disembark at **Yangshuo** to see the lively and colourful local market. Tonight we will experience the famous **Liusanjie Impression Show**. (B,L,D)

Day 13 Sun, October 29

YANGSHUO- GUILIN- XI'AN

We depart Guilin for our flight to **Xi'an**. Upon arrival we can visit a distinctive **Market** of the local Hui population and the historic Ming Dynasty **City Wall**. (B,L,D)

Day 14 Mon, October 30

XI'AN

This unforgettable full day begins with a visit to the Terracotta Warrior reproduction factory and then on to one of the most exciting archaeological finds of the 20th century, the actual excavation site of the **Terracotta Warriors** in the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang. Here we can see the thousands of individually defined, detailed, lifesized warriors, archers, infantrymen and horses which were moulded out of stoneware to be buried with the Emperor. Upon returning to Xi'an we will have some time at leisure to relax and explore the town. This evening we will be treated to a special **Dumpling Banquet** as we enjoy a colourful **Tang Dynasty Show**. (B,L,D)

Day 15 Tue, October 31

XI'AN – SHANGHAI-SUZHOU

We take a flight to Shanghai then drive 1.5 hours to **Suzhou**, where we can visit the Lingering Garden. (B,L,D)

Day 16 Wed, November 1

SUZHOU - TONGLI - SHANGHAI

We begin with a **Suzhou Canal Cruise** to delight in this 'Venice of the East'. Next we have an opportunity to visit a **silk production facility** and tour the **Water Village of Tongli**, which has a history spanning over 1,000 years. We will bring the day to a close in Shanghai. (B,L,D)

Day 17 Thu, November 2

SHANGHAI

Today we will visit the **Shanghai Museum** and **People's Square**. We can enjoy all the beautiful historical architecture as we walk along the "Bund" and have a closer look at the famous Oriental Pearl TV Tower. We finish with a little time at leisure to shop along Nanjing Road. Tonight we'll have a fabulous dinner featuring Shanghai's famous Steamed Buns, Xiaolongbao. (B,L,D)

Day 18 Fri, November 3

SHANGHAI - CANADA

We transfer to the airport for our flight home and arrive the same day. (B)

INCLUDED

- Return air fare Canada – China.
- 2 High speed train trips within China.
- 3 flights within China.
- 4 night Yangtze River Cruise with all services on board (including port taxes, entertainment, etc.)
- Li River Cruise in Guilin and Suzhou Canal Cruise.
- Accommodation in comfortable superior tourist-class hotels.
- Private bus and guide for land touring.
- Excursions during cruise as per itinerary.
- Entrances and sightseeing as per itinerary.
- Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) and Dinner (D) as per itinerary. Special dining and entertainment evenings in bold (D).
- Tips and Gratuities for Yangtze Cruise crew and excursions.
- Local taxes and service charges.

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel Visa.
- Travel Insurance.
- Departure taxes (approx. \$600; varies per departure city).
- Most airlines now apply Seat Assignment charges. We will advise you if this is the case, and how much, at time of booking.
- Tips and Gratuities for drivers/guides.
- Drinks and items of a personal nature.

COST in Canadian funds per person based on double occupancy

18 Day Tour	CDN
from Vancouver	\$4990
for rates from other cities, please call our office	
Single Supplement	+ \$1490



photo: Hao Wei



photo: Carla Antonini

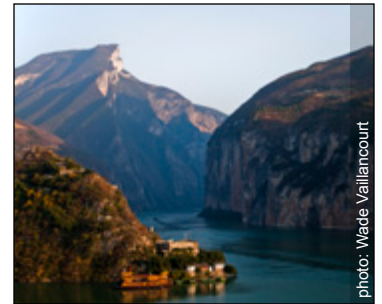


photo: Wade Vaillancourt



photo: pieetmrai



photo: Andrew Hitchcock

RESERVATION FORM

please indicate your tour selections below

ULTIMATE HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA

October 17-November 3, 2017 (18 days)

Please fill out this form in full and mail it with your deposit of \$600.⁰⁰ and insurance payment for each passenger. Insurance is optional but strongly recommended. Please write name **exactly** as listed in passport (e.g.: William, not "Bill")

PASSENGER NO. 1: NAME		PASSENGER NO. 2: NAME	
Mr/Mrs/Ms	First Name	Mr/Mrs/Ms	First Name
	Middle Name		Middle Name
	Last Name		Last Name
Passport #:		Passport #:	
Passport Issuing Country:		Passport Issuing Country:	
Date of Birth:	dd/mm/yy	Date of Birth:	dd/mm/yy
City + Country of Birth:		City + Country of Birth:	

ADDRESS:	Street:	
	City:	Province/State:
	Postal Code:	Country:
	Phone: home	work
	email:	

Next of Kin (to be contacted in case of emergency): _____ ph: _____

Accommodation: Single Double Sharing with: _____

Seating Preference on Aircraft: Window Aisle

Special Dietary Meal Request: _____ (where available for flights/cruises)

First Name (as you would like it to appear on your name tag): _____

INSURANCE: Please see insurance page then indicate your choice below
All-Inclusive or Trip Cancellation insurance should be purchased at time of deposit Accepted Declined
specify All Inclusive or Trip Cancellation _____
specify amount of premium (see next page) \$ _____

Please make cheques payable to: **SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL**
AGTA 4603 Main Street, Vancouver, BC V5V 3R6 Canada
BC Reg # 23625 phone: (604) 291-1332 or 1 (800) 665-0998

VISA/MASTERCARD PAYMENTS: *A 2% service fee applies to payments made by credit card

Card Number _____ Expiry date _____

Name on card _____

Amount to be charged _____

I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the brochure.

SIGNATURE: _____



photo: Bob the Mighty

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

A deposit of \$600 per person is required at the time of reservation on this Special Travel International (hereafter called STI) tour. A second payment of \$600 per person is due by February 24, 2017. The final payment is due by August 25, 2017. Travel documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.

TOUR PRICES:

All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation. Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by STI. **The deposit of \$600 is non-refundable.** The following scale of charges will apply when cancellation is received prior to departure:

until February 24, 2017	deposit of \$600
February 24 – August 25, 2017	\$1200
August 25 – September 17, 2017	75%
After September 17, 2017	100%

P.S.: Different payment/cancellation policies apply to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking

RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss/expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

INSURANCE:

STI recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travel (in situations where insurance is not included in the tour price).

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents and visas required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any airliner carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes or conveyances. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.



photo: Bernt Rostad

INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Following are the main areas of coverage with **Allianz Global Assistance** and the two packages we offer for this particular trip. Please carefully read the brochure you will receive after booking for full details. For insurance purposes the key point is that you are in GOOD health.

Please note that PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS are not covered. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like further information.

Please Note: Travellers need to have current Provincial Health Plan coverage in order to qualify for the ALL-INCLUSIVE insurance package.

THE ALL-INCLUSIVE PACKAGE consists of:

- Cancellation & Interruption
- Emergency Medical (\$5 Million limit)
- Flight Accident
- Travel Accident
- Baggage & Personal Effects



photo: Airunip

THE ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGE (rate per person)

AGES ↓	0-60	61-65	66-70	71-76	77 +
double occupancy	\$269	\$347	\$419	\$524	\$1169
single room	\$309	\$399	\$482	\$594	\$1309

If you wish you may also choose the Cancellation & Interruption insurance alone; this plan is suitable if you have sufficient medical coverage already and these rates apply to any trip length.

Please Note: To cover Land cost and Air fare, add the flights purchased through STI to total insurable amount (in case of Package not including Air).



photo: Peter Morgan

CANCELLATION & INTERRUPTION INSURANCE

AGES ↓	0-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80+
double occupancy	\$232	\$267	\$299	\$341	\$459	\$552
single room	\$268	\$312	\$353	\$404	\$531	\$633

Note: Insurance rates are valid at time of printing and are subject to change. Insurance premiums are subject to Provincial Sales Tax: 8% Ontario, 9% Quebec, 7% Manitoba



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