CLASSIC CHINA & THE YANGTZE
October 31-November 13, 2018

14 days from $4,384 total price from Los Angeles, San Francisco
($3,895 air, land & cruise inclusive plus $489 airline taxes and fees)

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

Journey with the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) from October 31-November 13, 2018, on a special small group tour to China. From the capital of Beijing to fascinating Xian, and the fabled Yangtze River to cosmopolitan Shanghai, experience China's ancient past as well as its fast-moving present on this memorable tour.

The CAA is a global network connecting Columbians of all Schools to one another and to the intellectual and social fabric of Columbia University, even after graduation. It links 338,000 alumni through more than 100 Regional Clubs and Shared Interest Groups, online resources, and over 200 thought-provoking programs around the world. The CAA Travel Study Program is one of the benefits offered to alumni and is an opportunity to continue one’s Columbia education through new intellectual, cultural, and geographical horizons.

Space is limited to just 24 guests and will be shared with a cosponsoring alumni association. Please contact the Alumni Travel Study Program at travelstudy@columbia.edu or 866-325-8664 for more details and to reserve your place on this unforgettable tour of China!

Sincerely,

Donna H. MacPhee ’89CC, P: ’17CC
Vice President for Alumni Relations
President, Columbia Alumni Association
Tour membership limited to 24 alumni and guests

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THE YANGTZE

14 days from $4,384 total price from Los Angeles, San Francisco
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Comprehensive in scope yet briefer in duration than many China tours, this relaxed, well-paced journey combines monumental Beijing, a cruise on the fabled Yangtze, fascinating Xian, and cosmopolitan Shanghai. Traveling in your small group, you’ll have the good fortune to meet local people and to experience a host of China’s highlights, both ancient and of the moment.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Beijing, China

Day 2: Arrive Beijing We arrive in the Chinese capital and transfer to our hotel. After time to relax we meet our tour director for a walking tour of the area surrounding our hotel. Dinner is on our own.

Day 3: Beijing After this morning’s briefing with our tour director, we begin our discovery of this 2,000-year-old city at vast – and infamous – Tiananmen Square, and the Forbidden City, seat of imperial power during the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368–1911). Tonight we enjoy a traditional Peking Duck dinner at a local restaurant. B,D

Day 4: Beijing/Great Wall Our day begins with a rickshaw ride through Beijing’s ancient back roads and alleys (hutongs). Here we visit the home of a local family for a rare glimpse of the traditional communal lifestyle that is fast disappearing. Then we make a brief photo stop at Olympic Park, site of the 2008 Olympic Games. This afternoon we encounter the Great Wall, the incredible collection of ancient defense installations (and UNESCO World Heritage site) that stretches more than 5,500 miles and where we visit the Mu Tian Yu section by cable car. B,L,D

Day 5: Beijing This morning we tour the splendid Temple of Heaven complex where China’s emperors once worshipped. Later this afternoon we tour the Summer Palace, the former royal retreat with beautiful gardens and temples that is now a park attracting both visitors and locals. B,L

Day 6: Beijing/Xian This morning we fly to Xian. Once among the world’s greatest cities, Xian devolved into a provincial backwater until the accidental discovery of the Terracotta Warriors in 1974 – considered among the most significant archaeological finds of the 20th century. This afternoon, we tour Xian’s impressive nine-mile city wall and moat. Tonight, we enjoy a special dinner of traditional Chinese dumplings. B,L,D

Day 7: Xian Our day begins at Small Wild Goose Pagoda (c. 652 CE), among China’s most acclaimed

Small Group Tour Highlights

Beijing touring, including Tiananmen Square, Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven, Great Wall • Beijing hutong tour and home visit • Traditional Peking Duck dinner • Xian’s Terracotta Warriors • Three-night Yangtze River cruise, including Three Gorges and Small Gorges • Cruise aboard premier ship of Victoria Cruises • Included shore excursions • Visit to site of new Three Gorges Dam • Shanghai sightseeing: acclaimed Shanghai Museum, the Bund, Yu Yuan Gardens

Day Itinerary Hotel Rating
1 Depart U.S. for Beijing
2-5 Beijing Wanda Vista Beijing Hotel Deluxe
6-7 Xian Wyndham Grand Xian South Deluxe
8-10 Yangtze Cruise Victoria Cruises Sup. First Class
11-13 Shanghai The Kunlun Jing An Deluxe
14 Depart Shanghai for U.S.

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too new, too small, or too remote to be listed.

Avg. High (°F)

Beijing 66 55
Shanghai 72 63
Chongqing 71 61

Day

Hotel

Rating

1 Depart U.S. for Beijing
2-5 Beijing Wanda Vista Beijing Hotel Deluxe
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8-10 Yangtze Cruise Victoria Cruises Sup. First Class
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Average temperatures in Beijing and Shanghai

Cover Photo: China’s Great Wall winds across varied landscape for more than 5,500 miles.
Buddhist temples. After lunch we visit the museum housing the renowned Terra Cotta Warriors, the more than 7,000 life-sized soldiers created to guard China’s first emperor in the afterlife. We see these astounding pieces, each with an individually sculpted face, standing in military formation in three separate vaults. The entire complex is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. B,L,D

Day 8: Xian/Chongqing/Board Ship This morning we fly to Chongqing, where we visit the zoo housing the beloved pandas. Following dinner at a local restaurant, we board our Victoria Cruises ship and set sail this evening. B,L,D

Day 9: Yangtze Cruising – Shibaozhai or Fengdu Prized for its haunting natural beauty, the Yangtze is one of the world’s busiest and longest (3,600 miles) rivers. As we cruise along the storied waterway, this afternoon we visit either the Red Pagoda in Shibaozhai or the “ghost city” of Fengdu, with its complex of shrines, temples, and monasteries. B,L,D

Day 10: Yangtze Cruising – Qutang Gorge/Wu Gorge/Small Gorges/Xiling Gorge It’s a day of beautiful scenery as we first pass through narrow Qutang Gorge, smallest of the Yangtze gorges, followed by tranquil Wu Gorge. Then we board a small sampan for a cruise through the stunning Small Gorges. Flanked by sheer cliffs and steep mountains, the Small Gorges recall scenes from ancient Chinese scroll paintings. Back on board our Victoria Cruises ship, late this afternoon we enter 42-mile Xiling Gorge, with its swift rapids and churning whirlpools. Tonight we enter the locks of the immense Three Gorges Dam. B,L,D

Day 11: Yangtze Cruising – Three Gorges Dam/Shanghai We tour the site of the immense Three Gorges Dam Project this morning then continue cruising to Yichang. Here we disembark and fly to Shanghai, the “Paris of the East.” Dinner tonight is on our own in this cosmopolitan city. B,L

Day 12: 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. After lunch together we tour the acclaimed Shanghai Museum of ancient Chinese art and artifacts. Tonight we dine on our own then attend an acrobatics show. B,L

Post-Tour Extension

November 13-16, 2018

HONG KONG – ON YOUR OWN

4 days/3 nights for $995 total price
Single Supplement: $395

Explore this dazzling Chinese city on your own: great shopping, a mouth-watering diversity of cuisine, and a vibrant city scene.

Your Tour Price Includes

• Air transportation Shanghai/Hong Kong, inclusive of airline taxes and fees
• 3 nights’ accommodations at Cordis, Hong Kong at Langham Place (Deluxe)
• 3 meals: 3 breakfasts
• Transfers to/from airport
Day 13: Shanghai  This morning we visit the Bund, the mile-long riverside embankment where foreign investors – and their buildings – once held sway over Shanghai. Still one of the city’s most popular attractions, the Bund draws visitors and locals alike. Then the remainder of the day is at leisure; your tour director will help you find your way from here, perhaps to the bustling Nanjing Road shopping district … to the Oriental Pearl TV Tower for a bird’s-eye view of this dynamic city … or to a scenic boat ride along the Huangpu River that bisects Shanghai. Tonight we toast our China adventure at a farewell dinner.  

Day 14: Depart for U.S.  We depart Shanghai for our return flights to the U.S.  

Victoria Cruises Premier Ships

Launched/Rebuilt: 2004–2011
Registry: Chinese
Crew: 121–189

All Cabins: Private balcony; satellite TV with HBO

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within itinerary
- 12 nights’ accommodations: 3 nights aboard Superior First Class ship of Victoria Cruises; 9 nights in Deluxe hotels
- 29 meals: 12 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 8 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip, including 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 31, 2018

Prices include int’l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Los Angeles, San Francisco $4,384
Portland (OR), Seattle $4,584
Boston, Chicago, New York, Phoenix, Washington, DC $4,684
Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa $4,784

Land Only (transfers not included) $3,695

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 $489, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $1,195. 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 registrations can be accepted within 45 days of the tour departure.

Please note: This trip involves full days of sightseeing and significant amounts of walking on stairs and uneven surfaces. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest.

For reservations and information, please contact the Columbia Alumni Association Travel Study Program at 866-325-8664, or fax 203-724-0844, or e-mail travelstudy@columbia.edu

"There is no path to happiness. Happiness is the path.”
– Gautama Buddha
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; airline baggage fees; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited tour director and shipboard personnel, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per traveler, per day); 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 Odysseys 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 94-65 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, Odysseys 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 resumption, 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 release.

Insurance
We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event you must cancel your participation in the travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be your only source of reimbursement. You will be sent information about insurance upon registration.

Reopnsibility
The Columbia Alumni Association, its agent, TSS, LLC (collectively known as TSS), and its operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., act solely as agents for the passenger with respect to all transportation, hotel, and other tour arrangements; and neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motorcycle, car, or other conveyance; or for the actions of any third party involved in carrying the passenger or otherwise affecting the passenger. TSS and its operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellations, delay, or other changes in air or other services; sickness; weather; strikes; war; civil disturbances; acts or threats of terrorism; travel warnings or bans; termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance; quarantine acts or acts of God; or other causes beyond our control. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent sponsors. All such losses must be borne by the passenger, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay, or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the passenger shall have the option of accepting, in lieu of the original tour, such rescheduled tour(s) or other substitute tour(s) as may be offered by us or else, of receiving a refund of as much as such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the passenger’s behalf from carriers, third party tour vendors, etc., but we shall not have any obligation to the passenger nor bear any liability beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour’s itinerary and to substitute hotels, vessels, or study leaders. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and so long as this is due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the passenger shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point. No refund shall be made for the unused portion of the tour. By forwarding payment(s), the passenger certifies that they and/or their dependents, minors, and others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical, or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other passengers. We reserve the right to decline to accept, or to withdraw to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person’s health, condition, or actions adversely threaten the welfare or safety of other passengers, or otherwise impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled, and stored at the passenger’s risk entirely, and we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereof. We reserve the right to cancel or substitute faculty. We cannot guarantee the size of the Columbia group. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be effected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Greenwich, CT, pursuant to applicable Connecticut or federal law. The Columbia Alumni Association may receive nominal compensation for this travel program, contingent upon a minimum number of Columbia University-affiliated participants traveling under the auspices of the Columbia Alumni Association Travel Study Program.

Air Transportation – Important Information
Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy airfare 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. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour 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, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.