



CHINESE HIGHLIGHTS – 7th APRIL 2018



FULLY ESCORTED BY KATHY STUCKEY

16 DAYS CHINESE HIGHLIGHTS SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

\$6495.00 PER PERSON (TWIN SHARE) - \$1500.00 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

INCLUDES: RETURN TRANSFERS FROM LISMORE, RETURN FLIGHTS, SIGHTSEEING, 3 NIGHT YANGTZE CRUISE

3-4 STAR ACCOMMODATION, 12 BREAKFASTS, 3 LUNCHES, 4 DINNERS, CHINESE VISA& TIPPING

AVAILABILITY IS VERY LIMITED – MAXIMUM 16



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Saturday 7th April 2018

BRISBANE TO BEIJING

The Lismore to Brisbane transfer we depart at 5.00pm, for our overnight flight to Beijing via Singapore.

Sunday 8th April 2018

ARRIVE BEIJING

Novotel Xingqiao Hotel

Upon arrival at Beijing Airport you will be met by an Insider Journeys representative and transferred to your hotel. The evening is free to explore Beijing

Monday 9th April 2018

BEIJING SIGHTSEEING

Novotel Xingqiao Hotel

Begin your sightseeing of this impressive capital city with a walk through Tiananmen Square which was built on the orders of Mao Zedong and is said to have the capacity to hold over a million people. The square has often been used as a forum for popular dissent, including the infamous Tiananmen Square massacre of 1989. From Tiananmen Square continue on foot passing through the beautiful Gate of Heavenly Peace and under the portrait of Chairman Mao to enter the splendid Forbidden City. This ancient city was the sacred heart of the empire for over 500 years and home to the Ming and Qing dynasty imperial courts. You will leave via the North Gate and then head into one of Beijing's few remaining 'hutongs' or traditional lanes in the backstreets of the city.

Insider Experience - Local: Stop by a hutong family home and enjoy a delicious local lunch before hopping on rickshaws for more close-up glimpses of local life in these laneways.

Insider Experience - Unique: Take a short stroll to the city's famous Drum Tower once used to mark the passing of time.

Climb the steps to the top of the tower in time to see a display of the traditional beating of the drums. In your free time this evening you may like to explore the Wangfujing night markets to see (and try!) a huge array of gastronomic wonders from around China. (B, L)

Tuesday 10th April 2018

BEIJING SIGHTSEEING

Novotel Xingqiao Hotel

This morning travel to Mutianyu, 90 kilometres (56 miles) north-east of Beijing, to visit China's most famous attraction - the Great Wall of China. The Great Wall of China was built over 2000 years ago and is rumoured to be visible from the moon, extending 5000 kilometres from the Shanhaiguan Pass on the east coast to the Gobi Desert in the west. Take the cable car up to the Wall from where you can take time to walk or climb sections (as your energy allows), admiring the panoramic views and reflecting on the enormity of the material and labour required for its construction. It is estimated that a million people were used at different stages during the construction periods and that thousands died building it. Ironically the wall never achieved its aim - to prevent invaders from the north. Back in town this evening, you will have a chance to feast on Beijing's famous roast duck for dinner. (B,D)

Wednesday 11th April 2018

BEIJING TO XIAN

Mercure on Renmin Square Hotel

See one of China's most iconic temples, the sacred and architecturally unique Temple of Heaven. Also known as Tiantan, this perfection of Ming architecture has come to symbolise Beijing. Once used for the worship of the heavens for good harvest, the structure stands at 38 metres in height and 30 metres in diameter. With neither nails nor concrete used in its construction, it is completely balanced by wooden pillars. The temple is located within a vast park and in the early mornings the area is alive with tai chi enthusiasts, elderly men practicing Chinese calligraphy, dancers and performers reciting Beijing opera.

Insider Experience - Unique: From here head to the Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall. The main feature of the exhibition is an impressive 298 square metre detailed model of Beijing. This afternoon, drive to the north-west part of the city and visit the magnificent Summer Palace.

Filled with temples, pavilions, gardens and decorated corridors, the Summer Palace was particularly favoured by the infamous Empress Dowager Cixi in the late 19th century. Here you may wish to take an optional cruise on Kunming Lake. Wander through the extensive grounds of this vast royal garden which includes a number of Beijing's artistic gems: the 700 metre Long Corridor, the graceful Seventeen Arch Bridge, and the temples and pavilions of Longevity Hill. Later this afternoon, you will transfer to the railway station for an evening journey by 1st Class high-speed train to Xian (approximately 5½ hours). (B)

Thursday 12th April 2018

XIAN

Mercure on Renmin Square Hotel

Today enjoy a tour of this culturally diverse and very exotic Chinese city. Xian (which means Western Peace) is located close to the banks of the Yellow River and has a history dating back to 1000BC. The city served as the capital for China's greatest emperor, Emperor Qin Shi Huang (221 BC) (the word 'China' is derived from his name) and was also the starting point for the world's most famous trade route - the Silk Road. On today's city tour, start with a visit to the Big Wild Goose Pagoda. Built in 652 AD this beautiful pagoda was designed to house the Buddhist scriptures brought back from India by the travelling monk Xuan Zang. Xuan Zang, whose trek is creatively immortalised in the classic Chinese novel "Journey to the West", then set out to translate the Buddhist texts into Chinese script. From this historic Buddhist site you will continue onto the Great Mosque. An interesting fusion of both Middle Eastern and traditional Chinese architectural styles, the Great Mosque is one of the largest in China. Take some time to enjoy its lively street markets and fascinating local foods. End your tour with a bike ride atop the imposing Old City Walls which date back to the 14th century.

This evening you have an opportunity to sample Xian's famous local dumplings at a local restaurant (B)

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Friday 13th April 2018

XIAN TO CHENGDU

Dorsett Grand Chengdu Hotel

Insider Experience - Local: Start the day with a stroll through Xian's City Park. In the early mornings the area is alive with local people exercising and enjoying a range of activities like tai chi, ping-pong, badminton, Chinese calligraphy, even ballroom dancing! Then take a short drive east that will take you to the truly remarkable Army of Terracotta Warriors - one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th century. Still under excavation, these thousands of life sized terracotta warriors and horses were only unearthed in 1974 after being buried for 2000 years. Each figure is completely unique both in facial features and expression. The terracotta army was designed to defend Emperor Qin Shi Huang's tomb and ensure that he would have a standing army to protect him in the afterlife. Many archaeologists believe that the warriors discovered so far might only be part of an even larger terracotta army still buried in vaults around the Emperor's tomb. After lunch you have an opportunity for an educational visit to a Terracotta Warrior Factory to learn more about the complex production process (unchanged from Qin dynasty times!) of these fascinating artworks. From here head to the airport for your flight to Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province. Sichuan is the largest province in South West China and renowned for its stunning mountain scenery, dense forests, diversity of natural and historic sites and not least - its fabulous world famous spicy cuisine! Chengdu itself is a Chinese city with a difference and despite rapid development, there are still delightful pockets of backstreet life, teahouses and riverside parks to explore. (B)

Saturday 14th April 2018

CHENGDU

Dorsett Grand Chengdu Hotel

Rise early this morning to visit the Giant Panda Research & Breeding Base, just a short drive out of Chengdu and one of the highlights of this region. The base is a fascinating place to observe Giant Pandas and to learn about these endangered animals and the conservation and breeding initiatives that have been implemented to protect them and their natural habitat. You will have a chance to see and watch a growing number of Giant Pandas as well as the lesser known Red Panda. Take time to watch the younger ones at play which is always a source of much entertainment! If you are lucky and travelling in the latter part of the year you may get a chance to see newborn pandas only a few months old who are usually kept in incubators - a unique experience and one well worth hoping for! After lunch take a break in the peaceful gardens of Dufu's Cottage. Dufu is a famed poet from the Tang Dynasty and the gardens are filled with his sculpted poems amidst bamboo groves and serene pagodas. Your final stop of the day is the bustling People's Park. Visit the outdoor teahouses that makes a fine location from which to observe the daily local activity. (B)

Insider Experience - Unique: In the late afternoon or early evening, pop in to visit an English language group where people gather to develop their English skills. This is great way to meet Chengdu locals and they relish the chance to practice their language skills with native English speakers - a great experience!

Sunday 15th April 2018

YANGTZE CRUISE

5 star Victoria Cruises – Victoria Lianna

After a leisurely start to the day, transfer to Chengdu railway station for a journey by 2nd Class high-speed train to Chongqing, on the banks of the mighty Yangtze River. On arrival, you might like to try a traditional hotpot meal (a local speciality) before making your way to the river port to board the boat for your cruise through some of the Yangtze River's most spectacular landscapes. (B)

Monday 16th April 2018

YANGTZE CRUISE

5 star Victoria Cruises – Victoria Lianna

Leave the industrial surrounds of Chongqing behind and pass small towns whose existence is tied to the waters of the Yangtze. Your first stop is Shibaozhai. Meaning 'precious stone fortress' this impressive structure is built against a steep hill on the bank of the Yangtze River. Rising to a height of 56m over 12 stories, every floor of this architectural gem is dedicated to famous generals of the Three Kingdoms period (AD 220-65), local scholars and renowned Chinese poets. (B,L,D)

Tuesday 17th April 2018

YANGTZE CRUISE

5 star Victoria Cruises – Victoria Lianna

Rise early today to admire the magnificent river landscapes as our boat passes through the towering cliffs and mountains of the first and second gorges, Qutang and Wu Gorge. You will then take an excursion to 'Shennv Xi' (Goddess Stream)* which flows from the southern bank of the Yangtze opposite Goddess Peak. Once just a brook, the Three Gorges Dam raised the water level to 70-100 m in depth, making it navigable by small craft on which you will travel for about 15 km to view the beauty of its narrow gorges. Surrounded by beautiful peaks, many protected species live here, including monkeys, mountain goats, deer and boar; as well as varieties of Chinese medicinal herbs. Later, return to the ship and enter the third of the main gorges, Xiling Gorge, and this evening join the Captain's Banquet for dinner. Tonight the cruise ship will sail through the mighty five level shiplock and moor downstream of the Yangtze Three Gorges Dam. (B,L,D)

Wednesday 18th April 2018

YANGTZE TO SHANGHAI

Merry Hotel Shanghai

Early this morning take an excursion to visit the incredible site of the Three Gorges Dam Project. The scale of this project is enormous, at any given time up to 30,000 labourers were involved in the dam's construction. Completion of the project in 2009 saw the flooding of 20 towns and involved the relocation of about 1.3 million people. Return to your cruise boat and continue sailing to Yichang, where you will disembark and take an afternoon flight to your final destination, Shanghai. Once known as the 'Pearl of the Orient', Shanghai today has emerged again as one of Asia's most important cities. Before the communists arrived in 1949, Shanghai was a city of European-style mansions and the most important trading port in Asia. On arrival in Shanghai you will transfer to your hotel. In your free time this evening. (B)

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Thursday 19th April 2018

SHANGHAI

Merry Hotel Shanghai

Insider Experience - Taste: Eat breakfast as the locals do at one of our local guides' favourite breakfast spots.

Today your city tour will take you to the historical riverfront area known as the Bund - Shanghai's former 'Wall Street'. Home to an impressive collection of 1920s neoclassical buildings this area attests to Shanghai's former greatness. Next you have a chance to visit a silk factory to learn more about the ancient practice of silk production in China.

Insider Experience - Local: From the Bund area head off to one of the oldest neighbourhoods in Shanghai near the lovely, serene Confucius Temple, far from the tourist crowds. Explore the temple and the surrounding backstreets where you see some wonderful examples of old Shanghainese architecture and glimpse local life. Continue with a visit to the lovely Yu Garden - a beautiful example of traditional Chinese garden design dating back to 1559 during the Ming Dynasty. Later, veer off the typical tourist trail again and wander through the backstreets around Yu Garden. These small streets and markets are bustling with life. Laundry hangs haphazardly across footpaths and locals haggle over the best price for fruit and vegetables. Homemade noodles and fresh steaming buns are made, seafood is cooked up in street side stalls, and strange concoctions of herbs and dried ginseng sit in glass cases for sale.

This evening you are off to the theatre to view the world famous Chinese acrobats in a mind-bending performance of skill and agility. This show is the best in town (and arguably, the country!) and must be seen to be believed! (B)

Friday 20th April 2018

SHANGHAI

Merry Hotel Shanghai

Insider Experience - Unique: Head out to the suburbs of Shanghai to the charming old world atmosphere of nearby Zhujiajiao, a traditional water canal town dating back to the Ming and Qing dynasties. Here, you will browse through small stores selling local produce and souvenirs along Great North Street and see sites like the great Qing Post Office.

Zhujiajiao's network of waterways, old wooden waterside houses, arch stone bridges (36 of them!), and narrow paved laneways are the perfect setting for your short peaceful canal cruise and stroll to absorb the century old Chinese town atmosphere.

Back in Shanghai this afternoon you have some time at leisure. You may like to visit the fabulous Shanghai Museum, housed in a unique architectural building resembling a traditional Chinese vessel. This museum contains an impressive collection of ancient bronze works, ceramics, calligraphy, paintings, coins, Qing and Ming furniture, jade, ethnic minority costume and masks. Alternatively you might like to return to Xintiandi in the old French Concession area, or famous Nanjing road for some last-minute shopping or simply take in final glimpses of this exciting city.

Insider Experience - Taste: Join your group this evening for a farewell dinner at one of Shanghai's fine local restaurants to celebrate the end of a fascinating journey through China's culture and people. (B,D)

Saturday 21st April 2018

SHANGHAI TO BRISBANE

Today your tour ends with a transfer to the airport for your overnight flight back to Brisbane. (B)

Sunday 22nd April 2018

BRISBANE

You will be met on arrival and transferred back to Lismore with memories of a life time.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

ACCOMMODATION: Based on twin share in First Class (3-4 stars) hotels, 5 Star Cruise

SIGHTSEEING: Included as per itinerary.

MEALS: Included as per itinerary (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)

SERVICE CHARGES: Tips to restaurants where a meal is included. Service charges and local taxes on services provided. Gratuities have been included in the above prices for included sightseeing.

DEPOSIT: A non refundable deposit of AUD \$500.00 per person.

FINAL PAYMENT: Due in our office by no later than 8th January 2018

PAYMENTS: CASH / CHEQUE / DIRECT DEPOSIT / EFTPOS (Cheque or Savings) NO FEES

CREDIT CARDS WILL INCUR A 2% FEE ON TOP OF THE BALANCE

DIRECT DEPOSIT Account Name: Lismore Cruise and Travel / BSB: 082 522 / Account:197 576 416 / Ref: Your Name

PRICE: The advertised price is in Australian dollars and includes security & local taxes as per the itinerary. The price based on minimum passenger numbers of 12 and in order for the tour to operate these passenger numbers must be met.

CANCELLATION FEES:

More than 90 days prior to departure: loss of deposit

Between 90 & day of departure: 100% of total tour cost

AMENDMENTS: Change fees will apply to your booking once confirmed.

ITINERARY CHANGES & TOUR CANCELLATION: We reserve the right to vary itineraries should circumstances dictate, as well as cancel or reschedule any tour departure in accordance with operating requirements, or circumstances beyond our control.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE Due to limited coach capacity the sum of the length, width & depth of the case should not exceed 165.50cm (65 inches), and weight should not exceed 20kg. Charges may be levied in the event these limits are exceeded & the promise to transport you may be invalidated.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED: Passports, laundry, phone calls, items of a personal nature, beverages, meals and sightseeing not detailed on the itinerary, group photo, excess baggage, optional experiences and travel insurance. Please note that travel insurance is highly recommended.