

Grand Circle Travel

Information & Reservations
1-800-959-0405

Please refer to this code
when you reserve:

INET250

China & the Yangtze River (2007)

Day-To-Day Itinerary and Trip Details



Including roundtrip airfare from Los Angeles or San Francisco

Plus, enjoy these optional extensions:

Tokyo, Japan: 3 nights from only **\$595**

Bangkok, Thailand: 4 nights from only **\$495**

OVERVIEW

For centuries, the Yangtze has been China's main thoroughfare for commerce and culture. You'll explore ancient and modern Chinese civilization through a blend of land exploration and river cruising.

Construction on the Great Wall of China began more than 2,000 years ago, and symbolizes China's determination to keep foreigners out. The isolation of this great nation was nearly complete until recent modern history, and Westerners have only just begun to visit the treasures within the country that was a flourishing civilization when most of the rest of the world was just making its way out of the Stone Age.










Begin with a stay in the capital of Beijing, where tours show you the magnificent Forbidden City, Imperial palaces, and the incredible Great Wall. Travel to the metropolis of Shanghai and get a glimpse of the city's modern life as well as a look at artifacts from ancient dynasties.

The centerpiece of your trip is a cruise along the mighty Yangtze River. This river valley is home to spectacular landscapes of misty mountains, breathtaking gorges, remarkable canyons, bamboo groves, whirlpools, and lagoons. Along its narrow, cliff-bound passages lie some of China's greatest cultural treasures—ancient tombs, shrines, and walls dating to before the time of Christ. These cultural and natural wonders will be totally flooded with the completion in a few years' time of the Three Gorges Dam.

After your cruise, you'll discover some of China's World War II history in Chongqing, marvel at the 6,000 warriors of Xian's terra cotta army, and cruise the beautiful Li River in Guilin. End with a stay in the vibrant and bustling city of Hong Kong.

You can stretch the value of your international airfare with our Optional Pre-Trip Extension in the fascinating city of Tokyo, and our Optional Post-Trip Extension in exotic Bangkok, Thailand.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

-  **Roundtrip transpacific air transportation** — aboard regularly scheduled flights from Los Angeles, San Francisco, or Seattle to Beijing, returning from Hong Kong; plus, all flights as specified in the itinerary
-  **Airport welcome by a GCT representative at your destination** and private, roundtrip airport/hotel/pier transfers
-  **Accommodations** — 15 nights at First-Class, Moderate First-Class, and unrated hotels, in rooms with private bath; plus, 5 nights aboard a Regal China cruise ship in an outside cabin
-  **43 meals** — 19 breakfasts, 13 lunches, and 11 dinners (including a Mongolian barbecue lunch, 3 Western dinners, a Western lunch buffet, and traditional Chinese cuisine)
-  **12 exclusive, guided sightseeing tours** — including Beijing & Forbidden City, *Beijing's Hidden Lanes*, Great Wall & Ming Tombs, Shanghai, San Dou Ping & Three Gorges Dam, the Three Gorges & lesser gorges, Wanxian, Chongqing, Stilwell Museum & Flying Tigers discussion, Panda Visit, Xian & Terra Cotta Army, Li River Cruise, and Hong Kong
- Exclusive Discovery Series events** — including Shanghai Home-Hosted Lunch, Wanxian home visit with relocated family, Noodle-making demonstration, and local kindergarten visit
-  **Exclusive services of an experienced Grand Circle Program Director and local Chinese guides**
-  **Private motorcoach land travel**
-  **5% Frequent Traveler credit toward your next Grand Circle trip**
-  **Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips**

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- **Optional excursions and activities**
- **Gratuities to your Program Director/Trip Leader, local guides, motorcoach drivers, and ship's crew (if applicable)**
- **Visa fees, airport reciprocity fees and departure taxes (if applicable)**
- **Laundry service**

DAY-TO-DAY DETAILS

DAY 1 Depart USA

Embark on your transpacific flight from your choice of several U.S. gateway cities. Or begin your trip early with our optional extension in Tokyo, Japan.



DAY 2 Beijing, China

Arrive in Beijing this afternoon or evening. Your English-speaking local guide will meet you at the airport and escort you to your centrally located hotel. You'll also meet your Program Director today.

 **Accommodations:** Tian Hong Plaza Hotel or similar

DAY 3 Beijing/Forbidden City



Join us after breakfast for an opportunity to get to know your Program Director and fellow travelers at an Orientation Briefing. Your Program Director will go over the details of your upcoming trip and answer any questions you may have. You'll also hear about and have the opportunity to purchase Optional Tours.

After the briefing, set off on a sightseeing tour of Beijing. You'll walk around what is probably the largest and most imposing public square in the world. Tiananmen Square has been the setting for mass Red Guard rallies through the years and, in 1989, saw huge pro-democracy demonstrations.

The city of Beijing is built around Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. Beijing is not only the political and administrative center of China, it is also the single greatest repository of monuments and treasures from the imperial era. Beijing did not receive its layout until the rule of the Ming dynasty (1368-1644). In traditional Chinese thought, the world was conceived of as square. A city, especially a capital, was supposed to be square, a geometric reflection of the cosmic order.

You'll enter the Forbidden City, so named because it was off limits to visitors for 500 years. Completed in 1420, this was the center of Imperial palaces for the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties. The last dynasty fell in 1911, though the last Qing Emperor lived here until 1925 when it was made a museum. The city contains 800 ceremonial buildings, containing 9,999 rooms, and a courtyard that can hold 100,000 people. Marvel at its acres of grandeur—elegant palaces, pavilions, courtyards, and gardens—all walled in as a rectangular island within a moat wide enough for naval engagements.

You'll enjoy lunch at a restaurant outside the Forbidden City. The rest of your afternoon is at leisure.

Your day is complete with a welcoming dinner featuring traditional Chinese cuisine in the hotel this evening.



Accommodations: Tian Hong Plaza Hotel or similar



Meals: B, L, D



Included Tours

Tiananmen Square & the Forbidden City

DAY 4 Beijing/Optional Summer Palace & Temple of Heaven Tour/*Beijing's Hidden Lanes*/Optional Beijing Opera Excursion

The day is yours for exploration and discovery. Your lunch is included today.

Or, you can accompany us on an optional tour of the Temple of Heaven, which was built in 1420 during the Ming Dynasty to offer sacrifices to heaven and for a successful harvest. A masterpiece of architecture and landscape design, the Temple of Heaven comprises a number of buildings, gardens, and pathways whose organization symbolizes the relationship between Earth and heaven. The design layout instituted here profoundly influenced Chinese architecture and planning for centuries. Among the stellar structures is the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest, which has triple eaves, gorgeous glazed tiles, and dramatically carved marble balustrades. Built without nails, cement, or steel rods, the entire structure is fixed by wooden mortise and wooden brackets with the support of twelve pillars.

Then you will visit the Summer Palace, the former summer retreat for the imperial family during the late Qing Dynasty and now China's largest and best preserved royal garden. It has an 800-year history, beginning with the creation here of the Golden Hill Palace during the Jin dynasty. Much later, in 1750, the Garden of Clear Ripples was built on this site. The garden has been restored twice since then, after being damaged by foreign military forces.

This twelve-square-mile complex includes many pavilions, temples, palaces, and halls in a landscape of hills amidst open water. You might find the Long Gallery an interesting feature, as it measures over 2,300 feet long and offers paintings depicting Chinese legend, history, and natural settings.

After an included lunch at a local restaurant, join us for a tour of *Beijing's Hidden Lanes*. *Hutongs* are ancient city alleys or lanes. In the past, several thousand lanes, alleys, and quadrangles formed residential areas for ordinary people living in the capital. Surrounding the Forbidden City, many *hutongs* were built during the Yuan (1206-1341), Ming (1368-1628), and Qing (1644-1911) Dynasties. In the prime of these dynasties, the emperors, in order to establish their absolute power, planned the city and arranged the residential areas.

About half the population of Beijing lives in *hutongs*, which comprise one-third of the sprawling city's total area. *Hutong*, meaning alley, derives from the narrow lanes created by the walled residential compounds built one on top of the other in these cramped districts. The high walls surround the traditional *siheyuan* quadrangle, made up of four, single-story buildings fronting a courtyard. *Hutongs* take their names from the groups who live within, for instance, the Bowstring Makers' Lane, or if populated by a single family, their surname. Unfortunately, encroaching urban development now threatens *hutongs*.

You'll take a rickshaw to Drum Tower and have time to walk around the area. Then you'll walk through Beijing's ancient narrow *hutongs*, seeing the old houses and learning about the daily life of ordinary Beijing citizens. Today, as the city develops into an international metropolis, its lanes and alleyways, occupying one third of the city proper, still serve as dwellings for half the total urban population. We split up into smaller groups to visit with local families and enjoy a tea break.

You then stop for a visit at a local school where you'll play table tennis with the children. When school is not in session, you will enjoy a game of ping-pong or Fan Dancing with local people in Hutong instead.

This evening is free for you to enjoy as you wish.

Or, join us for a special visit to the Beijing Opera at a local theater tonight. The Chinese opera is an ancient theatrical art, and the opera troupes in Beijing set the national standard for this highest expression of Chinese culture. This is not like the Western opera, full of arias and centered around singing. It's a beautiful and delicate blend of grand opera, ballet, song, drama, and comedy that spans the entire history of China, its folklore, mythology, literature, and culture. Before the performance, you'll enjoy a backstage look at the

make-up and costuming process that adds such colorful dimension to the artistry of the performers. The cost of this optional tour is approximately includes dinner.

 **Accommodations:** Tian Hong Plaza Hotel or similar

 **Meals:** B, L

 **Included Tours**

Beijing's Ancient Hidden Lanes

 **Optional Tours**

Summer Palace & Temple of Heaven

Beijing Opera

DAY 5 Beijing/Great Wall/Ming Tombs & Sacred Way

Begin today's full-day tour with a visit to a *cloisonne* (enamelware) factory. Cloisonne is an ancient craft, and you will observe the skills involved in creating this decorative art form. Artisans create brilliantly colored pieces with often complex patterns, using strips of metal and traditional painting techniques.

Then continue your tour with a ride through the suburbs to the Badaling Hills, arriving at the fabled Great Wall of China. Construction of the Great Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, began during the Warring States Period (403-221 BC) with sections built in scattered areas. It was only following China's unification under the first emperor Qin Shi Huangdi (221-206 BC) that some 300,000 men were put to work connecting the segments into one rampart of brick, stone, and earth nearly 4,000 miles long. Intended to shield the nation from invaders, the Great Wall is now, ironically, one of China's leading tourist attractions.

Originally built in sections to protect various provinces from northern tribes, the wall's construction ranges from brick and mortar to earthen ramparts. In the 1950s, restoration was begun on several significant portions of the wall—including one of the most impressive, at the Badaling Hills, where construction started in 1345. As you walk along its ramparts, undulating up and down steep hills and graced with massive lookout towers, imagine the scenes of battle, ceremony, commerce, and labor that have taken place along its serpentine path to the sea.

Marvel at the great stone towers, that each could garrison hundreds of soldiers. Learn that the towers are built at a distance of two bowshots apart—meaning that the entire wall could be defended by the archers within it. Find out why the wall snakes along such a winding path—Chinese mythology maintains that demons and evil spirits can only travel in a straight line, and the undulating wall effectively keeps them out.

After an included lunch at a local restaurant, your tour continues in the peaceful valley that the Ming emperors chose as their burial ground. Pass through a great marble gateway more than four centuries old, and onto Sacred Way, the Avenue of the Animals lined with massive stone statues of kneeling and standing elephants, lions, camels, and fanciful beasts. Nearby you will see tombs housing the remains of 13 emperors and innumerable treasures. These 13 imperial tombs were built from 1409 to 1644, and are spread over nearly 25 square miles.

After dinner on your own, you have the evening to spend as you wish.

 **Accommodations:** Tian Hong Plaza Hotel or similar

 **Meals:** B, L

 **Included Tours**
Great Wall & Ming Tombs

DAY 6 Beijing/Shanghai

Exclusive Discovery Series Event

After breakfast at your hotel, you witness the discipline and grace involved in traditional Chinese martial arts during a visit to a kung fu school.

Then visit a jade workshop, where you can admire vivid examples of carved jade, one of China's oldest and most-admired crafts.

This afternoon, you transfer to the airport for your flight to Shanghai. On arrival in Shanghai in mid afternoon, you are met and transferred to your hotel. Lunch today is on your own.

We gather for an included dinner at a local restaurant, followed by an acrobatics show.

 **Accommodations:** Mayfair Hotel Shanghai or similar

 **Meals:** B, D

 **Discovery Series Events**
Kung Fu School Visit

DAY 7 Shanghai/*Optional Shanghai by Night Tour*

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before boarding the subway for today's morning tour. Or, if you prefer, you can try out the subway on the way back to your hotel. You visit the Shanghai Museum of Art and History,

containing fascinating glimpses into ancient everyday Chinese life and including a rich collection of artifacts from the Song to Qing Dynasties. You also make a stop at a nearby carpet factory.

After a traditional Mongolian barbecue lunch, you stop to see the lavishly decorated Jade Buddha Temple, a relatively young but elegant structure that has stood for less than 100 years. The Buddha statue is older than the current temple, and is carved of solid white jade, encrusted with jewels.

You then travel along the famous Bund, a five-block long riverfront promenade containing many of Shanghai's banks and trading houses. Here, every afternoon finds street performers and vendors sharing the boulevard with pedestrians. In the mornings, locals gather to practice the slow, deliberate movements of Tai Chi; and the evening marks the emergence of well-dressed courting couples.

Enjoy this evening at leisure in Shanghai.

Or, on an optional tour, discover the beauty of Shanghai after dark. Your tour begins with dinner and continues with a cruise on the Huangpu River, known as the "mother river" of Shanghai. As you cruise, glimpse vestiges of old and new Shanghai in the architecture along its banks, all resplendent with lights.

You'll disembark to explore Shanghai's vibrant new Pudong District, and enjoy a panoramic drive through the city before returning to your hotel. Cost of this tour includes dinner.



Accommodations: Mayfair Hotel Shanghai or similar



Meals: B, L



Included Tours

Shanghai



Optional Tours

Shanghai by Night

DAY 8 Shanghai/Optional Suzhou Tour

You have a full day to follow your own interests in Shanghai.

Or, join us today on an optional full-day tour to 500-year-old Suzhou in China's fabled Silk Region. This is the city of silk, gardens, and canals that inspired Marco Polo. Travel by train (just over 40 minutes), arriving in mid morning.


Suzhou means “Plentiful Water,” and its Grand Canal is crowded with strings of barges laden with fruits, vegetables, construction materials, and coal. The Grand Canal, second only to the Great Wall as a Chinese engineering feat, was begun 2,400 years ago. Graceful bridges cross over the water, and tile-roofed whitewashed houses sit close to shore. On arrival, you’ll disembark the train and take a short ride to the waterfront. From here, you’ll cruise the canal to the Water Gate, which connects Suzhou to the southern end of the canal and was used as a “toll gate” for the canal’s commercial traffic. Then visit the *Wangshi* (Master of the Fishing Net) Garden, built in 1140 and boasting a peony courtyard that has been reproduced at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

After lunch at a local restaurant, visit a silk factory to see how silk is made from mulberry-munching silkworms to thread to fine cloth. Marco Polo reported that so much silk was produced in Suzhou that every citizen was clothed in it. At one time, Suzhou guarded the secrets of silk making so closely that smuggling silkworms out of the city was punishable by death. Return to Shanghai by motorcoach (about a two-hour drive) by dinnertime. This optional excursion includes lunch.

Relax this evening and enjoy a Western-style dinner at your hotel.

 **Accommodations:** Mayfair Hotel Shanghai or similar

 **Meals:** B, D

 **Optional Tours**
Suzhou

DAY 9 Shanghai/Home-Hosted Lunch/Wuhan

After breakfast, begin your Discovery Series events by getting a feel for everyday life in Shanghai with a visit to a local market. Then, visit with schoolchildren at a kindergarten (when in session). When school is not in session, we visit a senior center.

Exclusive Discovery Series Event

Before noon you join a Shanghai family for another, very special Discovery Series event—a Home-Hosted Lunch. You’ll see local customs enacted first-hand as your gracious hosts prepare and serve a typical Chinese meal.



After lunch, we fly from Shanghai to Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province.

Wuhan is noted as the most important site of the revolution and as a gateway to the Yangtze Gorges. You

transfer from the airport to a local restaurant for dinner early this evening, then go to your hotel.

-  **Accommodations:** Regal China cruise ship
-  **Meals:** B, L, D
-  **Discovery Series Events**
Shanghai Home-Hosted Lunch
- Discovery Highlights**
Yangtze River Cruise

DAY 10 Transfer to Maoping/Jingzhou/Embark Cruise Ship

You transfer this morning by motorcoach to Maoping to board your cruise ship. The ride will be about five and half hours. Along the way you stop to visit Jingzhou, on the banks of the Yangtze River, and its local museum. Jingzhou has been inhabited for more than 6,000 years, and its location has made it an important trading site for centuries. The ancient city walls—nearly 30 feet high, 33 feet thick, and 6 miles long—were rebuilt in 1636. The museum beautiful silk and lacquer ware from the same era. You enjoy an included lunch in Jingzhou.

You arrive in Maoping in mid afternoon and board your Yangtze River cruise ship. This evening, relax onboard and enjoy dinner.

-  **Accommodations:** Regal China cruise ship
-  **Meals:** B, L, D

DAY 11 Three Gorges Dam/Cruise the Yangtze/Xiling Gorge

After breakfast this morning, you visit the site of the controversial Three Gorges Dam project. This will be a thought-provoking experience, as you hear about the monumental construction project and its effects on the people and landscape. The dam is more than 1.5 miles long, creating a lake above it that is 20 miles in length. When complete, this massive hydroelectric project will displace 1.25 million people and submerge countless archaeological sites, 13 cities, 140 towns, and 1,352 villages, creating a reservoir equal in size to Singapore.

You return to your river ship for lunch and begin your cruise, taking in the sights of river life on the Yangtze and along its shores. (Due to frequent fluctuations in water level and river currents on the Yangtze, the Captain may adjust daily schedules and shore excursions.)

The Yangtze River is the third largest in the world, after the Amazon and Nile. Its waters originate at “the top of the world” on the Tibet Plateau, flow dramatically and productively for 3,900 miles through China, and empty into the East China Sea. Until only 50 years ago, when thousands of coolies towed vessels upstream by means of ropes and pulleys, a Yangtze cruise was a very risky enterprise. You will be making the passage in a fully air-conditioned ship with small cabins.

Enter Xiling Gorge, the longest of the gorges, noted for its narrow, precipitous cliffs. You’ll sail through some of the most dramatic scenery in the world—past tombs, shrines, and caves—through stretches of tranquil water and swirling rapids. As you cruise look for the Twelve Peaks (enshrouded in rain and mist), Five Sisters Peaks, Three Brothers Rocks, The Needle, and Goddess Peak. You can also enjoy an onboard demonstration of traditional Chinese clothing.

 **Accommodations:** Regal China cruise ship

 **Meals:** B, L, D

 **Included Tours**
San Dou Ping & Three Gorges Dam

DAY 12 Wu Gorge/Lesser Three Gorges



Our river cruise takes you through Wu, known for its magnificent scenery of lush green mountains. For the next 150 miles, the Yangtze forces its way through a spectacular barrier of solid limestone ridges known as the Three Gorges.

Weather permitting, you’ll disembark your cruise ship this morning and take a ferry ride to the entrance of Shennong Stream. Here you will board authentic small boats for an excursion on the Daning River or Shennong Stream (depending on the water levels) to the Lesser Three Gorges. Narrower than the great Three Gorges, these remarkable canyons are considered just as impressive as their larger counterparts. In time-honored fashion, trackers from shore will pull your boat forward.



Back aboard our cruise ship by mid afternoon, you continue through the Qutang Gorge, the shortest and narrowest of the three, but quite spectacular. This narrow gorge is a one-way passage, so upstream ships must often wait for downstream ships to clear it before entering.

 **Accommodations:** Regal China cruise ship

 **Meals:** B, L, D
 **Included Tours**
 Lesser Three Gorges

DAY 13 Wanxian

Today you disembark for a shore excursion to Wanxian, the largest city due to be flooded by the Three Gorges Dam reservoir. When docking, you will see buildings sprawled along the steep riverbanks.

Exclusive Discovery Series Event

You'll get a personal perspective on the effects of the Three Gorges Dam project during a Discovery Series visit to the home of a local family that was forced to relocate when their village was submerged. Afterward, you will return to your ship and resume cruising.

During the rest of your day of cruising, you'll observe the old and the new of China. Because of the rise and fall of the river over millennia, the terraced fields are among the most fertile in all of China.

Each year, new fields are carved out of the higher slopes to prepare for the future rise in the reservoir to be created here. As you pass the many river towns along the banks, you can watch the industry and commerce that drives the economy of this watery inland region.

 **Accommodations:** Regal China cruise ship
 **Meals:** B, L, D
 **Discovery Series Events**
 Wanxian Home Visit with relocated family
 **Included Tours**
 Wanxian

DAY 14 Yangtze River Cruising/Disembark in Chongqing/Xian

Continue cruising on the Yangtze this morning and arrive in Chongqing (previously called Chungking) after breakfast. We disembark and take a bus over to the zoo to see the pandas.

With their cuddly good looks, giant pandas seem to hold a universal appeal. However, they remain one of the world's most endangered species, with just an estimated 1,000 surviving in the wild. Native to China, these bamboo-chompers inhabit small, fragmented pockets in Sichuan, Gansu, and Shaanxi Provinces.

About 110 giant pandas live in zoos and breeding facilities, with fewer than 20 outside China. These woolly bears have thrived at the Beijing Zoo, where they were first bred in captivity in 1963. Biologists at the zoo also recorded the first successful birth from artificial insemination in 1978. You'll observe these solitary creatures in their specially designed habitat.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we tour Chongqing. In April of 1997, Chongqing was separated from Sichuan Province, and became an independent municipality, encompassing the entire Yangtze Valley between Wushan (Lesser Three Gorges) and Chongqing proper. You'll tour this proud mountain city, which was the capital of China during World War II, and which today is the most important inland industrial city in China.

During your tour, you'll visit the Stilwell Museum dedicated to "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell, commander of American forces in China, Burma, and India during World War II. Here, you'll learn about the colorful history of the American Volunteer Air Group, the "Flying Tigers," who were based here during the war. In late afternoon you transfer to the Chongqing airport.

In early evening you take a short flight to Xian, where you are transferred to your hotel—home for the next two nights. When ancient Peking (now Beijing) was just a remote trading post, Xian was the capital of the Middle Kingdom and one of the world's biggest and richest cities, the geographical beginning of China's fabled Silk Road. The town itself is famous for its city walls, measuring more than 8 miles in circumference. Xian (then named Chang'an, meaning "Everlasting Peace") reached its peak during the Tang Dynasty. It was once one of the largest cities in the world, with a population of almost 2,000,000.

Dinner is on your own this evening.

 **Accommodations:** Jinshi International Hotel or similar

 **Meals:** B, L

 **Included Tours**

Stilwell Museum & Flying Tigers discussion

Panda Visit

Discovery Highlights

China's Giant Pandas

DAY 15 Xian/Terra Cotta Army/Optional Tang Dynasty Cultural Show & Dinner

Today, enjoy a full-day excursion to visit China's greatest archaeological attraction, the Qin Mausoleum.

More than 2,000 years ago, the Emperor Qin Shi Huang was buried in an earth mound, along with 6,400 life-sized terra cotta warriors, archers, and infantrymen, together with their horses and chariots—individually sculpted from live models.

In the early 1970s, farmers digging a well accidentally uncovered some of these soldiers. Since then, three large pits have been uncovered, and are now on view to the public. Walkways have been constructed to give you a bird's-eye view of the stunning sight of an entire army carved in incredible detail (each man and each horse with his own distinct personality). Here they stand, in battle formation, set in the ground to guard and protect the great emperor's tomb. No visit to China would be complete without witnessing the astounding Qin Terra Cotta Army, an exquisite and beautifully preserved symbol of an ancient era.

Today's exploring also includes a stop at a lacquerware factory, as well as lunch at a local restaurant. Here you'll see a demonstration on the preparation of the region's famous and tasty noodles, and then get to sample them. You return to Xian in late afternoon.

After dinner on your own, you have the evening to relax at your hotel or discover a little more of the city independently.

Experience the culinary and cultural delights of ancient Xian this evening with an optional Tang Dynasty show and dinner. The beautiful costumes, enchanting dances, and ancient music of the Tang Dynasty—a period of peace and exceptional creativity from AD 618 to 907—have been carefully recreated for your enjoyment. This type of performance has been treasured as a national art that reflects the glory and richness of the Tang Dynasty. Dinner is served before the show.

 **Accommodations:** Jinshi International Hotel or similar

 **Meals:** B, L

 **Included Tours**

Xian & Terra Cotta Army

 **Optional Tours**

Tang Dynasty Show & Dinner

Discovery Highlights

Xian's Terra Cotta Warriors

DAY 16 Xian/Guilin

After breakfast, set off to see the Ming Dynasty 14th-century City Wall, and the Small Wild Goose Pagoda. One of the oldest pagodas in China, it is housed in the Jianfu Temple.

Enjoy the famous dumpling lunch at a local restaurant. We then transfer to the airport and fly from the dry northwestern plateau of Xian to the moist, semi-tropical mountainous region of Guilin.

In the words of a Chinese poet, Guilin is known as the land of the "finest misty limestone mountains and rivers under heaven." Here you'll find China's most "Chinese" scenery, the familiar subject of so much of the country's beautiful art.

Your evening is at leisure.



Accommodations: Guilin Royal Garden Hotel or similar



Meals: B, D

DAY 17 Guilin/Li River Cruise/Optional *Cormorant Fishing at Night* Tour

After breakfast, board a local river craft and cruise the Li River, passing humped limestone peaks, fishermen astride bamboo rafts, washerwomen squatting on the shore, and water buffalo ambling down to the banks for a dip. Here you can see the captive cormorants with their leashed necks, perched on rafts waiting for orders to go fishing. These are the celebrated scenes often seen in Chinese watercolors and scroll paintings. Lunch is served on board the boat during your river cruise. Then stop to take a look at a local farm. (Depending on the time of your visit, some crops may not be in season.)

Later this evening we gather for a Western-style dinner at the hotel.

Or, join us on an optional tour to experience one of the most fascinating interactions between humans and birds. The cormorant, a seabird that naturally dives for fish to eat, has been trained by the fisherman of Guilin to fish for them.


You'll watch from a boat as the fishermen in their nearby bamboo fishing boat place about a half dozen cormorants in the water. The birds disappear beneath the surface for a few moments, emerging with fish in their mouths. The birds then swim back to the fishermen and allow them to take the fish.

After sharing this unusual sight, you will be brought back to your hotel by bus, enjoying a night view of Guilin along the way.

 **Accommodations:** Guilin Royal Garden Hotel or similar

 **Meals:** B, L, D

 **Included Tours**
Li River Cruise

 **Optional Tours**
Cormorant Fishing

DAY 18 *Guilin/Optional Yao Shan Tea Garden Tour/Hong Kong*

Your morning and afternoon are free to relax or do some exploring on your own.


Or, join us this morning on an optional tour to the Yao Shan Tea Garden. At this Chinese tea farm, you will learn from a tea master how the delicate leaves are picked from the tea tree and then dried, much of the harvesting process done by hand. You will also hear about the history and traditions that surround the growing and brewing of tea.

Toward the end of your visit to the garden, you can taste a flavorful cup of tea brewed from local leaves and experience its subtle charm. Teas will also be available for purchase. Your Yao Shan Tea Garden visit includes a tea dish lunch. Cost of this tour includes lunch.

Exclusive Discovery Series Event

Later this afternoon, join us for a Discovery Series visit to the Jiguan Kindergarten to interact with the youngsters.

You have dinner at a local restaurant. In the early evening, you are transferred to the airport for your flight to Hong Kong, long the center of trade in Asia and the world's busiest port.

 **Accommodations:** The Kimberley Hotel or similar

 **Meals:** B, D

 **Discovery Series Events**
Local Kindergarten Visit

 **Optional Tours**
Yao Shan Tea Garden

DAY 19 *Hong Kong*


You have breakfast at your hotel and then begin a morning tour that introduces you to the major sites of this

vibrant city. First, make the journey between Kowloon and Hong Kong Island the way locals have for over 100 years—aboard the Star Ferry. A motorcoach will then bring you to the Central District and the Western District, the older part of Hong Kong. You'll drive up Victoria Peak, which offers a spectacular view of the harbor, islands, and imposing skyscrapers. This famous hill, more than 1,800 feet high, is called *Tai Ping Shan* in Chinese—"Mountain of Great Peace."


Then see where Hong Kong plays and prays as you visit the beach of shrine-dotted Repulse Bay. You'll also see Deep Water Bay and visit the floating village of Aberdeen, which may soon become only a memory as the houseboats are moved to other harbors. Thousands of people spend their lives and make their livings on junks and sampans in the harbor. Toward the end of your tour, we have time for a stop at a jewelry factory for a demonstration and lecture.

Your afternoon and evening are at leisure. You may want to visit the district of Wan Chai. The district became notorious after World War II, known for its hostess clubs, tattoo parlors, bars, and sailors on leave looking for a good time. Richard Mason's 1957 novel, *The World of Suzie Wong*, describes the district's bygone era.

You can visit Stanley, one of Hong Kong's oldest fishing villages and now a thriving and popular marketplace, or you can have a meal at one of the harbor's floating restaurants.

 **Accommodations:** The Kimberley Hotel or similar

 **Meals:** B

 **Included Tours**
Hong Kong


DAY 20 Hong Kong/Optional Kowloon and the New Territories Tour

You have the full day at leisure to explore the city. Relax, see the sights on your own, or look for some of the bargains in this city famous worldwide for its duty-free shopping.

Or, join an optional tour traveling through the eastern part of the New Territories, leased to Britain by China in 1898 for a period of 99 years. Known as "the land between," the peninsula across Victoria Harbor consists of rocky coastline and lush, hilly farmland—a welcome respite from the hustle and bustle of the city itself.

Take a stroll through the local flower market, followed by a visit to Bird's Market, where pet birds are sold

and traded. Then, visit the Wong Tai Sin Temple, a colorful example of a traditional Chinese place of worship. Continue on to the Sai Kung Fishing Village where you'll see how the people of Hong Kong buy and sell fresh seafood.

 **Accommodations:** The Kimberley Hotel or similar

 **Meals:** B, D

 **Optional Tours**

Kowloon & the New Territories Tour

DAY 21 Flight Home

Say *zai jian* (goodbye) to China and your Program Director today. After breakfast, you'll be assisted to the airport for your flight home. Or extend your discoveries of Asia with our post-trip extension in Bangkok, Thailand.

 **Meals:** B

TRIP EXTENSIONS

PRE-TRIP Tokyo, Japan

3 nights pre-trip from only \$595*

Explore Tokyo's ancient & modern highlights before your River Cruise Tour

On this optional Pre-Trip Extension, you have an opportunity to explore in depth

one of the world's great cities. Tokyo is in many ways more than a single city. Its distinct districts and styles set it apart from most other world-class cities—and within the city we

WHAT'S INCLUDED

-  **Air transportation** from Tokyo to Beijing
-  **Accommodations** — for 3 nights at the Superior First-Class Crowne Plaza Metropolitan Hotel or similar
-  **4 meals** — daily breakfast and 1 dinner
-  **Sightseeing** — Tokyo city tour

call Tokyo are several large areas that qualify as cities on their own, such as Shitamachi and Yamanote. Tokyo is also a mix of small villages and cultural centers that often seem hidden in a maze.

This is a city of over 8 million people in the central metropolitan area alone. Tokyo is not a city that one can explore in a day—indeed many would challenge you to explore it completely in a lifetime. But you will have an unrivaled chance to see at least parts of perhaps the world's busiest and most complex metropolitan area. Tokyo is a city of high energy, blazing neon lights at night, and almost endless possibilities.

Single supplement: \$165.

***Please note:** Prices do not include additional taxes and fees. Availability and price may vary by departure date. Please call for details.

YOUR PRE-TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1 Depart USA

Depart the U.S. today on your flight to Tokyo, Japan. Please refer to your individual air itinerary for exact departure and arrival times.

Day 2 Tokyo, Japan

Upon arrival in Tokyo late this afternoon, a Grand Circle representative meets you and helps you transfer to your hotel. The balance of the evening is at leisure to relax after your overseas flight. Formerly called Edo, this city has been a center of Japanese civilization since it was first fortified in 1456. It was already one of the world's most populous cities by the 19th century.

Day 3 Tokyo

After breakfast this morning, set off on a tour of this dazzling modern metropolis. You'll see the Asakusa Kannon Temple, one of Tokyo's cultural landmarks and the main site of the Sho-Kannon branch of Buddhism. Built in the year 645, the temple honors Kannon, the goddess of

 **Exclusive services of a resident
Grand Circle Program Director**

 **All transfers**

Optional tours — Mt. Fuji & Hakone
(\$127 per person), Yanaka district
(\$53 per person)

mercy, and boasts a graceful, imposing gate and lovely arcaded walkway. At your next destination, you see the impressive Imperial Palace and visit its plaza. Continue on to a famous modern-day structure—the high-tech Tokyo Tower, contrasting vividly with the venerable city's ancient monuments.

En route back to your hotel, drive through the famous Ginza shopping district.

The balance of your afternoon is at leisure to relax or explore independently. Seek out an interesting spot for lunch on your own. Maybe you'll want to try out one of the many sushi bars for a taste of Japan's traditional cuisine.

You might notice that as the day progresses toward dusk, Tokyo's colorful and dazzling lights emerge and change the face of the city.

Gather this evening with your traveling companions for a dinner welcoming you to Tokyo.

Day 4 Tokyo/Optional Mt. Fuji & Hakone

You have a full day to explore the city on your own. Though sometimes expensive, you may want to spend some time doing one thing that makes Tokyo so famous—shopping.

Or, join an optional full-day tour to see beautiful Mt. Fuji and Hakone. You drive to Mt. Fuji and, at an elevation of 8,000 feet, enjoy the wonderful vistas of the mountains and the Pacific Ocean. The perpetually snow-capped peak of Mt. Fuji is almost a perfect cone, and the isolated mountain rises majestically to more than 12,000 feet.

At a lakeside resort you enjoy lunch, and then explore the beautiful Hakone region. There are many hot springs in the volcanic Hakone Mountains, and you'll stop at one in the Owakudani Valley. You'll have a ride on a mountain tram that offers breathtaking views, followed by a cruise on peaceful Lake Hakone, whose waters settled in one of the area's volcanic craters. Cost of this optional tour includes lunch.

Please Note: To enable us to offer this special excursion exclusively to GCT travelers, at least twelve people must choose this tour. If our group of GCT travelers is smaller than ten, we will join another, non-GCT tour group for this Mt. Fuji visit.

Day 5 Tokyo/Optional Yanaka District Tour/Beijing, China

Enjoy breakfast and a leisurely morning in Tokyo.

Or, come with us on an optional walking tour of the city's Yanaka district, stopping along the way at the Tokyo National Museum.

The gently sloping hills of Yanaka offer a peaceful side of Tokyo. This small community used to be known for attracting artists, writers, and intellectuals. It is a colorful area of narrow lanes and small homes, interspersed with old Buddhist temples, stone gardens, statuary, and bonsai trees. Tucked in among the residences you can find old neighborhood shops to browse, and during your walk you'll see some of the remaining traditional wooden houses (concrete is being used more and more in replacing older structures). You visit a house that was home to a well-known Japanese artist, now the Asakura Museum of Sculptures, offering exhibits of local art. (The Yanaka optional tour is not available on Mondays because the museums are closed.)

Please Note: This optional tour may not be available to those with morning or early afternoon flights to Beijing. Though our priority is to book afternoon flights to Beijing on this day, they are not always available. We apologize, and we appreciate your understanding should this optional tour not be available to you.

In the early afternoon, you are transferred to the airport for your flight to Beijing. You are met on arrival in the evening, and transferred to your hotel. Members of the group taking the main trip arrive this evening. You now follow Day 2 of the main itinerary.

POST-TRIP Bangkok, Thailand




4 nights post-trip from only \$495*

Discover the best of the vibrant Thai capital

On this optional Post-Trip Extension, you have an opportunity

to explore one of Asia's great and bustling cities. Its diverse sections and populations offer endless cultural and social events. This is a city of famous temples and shrines, with

WHAT'S INCLUDED

-  **Roundtrip air transportation** from Hong Kong to Bangkok
-  **Accommodations** — for 4 nights in Bangkok
-  **6 meals** — daily breakfast, 1 lunch, and a Farewell Dinner

many fine museums. There are also modern art galleries next to traditional Thai cultural emporiums; blaring hard-rock music venues across the street from small cafés offering traditional Thai music; and all around are the famous Thai restaurants offering tasty and often unique foods.

Bangkok is fast-paced and lively, with crowds and big city streets lined with department stores; but there is another side to Bangkok that you will discover as you wander down a small side street or lane, called a *soi*. Here, away from the main streets, you will discover a city of shops and neighborhoods and traditional crafts. Like all of Bangkok, the side streets are for exploring and offer unparalleled glimpses into the life of this city.

Single supplement: \$125.

***Please note:** Prices do not include additional taxes and fees. Availability and price may vary by departure date. Please call for details.



For your convenience in budgeting, we have listed the price of Thailand Optional Tours in U.S. dollars. On site in Thailand, you will be asked to use your credit card for payment.

YOUR POST-TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1 Hong Kong/Bangkok

You are transferred to the airport for your flight to Bangkok today, the specific time being dependent on flight schedules. The flight itself is a little more than two hours. A Grand Circle representative will meet you at the airport and assist you to your hotel, where you will meet your new Program Director for this extension. The balance of your day and evening is at leisure to relax.

Depending on your arrival time in Bangkok, you may have time to join an optional evening out to enjoy a sunset cruise with a traditional Thai dinner and a performance of classical dance. The

-  **Sightseeing** — Bangkok city tour
-  **Exclusive services of an experienced Grand Circle Program Director**
-  **All transfers**
- Optional tours** — Thai Dinner & Classical Dance performance with Rice Barge cruise (\$45 per person), Ayutthaya Ancient City Tour (\$49 per person), Floating Market & Rose Garden (\$39 per person)

sunset cruise is aboard a traditional wooden rice barge, cruising the local waterways of the city. Along your route, your boat will pass by the ornate white spires of the elegant Temple of Dawn, rising beside the Chao Phraya River.

The network of canals throughout Bangkok connects the rice fields to each other and to the city, and residents use barges to transport the locally-grown rice to the city market for sale. This cruise is an opportunity to join the river traffic, pass other barges, see the long tail boats, and view the heart of Bangkok as residents have for centuries, from the surface of its waterways. Cost of this excursion includes dinner.

Day 2 Bangkok

This morning, have breakfast at your hotel and then enjoy a tour of Bangkok. Step into the Old Kingdom of Siam at the Grand Palace. In 1767, Burmese forces attacked the Thai capital of Ayutthaya, leaving it in ruins. King Rama I moved the capital to its present site in 1782, and the Grand Palace became the centerpiece of a new Thai capital called Krung Thep (City of Angels), known outside of Thailand as Bangkok. The original palace was constructed with some material brought from Ayutthaya, and each successive ruler expanded and refined the complex. It was King Mongkut (or Rama IV) who ruled from this palace, expanded trade with the West, and was romanticized in the musical *The King and I*.

The palace is a massive square-mile complex of gilded wats (temples), intricate ceremonial halls, and elaborate statues. Enclosed by ancient walls, the palace also contains the residence of the Royal Family and government offices.

Here also you will see the beautiful Temple of the Emerald Buddha with a statue of the Buddha carved from a piece of emerald-green jade. After lunch at a local restaurant, you have time near the end of your tour to visit a local jewelry shop.

Your afternoon is at leisure to explore on your own. Depending on your arrival time in Bangkok, the optional sunset cruise with a traditional Thai dinner and a performance of classical dance may be offered this evening.

Day 3 Bangkok/Optional Ayutthaya Tour

You have a full day to explore this lovely city. Ask your Program Director for exciting suggestions.

Join us for an optional full-day excursion to the Ancient city of Ayutthaya, where golden ruins remind you of the splendor of early Siam. Ayutthaya was the capital of the kingdom of Thailand for hundreds of years, from 1350 to 1767, during the rule of 33 kings of different dynasties of Siam. With three rivers surrounding this city and over 30 miles of canals, it was the thriving cultural and commercial heart of the kingdom, attracting foreign merchants from Europe and Asia. In 1767, after 33 dynasties, most of this majestic city was destroyed by the Burmese.

Ayutthaya offers numerous historic ruins, fascinating architecture, and intriguing temples, one of which is older than the city itself. The Wat Phra Meru, in addition to its delicately carved ceiling, houses an image of Buddha that is said to be at least 1,300 years old. The city's two museums exhibit antique bronze Buddha images, intricately carved panels, local artifacts, and objects of art that are several centuries old.

Enjoy a boat cruise and lunch together before we return to Bangkok.

Day 4 Bangkok/Optional *Floating Market & Rose Garden Tour*

You have a full day to relax or enjoy the delights of Bangkok at your own pace.

Or, join us on an optional full-day excursion by traditional longboat on the waterways of Bangkok. Bangkok is criss-crossed with *klongs* (canals) that are major commercial waterways for the city, and you'll explore the Floating Market aboard a boat. Here boat vendors steer up and down tree-lined canals as they conduct business from their sampans and barges filled with fruits, vegetables, noodles, rice, and other wares. These are fascinating rural scenes of a disappearing way of life. During our day we have an opportunity to enjoy lunch at the Rose Garden with Thai entertainment. You return to your hotel in early evening. Cost of this excursion includes lunch.

Gather this evening to say farewell to your traveling companions and celebrate your journey at a Farewell Dinner.

Day 5 Flight Home

After a very early breakfast, you are transferred to the airport for your morning flight home.

OPTIONAL TOURS

DAY 4 Summer Palace & Temple of Heaven

You can accompany us on an optional tour of the Temple of Heaven, which was built in 1420 during the Ming Dynasty to offer sacrifices to heaven and for a successful harvest. A masterpiece of architecture and landscape design, the Temple of Heaven comprises a number of buildings, gardens, and pathways whose organization symbolizes the relationship between Earth and heaven. The design layout instituted here profoundly influenced Chinese architecture and planning for centuries. Among the stellar structures is the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest, which has triple eaves, gorgeous glazed tiles, and dramatically carved marble balustrades. Built without nails, cement, or steel rods, the entire structure is fixed by wooden mortise and wooden brackets with the support of twelve pillars.

Then you will visit the Summer Palace, the former summer retreat for the imperial family during the late Qing Dynasty and now China's largest and best preserved royal garden. It has an 800-year history, beginning with the creation here of the Golden Hill Palace during the Jin dynasty. Much later, in 1750, the Garden of Clear Ripples was built on this site. The garden has been restored twice since then, after being damaged by foreign military forces.

This twelve-square-mile complex includes many pavilions, temples, palaces, and halls in a landscape of hills amidst open water. You might find the Long Gallery an interesting feature, as it measures over 2,300 feet long and offers paintings depicting Chinese legend, history, and natural settings.

Price: \$44 per person

DAY 4 Beijing Opera

Join us for a special visit to the Beijing Opera at a local theater tonight. The Chinese opera is an ancient theatrical art, and the opera troupes in Beijing set the national standard for this highest expression of Chinese culture. This is not like the Western opera, full of arias and centered around singing. It's a beautiful and delicate blend of grand opera, ballet, song, drama, and comedy that spans the entire history of China, its folklore, mythology, literature, and culture.

Before the performance, you'll enjoy a backstage look at the make-up and costuming process that adds such colorful dimension to the artistry of the performers. The cost of this optional tour includes dinner.

Please note: Space is limited on this optional tour, so we recommend you reserve before you depart. Since

the price listed is the U.S. dollar estimate determined at the time of publication and is subject to change, by purchasing this optional tour prior to departure, you secure your space and protect your price against any currency fluctuations. If you choose to purchase this optional tour before you depart, it must be done at least 45 days prior to departure. For details, call your Travel Counselor.

Price: \$29 per person

DAY 7 *Shanghai by Night*

On an optional tour, discover the beauty of Shanghai after dark. Your tour begins with dinner and continues with a cruise on the Huangpu River, known as the “mother river” of Shanghai. As you cruise, glimpse vestiges of old and new Shanghai in the architecture along its banks, all resplendent with lights.

You’ll disembark to explore Shanghai’s vibrant new Pudong District, and enjoy a panoramic drive through the city before returning to your hotel. Cost of this tour includes dinner.

Please note: this optional tour may not be available on all departures. Call for details.

Price: \$30 per person

DAY 8 *Suzhou*

Join us today on an optional full-day tour to 500-year-old Suzhou in China’s fabled Silk Region. This is the city of silk, gardens, and canals that inspired Marco Polo. Travel by train (just over 40 minutes), arriving in mid morning.

Suzhou means “Plentiful Water,” and its Grand Canal is crowded with strings of barges laden with fruits, vegetables, construction materials, and coal. The Grand Canal, second only to the Great Wall as a Chinese engineering feat, was begun 2,400 years ago. Graceful bridges cross over the water, and tile-roofed whitewashed houses sit close to shore. On arrival, you’ll disembark the train and take a short ride to the waterfront. From here, you’ll cruise the canal to the Water Gate, which connects Suzhou to the southern end of the canal and was used as a “toll gate” for the canal’s commercial traffic. Then visit the *Wangshi* (Master of the Fishing Net) Garden, built in 1140 and boasting a peony courtyard that has been reproduced at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

After lunch at a local restaurant, visit a silk factory to see how silk is made from mulberry-munching silkworms to thread to fine cloth. Marco Polo reported that so much silk was produced in Suzhou that every

citizen was clothed in it. At one time, Suzhou guarded the secrets of silk making so closely that smuggling silkworms out of the city was punishable by death. Return to Shanghai by motorcoach (about a two-hour drive) by dinnertime. This optional excursion includes lunch.

Price: \$42 per person

DAY 15 Tang Dynasty Show & Dinner

Experience the culinary and cultural delights of ancient Xian this evening with an optional Tang Dynasty show and dinner. The beautiful costumes, enchanting dances, and ancient music of the Tang Dynasty— a period of peace and exceptional creativity from AD 618 to 907—have been carefully recreated for your enjoyment. This type of performance has been treasured as a national art that reflects the glory and richness of the Tang Dynasty. Dinner is served before the show.

Please note: Space is limited on this optional tour, so we recommend you reserve before you depart. Since the price listed is the U.S. dollar estimate determined at the time of publication and is subject to change, by purchasing this optional tour prior to departure, you secure your space and protect your price against any currency fluctuations. If you choose to purchase this optional tour before you depart, it must be done at least 45 days prior to departure. For details, call your Travel Counselor.

Price: \$60 per person

DAY 17 Cormorant Fishing

Join us on an optional tour this evening to experience one of the most fascinating displays of cooperation between humans and birds. The cormorant, a seabird that naturally dives for fish to eat, have been trained by the fisherman of Guilin to fish for them.

You'll watch from a boat as the fishermen in their nearby bamboo fishing boat place about a half dozen cormorants in the water. The birds disappear beneath the surface for a few moments, emerging with fish in their mouths. The birds then swim back to the fishermen and allow them to take the fish.

After sharing this unusual sight, you will be brought back to your hotel by bus, enjoying a night view of Guilin along the way.

Price: \$15 per person

DAY 18 Yao Shan Tea Garden

Join us this morning on an optional tour to the Yao Shan Tea Garden. At this Chinese tea farm, you will learn from a tea master how the delicate leaves are picked from the tea tree and then dried, much of the harvesting process done by hand. You will also hear about the history and traditions that surround the growing and brewing of tea.

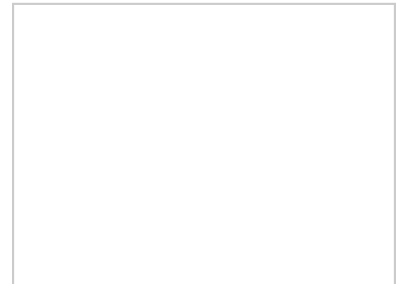


Toward the end of your visit to the garden, you can taste a flavorful cup of tea brewed from local leaves and experience its subtle charm. Teas will also be available for purchase. Your Yao Shan Tea Garden visit includes a tea dish lunch.

Price: \$20 per person

DAY 20 Kowloon & the New Territories Tour

Join an optional tour traveling through the eastern part of the New Territories, leased to Britain by China in 1898 for a period of 99 years. Known as “the land between,” the peninsula across Victoria Harbor consists of rocky coastline and lush, hilly farmland—a welcome respite from the hustle and bustle of the city itself.



Take a stroll through the local flower market, followed by a visit to Bird’s Street where pet birds are sold and traded. Then, visit the Wong Tai Sin Temple, a colorful example of a traditional Chinese place of worship. Continue on to the Sai Kung Fishing Village where you’ll see how the people of Hong Kong buy and sell fresh seafood.

Price: \$32 per person

TRIP NOTES

Please note: Hotel ratings are based on Hotel and Travel Index classifications. Hotels not rated by the Hotel Travel and Index have been evaluated by Grand Circle's travel planners as meeting our standards for quality, comfort, and value. Itinerary subject to change.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

This trip features lots of walking, often through sites and airports without ramps or elevators. For your comfort and safety, we recommend this program only to individuals in good physical condition. If you have difficulty walking or are wheelchair-bound, please consult our Travel Counselors for guidance.

*Weather permitting.

Please Note: For your convenience in budgeting, we have listed the price of China Optional Tours in U.S. dollars. On site in China, you will be asked to use your credit card for payment.

For information or reservations, call

1-800-959-0405

Please refer to this code
when you reserve: **INET250**