



# VIKING CRUISES

*Exploring the World in Comfort®*

## ***China's Cultural Delights*** **2013 At-A-Glance**



**This 17-day odyssey explores China's cradle of culture with an epic 11-day Yangtze cruise between Chongqing and Nanjing. See all the wonders of Beijing, Xian and Shanghai—the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Terra Cotta Army and Old Shanghai. And, uncover the roots of Chinese civilization from Jingdezhen, birthplace of porcelain; to Mt. Jiu Hua's remote Buddhist Temple complex; to Suzhou with its elegant classical gardens. Those who really want to understand the origins of Chinese culture should strongly consider this itinerary, our ultimate China experience.**

Sail dates available March, August, October and November 2013  
Beijing to Shanghai *or* Shanghai to Beijing  
Ship sailing this itinerary: Viking Emerald

## ***China's Cultural Delights*** **Included Features**

### **Included Features**

- 11-day Yangtze River cruise in balcony stateroom
- 3 nights in Beijing: Westin Beijing, Ritz Carlton, The Regent Beijing, Westin Chaoyang or Fairmont Beijing\*
- 1 night in Xian: Hilton Xi'an or Crowne Plaza Xi'an\*
- 2 nights in Shanghai: Westin, Shangri-La Pudong, Portman Ritz Carlton or Fairmont Peace Hotel\*
- Fully escorted: 17 guided tours with audio headset
- All meals: 16 breakfasts, 15 lunches, 15 dinners, featuring regional specialties with select meals at local restaurants, including Captain's Dinner
- Visit 5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- 2 intra-China flights
- Culture Curriculum<sup>SM</sup>: Hubei bronze bells performance, mingling with the schoolchildren, porcelain demonstration, Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe revue, Chinese language lesson, Chinese Dynasties, History of Chinese Culture, the Three Gorges Dam

\* Hotels are subject to change without notice at which time, a comparable alternative will be offered.

### **Included Tours:**

- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ▪ Beijing city tour              | ▪ Hubei Provincial Museum |
| ▪ Great Wall excursion           | ▪ Shibaozhai Temple tour  |
| ▪ Sacred Way                     | ▪ Yueyang Tower tour      |
| ▪ Terra Cotta Army               | ▪ Mt. Jiu Hua excursion   |
| ▪ Snow Jade Cave tour            | ▪ Silk factory tour       |
| ▪ Three Small Gorges excursion   | ▪ Fishermen's Garden      |
| ▪ Three Gorges Dam facility tour | ▪ Shanghai city tour      |
| ▪ Ceramic History Museum         | ▪ Shanghai Museum         |

### **Optional Activities:**

- Peking duck dinner
- Peking Opera highlights
- Tang Dynasty dinner & show

Note: Optional activities are purchased during the tour and are subject to availability & minimum participation

## ***China's Cultural Delights*** **Journey Highlights**

### **Classical Chinese Garden**

Fishermen's Garden is the smallest of Suzhou's famous classic gardens, yet it is the most impressive, thanks to clever use of the limited space. Even more than the architectural achievement is the sense of tranquility and harmony that you feel when you stroll through this humble garden.

### **The Great Wall**

Although it is not actually possible to see the Great Wall from space, at 4,000 miles in length it is one of humankind's largest structures and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Just outside of Beijing is the Badaling Hills, site of one of the most impressive and best-preserved sections of the Great Wall of China. Climb up on the wall, walk along its ramparts and marvel at the panoramic views.

### **School Visit**

Viking River Cruises sponsors three much-needed elementary schools in small towns along the Yangtze River. Stop to visit one of these schools; enjoy a warm greeting from the children and a song and dance performance when you visit one of these schools. Share some time with the students and experience life in China through their eyes.

### **Where China Comes From**

The ceramic material known as porcelain has been made in China since about 1600 B.C. Known for its delicacy and translucence, it is made from a special clay called kaolin. Porcelainware was exported to the Islamic world during the Tang dynasty and later to Europe—it was the envy of the world until the Europeans finally learned how to make it themselves in the early 18th century. This itinerary includes a visit to Jingdezhen, China's porcelain capital, where you will see ceramic pieces being handcrafted.

### **Serenity Awaits**

UNESCO has declared Beijing's Summer Palace an "outstanding expression of the creative art of Chinese landscape garden design, incorporating the works of humankind and nature in a harmonious whole." Wander its grounds and see the hills, lake, palaces, temples and bridges, all combining to make this former imperial retreat exceptionally beautiful.

## *China's Cultural Delights* Beijing to Shanghai Itinerary

**Day 1 Beijing, China**

- Airport transfer from Beijing airport to hotel\*

**Day 2 Beijing, China**

- City tour including Tianamen Square, Forbidden City and Summer Palace
- Optional Peking Opera highlights

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 3 Beijing, China**

- Excursion to Great Wall, a UNESCO site
- Sacred Way excursion
- Optional Peking duck dinner

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 4 Beijing & Xian, China**

- Fly to Xian; hotel check-in
- Free time to explore Xian
- Optional Tang Dynasty dinner & show

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 5 Xian & Chongqing, China**

- Visit the Terra Cotta Army, a UNESCO Site
- Fly to Chongqing; embark ship

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 6 Fendu, China**

- Guided Snow Jade Cave tour

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 7 Shibaozhai, China**

- Shibaozhai Temple tour
- Scenic cruising on the Yangtze River

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 8 Three Gorges & Lesser Three Gorges**

- Scenic cruising through Qutang & Wu Gorges
- Three Gorges lock transit

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 9 Three Gorges**

- Three Gorges Dam facility tour
- Scenic cruising through Xiling Gorge

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 10 Jingzhou, China**

- Viking River Cruises school visit & schoolchildren performance
- Captain's Dinner

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 11 Dongting Lake, China**

- Guided Yueyang Tower tour

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 12 Wuhan, China**

- Hubei Provincial Museum
- Bronze bells performance

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 13 Jingdezhen, China**

- Ceramic History Museum
- Porcelain demonstration

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 14 Mt. Jiu Hua, China**

- Mt. Jiu Hua excursion including visits to Buddhist temples

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 15 Nanjing, Suzhou & Shanghai, China**

- Disembark ship
- Suzhou excursion including silk factory tour and Fishermen's Garden
- Transfer to Shanghai; hotel check-in

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 16 Shanghai, China**

- Old Shanghai/Bund tour
- Shanghai Museum
- Chinese acrobatic performance

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 17 Shanghai, China**

- Shanghai airport transfer\*

*Included Meals: Breakfast*

\* Airport transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises. Transfers must be with flights that arrive/depart on ship or included hotel check-in or check-out day only.

## *China's Cultural Delights* Shanghai to Beijing Itinerary

**Day 1 Shanghai, China**

- Shanghai airport transfer\*

**Day 2 Shanghai, China**

- Old Shanghai/Bund tour
- Shanghai Museum
- Chinese acrobatic performance

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 3 Shanghai/Suzhou, China**

- Suzhou excursion including silk factory tour and Fishermen's Garden
- Embark ship

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 4 Mt. Jiu Hua, China**

- Mt. Jiu Hua excursion including visit to Buddhist temples

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 5 Jingdezhen, China**

- Ceramic History Museum
- Porcelain demonstration

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 6 Wuhan, China**

- Hubei Provincial Museum
- Bronze bells performance

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 7 Dongting Lake, China**

- Guided Yueyang Tower tour

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 8 Jingzhou, China**

- Viking River Cruises school visit & schoolchildren performance

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 9 Three Gorges Dam**

- Three Gorges Dam facility tour
- Scenic cruising through Xiling Gorge

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 10 Three Gorges**

- Scenic cruising through Qutang & Wu Gorges

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 11 Shibaozhai**

- Shibaozhai Temple tour
- Scenic cruising on the Yangtze River
- Captain's Dinner

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 12 Fendu, China**

- Guided Snow Jade Cave tour

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 13 Chongqing & Xian, China**

- Disembark ship; fly to Xian
- Free time

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 14 Xian & Beijing, China**

- Visit the Terra Cotta Army, a UNESCO Site
- Fly to Beijing; hotel check-in
- Free time to explore Beijing

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 15 Beijing, China**

- Excursion to Great Wall, a UNESCO Site
- Sacred Way
- Optional Peking duck dinner

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 16 Beijing, China**

- City tour including Tianamen Square, Forbidden City and Summer Palace
- Optional Peking Opera highlights

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 17 Beijing, China**

- Beijing airport transfer\*

*Included Meals: Breakfast*

\* Airport transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises. Transfers must be with flights that arrive/depart on ship or included hotel check-in or check-out day only.

See your travel agent or call Viking River Cruises at 1-877-668-4546  
www.vikingrivercruises.com

## Explore More

More days means more to discover. We offer exciting ways to see even more of the region with extension packages you can add before or after your Viking journey.

### **Hong Kong & Guilin Extension**

**4 nights—\$1,899 per person**

Enjoy 1 night in mystical Guilin plus 3 nights in bustling Hong Kong on this fully escorted package. From the shopper's paradise of Hong Kong to the artistic landscapes of Guilin's Li River, you will have time to explore the landmark sights. Includes a scenic boat ride in Guilin, a Hong Kong city tour and sampan ride in Aberdeen, 4 hotel nights and daily breakfasts.

Overlooking the picturesque Li River, **Shangri-La Hotel, Guilin** has easy access to the city's leading tourist attractions, including Diecai Mountain and the charming pedestrian tourist area. The hotel offers two restaurants, and three bars; massage services and sauna; beauty salon; gift shop; laundry services and room service. Air-conditioned rooms include telephone, television, internet access, in-room safe, iron and ironing board, coffee/tea maker and hair dryer.

Situated in the renowned shopping and entertainment district of Kowloon, the deluxe **Kowloon Shangri-La** is near local transportation and major sites. The hotel offers five restaurants, a tapas bar and a bar/lounge; a spa and fitness center and swimming pool; beauty parlor; gift shop; laundry services and room service. Air-conditioned rooms include telephone and television, internet access, safe, minibar and coffee/tea maker.

### **Shanghai Extension**

**2 nights—\$449 per person**

Shanghai has been called the New York City of China—give yourself two extra days to explore this fascinating modern metropolis. Two additional nights at your Shanghai hotel, daily breakfasts and a guided tour of the Jade Temple and some of Shanghai's more eclectic neighborhoods and lunch are all included, along with the services of a Viking host.

\* Hotels are subject to change without notice at which time, a comparable alternative will be offered.

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## The Viking Experience

### **Quietvox Tour Earphones**

With our Quietvox tour earphones, there are no worries about missing any interesting details during your shore excursions. Each guest will receive a lightweight, portable receiver that can be worn around the neck or slipped into a pocket. The comfortable earpiece with individual volume control allows you to hear your guide's comments no matter where you are standing and makes every place on your tour the "best seat in the house."

### **Cultural Enrichment**

*Culture Curriculum<sup>SM</sup>*. To help you further appreciate the countries that you will visit, we complement your shore excursion with a broad range of immersive activities, on board and ashore. Your cruisetour includes a Hubei bronze bells performance, mingling with the schoolchildren and a Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe revue, lectures on topics such as the Chinese language lesson, Chinese Dynasties, History of Chinese Culture and Three Gorges Dam. Details and times will be announced on board.

*Expert Program Directors*. Viking River Cruises Program Directors are selected for their comprehensive knowledge of the regions you will be visiting. They have a fine appreciation of each destination's nuances and a genuine passion for travel and are there to help from the first moment to the end of your journey. If you have any questions, would like recommendations or have any concerns during your itinerary, do not hesitate to contact your Program Director.

### **General Physical Fitness**

Our tours and cruises are not physically demanding, however, because of the nature of many of the sites you will be visiting, this tour may not be appropriate for guests with certain medical conditions and physical restrictions. Walking tours are often on uneven ground or cobblestones and may include stairs and steep inclines. If you have concerns or questions, please discuss the nature of your itinerary with your Viking River Cruises Travel Consultant.

### **Complimentary Wine with Onboard Dinner and Lunch Service**

Enjoy complimentary bottled wine with onboard dinner and lunch service. We feature two varietals—one white and one red—that pair beautifully with our onboard menu of contemporary and regional specialties.

## Before You Go

Visit our website at [vikingrivercruises.com](http://vikingrivercruises.com) (or [vrc.com](http://vrc.com)) where you can not only learn more about all the places you might go with Viking, but you can also immerse yourself in the experience from the comfort of your own home. There is information abound and you can watch videos of destinations, take a virtual tour of a cruise ship or get a list of recommended readings.

### Passports & Visas

Passports and visa are necessary and are required for U.S. citizens for this itinerary. Non-U.S. citizens, please check your consulate for visa information.

### Viking's All-Inclusive Airfare & Transfers

For your convenience, you can purchase roundtrip trans-oceanic air travel directly from Viking in conjunction with your river cruise or cruisetour. Viking's air packages are a great value because they include your transfers between airport and ship or hotel. And, when you reserve your air with Viking and purchase Viking's all-inclusive travel protection policy, your air travel is covered by the policy as part of your Viking itinerary. Select from more than 165 different gateways (additional gateways available) in economy or the upgraded service of Premium Economy or Business Class (trans-oceanic portion); once your reservation has been made, we will confirm your flight schedules 75 days before departure.

### E-Check Program

Viking offers special incentives when you pay via e-check (electronic debit to your checking account)—a quick and convenient way to pay for your vacation. Ask for details when making your reservation.

### Viking Travel Protection

Viking Travel Protection allows you to cancel your trip for any reason. Enjoy peace of mind knowing that whatever may arise—even a pre-existing medical condition—you retain 100% of your travel value. Premiums are based on trip cost and start at only \$249 per person!

### Climate – Average High/Low Temperature (°F)

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>
Beijing	52/30	85/68	66/45	50/31
Chongqing	63/52	91/76	72/61	61/54
Hong Kong	81/52	92/75	88/66	82/56
Shanghai	54/41	88/76	72/58	62/47
Xian	57/39	88/69	68/50	54/37

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