





BEIJING • XI'AN

**GUILIN • LI RIVER** 

**YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE • SHANGHAI** 

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SEPTEMBER 26-OCTOBER 9, 2010

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### **Program Highlights**

- Marvel at Beijing's Imperial Palaces and the Great Wall. See the Terra Cotta Warriors of Xi'an, and pay an exclusive visit to the Archaeological Research Institute.
- Admire the distinctive beauty of **Guilin** during a leisurely half-day cruise of the **Li River**.
- Visit one of China's largest zoos to see its most famous residents, the endangered **giant pandas**.
- Cruise the scenic Yangtze River and marvel at the Three Gorges. All shore excursions are included.
- Enjoy accommodations at China's best Western-style hotels.
- Travel at ease! Your experienced AHI Travel Director is available to offer assistance and regional insight.



# Dear Friends of TCU

We are excited to invite you on our *Grand Journey China*. China is a country with a past as compelling as its present. Our comprehensive itinerary, carefully crafted by experienced travel professionals, allows you to discover the history and explore the culture of this ancient land.

Set out on this exceptional journey in the company of like-minded travelers and expert local guides. Admire the view from atop the Great Wall. Visit Beijing's Imperial Palaces, closed to Western travelers for 500 years. Marvel at row upon row of Terra Cotta Warriors standing guard over Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi's subterranean tomb. Cruise along the Yangtze, the longest river in Asia. Your journey to the Middle Kingdom ends in cosmopolitan Shanghai.

Join an exclusive visit to the Archaeological Research Institute in Xi'an. You will be granted special access to the warehouse that holds newly discovered, original pieces.

A dedicated travel staff is committed to ensuring your trip creates many fond memories. This is an unparalleled opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture, cuisine and landscapes of China on a deluxe travel program. Travel in comfort to the exciting destinations featured on each included excursion. Your accommodations have been chosen for their amenities, location and reflection of the hospitality of the region.

With all its special features, this once-in-a-lifetime adventure is an incomparable value. Space is limited and sure to sell out quickly so *make your reservations today!* 

Sincerely,

David Grebel Director, Office of Extended Education Texas Christian University The Yangtze River passage through the Three Gorges is an exhilarating experience filled with majestic wonders

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."

~ Lao Tzu, Chinese philosopher and founder of Taoism, c. 600-531 B.C.

"Peking is one of those focal points which we set ourselves as a future destination."

> ~ Peter C. Quennell, English essayist, 1905-1993

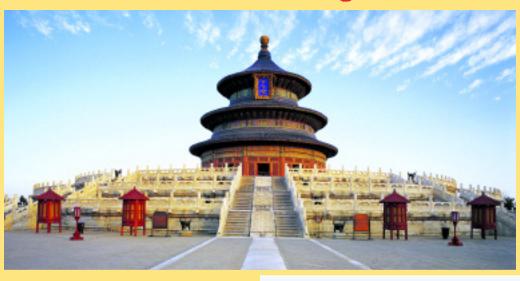
"I have been fortunate enough to see the Forbidden City ... and it was a sight unforgettably lovely."

> ~ Sir Osbert Sitwell, English writer, 1892-1969

"Wherever you go, go with all your heart."

~ Confucius, Chinese philosopher, 551-479 B.C.

# The Middle Kingdom



Described by Napoleon as a "sleeping giant," China is one of the world's oldest civilizations and the birthplace of innovations such as paper and paper currency, printing, the rudder and the compass. Discover the secrets of China's mystique and explore the landmark sights of its finest cities and breathtaking interior countryside. In Beijing, admire the Forbidden City and the Great Wall as well as the 2008 Olympic stadium. In Xi'an, marvel at the legions of Terra Cotta Warriors and visit a farming village. See rare Giant Pandas. Float along the Li River and marvel at the dramatic scenery. Cruise the Yangtze River and visit the Three Gorges Dam, one of the world's most impressive public works projects. Stroll along the elegant Bund in Shanghai. You will have no doubt that this sleeping giant has awakened.

### Day One

Depart your gateway city for **Beijing**, **China**, aboard scheduled jet service. (*Provided for Air Program participants only.*)

# Beijing

# Day Two BEIJING

Upon arrival, transfer to the *Hilton Beijing*. (*Transfer provided for Air Program participants only*.)

This evening, attend a *Welcome Reception* at the hotel.

### Day Three BEIJING

**Excursion**: *Triple Happiness*. Explore Tiananmen Square, the city's enormous

### UNESCO

Five of China's UNESCO World Heritage sites are featured in this comprehensive program: the Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing dynasties, Temple of Heaven, and Great Wall, Beijing; the Summer Palace, Shenyang; and the Mausoleum of the first Qin Emperor, Xi'an. These sites are distinguished for their universal scenic, historic, artistic or scientific value.

central plaza and the world's largest public space. Enter the Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing dynasties, also known as the Forbidden City, a palace complex known for its architectural and artistic treasures. Experience China's dynamic present when you step inside the Bird's Nest, the striking Olympic stadium from the 2008 games.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy local cuisine at a Beijing restaurant.

**Excursion:** *Summer Palace.* The Summer Palace on the banks of Lake Kunming is an opulent royal retreat. Destroyed in 1860 during the Second Opium War, it was rebuilt in 1886 and became the home of the Qing dynasty Dowager Empress Cixi. The palace is renowned for its classical Chinese garden and collection of elaborate halls.

**Local Flavor:** This evening's multicourse meal includes Peking Duck, a world-famous dish from centuries ago. Its painstaking preparation once meant that it was served only to the royal court.

### Day Four BEIJING

**Excursion:** *Great Wall.* Journey to Badaling, where you will walk along the





Far Left: Temple of Heaven, Beijing Left: View from inside the Bird's Nest, Beijing Lower left: Peking Opera actor, Beijing Below: T'ang dancer, Xi'an





ramparts of the Great Wall for a breathtaking view of it snaking over the surrounding hills. Built during the Ming Dynasty, this section of the wall was the first to be opened to tourists in 1957.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch at a restaurant during your return to Beijing.

Excursion: Acrobat Show. Witness a blend of Chinese dance, acrobatics and martial arts at an entertaining performance.

# Xi'an

### Day Five

#### BEIJING & XI'AN

**Excursion**: *Temple of Heaven*. Visit the 15th-century site of the emperor's annual harvest ceremony atop a circular altar. This afternoon, fly to Xi'an and check in at the Shangri-La Hotel Xi'an.

# Day Six

#### XI'AN

**Excursion:** Terra Cotta Warriors. Among the 20th century's most exciting archaeological finds, the famed Terra Cotta Warriors were unearthed in 1974. The 3rd-century B.C. tomb of Qin Shi Huangdi contains more than 8,000 life-size replicas of his warriors, standing guard for more than 2,000 years.

**Excursion:** Archaeological Research **Institute.** Pay an exclusive visit to the institute to see finds that are not on display for the general public.

### **Optional Excursion:** T'ang Dynasty

**Dinner Show.** Xi'an, cosmopolitan capital of the T'ang Dynasty (618-907), was an important city on the Silk Road. Positioned on the crossroads of commerce and culture, Xi'an's affluence and influence grew. The arts flourished as rulers embraced the many cultures introduced to the city. This excursion highlights the culture of this Chinese Golden Age. Try delicious regional cuisine, and enjoy the music, dancing and singing of this glorious period in Chinese history.

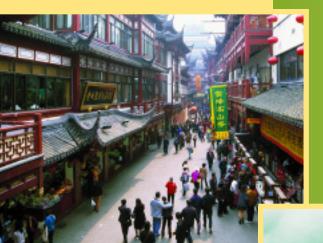
# Guilin

#### Day Seven

### **HUXIAN & GUILIN**

Excursion and Educational Focus: Sia Hu Xi'an Farming Village. In the 1950s, artists in rural Huxian County began creating colorful paintings that chronicled daily life in a farming village. Peasant painting, as this genre is known, portrays people at work, children at play, pastoral scenes, festivals and more. Influenced by China's traditional arts, peasant painting is now recognized as an important folk art. After being greeted with a Lion Dance, visit with residents in their homes and learn about life in this farming

village. Continue to a local painter's studio





Upper left: Market,

Shanghai

**Left:** Farmer.

Guilin

and learn about peasant painting and calligraphy.

This afternoon, fly to Guilin and check in at the *Sheraton Guilin Hotel*.

### Day Eight LI RIVER CRUISE / YANGSHUO & GUILIN

**Excursion:** *Li River Cruise.* Guilin is known around the world for its unusual terrain. Discover the scenic waterway lined by the distinctive green peaks. You'll recognize the landscape, which is featured on the back of the 20-yuan note.

**Local Flavor:** Lunch is served during the cruise.

**Independent Exploration:** *Yangshuo*. After disembarking, take time to explore this town on the banks of the Li River.

# Yangtze River Cruise Day Nine

## Guilin & Chongoing

**Independent Exploration**: *Guilin*. The morning is yours to explore Guilin.

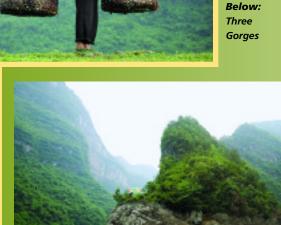
This afternoon, fly to Chongqing.

**Excursion:** *Giant Pandas.* Visit the Chongqing Zoo, one of China's largest, to see its most famous residents, the endangered giant pandas. Nearly 2 million years ago, pandas once roamed much of East Asia. Now only an estimated 1,600 of these animals still live in the bamboo forests.

Embark the *Century Sky*, which remains docked overnight in Chongqing.

### Day Ten FENGDU

This morning, the ship sets a course for Yichang. Cruise through the spectacular Three Gorges region.



**Educational Focus:** *Chinese Arts and Medicine.* Enjoy a demonstration of Chinese massage, acupuncture and embroidery.

**Excursion:** Fengdu Relocation Village.

When the Three Gorges Dam was built, the Chinese government relocated more than 1 million people whose villages would be submerged by the Yangtze River. New villages were built to accommodate the people who were being moved. Visit a relocation village and meet with residents in their homes.

**Local Flavor:** This evening, enjoy a *Captain's Welcome Dinner*, followed by a *Welcome Show* performed by the crew.

Day Eleven
QUTANG & WU
GORGES / SHENNONG
LESSER GORGES
Educational Focus: Pearls and Bottle



### **Viking Century Sky**

Explore the Yangtze River aboard the **Viking Century Sky**, a 306-passenger, five-deck river cruiser designed for sophisticated travelers. Its many amenities put this deluxe, state-of-the-art river vessel, built in 2006, on par with many oceangoing ships. Discover why readers of Travel + Leisure magazine ranked Viking River Cruises among their top 10 favorite small-ship cruise lines in 2009.

Your English-speaking crew and staff are devoted to creating an exceptional cruising experience. The Century Sky's many amenities include a gym, spa services, a boutique, a sauna, a library with destination-specific materials and board games, a business center, a hair salon, two elevators, an Internet café,

and laundry service. Indulge yourself with custom-made clothes from the tailor shop. A doctor also is on board the ship.

The Century Sky's Scandinavian-inspired interior is the work of the noted Norwegian marine architectural firm Yran & Storbraaten. Feel at home among luxurious fabrics, such as cashmere and linen, and fine wood furniture. A private balcony gives you an ever-changing view of the Chinese countryside. Each stateroom has hotel-style beds, European linens and duvets, a sitting area, a desk, a telephone, a television with English-language satellite stations, individual climate control, slippers, wooden hangars

and a safe. Your bathroom features a shower, a hair dryer and a vanity set.

The Century Sky has a Western-style kitchen, but each day you have the opportunity to try delicious regional cuisine in a casual, but elegant dining room. Breakfast buffets feature



American and Continental cuisine. At lunch, choose a two-course meal or selections from the soup and sandwich bar. Each evening, savor Chinese dishes from a menu created by celebrity chef or a Western classic such as grilled steak or poached salmon. Meals are served in one seating, and you have the freedom to choose your own dining companions.





**Painting.** Learn about Chinese pearls and the painstaking art of painting inside bottles and other vessels.

### **Excursion:** Shennong Lesser Gorges.

Board smaller boats to explore a breathtaking wonderland of soaring cliffs, thundering waterfalls and verdant bamboo groves.

This evening, enjoy a *Talent Show* on the ship.

# Shanghai

### **Day Twelve** THREE GORGES DAM & SHANGHAI

Excursion: Three Gorges Dam. Begun in 1993 and finished 10 years later, the Three Gorges Dam is a flood control and hydroelectrical project that is more than five times the size of the Hoover Dam.

This afternoon, fly to Shanghai and check in at the **Shanghai Hilton Hotel.** 

### Day Thirteen SHANGHAI

### **Excursion:** Shanghai City Tour.

Discover the Bund. One of Shanghai's main thoroughfares, the Bund is adorned with Renaissance, baroque and art deco architecture. Stroll through the serene Yu Garden.

This evening, enjoy a Farewell Reception at the hotel.

#### Day Fourteen

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flights to your gateway city. (Provided for Air Program participants only.)

**NOTE:** Itinerary schedule may change due to local conditions. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking as some of the finest attractions are located in areas not easily accessible by motorcoach.

### Accommodations









### HILTON BEIJING

The *Hilton Beijing* combines a cozy atmosphere with a reputation for preparing the finest Asian and Western cuisine. Luxurious guest rooms provide the most modern amenities. The hotel also features various recreational facilities and easy access to shopping. •





### SHERATON GUILIN HOTEL

The elegant *Sheraton Guilin* is perfectly located with a view of the Li River. From the airy, modern lobby to the spacious, comfortable guest rooms, every detail ensures a pleasant and relaxing stay. Enjoy the fine Chinese and international cuisine on offer in the hotel's restaurant and cafe. §



### SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, XI'AN

With easy access to entertainment and shopping in Xi'an, the *Shangri-La Hotel* is in an enviable location. It feature tasteful guest rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows and excellent views.

Absolute comfort and convenience await. The many amenities include a heated pool and health club. The hotel has three fine restaurants offering Chinese and international cuisine.





### **HILTON SHANGHAI**

The impressive *Hilton Shanghai* is situated near the heart of the city, between two main shopping districts. Comfortable and convenient, its full complement of attentive services and modern facilities includes a well-equipped gym and a large indoor swimming pool. Choose from a comprehensive menu with Cantonese, Sichuan, Italian and Western Continental fare.

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## Need pre- or post-trip assistance? $^{\ast}$

If you are interested in making independent travel arrangements before and/or after this program, please contact AHI Travel at 800-323-7373 no later than 60 days prior to departure and they will be happy to assist you with your reservations. \* A nonrefundable service fee and additional air/land charges based on reservations apply.

CST Registration No. 2028271-40. Fla. Seller of Travel Reg. No. ST:33300 I lowa Seller of Travel No. 520 Ohio Seller of Travel Registration No. 8889139. Washington State Seller of Travel Registration No. 601-820-781. PARTICIPATING AIRLINES-all IATA and ARC Member Carriers © 2009 AHI Travel Printed in the USA.



While Europe often turned its eye toward the human form or religious icons for artistic inspiration, the Chinese perfected the representation of landscapes in their art — no doubt influenced by the Taoist embrace of nature. Guilin's spectacular scenery lining the Li River, with its sharp peaks and dramatic rock formations, provides the perfect setting for Chinese landscape artists. One particularly famous Li River scene is the panorama featured on the back of the 20 yuan bill.

### **LAND/CRUISE PROGRAM**

September 27-October 9, 2010

Category-Deck	Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*
D-Main Balcony	\$3,445	\$250	\$3,195*
C-Promenade Balcony	\$3,745	\$250	\$3,495*
B-Bridge Balcony	\$4,045	\$250	\$3,795*
A-Observation Balcony	\$4,345	\$250	\$4,095*

<sup>\*</sup>Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT is an additional \$145 per person.

All prices quoted are per person, based on double occupancy (unless otherwise stated).

Single accommodations are an additional \$1,345 (limited availability).

# AIR PROGRAM

September 26-October 9, 2010

For your convenience, AHI offers a flexible Air Program featuring special air fares available at an additional cost in conjunction with the Land Program.

AHI has designated specific group air schedules for this departure utilizing scheduled jet service from North America to Beijing, China, with a return from **Shanghai**. Those participating on these flights will enjoy motorcoach transfers between the arrival/departure airport abroad and the hotels, including baggage handling. Prices are dependent upon dates, air routes and class of service chosen and will be reflected on your Reservation Confirmation, which will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation. Air schedules will be sent with your *Final Invoice* approximately 90 days before departure. Prices quoted to you will include all domestic and foreign governmental airport departure taxes and fees and any applicable fuel surcharges. AHI ticketed passengers will also receive Automatic \$250,000 Flight Insurance, subject to policy terms.

# ltinerary

Day 1	<b>Depart Gateway City</b>
Day 2	Arrive Beijing, China
Day 3	Beijing
Day 4	Beijing
Day 5	Depart Beijing/ Arrive Xi'an
Day 6	Xi'an
Day 7	Depart Xi'an/ Arrive Guilin
Day 8	Guilin
Day 9	Guilin/Chongqing/ Embark Century Sky
Day 10	Yangtze Cruise
Day 11	Yangtze Cruise
Day 12	Yangtze Cruise/ Disembark Century Sky/ Shanghai
Day 13	Shanghai
Day 14	Depart for Gateway City

### **Included Features**

#### **Accommodations**

- Three nights at the Hilton Beijing.
- Two nights at the Shangri-La Hotel, Xi'an.
- Two nights at the Sheraton Guilin Hotel.
- Three nights aboard the Viking Century Sky.
- Two nights at the Hilton Shanghai.

### Transfers and Porterage

 Flights from Beijing to Xi'an, Xi'an to Chongqing, and Yichang to Shanghai.



Peasant painting, Huxian

• Deluxe motorcoach transfers from the Beijing hotel to the airport, round trip between the airport and the hotel in Xi'an, from the Chongqing airport to the ship, from the ship to the Yichang airport, and from the Shanghai airport to the hotel, including baggage handling.

#### Meals

- Enjoy an extensive meal program, including 12 breakfasts, six lunches and four dinners, in addition to in-flight dining service. Tea or coffee is included with all meals. Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.
- Sample authentic regional specialties at featured local restaurants.
- Attend a special Welcome Reception.
- Gather for a Farewell Reception.

### Your Exciting Travel Program

(For full details please refer to the Day-by-Day Itinerary.)

- **Informative educational programs,** presented by **local experts**, will enhance your insight into the region.
- All excursions:
  - Discover the highlights of **Beijing**, including Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Olympic Stadium.
  - Visit the opulent Summer Palace at Lake Kunming.
  - Step back in time with a walk along the **Great Wall**.
  - Admire the Temple of Heaven.
  - Discover the astounding Terra Cotta Warriors.
  - Enjoy an exclusive visit to the Archaeological Research Institute in Xi'an.
  - Discover the **folk art** of peasant painting.
  - Cruise the Li River.
  - See China's endangered giant pandas.
  - Relax and marvel at the scenery on a Yangtze River cruise, including visits to Three Gorges Dam, a relocation village, and the Lesser Gorges.
  - Tour the bustling city of **Shanghai**.

### **Many Included Extras**

- Consultation services of a dedicated Passenger Service Representative prior to departure.
- Services of a professional Travel Director and expert English-speaking local guides throughout your stay.
- Tipping of all excursion guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist you in your planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.







Top to bottom:

Morning exercises on the Bund, Shanghai Girl, Yangshou Beijing

Cover photos (clockwise):

Great Wall, Beijing

Endangered giant panda

Cormorant fishermen on bamboo rafts. Li River



Texas Christian University Office of Extended Education TCU Box 297026 Fort Worth, TX 76129

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### A word about your Tour Operator

**AHI Travel** is the premier operator of deluxe travel programs sponsored by alumni associations. Their experienced, professional staff has offered the highest level of service in innovative travel programs since 1962.

### In AHI Travel's care, you can rely on:

- An exceptional travel value. It would be impossible for an independent traveler to arrange all these unique experiences, inclusions and services at a comparable price.
- **Unique access to local sites.** Take advantage of their 47 years of travel experience to gain preferred entrance to popular sites and to uncover the region's hidden treasures.
- Flexibility and customization. They will help you tailor your dream trip with add-ons and extensions, while free time during the trip allows you to pursue your own interests.
- Safety and security. In a country where you might not know the language or culture, their professional staff is on hand to ease your way and get you any help you need.
- Full endorsement by the USTOA.

This professional association safeguards consumers' deposits and payments with a \$1 Million Traveler's Assistance Program.



