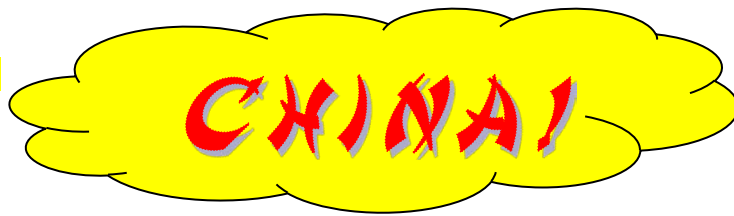


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19 DAY AMERICAN AVIATORS VIP Tour To CHINA

MARCH 19TH - APRIL 6TH, 2019

TRAVEL AIRE once again offers its Annual (since 2004) **VIP Exclusive**

19 Days - ALL 5-Star - \$3549* pp - * details on reverse

Visiting Cities: Beijing, Wuhan, Yichang, Chongqing, Chengdu, Guilin, Yangshuo, Xi'an, Suzhou, and Shanghai - with Yangtze River Cruise on new 5-star ship with all private balconies thru the Three Gorges (w. 3 shore excursions included).

Departure City: San Francisco on Air China (See Item #1 on the FAQ page of the web site for connection cities and pricing).

MAR 19 [TUE] - San Francisco / BEIJING (2 meals are served aboard the flight to China)

Board Air China wide-body B 747-800 jumbo jet for China. **Cross the International Date Line and lose a day.**

MAR 20 [WED] - ARRIVE BEIJING

Upon arrival in the capital of China, meet your national guides at the airport and transfer to the **5-star Wanda Realm Hotel** or similar: <http://wanda-realm-beijing.hotel-rn.com/index.htm?lbl=ggl>.

MAR 21 [THU] - BEIJING (AB, L)

A late departure is planned to help you acclimate to the new time zone. Visit **Tiananmen Square** and **Forbidden City**, the residence of emperors for more than 500 years. In the afternoon visit a **Jade** or **Cloisonné** factory. **Dinner on your own** – with many choices at and by our hotel.

MAR 22 [FRI] - BEIJING (AB, L)

Depart at 7 AM after breakfast. The highlights for today start with a **crowd-free early** visit to the **Great Wall**, a symbol of Chinese ancient civilization. Then visit the **Aviation Museum**, largest one in Asia, where you will wander around various types of old airplanes and fighters. The **Director of Beijing Aviation Association** will greet your tour with a ceremony of exchanging presents and his representatives will host you around this special museum. Lunch will be at a special shopping venue. **Dinner on your own** at or by the hotel.

MAR 23 [SAT] - BEIJING (AB, L, D)

Late morning departure as we travel to **Summer Palace**, a summer resort for Empress Dowager Ci Xi. Enjoy **Beijing Duck Dinner** in the afternoon. **Dinner on your own** at or by the hotel.

MAR 24 [SUN] - BEIJING / WUHAN / YICHANG / CRUISE (AB, L, D)

Fly to Wuhan (at junction of Yangtze & Han Rivers). Visit the **Hubei Provincial Museum**. After lunch, board a coach for a pleasant ride through lovely countryside to **Yichang** where we will board the **5-star newest Yangtze No. 2 cruise ship** or similar which is approved by **National Tourism Administration of China** and enjoy dinner on board. For ship information, visit: www.ccotc.com/cruise.do?method=queryCruiseById&id=27&menu=0. Dinner on board.

MAR 25 [MON] - YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE (B, L, D)

Our ship departs at 7 AM. Onboard activities include all kinds of lectures presented by your river guides. Take a shore excursion around 9 AM to the world famous **Yangtze River Dam construction exhibition site** before **passing through all 5 locks of the world's largest**, recently completed **Three Gorges Dam** - the largest water conservancy project ever undertaken by man. Sail through the first and longest of the Three Gorges - **Xiling Gorge**. Ship will dock for the night when we arrive at the town of Wushan. **Enjoy a Welcome cocktail party hosted by the captain** in the evening.

MAR 26 [TUE] - YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE (B, L, D)

This morning we will board a smaller ship for a trip up the **Daning River** through the **Three Lesser Gorges** OR up the **Shennong Stream**- both are stunning areas of dramatic hillsides, caves and lush bamboo groves. Our cruise will then continue on through second of the Three Gorges - **Wu Gorge** followed by the last and shortest of the Three Gorges - **Qutang Gorge**.

MAR 27 [WED] - YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE (B, L, D)

Today we continue to cruise upstream to visit the ancient city of **Fengdu ("Ghost City")** where a new residential area for relocated residents is located. We will also explore a local farmer's market and a kindergarten; or visit **Wanxian** for a shore excursion to the local town to see similar sights before returning to the ship for a **farewell banquet** in the evening.

MAR 28 [THU] - YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE / CHONGQING / CHENGDU (B, L)

Our cruise concludes as we arrive in **Chongqing**. Disembark by 7:30 AM for a City tour to visit the **Gen. "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell Museum** and nearby **Flying Tigers Museum**. After lunch take **high-speed express train to Chengdu**. Check into the new **5-star Crowne Plaza Chengdu Panda Garden Hotel** or similar. **Dinner on your own** (huge buffet + menu choices) www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/chengdu/ctupg/hoteldetail/photos-tours#scmisc=nav_photos-tours_cp&

MAR 29 [FRI] - CHENGDU / GUILIN (AB, L D)

In the morning you will enjoy a rare opportunity to visit the Giant Panda Breeding Research Center to witness the conservation efforts being made to save this endangered species. The center is the largest giant Panda reserve in the world. In the afternoon we will visit nearby **Kuanzhai Alley** (Wide & Narrow Alley) – ancient streets for visitors to relax, admire the traditional style of buildings, buy some curios, and taste some local snacks. After dinner, we will take an early flight to Guilin and check into the best **5-star Lijiang Waterfall Hotel** [www.lijiangwaterfallhotel.com/] located in the heart of the city, or similar.

MAR 30 [SAT] - GUILIN (AB, L, D)

Depart late morning for early lunch. Then spend the whole day at **Old Yangtang Airport** which is the site of the huge new **Flying Tiger Guilin Heritage Park and Museum** (opened on our March 2015 tour). This old airport site was once used by **Flying Tigers** during World War II (1941-45). Outside the Command Cave used by Gen. Claire Chennault, view the stone tablet set up by Mrs. Claire Chennault with her inscription engraved on it. You will have ample time to explore the huge museum, cave, and park, and **board** the **WW II C47 “Buzz Buggy”** which arrived from Australia over the “HUMP” on 19 NOV 2016 [**IN ITS NEW GLASS-WALLED BUILDING**]. A special evening at the nearby Sheraton Hotel will include presentations related to the HUMP FLIGHT by Larry Jobe plus KC Ma with others in China who supported this mission, presentation of donated artifacts to the museum, and conclude with a **VIP banquet** hosted by the **local government of Guilin** and the city **Tourism Administration** in honor of our **VIP delegation**. **TV and News media interviews will focus all day on these events. This promises to be a VERY special day!** Clothing advice for the tour group given before the tour.

MAR 31 [SUN] - GUILIN/ YANGSHUO / GUILIN (AB, L,)

Spend the morning aboard a scenic **Li River cruise** passing picturesque farms and fishing villages with its thousands of limestone outcroppings, ending in charming **Yangshuo**. Guilin, with its unique conical mountains, has been the inspiration for generations of silk scroll painters. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. **Dinner on your own** – at or near the hotel.

APR 1 [MON] - GUILIN / XIAN (AB, L)

You will first explore the beautiful **Reed Flute Caves**. Residents of this area were able to hide in the many caves during the bombings in WW II and this was among those used extensively. Then visit a **Tea plantation and factory**. Fly to Xi'an in the afternoon and check in to the downtown located **5-star Grand Noble Hotel** or similar: www.gnhotel.com/xian_aboutUs_en-us.php. **Dinner on your own** – at or near the hotel.

APR 2 [TUE] - XI'AN (AB, L, D)

After breakfast, depart at 9:30 AM for the famous **Qin Terra-Cotta Warriors Museum**, one of the Eighth Wonders of the World, which is the burial site of an incredible army of 8,000 lifelike clay soldiers. After lunch, visit the **Ancient City Wall**, the only city wall remaining fully intact in all of China – followed by a visit to the **Art and Handicraft Factory**. Enjoy the evening **Dumpling Banquet** and the famous **Tang Dynasty Culture Show**.

APR 3 [WED] - XI'AN / SHANGHAI (AB, L, D)

After breakfast, take noon flight to Shanghai (onboard lunch). Major sightseeing of city includes **Old Town Shanghai** and **YuYuan Garden**. After dinner, enjoy **Acrobatic Show**. Check into the **5-star KunLun Jing An Hotel-Shanghai** or similar - <https://thekunlunjing.com/en/>.

APR 4 [THU] - SHANGHAI / SHUZHOU / SHANGHAI (AB, L)

After breakfast, take deluxe coach to **Suzhou**, silk capital of the world and the Venice of China. Upon arrival, visit the **Master of the Nets Garden** and the **Silk Factory**. After lunch, cruise on the famous **Grand Canal**. Then visit the (silk) **Embroidery Institute** before your coach ride back to Shanghai and **dinner on your own**.

APR 5 [FRI] - SHANGHAI (AB)

Enjoy your leisure day in Shanghai for **shopping** and/or **more touring**. Optional tours will be available and will be presented to you by our local operator the day before. **Lunch & dinner are on your own** on this free day of many choices.

APR 6 [SAT] - SHANGHAI / BEIJING / SFO (AB) (2 meals are served aboard the flight home)

After breakfast, transfer to the airport around noon and take **Air China** flight to Beijing for a seamless connection to your non-stop international flight back to San Francisco, CA, **arriving also on April 6th** (**gain back the day lost** on the flight to China as you cross back over the International Dateline).

Price: **\$3549 per person** (based on double occupancy)

****Single Supplement: \$1058 per person** (call for details) **

**** Price Includes:**

- Roundtrip International PLUS all China domestic air tickets (all jet airliner flights);
- Hotel and Ship accommodations, meals, transfers, admissions & sightseeing listed above;
- English-speaking guides;
- **Special VIP tour of Flying Tigers Guilin Heritage Park & Museum + VIP banquet** - plus shows listed above.

**** Price Excludes:**

[current estimates as of 01/01/19]

- U.S.& China Int'l departure airport taxes + fuel surcharges + San Francisco P.F.C. fee\$ 486.00
- China domestic airport taxes/ fuel surcharges, if any [currently -0- but subject to change].....\$ 175.00]
- China visa fee – handled for you by us and our tour operator.....\$ 160.00
- Tips and personal expenses (*will vary by individual*)..... [?]

NOTE: All prices and estimates are subject to change without prior notice until final payment

[Please see the **FAQ page** on website for details re: expenses to expect beyond tour price – such as tipping, travel insurance, etc..]

CONTACT TRAVEL AIRE (CST #2070111-40) FOR COMPLETE DETAILS

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