DAY 1  FRI        Beijing Arrival
Your China holiday will begin with an international flight to Beijing. Upon arrival at Beijing Capital International Airport you will be met by your tour guide and transferred to your hotel to prepare for your tour tomorrow.

DAY 2  SAT        Beijing
Today you may choose to explore the city of Beijing at your own pace. Alternatively, you can join a selection of optional tours with our experienced local guide.

Today’s optional tours: 
Tiananmen Square & Forbidden City - Set out with your trip leader to discover Beijing’s imperial treasures. Stand in Tiananmen Square, one of the largest and grandest public plazas in the world before progressing on to the Forbidden City. Enter the imposing walls of the Forbidden City, once the exclusive domain of the Ming Dynasty, for an exclusive tour through this vast complex of courtyards and lanes.
Hutong Tour - Take a Rickshaw tour of the traditional Hutong areas, famous for the old-style buildings, and time-honoured workshops. Enjoy a meal with a local family here before returning to your hotel.

DAY 3  SUN        Beijing - The Great Wall & Olympic Games Sites
Today, you will travel into the rugged mountain landscapes north of the city to the magnificent Great Wall of China. Once on top of this ancient defensive structure, you’ll find that some sections are quite steep, but the views are magnificent and the experience is truly unforgettable. You will then learn about Jade, China’s most precious and celebrated stone, and its manufacturing process at the largest Jade factory in Beijing. Furthermore, you will visit the 2008 Olympic Games Sites including the Bird’s Nest and Water Cube. Before returning to your hotel, experience the oriental foot massage at a traditional Chinese medical centre where you will learn about alternative treatments for illness and have the chance to consult a Chinese Medical professional.

DAY 4  MON        Beijing to Hangzhou
In the morning, you can choose to spend the day at your leisure – take advantage of the hotel facilities or explore Beijing. You will also have the option to participate in a tour of the Temple of Heaven and practice the martial art of Tai Chi. Tai Chi is an internal martial art system which places emphasis on the development and control of Chi energy (consciousness) within the body. The Temple of Heaven is a sprawling complex of religious buildings located in the south-eastern section of central Beijing. The site was constructed by the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties who would host annual ceremonies of prayer for good harvest here. Later this afternoon, you will be transferred to Hangzhou by bullet train.

DAY 5  TUE        Hangzhou - West Lake, Tea Village
Today, you will embark on a tour of Hangzhou city - renowned for its beauty and abundance of cultural heritage. It is also the political, economic and cultural centre of the Zhejiang Province and one of the most popular tourist destinations in China. You will then visit the West Lake area in Hangzhou, comprising of the West Lake and the surrounding hills, which have inspired famous poets, scholars and artists since the 9th Century. It is considered one of the most beautiful landscapes in China, and it is home to numerous temples, pagodas, pavilions, gardens, causeways and artificial islands. While you’re in the West Lake scenic area, visit the tea plantation, here you will learn about tea picking and processing.

Today’s optional tours:
In the evening, you may choose to attend the Romance of Song Dynasty Show, a beautiful display that tells the story of the five areas of Hangzhou and features colourful costumes, dancing, acting and acrobatics.

DAY 6  WED        Suzhou - Master of Nets Garden
Today, you will be transferred from Hangzhou to Suzhou via bus. Upon arrival, spend some time exploring the Master of the Nets Garden it is one of the finest gardens in China, and for which Suzhou is renowned. You will explore the garden and admire the effortless cohesion of art, nature and architecture that has attracted thousands of visitors since 1140CE.

Today’s optional tours:
After lunch, you will have the option to take a boat trip along the longest canal in the world - Suzhou’s Grand Canal. Some sections date as far back as the 5th century BC and it is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site - there are many beautiful homes to admire along this impressive waterway.

DAY 7  THU        Suzhou to Shanghai - Nanjing walking district, The Bund
After breakfast, spend the morning persuing the most famous silk factory in China to understand the manufacturing processes of silk and its rich history in China before being transferred to Shanghai via bus. Upon arrival, you will visit the Nanjing walking district and discover the history and culture of Shanghai. You will then continue to the Bund by the Huangpu River, and witness the old meeting the modern side of the city.

Today’s optional tours:
Enjoy an optional evening on the Huangpu River Cruise, allowing you to take in the famous sites of Shanghai including; The People’s Hero Monument, the Bund, the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, the dramatic skylines of the Bund business district, the bustling International Passenger Station of Shanghai Harbour, the docks and the Wu Song ancient gun fort relics.

DAY 8  FRI        Shanghai – Leisure day
Today you may enjoy a day of leisure. Shanghai is host to a great number of historical and cultural sites, so be sure to ask your tour guide for advice on the best places to visit. Alternatively, you can choose to enjoy an optional tour with your experienced tour guide.
DAY 9    SAT
Shanghai to Yichang
Today, you will be transferred from Shanghai to Yichang by high speed train. Upon arrival, you will board the Yangtze River Cruise ship and settle in before departure tomorrow. The expansive Yangtze River is the largest river in Asia and the third largest in the world. It is renowned not only for its impressive size, but also for the natural beauty of its surrounds. The river begins in the remote mountainous regions and winds its way through stunning gorges, lush and fertile regions and connects with numerous lakes and waterways.

DAY 10    SUN
Yangtze River Cruise, Three Gorges Dam
Your first day on the Yangtze River will begin with a beautiful buffet breakfast before setting out on your first optional shore excursion to the Three Gorges Project. The Three Gorges Dam Site is one of the largest construction projects undertaken by mankind and is the biggest hydropower project in the world. You may also choose to visit the Tribe of the Three Gorges, the only large scenic spot that has not be influenced by the Three Gorges Dam project, which showcases the abundant Ba Culture and Shu Culture. In the evening, you will return to the ship and attend the Captain’s Welcome Banquet and enjoy the evening of dancing.

DAY 11    MON
Yangtze River Cruise, Shennong Stream
Today you may choose to enjoy an optional shore excursion to the mesmerizing Shennong Stream. The stream flows through 3 beautiful gorges including the Mianzhu Gorge, Parrot Gorge and Longcangdong Gorge. Each gorge is renowned for its unique and stunning scenery. The Shennong Stream is also home to the Hanging Coffins – which are ancient coffins containing the remains of decendants of the Tujia people. Another excursion choice for today is to visit the White Emperor City. It’s an ancient temple that is located atop Baidi Mountain on the northern bank of the Yangtze River in Fengjie County. In the afternoon, you will return to the ship in time for lunch and enjoy the crew’s performance in the evening.

DAY 12    TUE
Yangtze River Cruise, Shibaozhai
Today is a scheduled optional shore excursion to the legendary Shibaozhai. The site has a history of over 400 years when it was built into the side of a 200-meter-tall hill. The striking 9 story red pagoda was built in 1819 to make it easier for people to reach the Buddhist temple at the very top of the hill. Also, you may choose to attend an excursion of visiting the Fengdu Ghost City which is also known as the “City of Ghosts”. You will see the temples built on Ming Mountain depict the punish instruments and demon paintings, demonstrating the Chinese people’s imagination of hell. In the evening you will enjoy the Farewell Dinner and pack your bags in preparation to disembark the cruise tomorrow.

DAY 13 - 14    WED    Chongqing Departure
Today, you will disembark the cruise ship and head to your Chongqing Airport for your scheduled flight home. We hope you enjoyed your journey to China with us!