



Imperial Jewels of China

14 Days / 12 Nights Viking Emerald
 Beijing, Xian, Chongqing, Shibaozhai, Three Gorges,
 Three Gorges Dam, Jingzhou, Shanghai

Vancouver Departure
March 5, 2016

from **US\$3998** p.p.
 Balcony cabin,
 based on double occupancy
**Airfare &
 all taxes included**

**Beijing pre-stay &
 Shanghai post-stay
 available upon request**



Package price includes:

- Transpacific economy class airfare - Hometown-Beijing & - Shanghai-Hometown)
- Intra-China flights
- All transfers
- 6-day Yangtze River cruise in veranda stateroom:
Viking Emerald
- 2 nights in Shanghai: Westin, Ritz-Carlton Portman or Jing An Shangri-La; 2 nights in Xian: Sheraton, Hilton or Crowne Plaza; 3 nights in Beijing: Kerry, Regent Beijing or Ritz-Carlton (or similar)
- Fully escorted: 11 guided tours with audio headset
- All meals: 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 11 dinners, featuring regional specialties with select meals at local restaurants, including Welcome Cocktail Reception & Dinner
- Complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks with onboard dinner and lunch service
- Visit 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Culture Curriculum: Listen to the sound of the Hubei Bells; attend lectures on the Yangtze River, Three Gorges Dam & current affairs; see a Chinese Tea Ceremony; learn a few Chinese words; hone your skills at mahjong and tai chi
- All port charges
- Free internet service, connection speed may vary

Package price does not include:

- China Visa fee
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Gratuities

Day	City	Sightseeing
Mar 5	Hometown - Beijing	- Fly from hometown to Beijing
Mar 6	Arrive Beijing	- Transfer to your hotel. China's imperial capital whose rich history dates back more than 3,000 years.
Mar 7	Beijing	- This morning visit the enormous Tiananmen Square, which can accommodate over 1 million people. Then, tour Beijing's Forbidden City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Made up of nearly 1,000 buildings, it is the world's largest surviving palace complex. Walk its grounds among the opulent palaces, pavilions, courtyards and imperial gardens within the 26-foot-high walls. - After lunch, take some free time to explore Beijing on your own or do some shopping. Enjoy your dinner or attend an optional Peking opera, a form of traditional Chinese theater. (B/L/D)
Mar 8	Beijing	- After breakfast, travel to the Badaling Hills. There, you behold one of the most impressive and best-preserved sections of the Great Wall of China. - After a lunch of local specialties, visit the Sacred Way, a tree-lined avenue guarded by massive sculptures of elephants, lions and camels leading to the Ming Dynasty tombs. This evening, dine at a local restaurant and relax at your hotel, or enjoy an optional Peking duck dinner, the region's famous dish. (B/L/D)
Mar 9	Xian	- Today, tour Old Beijing's hutongs (narrow alleys) via rickshaw. - After lunch, fly to Xian. Check in to your hotel and dine there; enjoy free time this evening. (B/L/D)
Mar 10	Xian	- After breakfast, tour the mausoleum where Emperor Qin Shi Huang was laid to rest over 2,000 years ago. See the thousands of life-sized Terra Cotta Warriors. After lunch, you have free time to further explore Xian. This evening, you may choose to dine surrounded by the song and dance of this colorful era. (B/L/D)
Mar 11	Chongqing	- Today, fly to Chongqing, gateway to the Yangtze, to board your ship and enjoy a Western dinner. (B/L/D)
Mar 12	Shibaozhai	- This morning, visit Shibaozhai Temple, a 12-story pavilion built in 1650 along the Yangtze. Tour the pavilion and temple before returning aboard for lunch. Enjoy Yangtze River scenery as you cruise this afternoon and through the night. (B/L/D)
Mar 13	Three Gorges	- During breakfast, cruise through Qutang Gorge, the shortest, narrowest and most spectacular of the three large gorges. Then, board a smaller boat for an excursion through the Lesser Three Gorges. Sail through these remarkable canyons flanked by towering cliffs. Along the way, see fascinating sites including the hanging coffins of the Ba people and the ancient plank road carved into the cliffside. Return aboard for lunch, and spend the afternoon sailing through Wu ("Witches") Gorge, renowned for its magnificent scenery. Dinner is served aboard. This evening, sail through the 5-stage locks of the Three Gorges Dam. (B, L, D)
Mar 14	Three Gorges Dam	- This morning, disembark for a tour of the Three Gorges Dam, where you learn about this immense engineering masterpiece and what it means for the Chinese people and the Yangtze. Lunch and dinner are served aboard while you cruise through Xiling Gorge, the longest of the Three Gorges. (B, L, D)
Mar 15	Jingzhou	- This morning, arrive in Jingzhou, where you visit an elementary school sponsored by Viking River Cruises. You are greeted and entertained by the children, then return to your ship for scenic cruising. (B, L, D)
Mar 16	Shanghai	- After breakfast, disembark in Wuhan. Visit the Hubei Provincial Museum where you hear the music of ancient bronze bells. Then, fly to Shanghai, China's largest city and one of the world's most important ports. Here, you can see the modern metropolis of the financial district juxtaposed with the older sections of the city. Check in to your hotel. (B, L, D)
Mar 17	Shanghai	- This morning, see Old Shanghai and travel along the elegant Bund, stopping to admire some of its historic buildings and city views. Then tour the Shanghai Museum, featuring displays of ceramics, bronzes, calligraphy and paintings. After lunch, we spend some time at the exquisite Yuyuan Garden, dating back to the Ming Dynasty. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before seeing the world-famous Shanghai Acrobatic Troupe from the best seats in the house. (B, L, D)
Mar 18	Shanghai - Hometown	- After breakfast, check out of your hotel and proceed to the airport for your return flight. (B)

Package prices are per person based on double occupancy. All prices in US dollars and subject to final confirmation.

