



 **Commonwealth
Club Travel**

presents

DISCOVERING CHINA

ANCIENT DYNASTIES TO MODERN SUPERPOWER

14 days for \$4,195 from San Francisco — air, land & cruise inclusive



September 4-17, 2012

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
The Commonwealth Club

Tour membership limited to 24 guests

DISCOVERING CHINA

ANCIENT DYNASTIES TO MODERN SUPERPOWER

14 days for \$4,195 from San Francisco — air, land & cruise inclusive

Comprehensive in scope yet briefer in duration than many China tours, this journey combines monumental Beijing, a cruise on the fabled Yangtze, fascinating Xian, and cosmopolitan Shanghai. Traveling in your exclusive small group, you'll have the good fortune to meet local people and to experience a host of China's highlights, both ancient and of the moment.



Tuesday, September 4: Depart U.S. for Beijing, China

Wednesday, September 5: Arrive Beijing

We arrive in the Chinese capital and transfer to our hotel. After time to relax we meet our tour director for an early evening briefing and a walking tour of the area surrounding our hotel. Dinner is on our own.

Thursday, September 6: Beijing Enjoy a morning briefing at the U.S. Embassy. This afternoon begin our discovery of this 2,000-year-old city at vast – and infamous – Tiananmen Square, and the Forbidden City, seat of imperial power during the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911). Tonight's welcome dinner features traditional Peking Duck. *B,D*

Friday, September 7: Beijing/Great Wall Our day begins with a rickshaw ride through Beijing's ancient back roads and alleys (*hutongs*). Here we visit the home of a local family for a rare glimpse of the traditional communal lifestyle that is fast disappearing. Then this afternoon we encounter the Great Wall, the incredible collection of ancient defense installations (and UNESCO World Heritage site) that stretches almost 4,000 miles and where we visit the Mu Tian Yu section by cable car. *B,L,D*

Saturday, September 8: Beijing This morning we tour the splendid Temple of Heaven complex where China's emperors once worshipped. This afternoon we tour the Summer Palace, the former royal retreat with beautiful gardens and temples that is now a park attracting both visitors and locals. Later we have a special visit to the Dashanzi Art District, a cosmopolitan center of culture and art in Beijing. *B,L*

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Beijing touring, including Tiananmen Square, Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven, Great Wall ... Beijing *hutong* tour and home visit ... U.S. Embassy visit ... Traditional Peking Duck dinner ... Xian's Terra Cotta Warriors ... Three-night Yangtze River cruise including Three Gorges and Smaller Gorges ... Cruise aboard Premier Ship of Victoria Cruises ... Included shore excursions ... Visit to site of new Three Gorges Dam ... Shanghai sightseeing: acclaimed Shanghai Museum, The Bund, Children's Palace, Yu Yuan Gardens

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Beijing		
2-5	Beijing	Renaissance Beijing	Deluxe
6-7	Xian	Sheraton Xian	Sup. First Class
8-10	Yangtze Cruise	Victoria Cruises	Sup. First Class
11-13	Shanghai	Hilton Shanghai	Deluxe
14	Depart Shanghai for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover Photo: China's Great Wall winds across deserts, grasslands, mountains and plateaus for almost 4,000 miles.



Tour the splendid Temple of Heaven complex on Day 5.

Sunday, September 9: Beijing/Xian This morning we fly to Xian, once among the world's greatest cities that devolved into a provincial backwater until the accidental discovery of the Terra Cotta Warriors in 1974 – considered among the most significant archaeological finds of the 20th century. This afternoon we explore Xian's impressive nine-mile city wall and moat. Tonight we attend a Tang Dynasty dinner show. **B,L,D**

Monday, September 10: Xian Our day begins at Wild Goose Pagoda (c. 652 AD), among China's most acclaimed Buddhist temples. Then after a special dumpling lunch we visit the museum housing the renowned Terra Cotta Warriors, the more than 7,000 life-sized soldiers created to guard China's first emperor in the afterlife. Enjoy a tour highlight with an exclusive lecture from one of the museum's curators. We see these astounding pieces, each with an individually sculpted face, standing in military formation in three separate vaults. **B,L,D**

Tuesday, September 11: Xian/Chongqing This morning we fly to Chongqing, where we visit the zoo housing the beloved pandas, and the Stilwell Museum dedicated to World War II General Joseph Stilwell. Following dinner at a local restaurant, we board our Victoria Cruises ship and set sail. **B,L,D**

Wednesday, September 12: Yangtze Cruising – Fengdu Prized for its haunting natural beauty, the Yangtze is one of the world's busiest and longest (3,600 miles) rivers. This morning we visit one of its most popular towns, the "ghost city" of Fengdu. On board this afternoon a river guide tells us about the Yangtze and the Three Gorges Dam then we enjoy a talk on Chinese medicine. Tonight: Captain's Welcome Dinner. **B,L,D**

Thursday, September 13: Yangtze Cruising – Qutang Gorge/ Lesser Gorges/Wu Gorge/Xiling Gorge After traversing Qutang, the shortest of the Three Gorges, mid-day we disembark in Wushan to board a small ferry for an excursion along the Daning River to the stunning Lesser Gorges. Lined with sheer cliffs and steep mountains, the Lesser Gorges recall scenes from ancient Chinese scroll paintings. Back on board our Yangtze ship late afternoon, we enter beautiful and tranquil Wu Gorge, then reach the scenic western section of 42-mile long Xiling Gorge, with swift rapids and churning whirlpools. Later tonight we enter the locks of the immense Three Gorges Dam. **B,L,D**

Friday, September 14: Yangtze Cruising – Three Gorges Dam/Xiling Gorges/Shanghai We tour the site of the immense Three Gorges Dam Project this

Post-Tour Extension: Sep. 17-19, 2012

NANJING

3 days/2 nights for \$595

Single Supplement: \$195

Discover one of China's four ancient capitals, rich in both culture and history. Nanjing holds economical importance as the second largest commercial center in China. With many lush parks and gardens, it is also considered one of China's most beautiful cities.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip rail transportation Shanghai/Nanjing
- 2 nights' accommodations at Sheraton Nanjing Kingsley (Superior First Class)
- 5 meals: 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner
- Extensive sightseeing, including Confucius Temple, Mausoleum of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Nanjing Massacre Museum, Ming Tombs, and summer home of Chiang Kai-Shek
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited representative
- Private motorcoach transportation
- Gratuities for dinner room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

morning then continue cruising through Xiling Gorge and Gezhouba Dam to Yichang. Here we disembark and fly to Shanghai, the "Paris of the East," where we spend the next two days. **B,L**

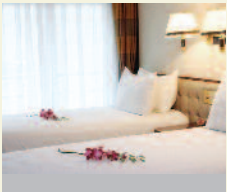
Saturday, September 15: Shanghai Our day begins with a visit to the Children's Palace, where adolescents learn traditional Chinese arts. We continue on to beloved 16th-century Yu Yuan Gardens, whose plantings, courtyards, and pavilions create the illusion of mountains, caverns, and lakes. Then after lunch together we tour the acclaimed Shanghai Museum of ancient Chinese art and artifacts. Tonight we dine on our own then attend an acrobatics show. **B,L**

Sunday, September 16: Shanghai This morning we visit the Bund, the mile-long riverside embankment where foreign investors — and their

buildings — once held sway over Shanghai. Still one of the city's most popular attractions, the Bund draws visitors and locals alike. Then the remainder of the day is at leisure; your tour director will help you find your way from here, perhaps to the bustling Nanjing Road shopping district ... to the Oriental Pearl TV Tower for a bird's-eye view of this dynamic city ... or to a scenic boat ride along the Huangpu River that bisects Shanghai. Tonight we toast our China adventure at a farewell dinner. **B,D**

Monday, September 17: Depart for U.S. We depart Shanghai for our return flights to the U.S. **B**

Victoria Cruises Premier Ships



Launched/Rebuilt: 2001-2011 Decks: 5
Registry: Chinese Passenger Capacity: 193-308
Crew: 112-125

All Cabins: Private balcony; satellite TV with HBO



View Xi'an's amazing Terra-cotta Warriors

Tour Departs: September 4, 2012

Los Angeles, San Francisco	\$4,195
Portland (OR), Seattle	\$4,395
Boston, Chicago, Dallas, New York, Philadelphia	\$4,595
Atlanta, Miami, Washington, DC	\$4,695
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$3,795

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy in an outside cabin. Single travelers please add \$995. All tour prices above are guaranteed.

Airline taxes and departure fees of \$439 per person are subject to change and will be listed separately on your invoice.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Pacific flight \$3,795 per person. (Business Class upgrade is subject to availability and the pricing is subject to change.)

Please note: This trip involves full days of sightseeing and significant amounts of walking on stairs and uneven surfaces. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest.

For information and reservations, please contact the Commonwealth Club at 415-597-6720, or email travel@commonwealthclub.org.

www.commonwealthclub.org/travel

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within itinerary
- 12 nights' accommodations: 3 nights aboard Superior First Class ship of Victoria Cruises; 9 nights in Deluxe and Superior First Class hotels
- 29 meals: 12 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 8 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of a Professional Chinese Tour Director/Guide
- Services of a Commonwealth Club Host with a minimum of 15 guests
- Special private cultural and educational highlights
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip, including shore excursions
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



Dear Members and Friends of the Commonwealth Club,

Join us on a discovery of China's highlights from the classic sites of Beijing and Xian to the fabled Yangtze River and cosmopolitan Shanghai. This is the way to experience China: in a small group of no more than 24 guests. You will be escorted by an experienced local tour director who will illuminate China's ancient past for you, as well as its fast moving present. You will also be provided with multiple exclusive educational opportunities enhancing this comprehensive itinerary.

Your journey begins in 2000-year-old Beijing, China's modern-day capital. See its legendary sites: Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven, and, of course, the Great Wall. A tour highlight is a special inside look at communal life along Beijing's ancient alleyways or hutongs, fast disappearing as the city rushes to modernize. Continue to Xian, site of the recently excavated terra-cotta army of more than 7,000 life-size warriors, called the Eighth Wonder of the World.

Then board a Victoria Cruises ship at Chongqing for a three-night cruise on the Yangtze, one of the world's longest and busiest rivers. Witness daily life along its shores, and see the spectacular Three Gorges and the much-heralded new dam. Your tour concludes in Shanghai, a dazzling city that epitomizes 21st-century China. Explore the European-influenced Bund, the Children's Palace, and the renowned Shanghai Museum with its priceless collections. A 3-day/2-night extension to Nanjing is also available.

Space is limited on this exclusive tour, so we urge you to call today to reserve your place. Don't miss out on this small group tour to China!

Sincerely,

Kristina Nemeth
Director of Travel

COMMONWEALTH CLUB RESERVATION FORM: DISCOVERING CHINA

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____ (\$500 per person) for _____ person/people on **Discovering China** departing **September 4, 2012**. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure (or by June 1, 2012). Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. **Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and send to: Commonwealth Club Travel, 595 Market Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105. For reservations and information, call (415) 597-6720, or email travel@commonwealthclub.org. You may also fax your reservation to (415) 597-6729.**

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Ph. (_____) _____ Cell Ph. (_____) _____

E-mail _____ Badge Name(s) _____

Please book my/our air from _____ I/we request a Business Class upgrade

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability)

Post-Tour Nanjing Extension: Please sign me/us up

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for *Discovering China, September 4-17, 2012*, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Method of Payment

Check American Express Discover MasterCard VISA

Account # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure (or by June 1, 2012), and can be paid by check or credit card.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not included in tour price

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only Tour package; costs of passports and visas; airport, port, and departure taxes, which will be listed as separate items on your invoice and are subject to change; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; transfers to and from airports for individuals not using or meeting group flights; excess baggage fees; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director or shipboard personnel, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities \$10-\$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing or shore excursions; travel protection insurance (strongly recommended).

Cancellations, refunds and changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **Cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; Cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; Cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; Cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; Cancel 29-0 days before departure: No refund.** If a guest makes any changes to their reservation within 94 and 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.**

Upon reservation you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, your date of birth, and your gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.

Responsibility

The liability of The Commonwealth Club, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. The Commonwealth Club and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The Commonwealth Club and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers.

We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, The Commonwealth Club and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

Health and Medical Issues

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and The Commonwealth Club request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and ships on your own.** If you require the use of a wheelchair or have other personal needs, you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and The Commonwealth Club assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.



595 Market Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

Presorted
Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
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ON AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR OF CHINA!
Guaranteed Small Group: Limited to 24 Guests