GOHAGAN & COMPANY

CHINA AND TIBET THE HIMALAYAS AND THE YANGTZE *
Deluxe Yangtze River Ship MV VICTORIA JENNA
October 10 to 25, 2020
From approximately $5195 plus air

Depart the U.S./Cross the International Dateline/Beijing, China
Day 1 and Day 2
Depart the U.S. and cross the International Date Line.
   Arrive in Beijing, the former city of the Mongol, Ming and Manchu emperors and one of China’s oldest citadels. Rich in historical sites and cultural relics, this dynamic city of more than 20 million people is the cultural and spiritual heart of the country. Check into the Five-Star PENINSULA BEIJING, ideally located near the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square on Day 2.

Beijing
Day 3
Visit the magnificent Great Wall of China, a UNESCO World Heritage site and symbol of imperial grandeur since 500 B.C. Constructed over the course of 2000 years, this imposing fortification once spanned more than 13,000 miles. Walk along this historic border and marvel at sweeping views of China’s northern plains and valleys. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant.
   Join your traveling companions for the Welcome Reception and Peking duck dinner in the hotel this evening. (B,L,R,D)

Beijing
Day 4
Walk through historic Tiananmen Square, expansive home to the memorial of modern China’s founder, Mao Zedong. Then, pass through the crimson Meridian Gate into the hallowed UNESCO World Heritage-designated Forbidden City, residence of Ming and Qing dynasty emperors for almost 500 years. Inside, ascend the stone steps of the delicately hewn Hall of Supreme Harmony to explore the ceremonial halls and royal apartments layered in imperial history, gilded rosewood and playful sinuous dragon carvings.
   A veritable masterpiece of Chinese landscaping and a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Summer Palace was the retreat of 19th-century Empress Dowager Cixi. Admire jewel-encrusted furniture in Cixi’s private apartments and see her ornate Marble Boat. Then, cruise by small boat across Kunming Lake’s tranquil waters, which, along with Longevity Hill, form the key aesthetic features of the Summer Palace gardens. (B)

Beijing/Xi’an
Day 5
See Chinese cosmogeny extraordinarily rendered on a tour of the Temple of Heaven, a UNESCO World Heritage-designated complex of religious buildings symbolizing the classic relationship between heaven and Earth.
   Then, fly to Xi’an, formerly ancient Chang’an, China’s cosmopolitan capital for 11 dynasties. Here, at the fabled launching point of the Silk Road, many of the world’s great religions coexisted and camel caravans distributed Chinese and Eurasian goods and influence to the world.

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Tour the exquisite Yangling Imperial Tomb, where thousands of figurines excavated from the 2100-year-old tomb of Emperor Liu Qi capture the essence of daily life during the Han dynasty, where the arts flourished as never before.

Check into the Five-Star HILTON HOTEL, located within the ancient city walls. (B)

Xi’an

Day 6
Visit the famous UNESCO World Heritage site of the life-size Terra Cotta Warriors, no two alike. In 1974, farmers digging a well unearthed this incredible archaeological discovery—one of the most momentous finds of the 20th century—an army of thousands of terra cotta warriors and horses maintaining a silent vigil over the tomb of Emperor Qin Shihuang (259-210 B.C.). This visionary monarch, the first ruler of a unified China, introduced a standardized writing system, reformed the legal code and commenced the building of the Great Wall, the greatest public works project of its era. The emperor lies buried in a skillfully crafted mausoleum, the product of 36 years and the efforts of 700,000 laborers. The tomb itself remains unexcavated, guarded by manifold charioteers, infantry, cavalry and horses. Each warrior bears his own distinct, lifelike expression and decorated to reflect his military rank.

This afternoon, walk along Xi’an’s fortified medieval city walls, the best-preserved in China, and explore the lively Huimin quarter, infused with a rich heritage of merchants who traveled the Silk Road 1300 years ago. See the triple-eaved Bell and Drum Towers, where watchmen once signaled dawn and dusk with a bell and a drum, respectively.

Enjoy traditional jiaozi (Chinese dumplings)—a touchstone of Chinese culinary history—for dinner in a famous Xi’an restaurant. (B,D)

Xi’an/Lhasa, Tibet

Day 7
Fly to Lhasa, one of the world’s highest cities at an elevation of nearly 12,000 feet. Lhasa has been a captivating center of Tibetan Buddhism since the religion was introduced here in the seventh century. Today, one can see devout pilgrims, prostrating monks, colorful neighborhood quarters and medieval monasteries. Check into the Five-Star SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, and this afternoon and evening are at leisure as you acclimate to the Himalayan altitude. (B)

Lhasa

Day 8
The Historic Ensemble of Potala Palace, Norbulingka Palace and Jokhang Temple are designated UNESCO World Heritage sites for their architectural significance. Atop rocky Red Mountain, ascend the stone staircase to a masterpiece of Tibetan architecture, Potala Palace, once the winter residence of the Dalai Lama, a towering 13 stories. See the ornately carved and painted ceremonial hall and throne of the Dalai Lama in the White Palace. Farther up the mountain, visit the opulent chapels in the Red Palace, where jewel-laden monuments honor previous Dalai Lamas.

Just outside the city, the 15th-century Sera Monastery, one of the great educational centers of Gelugpa, or Yellow Hat—the most widespread order of Tibetan Buddhism—once housed more than 5000 monks. Observe the animated style of debate they practice each afternoon in the courtyard of Sera’s largest school. (B,L)

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Lhasa
Day 9
The 18th-century Norbulingka Palace, built by the seventh Dalai Lama, contains the lush “Jeweled Park,” the largest garden in Tibet. The elaborate Jokhang Temple—Tibet’s most sacred building—was constructed in A.D. 647.

Outside the temple complex, fragrant incense perfumes the air and vivid silk robes and turquoise jewelry line the alleys of bustling Barkhor Square, where Tibetan monks spin prayer wheels and chant mantras. Lhasa’s only female Buddhist monastery, the Canggu Nunnery, is an oasis amid Barkhor’s activity; here, the residents welcome visitors to wander the brightly hued courtyards and listen to their rhythmic recitations.

Traditional Tibetan music accompanies your dinner in the hotel. (B,L,D)

Lhasa/Chongqing, China/Embark VICTORIA JENNA
Day 10
Fly to Chongqing, a mountain city located at the confluence of the Yangtze and Jialing Rivers and known for its traditional teahouse culture and spicy Szechuan cuisine. Visit Chongqing’s zoo to see playful giant pandas—recently removed from the endangered species list—in specially designed gardens simulating their natural habitat.

This afternoon, embark the VICTORIA JENNA. (B,L,D)

Cruising the Yangtze River/Shibaozhai
Day 11
Cruise for three-days amid the natural grandeur of the Three Gorges. First, visit Shibaozhai, “Precious Stone Fortress,” a rocky promontory on the river’s north bank. Built into its side is the graceful Pearl of Yangtze, a 12-tiered red wooden pagoda rising 184 feet to a towering summit.

Attend the Welcome Reception on board this evening. (B,L,R,D)

Three Gorges/Cruising the Goddess Stream and Three Lesser Gorges
Day 12
Pass through Kui Gate, the twin peaked threshold into Qutang, the most dramatic of the Three Gorges. Admire the quiet beauty and sheer white cliffs of forest-flanked Wu Gorge, where the legendary Twelve Peaks crown misty Wu Mountain. Float gently through the hushed harmony of the Goddess Stream by private small boat and cruise through spectacular Xiling, the longest gorge, en route to the Three Gorges Dam. (B,L,D)

Maoping/Three Gorges Dam/Yichang/Shanghai
Day 13
From Maoping, transfer to Sanouping to visit the massive Three Gorges Dam, the largest water conservancy project ever undertaken. Considered a key to China’s modernization, it is the world’s largest power station.

Transfer to Yichang for a flight to Shanghai. Check into the historic, Five-Star FAIRMONT PEACE HOTEL, and enjoy an evening at leisure. (B,L)

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Shanghai

Day 14
The metropolis of Shanghai is a rousing blend of innovation and tradition. Today, architectural landmarks, including the neoclassical Customs House and the China Merchants Bank building, dot the famed Bund waterfront; and across the fabled Huangpu, see the bold high-rises and broad avenues of Pudong, Shanghai’s pulsing financial center. Visit the renowned Shanghai Museum, which houses an important collection of ancient coins, including rare pieces from the central Asian kingdoms along the Silk Road. (B,L)

Shanghai

Day 15
On a panoramic tour, drive through the tree-lined streets of the former French Concession. Explore the tranquil YuYuan Gardens, featuring souvenir shops, tea houses and canals.

The rooftop of the Five-Star FAIRMONT PEACE HOTEL provides the perfect setting for tonight’s Farewell Reception, with breathtaking views of the city skyline along the Huangpu. (B,R)

Shanghai/Depart China/Cross the International Dateline/Arrive in the U.S.

Day 16
Transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S. (B)

*Internal program air (Beijing/Xi’an, Xi’an/Lhasa, Lhasa/Chongqing and Yichang/Shanghai) is required and is purchased individually at an additional cost.*