

4 Days & 3 Nights Chongqing to Yichang Yangtze River Cruise

Trip overview

Experience the timeless beauty of China's longest river with our **4-day Chongqing to Yichang Yangtze River cruise**. This downstream journey is a soul-stirring voyage through the heart of the legendary Three Gorges, where towering limestone cliffs meet emerald waters. From the historic docks of the mountain city Chongqing to the monumental Three Gorges Dam in Yichang, you will witness the perfect harmony of ancient culture and modern ambition.

Relax in your private balcony cabin as the dramatic landscapes of the **Qutang, Wu, and Xiling Gorges** unfold before you. Along the way, you'll step ashore to discover the architectural oddity of the **Shibaozhai Pagoda** or the mystical legends of the **Fengdu Ghost City**. A highlight of the voyage is the transition to smaller boats to explore the hidden beauty of the **Lesser Three Gorges** or the serene **Shennong Stream**. With world-class onboard service, cultural performances, and expert-led excursions, this cruise offers a seamless and luxurious way to explore the very essence of the Yangtze.

- **Durations:** 4 Days
- **Destinations:** Chongqing - Shibaozhai Pagoda / Fengdu Ghost City - Three Gorges - Lesser Three Gorges - Three Gorges Dam - Yichang
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://asiachinatour.com/4-days-chongqing-yichang-yangtze-river-cruise/>

Itinerary

Day 1: Welcome to the Mountain City & Embarkation

Your legendary voyage down the Yangtze begins in the dramatic "Mountain City" of **Chongqing**, a sprawling metropolis famous for its futuristic skyline and vibrant river culture.

Evening Embarkation: As twilight falls and the city transforms into a dazzling display of lights, you will make your way to the historic **Chongqing Chaotianmen Port**, located at the majestic confluence of the Yangtze and Jialing Rivers. Between 6:00 PM and 8:30 PM, you will board your luxury cruise ship. Our team will assist you with the check-in process, allowing you to settle into

your private balcony cabin and begin exploring the ship's world-class amenities.

Setting Sail: At 9:00 PM, the ship will gently pull away from the dock. From the observation deck, you can witness the spectacular night view of the illuminated city—a sea of glowing skyscrapers and bridges—as the ship enters the main channel of the Yangtze, marking the start of your 648-kilometer journey downstream toward the Three Gorges.

Accommodation: Luxury Cruise Ship

Meals: / (Self-arranged)

Expert Tips for Day 1:

*Chongqing is a city built on hills, and Chaotianmen Port is quite vast with multiple piers. Your private guide will inform you of your specific **pier number** on the day of arrival, as these can change based on river levels and port traffic. We recommend arriving in Chongqing earlier in the day to experience the local "Magic City" atmosphere; a visit to the nearby **Hongya Cave** or a ride on the **Liziba "Train through the Building" monorail** are fantastic pre-cruise highlights. Please ensure you have your passport ready for check-in at the ship's reception, and be aware that dinner is typically not served on board on the first night, so we suggest enjoying some famous Chongqing street food or a non-spicy meal before heading to the port.*

Day 2: Mystical Legends & Architectural Wonders

As the morning mist lifts over the Yangtze, your second day on the river unfolds with a deep dive into China's rich architectural heritage and spiritual folklore.

Morning: River Life & Buffet Delights: Start your day with a leisurely **buffet breakfast** in the ship's dining hall, enjoying panoramic views of the changing riverbanks. The morning offers a perfect opportunity to attend a cultural lecture on the ship or simply relax on your private balcony as the rural landscapes of the Yangtze valley glide past.

Afternoon: Exploring Ancient Mysteries: Depending on your specific cruise line's schedule, you will step ashore for a fascinating excursion to one of two legendary sites:

- **Shibaozhai Pagoda:** Known as "The Pearl of the Yangtze," this 400-year-old wooden masterpiece is a marvel of ancient engineering. Built without a single nail against a sheer cliff, this 12-story red pavilion is ranked as one of the world's eight strangest buildings.
- **Fengdu Ghost City:** Perched on Ming Mountain, this mystical complex offers a rare glimpse into the Chinese concept of the afterlife. Through intricate temples and vivid statues, you will explore a world where Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism intertwine to tell stories of judgment and spirits.

Evening: Imperial Flavors & Cultural Shows: After returning to the ship, enjoy a sumptuous dinner featuring both local Sichuan specialties and international cuisine. The night comes alive with a **Crew Performance**, where the talented staff showcase traditional Chinese dances, music, and costumes, offering a lively celebration of the river's cultural heritage.

Accommodation: Luxury Cruise Ship

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner on board

Expert Tips for Day 2:

Both **Shibaozhai** and **Fengdu** involve a significant amount of walking and climbing stairs. We strongly recommend wearing comfortable, non-slip walking shoes. For the Shibaozhai tour, the ascent inside the pagoda can be narrow; if you prefer a more relaxed experience, the surrounding park offers beautiful photography spots of the structure from below. In Fengdu, if the climb to the hilltop temple feels too strenuous, an optional cable car is usually available for a small fee. Onboard, we suggest checking the daily schedule for the **Captain's Welcome Reception**—it's the perfect time to dress up slightly and meet the officers and fellow travelers from around the world.

Day 3: The Grandeur of the Three Gorges & Hidden Waterways

Prepare for the most breathtaking day of your voyage as the ship enters the heart of the Yangtze Gorges, where nature's power and poetic beauty reach their peak.

Morning: Navigating the Majestic Gorges: As you enjoy breakfast, the ship will enter the **Qutang Gorge**. Though only 8 kilometers long, it is the most dramatic section of the river; its sheer "Kuimen" cliffs form a colossal limestone gateway so iconic it is featured on the Chinese 10-yuan banknote. Shortly after, you will glide into the 45-kilometer **Wu Gorge**. Famous for its deep, serene valleys and frequently swirling mists, this gorge is home to the legendary Twelve Peaks, each steeped in ancient myth and ethereal beauty.

Afternoon: Exploring the Narrow Canyons: In the afternoon, you will transition from the large cruise ship to smaller motorboats or traditional sampans for an intimate exploration of a tributary stream. Depending on your ship's itinerary, you will explore the **Lesser Three Gorges**, **Shennong Stream**, or **Goddess Stream**. These narrow waterways offer a closer look at "hanging coffins" on high cliffs, crystalline waterfalls, and pristine forests. You may even spot wild monkeys playing along the banks or hear the distant call of water birds echoing through the narrow canyons.

Evening: Farewell Banquet & Night Reflections: Back on board, the ship continues its journey through the Xiling Gorge. Tonight, enjoy a grand **Farewell Banquet** hosted by the Captain. It's a night to celebrate your journey with fine dining and special performances as the ship prepares for its final destination.

Accommodation: Luxury Cruise Ship

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner on board

Expert Tips for Day 3:

Today is the ultimate photo opportunity of your trip. We recommend spending as much time as possible on the **Sundeck**; however, be aware that the ship passes through the "Kuimen" gate of Qutang Gorge very quickly (usually within 15–20 minutes), so keep your camera ready from early morning. For the afternoon side-excursion, you will be transferring between boats; the crew will assist you, but it's best to travel light and wear a waterproof jacket as there can be light spray or mist in the narrow canyons. If your excursion is to the Shennong Stream, look out for the traditional "trackers" who once pulled boats by hand—a fascinating glimpse into the river's rugged history.

Day 4: The Great Dam & Farewell to the Yangtze

Your final day on the river culminates in a visit to a modern wonder of the world, marking a grand conclusion to your Yangtze adventure.

Morning: A Modern Engineering Miracle: After your final buffet breakfast on board, you will disembark at Maoping Port, located in the scenic Xiling Gorge. From here, a short coach transfer will take you to the **Three Gorges Dam** site. Standing on the panoramic viewing deck at Tanziling, the highest point of the project, you will witness the staggering scale of the world's largest hydroelectric station. You will learn how this "Modern Great Wall" functions—balancing the power of the Yangtze to provide flood control, clean energy, and improved navigation for ships traveling into the heart of China.

Afternoon: Transition to Yichang: Following your exploration of the dam and its surrounding park, you will be driven back toward downtown Yichang. The journey concludes at the **Yichang Sanxia Tourist Center** (adjacent to the Wanda Plaza) around 12:30 PM. From this central hub, you can easily transition to the airport or high-speed railway station for your onward journey or home flight.

Accommodation: / (End of Service)

Meals: Hotel Breakfast

Expert Tips for Day 4:

*The Three Gorges Dam is a high-security area; please ensure you have your **original passport** with you for the security checks at the entrance. If you are interested in a truly unique experience, many cruise lines offer an optional tour of the **Ship Lift**—the world's largest "elevator" for ships—which allows you to experience the 113-meter vertical drop in about 40 minutes; your guide on Day 1 can help you arrange this. For your onward travel from Yichang, we recommend booking high-speed trains departing after **2:30 PM** or flights departing after **4:30 PM** to ensure a stress-free transition from the tourist center to the station or airport. Our team is happy to assist with any final luggage or transport questions before you depart!*

Booking Policy

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation by Customer

- Cancellation received before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 20% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 40% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 70% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

Children Policy

The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults.

- For infant (<04 years old): Free of Charge
 - 04 - 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate
 - 04 - 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
 - Above 11 years old with extra bed: 100% adult rate
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