

Created specifically for the Probus Club of Mississauga South



Exotic China, Tibet & The Yangtze River

Come with the Probus Club and Tour Design...

Join us to experience the old and the new China. The cities and the countryside, magnificent scenery. And life along its greatest river!

Your Journey

CANADA

YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE

LHASA

BEIJING

SHANGHAI

CHENGDU

XIAN

CANADA

21 DAYS
MAY 11 – 31, 2013

**Exclusive program for
Probus members
and friends**



www.tourdesign.ca

1-888-923-918

or contact Neal Black, Events Director,
Probus Club of Mississauga South.

905 279 9175



Shanghai, located at the mouth of the Yangtze River, fittedly called "Pearl of the Orient". This is your first stop, Shanghai is the largest city in China and the eighth largest city in the world. Great shopping here!

PROBUS CLUB OF MISSISSAUGA SOUTH

Exotic China, Tibet & The Yangtze River

MAY 11 – 31, 2013 (21 DAYS)

Day 1/ May 11 Depart Canada – Shanghai

Board your overnight flight from Pearson International Airport to Shanghai, China. Air Canada 87, departing Toronto at 1:00 pm and landing in Shanghai at 3:15 pm + 1 day. Meals will be served in flight. Business Class upgrade available on request.

Day 2/ May 12 Shanghai

Welcome to Shanghai, known as the "Pearl of the Orient" one of China's most important industrial and cultural centers. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Tonight, enjoy a Probus Club Welcome Dinner at the hotel with your fellow travelers. With all lunches and dinners in China, you will have your choice of a soft drink, juice, water or beer and at the end of your meal, tea. We spend three nights at the **Intercontinental Puxi Hotel**. (Welcome dinner- international buffet dinner at hotel)

Day 3/ May 13 Shanghai

Following breakfast (note that all breakfasts are international buffet style inclusive of tea and coffee), let the sights and sounds of Shanghai awaken your senses as you "Walk the Bund" often referred to as the "Wall Street" of the former foreign powers and is Shanghai's famous waterfront district, often called the "Museum of Architecture". Walk along colourful Nanjing Road, Shanghai's main shopping street, famously named one of the World's Seven Great Roads in the 1930s and is the world's longest shopping district, with over 600 shops many with a rich history. This morning we will also visit Old Town Bazaar with its many narrow zigzag lanes, small squares, fishponds and pavilions linked by stone bridges. Enjoy Dim Sum lunch at the famous Lybolang Restaurant. After lunch, free time to shop before we visit the Shanghai Museum, with its

renowned collection of Chinese relics. The scope, depth and quality of its collections, and the striking architecture and use of modern technology make the Shanghai Museum one of the most famous, if not the most famous, in China. We next visit a Children's Palace, one of the schools developed for truly gifted children. A special performance will be arranged at Children's Palace for Probus Club travelers. Dinner at local restaurant followed by an astonishing Chinese acrobatic performance at the Theatre of Portman Shanghai Centre. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Day 4/ May 14 Shanghai - Suzhou - Shanghai

After breakfast, enjoy a full day tour to Suzhou (the Oriental Venice) where popular Chinese legend states that, "In heaven there is paradise, and on earth there are Hangzhou and Suzhou". Start with the highlight of your Suzhou tour, a Grand Canal Cruise, followed by a visit to the Panmen Gate. With a history of 2,500 years, this city gate is the most completely preserved part of the ruins of the ancient city of Suzhou. Inside the gate are the Auspicious Light Pagoda and Wumen Bridge, which, with the gate, make up the "Three Sights at the Panmen Gates". Your Suzhou flavour Dim Sum lunch will be served at Bamboo Grove Hotel. This afternoon, visit the Garden of Master-of-nets (a UNESCO Heritage site) which is among the finest Classical Chinese garden designs which recreates the natural Chinese landscapes in miniature. This is the smallest, yet the most delicate landscape garden in Suzhou city. This evening enjoy a western set dinner at a local restaurant upon our return to Shanghai. If time permits this evening, stroll along the wide riverside promenade of the Bund where lights add to the happy atmosphere. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)



Suzhou

Classic gardens are a delight to explore



Yangtze

Awesome Wonders of Nature



CHINA, YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE & TIBET



Day 5/ May 15 Shanghai - Yichang Embarkation

Free morning followed by our flight to Yichang and a city tour including a visit to the Chinese Sturgeon Museum followed by dinner before we are transferred to our floating hotel for the Yangtze River Cruise. This cruise is our opportunity to relax and unwind and enjoy some marvelous scenery during our China journey. All of our cabins are Superior Cabins on the Executive Deck and have private balconies. By booking the Executive Deck it gives us the choice of the main Dynasty Dining Room or the A-La-carte Western/Chinese Restaurant considered the finest dining room on the Yangtze River, concierge service, use of executive lounge, Business Centre, private lectures by senior American and European staff, free coffee, tea and cold drinks all day in executive lounge, exclusive shore excursions and reserved seats for evening entertainment. We spend the next four nights on the **MS Victoria Jenna**. (Breakfast, lunch in flight and dinner)

Day 6/May 16 Yangtze River Cruise

This morning, visit the Three Gorges Dam Site, the largest of its kind in the world at 2,335 meters long and 185 meters high. This dam created a lake 1000 kilometers long. This huge dam was built for flood control, generation of electricity, and to aid with navigation and irrigation. Our ship sails through the Three Gorges ship locks, and into one of nature's most extraordinary sculptures carved along the Yangtze River, the Xiling Gorge. This is the longest and deepest of the Three Gorges. Private Probus Club cocktail party onboard the ship tonight. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Day 7/May 17 Yangtze River Cruise

Today, we disembark at Wushan to explore the Three Small Gorges on the Daning River, a world where natural scenic wonders unfold on both banks with magnificent scenery, from sheer cliffs to jagged mountain peaks and sparkling waterfalls,

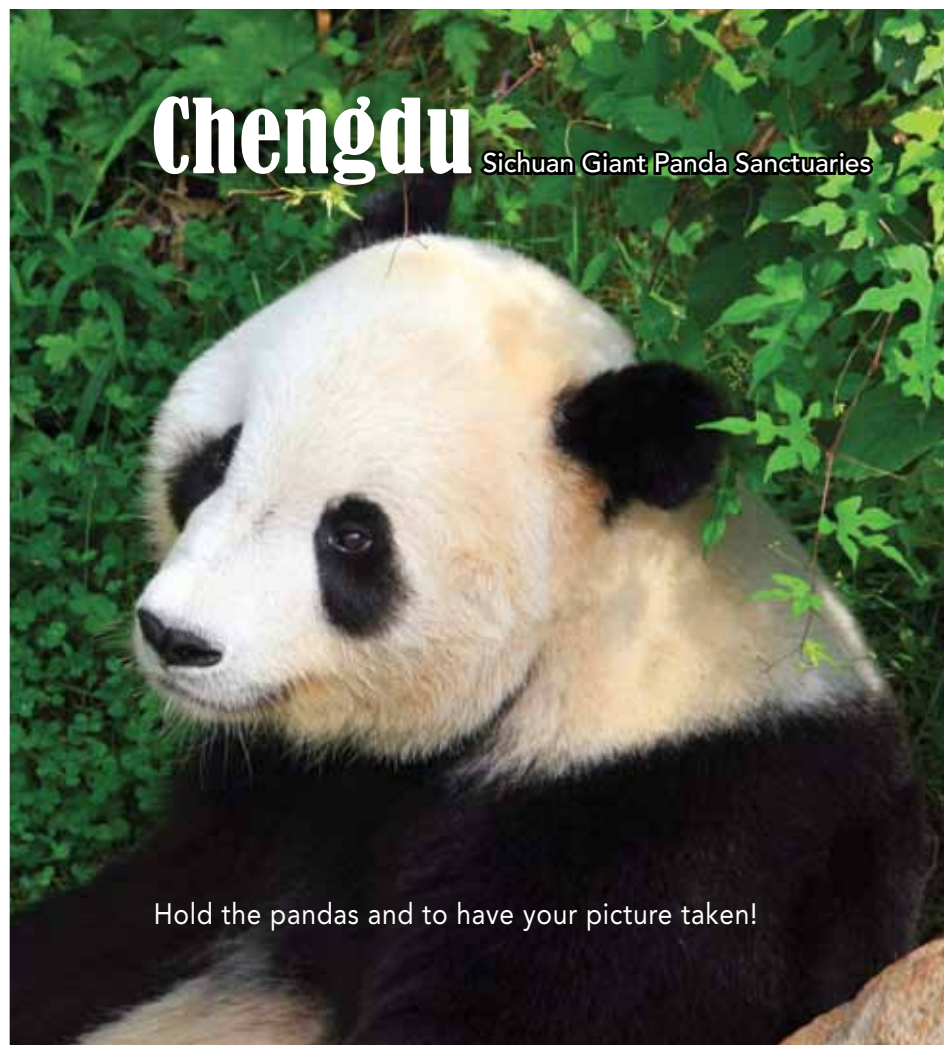
and terraced landscapes. The Three Small Gorges are frequently considered to be the highlight of the cruise. The river winds its way 33 kilometers (20 miles) through the beautiful Lesser Gorges; where birds singing and monkeys chattering can sometimes be seen from both banks. The water is strikingly clear in contrast to the Yangtze. In the Misty Gorge, a 2,000 year old "hanging" coffin can be seen suspended on a precipice high up on the cliff-face. At one time hundreds of these coffins could be seen throughout the Three Gorges and the Daning River, suspended from seemingly inaccessible areas on the cliff-side. The ship will pass through Wu Gorge known for its quiet beauty and Qutang Gorge, the shortest, narrowest and most spectacular of the gorges, with cliffs rising to heights of one thousand meters from the water's edge. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Day 8/May 18 Yangtze River Cruise

This morning we visit the "Ghost City" of Fengdu. A plethora of demon-decorated temples, buildings and statues in this river town earned it the moniker "Ghost City" – the carved facades are truly fascinating. Having a history of nearly 2,000 years, Fengdu County has formed a special culture of ghosts and the afterlife. Well known as the resting place of the spirit of the dead, Fengdu is now the most characteristic and reputed historic and cultural town in China. We take the cable car up to the city and here you can view the new relocation village, built for families who have moved as a result of the Yangtze's rising waters brought about by the Three Gorges Dam. This afternoon, relax on board and enjoy the passing scenery. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Day 9/ May 19 Chongqing - Chengdu Disembarkation

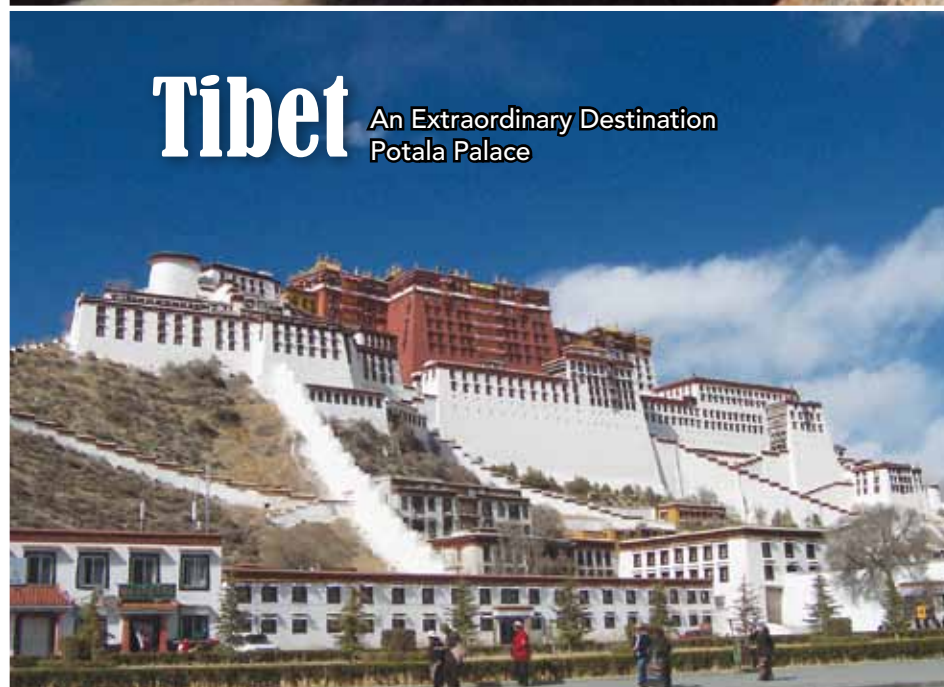
In Chongqing, we explore this historic and picturesque mountain city that clings to steep cliffs located where the Yangtze and Jialing Rivers converge. This morning, we will visit People's Hall. Watch local people perform Tai Chi or dance on



Chengdu

Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries

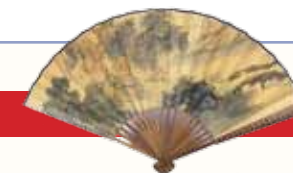
Hold the pandas and to have your picture taken!



Tibet

An Extraordinary Destination
Potala Palace

CHINA, YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE & TIBET



the square while some others are participating in acrobatics or Martial Arts. You may be invited to join them in their activities. After lunch at local restaurant, transfer to the express train to Chengdu. Tonight, enjoy the International buffet dinner at your hotel. Three nights at the **Shangri La Hotel**. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Day 10/May 20 Chengdu

This morning we tour the natural habitat of the Giant Panda at Bifeng Gorge Base of China Panda Protection and Research Centre – within the Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries – a UNESCO site. (The pandas were living in Wulong Base – until it was closed due to the earthquake in 2008). In total, there are fewer than 1000 pandas in the world, of which 80% are distributed within the territory of Sichuan province. The research center has been created to imitate the pandas' natural habitat in order that they might have the best possible environment for rearing and breeding. Lectures on pandas will be given by a professional especially for the Probus Club. You will even have the once in a lifetime opportunity to hold the pandas and to have your picture taken. (Cost of photo not included in the tour cost) Enjoy a tasty hot pot dinner tonight, a local specialty and spiced to order. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Day 11/May 21 Chengdu

Today, we focus on the rural Chinese people and their countryside and see how this new agricultural zone is developing in Jinjiang district of Chengdu. We will make a work visit to the local countryside and see how this new agricultural zone is springing up with new development in this socialistic country. We start our rural tour with a visit to the local free market in town and then visit the Jinjiang District of Chengdu to see how the people enjoy their life. We visit five village and related developments in each village -The Happy Plum Forest, Vegetable Field of the Jian Family, Rural Residences of the Flower Township, Dongli Chrysanthemum Garden and

finally Moonlight of the Lotus Pond. Lunch while touring. In the afternoon, we visit the Sanxingdui Ruins Museum. This particular discovery, would rewrite Chinese history by unearthing a culture contemporary with the first civilizations of China but that had left no clues in historical records, that seemingly disappeared without a trace and which left artifacts never before discovered elsewhere in China. The hoards of prize antiquities stand out as treasures unparalleled. Western Set dinner at our hotel this evening. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Day 12/ May 22 Chengdu - Lhasa

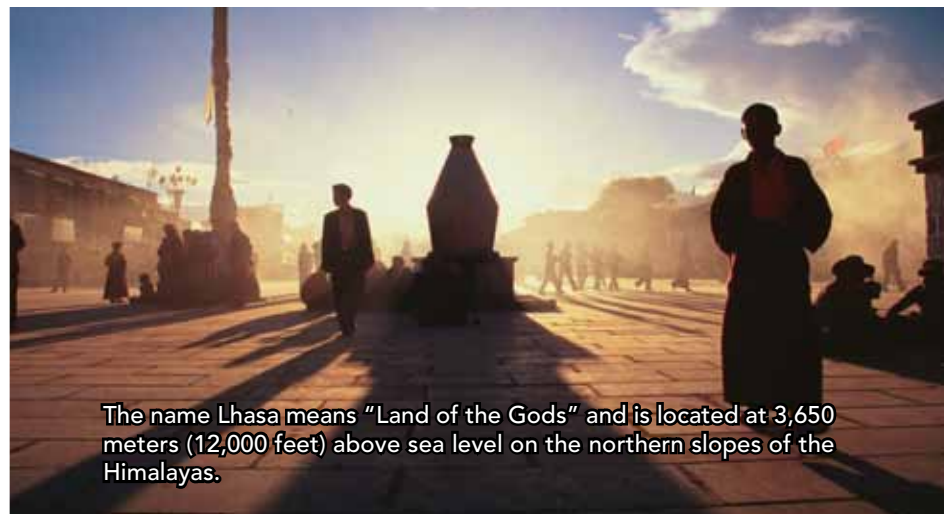
First, we have a free morning to relax or shop for traditional Chengdu brocades and embroidery items, quintessentially Chinese, many of which have a high intrinsic value. Later we fly to the city of Lhasa, famous for its sunshine as they get more than 3,000 hours of sunshine a year. Tibet is one of the world's more extraordinary destinations for there is adventure indeed lurking around almost every corner. Lhasa is rightly one of the most featured and dreamt-about cities in the world. It is the capital of the Tibet Autonomous region and boasts many historical and scenic great temples, monasteries and imposing palaces which are world famous. Over the centuries, Lhasa became the political and religious centre of Tibet. Average elevation here is more than 3,500 meters so upon arrival, time to rest and acclimatize to the air, which contains less oxygen. We spend the next four nights at the brand new **St. Regis Lhasa Resort Hotel** (deluxe room with garden view). International Buffet Dinner this evening at our hotel. (Breakfast, lunch in flight and dinner)

Day 13/ May 23 Lhasa

Visit the imposing Potala Palace, once the center of the Tibetan government and the former winter residence of the Dalai Lama. It is the largest treasure house in Tibet. A monastery, a palace, and a prison, it symbolizes the fusion of secular and religious power in Tibet, and is firmly entrenched on Lhasa's



CHINA, YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE & TIBET

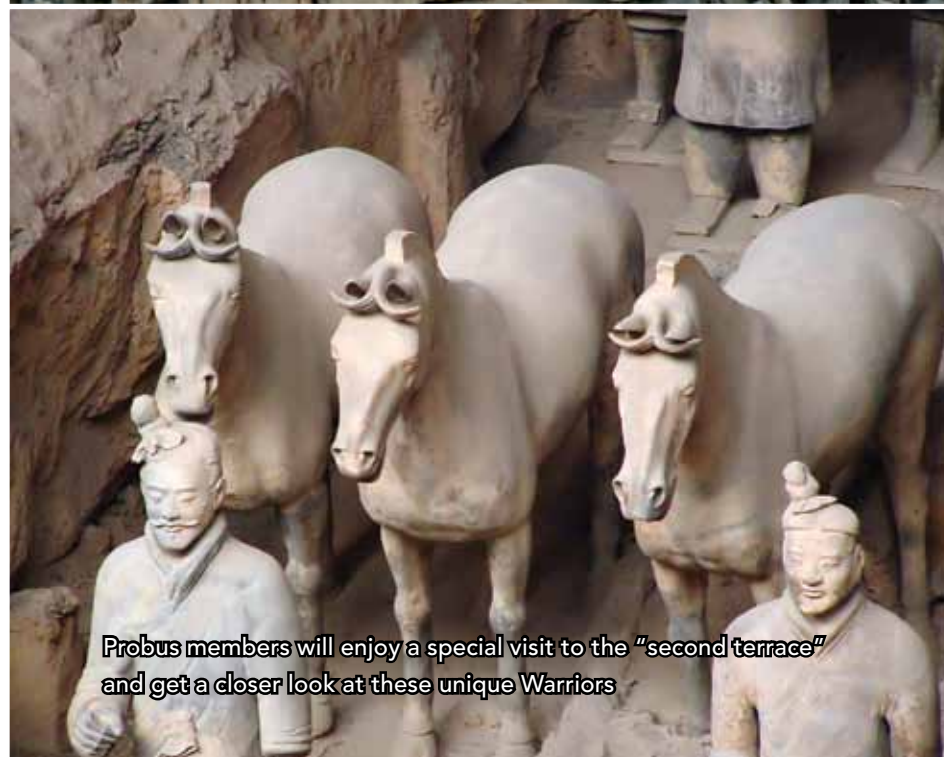


The name Lhasa means "Land of the Gods" and is located at 3,650 meters (12,000 feet) above sea level on the northern slopes of the Himalayas.



Xian

Terra Cotta Warriors Museum



Probus members will enjoy a special visit to the "second terrace" and get a closer look at these unique Warriors

must-see list. After lunch, we visit the Jokhang Temple, one of Tibet's oldest shrines. Built in the 7th century it is a combination of the Han, Tibetan, Indian and Nepalese architectural styles. Around the Monastery, enjoy some shopping at the thriving bazaar of Barkhor Street. The rest of the day is at your leisure. Dinner on your own this evening with recommendations. (Breakfast and lunch)

Day 14/ May 24 Lhasa

Today we visit the Summer Palace of the Dalai Lama, featuring the largest man-made garden in Tibet. It was built in the 1740s and covers an area of 26 hectares. The exquisite murals in the palace halls are well worth your visit. In the afternoon, we visit the magnificent Sera Monastery and covering 28 acres, is one of the three great monasteries in Lhasa. The monastery was named Sera; a wild rose in the Tibetan language, because the hill behind it was covered with wild roses in bloom when the monastery was built. Western style set dinner at our hotel this evening. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Day 15/ May 25 Lhasa

Today we take a special trip to a Tibetan's Home and stop for lunch at local restaurant before visiting a typical Tibetan monastery. The Drepung Monastery (in Tibetan – Monastery of Collecting Rice). As the most powerful of the Gelugpa monasteries, Drepung had seven colleges and, at its height housed over 10,000 monks. Surrounded by the dark faces of mountains, its grand white buildings stand out shining in the sunlight. Concluding your exciting tour today, we visit the Tibetan Traditional Medical hospital where we learn about traditional Tibetan medicine and therapy. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Day 16/ May 26 Lhasa - Xian

Today we fly to Xian, a city visited by Marco Polo when it had a population of over one million. Many reminders of the past are still evident including portions of the city wall, and the Bell Tower, which

dates from 1384. Some free time at our downtown hotel before enjoying a special dumpling dinner at the famous Defachang Restaurant. We spend two nights at the **Xian Sofitel Hotel**. (Breakfast, lunch in flight and dinner)

Day 17/ May 27 Xian

The Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses, are the most significant archeological excavations of the 20th century, and is a site not to be missed. Your full day excursion takes us to the Mausoleum of Emperor Qin, one of China's greatest rulers and the builder of the Great Wall, however his actual tomb has not been excavated. Discovered in 1974, some 6,000 life sized Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses - the imperial bodyguard to the emperor on his journey after death - are arranged in battle formations. An expert of the Terra Cotta Warriors Museum will host a Probus Club private presentation in their conference room. We have a special visit to the "second terrace" of the Museum to get a closer look at the Warriors, and to take our personal pictures with them. After lunch, we will return to the city to take a walk on the massive City Wall of Xian, the most complete city wall that has survived in China, as well being one of the largest ancient military defensive systems in the world. After the extension, the wall now stands 12 meters (40 feet) tall, 12-14 meters (40-46 feet) wide at the top and 15-18 meters (50-60 feet) thick at the bottom. It is 13.7 kilometers (8.5 miles) in length with a deep moat surrounding it. Tonight an entertaining evening awaits you at the famous Tang Dynasty Dinner Theatre where you enjoy food, music and dance of the 7th century Chinese Imperial Court. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Day 18/ May 28 Xian - Beijing

This morning, we will visit Big Wild Goose Pagoda, a well-preserved ancient building and a holy place for Buddhists and visit the Great Mosque, the oldest and one of the most renowned and best preserved mosques in China. Later, we fly to Beijing and transfer

Historic Beijing

Forbidden City/Palace Museum (UNESCO site)



The historic Great Wall



Today's Beijing

May is the best time to visit this very clean and modern capital city



2008 Olympics Stadium, the must see in the new Beijing

CHINA, YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE & TIBET



to our centrally located **Regent Hotel**, a few blocks from Tiananmen Square and the Temple of Heaven. Enjoy an international buffet dinner at Novotel Peace Hotel, which is walking distance from your hotel. (Breakfast, lunch in flight and dinner)

Day 19/ May 29 Beijing

Stroll through the respectful and immense Tiananmen Square, China's historical heart of jubilation and turbulence for almost a century, and then stroll to the resplendent Forbidden City/ Palace Museum (UNESCO site), home for Chinese Emperors since 1420 – the largest (9999 rooms) and best-preserved imperial palace complex in the world. Wander through the world's largest royal compound that was off-limits to commoners and learn about important treasures of the Imperial collection on display in the vast inner courts. After lunch, we will go to Silk Market, where you will have lots of time to do your shopping and find great bargains for all kinds of wares: cashmere garments, shirts, jackets, leather goods, shoes, dresses, hats and even watches. Prices are not fixed, so take a stroll through the market, before starting your bargaining. If you are good at negotiating, you can get many goods for as little as a quarter of the asking price. Relax at the hotel before we walk to the famous Wangfujing Quanjude Restaurant for a Peking Roast Duck Dinner. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Day 20/ May 30 Beijing

A free morning before we depart for a picture stop at the 2008 Olympic Village's site, the Bird's Nest and the Water Cube. We enjoy lunch on our way to the perhaps the highlight of our tour, the Great Wall, one of the "Eight Wonders of the World" and UNESCO World Heritage site, that can be seen from space. Looking like a gigantic dragon, the Great Wall was built 2,000 years ago during the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC), and was designed to keep out foreign invaders—in which capacity it succeeded at times and failed at others. Constructed with beacon

towers, it also served as an enemy alert system by using smoke systems to warn of approaching enemies. In peacetime, the Wall has proved useful as a highway, transporting people and supplies over large distances. The Great Wall once stretched 4,000 miles across China's barren northern terrain from the Bohai Sea to the Gobi Desert. We drive north to a village where the Great Wall is well preserved. Walk along the wall and enjoy sweeping vistas of this mammoth fortress. As a spectacular finish to our tour, we have an unforgettable Probus Gala Farewell Dinner ON the Great Wall with unlimited drinks, beer and wine. (Breakfast, lunch and farewell dinner on Great Wall of China)



Day 21/ May 31 Beijing - Toronto

You have a choice today. You can leave early morning (6 am) to visit the vast Temple of Heaven complex (Tiantan Park, a UNESCO site) that was once a sacred area used only by the Emperors of China. Today this park is a favorite gathering spot for local residents where they come to sing, dance, exercise and relax. Joining in on activities is a fun way to interact with everyday Beijingers. These activities take place early morning. We return to the hotel for free time before our late afternoon flight from Beijing to Toronto. If you do not wish to get up so early, we have an option to have breakfast and then visit the Temple of Heaven. You will return to the hotel before leaving for the airport. Air Canada 32 departs Beijing at 6:05 pm and lands in Toronto at 6:45 pm same day. Meal in flight. (Breakfast and lunch)

PRICE PER PERSON, IN CANADIAN DOLLARS,
CRUISE, LAND AND AIR FROM TORONTO

Twin \$8,199
Single \$11,139

Upgrade on the MS Victoria Jenna to Executive Suite -
add \$780 per person

Upgrade on the MS Victoria Jenna to Deluxe Suite -
add \$1,190 per person (note only 2 of these suites on the ship)

Upgrade to Business Class from Toronto add \$3300 per person

Air credit of \$1000 for those wishing to do their own airfare.

Superior Cabin

Our largest cabins yet, 225 Square feet.



Also Enjoy These Privileges: Executive Deck • Private Balconies • Choice of the Main Dynasty Dining Room or the A-La-Carte Western/Chinese Restaurant • Concierge Service • Use of Executive Lounge • Business Centre • Private Lecture by Senior American and European Staff • Coffee, tea and cold drinks • Exclusive Shore Excursions • Reserved Seats for Evening Entertainment.



MS Victoria Jenna

INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST:

- International airfare with Air Canada from Toronto to Shanghai and Beijing to Toronto
- Domestic Air from Shanghai to Yichang, Chengdu to Lhasa. Lhasa to Xian and Xian to Beijing
- Express train from Chongqing to Chengdu
- Round trip transfers from your home to the airport (within area of GTA)
- Meals in-flight, entertainment and beverages
- All tours included in the above itinerary by deluxe coach
- All gratuities on land and cruise itinerary
- Visa for China
- All transfers
- Portage on hotels
- Exceptional Five Star Hotel Accommodation: 3 nights Shanghai, 3 nights Chengdu, 4 nights Lhasa, 2 nights Xian and 3 nights Beijing
- 4 night Yangtze River Cruise on MS Victoria Jenna, Executive Deck including all shore excursions to Three Gorges Dam Site, Ghost City of Fengdu, the Three Gorges, small boat trip through the Lesser Gorges on the Daning River
- 19 breakfasts, 14 lunches, (plus 4 lunches on domestic flights), 18 dinners
- Farewell Gala dinner event on the Great Wall of China
- Touring Shanghai – The Bund, Nanjing Road, Old Town Bazaar, Shanghai Museum, Children's Palace and Acrobatic Show
- Full day tour to Suzhou including Grand Canal Cruise, & Garden of Master-of-nets
- Chengdu – Bifeng Gorge Base of China Panda Protection and Research Centre, private lectures on pandas, Sanxingdui Ruins Museum, Rural tour of five villages
- Lhasa – Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple, Summer Palace of Dalai Lama, Barkhor Street, Sera Monastery, visit to Tibetan Home, Drepung Monastery and Tibetan Traditional Medicine Hospital

- Touring Xian – Big Wild Goose Pagoda, Great Mosque, Mausoleum of Emperor Qin and Private presentation Terracotta Warriors, Walking the massive city walls, Tang Dynasty Dinner Theatre and Show
- Beijing – Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Silk Market, Olympic Village, Great Wall of China, Temple of Heaven
- National Guide to travel with group from arrival in Shanghai until departure in Beijing plus local city tour guides in each city.
- Tour Design tour manager
- Water on coaches and in cabins on cruise

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST:

- Airport departure taxes
- Optional insurance
- Air taxes and fuel surcharge currently as of July, 2011, \$400 per person
- Lunch on Day 12 and diner on Day 13 in Lhasa

**Other
Asian city
extensions
available.**

Call Tour Design for details





Probud Club Of Mississauga South

China, Yangtze River Cruise & Tibet

Program designed in conjunction with
Neal Black, Events Director, and the
Probud Club of Mississauga South.

Phone 905 279 9175 or neal@jooey.com

Find Yourself Here



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www.tourdesign.ca

DEPOSIT AND CANCELLATION DETAILS

- Initial Deposit: \$500 per person plus insurance within 7 days of booking
- Second deposit: \$1,000 per person by May 7, 2012
- Final payment: February 7, 2013

CANCELLATION PENALTIES:

• Between the date of booking and Jan 7, 2012	No Penalty
• Between the date of Jan 8, 2012 and Feb 7, 2013	\$500 per person
• Between the date of Feb 8 and Mar 7, 2013	\$1,500 per person
• Between the date of Mar 8 and date of departure	100% of tour cost

PASSPORTS AND VISAS: Your passport must be valid until six (6) months from the date of departure at last destination. The cost for your Visa for China and Visa for Tibet are included in your tour cost. It is imperative that everyone know that to get the process is such that we have to have your passports in hand to do first the visa for China and then the visa for Tibet. This process will take at least two weeks. We must have your passports in our office by March 18, 2013. We would then return them to you at the meeting to hand out final documents that will take place one month prior to our departure so around April 4. We realize some of you may be travelling and if you move outside this period and need to have these visas issued individually on earlier basis, additional cost of \$50 additional cost applies. Anyone moving to later timeframe is \$150 per person additional cost. We strongly suggest that it is much better to facilitate the above date of March 18 – April 4 to be without a passport as this is a group process.

AIR CREDIT and FLIGHT PATTERN: Applies for the flight from Toronto to Shanghai and Beijing to Toronto. All flights within China are still part of the tour cost. Other gateway cities across Canada are available upon request and add-on fares apply. This saves you quite a lot of money as you do not pay domestic taxes and fares for add-ons are much lower than regular computer fares.

DEVIATION FEE: If you wish to alter your air arrangements and extend your stay, deviation fee of \$200 per person applies plus any additional charges for airfare. We are using Air Canada non-stop service to Shanghai and out of Beijing so you can collect points for this routing. If you wish to have a stopover on the return in Hong Kong, then we would move you to Cathay Pacific Airways.