

NEW

长江探索号



YANGZI EXPLORER

7-NIGHT CRUISE

YICHANG - CHONGQING - YICHANG
via SHENNONGJIA



— YANGTZE RIVER —
2025



NEW

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YANGZI EXPLORER

Thirty years sailed by as we pushed experiential travel to the limit and beyond. We have developed a unique, intuitive style of service that's both warm and welcoming, attentive and exacting.

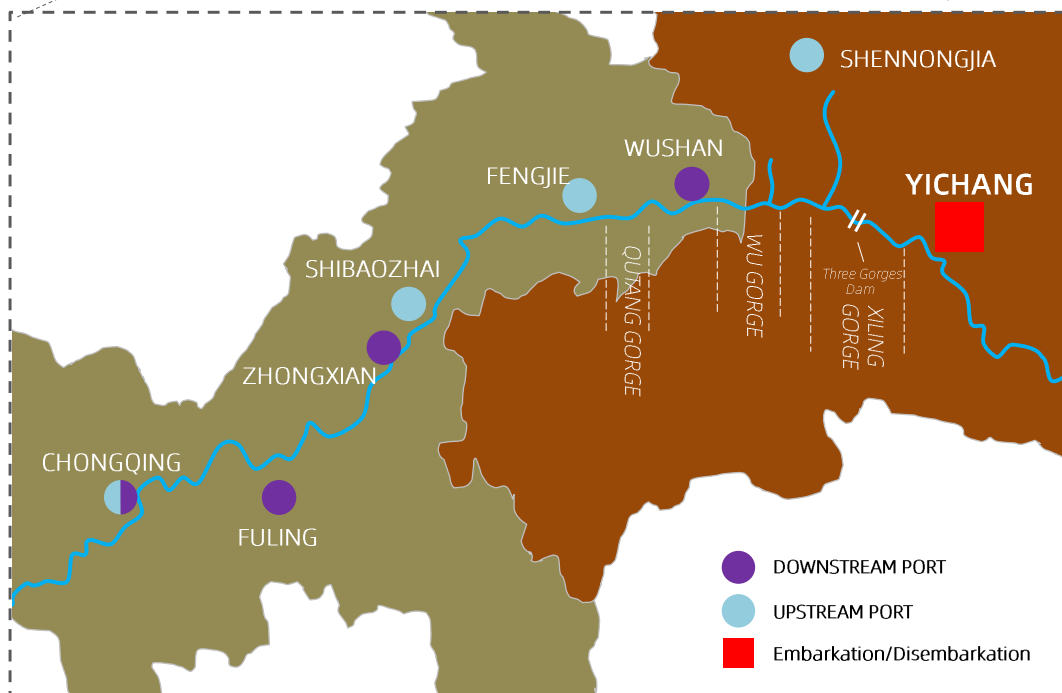
We set off on a pioneering journey to create the finest travel experience on Yangtze River, for a deeper, more meaningful and more memorable way to explore this part of the world. Unique and diverse sightseeing spots, many of which are exclusive to Yangzi Explorer guests. Incredible array of sightseeing options for each day, curated to match guests' interests, ensuring a unique and unforgettable experience.

The new Yangzi Explorer vessel takes innovation, indulgence and sustainability further than ever before, immersing you in your destination and redefining the meaning of ultra-luxury.



LEAVING FROM YICHANG

DAY	PORT
1	YICHANG
2	SHENNONGJIA
3	FENGJIE
4	SHIBAOZHAI, ZHONGXIAN
5	CHONGQING
6	FULING ZHONGXIAN
7	WUSHAN
8	YICHANG



* Port and schedule may vary by navigation restrictions

DAY ONE | DEPART YICHANG

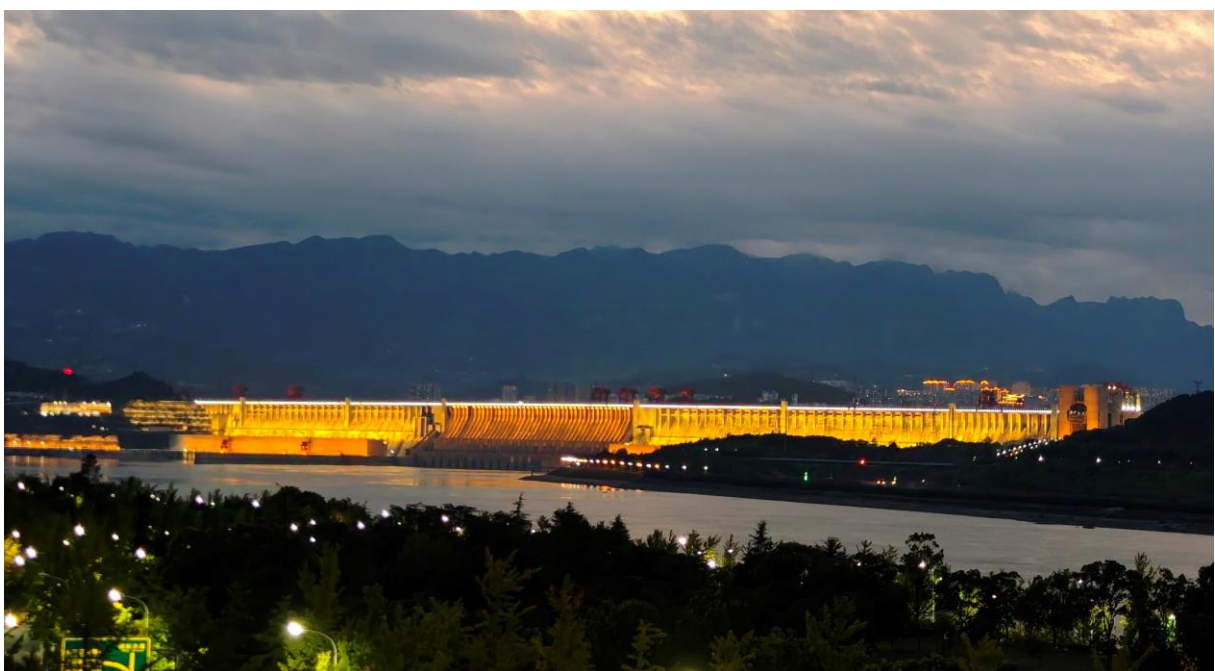
Upon your arrival at Yichang, either at the Three Gorges Airport or Yichang East Railway Station, you will be greeted by a representative and transferred to Yichang Huangling Temple Port to board the Yangzi Explorer.

Yichang, often hailed as “the Pearl of the Three Gorges and the Global Hydropower Hub,” is a captivating and thriving city nestled in the western part of Hubei Province, near the iconic Xiling Gorge. Renowned for its natural beauty and strategic location, Yichang serves as a gateway between the ancient lands of Shu and Chu. A poet once perfectly captured its essence, describing it as “a place where Shu and Chu converge, a land touched by nature’s hand, adorned with unparalleled scenery.” This city, blessed with both scenic splendor and modern vitality, stands as a testament to the harmony between nature and progress.

Prepare for an unforgettable journey upstream through the breathtaking landscapes of Yangtze River, a region renowned for its majestic scenery and cultural significance in China.

After you’ve settled into your cabin, please join us at the Dynasty Restaurant (or any other prebooked dining venue available on board) for dinner, followed by safety briefing and Captain’s Welcome Reception at the Explorer Bar.

Welcome aboard the Yangzi Explorer!



— Experience the mighty Yangtze, embark on a life-time adventure with Yangzi Explorer —

In the late evening, experience a marvel of modern engineering as the Yangzi Explorer navigates through the world's largest and most technologically advanced ship lift, the **Three Gorges Ship Lift**. This lift boasts a lift capacity of 15,500 tons and a vertical lift height of 113 meters, equivalent to a 40-story building.

Yangzi Explorer is one of the select few vessels that can journey through this impressive structure on its own, taking away the need of booking additional excursion. Enjoy this unique spectacle comfortably from your cabin on board.



※ Please be aware that the passage is subject to weather conditions and water levels, which may affect the transit. Additionally, the ship lift will undergo annual maintenance at the end of August, during which it will be closed for approx. 35 days.

WORLD RECORD

大三
壩峽

升
船
機

THREE GORGES
SHIP LIFT

DAY TWO | SHENNONGJIA

Start your morning with an early bird tea or coffee followed by Tai Chi lesson, led by our Tai Chi Master to build up an appetite for a breakfast.

Today, embark on a full day excursion to the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site, **Shennongjia**. Shennongjia National Park, located between the Yangtze River and the Han River. The park is renowned for its towering peaks that rise above 3000 meters and are often referred as "Roof of Central China"



Explore the Guanmenshan Scenic Area, home to a natural exhibition hall, a unique botanical garden and a giant panda pavilion. Here you can encounter a variety of rare animals and plants, offering a live tableau of Darwin's theories.

The 3,200-square-kilometer nature reserve also purports to be "the only well-preserved sub-tropical forest ecosystem in the world's mid-latitudes," with more than 5,000 species of animals and plants. It's home to snub-nosed or golden monkeys, a rare and protected species in China. Let's delve into the ancient forest landscapes where rugged mountains are adorned with a lush tapestry of bamboo, vines and vibrantly colored flora.



VIRGIN FOREST

GOLDEN MONKEY

GEOPARK

神农架



SHEN NONG JIA

DAY THREE | FENGJIE

Begin your day with an invigorating early morning tea or coffee followed by a traditional Tai Chi session, setting the tone for a day of exploration. After fueling up with a hearty buffet breakfast, take advantage of the leisure time aboard the Yangzi Explorer as you glide through the stunning **Wu Gorge** and **Qutang Gorge**.

Wu Gorge is the most beautiful gorge among the Three Gorges. Characterized by majestic peaks crowned by lush forests, Wu Gorge is said to be celestial. Legend has it that Yao Ji loved this area so much that she and her 12 attendants were transformed into the graceful peaks you can see here along the river.

Qutang Gorge is the shortest and narrowest of the famed Three Gorges, measuring only 150 meters at its widest point. Otherwise, the mountains on either side reach as high as 1,200. Known for its dramatic waters and towering cliffs, it is palpable that this is where the currents of history and the breath-taking power of nature meet.



After lunch, you can choose from three excursions in Fengjie.

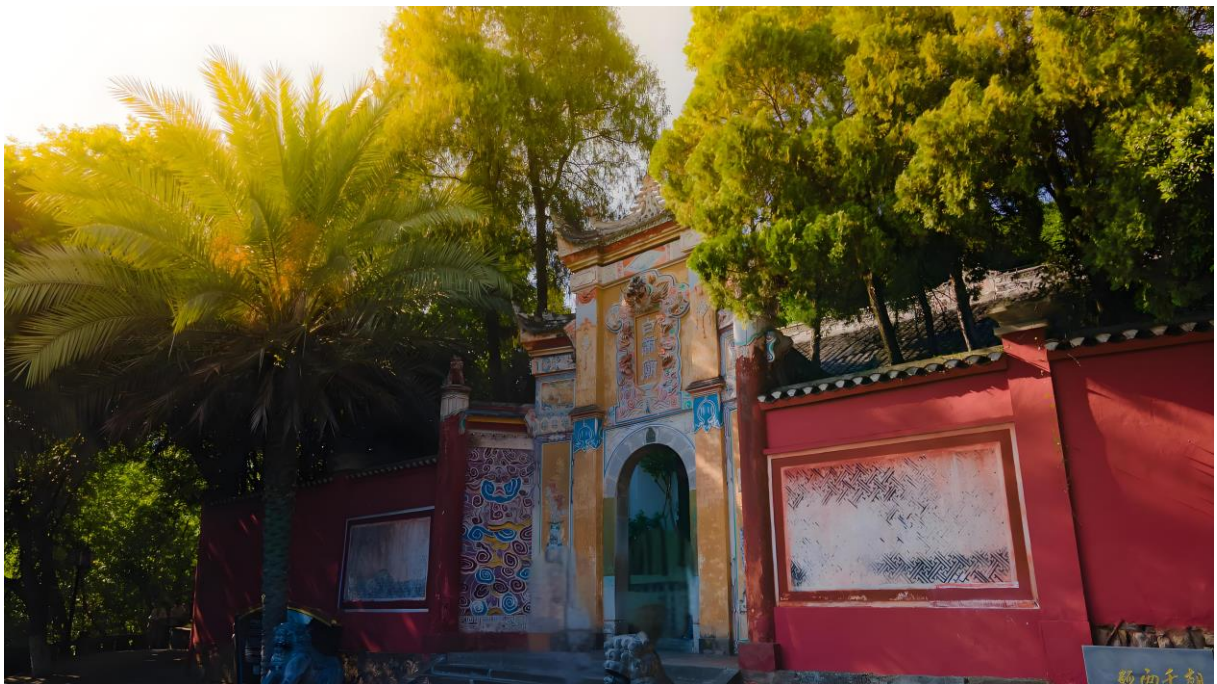
Take a 15-minute coach ride to the historic **White Emperor City (Option A)**, where you can delve into the intriguing stories of the area and celebrated poems of Li Bai from Tang Dynasty.

LEAVING THE WHITE KING'S TOWN AT DAWN

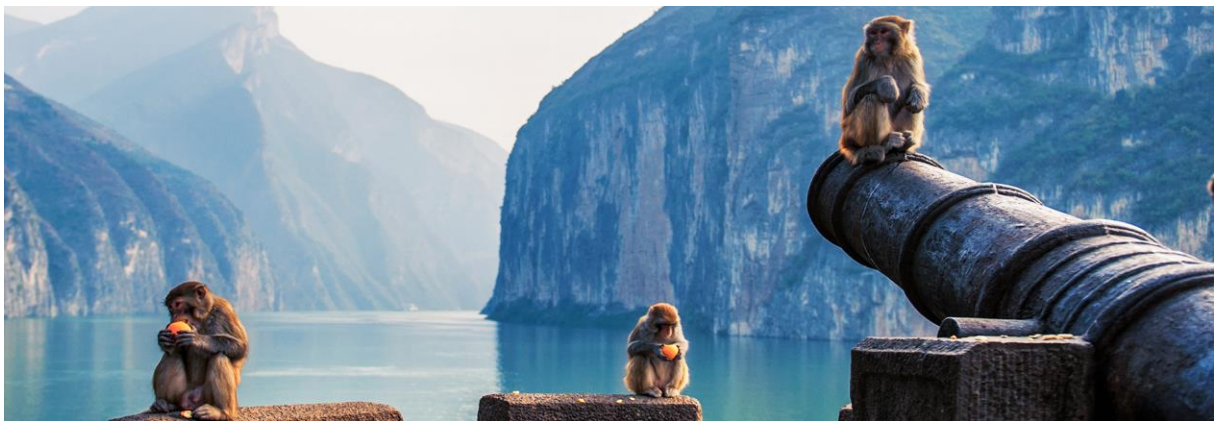
By Li Bai (Translated by Xu Yuanchong)

*Leaving at dawn the White King crowned with rainbow cloud,
I have sailed a thousand miles through Three Georges in a day.
With monkeys' sad adieus the riverbanks are loud;
My boat has left ten thought mountains far away.*

The city is located on Baidi Hill which sits at the western opening of the Qutang gorge, in the eastern part of Fengjie County and this area was long affected by conflicts in ancient China and is of significant historical importance. The exhibition halls inside White Emperor City boasts calligraphy showcasing the local culture, as well as paintings and exhibitions showcasing the culture and history. White Emperor City is also one of the best places to enjoy the view of Kuimen which is on the back of the 10-yuan note.



Or you can choose to walk along the **Poetic Trail in Qutang Gorge (Option B)**. This trail meanders up to the Three Gorges Summit offering one of the most classic hiking routes in the region, typically taking six hours to complete. But we only select the essence of one hour. The combination of a narrow canyon with several switchbacks between the high mountains creates spectacular vistas, and the Qutang Gorge is always considered the most beautiful of the Three Gorges.



Alternatively, you may take an hour-long coach ride to visit the **Three Gorges Summit (Option C)** and enjoy a magnificent sunset. It is one of the most beautiful landscape forms of the Yangtze River and the highest peak of the famous Three Gorges.



After dinner, you have the opportunity to enrich your understanding of local culture by attending a lecture by a local scholar. This engaging presentation will explore both the historical and contemporary aspects of the city, known as the "City of Poems." The lecture will be delivered in Chinese, with translations provided by our cruise director if needed.



明佳

GUTANG

塘

KUIMEN

THREE GORGES GATEWAY

DAY FOUR | SHIBAO, ZHONGXIAN

This morning, the Yangzi Explorer will dock at Shibao Pier in Zhongxian County, an area celebrated for its profound history and culture. After breakfast, you'll have the opportunity to choose from three carefully curated excursions.

Option A: Shibaozhai (Precious Stone Fortress)

A marvel of ancient wooden architecture, renowned for its striking Pavilion that stands as one of the few remaining wooden buildings of its kind in China. The Pavilion, perched atop a 220-meter hill on the north bank of the Yangtze River, is often likened to a towering piece of jade. Legend has it that the hill was formed by the goddess Nuwa, who sculpted the landscape while mending the heavens after a celestial battle. The **Shibaozhai** Pavilion, soaring 56 meters high with twelve distinct floors, is a testament to architectural ingenuity. Originally a nine-story structure, its top three floors were added during a 1956 restoration, earning it the nickname "Nine Heavens."



Option B: Xituo Ancient Town

A short ferry ride across the river from Shibaozhai takes you to **Xituo Ancient Town**. Nestled among stunning natural landscapes, Xituo offers a glimpse into the daily life and rich cultural tapestry of its inhabitants. Known historically as the western border of Bazhou, the town provides a serene backdrop to explore centuries of tradition and local customs.

The ancient town of Xituo was established due to its pivotal role in the salt trade. Dating back to the pre-Qin era, it served as a crucial salt transfer station. Scholars consider Xituo among the world's earliest commercial and trading towns. During that period, the people of the ancient county of Ba navigated the Yangtze River to transport salt from Zhongxian to Xituo via wooden boats, then over the rugged ridges of western Hubei and Hunan. This route was one of the most vital salt routes in the region, reflecting the town's significant historical role in the salt industry. A time-honored street stretches to the top of the ancient town from the riverside pier. With 1,314 steps partly hidden in the mist, like a ladder reaching to the sky, it is also called "Yunti Street", hailed as the "First Street of the Yangtze River."



Option C: Huanghua Island

The island is an enchanting natural wonder on the mainstream of the Yangtze River in Zhongxian County, uniquely positioned at the geographical heart of the Three Gorges Reservoir. The island boasts a rich historical legacy dating back to the Song Dynasty. During this period, a fortified city was established on the island, creating one of China's rarest isolated island-type defense systems. Huanghua Island, once known as "Huanghua City," became the seat of Xianchun Prefecture, still preserves the ruins of the ancient state government offices and city walls.



DAY FIVE | CHONGQING

In the morning, the boat will dock at Chongqing **Chaotianmen Port**.

Chongqing is known as the "Mountain City" because many mountains converge here, and the Yangtze, Jialing and Fu rivers surround it, forming a unique landscape of mountains and rivers. It was once an important military stronghold and political center. It is also birthplace of Emperor Guangzong Zhao Dun, and "place where the whip of God was broken", which influenced the historical pattern of Eurasia for hundreds of years. Today's Chongqing is not only a popular city, but also an important node of economic links between China and Europe.



After breakfast, join **Chongqing City Walk** with hotpot lunch.

Start your tour at **Zhongshan Fourth Road**, a historic district themed around the Anti-Japanese War. During the 1930s and 1940s, this area was home to many government officials and celebrities, making it one of the most vibrant blocks of the era.

Next, visit the iconic **Chongqing People's Auditorium**, inspired by Beijing's Temple of Heaven. This landmark, combining ancient Chinese palace architecture with Western structural elements, has been listed as part of China's 20th Century Architectural Heritage.

— Experience the mighty Yangtze, embark on a life-time adventure with Yangzi Explorer —

Continue to **China Three Gorges Museum**, one of the largest national museums in China. The museum offers fascinating exhibits on Chongqing's ancient culture, Three Gorges history, Anti-Japanese War heritage, and more, along with a collection of valuable cultural relics.

Enjoy a **traditional Chongqing hot pot** experience for lunch, a must-try culinary delight known for its rich flavors and spice.

After lunch, witness the famous sight of **Chongqing's light rail passing directly through a building**, a marvel that has become an internet sensation.

Visit the **Riverside Danzishi Old Street**, a historic area dating back to the late 19th century. It remains a popular destination for sightseeing, shopping, and entertainment in Chongqing.

Conclude the tour with a scenic walk along the **Mountain City Pathway**, situated on the south slope of Yuzhong Peninsula. This mountainside trail perfectly blends Chongqing's historic character with modern urban landscapes, offering stunning views of the city.



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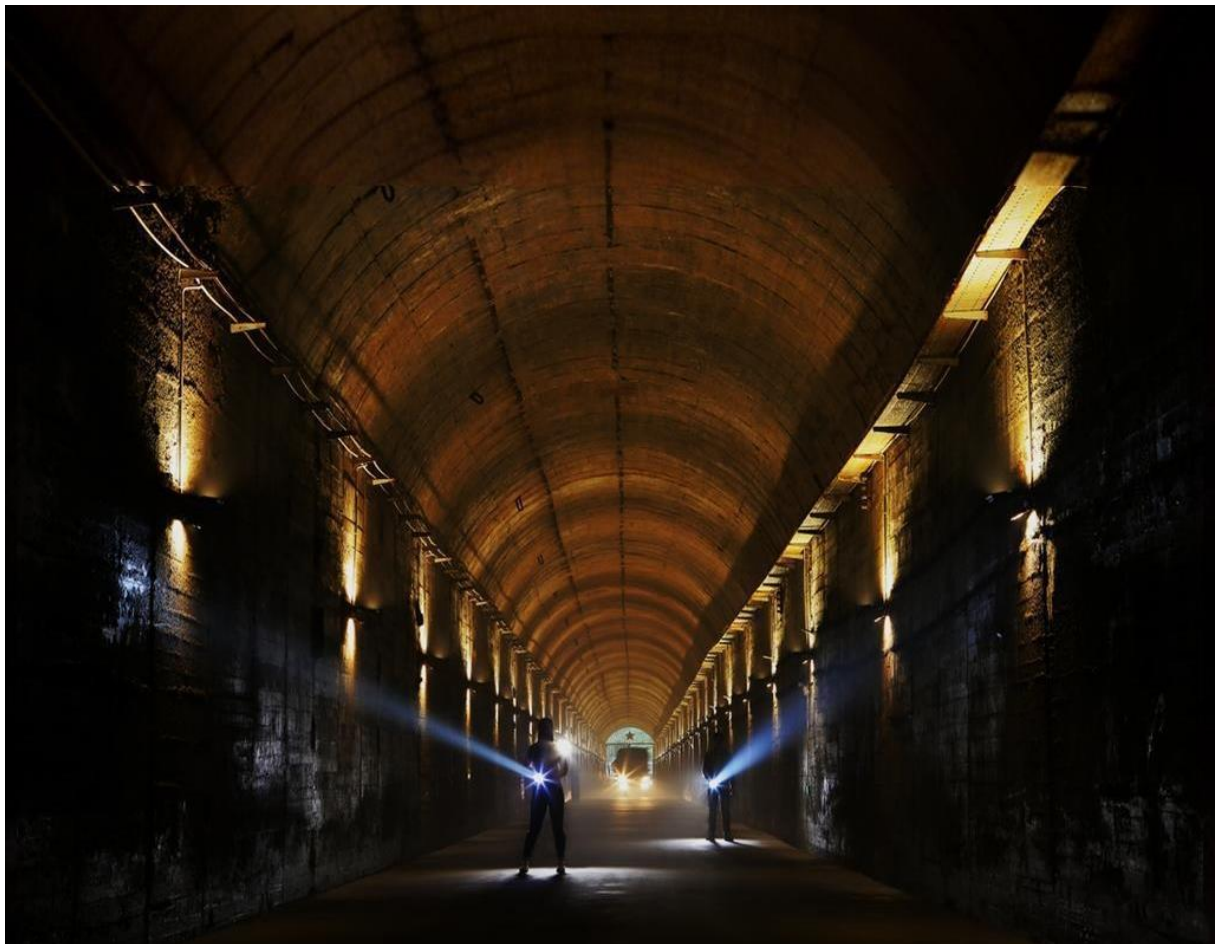
CHONG QING



DAY SIX | FULING & ZHONGXIAN

Start your morning with an early bird tea or coffee followed by Tai Chi lesson, led by our Tai Chi Master to build up an appetite for a breakfast.

This morning, visit the Fuling **Project 816 (Option A)**. Hidden in the Wuling Mountains of Fuling, the Project 816 is the world's largest known man-made military cave. 58 years ago, more than 60,000 constructors, came to Jianzishan, an uninhabited place among mountains and forest, to start work on a top-secret construction of a monumental scale. The work continued for 17 years and was nearly completed when the government decided to suspend it, before any nuclear material could be produced. Now as the secrets of military caves are revealed, you will be able to look at the true face of Project 816 hidden for almost 60 years.



Alternatively, you can choose to visit the **White Crane Ridge Underwater Museum and a local market (Option B)**. The museum will take you some 148 feet under water to admire the river bed and the intricate ancient rock carvings left there since AD 763 in Tang Dynasty. Learn about the Yangtze River, its flora and fauna, while enjoying this fascinating museum. Your next stop will be the local market, where you will gain insight into the region's rich culinary culture. This is a daily market where farmers meet to buy and sell a variety of goods, ranging from fruit and vegetables to fish and meat, and of course a whole array of pickles - which Fuling is famous for.

Return to the ship for a-la-carte lunch, followed by an afternoon at your leisure.

In the evening, choose from two enticing activities:

Secure VIP seats at **the Beacon of Three Kingdoms show**, an epic performance that blends history, myth, and stunning visual effects around the lore of The Three Kingdoms, or enjoy a serene stroll through **Zhongzhou Old Alley**, where the past and present of local life blend seamlessly.



Option A: Night Show

The Beacon of Three Kingdoms is a large-scale live performance and a cultural feast with the Three Gorges Harbor as the stage, the culture of the Three Kingdoms as the theme, and the spirit of loyalty and righteousness as the soul.

Based on the famous 14th-century novel 'The Romance of the Three Kingdoms', the story is a mix of history and legend. The dreamlike performance includes horseback battles, light and water effects, 3D holographic projects and fireworks.

Option B: Town Walk

The construction of the Three Gorges Dam has submerged hundreds of kilometers of towns and cities along the Yangtze River, yet Zhongxian has preserved the charm of old. Though parts of the historic city are beneath the river, the area still embodies the spirit of Ba and Yu and protects the primitive customs of the Three Gorges.

Efforts to safeguard **Zhongzhou Alley** ensure the survival of ancient architecture, from mottled bricks to venerable tiles, while old shops remain central to community life. At the same time, this heritage coexists with burgeoning creative industries, adapted to local needs and conditions.



DAY SEVEN | WUSHAN *HIGHLIGHT OF THE THREE GORGES*

Today, we sail across **Qutang Gorge** in the morning glow. Qutang Gorge, also known as Kui Gorges and Ba Gorge, is the first gorge of the Three Gorges of Yangtze River. Admire the splendor of the green peaks and tranquility of the river on the Explorer Deck.



After breakfast, join the morning tour to explore Wushan. You have two options to choose from.

Option A: Wushan Goddess Sky Road

Embark on the Yangzi Explorer Trail, named after Yangzi Explorer, stroll among the cliffs at an altitude of about 1,000 meters, and admire the Goddess Peak and the Yangtze River. Going deeper, you will reach the private lookout of Yangzi Explorer. The 12 peaks of Wushan will be right in front of you. A champagne reception awaits you here, exclusive to Yangzi Explorer passengers.

A 45-minute light hiking option is also available en route, wandering through the mountain villages of Wu Gorge & gaining insight into local traditions and the natural beauty of the region with a local guide.

Option B: Daning River & Madu River Adventure

Embark on an unforgettable journey along the serene waters of the Daning River, known as the Lesser Three Gorges, a breathtaking tributary of the Yangtze River nestled in Wushan. Your experience begins with a scenic ferry ride, followed by an intimate small boat excursion deeper into the enchanting Madu River. As you glide through this magnificent riverine gorge, surrounded by lush forests and dramatic limestone cliffs, you'll be captivated by the remnants of ancient settlements, including the remarkable hanging coffins resting high on the cliff faces - a powerful testament to the region's rich history and cultural heritage.



Following your morning adventure, return to the ship for a delightful lunch, then enjoy passing **Wu Gorge**, the most beautiful gorge among the Three Gorges. Characterized by majestic peaks crowned by lush forests, Wu Gorge is said to be celestial. Legend has it that Yao Ji loved this area so much that she and her 12 attendants were transformed into the graceful peaks you can see here along the river.

In the late evening, the Yangzi Explorer navigates through the **Three Gorges Ship Lift** again.

DAY EIGHT | YICHANG

Begin your day with an invigorating early morning tea or coffee followed by a traditional Tai Chi session, setting the tone for a day of exploration.

Today you can choose from two morning excursions - visit to the **Three Gorges Dam (Option A)** or **Quyuan Temple & Hubei Three Gorges Resettlement Museum (Option B)**.

The **Three Gorges Dam**, an engineering marvel, stretches 2,335 meters in length and stands 181 meters tall, making it the largest and most ambitious project of its kind in the world. With 32 massive generators, it produces vast amounts of clean energy, significantly reducing China's reliance on coal. However, its construction has not been without controversy. The project led to the submergence of many cities, towns, and villages, displacing over 1.2 million people.



As part of our exclusive itinerary, you will have the opportunity to visit the River Closure Park and Three Gorges Project Museum, the latter was opened to the public in August 2022 **(Option A)**.

In the **Three Gorges Project River Closure Park**, you can admire the grandeur of this century-long project from the front of the dam. The Park preserves the construction materials and objects left behind at the construction site of the Three Gorges Dam, including the wall used to support the stockpile of sand and gravel, the four remaining tetrahedrons, the 77-ton loading and unloading truck, and the large construction machinery such as the flat throw boat.

The **Three Gorges Project Museum** is located on the right bank of the Three Gorges Dam area, 1 km away from the Dam. It is one of the best viewing points of the Project and one of the largest thematic museums of hydro-power projects in the world. It displays the preparation, design, construction and operation of the Three Gorges Project.



Alternatively, you can embark on a cultural tour that includes a visit to the Qu Yuan Temple & the Hubei Three Gorges Resettlement Museum **(Option B)**.

Qu Yuan Temple is nestled in the scenic surroundings of Hubei Province and offers visitors a deep dive into China's rich cultural and literary heritage. This historic site honors Qu Yuan, the esteemed poet and statesman, whose enduring legacy is celebrated every year during the Dragon Boat Festival. Visitors to the temple can explore a beautifully preserved environment that echoes the ancient times, with traditional architecture, tranquil gardens, and exhibits that tell the story of Qu Yuan's life and contributions to Chinese literature. The view of the Three Gorges Dam from Qu Yuan Temple is nothing short of breathtaking, offering a panoramic glimpse into the harmony between nature and human achievement.



Hubei Three Gorges Resettlement Museum, offers a unique glimpse of the Three Gorges Dam. Located in Yichang, this museum chronicles the remarkable stories of the millions of people who were relocated to make way for this monumental project. The museum not only honors the resilience and adaptability of those who were resettled but also provides a profound understanding of the environmental, social, and cultural impact of the Three Gorges Dam.

Lunch will be served at **Juweng Restaurant**, featuring a selection of Yichang's finest local dishes. After lunch, we will arrange your transfer to Yichang Airport or Yichang East Railway Station.



As your journey with us draws to a close, we thank you for choosing to explore the stunning landscapes with Yangzi Explorer!

※ In case of force majeure such as flood, low water level, weather or other safety reasons, we have the right to cancel or adjust the sailing schedule or change the itinerary and scenic spots at any time. We will not be liable for any loss caused to the guests by cancellation, adjustment of flight schedule and change of itinerary and scenic spots due to the above reasons.

YANGZI EXPLORER

