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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Friendly Planet Travel Announces Enhanced Best of China and Yangtze River Cruise Tour**

15-day tour and river cruise of China's iconic cities and fascinating sites from \$3,399

JENKINTOWN, Pa.—April 10, 2013—China, one of the oldest nations in the world, has long been an attractive and exotic travel destination. Now travelers can experience all that China has to offer on the comprehensive, fully escorted, 15-day [Best of China and Yangtze River Cruise](#) tour, starting at \$3,399, from [Friendly Planet Travel](#).

“Visiting China is the trip of a lifetime for travelers interested in exploring a culture truly different from their own,” says [Peggy Goldman](#), President of Friendly Planet Travel. “We have significantly upgraded this tour with more amenities and inclusive guided sightseeing of all of China’s magnificent monuments, beautiful locations, and natural marvels. Coupled with a river boat cruise, this tour immerses travelers in the wonders that define China.”

The package includes round-trip flights from [Los Angeles](#) via [Air China](#); comprehensive, escorted touring programs, including entrance fees; an English-speaking tour director and local guides; fuel surcharges, airlines taxes, and fees; all intra-China flights, transfers, and ground transportation; as well as deluxe and superior first-class hotels. The new enhancements include 34 lavish and delicious meals, including 13 buffet breakfasts; 13 lunches, such as a dumpling lunch in Xi’an and a Mongolian-style hotpot lunch; and eight dinners, including a Peking duck dinner. The package also includes a four-night Yangtze River cruise aboard the [Victoria Anna](#) ship, which was newly renovated in late 2012 and includes amenities like two lounges, three bars, and a gym, lecture room, library, beauty salon, massage room, and gift shop.

All cruise staff tipping is included and passengers are guaranteed outside balcony cabins on the executive level of the ship, which comes with many additional exclusive benefits, including the use of the Executive Lounge with complimentary Wi-Fi, happy hour cocktails before dinner,

complimentary laundry service, selection of two dining rooms, private shore excursions, and more.

The [Best of China and Yangtze River Cruise](#) tour begins in Shanghai, where travelers hop on the Shanghai Maglev Train, considered the most technologically advanced train in the world, to transfer to the city center. After lunch, travelers explore the Yu Garden. The next day, they enjoy a full-day city tour with visits to the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, the Shanghai Museum of ancient Chinese art, and the Bund, with a break for lunch. The tour finishes out the day with an exciting acrobatic show. From there, travelers visit Zhujiajiao village, a water town reminiscent of Venice, before flying to Yichang and embarking on a Yangtze River cruise.

The cruise begins with a visit to the Three Gorges Dam, a sail through ship locks and the Xiling Gorge, followed by an excursion through the Daning River Small Gorges. The ship continues sailing to Wu Gorge and the Qutang Gorge. Travelers will also visit the city of Fengdu, known as a “ghost city,” before arriving in Chongqing for a flight to Guilin, where they’ll tour the Reed Flute Cave and a sea-water pearl factory. The following day travelers enjoy a cruise on the Li River with lunch on board the boat.

Additional stops include Xi’an, to enjoy a Tang Dynasty dinner show, the site of the famous Terra Cotta Army, and a delicious dumpling lunch. The tour rounds out in Beijing, where travelers enjoy a rickshaw ride to explore the narrow streets of one of Beijing’s Hutong neighborhoods, a special Mongolian-style hotpot lunch, the Legend of Kun Fu show, and a city tour that visits the Temple of Heaven, a World Heritage Site; the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square; Beijing’s most famous (and delicious) culinary treat—Peking Duck; as well as a full-day excursion to the Great Wall of China and the Ming Tombs; and a farewell dinner.

Two optional post-tour excursions are also available. The four-day [Hong Kong extension](#) starts at \$899, and the six-day [Tibet extension](#) starts at \$1,499.

Friendly Planet’s [Best of China and Yangtze River Cruise](#) tour is available on the departure dates of Aug. 6 and Oct. 29 for \$3,399, and Sept. 3, Sept. 17, and Oct. 8 for \$3,499 if booked by May 14.

Friendly Planet also offers several other programs to China including the 10-day [Taste of China](#) tour; 13-day [Taste of China and Hong Kong](#) tour; 10-day [Beijing and Tokyo](#) tour; the 11-day [China Delight](#) tour; and 14-day [Beijing, Tokyo & Okinawa tour](#).

For more information about Friendly Planet Travel's [Best of China and Yangtze River Cruise](#) tour, please visit the company's website at www.FriendlyPlanet.com or its blog at blog.FriendlyPlanet.com.

ABOUT FRIENDLY PLANET TRAVEL

Friendly Planet Travel makes high-quality exotic travel affordable for everyone. Since 1981, Friendly Planet Travel has been arranging all-inclusive escorted discount vacation packages and cruises to the most exciting destinations in the world at the lowest possible prices.

Each year, Friendly Planet Travel offers more than 30 different group travel packages to Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and South America—at discounts of hundreds of dollars off similar vacations. With no hidden charges, add-ons, or surprises, Friendly Planet Travel vacations include convenient flights and airfare; carefully selected, first-class and superior hotels; knowledgeable, English-speaking guides; many meals; planned itineraries; as well as friendships and memories that last a lifetime.

Friendly Planet Travel offers its extensive, economical travel services to private groups, including universities, religious institutions, alumni associations, and families. Groups who wish to travel together can count on Friendly Planet Travel's three decades of experience to operate their group travel program expertly and always at the very best possible prices. Visit Friendly Planet online at www.FriendlyPlanetTravel.com. You can also follow Friendly Planet Travel on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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