



President Select Pre Cruise Package Shanghai & Xian 2020

Welcome aboard!

Cruise Connections CME is excited and proud to present our **"President's Select Pre Cruise Package"** for your upcoming Shanghai – Tokyo cruise in March 2020.

For our 'Hosted' Pre-Cruise Package, we are featuring a 4 night package including 2 nights in Shanghai and 2 nights in Xian. This package offers a number of Cruise Connections CME exclusives including:

- 2 nights in Shanghai
- 2 nights in Xian
- full day tour of Shanghai including the People's Park, Shanghai Museum, Shanghai Yu Garden, The Bund and the Former French Concession Shanghai
- Huangpu River Night Cruise in Shanghai
- Tour of the Terra Cotta Warriors in Xian including Pit #1, 2, 3 and the Bronze Chariot
- Ancient City Wall and Big Wild Good Pagoda
- Tang Dynasty Dinner and Show
- Roundtrip Flight (economy) – Shanghai - Xian
- Transfers
- Basic Gratuities
- all meals where stated with limited beverages

Please take a moment to review the President's Select PRE Package below and see what fun and exciting adventures await you!

CALL NOW TO RESERVE YOUR EXCITING PRE PACKAGE:

1-888-523-3732

Bon Voyage!
Your Cruise Connections CME Team

Please note the following important information:

- **Pre Package must be booked prior to November 2, 2019**
- **Pre Package is non-refundable after finalizing your reservation**
- **For this cruise, your passport must be valid for six months after the date you return home. Visa for China is required.**



Shanghai & Xian (4 nights)

March 24-28, 2020

\$4599 CAD – Companion Travels Free

Taxes/Gratuities \$199 per person

Shanghai

March 24, 2020

Welcome Reception

Upon arrival into Shanghai, you will be met and transferred to the Sofitel Shanghai Hyland.

This evening, join Sanjay & Gary for our Welcome to Shanghai reception.

Shanghai

March 25, 2020

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning after breakfast, meet for the full day tour of Shanghai.

After departing from the Sofitel Hotel, you will arrive at the People's Park to visit this incredible park steeped in history.

People's Park (*Rénmín Gōngyuán*) is a public park in Huangpu District of central Shanghai. It is located south of Nanjing Road, a major shopping street, and north of People's Square. Originally the northern part of the Shanghai Race Club's race course, the park was created in 1952. With several major museums and Shanghai's main shopping street nearby, it is one of the top tourist destinations in the city.

The park is built on the grounds of the former Shanghai Race Club, which was established by the British in 1862. It was the leading horse racing track in East Asia, and a popular place for the Chinese and the British for gambling on horse racing. The club building, built in 1933, became a landmark in downtown Shanghai.

The club's flagpole was considered a great shame for the Chinese, as it was made from the mast of a Chinese warship captured by British and American troops. When the People's Republic of China was founded on 1 October 1949, the new Chinese national flag was hung from the pole. The new Communist government banned horse racing and gambling, and converted the racecourse into People's Park (the northern half) and People's Square (the southern half) in 1952.

In the winter of 1986–87, the park was the focus of major student protests. Tens of thousands of protesters gathered in the park, and marched to The Bund. They were met by Jiang Zemin, then Communist Party Chief of Shanghai, and demanded democracy and radical political changes. More than two years later, during the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989, tens of thousands of people again gathered in the park and The Bund in a display of solidarity with the protesters in Beijing.

In the 1990s, major changes were made to the area. The Shanghai Municipal Government was moved to just south of the park from the former HSBC Building on The Bund. Other additions include the Shanghai Museum, the Shanghai Grand Theatre and the Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Hall, also south of the park.



The "English corner" at People's Park is located opposite the Park Hotel, and has existed since 1978, brought into being by the increased popularity of English as a foreign language following market orientated reforms in the late 1970s and early 1980s. It was the nation's first "English corner", and spawned many imitations. A piece about "English corner" is part of Shanghai's junior secondary school English textbook. In its heyday, many participants, including elderly English speakers, younger English language teachers and students, flock to "English corner" every Sunday to practice their English with each other and with any foreign visitors who may have wandered by or visited on purpose. With changes in the method of English education in Shanghai, the popularity of English corner has declined. Generally, participants only gather for a few hours in the afternoon on Sundays, rather than the full day in the past. The number of attendees has also dwindled, and it is today far eclipsed by the nearby "blind date corner" or "marriage market".

The marriage market or "blind date corner" in People's Park has existed since 2004, in which marriage advertisement listings are publicly posted each weekend.

Following your visit to People's Park, you will visit the Bund – the waterfront area of Shanghai.

The Bund, reputed as "An Exhibition of International Buildings", is located on the west bank of Huangpu River, facing the dominating Oriental Pearl Tower.

Coming to Shanghai and missing the Bund is like visiting Beijing and bypassing the Forbidden City or the Great Wall. The Bund is the **iconic landmark of Shanghai** and the area around the Bund is the tourist center of Shanghai and is the city's most famous mile.



There is no doubt that the Bund is the fusion of Western and Chinese Culture, an epitome of Shanghai's history, and a great place to explore Shanghai's today and see the future of Shanghai.

The Bund stretches 1.5km on the west bank of Huangpu River. It begins at Waibaidu Bridge in the north and ends at Yan'an Road in the south, which crosses Suzhou Creek. The area centers on East Zhongshan No. 1 Road facing the highly modern skyscrapers of Pudong, in the eastern part of Huangpu District.

The next stop will be Yu Garden before lunch at a local restaurant.



Yu Garden, aka Yuyuan Garden, Yu Yuan in Chinese, is a classical garden ranking among the must-see attractions in Shanghai. It dates back to the [Ming Dynasty](#) (1368-1644) and was owned by a government officer named Pan Yunduan. Yu in Chinese means pleasing and satisfying, and this garden was specially built for Pan's parents as a place for them to enjoy a tranquil and happy time in their old age.



After lunch you will explore the Former French Concession.

The Former French Concession Shanghai, totally different from what you have imagined about this modern, crowded and busy metropolis with skyscraper jungles, is quiet and idle with lots of European style villas and buildings from the early 20th century. It is a great place to learn the history and unique beauty of the city and to escape from the bustling city for a while.

The history of this French quarter in Shanghai can be traced back to 1849. It was the earliest, and gradually developed into the largest and most propersous, French concession in China. In the 1920s, it was the best and richest residential area in Shanghai. In 1943, the Chinese government took it over and after nearly 100 years ended its history as a French concession. As time passed by, there is no exact boundary for this area. But generally, Former French Concession Shanghai is to the south of Yan'an Road, to the north of Zhaojiabang Road Xujiahui Road, to the east of Huashan Road, and to the west of Huangpu River.

Our final stop of the day will be a visit the Shanghai Museum prior to heading back to Hotel. The Shanghai museum has a selection of over 112,000 Chinese cultural relics from the Old Stone Age to modern times, including bronzeware, calligraphy, paintings, pottery, porcelain, jade ware, stone carvings, Jiaguwen imperial seals, ancient coins, silk embroidery, dyed fabrics, ivory sculptures and ethnic crafts to mention just a few.

This evening dinner will be at a local restaurant prior to our Huangpu River Night Cruise.





Shanghai - Xian
March 26, 2020
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning after breakfast, you will drop off your main cruise bags with the Cruise Connections team for storage and transport to the ship on March 28th, and then meet for our transfer to the airport for the flight (2.5 hours) to Xian.

Upon arrival into Xian, you will have lunch at a local restaurant before the tour of the Terra Cotta Warriors.

This afternoon, you will visit The Terra Cotta Warriors Museum including Pit #1, 2, 3 and the Bronze Chariot.

The **Terracotta Army** is a collection of terracotta sculptures depicting the armies of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China. It is a form of funerary art buried with the emperor in 210–209 BCE with the purpose of protecting the emperor in his afterlife.

The figures, dating from approximately the late third century BCE, were discovered in 1974 by local farmers in Lintong County, outside Xi'an, Shaanxi, China. The figures vary in height according to their roles, with the tallest being the generals. The figures include warriors, chariots and horses. Estimates from 2007 were that the three pits containing the Terracotta Army held more than 8,000 soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses, and 150 cavalry horses, the majority of which remained buried in the pits near Qin Shi Huang's mausoleum. Other terracotta non-military figures were found in other pits, including officials, acrobats, strongmen, and musicians.

The construction of the tomb was described by historian Sima Qian (145–90 BCE) in his most noted work *Shiji*, written a century after the mausoleum's completion. Work on the mausoleum began in 246 BCE soon after Emperor Qin (then aged 13) ascended the throne, and the project eventually involved 700,000 workers. Geographer Li Daoyuan, writing six centuries after the first emperor's death, recorded in *Shui Jing Zhu* that Mount Li was a favoured location due to its auspicious geology, "famed for its jade mines, its northern side was rich in gold, and its southern side rich in beautiful jade; the first emperor, covetous of its fine reputation, therefore chose to be buried there". Sima Qian wrote that the first emperor was buried with palaces, towers, officials, valuable artifacts and wondrous objects. According to this account, 100 flowing rivers were simulated using mercury, and above them the ceiling was decorated with heavenly bodies below which were the features of the land. Some translations of this passage refer to "models" or "imitations"; however, those words were not used in the original text, which makes no mention of the terracotta army. High levels of mercury were found in the soil of the tomb mound, giving credence to Sima Qian's account. Later historical accounts suggested that the complex and tomb itself had been looted by Xiang Yu, a contender for the throne after the death of the first emperor. However, there are indications that the tomb itself may not have been plundered.

The Terracotta Army was discovered on 29 March 1974 by farmers digging a water well approximately 1.5 kilometres (0.93 mi) east of the Qin Emperor's tomb mound at Mount Li (Lishan), a region riddled with underground springs and watercourses. For centuries, occasional reports mentioned pieces of terracotta figures and fragments of the Qin necropolis – roofing tiles, bricks and chunks of masonry. This discovery prompted Chinese archaeologists, including Zhao Kangmin, to investigate, revealing the largest pottery figurine group ever found. A museum complex has since been constructed over the area, the largest pit being enclosed by a roofed structure.



Pits



View of Pit 1, the largest excavation pit of the Terracotta Army

Four main pits approximately 7 metres (23 ft) deep have been excavated. These are located approximately 1.5 kilometres (0.93 mi) east of the burial mound. The soldiers within were laid out as if to protect the tomb from the east, where the Qin Emperor's conquered states lay.

Pit 1

Pit 1, which is 230 metres (750 ft) long and 62 metres (203 ft) wide, contains the main army of more than 6,000 figures. Pit 1 has eleven corridors, most more than 3 metres (10 ft) wide and paved with small bricks with a wooden ceiling supported by large beams and posts. This design was also used for the tombs of nobles and would have resembled palace hallways when built. The wooden ceilings were covered with reed mats and layers of clay for waterproofing, and then mounded with more soil raising them about 2 to 3 metres (6 ft 7 in to 9 ft 10 in) above the surrounding ground level when completed.

Pit 2

Pit 2 has cavalry and infantry units as well as war chariots and is thought to represent a military guard. Pit 3 is the command post, with high-ranking officers and a war chariot. Pit 4 is empty, perhaps left unfinished by its builders.

Some of the figures in Pits 1 and 2 show fire damage, while remains of burnt ceiling rafters have also been found. These, together with the missing weapons, have been taken as evidence of the reported looting by Xiang Yu and the subsequent burning of the site, which is thought to have caused the roof to collapse and crush the army figures below. The terracotta figures currently on display have been restored from the fragments.

Other pits that formed the necropolis have also been excavated. These pits lie within and outside the walls surrounding the tomb mound. They variously contain bronze carriages, terracotta figures of entertainers such as acrobats and strongmen, officials, stone armour suits, burial sites of horses, rare animals and labourers, as well as bronze cranes and ducks set in an underground park.

Pit 3

Built in the shape of the Chinese character “凹”, the Terracotta Army Pit 3 measures 17.6 meters (19.2 yards) long from east to west, 21.4 meters (23.4 yards) wide from north to south and 4.8 meters (15.7 feet) deep. It can be divided into three parts: chariot and horse chamber, northern wing room, and southern wing room. It is thought that the northern wing room was used to pray for victory and the southern one for collecting military tactics. A total of 68 lifelike terracotta warriors were excavated from this pit, 42 from the southern wing room and 22 from the northern one. Sadly, many of them are missing their heads. The archaeologists also found a lot of well-preserved bronze weaponry, as well as gold, stone and bronze decorations, inside Pit 3. A distinctive chariot equipped with four horses was discovered inside the chamber of the pit.



After an afternoon exploring the Terra Cotta Warriors, you will be transferred to the Sofitel Xian on Renmin Square to check in and relax before meeting for dinner.

Xian

March 27, 2020

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning after breakfast at the hotel, meet for the tour of the Ancient City Wall. As you leisurely stroll on some of the ancient city wall, you can best enjoy its inner and outer walls, watchtowers, moat, and landscaped environs, as well as slightly elevated views of the city. For those who wish to bike the wall, there will be the opportunity to rent bicycles.





The first landmark you will encounter in Xi'an is the ancient city wall, which surrounds the old city in a large square area. The northern side runs parallel to the railway. Xi'an was originally a walled city, and even today the wall is considered a landmark dividing the city into the inner part and the outer part. The city wall is massive — tall, long and thick. The South Gate and North Gate are the two main entrances to the inner city. The city itself is neatly arranged along the city wall.

The Xi'an City Wall was erected in the 14th century Ming Dynasty, under the regime of Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang. When Zhu Yuanzhang captured Huizhou, long before the establishment of the Ming Dynasty, he was admonished by a hermit named Zhu Sheng, who told him to "build high walls, store abundant provisions and take your time in proclaiming yourself emperor", advice heeded by Zhu Yuanzhang.

The current city wall is an enhancement of the old Tang Dynasty structure, as a result of the emperor's wall building campaign.

Structure of the City Wall

The base of the wall was made of earth, quick lime, and glutinous rice extract, tamped together. It made the wall extremely strong and firm. Later, the wall was totally enclosed with bricks.

A moat, wide and deep, ran around the walls. Over the moat, there was a huge drawbridge, which would cut off access to the city, once lifted.

Xi'an's city wall, after its enlargement in the Ming Dynasty, stands 12 meters high. It is 12–14 meters wide across the top, 15–18 meters thick at bottom, and 13.7 kilometers in length.

There is a flanking tower every 120 meters. The flanking towers were built to allow soldiers to see enemies trying to climb the wall. The distance between the flanking towers is within the range of arrows fired from either side. This allowed soldiers to protect the entire wall without exposing themselves to the enemy. There are 98 flanking towers; each has a sentry building on top of it.

The Gates

The gates of the city wall were the only way to go in and out of town. Therefore, these gates were important strategic points, which the feudal rulers racked their brains to try to defend.

In Xi'an's case, the north, south, east and west gates, each consist of three towers: the gate tower, which holds the drawbridge, the narrow tower and the main tower. The gate tower stands proud of the wall. It is used to lift and lower the drawbridge. The narrow tower is in the middle. Its inner walls have square windows to shoot arrows from. The main tower is the innermost one, and forms the entrance to the city.





Tunnels

The narrow tower and the main tower are connected by tunnels, in which soldiers could be stationed. From the tunnels there are also horse passages leading to the top of the wall. There are gradually ascending steps, made so that it was easy for war horses. There are 11 horse passages around the city.

Watchtowers

A watchtower is located on each of the four corners of the wall. The one at the southwestern corner is round, probably after the model of the imperial city wall of the Tang Dynasty, but the other three are square-shaped.

On top of the watch towers there is a corner rampart, higher and larger than the ordinary ramparts. This shows the strategic importance of the corners of the city wall during wars.

Battlements

Along the outer crest of the city wall there are crenelations or battlements. Under each of the 5,984 crenels there is a square hole, from which arrows were shot and watch was kept. The lower, inner walls are called parapets. They were used to prevent soldiers from falling off the wall, when traveling back and forth.

Following your exploration of the wall, you will go to the Big Wild Goose Pagoda. Originally built in 652 of Tang Dynasty, the pagoda is designed to collect Buddhist materials that were taken from India by the hierarch Xuanzang. Now it is a landmark of Xian.

Originally built in 652 during the reign of Emperor Gaozong of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), Giant Wild Goose Pagoda functioned to collect Buddhist materials that were taken from India by the hierarch Xuanzang.

Xuanzang started off from Chang'an (the ancient Xi'an), along the Silk Road and through deserts, finally arriving in India, the cradle of Buddhism. Enduring 17 years and traversing 100 countries, he obtained Buddha figures, 657 kinds of sutras, and several Buddha relics. Having gotten the permission of Emperor Gaozong (628-683), Xuanzang, as the first abbot of Da Ci'en Temple, supervised the building of a pagoda inside it. With the support of royalty, he asked 50 hierarchs into the temple to translate Sanskrit in sutras into Chinese, totaling 1,335 volumes, which heralded a new era in the history of translation. Based on the journey to India, he also wrote a book entitled 'Pilgrimage to the West' in the Tang Dynasty, to which scholars attached great importance.

First built to a height of 60 meters (197 feet) with five storeys, Giant Wild Goose Pagoda is now 64.5 meters (211.6 feet) high with an additional two storeys. It was said that after that addition came the saying-'Saving a life exceeds building a seven-storey pagoda'. Externally Big Wild Goose Pagoda looks like a square cone, simple but grand and it is a masterpiece of Buddhist construction. Built of brick, its structure is very firm. Inside the pagoda, stairs twist up so that visitors can climb and overlook the panorama of the city from the arch-shaped doors on four sides of each storey. On the walls are engraved fine statues of Buddha by the renowned artist Yan Liben of the Tang Dynasty. Steles by noted calligraphers also grace the pagoda.





As for the reason why it is called Giant Wild Goose Pagoda, there is a legend. According to ancient stories of Buddhists, there were two branches, for one of which eating meat was not a taboo. One day, they couldn't find meat to buy. Upon seeing a group of big wild geese flying by, a monk said to himself: 'Today we have no meat. I hope the merciful Bodhisattva will give us some.' At that very moment, the leading wild goose broke its wings and fell to the ground. All the monks were startled and believed that Bodhisattva showed his spirit to order them to be more pious. They established a pagoda where the wild goose fell and stopped eating meat. Hence its name.

Lunch will be at a local restaurant and the afternoon is free to relax or explore Xian.

This evening, join Sanjay & Gary at the Tang Dynasty Dinner Show. The Tang Dynasty Dinner Show evokes the color and spectacle of this golden age through traditional instruments, intricate costumes, set designs, and fine Chinese cuisine at the 'Tang Dynasty Palace'.





Xian - Shanghai
March 28, 2020
Breakfast

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Shanghai (2.5 hours).

Upon arrival into Shanghai, you will go by the Maglev Bullet Train from the airport to the city where you will be transferred by coach to the Shanghai Cruise Port to board the Celebrity Millennium for your cruise to Tokyo. You will be impressed by the amazingly fast speed of the train and have an exciting transfer into the city.

The Shanghai Maglev Train or Shanghai Trans rapid is a magnetic levitation train (maglev) line that operates in Shanghai. The line is the third commercially operated maglev line in history (after the British Birmingham Maglev and the German M-Bahn), the oldest commercial maglev still in operation, and the first commercial high-speed maglev. It is also the fastest commercial electric train in the world.

The train line connects Shanghai Pudong International Airport and Longyang Road Station (in the outskirts of central Pudong), where passengers can interchange to the Shanghai Metro to continue their trip to the city center. The line is not part of the Shanghai Metro network, which operates its own service to Pudong Airport from central Shanghai and Longyang Road Station.

Highest Speed: 430km/h (267 mi/h)
Duration per Single Journey: 8 minutes



**Inclusions:**

- Accommodation based on double occupancy at:
Sofitel Shanghai Hyland Hotel <https://sofitel.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-1603-sofitel-shanghai-hyland/index.shtml>
Sofitel Xian on Renmin Square <https://sofitel.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-5949-sofitel-xian-on-renmin-square/index.shtml>
- All Sightseeing tours by air conditioned coach
- Entrance fees to all the monuments including all activities as mentioned
- Meals where stated with limited local beverages.
- Roundtrip flight from Shanghai to Xian
- One transfer on the Maglev High Speed Train
- Basic Gratuities
- Difficulty level: Moderate
- English speaking guide
- Transfers and taxes included

****PLEASE NOTE:** The itinerary, hotels, flights, and tours are subject to change. In the case the travel dates coincide with religious holidays and national celebrations, some monuments and sites may be closed without prior notice or due to other unforeseen circumstances including weather conditions. The order of the tour may be changed without notice. Visa for China is required for this trip

