



Grand Asia Cruising on Sapphire Princess

Stevie Jay
TRAVEL



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Your Tour Manager Welcomes You!

Our tour manager is Stevie Jay. He will do everything possible to keep to the general plan and watch for some extra fun along the way.



Coach & Flight Schedule

Carrier	Flight#	Day	Date	From	To	Depart	Arrive
Ideal Charter		Tue	01Jan	Urbana Stevie Jay Broadcasting*	Chicago O'Hare Hilton	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
United Airlines	835	Wed	02Jan	Chicago O'Hare	Shanghai Pu Dong	10:00 AM	2:35 PM
United Airlines	2	Mon	21Jan	Singapore	San Francisco	10:00 PM	8:35 AM
United Airlines	1961	Mon	21Jan	San Francisco	Chicago O'Hare	1:15 PM	7:32 PM
Ideal Charter		Mon	21Jan	Chicago O'Hare	Urbana Stevie Jay Broadcasting*	8:30 PM	11:00 PM

*2702 S Boulder, Urbana IL (may leave car for a short time until someone can pick it up).

**United recommends that you check in 3 hours before departure.

Important Note

Remember, you **must** carry these 3 items **on arrival in China** under the visa waiver program: valid **Passport**—good through at least July 21, 2019, your Princess Cruise **Boarding Pass** & Princess Cruise **Travel Summary**.

There are a lot of pages here. However, it might take just 15-20 minutes and the key parts to read before departing are:

Coach, Flight & Hotel—We suggest that you always carry this and so we made this booklet small. It is good idea to **leave a copy or scan this page 2 and 3 for those people at home!**

StevieTips—with useful passport, packing, money, electrical current and local travel tips. This follows the **Tour Membership List** and **Itinerary**. Also included in your Documents Package are: **Luggage Tags** for your checked bags and **E-Ticket**.

AIG Travel Guard Insurance—your **policy number is 3419148**. If you have questions/claims or need an emergency assistance counselor 24/7 call toll free 1-866-401-8955 within the U.S. or internationally by calling collect to +1-715-295-9365. Your insurance certificate is available from the lower left-hand corner of steviejaytravel.com/insurance webpage (choose the one for your state of residence) or while en route, ask Stevie Jay.

Phoning Cruise Guests

To provide greater peace of mind while you're away from home, give friends and relatives the following information on how to telephone you. Contact your phone company directly for rates, your phone company will charge you directly for calls made to the ship. When calling, please include guest name and stateroom number to ensure quick delivery. For example, if you would like to call the Sapphire Princess from the US, dial 011 870-773-930-015.

Guests may use their personal mobile devices on-board while at sea in international waters and in other areas where such use is permitted. A compatible mobile device and a service plan capable of roaming internationally with Maritime Communications Partners AS is required. Please contact your wireless service provider for availability and rates.

Hotels

(In parenthesis are the number of nights we stay at each followed by dates of check in and check-out)

Chicago (1) 1/1/2019-1/2/2019

O'Hare Hilton
O'Hare International Airport
Chicago IL 60666 USA
Phone: 773-686-8000

In flight (1) 1/2/2019-1/3/2019

Shanghai (2) 1/3/2019-1/5/2019

JW Marriott Shanghai at
Tomorrow Square
399 Nanjing West Road
Shanghai 200003 China
Phone: 86 21 5359 4969

Cruising (14) 1/5/2019-1/19/2019

Sapphire Princess
Cruising
Phone: 773 930 015 Fax 783 150 835

Singapore (2) 1/19/2019-1/21/2019

The Fullerton Hotel
1 Fullerton Square
Ph: 65 6877 8020 Fax 65 6877 8010

Tour Membership List

1

BUCKERT/JOHN
Urbana IL

BUCKERT/SHARON
Urbana IL

2

EDWARDS/KAREN
Champaign IL

NEUHALFEN/CATHERINE
Algonquin IL

3

EICHELBERGER/DEBRA
Champaign IL

SWIGER/JUDY
Mahomet IL

4

HAMILTON/LINDA
Birmingham AL

REITSMA/SOREN
Birmingham AL

5

HETTERMANN/PATRICIA
Wauwatosa WI
HUFFMAN/CHERYL

6

JORDAN/JOAN
Mahomet IL

MEACHUM/LINDA
Mahomet IL

7

KHACHATURIAN/STEVEN
Champaign IL

KHACHATURIAN/JANET
Champaign IL

KHACHATURIAN/GRACE
Champaign IL

8

KHACHATURIAN/NATHANIEL
Champaign IL

KHACHATURIAN/CHRISTIAN
Champaign IL

KHACHATURIAN/BENJAMIN
Champaign IL

9

TROUTT/JANICE
Champaign IL

Itinerary

Sailing times subject to change. Check time when departing ship.

Day 1 1/1/2019 Tuesday Central Illinois-Chicago

Stevie Jay welcomes us aboard our private motor coach this afternoon (see page 2) as we head to an airport hotel near O'Hare where we stay overnight and need not worry about weather and heading up in the wee hours tomorrow. The hotel will have a complimentary social hour this evening and there are restaurants nearby for dinner on your own.

Day 2 1/2/2019 Wednesday Chicago O'Hare-Flight

By **6:45 A.M.** meet in the lobby to be taken to the United terminal to board our non-stop, 10:00 A.M. United flight to Shanghai. Since we are crossing the international dateline, the rest of this day is “lost” because we arrive tomorrow afternoon! (BB)

Day 3 1/3/2019 Thursday Flight-Shanghai, China

We arrive in Shanghai this afternoon and are taken to our hotel with a 90-120 minute drive, arriving at the hotel around **5:00 P.M.** The rest of the day is free in this fabled port on the Huangpu River that has played a pivotal role in the history of modern China. One of seven treaty ports inflicted by the West on Imperial China, the city was famed for the Bund, an elegant section of riverbank lined with European mercantile houses and elegant mansions. Shanghai was also the cradle of the Chinese Communist Party, and it is here that the People's Republic created its vast commercial and industrial bastion.

Important reminder: due to the visa waiver program, you may not leave the Shanghai area.

Day 4 1/4/2019 Friday Shanghai

Breakfast is served daily from 6:00 to 10:30 A.M. **We depart at 9:00 A.M.**, on our morning sightseeing tour of Shanghai, one of the most fascinating cities on the face of the earth. Its streets are packed with individuals, cars and bicycles, weaving an extraordinary tapestry of humanity. Yet serenity and beauty are always present, be it a class practicing early morning tai chi or the serene repose of the city's jade Buddha. Shanghai's attractions are legendary, from exquisite temples and superb museums to the Bund's elegant 19th-century European architecture. **Return to the hotel about noon.** Afternoon and evening are free. (B)

Day 5 1/5/2019 Saturday Shanghai-Embarkation

Please put your bags outside your room door by 9:30 A.M. and the bellmen will pick them up. We have the morning before being taken at 12 NOON to the port to board our floating resort, Sapphire Princess. Note lunch aboard ship is *not* now possible due to a staggered check-in time that starts at 2:00 P.M.; best to take a snack with to eat in the coach or at the port while waiting. **ALL will be boarding together** in the Aloha Deck 2:45 P.M. time slot (even those on Dolphin deck); Stevie will stay with any that must wait and bring up the rear. We were told by Princess that the port should allow both decks' travelers to board together. After embarking have time to explore our new home before we set sail at 6:00 P.M. and have dinner. (B, D)

Day 6 1/6/2019 Sunday At Sea

A great delight of this cruise itinerary are the wonderful days at sea that are sprinkled throughout the itinerary that allow you to enjoy the amenities of the ship or just relax. This way you do not get tired by going ashore every day. (B, L, D)

Day 7 1/7/2019 Monday Nagasaki, Japan

For most travelers, Nagasaki is a symbol of the horror and the inhumanity of war. An estimated 75,000 people perished in 1945 when the city became the second target of an atomic attack. Today, Nagasaki's Peace Park and Atomic Bomb Museum draw visitors from around the world. But this beautiful city on Kyushu island offers other sights. Often described as the San Francisco of Japan, the city occupies verdant hills surrounded by a deep-water bay. For three centuries, Nagasaki was Japan's sole window on the world. The city is also celebrated as the setting for Puccini's opera "Madame Butterfly." In port from 9:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M. (B, L, D)

Day 8 1/8/2019 Tuesday Busan, South Korea

The second largest city in South Korea, Busan is your gateway to a fascinating land whose culture is a unique amalgam of old and new. Modern high-rise towers dwarf ancient Buddhist temples. The city's bustling business district offers a stark contrast to the serene grounds of Yongdusan Park. In short, Busan is a microcosm of South Korea, the nation's startling economic success often obscures one of Asia's most sophisticated and venerable cultures. Busan was the scene of bitter fighting during the Korean War. The United Nations Memorial Cemetery marks the final resting place for the troops from 16 nations who gave their lives during the conflict. In port 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. (B, L, D)

Day 9-10 1/9-10/2019 Wednesday-Thursday At Sea

Free Days (B, L, D)

Day 11 1/11/2019 Friday Hong Kong, China

Skyscrapers form a glistening forest of steel and glass, junks and sampans ply the busy harbor waters, and the green, dragon-crested hills of Kowloon beckon. Welcome to Hong Kong, one of the world's great travel destinations. Now a semi-autonomous region of China, Hong Kong - literally "Fragrant Harbor" - has lost none of its charm, excitement or exoticism. Modern skyscrapers and luxury hotels climb the slopes of Hong Kong Island. Narrow streets are crammed with noodle vendors, fortune-tellers and bone setters. The endless array of shops offers the visitor everything from hand-tailored suits and ancient porcelain to the latest consumer electronics. And everywhere more than seven million people are moving at a breathtaking pace in one of the world's great monuments to capitalism, commerce and enterprise. The former Crown Colony has enough attractions to last a lifetime. To take in the entire spectacle, head to Victoria Peak for panoramic views. Enjoy lunch on one of the city's floating restaurants. Walk down one of the crowded streets to take the city's rapid pulse. And whether you think you are in the mood or not - shop. After all, you are in the duty-free capital of the world. In port 7:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M. (B, L, D)

Day 12-13 1/12/2019 Saturday-Sunday At Sea

Free days (B, L, D)

Day 14 1/14/2019 Monday Ho Chi Minh City (Phu My), Vietnam

Disembarkation in Vietnam requires either a personal visa you must obtain yourself or purchasing one of this ship's shore excursions so that you are covered by the ship's group visa. Over three decades have passed since the Vietnam War ended with the fall of Saigon. Today, the name of this bustling metropolis on the Mekong River is Ho Chi Minh City. Yet, the essence of the city, a major trading center since the 18th century, remains unchanged. The air is filled with the cries of street hawkers and honking horns. Bicycles, motorbikes and automobiles fly down the boulevards at dizzying speeds. And everywhere, friendly faces and warm greetings meet you. The port of Phu My (pronounced "Foo Me") is your gateway to Ho Chi Minh City and the sea-side resort of Vung Tau. In port 7:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M. (B, L, D)

Day 15 1/15/2019 Tuesday At Sea

Free day. (B, L, D)

Day 16 1/16/2019 Wednesday Bangkok (Laem Chabang), Thailand

Laem Chabang is your gateway to Bangkok. This enchanting city on the Chao Phraya River is a magical place where graceful dancers perform in shimmering silk gowns, temples with gold-leaf spires harbor priceless Buddhas and riverboats cruise a maze of canals. The only nation in Southeast Asia to escape colonial rule, Thailand offers a rich and ancient culture that flowered unhindered by Western influence. Proud and strongly nationalistic, the Thai people call their nation Muang Thai - "Land of the Free." Founded in 1782 by King Rama I, Bangkok is home to more than eight million people. The capital's proper name is Krung Thep - the "City of Angels." In port 7:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M. (B, L, D)

Day 17 1/17/2019 Thursday Ko Samui, Thailand

Thailand's third largest island has been attracting international travelers for less than half a century. Before then, this island in the Gulf of Thailand was noted for its coconut plantations and rubber production. Today, Ko Samui's premier charms are its powdery white beaches, its Buddhist temples or wats, and its crystalline waters. Despite the island's increasing popularity, it retains a casual and unspoiled air that offers a bracing tonic to the experienced traveler. The majority of the island's population resides in Nathorn, Ko Samui's capital. The island's first settlers were a mix of Hainanese coconut farmers and Malay fishermen. Nathorn is an anchorage port. Passengers transfer to shore via ship's tenders, so wheelchair access limited. 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. (B, L, D)

Day 18 1/18/2019 Friday At Sea

Free day. (B, L, D)

Day 19 1/19/2019 Saturday Singapore-Disembarkation-Hotel

Docking in Singapore from 7:00 a.m. After breakfast we say farewell to the wonderful crew members that have served us so grandly. **Stevie will tell us where to gather by 8:30 a.m. to disembark together.** We are taken by a private motor coach to our hotel, enjoying a sightseeing tour of Singapore on the way. We will see both the original Colonial section of this once backwater port of the British Empire, as well as the part that has been transformed into a modern and successful city-state. Afternoon and evening is free. (B)

Day 20 1/20/2019 Sunday Singapore

Breakfast buffet is included and from 6:30 A.M. Today is free for independent sightseeing or great shopping. Singapore - the very name summons visions of the mysterious East. The commercial center of Southeast Asia, this island city-state of four million people is a metropolis of modern high-rise buildings, Chinese shop-houses with

red-tiled roofs, sturdy Victorian buildings, Buddhist temples and Arab bazaars. Founded in 1819 by Sir Stamford Raffles of the fabled East India Company, the city is a melting pot of people and cultures. Malay, Chinese, English and Tamil are official languages. Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Hinduism and Christianity are the major faiths. Singapore is an ever-fascinating island boasting colorful traditions, luxurious hotels and some of the finest duty-free shopping in the world. Lying just 85 miles north of the Equator at the tip of the Malay Peninsula, the island was a haven for Malay pirates and Chinese and Arab traders. (B)

Day 21 1/21/2019 Monday Singapore-Flight-Chicago-Central Illinois

Bags need to be *outside* your room door, in hallway, by 6:15 A.M. Breakfast from 6:30 A.M. Meet in the **lobby where Stevie tells you by 7:15 A.M.** and we are taken to the airport (about a 20-minute ride) and board our 10:00 A.M. flight connection back home. Because of crossing eastbound over the international dateline, we get back the day we “lost” on the way over! After changing planes and clearing customs on the west coast, we have plenty of time to limber up before continuing to Chicago. Here we board our private motor coach back to Central Illinois with grand memories of Asia! (B)

Stevie Jay
TRAVEL



StevieTips

Passport, in hand? Make sure you get your Passport in hand right away. We have seen people think they know where it is and then go there on the morning of travel and cannot find it. Make sure it is good through July 21, 2019 (or later if you plan to stay on!) Replacing a lost passport in a hurry can be quite expensive.

China & Vietnam normally require a visa, but you need not obtain one if you follow the rules noted on the cruise-tour's brochure and webpage. **China's requirements are described on page 2 under Important Note. Vietnam does not require a personal visa if you purchase one of the ship's shore excursions which are covered by the ship's group visa.**

There are no other visas or other tourist cards required for this tour itinerary. Keep your passport with you and only surrender it if a hotel or government official requires you to. *Make a copy of your passport* and use that if anyone else wants to see it (like to exchange money).

Do you wear a watch? If you count on your cell phone for the time, it may not work overseas if you have no data plan. We recommend that you get an inexpensive watch to wear and be on time. And get a small travel alarm clock. Being a few minutes is multiplied by those who must wait for you. We will all appreciate getting to leave on time.

Last Minute News? If there are any news that would affect our tour, please go to steviejaytravel.com/news-terms.

Difficulties en route? If you have difficulties while on tour, don't suffer in silence—let us know. We want to do what we can to help. Ask your tour manager.

Weather on the tour will be chilly to cold during the first half and mild to hot during the latter half. If you have already started adapting to Illinois cold, the temps in the first half may not be so bad, but it is best

to prepare for the worst. Layers and wool may be a good choice then. But then spring and summer will “return” as the ship sails south! Note that rainfall chance increases for the last two ports so a rain jacket or umbrella will be a good idea.

Port Temperature Range Averages* & Monthly Rainfall Average

- Shanghai: 32-46° 1.8”
- Nagasaki: 32-48° 1.9”
- Busan: 30-46° 1.6”
- Hong Kong: 59-66° 1”
- Vietnam: 70-90° .6”
- Bangkok: 70-90° .4”
- Ko Samui 75-84° 4.9”
- Singapore 73-86° 9.8”

*Remember that since these temperatures are averages, it could be cooler or warmer than either end of the range indicates.

These are statistics converted to Fahrenheit. Most places use Celsius and those temperatures can be a challenge to convert: deduct 10%, double that and add 32°. So $20^{\circ}\text{C} - 10\% = 18 \times 2 = 36 + 32 = 68^{\circ}\text{F}$.

Or remember every 11 Celsius, increase 20 Fahrenheit:

- Freezing $0^{\circ}\text{C} = 32^{\circ}\text{F}$
- Chilly $11^{\circ}\text{C} = 52^{\circ}$
- Mild $22^{\circ}\text{C} = 72^{\circ}$
- Hot $32^{\circ}\text{C} = 92^{\circ}\text{F}$ *and you can estimate between those!*



You are allowed 2 checked bags, 1 carry-on plus 1 personal item. See below for size and weight limitations.

Checked bag allowance: two checked bags per person.

Maximum Checked Bags’ Size: 62” total dimensions of Length + Width + Height and weight 50 pounds. No fee for up to 2 checked bags.

Maximum Carry-on Bags Size Maximum: Height 21.5”, Width 15.5” & Length 9.5” and 22 pounds. You can *also* bring one small personal item, e.g. small handbag, laptop, duty free or baby changing bag with a maximum size Height 10”, Width: 13” & Length 8”.

Note that maximum-sized carry-on bags might have to be placed in the coach’s luggage compartment. So, a *smaller* carry-on bag with wheels *plus* a small to medium sized back pack could be a better combination.

What not to pack in your checked bag: passport, medications or valuable items. If you have medications, bring several days extra in case you are delayed on the return. Carry these items with you.

TSA’s 3-1-1 rule requires all carry-on liquids be in containers no larger than 3.4 ounces (100 milliliters) and all of them placed in a quart-sized zip-lock bag, one zip bag per passenger. More or larger liquid containers can go in a *checked bag* without limitation. Here is the web address for this: www.tsa.gov/videos/travel-tips-3-1-1-liquids-rule.

Lost Luggage If luggage is lost or damaged, file a claim *immediately* with the airline. Show them the page of hotels so they know how to get the bag to you. If not found within 24 hours (depending on policy’s terms) of arrival, travel insurance will reimburse for certain purchased items under its Baggage Delay coverage.

What to Pack We suggest allowing for multiple *layers*, rather than lots of heavy clothing.: Wrinkle free, drip-dry and comfortable. Getting laundry done on tour is usually impractical.

Dressy clothes are required for the cruise; see the following section. Don’t buy new shoes right before you go! It is much better that they be broken-in and see you through a lot of walking long before the tour.

Cruise Clothing Recommendations You should dress for a cruise with Princess the same way you would for any stylish land-based resort. Casual sportswear, including shorts, lightweight pants and jogging suits, is the order of the day both at sea and ashore in hotter climates. We recommend you bring a sweater, a jacket or an all-weather coat for cool evenings, and for shore excursions, depending on your destination. Due to unpredictable weather, don’t forget a hat or visor and a collapsible umbrella. Please be sure to bring proper clothing for visits to religious sites. You’ll also want low-heeled, rubber-soled shoes for strolling on deck, as well as comfortable walking shoes or sandals to wear.

Princess makes it easy to know what to pack and what to wear when

you're dining on-board their ships. There are two designations for dress codes: Smart Casual and Formal.

Smart Casual, on 11 evenings guest attire should be in keeping with what they would wear to a nice restaurant at home. Skirts/dresses, slacks, and sweaters for ladies. Pants and open-neck shirts for men. Pool or beach attire, shorts, ball caps and casual jeans (with fraying and/or holes) are not welcomed in the dining rooms. Shoes must be worn.

Formal, on 3 evenings please observe the dress code in the Traditional Dining *and* Anytime Dining venues for the enjoyment of all our guests. Evening gowns and cocktail dresses for women. Tuxedos, dinner jackets or dark suits with a tie for men.

Electrical Devices Normal American electrical appliances (such as hair dryers and shavers) will not work in Asian hotels without both a:

- *Power Converter* (shown at right) to reduce China's "hotter" 220-volt (230-volt in Singapore) power to your 110-volt device.*
- *Plug Adapter* that allows you to fit your plug into their sockets. Typically, their plugs have 3 heavy flat blades instead of our 2 flat blades (see photos).



Plug Type	Plug Type C	Plug Type I	Plug Type G
You may find 3 different types in China			Singapore

Exceptions:* if your appliance has a switch to go from 110 volts to 220 (or 230) volts *or* your camera, phone, computer etc. has a power pack that automatically converts (you can tell because the range 100-240v is shown on its power pack), you do not need a power converter but *you still need a plug adapter, like the 4 plugs above.***

Kits that include both Converters and Adapters (plus adapters for other countries) are sold at luggage departments of Wal Mart and similar.

Travel Money ATM & Credit Cards are a great way to pay for most larger expenses. Card companies have immense buying power to get a great “foreign exchange” rate, but best to use a card without a 1-3% fee. Visa and Master Card are the mostly commonly accepted.

A card without a “chip” will usually work but their card “swipers” require you enter a “PIN” number; if you don’t have that number, call your credit card now. *Important: some businesses will not accept credit cards for smaller amounts like under \$20.*

To avoid having your card(s) shut down on first use, call your card (some allow you to do this on line) telling them where and when you are going, and returning. Otherwise charges may appear to be fraudulent because the charge originates overseas. Getting the card working again may require international calls, time and trouble. If you have two cards, carry both to have a back-up.

A debit card is also a great source of funds and may allow smaller minimum purchases. When getting Euro cash at an ATM machine, because of the set fee amount, it’s better to get a larger amount rather than frequent, small amounts.

I recommend you ask the purser about which countries dollars are popular and which may require their local currency. Regardless of when dollar currency is welcomed, avoid carrying large amounts of currency as pick pockets could clean you out. Your stateroom safe, neck (or belt loop) wallet, or money belt might be a good place to put part of your cash and card(s). Men: put wallet in a front pocket. Ladies: put your purse in front of you, across your body; don’t just set it on the ground when eating.

Travelers Cheques are of limited value any more. Most businesses do not take them, and they can be difficult to get cashed.

U.S. Customs Duty Free Allowance of \$800/person is what you can bring back without paying duty. Or if you buy up to \$1800 in items, then the extra \$1000 is subject to a 3% duty. Over that amount is subject to varying percentage rates, so if you plan to buy a lot, keep your receipts.

Hotels may request a credit card imprint or your passport on check in to set up an account for incidental charges. The hotel staff makes room assignments; location, view and size may vary accordingly. Hotels may not forward forgotten items or may charge extra to do so.

Smoking Some hotels or certain rooms are non-smoking, so the hotel

may charge a penalty if they find that you smoked in a room. Inspect your hotel room before checking out. Note: no smoking is allowed on the motor coach. Rest stops will be made regularly when you can smoke while touring.

Safety & Security notes: check for emergency exits. Put your room key on the bedside table while you are in the room. Don't leave valuables in your room when you go out. Keep your room locked. Some Asian hotel doors do not lock automatically on leaving the room, try the door. You may have to lock the door manually with the key. Tap water should be safe, most drink bottled water.

Motor coaches in some countries have strict rules about the length the driver may be on duty and drive during that time. It is checked via tamper-proof digital system. So, he will not be allowed to be on duty after a certain point each evening.

If seat belts are provided you must wear them or risk a fine. Keep the aisles clear at all times. Don't put heavy or dangerous items in the overhead racks. Do not leave *valuables* on the coach. Ordinary items are generally safe though; the tour manager and driver will advise you about this. Remain seated when the coach is moving. Check the traffic before exiting the coach. *At the end of a sightseeing tour*, make sure you take everything with you to the hotel or ship. See the Tipping section for the guide.



Telephone Your family or friends calling you in Asia will require (for most carriers) 011 then the country code, 86 for China & 65 for Singapore, and leave out the actual phone number's initial zero (sometimes shown in parenthesis). See page 3 for *ship to shore or shore to ship*.

If you call the USA from Asia dial 00 then 1 plus the area code and phone number.

Calling from a pay phone is best done with a prepaid calling card. First, call the access number shown on the card. You can buy calling cards in the US or in Asia. *We do not recommend charging your call to your hotel room; it can be very expensive.*

Getting your own phone set up for overseas use can be expensive or not surefire. Renting a phone usable overseas is surer but can be expensive. Unless if you need constant, immediate contact, we suggest an internet phone service app like *Skype* or *Google* if you have a smart phone or computer. You could use that app when you connect to Wi-Fi at the hotels (*when* the Wi-Fi has a good enough connection!)

Sign up now for a free account through Skype or Google which allows you to call via the internet rather than more expensive cell service. With Skype there will be a cost to call normal land line & cell phones in the US, unless you sign up for an Unlimited USA plan for \$2.99/month. Calling cost is low: 2.3¢ per minute (plus 4.9¢ connection fee), but you will need to put some money on account by charging your credit card \$10-25 *before* leaving on the trip.

Skype is free if you call another person who also has a Skype account so if there is someone who you think you would call (or will want to call you), get them to sign up for a free Skype account.

Skype is not for emergencies. Instead, in an **emergency, dial from the hotel room's phone: 110 in China or 999 in Singapore.**



Remember the time difference! Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Singapore are *14 hours ahead* of the Central US time zone.* If calling home, be careful about when you call! And if your family or friends might call, tell them about the time difference. *Exceptions: Japan and South Korea are 15 hours ahead, Vietnam & Thailand 13 hours ahead.

Shopping Hours are not “24/7” as in the U.S., they vary from store to store and from place to place. Generally open from 9 or 10 A.M. and closing at 5 or 6 P.M. On Sunday, many shops are closed.

Value Added Taxes, V.A.T. You may be paying a net 9% in VAT that you do not owe, as a non-resident. There are 180 stores in Shanghai that have no VAT in their price. If you anticipate making a large purchase, see: www.travelchina.com/essential/tax-refund.htm.

In Singapore, the VAT is 7% and if you anticipate a large purchase, see: www.visitsingapore.com/travel-guide-tips/tourist-information/gst-tax-refund/

Tippling & Foreign Exchange Here are recommendations for those who serve you.

Tippling to Tour Staff & Inclusions:

- The coach drivers for included transfers, skycaps and stevedores will be tipped by our tour manager
- Hotel Porters are tipped by the tour manager
- Cruise staff has been tipped as part of our package; although bar drinks you order will have a tip added automatically
- Tippling is *not* expected for our tour manager

When *on your own*, here is summary of guidelines for these optional items from the website, www.WhoToTip.net, it has local do’s and don’ts. Tippling is *not* expected in many cases, could be considered offensive, and so here are details (foreign exchange rates are subject to change):

Country	Guides*	Restaurants	Taxi Drivers	\$1 US = Foreign (code)
China	Yes	No ¹	No	6.8 CNY
Japan	No	No	No	113 JPY
South Korea	No	No ²	No	1,123 KRW
Hong Kong	Yes	No ¹	No	7.8 HKD
Vietnam	Yes	5-10%	\$1-2	23,295 VND
Thailand	Yes ³	10%	No	32.7 THB
Singapore	No	Yes	No	1.37 SGD

*If yes, \$3-5 for half-day, double for full day. Similar or less for the driver.

¹Some high-end restaurants will add on a 5-15% service charge. Singapore likewise may have a service charge but increasingly they expect foreigners to tip since the restaurant keeps the service charge.

²5-10% recommended in a western style restaurant in South Korea but not in a local style one.

³\$5-10 instead of instead of what’s shown in the asterisk.

All taxis: even if one doesn’t tip, in all countries it’s okay if you round up the fare to a round amount for convenience without giving offense.

Lost? Carry your hotel address when leaving the premises—found on page 3 of this booklet. You can show it to a taxi driver to get you back. If they can read English! Most countries have a different writing style. So,

see the next point. **Taxi drivers:** Before leaving the hotel, *to get back*, ask the front desk for a ‘taxi card’. Since drivers probably won’t speak or at least understand your English, most hotels will provide you with such a card. It will have your destination (if going from the hotel), *and* the hotel’s address for your return trip. It’s best to keep small bills or change for taxi’s, as taxi drivers won’t usually have change. Get out if Taxi if it does not have a meter. You shouldn’t have to bargain for your fare.

Important Additional Information is available on line at your Princess Cruise booking. Access that by entering in your browser:

1. www.princess.com
2. Click on **BOOKED GUESTS**
3. Choose/click **CRUISE PERSONALIZER LOGIN**
4. On the left, you can either set up an account with password you choose **OR** on the right, enter without password/signing in by entering your name, birth date and booking number (which may be mostly letters) shown at the bottom of the page.

In addition to helpful information about the cruise, you can **book shore excursions, special dining, spa treatments** and more!

Note: your flights and transfers are **NOT** shown on-line or in your Travel Summary. We have arranged those separately and provided that information with these documents.

Have fun! According to Mark Twain, “Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.”

Stevie Jay
TRAVEL

