



## China Splendour

14 Days

Fully Inclusive from the UK

Uncover a part of China with turquoise lakes and cascading waterfalls. Rarely seen by Western visitors, this delightful scenery is one of China's real treasures. Combined with the most popular sights in Beijing, Xian and Shanghai this tour really provides the best of both worlds.

*This tour reaches a maximum altitude of 3,500m at Huanglong Temple.*

### Fully Inclusive price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals (excluding drinks)
- Touring with Guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



## Your Tour Dossier

This document is designed to be read in conjunction with the other pre-departure information provided by Wendy Wu Tours including the tour itinerary as described in our brochure and/or website. It aims to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour.

If there are any particular challenges, from the length of time spent on your feet, the length of drives and flights, to the standard of remote accommodation; they will be explained here.

All passengers must read this document to ensure the itinerary is suitable for their interests and physical capabilities. This is not your final itinerary and therefore does not mention all the sites visited.

## Welcome to Wendy Wu Tours

China continues to amaze, fascinate and thrill our passengers, many of whom have travelled to one country in Asia with us, then another, year after year. We urge you to keep in mind all the rewards, as well as challenges of travelling in a country with a history, culture and attitude so unlike your own.

A typical day's sightseeing may include the bustle and noise of a city street, sights and smells of a local market and interacting with the locals. Travelling in China requires patience and potential delays are to be expected due to standards of service. There is a low level of English spoken throughout China, so your local guides or National Escort will be indispensable during your trip.

Almost everything will be different to what you may be used to. We have found that our passengers who embark with a sense of humour and adventure, who accept that things do not always go to plan, are those who find their experience most rewarding. It is essential that all passengers recognize the demands of factors such as basic facilities and cultural differences they may encounter in some areas.

Book now on **0844 499 3899** visit [www.wendywutours.co.uk](http://www.wendywutours.co.uk) or see your preferred travel agent.

## China Splendour- Medium Paced Tour

These tours are not strenuous but do require higher levels of fitness. A typical tour may include longer periods of sightseeing on foot, climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats will be necessary. These tours may involve longer periods of driving; sometimes on poorly maintained roads, and overnight train journeys; as well as some easy hiking. Some Medium Paced Tours may involve several days at altitude.

Anyone with a good level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. Of course our local guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you do have mobility difficulties, please contact us for our range of private tours which are more flexible and can better cater for individual needs.

NB Please note that times and distances listed in the tour dossier are approximate.

### Days 1-2: UK/Shanghai

On Day 2, you will be met at Shanghai's Pudong International airport in the arrivals hall by your Local Guide and/or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer approx. 1hr to your hotel. There will be no sightseeing today. A tour introduction will be held sometime tomorrow; there will not be food or drinks served at this meeting; it is simply an opportunity for your group to meet and learn more about travelling in China.

### Day 3: Shanghai

Full day of sightseeing around the central city involves approx. 3-4hrs on foot. Beware of your valuables while in the Old Town (Yuan Bazaar) as it is very crowded.

### Day 4: Shanghai/Chengdu

You will have time at leisure before checking out from your hotel before midday. Transfer to the airport to catch your afternoon flight to Chengdu (flight duration 2hrs 15mins). Drive approx. 30mins to your hotel and check-in for an overnight stay.

### Day 5: Chengdu/Nine Villages Valley

There will be a morning transfer to the airport to board a domestic flight to Jiuzhaigou (Nine Villages Valley). Transfer to the hotel located at the entrance of the National Park for the next two nights.

### Day 6: Nine Villages Valley

The National Park authorities have introduced an 'environmental vehicle', which is aimed at reducing the pollution by vehicles in the area. Your group will receive an entrance pass and a voucher for this transport. The vehicles run between the different sites at regular times, and this will mean you will be sharing these vehicles with people from other tourist groups, your Wendy Wu Tours guides will remain with you. Today's sightseeing involves approx. 4hrs on foot – with an area of altitude at Changhai (Long or King) Lake at 3,100m.

*NB: There is only one restaurant within the National Park that will cater to all the tourist groups in the park on any given day. It can therefore get very crowded and noisy.*

### Day 7: Nine Villages Valley/Chengdu

Most of the driving today is on sealed, winding mountain roads. This morning, drive approx. 3hrs (130km) to Huanglong. There is now a cable car here and it is possible to

take a 10mins ride both up and down, allowing more time for sightseeing at the top of the waterfall. The cost of the cable car is at your own expense. We usually spend approx. 2hrs sightseeing here, and this area is at an altitude of 3,500m. After lunch at a nearby restaurant, we transfer to the airport for the return flight to Chengdu.

### Day 8: Chengdu- Leshan

Drive approx. 2.5hrs (137km) to Leshan to see the Grand Buddha carving. From the bus park you will board a small cruise boat where you'll be able to view Buddha from the river. Spend approx. 2hrs at Leshan before driving back to Chengdu in the evening.

### Day 9: Chengdu/Xian

The Panda Reserve is located only 10km from the city centre. It is not guaranteed that you will be able to see the feeding of the younger pandas, as this only happens at the very start and end of each day. Sightseeing here involves approx. 1.5hrs on foot. There are electric carts offered by private vendors and can be organised at your cost. Afterwards, travel to the airport to catch your afternoon flight to Xian (flight duration 1hrs 15mins). Drive approx. 1hr to your hotel and check-in.

### Day 10: Xian

The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors is located more than 1hr drive outside of Xian. From the bus park to the Museum entrance is a 15min walk, usually without shade. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost. There is no electric cart available for the return from Museum exit to the bus park. Within the Museum area the warriors can be seen in three different "pits", which are active archaeological digs. The site is large and, towards the summer months, can be hot outside. Sightseeing here involves approx. 2.5hrs on foot. Visit the City Walls this afternoon, then the Local Guide will give you time to explore at your own pace. There are options here to hire a bicycle or an electric cart to drive along the length of the walls. These are offered by private vendors and can be organised at your own cost.

### Day 11: Xian/Beijing

The morning will be at your leisure before checking out of the hotel before midday. Sightseeing at the Little Wild Goose Pagoda and Shaanxi Museum involves approx. 2.5hrs on foot. Transfer back to the airport to catch an early evening flight to Beijing (flight duration 2hrs). Drive approx. 1hr to the hotel and check-in.

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**Day 12: Beijing**

Sightseeing in central Beijing involves approx. 4-5hrs on foot during the day to see Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. Visiting Mao's Mausoleum is subject to the length of the queue, as so many domestic tourists visit every day.

**Day 13: Beijing**

We have an early rise this morning to drive approx. 1.5hrs (50km) northwest of the city to the Juyongguan Pass section of the Great Wall. The aim of this is to avoid the crowds of tourists who will arrive later in the morning, and the heat of the day. Visiting the Wall involves walking from the bus to the first section. After your group has been given an introduction to the Great Wall's unique history you will have free time to explore the rest at your own pace. In the afternoon, drive approx. 1hr to the Summer Palace, also north of the city. The palace is set over an extensive park and man-made lake complex and there is approx. 2-3hrs on foot involved at this site. Return to the hotel.

**Day 14: Depart Beijing**

Transfer from your hotel to Beijing Airport for your flight to the UK. Depending on your chosen airline, some flights to the UK will arrive the same day, whereas others will arrive the following day.

**Land Only**

If you are travelling on a land only basis, then you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel in Shanghai on Day 2 and end the tour on Day 14 in Beijing, continuing as per your own arrangements.

Please refer to the Wendy Wu Tours brochure and/or website for details on departure dates, prices, itineraries, inclusions and tour extensions available as well as full booking conditions.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION****Before You Leave**

**Itinerary Changes** - The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in China are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your Local Guide or National Escort will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Roads in China have generally been improved over recent years, but some road construction and/or weather conditions may still lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day to day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

- If time permits during your Beijing touring you will be taken through the Beijing Olympic precinct to view and photograph such sites as the Beijing Olympic Stadium (Bird's Nest) and the Aquatic Centre (Water Cube). This would normally occur on the day you visit the Great Wall.

**Visas** - A visa is required for entry into China. A standard visa processing service is included in your tour cost. We will require your passport, completed visa application form, and 1 passport photo, taken within the last 6 months, to process your visa. We will require all this information 8 weeks prior to departure. As per our standard visa processing service, we will have your passport for at least 4 weeks. Any passports and visa applications that require an express 2 week service, or that are received in our office less than 6 weeks prior to departure will incur a £50 per passport express fee. In rare cases, you may be required to provide further information or documentation to the Chinese embassy and or be required to attend an interview at the embassy in London. If this is the case we will notify you as soon as possible.

Please note that if you intend to arrive more than 24 hours before your tour commences or intend to stay in China after your tour has ended and **you are NOT staying in a hotel** you will need to register with the local Public Security Bureau. If you are staying in a hotel, registration is done on your behalf as part of the check-in process.

**Vaccinations and Your Health** - We recommend that you contact either your local GP or a travel doctor for advice on vaccinations and travel health. [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk) is a comprehensive website that you may also find useful.

**Climate** - Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

**Insurance** - It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

**What to Expect on Tour**

**Development**- Although China is developing quickly; it still lacks international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. For example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade; concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in the UK. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety

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standards as in the UK. However, all of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense as well as refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort/Local Guides.

**Group Size** – All our group tours are guaranteed to run subject to a minimum number of 8 travellers and a National Escort will accompany each group of over 10. The maximum group size varies depending on the tour, but is usually no more than 28 passengers.

**Accommodation** - Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and China. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

**Altitude** - This itinerary visits the following areas of high altitude:

- Changhai (Long Lake) in the Nine Villages Valley. Sightseeing is at an altitude of 3,100m [10,170ft]. Please note that the place where you will be staying overnight is not at high altitude.
- Huanglong located between the Nine Villages Valley and Mao County. Sightseeing is at 3,500m [11,483ft].

**Meals** - All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from the groups' arrival until the day of departure. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout China.

Facilities throughout Mt. Huang and the Nine Villages Valley area cater for domestic tourists and this usually means the hotels serve few if any western dishes for breakfast. Chinese breakfast dishes include cold vegetable and pickle dishes, bean curd noodles, soups, congee (a rice porridge), steamed buns with pork or sweet red bean and green tea. Black tea and coffee are not always served, but usually can be requested. You may also be served fruit, a fried egg, or toast – although the bread tends to be very sweet and unlike the bread we have in the UK. Fresh milk is not generally available. If you cannot do without you could either bring milk and cereal supplies / or muesli bars from home, or purchase them in Shanghai. Other meals (lunch and dinner) could include dishes of local style, meaning there may be bones or fat in meat and fish.

Sichuan cuisine (or *Szechwan* as it is still known in the West) is distinguished by its use of ginger, chilli and the "Sichuan peppercorn" called fagara. Each meal will usually have some mild dishes for those who don't enjoy eating hot or spicy food, but please bear in mind that the majority of local specialty dishes will be hot. If your group finds there are not any mild dishes served, please inform your National Escort/Local Guide so that they may resolve the problem for the next meal. Please note that long driving distances or flight times, for example, may delay/alter your mealtime.

**Tipping** - As with most countries, tipping is a way of life in China. For our passengers' convenience we ask for a compulsory amount to be paid at the beginning of our group tours to cover tipping for guides, drivers, restaurant staff etc. Approximate tipping amounts can be found in our brochure and/or website; however exact tipping amounts will be stated in your final documentation pack.

**Optional Extras** - Our tours are planned to be as fully inclusive as possible. However, from time-to-time your National Escort or Local Guide may suggest optional tours/sightseeing in addition to the standard sightseeing planned for that city. Such options are at an additional cost, with prices ranging from 70 – 400 Yuan per person (payable in local currency).

If you do not wish to take part in any optional extras, you will have the option of enjoying some free time at leisure or to return to the hotel.

### **After Your Booking**

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form, help sheet, and a China travel guide. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approx. 2 weeks prior to departure, and will include a travel wallet, badge, lanyard, suggested packing list and a phrase book, along with your final itinerary and international tickets.

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