



Dreams of Nature

25 Days

Fully Inclusive from the UK

Discover the most beautiful sights in China on a tour dedicated to nature. From the swirling mists of Mt Huang and the dramatic pinnacles of Zhangjiajie to the impressive Huangguoshu Falls and the spectacular Li River. Complete your tour with a visit to the beautiful alpine scenery of Nine Villages Valley.

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

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 or see your preferred travel agent.

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.



Dreams of Nature - Active Paced Tour

These tours can involve long periods of sightseeing on foot, climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats, and are physically more demanding. Some easy trekking may be involved, as well as travel to remote areas and areas of high altitude, reaching up to 5,000m. These tours could involve long days of driving and overnight train journeys. These programmes require a good level of fitness.

It is essential that all customers recognise the demands of factors such as basic facilities and cultural differences they are likely to encounter in some areas. Participants need to have a good level of fitness and be able to walk over uneven surfaces without assistance. Sightseeing may involve walking and/or travelling over uneven roads for lengthy periods. There are places where you will need to climb up many steps. Our local guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for those who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

The more difficult aspects of this itinerary involve areas of high altitude and very long driving distances along mountain roads. You will be exploring quite remote areas of China, which are popular with Chinese domestic tourists, but not yet known by international tourists. Tourist infrastructure is not as developed as the more popularly visited east/north of China.

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. Sightseeing around the central city involves approx. 3-4hrs on foot. This afternoon includes easy sightseeing at the Bund and shopping time at Nanjing Road, involving approx. 2hrs on foot. This evening a tour introduction will be held in the hotel. 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

There is a full day of sightseeing around the central city today. Beware of your valuables while in the Old Town (Yuan Bazaar) as it is very crowded. Ground may be uneven in some parts.

Day 4: Shanghai/Mt Huang

Due to the high demand for hotel rooms in Shanghai, a late check-out is unlikely to be possible today, so you will more than likely have a morning at leisure before check-out before midday and lunch. This afternoon sightseeing at Xintiandi is easy; involving approx. 1hr on foot. The overnight train departs in the evening and takes approx. 10hrs (over 600km).

Day 5: Mt Huang

You will arrive at the train station in the early morning and transfer to a restaurant to have breakfast. Then transfer to your hotel in Tunxi (Mt Huang City), where you can leave your main luggage in storage, taking only an overnight bag to Mt Huang.

NB: you will need to carry your own overnight bag from the cable car to the hotel on Mt Huang, so pack light. You will need to take all medications, clothing, toiletries etc. that you will need. The weather here is very changeable and usually foggy, so you will need a rain jacket.

Transfer approx. 1.5hrs to the cable car station and catch the cable car to the summit (approx. 10mins ride). Walk from here to the hotel and leave your bags as rooms may not be

ready until midday. Sightseeing this afternoon involves some steps and approx. 3hrs on foot over uneven and damp surfaces. You will be able to explore at your own pace – anyone who is unable to keep up with the pace of the rest of the group will be able to return to the hotel.

Day 6: Mt. Huang/Tunxi (City)

Continue sightseeing around the summit, involving approx. 2hrs on foot. Return by cable car and coach to the Tunxi hotel for an overnight stay. After lunch, there will be some easy sightseeing in the city.

NB: Your tickets for cable car descent will be booked in advance to avoid the crowds however, particularly in bad weather; VIPs and government groups can take priority in the queue and occasionally cause delays.

Day 7: Mt Huang (Tunxi)/ Changsha

Drive approx. 3hrs (240km) on new expressway towards Hangzhou, having lunch at a restaurant outside the city. Transfer directly to Hangzhou airport. Fly to Changsha (flight duration 1hr) and transfer to your hotel.

Day 8: Changsha/Zhangjiajie

There will be an easy morning visit to the Mount Yuelu Scenic area; a region of natural beauty that is also home to a series of significant sites relating to China's cultural heritage. Explore the area on foot before boarding the bus for approx. 4.5 hr drive to Zhangjiajie. Upon arrival you will check-in to the hotel.

Days 9-10: Zhangjiajie

On Day 9 and 10, sightseeing involves the coach dropping off our group at the entrance to the National Park, and then exploring on foot. Anyone who is not able to keep up with the pace of the rest of the group will be able to return to the coach to rest. On day 9 there is approx. 4hrs and on day 10 approx. 2.5hrs, on foot over uneven ground and some steps.

Day 11: Zhangjiajie/Changsha

Return to Changsha today, a journey of approx. 4.5 hrs. Upon arrival you will check-in to the hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 12: Changsha/Guiyang

This morning is at leisure before checking out before midday. Transfer to the airport for the afternoon flight to Guiyang (1hr flight duration). Drive approx. 40mins to the hotel.

Day 13: Guiyang/Zhengyuan

This morning, transfer to the station for your scenic train ride (soft seat class) to Zhengyuan. This journey usually takes approx. 5hrs and arrives in time for a late lunch. Sightseeing this afternoon at Green Dragon Cave is easy.

Day 14: Tiexi day trip

Transfer approx. 30mins to Tiexi for this morning's sightseeing, involving approx. 3hrs walking. It can get very hot here so you will probably return to your hotel for lunch and to rest in the heat of the day. Late this afternoon, there will be easy sightseeing in the Ancient Town and the Fu Family's Grand Courtyard, involving approx. 2-3hrs on foot.

Day 15: Zhengyuan/Guiyang

Transfer approx. 40mins to Wuyang to enjoy a cruise on the river, before returning to Zhengyuan for lunch. Transfer to the station for your afternoon train to Guiyang. This train usually takes approx. 5hrs (270km) and is expected to arrive approx. 9pm, so a simple meal will be arranged for you on the train. Upon arrival in Guiyang, transfer approx. 30mins to the hotel and check-in.

Day 16: Guiyang/Guilin

Check-out from your hotel this morning then drive approx. 2.5hrs (170km) to Huangguoshu Waterfall and enjoy easy sightseeing here. Return to Guiyang and have dinner before transferring to the airport for your evening flight to Guilin (flight duration, 1hr). Upon arrival, transfer approx. 20mins to the hotel and check-in.

Day 17: Li River Cruise/Yangshuo

We take a 3hrs cruise from Guilin to the small town of Yangshuo. A simple meal will be served on-board (usually before midday at "Chinese lunch time"). These are small cruise boats, usually holding approx. 100 passengers; with an enclosed dining area on lower deck and an open viewing area on upper deck. As it is so popular, there are generally many boats at the docks – please be reassured that the cruise itself will be scenic and relaxing as the boats cruise past unspoilt countryside. Usually the boats depart at 9am, from a dock one hour's drive from your hotel. However when the river level is low they depart from further downstream which would mean a longer drive and an earlier check out from your hotel. Disembarking from the cruise, your Local Guide will walk with you to your hotel, approx. 15mins walk from the river. There are electric carts offered by private vendors to be organised at your own cost.

NB: You will be staying in Yangshuo for a single night before returning to Guilin. We recommend you leave your main luggage in safe storage at our hotel in Guilin; taking only a small, overnight style bag with you for Days 17 and 18.

Day 18: Yangshuo/Guilin

Easy sightseeing this morning and time at leisure, then drive approx. 1hr back to Guilin (65km) and check-in at the hotel.

Day 19: Guilin/Chengdu

Visit Reed Flute Caves this morning – take a short walk through the caves, along uneven paths and damp stairs. It usually takes approx. 1hr to complete the route, and is very cool inside. Visit Mt Diecai - a low, karst mountain. We usually spend approx. 1.5hrs here. Transfer to the airport for your afternoon flight to Chengdu (flight duration, 1.5hrs). Transfer approx. 20mins to the hotel and check-in.

Day 20: Chengdu/Nine Villages Valley

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

Day 21: 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 22: 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 the 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 23: Chengdu

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, drive approx. 1-2hrs to the Sanxingdui Museum in Guanghan, where we spend approx. 1.5hrs.

Day 24: Chengdu

Drive approx. 1.5hrs (55km) on another stretch of mountainous road visiting the Dujiangyan Irrigation Project on the way. Easy sightseeing here with approx. 1.5hrs of walking.

Day 25: Depart Chengdu/UK

Fly to the UK via Hong Kong, arriving home later the same day or the following morning depending on airline chosen.

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. On Day 25, you will checkout from your Chengdu hotel, and continue 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.

Traffic / Road Construction - Roads in this region have generally been improved over recent years, but road or weather conditions may still lengthen driving times. Road construction work in China usually encompasses an enormous section of road and for this reason the timings listed in this dossier are approximate.

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 GP or a travel doctor for advice on vaccinations and travel health. www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk is a comprehensive website that you may also find useful.

Climate - Please refer to our website 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 insurers 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 therefore tourist facilities. For example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade; concepts of personal responsibility are different to those in the UK. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety 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

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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. While all hotels are of local 3 star standards, or above, please note that Mt Huang has a very wet and foggy climate and this can cause bed linen to feel damp.

Meals - This itinerary visits areas which are popular with domestic Chinese tourists, but not yet known by international tourists. Facilities throughout Mt. Huang, Nine Villages Valley, Mao County and Zhangjiajie cater for Chinese people and this usually means the hotels serve few if any western dishes for breakfast.

Typical 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.

Rail Journeys - This trip involves one scenic train ride during the day in soft seat class and one overnight train journey between Shanghai and Tunxi which is in first class soft sleeper compartments where each cabin consists of four berths (sharing).

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]. Please note that the place where you will be staying overnight is not at high altitude.

If you have an existing respiratory, vascular or coronary condition, we recommend checking with your doctor before undertaking this itinerary.

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 100-300 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 etickets.

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