



Grand Tour of China

27 Days

Fully Inclusive from the UK

To get the most from one visit to China, look no further than the Grand Tour of China. This comprehensive itinerary includes all the main sights as well as allowing some time for relaxation. After the Wall and the Warriors, enjoy a four night cruise on the Yangtze River and relax in delightful Dali.

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.



China Delights Tour Grade - 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/Beijing

You will be met on day 2, at Beijing Airport in the arrivals hall by your Local Guide and/or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all the other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer to your hotel, approx. 1 hr drive. This evening, when the whole group has arrived, 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: Beijing

Sightseeing in central Beijing involves approx. 3-4 hrs on foot during the morning 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 4: Beijing

We rise early this morning to drive approx. 1.5hrs (50km) northwest of the city to 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 approx. 200m 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. Later, visit the Temple of Heaven – at least 2hrs on foot here.

Day 5: Beijing

There will be an opportunity to shop at the Silk Markets in central Beijing this morning before driving approx. 1.5 hrs to the Summer Palace in the north of the city. The palace is set over an extensive park and man-made lake complex and there is approx. 2-3 hrs of walking involved at this site.

Day 6: Beijing/Xian

You will have time at leisure before checking out of your hotel rooms at midday. There will be approx. 1.5hrs at the calligraphy markets after which, you will be transferred to Beijing Railway Station and board the overnight sleeper train to Xian – usually a 12hr journey (over 1,200 km).

Day 7: Xian

You will arrive at Xian station very early this morning and transfer to your hotel, where you can have breakfast and freshen up. Sightseeing at the Little Wild Goose Pagoda, Shanxi Museum and Muslim Quarter involves at least 2.5 hrs

on foot. Be aware of your valuables whilst browsing the Muslim Quarter.

NB: Check-out time in China is midday so your group's rooms are unlikely to be available. This morning you will commence sightseeing and return to hotel later to check-in.

Day 8: Xian

The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors is located just over 1 hr drive outside of Xian. From the bus park to the Museum entrance is an approx. 15 min walk, usually without any 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 the Museum exit to Bus Park. Within the Museum area the warriors can be seen in 3 different "pits", which are active archaeological digs. The site is large and, towards the summer months, can be hot outside. Sightseeing here involves 2.5hrs on foot. This afternoon we visit the City Walls. 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 9: Xian/Yangtze

Transfer approx. 1hr, to the airport for your flight to Wuhan (flight duration 1hr 10 min). Then transfer approx. 4-5hrs from Wuhan airport to the docks, located downstream from the Three Gorges Dam. Board the ship and check-in to your cabin for the next 4 nights.

NB: the Yangtze section of your itinerary, from Day 9 to 13 will not be confirmed until after you commence your tour. Your Local Guide will do his/her utmost to keep you informed of all changes but cannot guarantee against delays or – in rare cases – cancellations of sections of your itinerary. This is because vessels are regulated by the Yangtze River Authority and the captain of each cruise ship is unable to confirm a final itinerary until shortly before departure.

Here is a rough guideline to the cruise schedule:

Day 10: Yangtze River Cruise

Shore excursion to the site of Three Gorges Dam approx. 4hrs off ship: Disembark and drive approx. 20 mins to the Three Gorges Dam. Coach will drive through the construction areas (they are NOT allowed to stop for photos) and drop you off at the viewing area above the locks. There is a small museum

and lookout point. Cruise through the Xiling Gorge. Spend your 2nd night on board with Captain's Dinner.

Day 11: Yangtze River Cruise

Cruise through the Wu Gorge. Today, you will visit either the Lesser Three Gorges OR Shennong Stream.

Shore excursion at Lesser Three Gorges involves approx. 2-3hrs off ship: Transfer between the ship and small ferry at Wushan, then travel up the Daning River to see the remains of an ancient plank walkway and suspended coffin and enjoy the undisturbed natural scenery.

Shore excursion at the Shennong Stream involves approx. 3hrs off ship: Transfer between the ship and small ferry, to travel further up the Shenglong tributary approx. 20 mins. Then transfer from the ferry onto small peapod rowboats, to experience the tradition of the 'boatmen' or 'trackers'. Spend your 3rd night on board.

Day 12: Yangtze River Cruise

Cruise through the Qutang Gorge. Today, you will visit either Shibaozhai Temple on the south bank, or Fengdu on the north bank.

Shore excursion to Shibaozhai Temple involves approx. 2hrs off ship: This small temple was built at the top of a 9 storey pavilion clinging to the sheer south bank near Qutang Gorge. Disembark from ship to dock close to the pavilion's entrance. Sightseeing here involves viewing the 9 storeys inside the building.

Shore excursion to Fengdu "Ghost City" involves approx. 2hrs off ship: The town of Fengdu was relocated across to the south bank for the Three Gorges Dam Project. The Fengdu "Ghost City" Temple lies on the steep hill above the demolished town. Disembark via a pontoon and walkway. There is a free passenger 'cart' which takes you up to the middle area of the temple complex. It can carry 10-12 people up at a time and takes about 3-5 minutes each way. You will then need to walk the rest of the way up. There are about 150-200 large steps, without handrails. Spend your 4th night on board with Captain's Farewell Dinner.

NB: The passenger 'cart' is a temporary measure until the construction of an elevator from the port to Fengdu is complete.

Day 13: Chongqing/Kunming

Check-out of cabins/ship early this morning and disembark from ship in Chongqing. Visit Chongqing Zoo's new Panda House. Then transfer directly to the airport to catch an afternoon flight to Kunming (flight duration 1hr 40mins). Check-in for 2 nights.

Day 14: Kunming

Drive 1.5hrs (120 km) to the Stone Forest. Sightseeing here involves approx. 3.5 hrs on foot along stone paths to view the maze of rock pinnacles, lake and ponds. Return to Kunming approx. 1.5 hrs.

Day 15: Kunming/Dali

Drive approx. 7hrs to Dali and have lunch en route. Transfer to your hotel and check-in for the next 2 nights.

Day 16: Dali

Sightseeing around the Dali Ancient Quarter and surrounding countryside is relaxed, involving approx. 3hrs on foot.

Day 17: Dali/Kunming

Enjoy some leisurely sightseeing in Xizhou Village before driving back to Kunming, approx. 5 hrs. Check-in to your hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 18: Kunming/Guilin

You will have some time at leisure before checking out of your hotel around midday. Enjoy some easy sightseeing then transfer 10mins drive) to the airport for your evening flight to Guilin (flight duration 1hr). Transfer to the hotel and check-in for an overnight stay.

Day 19: Guilin/Li River Cruise/ Yangshuo.

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 bag with you for days 19 & 20.

We take a 3hr 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, 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 1hr 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. 15 min walk from the river. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost.

Day 20: Yangshuo/Guilin

The drive back to Guilin takes approx. 1 hr (65km). Visit Mt Diecai; a low, karst mountain with 450 steps. We usually spend 1.5hrs here. Continue to your hotel and check-in.

Day 21: Guilin/Shanghai

Visit the Reed Flute Caves. We take a short walk through the caves, sometimes along damp paths and stairs. It usually takes about 1 hr to complete the route and is very cool inside. This afternoon, transfer to the airport for your flight to Shanghai (flight duration 2 hrs). Transfer (20 mins drive) to your hotel and check-in for two nights.

Day 22: Shanghai

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing in central Shanghai, involving 3-4 hrs on foot. Commence touring at the Old Town (Yuan Bazaar) where there are cobbled, uneven streets. Be aware of your valuables here as the area is very crowded. Touring is

followed by a relaxing walk in Yu Gardens, the Shanghai Museum, People's Square and The Bund.

Day 23: Shanghai/Suzhou

Drive for approx. 3 hrs (90km) to Suzhou. This road is often subject to heavy traffic or road construction. There will be leisurely sightseeing around Suzhou.

Day 24: Suzhou/Hangzhou

This morning we cruise on the Grand Canal, to see a section of the ancient waterway. Travel by coach for approx. 3-4hrs (120km) to Hangzhou, and visit local markets (easy walking) before checking into your hotel for two nights.

Day 25: Hangzhou

Lingyin Temple (Temple of Inspired Seclusion) is one of the largest and most significant temples in southern China so it can get crowded with domestic tourists, particularly during weekends and holidays. There will be approx. 2 hrs of sightseeing on foot at this site. Adjacent to the temple entrance is Feilai Fen – a hill covered in Buddhist carvings and statues. If you wish to see these, please be aware that the stone path is not level in parts.

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.
- Yangtze River. Please note that all sections of the itinerary for the Yangtze River Cruise are especially subject to change. The movement of each vessel along the Yangtze is regulated by the Government's Yangtze River Authority (YRA). The river's rapid flow, the narrowness of her gorges and the recent increase in numbers of passengers means that the timetables are under some pressure. The YRA allocates times for access to mooring points, dis/embarkation docks and passage through the gorges. This means that the captain of each cruise ship is unable to confirm a final itinerary until shortly before departure (usually 24 hrs prior). This can affect both the time and location where you dis/embark your cruise ship. Your National Escort or Local Guide will explain any such changes to you as soon as they are informed by the cruise operator.

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 is a comprehensive website that you may also find useful.

Day 26: Hangzhou/Shanghai

Drive to Shanghai (approx. 4hrs). Sightseeing in Xintiandi today involves approx. 2hrs on foot. Transfer to your hotel to check-in.

Day 27: Depart Shanghai

Transfer from your hotel to Pudong International 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. On Day 27, you will checkout from your Beijing 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.

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 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 to China are guaranteed to run subject to a minimum 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.

Rail Journeys - This tour involves one overnight train journey which are in first class soft sleeper compartments where each cabin consists of four berths (sharing).

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.

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.

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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