



Grand Yangtze

19 Days

Fully Inclusive from the UK

Cruise the mighty Yangtze River in style on board the five-star Victoria Empress. Along the way explore the former imperial capital of Nanjing and beautiful Mt Huang before cruising through the dramatic Three Gorges. There is also plenty of time to relax and admire the spectacular scenery from your own private balcony.

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.



Grand Yangtze - Comfortable Paced Tour

These tours are accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. They involve sightseeing on foot, some climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats throughout the tour.

This is the easiest pace of tour which Wendy Wu Tours offers in China. Anyone with a reasonable 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.

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. 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. There is no sightseeing today.

Day 3: Shanghai

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing in central Shanghai, involving approx. 3-4hrs on foot. Beware of your valuables while in the Old Town (Yuan Bazaar) as it is very crowded.

Day 4: Yangtze River Cruise

This morning is at your leisure, before checking out from the hotel at midday. Transfer approx. 1hr to a 'Victoria' cruise ship, sailing from the dock at Wusong. Board the ship and check-in to your cabin for the next 8 nights. The ship will sail sometime tonight. Please note, from 2012, passengers will board the bullet train directly to Nanjing before boarding the cruise.

NB: The Yangtze section of your itinerary, from Day 4-12 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 5: Yangtze River Cruise

Shore excursion to Nanjing (approx. 4hrs off ship): Easy sightseeing in central Nanjing.

Day 6: Yangtze River Cruise

Shore excursion to Mt Huang spending the whole day off ship: Disembark and drive approx. 2hrs to Mt Huang. The cable car ride is 10mins. Weather is very changeable and usually foggy, so bring a rain jacket today. Sightseeing involves walking up steps and approx. 3hrs sightseeing on foot.

Day 7: Yangtze Cruise

Shore excursion to Wuhan (approx. 4hrs off ship): Easy sightseeing in central Wuhan.

Day 8: Yangtze River Cruise

Cruise towards Yichang. No shore excursion today.

Day 9: Yangtze Cruise

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

Day 10: Yangtze River Cruise

Cruise through the Wu Gorge. Today, you will visit either the Lesser Three Gorges at Daning River 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 the small peapod rowboats, to experience the tradition of the 'boatmen' or 'trackers'.

Day 11: 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.

Day 12: Chongqing/Chengdu

Check-out of cabins/ship early this morning and disembark from ship in Chongqing. Drive approx. 4-5hrs to Chengdu, arriving in the early afternoon and check-in to the hotel.

Day 13: 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 start and end of each day. Sightseeing involves approx. 1.5hrs on foot. There are electric carts offered by private vendors and these can be organised at your cost. Drive approx. 30mins to the airport for an afternoon flight to Xian (flight duration 1.5hrs). Drive approx. 1hr to your hotel and check-in.

Day 14: 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 15mins 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 Museum exit to 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. To visit the City Walls this afternoon you will need to walk up onto the wall, 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 15: Xian/Beijing

Transfer to the airport to catch morning flight to Beijing (flight duration 2hrs). Drive approx. 1hr to the Temple of Heaven – sightseeing here involves approx. 2hrs on foot. Transfer to hotel and check-in this afternoon.

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.

- 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/embarcation 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 24hrs 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.
- 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.

Day 16: Beijing

Sightseeing in central Beijing involves approx. 3-4hrs sightseeing 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 17: Beijing

We have an early rise this morning to drive approx. 1.5hrs (50 km) 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 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.

Day 18: Depart Beijing

Transfer from your hotel to Beijing Airport for your overnight flight to the UK. Depending on your chosen airline, you may arrive home later today or tomorrow.

Day 19: UK

Arrive home.

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 18, 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.

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.

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 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 assure that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Meals - 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. 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 you find 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

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.

Book now on **0844 499 3899** visit www.wendywutours.co.uk or see your preferred travel agent.

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.

Last Updated June 2011