



Treasures of Vietnam and China

Treasures of Vietnam & China
27 Days
Fully Inclusive from the UK

Combine the history of Saigon and the charm of Hoi An with the delights of Hanoi and Hue in Vietnam before crossing the border into China. Here, we visit bustling Beijing, cosmopolitan Shanghai, picturesque Guilin and historic Xian. This itinerary is rich in the beauty, history and culture of the Orient.

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

Vietnam and China continue 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 Vietnam and China requires patience and potential delays are to be expected due to standards of service. There is a low level of English spoken throughout Vietnam and 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.

Treasures of Vietnam and China - 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.

The more difficult aspects of this itinerary include the day trip to the Mekong Delta (Vietnam). Passengers must be able to get on/off the boat sometimes without assistance or handrails.

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

Days 1-2: UK/Saigon

On day 2, you will be met at Saigon 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. 45mins to your hotel and check-in to your rooms. There is no sightseeing today. A tour introduction will be held in the hotel later today or tomorrow morning. 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 Vietnam and China.

Day 3: Saigon

Sightseeing in downtown Saigon and the Cholon district involves approx. 4hrs on foot over the whole day. Watch your valuables while in the market area. There are some graphic images in the War Remnants Museum, which some people may find confronting.

Day 4: Mekong Delta day trip

We have an early rise this morning to drive approx. 2hrs (75kms) to the city of My Tho. You will travel by motorised, wooden boat between the islands and perhaps smaller, paddle boats in the canals. Sightseeing involves crossing from one small boat to another to embark/disembark and approx. 1hr on foot across the islands. Approx. 2hrs later, return to the docks, have lunch and drive back to Saigon.

Day 5: Cu Chi Tunnels/Tay Ninh day trip

Remember to take insect repellent today as mosquitoes are more common in the Cu Chi district. Transfer approx. 2hrs (75km) to Cu Chi; an outer suburb of Ho Chi Minh City. Sightseeing here involves approx. 2hrs walking on uneven paths through the bush and, if you choose, crawling through some of the tunnels. It is important to follow your Guide's directions to leave on time as to arrive at Tay Ninh in time to see midday service. Transfer approx. 1.5hrs (60km) to Tay Ninh to the 'Holy See' and watch most of the Cao Dai service. Then transfer approx. 10mins to have lunch - the meal is simple but this is the only suitable restaurant in the area. Transfer approx. 3hrs (100km) back to Saigon.

N.B: At the Cu Chi Tunnels you will be given the opportunity to shoot a range of guns (example AK47, M16). If you decide to do this, please be aware that the level of noise is extremely high and although ear muffs are available, they may not

provide the level of protection required. It is recommended you bring ear plugs from home if you would like to participate.

Day 6: Saigon/Hoi An

Transfer to the airport for your morning flight to Danang (flight duration 1hr); the closest airport to Hoi An. There will be easy sightseeing in Danang at the Cham Museum and China Beach. Whilst at Marble Mountains there are many uneven stone steps to the top. If you choose not to participate in this activity, you will need to remain with the coach. Afterwards transfer approx. 45mins to the hotel in Hoi An.

Day 7: Hoi An

There will be approx. 2hrs of sightseeing on foot in Hoi An Old Town, then enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

Day 8: Hoi An

The whole day is at leisure.

Day 9: Hoi An/Hue

Drive approx. 3hrs (110km) over the Hai Van (*Cloudy*) Pass north to Hue. This is a winding, scenic road along the coast. In Hue, sightseeing at the Citadel involves approx. 1.5hrs of walking through the palace complex – it can get very hot here and sometimes it rains in the afternoon, so you may need sun and/or rain protection. There are steps that need to be navigated at Tu Duc Tomb, some without handrails. If you choose to not complete this activity– you will be able to wait with the driver/coach, or explore as far as you are able then return to the parked coach on your own. Afterwards, drive approx. 5mins to the hotel and check-in.

Day 10: Hue/Hanoi

This morning there will be easy sightseeing around Hue, involving approx. 2hrs sightseeing on foot. There are steps that need to be navigated at the Thien Mu Pagoda, some without handrails. If you choose to not complete this activity you will be able to wait with the driver/coach, or explore as far as you are able then return to the parked coach on your own. Transfer approx. 30mins to the airport for an afternoon flight to Hanoi (flight duration is 1hr). Upon arrival in Hanoi, transfer approx. 1hr to the hotel and check-in.

NB: Your Local Guide will confirm the menu for tomorrow's seafood lunch on board the junk boat, so please mention any food allergies or dislikes to them again sometime today.

Day 11: Halong Bay day trip

We have an early rise this morning to drive approx. 3.5hrs (170km) to Halong City and port, including a 20mins rest stop. As it is so popular, there are usually a crowd of boats at the docks – please be reassured that the cruise itself will be scenic and relaxing. Boarding your junk boat could involve navigating your way over and through other boats, moored between it and the dock – sometimes without handrails or assistance from staff. The junk boats have been recently built and modelled on the traditional 'junk' which was both home and working vessel for fishermen in the Orient for centuries. They usually hold about 20 dining (or 18 max for overnight) passengers, have an enclosed dining area and open deck on the upper deck. We take a 4hr cruise including lunch on-board, return to the dock and drive back to Hanoi.

Day 12: Hanoi

Both men and women must dress respectfully for the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, with covered shoulders and knees. Sightseeing in central Hanoi will take approx. 4hrs. When visiting the Mausoleum you must be quiet, show respect and will not be allowed to carry cameras, mobile phones, etc. Usually your Local Guide will offer to hold these for you.

Day 13: Hanoi/Kunming

There is a morning of easy sightseeing followed by lunch. Afterwards transfer to the airport for a late afternoon flight to Kunming (flight duration, 4hrs). On arrival in Kunming, transfer approx. 30mins to the hotel and check-in.

Day 14: Kunming

Drive approx. 1.5hrs (120km) to the Stone Forest. Sightseeing here involves approx. 3.5hrs on foot, through the various paths to view the maze of rock pinnacles, lake and ponds. After lunch, return to Kunming.

Day 15: Kunming/Guilin

Check-out from hotel before midday. You will have time at leisure before your transfer to the airport for an early evening flight to Guilin (flight duration 1hr). Transfer to your hotel and check-in for an overnight stay.

Day 16: 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 style bag with you for Days 16 and 17.

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, 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 usually 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 our 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. Private vendors offer electric carts which can be organised at your own cost.

Day 17: Yangshuo/Guilin

Check-out from hotel before midday. You will have time at leisure before travelling back to Guilin. Drive approx. 30mins (22km) to the small town of Daxu – sightseeing here involves walking leisurely for approx. 1hr. Drive approx. 30mins back to Guilin and check-in at the hotel.

Day 18: Guilin/Xian

This morning is at leisure before check-out from the hotel before midday. Transfer approx. 15mins to the Seven Star Caves – take a short walk through the caves. It usually takes approx. 1hr to complete the route, and it is very cool inside. Transfer a short distance to Mt Diecai; a low, karst mountain with steps. We usually spend 1.5hrs here. Continue to the airport for an evening flight to Xian (flight duration 1.75hrs). Drive approx. 1hr to the hotel and check-in.

Day 19: 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 the Museum exit to the 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 approx. 2.5hrs on foot. When visiting the City Walls this afternoon you will need to walk up the stairs 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 20: Xian/Beijing

Sightseeing this morning involves approx. 2.5hrs walking. Beware of your valuables while in the Muslim Quarter's alley market stalls. The afternoon will be at leisure before transferring to the train station. Your overnight train departs from Xian Station in the evening. This journey usually takes 12hrs (over 1,200 kms).

Day 21 Beijing

You will arrive at Beijing West Train Station and transfer approx. 45mins to your hotel, where you can have breakfast and freshen up. This morning, sightseeing is at 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. 2-3hrs sightseeing on foot involved here.

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

Day 22: Beijing

Sightseeing in central Beijing involves approx. 3-4hrs 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 23: 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 a steep path of 200 metres 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. This afternoon, visit the Temple of Heaven – there will be approx. 2hrs sightseeing on foot involved here.

Day 24: Beijing/Shanghai

Transfer to the airport for a morning flight to Shanghai (flight duration 1.75hrs). Transfer approx. 50mins to the hotel and check-in.

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 Vietnam and 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 Vietnam and China have generally been improved over recent years, but some road construction and/or weather conditions may still lengthen the driving times. Road construction work in Vietnam and China usually encompasses a large section of road. For this reason, the timings listed in this dossier are approximate.

Visas – 2 visas are required for entry into Vietnam and China. A standard visa processing service, for both countries, 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.

In rare cases you may be required to provide further information or documentation to the Chinese/Vietnamese 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.

China Visa only: 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.

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

Day 25: Shanghai

A very 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 26: Shanghai

Today's agenda involves more sightseeing around Shanghai city centre, approx. 3hrs on foot.

Day 27: Depart Shanghai

Transfer from your hotel to Shanghai's 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 Saigon on Day 2. On Day 26, you will checkout from your Shanghai 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.

What to Expect on Tour

Development - Although Vietnam and China are developing quickly, they still lack 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 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 is in first class soft sleeper compartments where each cabin consists of four berths (sharing).

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 Indochina.

Tipping - As with most countries, tipping is a way of life in Vietnam and 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. As this tour travels through two countries, part of the tipping amount will be given to your Vietnamese National Escort and the remainder will be given to your Chinese National Escort.

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 US\$20-US\$50 per person in Vietnam and 100-300 Yuan in China (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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