



# Ancient China

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**18 Days**

**Fully Inclusive from the UK**

Combine Beijing and Shanghai with a visit to four ancient imperial capitals as well as the wonderfully preserved UNESCO listed town of Pinyao. Discover the roots of Chinese Buddhism at Wutaishan, the Longmen Grottoes in Luoyang and the Hanging Monastery in Datong. We also witness a Kung Fu demonstration by the famous Shaolin Monks.

### 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.

## Ancient 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 an overnight train journeys.

Anyone with a good level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. Of course your national escort/local guides will 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 at Beijing 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 (1 hr drive) to your hotel. This evening, when the whole group has arrived, a tour introduction will be held in the hotel. Food and drinks will not be 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: Beijing

Sightseeing in central Beijing involves 3-4 hrs on foot during the morning to see Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. The sightseeing this afternoon is at an easy pace in Hutong district where you can enjoy a rickshaw ride. In the evening, dine on the Beijing Delicacy, Peking Duck and watch a Peking Opera performance.

### Day 4: Beijing

You have an early rise this morning to drive 2 hrs (60 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. Your visit here involves walking a steep path of 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 a Jade Museum on the Great Wall. Afterwards sightseeing 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 1.5-2 hrs sightseeing on foot involved at this site.

### Day 5: Beijing

This morning, drive 1 hour to the Temple of Heaven involves approx. 1 hr on foot. This afternoon spend 1-2 hrs at the Panjiayuan antique market where you can search for relics of China's past.

### Day 6: Beijing to Datong

Transfer to Beijing West Railway Station. Your day train departs in the late morning and takes approx. 6.5 hrs (over 360km). Arrive in Datong in the evening and transfer to the hotel for check-in. There is no sightseeing today.

### Day 7: Datong to Wutaishan

Drive 40 mins (approx. 25km) to Yungang Caves. Touring at the caves involves some steps and walking approx. 1km. You will spend 2 hrs here before lunch. Drive 1 hr and 45 mins (approx. 80km) on a winding mountainous road to the Hanging Monastery, where sightseeing involves walking for around 1 hr. Continue driving another 4 hrs to Wutaishan and check into your hotel.

#### **Day 8: Wutaishan to Taiyuan**

This morning visit Wutaishan. Sightseeing here involves walking (with some steps) to see some of the temples and views along the way. Temples include Bodhisattva Summit Temple and Xiantong Temple. This afternoon, drive 4.5 hrs (240km) to Taiyuan, arriving in the late afternoon. If time permits, there will be easy sightseeing at the Ming Dynasty Twin Pagoda Temple.

#### **Day 9: Taiyuan to Pingyao**

This morning enjoy sightseeing around Taiyuan, involving around 3 hrs on foot. Sightseeing here will include the Provincial Museum, the Jin Ci Temple and the Shuanglin Temple. Later, drive 2 hrs (100km) to Pingyao. On the outskirts of Pingyao Old Town, you will need to transfer to an 'environmental vehicle' electric cart to transfer to your hotel.

#### **Day 10: Pingyao to Xian**

Sightseeing through different historic sites within the Old Town area involves at least 4 hrs of easy walking, with a break for lunch. Sightseeing here will include visiting the Ancient City Walls built in the Zhou Dynasty (877-728BC), the Rishengchang Financial House and the Yamen. Transfer to Pingyao Railway Station for your bullet train to Xian (3 hrs). Transfer to your hotel in Xian on arrival.

#### **Day 11: Xian**

The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses is located more than a 1 hr drive outside of Xian. From the bus park to the museum entrance is a 15 min walk. 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 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. 2.5 hrs on foot. Later visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition before visiting the City Wall. 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 wall. These are offered by private vendors and can be organised at your own expense.

Tonight dine on a Shui Jiao Dumpling Meal and watch a Tang Dynasty Dance show.

#### **Day 12: Xian**

Sightseeing today is at the Little Wild Goose Pagoda and Shaanxi Provincial Museum and involves at least 2.5 hrs on foot. Be mindful of your valuables while in the Muslim Quarter's alley market stalls as it can be very busy here.

#### **Day 13: Xian to Luoyang**

Transfer to Xian Railway Station. Your bullet train departs in the morning and the journey takes approximately 2 hours. Upon arrival in Luoyang, transfer to your hotel and check-in. This afternoon drive 40 minutes (approximately 13km) to the Longman Grottoes. Sightseeing here involves some uneven steps and walking for approximately 2 hours.

#### **Day 14: Luoyang to Zhengzhou**

Drive for 2 hours (80km) to the Shaolin Temple and Pagoda Forests where you will spend approximately 3 hours to explore, of which at least 2.5 hours are on foot. Here you will watch a Kung Fu Demonstration by the famous Shaolin Monks. Drive 3 hours (approximately 120km) to Zhengzhou where you will stay overnight.

#### **Day 15: Zhengzhou to Shanghai**

Visit the Yellow River Museum which is located within the city (total 2 hours to visit including driving). Then drive 1 hour (approximately 30km) to a lookout over the Yellow River for about 1 hour. Transfer to Zhengzhou Airport and board your flight to Shanghai (flight duration is 1.5 hours).

#### **Day 16: Shanghai**

There is easy sightseeing around the centre of the city today, involving at least 3-4 hrs on foot. Sightseeing includes the Yu Gardens, the Old Town and the Shanghai Museum. Later walk along the Bund and visit a traditional Silk Museum. In the evening enjoy a Chinese Acrobatics show.

#### **Day 17: Shanghai**

Sightseeing today involves exploring the Xintiandi area, famous for its 1920's Shikumen buildings (approx. 2hrs on foot). This evening cruise the Huangpu River and enjoy a traditional Shanghai meal.

#### **Day 18: Depart Shanghai**

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to the airport, according to the departure time of your international flight.

#### **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 Beijing on Day 2. On Day 18, 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.

## 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 24hrs 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 hr 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 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/Luggage** - This trip involves 3 scenic train ride (soft seat class). Facilities on board are basic with both Western-style and Asian-style toilets. Chinese bullet trains are now clean and efficient. Please note that bullet trains do not have a separate luggage compartment, so you will need to take your luggage with you on to the train.

**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** - This itinerary visits areas which are popular with domestic Chinese tourists, but not yet known by international tourists. Facilities from Datong to Pingyao typically cater for Chinese people and this could mean 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. Please note that long driving distances or flight times, for example, may delay/alter your mealtime.

**Personal Expenses**- You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of £150 per week should be sufficient; however for those that can't resist a bargain, consider allocating a higher amount.

**Exchanging cash** - It is highly recommended that when travelling to cities outside of Beijing and Shanghai that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money. US dollars are more widely acceptable in all regions of the country, whereas other currencies including the British Pound may not be as available in cities where tourism is still developing.

**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 and a help sheet. 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.