



China Highlights

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23 Days

Fully Inclusive from the UK

Our best value tour to China explores the famous sights of this fascinating land as well as many of its hidden treasures. See historic cities, fabulous landscapes and the famous panda reserve in Chengdu. Also discover the ancient Buddhist sites at Leshan and Dazu as well as the beautiful cities of Suzhou and Hangzhou.

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.

China Highlights - 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 walking.

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/Shanghai

You will be met at Shanghai's Pudong 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 hour drive) to your hotel. This evening, 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.

Day 3: Shanghai:

Today we visit the Shanghai Museum and explore the restored Xintiandi area with its unique 1920s style Shikumen buildings. This evening we will enjoy traditional Shanghai cuisine for dinner.

Day 4: Shanghai:

Sightseeing today starts in the Old Town (Yuan Bazaar) of Shanghai, where cobbled streets are lined with traditional shops selling herbal medicines, handicrafts, Chinese tea and a variety of tantalising snacks. We take a relaxing walk through moon gates and latticed pavilions in the peaceful Yu Gardens, the inspiration for willow patterned china. We will then visit the historical riverfront area known as the Bund, which is recognised as Shanghai's former 'Wall Street' and home to an impressive collection of buildings from the early trade houses of the 1850s to the glamorous Art Deco modernism of the 1920s.

Afterwards we will have time to explore the bustling shops of Nanjing Road, the first street in Shanghai which stretches from the Bund. Nowadays one section has been turned into a mall and closed to traffic enabling over one million visitors every weekend!

In the evening we will enjoy a cruise on the spectacular Huangpu River to view the picturesque nightscape of this exciting city.

Day 5: Shanghai to Suzhou:

Drive for approx. 2 hrs (90km) to Suzhou. This section of road is often subject to heavy traffic or road construction. Visit two of the finest oriental gardens: the Humble Administrator's Garden and the Master of the Nets Garden, a local silk mill still in operation today.

Day 6: Suzhou to Wuzhen to Hangzhou

This morning, cruise on the Grand Canal to view a section of this ancient waterway. Drive 1-2hrs to Wuzhen for a leisurely tour on foot. Afterwards, drive 2 to 3hrs (120km) on a new expressway to Hangzhou and check into your hotel for two nights.

Day 7: 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 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, you must be aware that

the stone path is quite uneven in parts so care must be taken.

Day 8: Hangzhou – Guilin

This morning we will visit one of the lush tea farms which lie just outside Hangzhou. Some of the finest and well-known tea in all of China is grown here among the rolling hills of Hangzhou. If we are lucky, we will be able to see the locals picking the tea as they have for centuries past. While we are here we can enjoy oriental tea tasting.

This afternoon we will fly to one of China's most stunning cities, Guilin, where upon arrival we will transfer to our hotel. Founded in the Qin Dynasty, Guilin is renowned for the unique beauty of the mountains that fringe the small city. It developed as a trading town due to the building of the Ling Canal, which links the important Pearl and Yangtze river systems.

Days 9- 10: Guilin to Yangshuo

You will take a 3 hour leisurely cruise from Guilin to the small town of Yangshuo. These are small cruise boats, usually holding approx. 100 passengers; with an enclosed dining area on the lower deck and an open viewing area on the 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 the dock located a 1 hour 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. a 15 minute walk from the river. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost.

Spend the following morning touring around Yangshuo's beautiful countryside. The afternoon is at leisure and there are many activities available (arranged locally and at extra cost) including cycling, rafting and walking or you may choose to relax in the town. In the evening see cormorant fishermen.

NB: For the Cormorant Fishing, if it is raining and the water levels are raised, customers may view the show from the river banks instead or the show may even be cancelled.

Day 11: Guilin to Kunming

After checking out from your hotel, visit the Reed Flute Caves. Take a short walk through the caves, sometimes along damp paths and stairs. It usually takes about 1 hour to complete the route, and is very cool inside. Transfer to the airport for your afternoon flight to Kunming (flight duration 1hr 15mins). Transfer to your hotel and check-in for two nights.

Day 12: Kunming

Drive 1.5 hrs (100km) to the Stone Forest. Sightseeing here is approx. 2.5 hrs on stone paths to view the maze of rock

pinnacles, lake and ponds. After lunch drive back to Kunming.

Day 13: Kunming to Chongqing

After checking out from your hotel this morning, visit the Western Hills close to the lake and city centre. Walk from the bus park to the entrance gate. You will spend up to 2 hrs here before being transferred to the airport. The flight to Chongqing departs in the late afternoon (flight duration 1 hour). Upon arrival, transfer (1 hour drive) to your Chongqing hotel and check-in for a one night stay.

Day 14: Chongqing – Dazu

Visit Ciqikou Porcelain town this morning and later drive 2.5 hrs (140km) to Dazu. You will spend the day here during which you will visit the frescoes at Beishan (North Hill). Stay overnight in Dazu.

Day 15: Dazu to Chengdu

This morning we visit the Baoding Stone, carvings which are often compared to other great Buddhist cave sculptures at Dunhuang, Luoyang and Datong. These sculptures date from the Tang Dynasty (9th Century) to the Song Dynasty (13th Century) where thousands of exquisitely carved and painted figures form a graceful horseshoe around the mountainside. Tour here for 2-3hrs.

This afternoon we continue to Chengdu. As the capital of Sichuan Province, Chengdu is one of the most affluent rural areas in China and has developed into a large and modern city. Yet within the crooked backstreets you will find all the charms of old China. Wander among the traditional wooden houses and bustling street markets, through the aroma of Sichuan spices and the chatter of old men walking with their caged birds.

For our dinner this evening we will enjoy sumptuous Sichuan cuisine.

Day 16: Chengdu – Leshan

Drive 2.5 hrs (138km) to Leshan to see the Grand Buddha of Leshan. From the bus park, you will walk to board the small cruise boat to view Buddha from the river. Spend at least 1 hour at Leshan before driving back to Chengdu in the evening.

Day 17: Chengdu to Xian

This morning you will visit to the famous Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. Including a protected wilderness and breeding area, the base also has a museum and research facility which was opened to the public in 1995. The panda has become one of the most adored animals in China and noted as the cute and memorable mascot for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). We will explore the grounds with a chance to see some of the animals up close and learn more about this region's endangered species. We also visit a local bamboo park. Later fly to Xian (approx. 1hr 20 minutes). This evening watch a traditional Tang Dynasty dance show and dine on Shui Jiao dumplings.

Day 18: Xian

The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses is located more than a 1 hour drive outside of Xian. From the bus park to the museum entrance is a 15 minute 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 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. 2.5 hrs on foot. This afternoon you will visit 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.

On our return to Xian we stop at the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition where replicas of the warriors are made.

Day 19: Xian to Beijing

You will have time at leisure before checking out of your hotel room before midday. Sightseeing at the Shaanxi Museum, Little Wild Goose Pagoda and Muslim Quarter involves approx. 2.5 hrs of easy walking. Take care of your valuables while in the Muslim Quarter's market stalls. This evening, board the overnight sleeper train to Beijing – usually a 12 hour journey (1,300km). Cabins are first-class soft sleeper compartments where each cabin consists of 4 shared berths. Wear comfortable clothes on board to sleep in on the train and you may wish to take some snacks.

Day 20: Beijing – Imperial Beijing

You will arrive at Beijing Railway Station in the early morning. You will be taken to have breakfast at a hotel close by before being transferred to your group hotel to check in and freshen up. Sightseeing in Beijing involves approx. 3-4 hrs on foot to see Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. This evening watch a traditional Chinese acrobatic show.

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.

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 your hotel later to check-in.

Day 21: Beijing

You will rise early this morning to drive 2 hrs (60km) 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 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, you will drive 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. 1.5-2 hrs of walking involved at this site.

Day 22: Beijing – Temple of Heaven

Today visit the Temple of Heaven and later visit the Buddhist Lama Temple, one of the biggest Buddhist temples in China. There is approx. 1-2 hrs on foot involved at the Lama Temple in the north of the city. This evening dine on Peking Duck – a local delicacy.

Day 23: Beijing/UK

Transfer from your hotel to Beijing 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 23, 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 hrs 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.

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). We will always endeavour to keep group members together in the same compartment, however there may be times where this is not possible. In this case, you may find yourself sharing with group members of the opposite gender and other travellers. Facilities on board are basic with both Western-style and Asian-style toilets.

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 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. Always remember if you cannot find suitable food, please speak to your National Escort who will be happy to assist you.

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.

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

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.

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.