



# Grand Tour of China

## Grand Tour of China

26 Days

Fully Inclusive from the UK

To get the most from your 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

### 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.



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Welcome to Wendy Wu Tours

Book now on 0844 499 3899 visit [www.wendywutours.co.uk](http://www.wendywutours.co.uk) or see your preferred travel agent.

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.

### **Grand Tour of 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 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 - 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 hour 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.

#### **Day 3: Beijing**

Sightseeing today includes a stroll through Tiananmen Square, past Chairman Mao's Mausoleum to the treasure-filled Forbidden City (approx. 3hrs walking on foot). Our evening meal includes the local delicacy, Peking Duck.

#### **Day 4: 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. The morning will be free at your leisure before driving 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 on foot involved at this site.

#### **Day 5: Beijing to Xian**

After lunch, drive to the Temple of Heaven – there will be at least 1 hour on foot here. Enjoy a fascinating Chinese Acrobatic show in the evening.

In the evening board the overnight train to Xian, the former ancient capital.

#### **Day 6: Xian**

You will arrive at Xian Railway 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 and Shaanxi Provincial Museum involves at least 2.5 hrs on foot. Stroll through the Muslim Quarter taking extra care of your valuables in the busy alley market stalls.

*NB: Check-out time in China is midday so hotel rooms are unlikely to be available. Commence sightseeing first and return to your hotel later to rest and freshen up.*

#### **Day 7: 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.

#### **Day 8: Xian to Wuhan – Yangtze River**

You will take a morning flight from Xian to Wuhan (1 hour, 15 mins in duration). You will then transfer (4-5 hour drive) through the countryside from Wuhan airport to the docks near Yichang. Board the ship and check into your cabin for the next four nights.

*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 the 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, embarkation and disembarkation at 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 hours prior). This can affect both the time and location where you embark and disembark your cruise ship. Your National Escort/Local Guide will explain any such changes to you as soon as they are informed by the cruise operator.*

**Here is a guideline to the potential cruise schedule:**

#### **Day 9: Yangtze River Cruise**

*Shore excursion to the site of the Three Gorges Dam (4 hrs off ship). Disembark the ship and drive (approx. 20 mins) to the Three Gorges Dam. The coach will pass through the surrounding areas (they are NOT permitted to stop for photos) and will drop you off at the viewing area above the ship locks. There is a small museum and a lookout. Cruise through the Xiling Gorge and spend your 2<sup>nd</sup> night on board the cruise vessel with Captain's Welcome Dinner.*

#### **Day 10: Yangtze River Cruise**

*Cruise through the Wu Gorge.*

*Shore excursion to the Goddess Stream or Shennong Stream: Cruise through one of these beautiful and narrow gorges for approx. 15kms. Many protected species make the stunning peaks there home, including monkeys, mountain goats, deer and wild boar.*

Spend your 3<sup>rd</sup> night on board the cruise vessel.

#### **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 (2 hrs off ship):*

This small temple was built at the top of a nine-storey pavilion clinging to the sheer south bank near Qutang Gorge. Disembark from the ship close to the pavilion's entrance. Sightseeing here involves climbing the nine storeys inside the building.

*Shore excursion to Fengdu 'Ghost City' (2 hrs off ship):*

The town of Fengdu was relocated across to the south bank during 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 (this is a temporary measure until the construction of an elevator from the port to Fengdu is complete). It can carry 10-12 people up at a time and takes about 3-5 mins 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 4<sup>th</sup> night on board the cruise vessel with Captain's Farewell Dinner.

#### **Day 12: Chongqing to Chengdu**

Check-out of cabins early this morning and disembark in Chongqing. Disembark from the cruise vessel and transfer to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province. Enjoy a delicious Sichuan meal in the evening.

#### **Day 13: Chengdu to Kunming**

Visit the famous Panda Conservation Centre to see these charismatic animals being reared in wooded surroundings reminiscent of their natural habitat. The Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding is located only 18km 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 very start and end of each day. Sightseeing here involves at least 1.5 hrs on foot. There are electric carts offered by private vendors and can be organised at your own cost. Fly to Kunming, also known as the 'City of Eternal Spring', and sample the famous Across the Bridge Noodles.

#### **Day 14: Kunming**

Drive 1.5 hrs (100km) to the Stone Forest. Sightseeing here involves up to 2.5 hrs on foot to view the maze of rock pinnacles, lake and ponds. After lunch drive back to Kunming.

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**Day 15: Kunming to Dali**

Drive 5 hrs to Dali and have lunch en route at Chuxiong. Check-in for the next two nights.

**Day 16: Dali**

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

**Day 17: Dali to Guilin**

Travel by road to Kunming and fly to the beautiful city of Guilin.

**Days 18-19: 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 20: Yangshuo to Hangzhou**

Take a short walk through the caves. It usually takes about 1 hour to complete the route, and is very cool inside. Please note that the ground may be slippery. Transfer to the airport

for your afternoon flight to Hangzhou. Transfer to your hotel and check-in for two nights.

**Day 21: Hangzhou**

Visit the Temple of Inspired Seclusion, Six Harmonies Pagoda and enjoy a relaxing cruise on West Lake.

**Day 22: Hangzhou to Suzhou**

Explore the local markets and experience an oriental tea-tasting. Drive for approx. 4 hrs to Suzhou.

**Day 23: Suzhou**

Explore the charming city of Suzhou, also known as the 'Venice of the East'. 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 and enjoy a cruise on the ancient Grand Canal.

**Day 24: Suzhou to Shanghai**

Travel to Shanghai by road (approx. 2hrs). Explore the restored Xintiandi area (approx. 1hr on foot). Dinner this evening will be of traditional Shanghai cuisine.

**Day 25: Shanghai**

Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the centre of the city including 3-4hrs on foot. Be mindful of your valuables while in the Old Town (Yuan Bazaar) as it is very crowded. This evening enjoy a cruise along the stunning Huangpu River.

**Day 26: Depart Shanghai**

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

**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 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](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 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

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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 has one overnight train journey. Overnight train journeys are in first-class soft sleeper compartments where each cabin consists of 4 shared berths. 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.

**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, however this does not include tipping on the Yangtze River Cruise. Approximate tipping amounts can be found in our brochure and/or website; however exact tipping amounts will be stated in your final documentation pack. On the Yangtze River cruise, an additional discretionary tipping of 100-200 yuan should be expected for the crew, housekeeping and guide staff on board. We have had many experiences of late where housekeeping staff on board Yangtze Cruise boats have come across rather strong in regards to additional tips. Please note that this section is purely discretionary and up to each individual.

**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.

**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.

#### **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 tickets.

Last Updated February 2015