



# China by Rail

**China by Rail Private Tour**  
**15 Days**  
**Inclusive from the UK**

A slower-paced Private Tour travelling overland to ensure the most authentic cultural experiences and rural sights.

**Fully Inclusive price includes:**

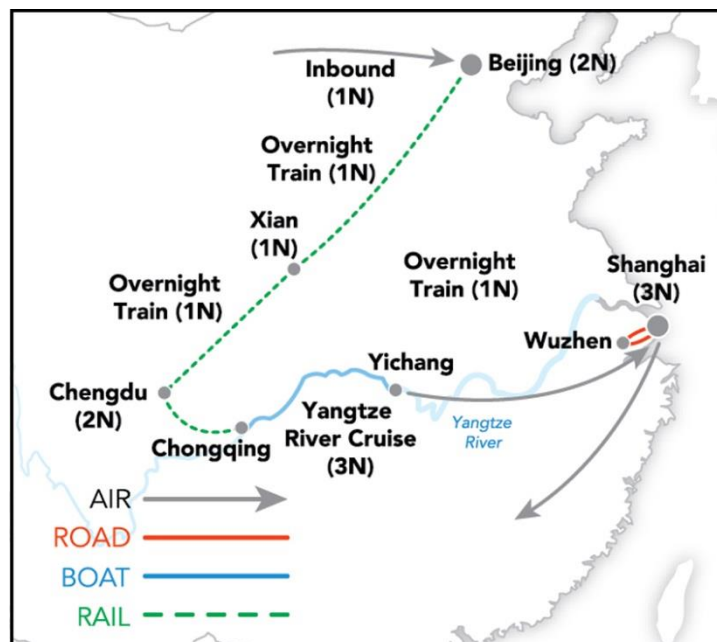
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated (excluding drinks)
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders
- Shared cabins on trains

**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

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 by Rail - 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, getting on and off boats and overnight train journeys in shared cabins.

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.

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 from Wendy Wu Tours. You will transfer (1 hour drive) to your hotel.

### Day 3: Beijing

Sightseeing today includes a stroll through Tiananmen Square, past Chairman Mao's Mausoleum to the treasure-filled Forbidden City. Our evening meal includes the local delicacy, Peking Duck. (B,L,D)

### 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. After lunch, drive 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.

In the evening board the overnight train to Xian, the former ancient capital. Overnight trains in China carry many of the same restrictions as flights concerning baggage and security. Carriages usually contain four berths and you may be sharing with local travellers. This can be a great opportunity to meet local people. Please refer to your Travel Guide or contact us for more details. (B,L)

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

### Day 5: Xian

You will arrive at Xian Railway Station very early this morning. The railway station can be quite busy. If you have difficulty finding your guide please be patient. They will be there and will locate you. If you have any problems or concerns please call the guide on the number provided in your final itinerary. Transfer to your hotel, where you can have breakfast and freshen up before heading out sightseeing.

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.

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. (B,L,D)

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

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

Sightseeing at the Shaanxi Provincial Museum involves at least 1.5 hrs on foot. Stroll through the Muslim Quarter taking extra care of your valuables in the busy alley market stalls.

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.

Board your overnight train to Chendgu. The process will be similar to the the Xian-Beijing train (B,L)

#### **Day 7: Chengdu**

You will arrive at Chengdu Railway Station very early this morning. Visit the famous Panda Conservation Centre to see these charismatic animals being reared in wooded surroundings reminiscent of their natural habitat. (B,L)

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

#### **Day 8: Chengdu**

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. (B,L)

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

Transfer by coach to Chongqing (4-5hr drive) and board your Yangtze River cruise for the next three nights. (B,L,D)

*1<sup>st</sup> night on board the cruise vessel.*

*N.B: The Yangtze River cruise section of your itinerary will not be confirmed by the cruise operators until after you commence your tour as it is subject to local river conditions and water levels. Your Local Guide will do their utmost to keep you informed of any changes but cannot guarantee against delays or – in rare cases – cancellations of sections of your itinerary. Shore excursions are subject to change depending on local conditions. A detailed itinerary will be handed out on the vessel each day.*

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

#### **Day 10: 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 (2hrs 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 to the dock close to the pavilion's entrance. Sightseeing here involves climbing the nine storeys inside the building.

*Shore excursion to Fengdu 'Ghost City' (2hrs 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 3-5mins each way. You will then need to walk the rest of the way up. There are about 150-200 large steps, without handrails. (B,L,D)

*2<sup>nd</sup> night on board the cruise vessel.*

#### **Day 11: Yangtze River Cruise**

*Cruise through the Wu Gorge.*

*Shore excursion to the Goddess Stream or Shennong Stream:* Cruise through one of the 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 12: Yichang to Shanghai**

*Shore excursion to the site of the Three Gorges Dam (4hrs off ship):* Drive (approx. 20mins) to the Three Gorges Dam. 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. Disembark your cruise in Yichang and fly to Shanghai (flight duration 2hrs). (B,L,D)

#### **Day 13: Shanghai – Wuzhen**

Drive 3 hours to the water canal town of Wuzhen. Sightseeing here is leisurely and involves several hours exploring on foot. Return to Shanghai in the afternoon.(B)

#### **Day 14: 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. (B,L)

#### **Day 15: 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. (B)

### 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 15, 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.

**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 has two 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 private tours we recommend an amount of US \$5 per person per day for tipping to be distributed amongst drivers, restaurants, guides etc. This amount is at your own discretion. A compulsory tipping amount of RMB 150 is expected upon boarding the Yangtze River Cruise. This amount is levied by the cruise companies, separate of Wendy Wu Tours, and beyond our control.

**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.

**Yangtze Cruise Shore Excursions** - Whilst on your Yangtze Cruise, there are shore excursions available. Please note, although this is a private tour, excursions during your time on the Yangtze Cruise will be operated on a share basis, with the rest of the cruise passengers (who may not be Wendy Wu passengers).

#### **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.

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