



# Imperial China

## Imperial China – Private Tour

8 Days

Inclusive from the UK

Discover over three millennia of history in China's two greatest imperial capitals, travelling by Bullet Train.

### Price includes:

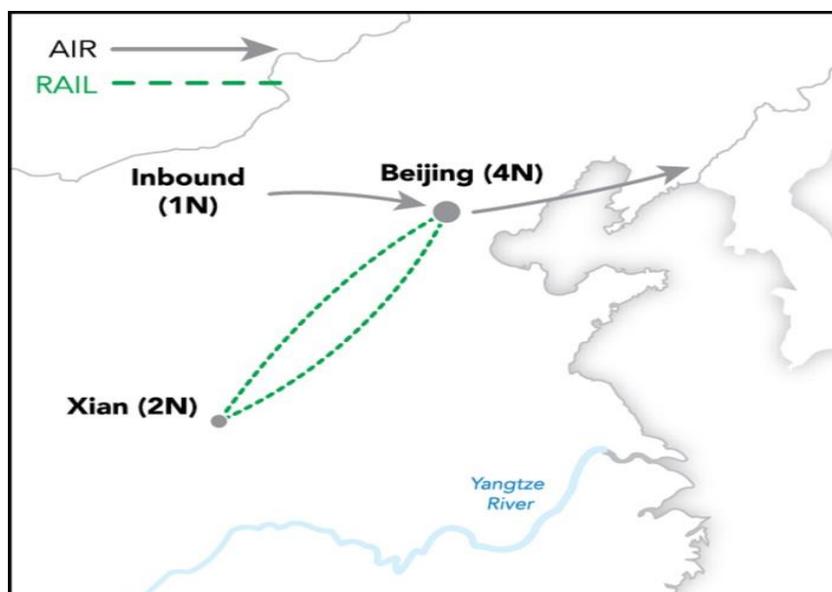
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated (excluding drinks)
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders

## 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 recognise the demands of factors such as basic facilities and cultural differences they may encounter in some areas.

## Imperial China Private Tour

Our private tours are accessible to everyone. This tour will involve sightseeing on foot, some climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats throughout the tour.

This tour is not strenuous, and can be taken at the pace, and according to the abilities of passengers travelling in your party. If any member of your party has mobility difficulties, please advise Wendy Wu Tours, so that our operators can be made aware, and may rearrange the itinerary to suit your needs. If at any point during the tour you feel you are being rushed, or not moving fast enough, please let your local guide know, so that they may adjust the touring accordingly and provide you with the best experience possible. Similarly, as you are travelling on a private basis, if you would like to change the touring, dates, timings, please speak to your reservations consultant, prior to travelling, or speak to your local guide whilst in China.

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

### Days 1-2: UK/Beijing

Depart the UK for your overnight flight to Beijing. Your flight will arrive early this morning and you will be met at Beijing Airport in the Arrivals Hall by your Local Guide and you will transfer (approx. 1hr drive) to your hotel.

*No Meals*

### Day 3: Beijing

Sightseeing in central Beijing involves approx. 3-4hrs on foot during the morning to see Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. Afterwards you visit the Temple of Heaven, which involves approx. 2hrs on foot.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### Day 4: Beijing

You will rise early this morning to drive approx. 2hrs (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 you have 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 approx. 1.5hrs 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. 1.5-2hrs on foot involved at this site.

*Breakfast, Lunch*

### Day 5: Beijing to Xian

Rise early to visit the Temple of Heaven for a private Tai Chi lesson. Later you will be transferred to Beijing station for your Bullet Train to Xian (approx. 4 hours). You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel.

*Breakfast, Lunch*

### Day 6: Xian

The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses is located more than a 1hr drive outside of Xian. From the bus park to the museum entrance is a 15min 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. 2.5hrs on foot.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### Day 7: Xian to Beijing

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. In the afternoon you will be transferred to Xian Station for your Bullet Train to Beijing (approx. 4 hours)

*Breakfast, Lunch*

### Day 8: Depart Xian

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.

*Breakfast*

### 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 8, you will checkout from your Xian 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.

- 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 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.

If you are not a British citizen, you will be required to complete a supplementary visa form. Please contact Wendy Wu Tours, if you do not receive this form.

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. Please 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.

Four and five star hotels are also available on private tours. If you would like to upgrade, please speak to one of our reservation consultants.

**Meals** - Some meals are included in our private tours, please see inclusions above. If you would like to travel on a fully inclusive meal basis please speak to Wendy Wu Tours, to arrange this prior to travel. Included meals are 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. For meals not included, local guides will be happy to assist with recommendations on where and what to eat in order to fully appreciate this vastly different cuisine.

**Tipping** - As with most countries, tipping is a way of life in China. For private tours we recommend an amount of US \$5-10 per person per day for tipping to be distributed amongst drivers, restaurants, guides etc. This amount is at your own discretion.

**Optional Extras** - Prior to departure you may wish to add on some extra touring or evening shows to your itinerary, as you are travelling on a private basis, which means you have flexibility and choice. Please speak to one of our reservation consultants to discuss the optional extras available. Whilst on tour, your local guide may offer you some extra touring or unique experiences. The cost can range from 70 to 300 Yuan in price, so please allow extra money if you feel you may participate in any extra activities.

**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.

#### **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, a travel guide and phrase book, along with your final itinerary and international etickets.

Last Updated November 2013