



Legends of China

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16 Days

Inclusive from the UK

Discover China's extensive history and culture with this deluxe tour of the Middle Kingdom. See the political and imperial past of Beijing; the enigmatic Terracotta Warriors in Xian; the beautiful Karst scenery of Guilin; the majesty of the Yangtze River; and the financial hub of Shanghai.

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 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 as well as a description of what sights and activities are included on each day.

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.



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.

Legends of China – Exclusive Collection Comfortable Paced Tour

This tour is rated as a comfortable paced tour. This means the tour is accessible for most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. Most days involve a few hours walking at a leisurely pace. There will be some climbing involved at the Great Wall of China and customers will be required to get on and off a boat on the Li River in Guilin. As this tour is part of our Exclusive Collection, we have provided you with times to explore areas individually to allow you a more relaxed atmosphere at times.

The beginning of the tour can be quite tiring with a few early mornings due to the amount of sights in Beijing but the pace becomes more relaxed as the tour proceeds. 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.

Exclusive Experiences

Our Exclusive Collection tours include a range of exceptional experiences that are designed to make your time at some of the world's most iconic locations extra special. On this tour the following exclusive experiences are included:

- Take part in an early morning private **Tai Chi lesson** with a master amongst the local people in the grounds of Beijing's Temple of Heaven
- Entrance to the Forbidden City's intimate **Treasure Hall**, home to a magnificent collection of glittering imperial artefacts
- A visit to the Huanghuacheng section of the **Great Wall**, one of the lesser visited, where you can admire this magnificent structure and enjoy a decadent champagne toast
- Enjoy a **calligraphy class** in Beijing's atmospheric hutongs, where, using simple tools, you will learn the basic techniques of this symbolic art form
- Try your hand at **dumpling making** with some of Xian's most creative chefs. Here creating dumplings has become an art form, with the morsels taking on all sorts of ingenious shapes
- Tour the enigmatic ranks of the **Terracotta Warriors** with one of the resident archaeologists, who will put their intriguing story into context
- Appreciate the tranquility of Xian's resplendent **Grand Mosque** sat right at the heart of the city's bustling Muslim Quarter
- Entrance to the **Hanyangling Mausoleum**. Descend underground to view artefacts that give a fascinating insight into daily life during the Western Han Dynasty
- Sit back in VIP seats and be absorbed by **Impression Sanjie Liu** - an enchanting light spectacular that showcases Yangshuo's karst landscapes created by Zhang Yi Mou, the director of the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics
- Admire the spectacle of China's best kept secret – **Bian Lian** (face-changing) – with VIP seats at the Sichuan Opera
- **Cruise the Yangtze River** on the deluxe President Number 8 where you can kick back in sumptuous cabins, enjoy optional excursions and activities and relish the continuous rolling ribbon of spectacular scenery
- End your tour with a **chic cocktail reception** at the stylish Cloud 9 Sky Lounge, named by Newsweek as one of 'The World's Great Gathering Places'.

Days 1-2: UK/Beijing



Arrive at the airport by chauffeured transfer. Depart the UK for your overnight flight to Beijing, the political, social and historical capital of China. Your flight will arrive early in the morning on day 2 and you will be met at Beijing Capital International 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 (approx. 1hr drive) to your luxury hotel. A talk will be held in the hotel this evening. 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.

No meals

Day 3: Beijing

Sightseeing today will include visiting Beijing's imperial sights. Sightseeing today will be approx. 5-6 hours long. Start your morning with a visit to the Temple of Heaven. During your time at the Temple of Heaven, you will take part in a private Tai Chi lesson led by a master who will teach you the secrets of this spiritual exercise. Afterwards, walk through Tiananmen Square, passing Chairman Mao's Mausoleum and the Monument to the People's Heroes. At the far end of Tiananmen Square, pass under the Gate of Heavenly Peace into the Forbidden City, former residence of the Ming and Qing Emperors. Explore the grounds of the Forbidden City and spend time admiring the exquisite pieces of the Treasure Hall. This evening, dine on Beijing's most famous dish, Peking Duck, at one of the city's top Peking Duck restaurants. After your meal, view a Chinese acrobatics show.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4: Beijing

You will rise early this morning to drive approx. 2hrs (60km) north of the city to the Huanghua section of the Great Wall. The aim of this is to avoid the tour groups, 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.

The Huanghua is a lesser known section of the Great Wall which offers spectacular views of the surrounding landscapes and the wall itself. 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 and be able to enjoy a glass of champagne whilst admiring the wonderful



views. After lunch, drive approx. 1.5hrs to the Houhai area of Beijing and take a rickshaw ride around the Hutongs, a network of traditional Chinese alleyways unique to Beijing. Later, take a calligraphy lesson in the Hutongs before enjoy some free time to explore and relax in the Houhai area. Houhai literally translates as the 'Back Lakes' and is a serene and tranquil destination in which to spend time.

Breakfast and Lunch

Day 5: Beijing to Xian

You will be transferred (approx. 1hr drive) to Beijing airport for your flight to Xian (flight duration 1hr, 50mins). Start your touring today by transferring to the Hanyangling Mausoleum, final resting place of Emperor Jing and Empress Wang of the Western Han Dynasty. This evening, you will take part in a dumpling class with the chefs at Defachang before sampling the dumplings yourself. Afterwards, watch a traditional Tang Dynasty Dancing show.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 6: Xian – Terracotta Warriors

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. Whilst here, you will also meet with an archaeologist who will give you a more in depth talk on the Terracotta Warriors and their discovery.

This afternoon's sightseeing will include a walk on the ancient city walls which surround the centre of Xian. 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.

This afternoon you will visit the Muslim Quarter and the beautiful Great Mosque and surrounding gardens. There is the option tonight to see a dazzling fountain display in front of the Big Wild Goose Pagoda.

Breakfast, Lunch

Day 7: Xian to Guilin

Today fly to Guilin (approx. 1hr 50 mins). Transfer to the deluxe hotel for a 1 night stay. Enjoy some free time this evening.

Breakfast, Lunch

Day 8: Guilin to Yangshuo – Li River Cruise

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 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 cruises past unspoilt countryside. Usually the boats depart at 9am. You will disembark your Li River cruise in Yangshuo around midday and dine at the Pure Lotus Vegetarian Restaurant. Tonight witness the spectacular light show, Impression Sanjie Liu' set against the karst mountain scenery.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9: Yangshuo Countryside



Spend the 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. There are also options to take part in a Tai Chi, painting or cooking class. Tonight you will watch a demonstration of the famous cormorant fishermen at work.

Breakfast

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 of from the water or the show may even be cancelled.

Day 10: Guilin – Chongqing – Yangtze River Cruise

Drive back to Guilin (65km) to catch your flight to Chongqing. On arrival into Chongqing, visit Ciqikou, an ancient porcelain town in Chongqing. Visit the Terrace Café for lunch in Ciqikou where you can people watch in this relaxing setting. This early evening you will transfer to board your cruise vessel for a 3 night stay on the Yangtze River. Have your evening meal tonight on your cruise ship.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Day 11: Yangtze River – Shibaozhai

Take a shore excursion to Shibaozhai Temple or Fengdu.

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.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 12: Yangtze River Cruise – Qutang and Wu Gorge

Cruise through the Qutang and Wu Gorges.

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. Later, sit down to a talk on the Three Gorges dam project with a presentation by the ship's river guide.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 13 Yangtze River – Three Gorges Dam

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 the metropolitan capital of China (flight duration 2hrs). Take in the Xintiandi area of Shanghai this evening where you can savour on the local cuisine. Your next three evening's accommodation will be spent at the Shanghai Grand Hotel, located in the heart of Shanghai.

Breakfast, Lunch

Day 14: Shanghai – Zhujiajiao Water Town



Today take an exciting day trip to Zhujiajiao, an ancient water town in the west part of Shanghai (1hr drive). The village dates back over 1500 years and is a classic example of Chinese style water towns. Spend 2-3 hours here.

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 day 4, after your visit to the Great Wall of China.

Later enjoy your afternoon at leisure in Shanghai. There is the option to take part in a cooking class where you can learn how to master a selection of Shanghai delicacies.

Breakfast

Day 15: Shanghai

Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the centre of the city of Shanghai. You will visit the Yu Gardens, the Old Town, Shanghai Museum and the Shanghai Financial Centre. Sightseeing will include 3-4 hours on foot. Please be mindful of your valuables whilst in the Yu Gardens and in the Old Town as these are very crowded areas. This evening, dine at Dintaifeng, home to the Xiaolongbao Dumpling, a classic dish of Shanghai. Later, take in the city with a farewell cocktail at the stylish Cloud 9 Sky Lounge, named by Newsweek as one of 'The World's Great Gathering Places'.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 16: Depart Shanghai

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to Shanghai Pudong International 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 16, 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.

- **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 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 hours 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 - In order to provide a more exclusive experience, the group size of our Deluxe Tour is a maximum of 18 customers. There must be a minimum of 8 customers for our tour to run with local guides. If the group has 10 or more customers on it, you will also be accompanied by a National Guide who will accompany you around your tour of China from start to finish.

Age - The minimum age for this tour is 18 years old. This is due to the nature of the tour and its content which is geared towards adults. If you are interested in joining this tour with any person under the age of 18, please ask our reservations team about our private version options of this tour.

Accommodation - We have selected the finest Five Star hotels in each destination for this deluxe tour.

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. As part of your Deluxe Tour, you will experience authentic Chinese meals in some of the top restaurants around the country.

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. There is a mandatory tip of RMB150 on the Yangtze River Cruise which must be paid on embarkation of your cruise liner.

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 or to return to the hotel.

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

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