



# China Tour Dossier

## Magnificent China

Private Tour | 21 Days | Comfortable Pace





# Wendy Wu Tours

The Tour Dossier 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.

The itinerary of the tour dossier has three distinct sections. The first section is to give you a day outline, giving an overview of each day's activities. The second section provides an overview of any physical activity which may be faced on a day of touring and provide approximate durations of transfers, air travel etc. For moderate and active paced tours, please pay special attention to this. The third section provides a more in depth description of destinations and sights you will visit on each day, including any shopping experiences.

## Private Tours

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures on a more personal fully-inclusive tour.

### Magnificent China tour highlights:

- ❖ Imperial Beijing
- ❖ Great Wall of China
- ❖ Enigmatic Terracotta Warriors
- ❖ Yangtze River Cruise
- ❖ Lovable Chengdu Pandas
- ❖ Leshan Buddha
- ❖ Beautiful Guilin
- ❖ Li River cruise
- ❖ Garden City of Suzhou
- ❖ Cosmopolitan Shanghai

### Magnificent China tour inclusions:

- ❖ Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges
- ❖ All accommodation
- ❖ Meals as stated
- ❖ All sightseeing and entrance fees
- ❖ All transportation and transfers
- ❖ English speaking Local Guides
- ❖ Visa fees for UK and EU passport holders
- ❖ Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- ❖ Comprehensive travel guides
- ❖ Safe and secure with ABTA, ATOL and IATA

*The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, meals which have not been provided, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping and early check in or late checkout.*





## Destination profile - China

**China** – China’s civilization is the oldest in the world and has a history dating back over 5,000 years. With 56 ethnic groups, 22 provinces and 8 major dialects, China has a rich and varied culture and way of life and is home to a wealth of tourist sights and cultural relics which entice our guests to return again and again to this exciting destination.

**Development in China** - Though parts of China match the west in modernity and technological advances, it is important to remember that China is still a developing country and as such, many aspects of tourism in China do not have the solid infrastructure and safety standards as seen here in the west. It is important that our guests travel to China with an open mind and a sense of humour.

**Roads in China** - Roads in China have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road – not just 1-2 kilometres as you may be used to. There may be sections of road where the surface may be comparatively bumpy but our drivers will do their utmost to lessen the impact.

**Cuisine in China** - Chinese cuisine is one of the most influential, diverse and flavoursome culinary styles in the world with a legacy stretching back thousands of years. Chinese dishes incorporate many spices and seasoning to create an explosion of flavours. Though Chinese cuisine can vary greatly from Chinese food we get in the UK, it is important to keep an open mind and be adventurous. Please be aware that dishes selected for your meals reflect the cooking styles and signature dishes of the local area you are in.

## Tour Profile – Magnificent China

On our ‘Magnificent China’ itinerary, you will visit **Beijing, Xian, Chengdu, Guilin, Yangshuo** and **Shanghai**. This itinerary also includes a **4 night Yangtze River Cruise**.

‘Magnificent China is a **comfortable paced tour**. ‘As a whole, ‘Magnificent China’ requires a reasonable level of fitness. During your tour, there will be sightseeing on foot for a period of time and in some cases for an extended period of time. On the Great Wall of China in Beijing, some of the walking may be at more of an incline. You will have to get on and off the boat on your Yangtze River cruise and on your boat in course, our local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.



## Itinerary – Magnificent China

### Day 1-2: Fly to Beijing

#### Day Outline

Fly overnight to Beijing, the capital of China. On arrival into Beijing on day 2, transfer to your hotel for a 4 night stay. The rest of the day is at leisure.

#### Physical Description

On arrival in Beijing Capital International Airport, be met in the arrival hall by your local guide from Wendy Wu Tours. You will then be privately transferred to your hotel. The transfer will take approx. 1 hour.

#### Destination Information

**Beijing** - Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China. With its unequalled wealth of history, Beijing served as the centre for the many different empires and cultures that ruled China and has been the heart of politics and society throughout its long history. The ancient monuments, the stories of days gone by as well as the dynamic and modern city Beijing has become today, make it a destination not to be missed.

No Meals Provided

### Day 3: Beijing

#### Day Outline

Walk across the lengths of Tiananmen Square and into the magnificent Forbidden City. Later, take a rickshaw ride through the warren-like hutongs and meet a local family to gain insight into local culture. This evening dine on delicious Peking duck – a favourite of the Chinese emperors.

#### Physical Description

Sightseeing in central Beijing involves 3-4 hours on foot during the morning to see Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. Later take a rickshaw ride through the ancient Hutongs which will last approx. 40 minutes. You will also visit a local family in the hutongs for approx. 20-30 minutes.

Visit [wendywutours.co.uk](http://wendywutours.co.uk)

*The Forbidden City is closed on Mondays. If this day of touring falls on a Monday, your touring in Beijing will be switched round so that the Forbidden City is visited on an alternative day.*

*Please remember to bring your passport with you when visiting the Forbidden City for security check.*

#### Destination Information

**Tiananmen Square** - Built under the guidance of Chairman Mao Zedong, Tiananmen Square is said to hold a capacity crowd of over one million and is one of the largest public squares in the world. It houses not only the Monument to the People's Heroes, it is also the final resting place of Chairman Mao himself in the Mausoleum of Mao Zedong.

**Forbidden City** - the sacred centre of the Chinese empire for 500 years and home to the Ming and Qing dynasties, the Forbidden City is a vast complex of over 900 buildings and covers an area of 180 acres. Since 1987, the Forbidden City has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site and its palatial architectural style has been an influence on many imperial buildings throughout Asia.

**Hutongs** – The Mongol rulers of Beijing established this style of housing in the 13<sup>th</sup> century as tenancy for the growing population of the city. Hutongs were designed to reflect the Chinese system of Fengshui with 4 hutongs joining together to make a courtyard in the middle, known as Siheyuan. In more recent times, the hutong suburbs were in jeopardy of disappearing, but a fierce debate between developers and those who fought to protect the architecture and the hutong way of life diminished the threat.

**Peking duck** – A favourite of the Emperor's court and the upper class elite during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), Peking duck quickly spread throughout Chinese society to become a national favourite and a symbol of China.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Call 0800 630 0888 to speak to a Reservations Consultant





## Day 4: Beijing



### Day Outline

Take a walk on the Great Wall of China, appreciating the wall itself and the dramatic scenery. Later, visit the Jade Factory and this afternoon visit the idyllic Summer Palace.

### Physical Description

You will rise early this morning to drive approx. 2 hours northwest of the city to the Juyongguan Pass 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. 1.5 hours to the Summer Palace in the north of the city where you will enjoy some a light stroll.

### Destination Information

**Great Wall of China** – Originally built under the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, the Great Wall of China is the country's most iconic sight. Snaking through the northern countryside from the Gobi Desert in the west into the Bohai Sea in the east, the Great Wall of China is the longest wall in the world and was used as a fortification against northern nomadic tribes. The current structure dates back to the Ming Dynasty - over 700 years old.

**Jade Factory** – Learn about one of China's most symbolic and important materials: jade, at this comprehensive factory. Learn how to

spot real jade, watch artisans at work carving this precious stone, and even buy a piece to take home yourself!

**Summer Palace** – The former holiday retreat of the Qing emperors, the Summer Palace is a stunning example of Chinese garden style. The Summer Palace incorporates the Fengshui notion of 'Mountain' and 'Water', seen here with tranquil Kunming Lake and magnificent Longevity Hill. A favourite resort of the Empress Dowager Cixi, the Summer Palace is home to a stunning Marble Boat and the Long Corridor, one of the longest outdoor passageways in the world.

Breakfast and Lunch

## Day 5: Beijing

### Day Outline

Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven where you can watch, or take part, in an outdoor dance class. This evening watch a Chinese acrobatics show.

### Physical Description

If time permits, there will be shopping time at the copy markets in central Beijing this morning before visiting the Temple of Heaven – there will be at least 1 hour on foot here. This evening enjoy a Chinese acrobatics show.

### Destination Information

**Temple of Heaven** – The Temple of Heaven is one of the most perfect examples of Ming architecture set in amongst a 267 hectare park with four gates set at each point of a compass. The Temple of Heaven was created as a place of worship for the Emperors, who would ask for prosperity, longevity and good harvest for the people. Walking through the park we will see the many groups of local people that gather here every day to sing folk songs, practice Tai Chi and sword dancing, play chess or just come to sit and chat.

**Chinese Acrobatics** – Chinese acrobatics incorporates many forms of dramatic art, including acrobatics, contortionism, juggling, plate spinning and many more.



Breakfast and Lunch

## **Day 6: Beijing – Xian**

### Day Outline

Fly to Xian, the ancient capital of China. Take a visit to the lovely Little Wild Goose Pagoda and this evening dine on delicious Shui Jiao dumplings before watching a Tang Dynasty dance show.

### Physical Description

Transfer to Beijing airport for your morning flight to Xian (flight duration 2 hours). Transfer directly to the Little Wild Goose Pagoda for 1.5 hours on foot sightseeing.

### Destination Information

**Xian** – Xian has long played a pivotal role in China's extensive history and has been a thriving hub for cultural exchange, economic trade as well as national politics for centuries. Home to some of China's most ancient sights, diverse architecture and delicious fare, Xian is a must see destination.

**Little Wild Goose Pagoda** – Dating back to the Tang Dynasty, the Little Wild Goose Pagoda is one of two prominent pagodas in Xian. A former centre for translating Buddhist scriptures from India, the Little Wild Goose Pagoda was said to have survived one of the strongest earthquakes in world history.

**Tang Dynasty Dancing show** – Xian, previously known as Chang'an, was an important cultural and historical centre in not only China but in the known-world. The Tang Dynasty dancing show is an exciting exponent of this prosperous society and keeps alive the splendour of this period.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

## **Day 7: Xian**

### Day Outline

Spend the morning viewing the formidable ranks of terracotta soldiers and horses. Visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition centre to see smaller models of the warriors

being made. This afternoon take a stroll on the Ming Dynasty ancient city wall. End the day exploring the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter.

### Physical Description

The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses is located more than 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 hours on foot.

This afternoon you will visit the ancient 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. This afternoon, take a leisurely walk through the Muslim Quarter. The Muslim Quarter can get crowded, so please be mindful of your belongings.

### Destination Information

**Terracotta Warriors** – One of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this subterranean necropolis is comprised of over 7,000 soldiers, horses and chariots. The army was built in life-sized form by thousands of workers for the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, who felt he needed military protection in the afterlife.

**Xian art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Centre** – See smaller versions of the enigmatic Terracotta Warriors being created at the captivating Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Centre; even purchase your own portable soldier.

**Ancient city walls** – Dating back to the Ming Dynasty in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Xian ancient



city wall is one of the best preserved urban fortifications in China. The wall's ideal spot and layout gives visitors a bird's eye view over this fantastic city. Follow the locals' example and take a bike to get an ever more spectacular experience.

**Muslim Quarter** – The Muslim Quarter is the hub of Xian's Islamic community and is home to many stalls selling a myriad of snack foods, a trove of silks and fabrics, and delightful oriental knick-knacks.

Breakfast and Lunch

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

### Day Outline

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Wuhan. On arrival in Wuhan, transfer to Wuhan Station and take the bullet train to Yichang where you will board your Yangtze River Cruise vessel for a 4 night stay.

**(Please note the Yangtze River Cruise is NOT private)**

### Physical Description

You will take a morning flight from Xian to Wuhan (1 hour and 15 minutes in duration). Then transfer to Wuhan station to catch the bullet train to Yichang (approx. 2 hours). From Yichang board your ship and check into your cabin for the next 4 nights.

*Please note 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.*

*Further note: If you do not wish to take part in a shore excursion but you still wish to disembark the cruise ship, there is a mandatory port tax which must be paid by each customer. The port tax amount is approx. USD20-USD30 dollars per person however*

*this amount can vary and for security reasons, it is not always possible to disembark at all ports of call.*

*All shore excursions will not be private but run as a group with other passengers from the Yangtze Cruise*

### Destination Information

**Yangtze River** – one of the world's great and legendary waterways, this 6,300km river has its origins high up in the snow covered mountain of Tanggula in the south western Qinghai Tibet Plateau and runs into the ocean in Shanghai. It is estimated that the banks of this river are home to almost a third of China's population.

Breakfast and Lunch

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

### Day Outline

Visit the Three Gorges Dam, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world. There will be time to visit the viewing area to truly appreciate the scale of this hydroelectric project. Continue upstream, passing through the Xiling Gorge, our boat must negotiate the five-tiered Three Gorges Dam ship lock.

### Physical Description

Disembark the ship and drive (approx. 20 minutes) to the Three Gorges Dam. You will be dropped off at the viewing area above the ship locks. There is a small museum and a lookout and the sightseeing will involve around 1 hour on foot.

### Destination Information

**Three Gorges Dam** - Commenced in 1994 and completed in 2009, the Three Gorges Dam is the largest water conservancy project ever undertaken. The Dam is located near Sandouping, which is in the middle of the Xiling Gorge, the longest of the Three Gorges. The Three Gorges Dam is 2,335m long, 185m high, 18m wide on the top and 130m wide at the bottom. The dam has raised the river to a level of 175m above sea level, creating a 600km long reservoir. The building of this huge dam was for the purpose of flood control, electricity, navigation, and irrigation.





Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

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

### Day Outline

Prepare for breathtaking vistas as the ship passes through Wu and Qutang gorges. Switching to smaller vessels take a relaxing trip on the Goddess Stream.

### Physical Description

Shore excursion to the Goddess Stream: cruise through the beautiful and narrow gorges for approx. 15km. Many protected species make the stunning peaks their home, including monkeys, mountain goats, deer and wild boar. We will board a smaller craft for a ride of about 15km each way, to view the beauty of its narrow gorges.

### Destination Information

**Goddess Stream** - Goddess Stream, also known as 'Shennü Xi' in Chinese, flows from the southern bank of the Yangtze opposite Goddess Peak. Once just a stream, the Three Gorges Dam raised the water level to 70-100m in depth, depending on the season.

**NB. If for some reason your cruise is unable to travel along the Goddess Stream you will pass along the Shennong Stream instead.**

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

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

### Day Outline

Today visit the Shibaozhai Temple, an 18th century architectural marvel.

### Physical Description

Shore excursion to Shibaozhai Temple (2 hours 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.

### Destination Information

**Shibaozhai** - is a nine storey temple, named after the hill on which it stands. Dating back to the 18th century, the Shibaozhai temple was built during the Xianfeng Emperor's reign and is an example of Buddhist architecture. The temple is said to have any nails in it.

**NB. If you are unable to visit the Shibaozhai Temple you will visit the Fengdu Relocation Village instead.**

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

## **Day 12: Yangtze River Cruise – Chongqing – Chengdu**

### Day Outline

Disembark from your Yangtze River cruise vessel in Chongqing and visit the porcelain district of Ciqikou. Later transfer to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province.

### Physical Description

Check-out of cabins early this morning and disembark in Chongqing. Visit the porcelain district of Ciqikou before driving 4-5 hours to Chengdu, arriving in the late afternoon and check into the hotel.

### Destination Information

**Chongqing** – a city perched on the steep hills overlooking the confluence of the Jialing and the Yangtze Rivers, Chongqing is the chief industrial centre of south west China, producing approximately one fifth of Sichuan's industrial output. Chongqing has been reshaped by the Three Gorges Dam Project, which now allows larger sea-going vessels to sail all the way upriver to China's most famous waterfront mountain city.



**Ciqikou** – known colloquially as ‘Little Chongqing’ and the ‘Porcelain Port’, Ciqikou dates back to the Ming Dynasty and has maintained its original appearance. Lined with shops selling delicious snacks, Ming-style trinkets and Chinese curios, Ciqikou is a fun way to spend a morning and is a must-see in Chongqing.

Breakfast and Lunch

## **Day 13: Chengdu**

### Day Outline

Travel south of Chengdu to Leshan, where you will see the world’s largest stone-carved Buddhist monument, the Leshan Grand Buddha. Take a short boat in front of the statue to grasp the size of this structure. Return to Chengdu where you will sample a delicious Sichuan meal this evening.

### Physical Description

Drive approx. 2 hours (138km) to Leshan to see the Grand Buddha carving. Spend at least 3-4 hours at Leshan before driving back to Chengdu in the afternoon. You will need to get on and off the boat in Leshan.

There is an option to descend from the top of the Grand Buddha down steps to the base of the Buddha and then climb up stairs on the other side of the Buddha. Taking part in this activity will depend on weather conditions and the number of people waiting to take part as it can get very crowded during peak travel periods. There are 250 steps to descend and a similar amount to return up; a time of approx. 2 hours. The steps are extremely steep and can be very slippery in wet weather. There are handrails but the utmost care is still required. You must be physically capable if you decide to take part. Once you have started the walk you are committed as the steps are very narrow and strictly one-way only.

There are a number of attractions for those who wish to stay at the Grand Buddha Park. Covering an area of 18sqkm, the park is home to such sights as Haishi Cave, Lingyun Temple, Dragon Pond and Tiger Cave.

### Destination Information

**Leshan Grand Buddha** – The Leshan Buddha was built in the 9<sup>th</sup> century under the direction of Haitong, a monk who felt the presence of Buddha would help calm the waters below so that shipping vessels could make their journey safely. Amazingly, once the structure was completed, the waters below did calm, some say due to the Buddha’s presence, others to the large amount of rock removed in order to carve the Buddha, which resulted in a current change in the waters. The Buddha remains watching over the waters below; no position gives a better view of this structure than from a boat ride along the river.

**Sichuan Meal** – Sichuan cuisine is famous for its use of Sichuan pepper and chillies. These spices from the area are known for their ‘mala’ (numb and spicy) flavours, which seem to cool and heat your mouth at the same time. Famous dishes include kungpao chicken, twice-cooked pork and spicy Sichuan hotpot.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

## **Day 14: Chengdu - Guilin**

### Day Outline

Today we will visit China’s most famous resident, the Giant Panda. Visit the Panda Conservation Centre where you can learn about China’s celebrated bear. See these lovable creatures in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Visit the Shu Brocade and Embroidery Museum before wandering through Matchmaker’s Corner in People’s Square where parents search for suitable suitors for their children. Later, fly to the attractive city of Guilin.

### Physical Description

There will be a morning visit to the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, located 18km away. It’s not guaranteed that you will be able to see the feeding of the younger pandas, as this only happens at the start and end of each day. Sightseeing here involves at least 1.5 hours on foot. There are electric carts offered by private vendors and



these can be organised at your own expense. Afterwards visit People's Square for some light sightseeing. Transfer 1 hour to the airport for the afternoon flight to Guilin (flight duration 1 hour, 20 minutes). Transfer to the hotel and check-in.

## Destination Information



**Panda Conservation Centre** - With over 80 pandas holding residence, the Chengdu Panda Research Base is equipped with the latest technology and research materials to gain a further understanding in how we can protect the panda and maintain, if not increase, its numbers. The park is set up to resemble the mountain and forest regions in north Sichuan, the original home of the Giant Panda, with extensive bamboo trees and large green spaces. Red Pandas, the Giant Panda's lovable cousin, and flamboyant peacocks too roam the park, making for an interesting mix.

## **Shu Brocade and Embroidery Museum –**

Brocade production has been an integral piece of Chinese history for over 2,000 years. At this museum, enjoy the opportunity to learn further how these richly decorative fabrics are created and take the opportunity to purchase a piece yourself.

**People's Park** - People's Park is a pleasant respite from urban Chengdu. Here you can see beautiful golden koi, locals dancing and practicing tai chi, and most interesting of all, Matchmaker's Corner, where parents search for suitable boyfriends or girlfriends for their children.

**Guilin** – Guilin is one of China's most stunning and panoramic cities and was founded during the reign of the first Chinese empire, the Qin

Dynasty. It is renowned for the unique beauty of the mountains that fringe it. Guilin developed as a trading town due to the building of the Ling Canal which links the important Pearl and Yangtze River systems.

Breakfast and Lunch

## Day 15: Guilin - Yangshuo



## Day Outline

Take a relaxed cruise along the Li River to the charming village of Yangshuo where you will spend 2 nights. Around every river bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged peaks loom over rural scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalos and local fishermen. In Yangshuo, visit the local markets. Return to Guilin this late afternoon.

**(Please note the cruise from Guilin to Yangshuo is NOT private)**

## Physical Description

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. The drive back to Guilin is about 1 hour.

## Destination Information

**Li River** - Today you will pass tranquil farming and fishing scenes and picturesque villages as you cruise down the Li River. The main attraction is the stunning limestone karsts that tower above the river creating a magical landscape of mountains and water. The unique and natural beauty of this region has for centuries been an inspiration to Chinese artists and poets alike.

**Yangshuo** - Yangshuo is home to some of the best scenery in the world. This quaint town is renowned for its breathtaking vistas and peaceful country life. Surrounded by stark karst peaks and attractively located on the Li River, Yangshuo, alongside Guilin, prides itself in being the most sought after beauty spot in China.

Breakfast and Lunch

## **Day 16: Yangshuo**

### Day Outline

Spend a morning exploring the verdant countryside of Yangshuo. Walk by lush paddy fields and slow-moving water buffalos as you admire the panoramic mountain scenery that so epitomises the area. This afternoon is at leisure. There are many activities to take part in including cycling, rafting and walking. This evening see a spectacular cormorant fishermen demonstration.

### Physical Description

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. 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*

## Destination Information

**Cormorant fishermen show** – This evening watch as the Yangshuo fishermen demonstrate the ancient technique of using cormorant birds to catch fish from the Li River. By tying a piece of string around the neck of the cormorants, the bird is unable to swallow the fish, allowing the fishermen to remove them. The cormorant doesn't lose out though, usually after every ten fish caught; the fishermen will reward his business partner to a piece of his catch.

Breakfast and Lunch

## **Day 17: Yangshuo – Guilin - Shanghai**

### Day Outline

Drive back to Guilin and visit the Reed Flute Caves to admire the stunning colours of the stalagmites and stalactites. Afterwards take a tour of the South China Pearl Museum where you will have the opportunity to buy these precious stones. Fly to Shanghai, the 'Paris of the Orient', for a 4 night stay.

### Physical Description

The drive back to Guilin takes about 1 hour (65km). En route, visit the Reed Flute Caves. It usually takes an hour to complete the route and it is very cool inside. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Shanghai (flight duration is 2 hours). On arrival, be met by your guide and transfer to your hotel for a 4 night stay.

## Destination Information

**Reed Flute Cave** – Named so because of the clumps of slender reed once commonly found at the entrance to the caves which was also used to make flutes, the Reed Flute Caves house a grotto of multi-coloured stalactites and stalagmites.

**South China Pearl Museum** – Gain a fascinating insight into the pearling industry of southern China at the South China Pearl Museum, where you also have the opportunity





to purchase some of these elegant silver jewels.

**Shanghai** - Once known as the 'Paris of the East', Shanghai is now one of Asia's most influential cities. Prior to communist arrival in 1949, Shanghai was a city with European-style mansions and was the most important trading port in Asia. Today it presents a blend of cultures; the modern and the traditional, along with the occidental and oriental. Modern skyscrapers intermingle with 1920s 'shikumen' buildings. This combination is what attracts millions of visitors each year.

Breakfast and Lunch

## **Day 18: Shanghai – Suzhou - Shanghai**

### Day Outline

Travel to neighbouring Suzhou. Suzhou is renowned for its gardens – visit one of its finest, the Humble Administrator's Garden. Cruise the Grand Canal and visit a Silk Mill, afterwards returning to Shanghai to dine on local Shanghainese cuisine.

### Physical Description

Drive approx. 2 hours (90km) to the city of Suzhou. There is 3-4 hours walking involved while sightseeing today which includes seeing the Humble Administrator's Garden. Later see a silk mill. There will be a cruise on the Grand Canal, to see a section of the ancient waterway. Afterwards drive back to Shanghai and dine on Shanghainese cuisine.

### Destination Information



**Suzhou** - Suzhou, situated on the lower reaches of the Yangtze and close to Shanghai,

may be a modern city at first glance, but venture into the old centre and you'll find a world of meticulously designed classical gardens, cobbled streets and picturesque waterways.

**Humble Administrator's Garden** - Part of the UNESCO World Heritage site of classical gardens in Suzhou, the Humble Administrator's Garden is the largest and is seen as one of the most iconic and beautiful in the area. Dating back to 1509, the Humble Administrator's Garden was designed by the Ming Dynasty civil servant, Wang Xianchen, as a private garden residence.

**Grand Canal** - China's Grand Canal is the longest artificial waterway in the world with some sections dating back to the 5th century BC. The section that passes through Suzhou makes for an interesting journey as the banks are lined with places of historical interest and crossed by elegant bridges.

**Silk Mill** – The Silk Mill is an educational journey through the production of silk, one of China's most famous and luxurious materials. Learn about the use of silkworms and silk moths in its production; the manufacturing process; as well as silk's journey along the Silk Road which brought this product across Asia and Europe.

**Shanghainese Cuisine** – Influenced by neighbouring provinces and known for its sweeter taste, Shanghai cuisine is a plethora of delicious treats. Dishes are usually seasoned with vinegars and rice wines and a popular cooking method is to braise the food.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

## **Day 19: Shanghai**

### Day Outline

Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Garden; and the atmospheric alleys of the old town. Explore the ancient treasures of the Shanghai Museum and admire the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the Bund.

### Physical Description





Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the centre of the city including 3-4 hours on foot, including visits to the Yu Gardens, the Old Town, Shanghai Museum and a stroll on the Bund. Be mindful of your valuables while in the Old Town (Yuan Bazaar) as it is very crowded.

### Destination Information

**Old Town and Yu Gardens** - 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, is the original centre of Shanghai and for decades was the seat of Chinese authority in Shanghai. The Yu Gardens is seen as one of the most perfect examples of Chinese garden style. Built by the Ming-era governor, Pan Yunduan, as a retirement gift for his father, the Yu Gardens is home to exquisite jade rock, goldfish-filled ponds and stunning, tranquil pavilions.

**Shanghai Museum** - One of the most esteemed and acclaimed museums in China, the Shanghai Museum is a comprehensive collection of the Middle Kingdom's millennia old history. Sprawled over five floors, one could spend half, if not a full day in this comprehensive museum. The shape of the museum was designed to resemble a Chinese vessel, known as a Ding.

**People's Square** – Home to the Shanghai Museum, People's Square is an ideal centre for people to meet, do tai chi and take part in dance classes.

**The Bund** - Recognised as Shanghai's former 'Wall Street', the Bund is home to an impressive collection of buildings from the early trade houses of the 1850s to the glamorous Art Deco modernism of the 1920s. Originally the home of the foreign population of Shanghai, the Bund's architecture has inherited much western influence and is a stark contrast to the Pudong skyline, sitting across the Huangpu River.

Breakfast and Lunch

### Day 20: Shanghai

Visit [wendywutours.co.uk](http://wendywutours.co.uk)

### Day Outline

Explore the futuristic Pudong district this morning, home of Shanghai's world-famous skyline. This evening, cruise on the Huangpu River for panoramic vistas of the Shanghai skyline.

### Physical Description

There will be approx. 3 hours of touring on foot today. You will be required to get on and off the boat for your Huangpu River cruise. Please note it can also get quite crowded near the wharf to catch the Huangpu River cruise so be mindful of your belongings.

**Pudong** – Originally an underdeveloped farming area, Pudong went under mass-expansion in the early 1990s to become the financial hub of China. Characterised by its forest of skyscrapers, Pudong is now a world economic zone with one of the most recognisable skylines in the world.

### Destination Information

**Huangpu River Cruise** – There is no better way to see the juxtaposition of eras than taking a cruise on the Huangpu River. At night, the dazzling colours and lights from Pudong shine bright onto the more modest twilight of the Bund. Pass under two of Shanghai's majestic bridges, the Nanpu and Yangpu Bridge, the latter being one of the longest bridges in the world to witness further the strength of this city.

Breakfast and Lunch

### Day 21: Fly Shanghai to UK

### Day Outline

Transfer to the airport for your flight home, arriving the same or following day.

Breakfast



## Magnificent China Travel Info

**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.

**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.

**Accommodation** - All hotels used for private groups have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty please speak to your Local Guide. 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. 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.

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.

**Transport: Roads** – Cars with air conditioning are used on our private tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary.

**Transport: Air** – Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

**Transport: Water** – In this tour you will take a 4 night cruise up the Yangtze River. Your cabin on your Yangtze River cruise ship will have private bathroom and balcony.

**Climate** - Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

**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 (if applicable), 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, a travel guide (which includes a suggested packing list) and phrase book, along with your final itinerary and international e-tickets.

**Last updated: 19 Nov 2015**