



## China Tour Dossier

### A China Experience

Private Tour | 10 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.

### A China Experience tour highlights:

- ❖ Cosmopolitan Shanghai
- ❖ Zhujiajiao Canal Town
- ❖ Qin Shi Huang's Terracotta Warriors
- ❖ Xian City Wall
- ❖ Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven
- ❖ Great Wall of China

### A China Experience 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 – A China Experience

On our A China Experience itinerary, you will visit **Shanghai, Xian and Beijing**.

‘A China Experience’ is a **comfortable paced** tour: the easiest pace of tour Wendy Wu Tours offers. As a whole, ‘A China Experience’ 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.**

Of 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 – A China Experience

### Day 1-2: Fly to Shanghai

#### Day Outline

Fly overnight to the exuberant city of Shanghai. On arrival into Shanghai on day 2, transfer to your hotel for a 3 night stay. The rest of the day is at leisure.

#### Physical Description

You will be met at the airport in Shanghai in the arrivals hall by your local guide from Wendy Wu Tours. You will then be transferred to your hotel.

For those arriving into Shanghai Pudong Airport, the transfer will be approx. 1 hour; for those arriving into Shanghai Hongqiao Airport, the transfer will be approx. 1 hour. The rest of your day is at leisure.

#### Destination Information

**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.

No Meals Provided

### Day 3: Shanghai – Zhujiajiao – Shanghai

#### Day Outline

Visit Zhujiajiao, one of Shanghai's sleepy water towns. Return to Shanghai and enjoy the ancient treasures of the Shanghai Museum before wandering around People's Square.

#### Physical Description

Drive 1 hour to the water canal town of Zhujiajiao. Sightseeing here is leisurely and

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involves a couple of hours exploring on foot. Return to Shanghai in the afternoon and spend approx. 2 hours exploring the Shanghai Museum and People's Square.

#### Destination Information

**Zhujiajiao** – One of Shanghai's sleepy water towns, Zhujiajiao is built on an old canal system once used to transport goods all over imperial China. The town's alleyways exude old-world charm, whilst the waterways are lined with ancient buildings and crossed by stone bridges.

**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.

Breakfast and Lunch

### Day 4: Shanghai

#### Day Outline

Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Garden and the atmospheric alleys of the old town. Admire the magnificent colonial architecture along the Huangpu River with a stroll along the Bund before visiting the Silk Museum. Take a stroll on Nanjing Road before taking a cruise on the mighty Huangpu River for stunning night vistas.

#### Physical Description

Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the centre of the city with 3-4hrs on foot, including visits to the Yu Gardens, the old town and a stroll on the Bund. Be mindful of your valuables while in the Old Town as it is

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very crowded. You will need to get on and off the boat on your Huangpu River cruise.

### Destination Information



**Old Town and Yu Gardens** -The old town 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.

**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.

**Silk Museum** – The Silk Museum 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.

**Nanjing Road** – Shanghai's answer to London's Oxford Street, Nanjing Road is a

thriving shopping district and is one of the busiest retail streets in the world.

**Huangpu River Cruise** – There is no better way to see the juxtaposition of eras in Shanghai's history than by 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 5: Shanghai-Xian

#### Day Outline

Fly to Xian for a 2 night stay. This evening, feast on traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and enjoy a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

#### Physical Description

You will be transferred to the airport in Shanghai (approx. 1 hour to Shanghai Pudong Airport and approx. 1 hour to Shanghai Hongqiao Airport). The flight duration is approx. 2 hours 30 minutes. Transfer from Xian airport to your hotel is approx. 1 hour.

### 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 fares, Xian is a must see destination.

**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 the period.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

### Day 6: Xian



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## 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. Take a stroll on Xian's ancient city wall this afternoon.

## 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.

The local guide will give you time to explore the ancient city walls 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.

## 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 even more spectacular experience.

Breakfast and Lunch

## Day 7: Xian - Beijing



## Day Outline

Today visit the lovely Little Wild Goose Pagoda before taking a stroll through the exotic Muslim Quarter. This afternoon fly to Beijing.

## Physical Description

Please be mindful of your valuables in the Muslim Quarters, due to large crowds. Fly from Xian to Beijing (flight duration 1 hour 50 minutes). On arrival, transfer to your hotel (approx. 1 hour) for an evening of leisure.

## Destination Information

**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.

**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

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## Day 8: Beijing

### Day Outline

Walk across the lengths of Tiananmen Square and into the magnificent Forbidden City. Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven where you can watch, or take part in, an outdoor dance class. This evening enjoy a Chinese acrobatic show.

### Physical Description

Sightseeing at Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City will involve approx. 3-4 hours on foot. You will spend approx. 2 hours on foot at the Temple of Heaven.

*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.

**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

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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 9: 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 wander the Summer Palace. This evening savour a delicious Peking duck dinner.

### 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.

### 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.

**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.

**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!

**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

## **Day 10: Depart Beijing**

### Day Outline

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



## A China Experience 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 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.

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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. All drinks and beverages are at your own expense.

**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.

**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**

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