



China Tour Dossier
Ultimate Panda Weekend
Private Tour | 5 Days | Comfortable Pace





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 tour.

Ultimate Panda Weekend tour highlights:

- ❖ Come face to face with the Giant Pandas
- ❖ The mighty Leshan Buddha
- ❖ Walk traditional Jinli Street
- ❖ Mysteries of the Bian Lian Face Changing opera
- ❖ Wander the Wide and Narrow Alleys

Ultimate Panda Weekend tour inclusions:

- ❖ Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges
- ❖ All accommodation
- ❖ Meals as stated
- ❖ All sightseeing and entrance fees as stated
- ❖ 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 – Ultimate Panda Weekend

On our **Ultimate Panda Weekend Tour**, you will visit **Chengdu**

‘Ultimate Panda Weekend’ is a **comfortable paced** tour: the easiest pace of tour Wendy Wu Tours offers. As a whole, ‘Ultimate Panda Weekend’ requires a reasonable level of fitness. **During your tour, there may be sightseeing on foot for a period of time.**

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 – Ultimate Panda Weekend

Day 1-2: Fly to Chengdu

Day Outline

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

Physical Description

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

Destination Information

Chengdu - China's symbolic western capital and the residence of the country's most lovable black and white bear, Chengdu has an abundance to offer. A fast paced economy which is dragging China's west into the 21st century; it is no wonder that Chengdu's appeal is growing year on year. As the gateway into Sichuan Province's large collection of sights, as well as Chengdu being its own trove of historical and cultural treasures, Chengdu is a definite, a necessity, a must-see on any trip to China.

No Meals Provided

Day 3: Chengdu – Leshan - Chengdu

Day Outline

Enjoy a visit to one of the most spectacular and memorable sights of Sichuan - the Grand Buddha of Leshan. We drive past the town of Leshan where we will reach the confluence of the Minjiang, Dadu and Qingyi rivers and the site of the tallest Buddha statue in the world sitting on the mountainside. Return to Chengdu and take some time to stroll around the vibrant Wide and Narrow Alleys.

Physical Description

On arrival at the Grand Buddha there is a 5 minute walk up to the entrance of the park.

Visit wendywutours.co.uk

From here there are 250 steps to ascend and a similar amount to descend to the feet of the Buddha; 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 to the feet of the Buddha you are committed as the steps are very narrow and strictly one-way only.

If we are unable to walk down the steps or you do not wish to do so, there are many other attractions to visit within the park including temples, pavilions and caves.

You will enjoy easy walking in the Wide and Narrow Alleys.

Destination Information

Leshan Grand Buddha – The Leshan Buddha was built in the 9th 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.

Breakfast and Lunch

Day 4: Chengdu

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 taking a wander through the atmospheric Jinli Street. This evening watch a Bian Lian Face Changing Opera and dine on delicious Sichuan cuisine.

Call 0800 630 0888 to speak to a Reservations

Consultant



Wendy Wu Tours

Physical Description

The Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding is located only 18km from the city centre. It is 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 involves approx. 1.5 hours on foot. There are electric carts offered by private vendors and can be organised at your own cost.

You will enjoy light sightseeing around Jinli Street. Please note that Sichuan cuisine can be quite spicy.

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.

Jinli Street - Recorded back as far as the 2nd century BCE, Jinli Street houses traditional-style buildings and delicious snacks. Famous for its baldachin manufacturing, Jinli Street is a great place to stop for a traditional Chinese tea in one of the many teahouses.

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 Kung Pao Chicken, twice-cooked pork and spicy Sichuan hotpot.

Bian Lian Face Changing Opera – Bian Lian is a traditional form of Sichuan Opera in which the actors change their masks so quickly it is near impossible to see them making the action.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 5: Depart Chengdu

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



Ultimate Panda Weekend 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.

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.

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: 25 January 2016