



China: The Big One

Go Beyond Tour | 29 Days | Physical Level 2

Beijing – Xian – Chengdu – Lijiang – Dali – Kunming – Guilin –
Yangshuo – Chongqing – Yangtze River Cruise – Yichang – Shanghai

This complete Chinese adventure offers you time to absorb the atmosphere of China's bustling cities and quirky ancient towns at your own pace, visiting all the major sights and some lesser known treasures.

- Walk on the Great Wall of China
- Cycle the ancient city walls of Xian
- Explore the fascinating Stone Forest
- Unearth the quaint town of Lijiang
- Get up close to the Giant Pandas
- Relax with a cruise on the Yangtze River
- Discover vibrant Shanghai

TOUR MAP



CHINA: THE BIG ONE TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Most meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) and Local Guides
- Visa fees for New Zealand passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with IATA

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

GO BEYOND TOURS:

Venture off the beaten track to explore fascinating destinations away from the tourist trail. You will discover the local culture in depth and see sights rarely witnessed by other travellers. These tours take you away from the comforts of home but will reward you with the experiences of a lifetime. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

'China: The Big One' is rated as a physical level 2 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps. There are also some more active optional excursions. By making the more physically demanding features optional, these tours are exactly what they say on the tin; flexible. Some of the optional excursions, such as hiking in the Longji Rice Terraces, will require a higher level of fitness to take part in. Please refer to the Travel Information section at the end for a list of optional activities.

- On the Great Wall of China, you may be walking on steep ground
- In Beijing, Xian and Shanghai there will be long periods of walking whilst sightseeing
- You will be required to get on and off varying sizes of boats without assistance during the tour
- You will need to be able to cycle a bicycle for approximately 1 hour in Xian
- You will be at higher altitude at Jade Dragon Snow Mountain
- From Beijing to Xian, you will travel by overnight train in shared 4-berth cabin (2 x upper and 2 x lower beds)

This tour has been carefully designed to minimise the effects of Altitude Sickness whilst in Lijiang. Please be prepared for mild symptoms of Altitude Mountain Sickness (AMS) which include dizziness, fatigue, nausea, loss of appetite, breathlessness, headache and disturbed sleep. These usually develop over the first 36 hours at altitude and not immediately on arrival. AMS symptoms are experienced by people of varying ages and levels of fitness, and usually the symptoms will subside after a day or so. If symptoms worsen, you should seek medical advice and descend in altitude immediately. The following precautions may help to prevent or lessen the effects of AMS:

- Since fluid loss usually accompanies the acclimatisation process, drink plenty of fluids (3 - 4 litres daily at least) and eat carbohydrate food to keep the body properly hydrated
- Do not over exert and only partake in light activity immediately after your arrival
- Don't smoke, drink alcohol or take other depressants such as tranquilisers and sleeping pills, as these depress the respiratory drive and reduce oxygen intake.
- Assume any sickness at high altitude is AMS until proven otherwise
- Never ascend to higher altitudes while showing symptoms of AMS
- You must report any symptoms of AMS immediately to your National Guide

Of course, our National Escort and 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.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 29 days in duration including international flights or 27 days in duration based on 'Land Only'.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Beijing and end the tour on Day 28 in Shanghai. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure. An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 2 of the itinerary. If you miss this due to your arrival time, all information will be provided to you at breakfast the following morning.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly overnight to Beijing

Meals: D

On arrival in Beijing Daxing or Beijing Capital Airport, you will be met in the arrival 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 approximately 1 hour to your hotel.



Early check-in is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.

An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 2. Late arrivals will receive a box dinner.

Destination Information

Beijing – 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. It has been the heart of politics and society throughout its long history. The ancient monuments, stories of days gone by, and the dynamic, modern city Beijing has become today, make it a destination not to be missed.

Day 3: Beijing

Meals: B, L

Walk across Tiananmen Square into the magnificent Forbidden City and the Jingshan Park. Next, visit Yandaixiejie where you will have some free time to explore the Hutongs and enjoy a local lunch. Sightseeing will be approximately 4 hours. Later, enjoy some free time in the traditional Houhai area.



Please note: 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. In an effort to preserve the Forbidden City, the number of entry tickets per day has been significantly reduced. Whilst every effort will be made to obtain the tickets, should this not be possible, then you will instead visit the Forbidden City from the outside and visit the nearby Prince Kung's Palace Museum.

Destination Information

Tiananmen Square – Built under the guidance of Chairman Mao Zedong, Tiananmen Square is one of the largest public squares in the world, said to hold a capacity crowd of over one million. 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 13th century as tenancy for the growing population of the city. Hutongs were designed to reflect the Chinese system of Feng Shui with 4 hutongs joining together to make a courtyard in the middle, known as Siheyuan.

Day 4: The Great Wall

Meals: B, L

Rise early this morning and transfer 2 hours to the Huanghuacheng section of the Great Wall of China, one of the most picturesque sections. You will need to get on and off a boat, taking you across a lake to where you will begin your walk on the wall. First, you will be given a brief history of the area before having a couple of hours free to walk on the fortified wall. On your return to Beijing, visit the Jade Factory.



This evening, stroll around Qianmen Street and Dashilan area. An optional Peking Duck dinner is available this evening (payable locally).

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. Understand how to tell if jade is real or fake and watch artisans at work, carving this emerald Jade into works of art.

Day 5: Beijing

Meals: B, L

Wander around the beautiful grounds of the Summer Palace, former holiday home of the Qing emperors. Whilst here, climb magnificent Longevity Hill for spectacular views over the palace's Kunming Lake. Make a photo stop this afternoon at the iconic Bird's Nest Stadium, home of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The time at the Olympic Village will not include entry to any of the Olympic venues.

**Destination Information**

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.

Olympic Village – See the home of the most watched Olympic event in history at the Beijing Olympic Village. Most spectacular of sights here is the iconic Bird's Nest Stadium, host to the spectacular opening and closing ceremonies in 2008.

Day 6: Beijing – Xian

Meals: B, L

Start your day exploring at the Temple of Heaven. Later, board your overnight train to Xian.

The overnight train takes approximately 12 hrs (over 1,300km). The cabins are first class soft sleeper compartments where each cabin consists of 4 shared berths (2 x upper and 2 x lower). Wear comfortable clothes on board to sleep in on the train, and you may wish to take some snacks. Please note you will need to carry your own luggage on and off the train.

**Destination Information**

Temple of Heaven – Set in a 267-hectare park surrounded by a long wall and with a gate at each compass point, the Temple of Heaven is absolutely unique. It is one of the most perfect examples of Ming architecture, created as a place of worship for the Emperors, who would ask for prosperity, longevity and good harvest for the people.

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.

Day 7: Xian

Meals: B, L

Arrive in Xian and transfer to your hotel for breakfast. After, take a gentle cycle ride around the nine miles of the Xian Ancient City Wall. Visit the lovely Little Wild Goose Pagoda before seeing the 130,000 fine cultural relics on display in the Xian Museum. This evening, there will be an optional Tang Ever-Bright City Night Tour.



Please note, if the hotel rooms are available in the morning, you will be able to check in and refresh before starting the touring in Xian. However, if the rooms are not available, you will begin the touring straight after breakfast and then check in to the hotel after lunch.

Destination Information

Ancient city walls – Dating back to the Ming Dynasty in the 14th 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 hire a bike to get an ever more spectacular experience.

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.

Day 8: Xian

Meals: B, L

Transfer 1 hour to view the formidable ranks of terracotta warriors and horses, lined up in ranks to protect the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang. From the bus park to the museum entrance there is a 15-minute walk. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost. There are no electric carts available for the return from the museum exit to the bus park. Within the museum area the warriors can be seen in three different 'pits', which are active archaeological digs. The site is large and, towards the summer months, can be hot outside. Sightseeing here involves approximately 2 and a half hours on foot. Next, visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Workshop to see smaller models of the warriors being made, before returning to explore the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter.



This evening, there will be an optional Tang Dynasty Dancing Show & Dumpling Dinner (payable locally).

Destination Information

Terracotta Warriors – One of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 20th century, this unearthed terracotta army is comprised of over 7,000 soldiers, horses and chariots. The army was built in life-sized form by thousands of workers and designed by Emperor Qin Shi Huang to defend himself in the afterlife.

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

Day 9: Xian – Chengdu

Meals: B

Take a 3-hour bullet train to Chengdu, capital of fascinating Sichuan Province. Take a stroll around People's Park and visit a teahouse for a cup of delicious Chinese tea (tea at your own expense), as well as Matchmaker's Corner, where parents search for suitable suitors for their children.



This evening, stroll around in the Wide and Narrow Alley.

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. With 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 must-visit on any trip to China.

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.

Wide and Narrow Alley - Wide and Narrow Alley is one of Chengdu's historical and cultural reserves that can be dated back to the Qing Dynasty (1644 - 1911 AD). The area was renovated in 2003 and is today a popular entertainment and tourism site, with lots of restaurants, pubs, teahouses, and shops.

Day 10: Chengdu

Meals: B,L

See 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.

There is an optional Sichuan Hot Pot meal this evening with a Face Changing Show (payable locally).

**Destination Information**

Panda Conservation Centre – 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.

Day 11: Chengdu – Lijiang

Meals: B

Fly 1.5-hours to Lijiang, set in the foothills of the magnificent Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Check in and enjoy time at leisure.

Overnight altitude: 2,300m

**Destination Information**

Lijiang – A beautiful tapestry of cobbled streets, rickety wooden buildings and sultry streams, Lijiang is a vision of idyllic wonder; a great place to just take a stroll and soak up the atmosphere.

Day 12: Lijiang

Meals: B, L

A magnificent mountain, the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain comprise several peaks, the tallest of which is 5,500m. Today, you will explore one of the beautiful high meadows and enjoy the amazing vistas. To avoid the large crowds of people queuing at the same time, the local government's tourist authority allocates a time to each group.



The bus will drive to the base of the mountain, from where you will take a 10-minute chairlift to Yunshaping (Cloud Fir Meadow) at an altitude of approximately 3,200m. From the chairlift, there is a wooden pathway to the meadow, which takes approximately 1 hour to walk. Descend by chairlift and re-board the bus. Later, visit Baisha Old Town to view the fascinating Baisha Frescoes, painted during the early Ming Dynasty, and visit the Mu Family Embroidery School. Sightseeing at Baisha Old Town is leisurely. There are ruthless souvenir sellers near the bus park so be firm to avoid any hassle.

Daytime altitude: 3,200m

Overnight altitude: 2,300m

Please note, this section of the itinerary is subject to change at late notice. Your local guide will keep you informed of any changes as they are made aware of them. Jade Dragon Snow Mountain is at an altitude of 3,200M. All passengers should stay well hydrated to acclimatise to the higher altitude.

Destination Information

Jade Dragon Snow Mountain – Jade Dragon Snow Mountain is known for its mysterious ambience and snow-covered peaks and is considered the Holy Mountain amongst the Naxi ethnic group and other ethnic minorities in Lijiang. Popular for hiking, mountaineering, botanizing and skiing, Jade Dragon Snow Mountain attracts thousands of visitors every year who enjoy exploring its lofty peaks.

Baisha Old Town and Frescoes – Once the capital of the Naxi minority group, the Baisha Old Town is home to typical Naxi architecture and a great place to see the Naxi people going about their daily lives. The Baisha Frescoes date back to the early Ming Dynasty and are made up of 44 pieces. Most of the paintings depict religious stories from Taoism and Buddhism.

Mu Family Embroidery School – Watch as locals make intricate pieces of embroidery and take advantage to buy a piece yourself.

Day 13: Lijiang

Meals: B

Today, there is an option to visit the impressive Tiger Leaping Gorge and take a mini-trek (payable locally). Alternatively, you can spend the day at leisure in Lijiang.

Overnight altitude: 2,300m



Destination Information

Tiger Leaping Gorge – Tiger Leaping Gorge is believed to be one of the deepest and most dramatic gorges in the world, measuring at 16km. Hiking along Tiger Leaping Gorge has become incredibly popular, as those who do can view its roaring stream, cascading waterfalls and magnificent scale – great for those who crave an adventure.

Day 14: Lijiang – Dali

Meals: B, L

Drive 2 hours to Shaxi, a former ancient market town on the famous Tea and Horse Route, and enjoy some easy sightseeing around the old town. Continue a further 2 hours to the quaint town of Dali. Spend the evening at your leisure.

**Destination Information**

Shaxi – Shaxi became an important trading point on the famous Tea and Horse Route during the Tang Dynasty. The Tea and Horse Route like the Silk Route, increase trade between China and the rest of Asia, as it passed through Tibet and Burma.

Dali – Sandwiched between the Jade Green Mountains and serene Erhu Lake, Dali is naturally striking in its setting. Mainly a base for the Bai people, Dali has played an important role in the history of south China and was once a post on the old Burma Road.

Day 15: Dali

Meals: B

Enjoy a day at leisure in peaceful Dali. There will be an optional visit to Weibaoshan, one of the fourteen sacred Taoist mountains, for meditation with a Taoist Master.

**Destination Information**

Weibaoshan – Renowned for its stunning mountain scenery, ancient temples, and rich cultural heritage. The sacred Weibaoshan Temple, perched on the mountainside, attracts pilgrims and visitors alike, offering a peaceful retreat amidst the natural beauty of the region.

Day 16: Dali – Kunming

Meals: B, L

View the Three Pagodas and wander around Dali's charming Old Town before heading to lively Foreigners' Street. Drive approximately 4-hours to Kunming

**Destination Information**

Three Pagodas – Presented in a perfect triangle, the Three Pagodas date back to the 9th century and were built under the Nanzhao State. Made of brick and white mud, the Pagodas are known for their resilience, having survived many natural disasters, including earthquakes.

Foreigners Street – Popular with the foreign backpack community, Dali's Foreigners Street is lined with market stalls selling items from the Bai people, beautiful fabrics and delicious 'small eats' snacks.

Kunming – Nicknamed China's 'Spring City' due to its temperate weather, Kunming is the capital of Yunnan Province. Kunming has long played an important city for trade due to its significant location on the borders of Southeast Asia.

Day 17: Kunming

Meals: B, L

Spend the morning exploring the unusual limestone rock formations of the Kunming Stone Forest. Visit Green Lake Park before an evening at leisure in the Wenhua Alley district. Today, there will be an optional Yunnan Impression Show (payable locally).

**Destination Information**

Stone Forest – Located 120km south east of Kunming, the Stone Forest consists of thousands of narrow, fantastically shaped pillars of rock, scattered over an area of more than 80 hectares. The park is designed so that you can follow a walkway through the formations of water pools and grey pinnacles, the tallest of which is over 30m high.

Day 18: Kunming – Guilin

Meals: B,L

Board the 7-hour bullet train to Guilin, one of China's most beautiful spots. This afternoon, you will take a stroll around two of Guilin's most beautiful lakes, Ronghu and Shanhu, before heading to Zhengyang Pedestrian Street where there are many dining options for your perusal. There is an optional visit to the Sun and Moon Pagodas today.

**Destination Information**

Guilin – Guilin is one of China's most stunning and panoramic cities and was founded during the reign of the Qin Dynasty. It is renowned for the unique karst mountain beauty that encloses the city. Guilin developed as a trading town due to the building of the Ling Canal which links the important Pearl and Yangtze River systems.

Ronghu Lake – One of two lakes originating from the Tang Dynasty when they made up part of the city moat. As Guilin expanded in all directions the moat became a lake within the city area.

Sun and Moon Pagodas – Known as the Gold and Silver Pagodas because of their colours at night, the sun and moon pagodas sit on top of the Chinese Fir Lake but are connected underwater by a glass tunnel.

Day 19: Guilin

Meals: B

Today there is an option to take a full day tour of the Longji Rice Terraces at Ping An. Alternatively, you can explore the beautiful scenery of Guilin independently.

Please note: The optional tour to Longji involves approximately 4 hours of trekking, depending on the capability of the group. The ground here is uneven and the trek will include steep climbs.

**Destination Information**

Longji Rice Terrace – Longji is home to some of the most famous and beautiful rice terraces in China. The name 'Longji' literally translates as 'Dragon's Backbone' and is called so because the rice terraces resemble the scales on a dragon's back.

Day 20: Guilin – Yangshuo

Meals: B, L

Take a relaxed 4-hour 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. These are small cruise boats usually holding approximately 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, approximately a 15-minute walk from the river. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost. Take a walk in the idyllic countryside this afternoon. There will also be an option to walk up Moon Hill for spectacular views of Yangshuo. This evening, you may wish to experience the Impression Sanjie Liu show (time permitting, payable locally).



Please note, climbing Moon Hill involves a significant number of steep steps.

Destination Information

Li River Cruise – 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 spots in China.

Day 21: Yangshou

Meals: B

This morning, take part in a traditional Tai Chi class to learn the skills behind this ancient and spiritual exercise. The rest of the day is at leisure. Explore independently or take part in optional morning countryside cycling trip and/or an afternoon bamboo rafting trip.



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. With a fast-paced economy that 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 must-visit on any trip to China.

Day 22: Yangshuo – Yangtze River Cruise

Meals: B

Transfer back to Guilin by road, stopping by the Reed Flute Caves enroute. Take the bullet train 5 hours to Chongqing, one of the most important cities on the Yangtze River, where you will visit the porcelain district of Ciqikou. Tonight, board your Yangtze River Cruise ship for a 3-night stay.



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.

If you do not wish to take part in a shore excursion but you still wish to disembark the ship, there is a mandatory port tax which must be paid by each customer. The port tax amount is approx. USD20-USD30 per person; however, this amount can vary and for security reasons, it is not always possible to disembark at all ports of call.

You may be offered cabin upgrades locally which may include some of the amenity package services. Please note that the amenity package benefits start on the second day of the cruise.

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 southwest 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.

Yangtze River – One of the world’s great and legendary waterways, this 6,300km river has its origins high up in the snow-covered mountains of Tanggula, in the southwestern 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.

Day 23: Yangtze River Cruise

Meals: B, L, D

Today, visit Mt. ShuangGui, also known as “Luming Mountain”. Disembark from the ship to the dock and take a short bus transfer to the area. Sightseeing here involves climbing some steps. You will be off the ship for around 2.5 hours.

Depending on local river conditions and the cruise programme, you may visit Shibaozhai Temple or Fengdu Ghost City instead.

**Destination Information**

Mt. ShuangGui – A national forest park known for its picturesque scenery and has for centuries been a favorite destination for literati and artists. There are cliff brush writings of calligraphists here from the Song Dynasty to the present day, and pavilions are named for notable historic figures.

Day 24: Yangtze River Cruise

Meals: B, L, D

Transfer to smaller vessels for a relaxing excursion through the Shennong Stream gorges, which are narrower than the Three Gorges, but very impressive. Later, as the cruise ship continues upstream, prepare for breathtaking vistas as you pass through Wu and Qutang gorges.

Wu gorge is known for its quiet beauty, forest-covered mountains, and sheer cliffs, while Qutang Gorge is the shortest, narrowest, and most dramatic gorge.

Depending on local river conditions, you may travel along the gorges of Goddess Stream instead of Shennong Stream.

**Destination Information**

Shennong Stream – Shennong Stream flows from north to south through stunning deep gorges finally merging with the Yangtze to the east of the mouth of Wu Gorge. The landscape on both banks of this crystal-clear stream is unique and tranquil.

Day 25: Yangtze River Cruise – Shanghai

Meals: B, L, D

Visit the Three Gorges Dam, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world. Disembark the ship and drive approximately 20 minutes through the surrounding areas (the coach is not permitted to stop for photos) to the viewing area above the ship locks where you can truly appreciate the scale of this hydroelectric project. There is a small museum and a lookout point here. The sightseeing will involve around 1 hour on foot. Later, transfer to Yichang train station and board your 7-hour bullet train to the cosmopolitan Shanghai.

**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.

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 European and oriental. Modern skyscrapers intermingle with 1920s ‘shikumen’ buildings. This combination is what attracts millions of visitors each year.

Day 26: Shanghai

Meals: B, L

This morning, take a breakfast tour around some of Shanghai’s most exciting districts, tasting local delicacies, including pancakes and fried bread sticks. Afterwards, wander the pleasant Yu Gardens and the bustling Old Town, stroll along the bund and visit the informative Silk Factory. This evening, take a cruise down the Huangpu River to see the neon lights of Pudong.

**Destination Information**

Yu Gardens – 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.

Silk Factory – The Silk Factory 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.

Day 27: Shanghai

Meals: B, D

Today is free to explore the vibrant city of Shanghai independently or you can take an optional day trip to the laid-back water town of Zhujiajiao. There will be no other sightseeing or activities arranged in Shanghai, however, your National Escort will be happy to recommend things for you to do (at your own expense) such as heading up the Jinmao Tower, exploring the impressive Shanghai Museum or taking a ride on the futuristic Maglev Train.



This evening, watch a performance of the ERA acrobatic show and enjoy a farewell dinner of Shanghainese cuisine.

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.

ERA Show – One of Shanghai’s most famous shows, the “ERA – Intersection of Time” is a multi-million-dollar acrobatics extravaganza that redefines Chinese acrobatics. It is a meditation on time and a love story told through a spectacular sequence of acrobatic performances guaranteed to leave you enthralled and amazed.

Days 28 -29: Depart Shanghai

Meals: B

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to Shanghai Pudong or Shanghai Hongqiao Airport, according to the departure time of your international flight.

Late check-out is not included. Additional nights before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.

CHINA TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

China - Entry visas are required by all visitors to China. Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. Please note - Once an online visa application has been completed all passengers between the ages of 14-69 years old, you will be advised and will be required to visit one of three visa centres in New Zealand – Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch. Full details will be advised by Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Currently a visa is required for New Zealand Passport holders. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

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. These details will be available to your National Escort should they be required. 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.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by both a National Escort and local guides. There will be no more than 18 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu our groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 10 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

EATING 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. Often you'll find that the local Chinese style is very different from what you're used to at home. We welcome people on our tours with a wide variety of tastes and as such try to present an array of food to suit everyone in the group.

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.

Dishes served in restaurants on our group tours are varied. Some will be vegetable-based with meat mixed in, and a few will be meat-based. Traditionally, Chinese people cook with a lot of vegetables because meat used to be hard to come by.

Dishes often come pre-seasoned with soy sauce or other sauces. Our restaurants are well aware of the western palate – there are plenty of non-spiced options. Most meals are served with plain rice on the side which is intended as an accompaniment to your meal. Unlike the western world, Chinese people do not normally pre-heat their plates and food can be presented at a variety of temperatures, which is a typical Chinese way of doing things.

When eating meals on group tours, you will be seated around a circular table with other tour members. Dishes will be served in the traditional ‘family style’ on a lazy susan; meaning that various dishes will be laid out on a spinning turntable in the centre of the tabletop. These dishes are intended to be shared amongst the group – there is always more than enough to feed everybody. ‘Family style’ means that there is a pair of serving chopsticks for each dish which are used specifically to serve the food (please ask your server if you require a fork or spoon) and everybody will help themselves to all the dishes on the lazy susan. You will have an individual bowl, chopsticks and cup for your own use. Please be courteous and consider your fellow diners; if your favourite dish is on the other side of the table, it will make its way round to you soon! We find our customers really enjoy this sociable style of eating.

Your National Escort will do their utmost to cater for any special requests such as gluten free or vegetarian meals, however, people on restricted diets should expect complications. Although most Asian countries are now quite developed, only quite recently have they started to widely accept Western guests. Western food requirements are quite far removed from Asian food requirements, and even medical reasons can be quite difficult to explain. While our ground partners will do everything they can to cater for a wide range of dietary requirements on tour, we ask kindly for your patience and understanding that they cannot always be delivered to the standard you will be used to at home. It is recommended that passengers with food intolerances bring snacks or additional food items with them, especially when travelling further from major cities as not all dietary requests will be met due to the limited foods available. Please read your travel guide which you will receive with your final documents for more information about eating in China. We recommend that when it comes to Chinese food, you stay open minded, try to be adventurous and always have a go with the chopsticks!

PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

If you are travelling within the below Chinese Public Holidays please note that celebrations last for several days and during these times some businesses will be closed and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open, but may be crowded.

Spring Festival Chinese Lunar New Year): 10 February 2024 - 17 February 2024, 8 days, Tomb Sweeping Day (Qingming Festival): 4 April 2024 - 6 April 2024, 3 days, May Day (Labor's Day): 1 May 2024 - 5 May 2024, 5 days, Dragon Boat Festival: 8 June 2024 - 10 June 2024, 3 days, Mid-Autumn Festival: 15 September 2024 - 17 September 2024, 3 days, Golden Week (National Day): 1 October 2024 - 7 October 2024, 7 days

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the New Zealand and China. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. Due to environmental regulations, not all hotels in China provide toiletries in the rooms. 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 National Escort/Local Guide. 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.

TRANSPORT:

High-Speed Trains: On this tour, you will take multiple high-speed “bullet” train journey’s. You will travel in second-class soft seats with air conditioning. For train journeys you must ensure that you pack liquids, aerosols and gels/lotions in your hand luggage as per recent regulations. Passengers are not allowed to carry any aerosols over 100ml. Passengers are also not allowed to carry flammable gases or liquids including styling gel, compressed air or insecticides; any explosives, magnetised material, knives (including Swiss Army knives), scissors or sharp items (medication is fine). Bag checks are conducted randomly and any of these items may be confiscated before boarding the train (in hand luggage or main luggage). The National Escort will inform you of specific details prior to boarding.

High-Speed Train Facilities: The second-class seats are in a 3 x 2 seating configuration. Facilities vary from train to train. Most carriages have a western style toilet. Most seats will have a foldable tray table and power socket for charging your electronic devices. There are dining carts on board if you wish to purchase your own additional food.

Overnight Train: Your accommodation on board the overnight train is in an air-conditioned, shared 4-berth soft sleeper compartment. Each cabin has 2 upper and 2 lower berths. There are no showers on board but there are toilets; a Western-style at one end of the carriage and an Asian-style at the other end. It is advisable to bring your own toilet paper. There is an adjoining washroom with mirrors and a basin. The beds and cabins are basic with clean linen provided. You may want to wear comfortable clothes to sleep in as there is no en-suite inside the compartment. There is not always a dining car open so it is recommended you bring some snacks with you.

On board some trains there may be a refreshment trolley serving snacks and light refreshments. Although we try to keep all the group members together in the same compartment, you may find yourself sharing your compartment with locals; an excellent chance to share your experiences.

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in China have generally 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. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only. There may be sections of road where the surface is bumpy but our drivers will do their utmost to lessen the impact.

Planes: Internal flight/s are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. Lithium Ion batteries, usually used in laptops, cell phones and digital cameras, must be carried in your hand luggage (not in your checked luggage). Portable chargers with a case that does not state the capacity or with a capacity of 160wh and more are not allowed on internal flights at all.

Cruise Vessels: Included is a cruise on the Yangtze River. Your cabin will have a private bathroom and balcony. Due to tightened security process for luggage upon cruise disembarkation in Yichang, the Transport Authority has imposed a fee of RMB25 per main luggage item. Wendy Wu tours will cover the cost of one main luggage item per person. If you have additional items (excluding hand luggage) you will need to cover the cost yourself locally – RMB25 per item.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

To give you more flexibility and choice when travelling on selected tours in our Go Beyond range; we have carefully balanced special highlight meals with evenings at leisure so that you can explore the many culinary delights that China has to offer. Alternatively, you can use this time to enjoy the facilities of your hotel. Your National Escort will be happy to provide you with advice about good places to eat and assist in the booking of transportation to get you there (at your own expense).

Your guide will offer optional activities locally if time permits. A list of optional activities and approximate costs will be provided with your final documents. These can be arranged by your guide and are paid for locally.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs; so in each city, we will visit a workshop or factory which demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places which hold local interest; for example, in Shanghai you will be able to see how silk is created all the way from the silk worm to beautiful garments; and in Xian we will take you to a workshop which creates replicas of the Terracotta Warriors, from tiny little warriors to seven foot behemoths! We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. In general, we recommend packing only as much as you can lift as you will need to carry your own luggage on and off trains. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA:

Though parts of China match the west in modernity and technological advances, it is important to remember that parts of China are still developing and as such, many aspects of tourism in China do not have the solid infrastructure and safety standards as seen here in the west.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and China is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort.

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, then tipping is paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups. Yangtze cruise companies operate a service charge policy and this is paid separately when boarding the vessel.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your Doctor or Health centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safetravel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It's our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we'll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

Updated: May 2024