



# NATURAL TREASURES OF CHINA

Go Beyond Tour | 16 Days | Physical Level 2

CHANGSHA – ZHANGJIAJIE – FENGHUANG – CHENGDU  
– NINE VILLAGES VALLEY – CHONGQING

This tour takes you on scenic journey bursting with flora and fauna through three stunning national parks of China, admiring the landscapes and panoramic vistas as you go. Be amazed by the beauty of Zhangjiajie's mysterious sandstone pillars and the vivid sapphire lakes of Nine Villages Valley, not forgetting the loveable pandas or stunning Heishan Valley.

- Journey up Avatar Mountain in the world's tallest glass elevator
- Take an exhilarating walk along the world's highest glass bridge in Zhangjiajie
- Experience a scenic cruise on the Tuojiang River
- Meet the Giant Pandas in Chengdu
- Walk in the spectacular Nine Villages Valley National Park
- Marvel at the centuries old Dazu Rock Carvings

## TOUR MAP

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## NATURAL TREASURES OF CHINA TOUR INCLUSIONS:

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

*The only thing you may have to pay for is 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:

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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. These tours include:

- Walking through classic sites
- Unique cultural experiences and encounters
- Off the beaten track destinations
- More evenings at leisure for independent exploration

### PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

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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.

‘Naturals Treasures of China’ is rated as a physical level 2 tour. A good level of fitness is required as you need to be comfortable walking for 3-4 hours and covering large distances. You will be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- On multiple days you will be required to spend around 1-2 hours walking up and down wooden and stone steps and walkways
- You will be required to get on and off varying sizes of boats without assistance during the tour
- You will spend around an hour on a glass bottomed bridge at high elevation
- There are multiple days at altitude, ranging from 2500 metres to 3500 metres
- At Huanglong Pools you will walk 7 kilometres over a 4-hour period, at an altitude of 3,100 metres to 3,500 metres

The Nine Villages Valley sits at an altitude of up to 3,500 metres. 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 overexert and only partake in light activity immediately after your arrival
- Do not 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:

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The tour is 16 days in duration including international flights. Please note that due to flight schedules you may arrive/depart on Day 2.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only, the price includes visa fees and your arrival/ departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please email your international flight times to [info@wendywutours.co.nz](mailto:info@wendywutours.co.nz) so we can arrange your transfers accordingly.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Changsha and end the tour on Day 15 in Chongqing. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

### ITINERARY CHANGES:

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It is 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 will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.



## DETAILED ITINERARY

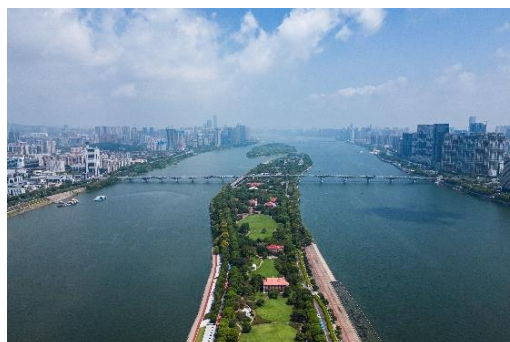
### Days 1-2: Fly overnight to Changsha

Meals: D

On arrival in Changsha Huanghua 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 to your hotel.

Depending on your time of arrival, the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

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



### Destination Information

**Changsha** – Changsha, the capital city of Hunan Province, China, is a vibrant metropolis steeped in history and surrounded by natural beauty. With its modern skyline, historical landmarks like Yuelu Mountain and Orange Isle, and a thriving culinary scene featuring spicy Hunan cuisine, Changsha offers a perfect blend of ancient charm and contemporary allure. As a bustling cultural, economic, and transportation hub, it captivates visitors with its rich heritage, picturesque landscapes, and a dynamic atmosphere that reflects the city's growth and vitality.

### Day 3: Changsha – Zhangjiajie

Meals: B, L, D

Begin the day by stepping into history at the Yuelu Academy, a hub of learning for centuries, nestled by the scenic Mt. Yuelu. Later, travel 4-hours by road to Zhangjiajie, and this evening enjoy a 72 Qilou night tour, exploring the 72 strange and spectacular buildings – the tallest Tujia stilted building in the world.

### Destination Information

**Yuelu Academy** – As one of the four great ancient academies in China, Yuelu Academy has been a center for Confucian studies, attracting scholars and intellectuals throughout history. Today, it serves as a cultural landmark, housing valuable collections, ancient books, and cultural relics that offer a glimpse into China's scholarly traditions and intellectual heritage.



**Zhangjiajie** – A scenic area of over 3,000 sandstone pillars, rising from misty folds of subtropical forest and cloaked in vibrant green vegetation, Zhangjiajie's striking beauty is unforgettable.

**Day 4: Zhangjiajie**

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy a full day of exploring Zhangjiajie National Park. Begin at the Yuanjianie Scenic Area for a ride the remarkable Bailong glass elevator, the highest and fastest outdoor elevator in the world. Embedded into the mountain, the elevator soars up the mountain side to a towering height of 326 metres in as little as two minutes! This impressive elevator will transport you to Mihun Stage, where you will enjoy amazing views of the majestic peaks, including the 'First Bridge under the Sun' and Hallelujah Mountain. Continue to Emperor Mountain and visit Helong Park before taking a cable car down.



Explore Jinbian Stream and Ten-Mile Natural Gallery then enjoy a scenic sampan cruise on Lake Baofeng, a turquoise expanse of water amongst picturesque karst scenery.

*Sightseeing today will involve around 4-5 hours of walking.*

*This evening, there is an optional Fairy Fox Outdoor Music & Dancing Show (time and weather permitting, payable locally), a musical drama of a Chinese tale told against the stage backdrop of the mountains.*

**Destination Information**

**Bailong Elevator** – Also known as the Hundred Dragons Elevator, this architectural marvel holds an impressive three world records: the largest, highest and fastest sightseeing elevator in the world.

**Jinbian Stream** – Called Golden Whip Stream after the 380 metre high Golden Whip Rock, Jinbian Stream is famous for its pristine water, lush mountains, steep cliffs and serene valley. Exotic plants and rare animals co-exist, and the valley in which it lies is known as one of the most beautiful valleys in the world.

**Ten-Mile Natural Gallery** – Ten Mile Natural Gallery is a 5.8 kilometre long valley with picturesque scenery. Peaks on both sides of the valley form natural sculptures.

**Lake Baofeng** – Located up in the mountains, Lake Baofeng is an abundance of fresh water, accompanied by stunning waterfalls.

**Day 5: Zhangjiajie**

Meals: B, L, D

Brace yourself for an exhilarating walk across Zhangjiajie's Glass Bridge, the world's longest and highest glass-bottomed bridge spanning 430-metres over the Grand Canyon.

Later, soar up the heights of Tianmen Mountain in the world's longest cable car, a 7-kilometre journey taking approximately 40-minutes.



Atop the Mountain, marvel at Tianmen Cave, nicknamed 'Heaven's Door', standing proudly at the top of 999 steep steps. Next, take a thrilling walk along a glass skywalk, aptly named "The Walk of Faith" as though you're walking on air. If time permits, you may also walk across the Cliff-Hanging Walkway or Coiled Dragon Cliff.

*Sightseeing today will involve around 3-4 hours of walking. Please note: The 999 step walk up to Tianmen Cave and the glass skywalk is optional. The steps can take around 40 – 60 minutes. Alternatively, there is an escalator on the other side of the mountain leading up to Tianmen Cave. There is also a small platform at the foot of the 999 steps where you can soak up the spectacular views and wait for the group.*

### Destination Information

**Zhangjiajie Glass Bridge** – The world's longest and highest glass-bottomed bridge, spanning 430 metres across the Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon.

**Tianmen Mountain** – Regarded as the symbol and soul of Zhangjiajie, Tianmen Mountain is a national forest park bursting with natural beauty. The area is home to breathtaking glass skywalks, the 999-step stairway leading to 'Heaven's Door' and the world's longest cable car journey.

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### Day 6: Zhangjiajie – Fenghuang

Meals: B, L

Today, travel by road to Fenghuang (Phoenix) Ancient Town, a quaint scenic town rich in culture and natural beauty. Here you will visit the Former Residence of Shen Congwen, who is considered the greatest novelist in China.

This evening, enjoy free time to wander the ancient streets and admire the architectural styles of the Ming and Qing dynasties. Experience the photogenic night time scenery as the ancient buildings come to life with illuminations along the riverfront while you enjoy an independent dinner.



### Destination Information

**Fenghuang Ancient Town** – An area of outstanding beauty and a charming ancient town that sits on the Tuojiang River boasting beautiful bridges and quirky stilt houses. According to legend, the town's name originates from the mythical Phoenix bird, as a pair flew over the town became amazed by its beauty and were hesitant to leave.



**Day 7: Fenghuang – Chengdu**

Meals: B, L, D

Visit the Ancient Town in the morning before taking a scenic cruise on the Tuojiang River, a life force for many of the locals. When cruising along the river, you may spot locals going about their daily life, fishing or laundering their clothes in the river. Later, board your 5-hour bullet train to Chengdu.

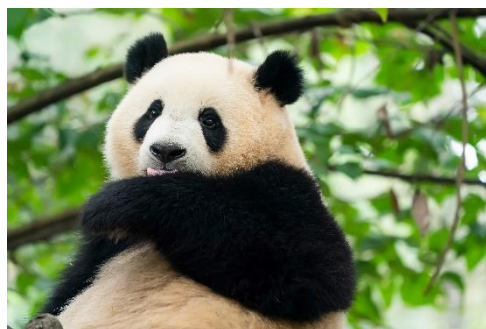
**Destination Information**

**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.

**Day 8: Chengdu**

Meals: B, L

Today you 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 People’s Park to see the famous Matchmaker’s Corner where parents look for suitable suitors for their children. Later, enjoy time to explore the local food markets.

*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 approximately 1 and a half hours on foot and there are electric carts offered by private vendors that can be organised at your own cost.*

**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.

**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.



**Day 9: Chengdu – Nine Villages Valley**

Meals: B, L, D

Begin your day with a 1 hour and 40-minute bullet train journey to the Nine Villages Valley. Spend the afternoon exploring the Huanglong pools where you will find hundreds of vivid pools in striking colours, formed by thousands of years of mineral deposit, tumbling gently down through the bright green forests of the Huanglong Valley.



*There is an option to take a chairlift up and down to allow more time for sightseeing at the top; the cost of this is at your own expense. We usually spend around 2-3 hours sightseeing here. This area is at an altitude of 3,500 metres.*

**Destination Information**

**Nine Villages Valley** – Lying in the southwest of China in the Northern Sichuan province, hidden in a national park is the Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou), home to Nine Tibetan villages scattered throughout a natural wonderland. A national park of ragged peaks, sapphire Lakes, abundant forests and rushing Waterfalls, Nine Villages Valley is considered one of China's most beautiful areas. Covering over 700 square kilometres, the valley is one of China's greatest natural assets, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992 and a World Biosphere Reserve in 1997.

**Huanglong** – Within neighbouring distance of Nine Villages Valley is the equally alluring area of Huanglong. Huanglong which means 'Yellow Dragon' is renowned for its wide variety of colourful pools and natural ponds which are said to shimmer like a 'yellow dragon'. The colour of the pools is caused by calcium deposits in the water which bring out the liquids in strong greens, blues and yellows.

**Day 10: Nine Villages Valley**

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy a full day exploring the diverse scenery of the splendid Nine Villages Valley, China's most awe-inspiring National Park. You will spend 5 to 6 hours walking including Long Lake, Five Coloured Lake and Nuorilang Falls.



*Walking today will be approximately 5-6 hours on some uneven and slippery terrain which requires extra care whilst walking. It is strongly advised that you wear sturdy footwear with ankle support if needed.*

**Destination Information**

**Nine Villages Valley** – Lying in the southwest of China in the Northern Sichuan province, hidden in a national park is the Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou), home to Nine Tibetan villages scattered throughout a natural wonderland. A national park of ragged peaks, sapphire Lakes, abundant forests and rushing Waterfalls, Nine Villages Valley is considered one of China's most beautiful areas. Covering over 700 square kilometres, the valley is one of China's greatest natural assets, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992 and a World Biosphere Reserve in 1997.

**Day 11: Nine Villages Valley**

Meals: B, L, D

Visit Shuzheng Village, one of nine Tibetan Villages in the park. Spend some time with a local Tibetan family who will give you an insight into daily life in Nine Villages Valley.

A lovely afternoon walk takes you from Rhinoceros Lake, passing Tiger Lake ending at Reed Lake – an excellent way to really appreciate the local scenery. Pass an old watermill and Tibetan prayer flags en route. Tonight, enjoy a traditional Tibetan dinner.

**Destination Information**

**Shuzheng Village** – One of the nine Tibetan villages located within the Jiuzhaigou, the village sits by a series of interconnected lakes known for their crystal-clear waters and vibrant hues and features traditional Tibetan-style architecture, with wooden houses and building adding to its charm

**Day 12: Nine Villages Valley – Chongqing**

Meals: B, L

Travel by bullet train to Chongqing, transiting through Chengdu, with a journey time of around 4 hours. On arrival, marvel at the impressive architecture of Hongya Cave, an 11-storey stilt building, beautifully constructed in traditional Bayu architecture style. In the evening, explore the Chongqing night markets and see the Hongya Cave illuminated in all its glory.

**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.

**Day 13: Black Mountain Valley**

Meals: B, L, D

Take a day trip out of Chongqing to explore Heishan Valley, also known as the Black Mountain Valley. The lush landscapes are cloaked in green vegetation and are home to a variety of wildlife, offering some great photo opportunities!

**Destination Information**

**Heishan "Black Mountain" Valley** – This is a serene and picturesque area covering over 100 square kilometres, brimming with dramatic mountains, deep valley floors, waterfalls and sheer cliffs, along with an impressive 13-kilometre-long gorge.



**Day 14: Dazu Day Tour**

Meals: B, L, D

Travel approximately 3 hours by road to Dazu, home to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Dazu Rock Carvings. Here, you will find thousands of Buddhist, Taoist and Confucianist idols and symbols carved into rock faces over 70 sites. Made between the 9th and 13th centuries, they are some of the best-preserved in China. Enjoy the day in Dazu before returning to Chongqing to tuck into a delicious hot pot dinner.

**Destination Information**

**Dazu Rock Carvings** – known for their grand scale and beauty, the exceptional UNESCO World Heritage listed Dazu Rock Carvings cover a diverse range of subject matter and shed light on everyday life in China in the 9th – 13th centuries.

**Day 15: Depart Chongqing**

Meals: B

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.

*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:

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China Visas are not required for New Zealand and Australia passport holders for stays 30 days and under. For longer periods in China and/or other passport holders a visa will be required. Full details will be advised by Wendy Wu Tours upon booking.

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. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

### INSURANCE:

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We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

### TIPPING POLICY:

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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.

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.

### EATING IN CHINA:

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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. 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:**

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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.

Chinese New Year is on 29th January 2025 and 17th February 2026. Golden Week public holidays fall annually between 1st – 3rd May and 1st – 7th October.

## DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA:

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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.

## TRANSPORT:

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**Trains:** On this tour, you will journey by “bullet” train 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. Each carriage has 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.

**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.

## ACCOMMODATION:

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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 New Zealand and China. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone.

In China, 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.

#### **PORTERAGE:**

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Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours in China. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

#### **LUGGAGE:**

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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 five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. 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.

#### **EXCHANGING CASH:**

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It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to cities outside of Beijing and Shanghai. US Dollars are easily exchanged throughout China and other currencies can generally be exchanged in hotels and airports provided notes are new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

#### **PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:**

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**Personal Expense** - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you.

**Optional Tours** - May be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available.

Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

#### **CLIMBING STEPS:**

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Sightseeing at nearly all the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps.

These palaces were built to provide defence against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steps to slow down the advance of enemies once they were inside. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails. Buddhist temples or pagodas also tend to be built at an elevation, as this is the most auspicious position according to ancient beliefs. This means you sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb some steps inside.

People with knee or hip injuries who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully

#### VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

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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](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz)

#### BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

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We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz) as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements.

You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

#### AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

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Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: November 2024