



CHINA ADVENTURE

Private Tour | 12 Days | Physical Level 2

Beijing – Xian – Chengdu – Zhangjiajie – Shanghai

Marvel at China's most incredible landscapes, from the sweeping views atop the mighty Great Wall, to the soaring peaks that inspired the blockbuster film 'Avatar' at Zhangjiajie National Park. Immerse yourself in the local culture of Xian's Muslim Quarter, feast your eyes and taste buds on dumplings with a side of Tang Dynasty dancing, and get to know the nation's favourite bear at Chengdu's Panda Conservation Centre.

- Toboggan ride or cable car down the Great Wall of China
- Get a taste of Beijing on a street food tour
- See the Giant Pandas play
- Experience the spectacular Terracotta Warriors
- Take an exhilarating walk across Zhangjiajie's Grand Canyon
- Enjoy the vibrant city of Shanghai

TOUR MAP



CHINA ADVENTURE TOUR INCLUSIONS :

- All accommodation
- Meals as stated (B – Breakfast / L – Lunch / D – Dinner)
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as per itinerary
- All domestic Transportation including economy class flights, trains in first-class soft seats, transfers and sightseeing by private air-conditioned vehicles as per the itinerary
- English speaking Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

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.

PRIVATE TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who want some independence and flexibility. They offer the choice to explore local cuisine, leisure time for optional activities or excursions, and travel when it suits you. Our Private Tours offer excellent value holidays alongside the assurance that most of your arrangements are taken care of. You will also be accompanied by a dedicated and professional guide whose 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 Adventure’ is rated as a **physical level 2** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it is more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You will be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- On several days there will be sightseeing on foot for extended periods of time
- On the Great Wall of China in Beijing, some of the walking may be at more of an incline
- In Zhangjiajie there are periods of walking up and down stone steps and walkways as well as walking across a glass bridge, getting on and off escalators and in and out of cable cars

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.

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.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Days 1: Fly overnight to Beijing

Meals: NA

On arrival in Beijing Daxing or Beijing Capital Airport, you will be met in the arrival hall by your local guide from Wendy Wu Tours. 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.



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 2: Explore Beijing

Meals: B, L, D

Walk through Tiananmen Square and into the magnificent Forbidden City, which has the largest and best-preserved collection of ancient buildings in China. Sightseeing here will involve approximately 3-4 hours on foot. Later, soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven then head to the lively Wangfujing Street for a street food tour with your guide on hand to recommend the best dishes!



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 around so that the Forbidden City is visited on an alternative day.

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.

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.

Wangfujing Street - Located in the heart of Beijing, it is one of the city's most famous shopping streets. From high-end boutiques to traditional Chinese stores, alongside an enticing array of street food stalls.

Day 3: The Great Wall

Meals: B, L

This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Drive approximately 2 hours to the Mutianyu section. Reaching the summit by a scenic chairlift or cable car ride, take a stroll along its ancient stones, admiring the magnificence of its construction and the dramatic scenery it crosses. After you have been given an introduction to the Great Wall's unique history you will have free time to explore at your own pace. Descend back down to the ground via a thrilling toboggan ride or by the more serene cable car. Later, visit a jade factory, and in the afternoon, drive approximately 1 and a half hours to explore the exquisite the Summer Palace.

**Destination Information**

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

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

Jade Factory – Learn about one of China's most symbolic and important materials: jade, at this comprehensive factory. Learn how to spot real jade, watch artisans at work carving this precious stone, and even buy a piece to take home yourself.

Day 4: Bullet Train to Xian

Meals: B, D

This morning board your 5-hour bullet train to Xian. In the evening, enjoy a delicious dinner of traditional Shui Jiao Dumplings, followed by a performance of music and dance from the Tang Dynasty.

**Destination Information**

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

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

Day 5: Terracotta Warriors

Meals: B, L, D

Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of the life-sized Terracotta Warriors. The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses is located approximately a 1-hour drive outside of Xian. From the bus park to the museum entrance is a 15-minute walk. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost. There is no electric cart available for the return from the museum exit to the bus park. Within the museum area the warriors can be seen in three different ‘pits’, which are active archaeological digs. The site is large and will take about 2 and a half hours to explore.



This afternoon, visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Workshop to see smaller models of the warriors being made. Later, stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian’s old town. The local guide will give you time to explore the ancient city walls at your own pace. There are options here to hire a bicycle or an electric cart to drive along the length of the wall. These are offered by private vendors and can be organised at your own expense.

Later, take a stroll through the Muslim Quarter. With your guide on hand to point out the tastiest treats, wander between the stalls taking in the colours and breathing in the smells of freshly sizzling delicacies!

Destination Information

Terracotta Warriors – One of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 20th century, this unearthed 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.

Ancient City Walls – Dating back to the Ming Dynasty in the 14th century, Xian ancient city wall is one of the best-preserved urban fortifications in China.

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

Day 6: Giant Pandas

Meals: B, L

This morning take a 3 and a half hour bullet train to Chengdu. Visit China's most famous resident, the Giant Panda, at the Panda Conservation Centre. See these lovable creatures in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. 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.



Transfer to your hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure.

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 7: Fly to Zhangjiajie

Meals: B

Transfer to the airport and board your flight to Zhangjiajie where you will spend the next three days exploring the mysterious landscapes and remarkable scenery of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site, home to over 3,000 striking sandstone pillars amongst the deep valleys, caves and forests. On arrival, transfer to your hotel and enjoy the evening at your leisure.

**Destination Information**

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 8: Discover Zhangjiajie

Meals: B, L

Begin the day with a visit to the famous Yuanjiajie Avatar Mountain, where you will ride the Bailong glass elevator to Mihun Stage and enjoy amazing views of the majestic peaks, including the 'First Bridge under the Sun' and Hallelujah Mountain.



Continue to Emperor Mountain to visit Helong Park. Take a cable car down and head to Jinbian Stream and Ten-Mile Natural Gallery. Later, enjoy a scenic sampan cruise on Lake Baofeng, a peaceful expanse of water amongst picturesque karst scenery.

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

Destination Information

Jinbian Stream – Called Golden Whip Stream after the 380m 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 5.8km long valley with picturesque scenery. Peaks on both sides of the valley form natural sculptures – like a natural art gallery.

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

Day 9: Zhangjiajie's Glass Bridge

Meals: B, L

Today, explore the colourful stalagmites and stalactites of the Huanglong Cave, stretching over 120 acres in area. Later, take an exhilarating walk across Zhangjiajie's Glass Bridge, spanning 430 metres across the Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon. Marvel at the stunning panoramic views as you cross the world's longest and highest glass-bottomed bridge.

**Destination Information**

Huanglong Cave – The Huanglong Cave is a karst cave stretching over 120 acres in area. Inside the cave there are waterfalls, rivers, pools and lakes.

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

Day 10: Heaven's Door

Meals: B, L

Take a cable car to the beautiful Mount Tianmen and walk on the thrilling glass skywalk. Visit Tianmen Cave, nicknamed 'Heaven's Door' and Jun Sheng Sandstone painting gallery. This evening transfer to the airport for your 2 hour and 10-minute flight to Shanghai.

**Destination Information**

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

Day 11: Shanghai

Meals: B, L

Shanghai is China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th century temples. Today's explorations include 3-4 hours of sightseeing on foot, visiting the peaceful Yu Garden, the atmospheric alleys of the old town and the Xintiandi area. Admire the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the historical waterfront Bund, before visiting the Silk Factory. This evening, view the city from the Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise, before sampling some traditional Shanghai cuisine.

**Destination Information**

Yu Garden— The Yu Garden 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 Garden 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.

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

Huangpu River – There is no better way to see the juxtaposition of eras than taking a cruise on the Huangpu River. At night, the dazzling lights from Pudong shine bright onto the more modest twilight of the Bund.

Day 12: 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 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.

Please note: If a visa is required the China Visa cost is not included in our Private Tours pricing. Please contact our reservations team if you would like the Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department to assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. 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. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

insurance:

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.

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. 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 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.

Your guide 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

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 New Zealand and China. All 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. 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 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:

Vehicles: Private cars with air conditioning are used on our private tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. The size of the vehicle will vary between cities and dependant on the number of travellers. All vehicles have space for one suitcase and one hand luggage per person. 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 flights are with reputable airlines. Domestic flight luggage allowance is usually limited to 20kg. Extra luggage needs to be purchased locally. 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.

Bullet trains: On this tour, you will take a high-speed train journey. You will travel in first-class soft seats with air conditioning. 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. For flight and 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 (in hand luggage or main luggage).

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.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping is an expected element in the tourism industry today as recognition of great service. Tipping for independent passengers is at your own discretion based on the level of service you receive.

Many passengers are often uncertain of how much to tip, so we have listed below a recommended tipping amounts:

Guide: USD10.00 per person, per day.

Driver: USD5.00 per person, per day.

Hotel Maid & Porterage: US\$1-2 per use

Restaurants (with no added service charge to the bill): 10-15% per meal

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that 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 that hold local interest. 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 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.

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. Chinese New Year is from 9 – 16 February 2024 and 28 January – 4 February 2025. Golden Week public holidays fall annually between 29 April – 3 May and 30 September – 7 October.

EXCHANGING CASH:

Exchanging Money - We recommend exchanging money prior to departure at banks, money exchanges, or at international airports in New Zealand. It is possible to exchange money at your arrival airport and some banks in China, we recommend bringing USD which is more widely accepted.

Credit/Debit Card & Mobile Payment Apps - It's hard for those of us who live outside of China to grasp how paying for everything has gone digital in the country.

Most businesses there, from the fanciest hotels to roadside fruit stands, display a QR code — a type of bar code — that people scan with a smartphone camera to pay. However, it is not possible to utilise this without a Chinese bank account. Therefore, we recommend taking a mixture of payment methods (cash, debit/credit cards)

Please do not rely on a credit/debit card as your only source of spending money. We strongly suggest taking enough cash to cover your trip. We strongly suggest you alert your bank in New Zealand of your travel plans and check any potential foreign transaction fees or ATM withdrawal limits imposed by your bank.

Your tour guide will explain more regarding this at your welcome meeting.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

Wendy Wu does not give specific health advice, but we do recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you. Safe travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with 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:

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.

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