



**WENDY WU TOURS**

# Tour Dossier

## CHINA HIGHLIGHTS, 28 DAYS

This document was designed to be read in conjunction with our other pre-departure information provided after you have made a booking with Wendy Wu Tours. It aims to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour. All passengers should read this dossier to confirm their ability to complete the tour. This is not your **Final Itinerary** and therefore does not mention all the sites visited.

### Tour grade – Medium paced tour

This is defined in our brochure as the following: “These tours are not strenuous but do include several days where long periods of sightseeing on foot and climbing of steps may be necessary. These tours are not recommended for those that are unable to walk for prolonged periods without assistance. These tours are generally longer in length and could involve long days of driving.”

Anyone with a good level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. Of course our local guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for passengers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. Please refer to Your Travel Guide's TRANSPORT and TRAVEL HEALTH sections for further information.

### Group size

In most cases, the group will operate with a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 28 passengers.

### Itinerary changes

1. Order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.
2. The Hall of Supreme Harmony within the Forbidden City complex in Beijing has recently undergone comprehensive restoration work and the majority of work has now been completed.
3. If time permits during your Beijing touring you will be taken through the Beijing Olympic precinct to view and photograph such sites as the Beijing Olympic Stadium (the Bird's Nest) and the Aquatic Centre (water cube). This would normally occur on the day you visit the Great Wall.

### Rail Journeys

This trip involves 2 overnight train journeys. Train journeys are in first class soft sleeper compartments where each cabin consists of 4 berths.

### Meals

Sichuan cuisine (or Szechwan as it is still known in the West) is distinguished by

its use of ginger, chilli and the “Sichuan peppercorn” called fagara. Each meal will usually have some mild dishes for those who don't enjoy eating hot or spicy food, but please bear in mind that the majority of local specialty dishes will be hot. If your group finds there are not any mild dishes served, please inform your National Escort/Local Guide so that they may resolve the problem for the next meal.

### Tipping

If there are less than 10 people in your group, please allow AUD\$130 each, if there are more than 10, please allow AUD\$110 each for tipping.

NB: Times and distances listed in this section are approximations only.

**Day 1-2: Australia/Shanghai.** You will be met at Shanghai's Pudong airport in the arrivals 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 (1 hr drive) to your hotel. This afternoon, when the whole group has arrived, a tour introduction will be held in the hotel. There will not be food or drinks served at this meeting; it is simply an opportunity for your group to meet and learn more about travelling in China.

**Day 3: Shanghai.** Today is a very full day of sightseeing around the central area of the city, involving 3 to 4 hrs of sightseeing on foot. Beware of your valuables while in the Old Town (Yuan Bazaar) as it is often very crowded.

**Day 4: Shanghai/Suzhou.** Drive for approximately 3 hrs (90km) to Suzhou. This section of road is often subject to heavy traffic or road construction. There will be leisurely sightseeing around Suzhou and the Grand Canal.

**Day 5: Suzhou/Hangzhou.** This morning we cruise on the Grand Canal to view a section of this ancient waterway. After lunch, drive 3 to 4 hrs (120km) on

new expressway to Hangzhou and check into the hotel for 2 nights.

**Day 6: Hangzhou.** Lingyin Temple (Temple of Inspired Seclusion) is one of the largest and most significant temples in southern China so it can get crowded with domestic tourists, particularly during weekends and holidays. Approximately 2 hrs sightseeing on foot at this site. Adjacent to the temple entrance is Feilai Fen – a hill covered in Buddhist carvings and statues. If you wish to see these, you must be aware that the stone path is not level in parts.

**Day 7: Hangzhou/Wuzhen/Shanghai.** Drive 1 hr to the preserved water canal town of Wuzhen. Sightseeing here is leisurely and involves a few hours exploration on foot. Continue driving over 2 hrs to Shanghai and check into the hotel.

**Day 8: Shanghai.** A full day of sightseeing and shopping.

**Day 9: Shanghai/Guilin.** After morning exploration of Pudong District, we transfer (1 hr drive) to Hongqiao domestic airport for the flight to Guilin this afternoon (flight duration 2 hrs). Check into the hotel for an overnight stay.

**Day 10: Li River Cruise/Yangshuo.**

*[NB: You will be staying in Yangshuo for a single night before returning to Guilin. We recommend you leave your main luggage in safe storage at our hotel in Guilin; taking only a small, overnight style bag with you for Days 10 and 11.]*

We take a 3 hr cruise from Guilin to the small town of Yangshuo. A simple meal will be served onboard (usually before midday at “Chinese lunch time”). These are small cruise boats, usually holding approx 100 passengers; with an enclosed dining area on lower deck and an open viewing area on 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 a dock 1 hrs 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, approx 15 mins walk from the river. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost.

**Day 11: Yangshuo/Guilin.** The drive back to Guilin takes 1 hr (65km). Visit Mt Diecai en route - a low, karst mountain. We usually spend 1 ½ hrs here. Continue to the hotel and check-in overnight.

**Day 12: Guilin/Kunming.** After checking out from your hotel, we visit the Reed Flute Caves. We take a short walk through the caves, sometimes along damp paths and stairs. It usually takes about an hour to complete the route, and is very cool inside. Transfer to airport for your afternoon flight to Kunming (flight duration 1 hr 20 mins). Transfer to the hotel and check in for 2 nights.

**Day 13: Kunming.** Drive 1 ½ hrs (120km) to the Stone Forest. Sightseeing here is approximately 3 ½ hrs on stone paths to view the maze of rock pinnacles, lake and ponds. After lunch drive back to Kunming.

**Day 14: Kunming/Chongqing.** Visit the Western Hills close to the lake and city centre. Walk from the bus park to the entrance gate. We spend up to 2 hrs here before returning to the hotel to check out and transfer to the airport. The flight to Chongqing departs in late afternoon (flight duration 1hr). Transfer (1hr drive) to the hotel and check-in for an overnight stay.

**Day 15: Chongqing/Dazu.** Few hours sightseeing this morning before driving 2 ½ hrs (160km) to Dazu. We spend 2 ½ hrs here during which we visit the frescoes at Beishan (North Hill). Afterwards we check in at the hotel for an overnight stay.

**Day 16: Dazu/Chengdu.** This morning see a different site of carvings at Baodishan (Treasured Summit Hill). We spend 2 to 3 hrs exploring before lunch. Drive 4hrs (270km) to Chengdu, arriving in the early evening.

**Day 17: Chengdu.** Drive 1 ½ hrs (180km) to Leshan to see the Grand Buddha carving. From the Bus Park, we walk to board the small cruise boat to view Buddha from the river. Spend at least 2 hrs at Leshan before driving back to Chengdu in the evening.

**Day 18: Chengdu.** The Panda Reserve is located only 10km from the city centre. It is not guaranteed that you will be able to see the feeding of the younger pandas, as this only happens at the start and end of each day. Sightseeing here involves approximately 1 ½ hrs on foot. There are electric carts offered by private vendors and can be organised at your own cost. This afternoon there will be easy sightseeing.

**Day 19: Chengdu/Xian.** There will be easy sightseeing this morning before checking out from the hotel. This afternoon, board the overnight sleeper train to Xian – usually a 17 hr journey (840km).

**Day 20: Xian.** Arrive at Xian station at midday (around 12:30am) and after lunch transfer to your hotel, where you can freshen up. Sightseeing today includes the Little Wild Goose Pagoda; involving 1 ½ hrs on foot.

*[NB: Check-out time in China is midday so your group's rooms are unlikely to be available. This morning you will commence sightseeing and return to hotel later to rest and freshen up.]*

**Day 21: Xian.** The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors is located more than 1 hrs drive outside of Xian. From the bus park to the Museum entrance is a 15min walk, usually without any shade. 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 Museum exit to Bus Park. Within the Museum area the warriors can be seen in 3 different "pits", which are active archaeological digs. The site is large and, towards the summer months, can be hot outside. Sightseeing here involves 2½ hrs on foot. This afternoon we visit the City Walls. The Local Guide will give you time to explore at your own pace. There are options here to hire a bicycle or an electric cart to drive along the length of the walls. These are offered by private vendors and can be organised at your own cost.

**Day 22: Xian/Beijing.** You will have time at leisure before checking out of your hotel rooms before midday. Sightseeing at the Shaanxi Museum and Muslim Quarter involves 2 ½ hrs easy walking. Beware of your valuables while in the Muslim Quarter's alley market stalls. This evening, board the overnight sleeper train to Beijing – usually a 12 hr journey (1,200km).

**Day 23: Beijing.** You will arrive at Beijing Railway Station and transfer to your hotel, where you can have breakfast and freshen up. Sightseeing in central Beijing involves approximately 3 to 4 hrs on foot during the morning to see Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. Visiting Mao's Mausoleum is subject to the length of the queue, as so many domestic tourists visit every day.

*[NB: Check-out time in China is midday so your group's rooms are unlikely to be available. This morning you will commence sightseeing and return to the hotel later to check-in.]*

**Day 24: Beijing.** We have an early rise this morning to drive 1 ½ hrs (50km) northwest of the city to the Juyongguan Pass section of the Great Wall. The aim of this is to avoid the crowds of tourists who will arrive later in the morning, and the heat of the day. Visiting the Wall involves walking approximately 200m from the bus to the first section. After your group has been given an introduction to the Great Wall's unique history you will have free time to explore the rest at your own pace. This afternoon, visit the Temple of Heaven – at least 2 hrs on foot here.

**Day 25: Beijing.** We drive 1 ½ hrs to the Summer Palace in the north of the city. The palace is set over an extensive park and man-made lake complex and there is approximately 2 to 3 hrs walking involved at this site.

**Day 26: Beijing.** There is approximately 1 to 2 hrs on foot involved at the Lama Temple in the north of the city, and then we return to the central district to the Silk Markets for free time to shop.

**Day 27: Depart Beijing.** You will be transferred from the hotel to the airport, according to the departure time of your flight. Any time before your flight is at leisure.

**Day 28: Australia.** Arrive home.

**Updated 28 January 2009**