



# Land of the Panda

From \$3,976 per person twin share - 14 Days - Fully Inclusive From Australia  
 From price includes: Tour Cost \$3,780, Airline fuel surcharge \$124 and Tipping \$72 (subject to change)

China remains a nation of diverse landscapes and cultures, amazing both the world and the traveller. We invite you to join us on this incredible tour through the province of Sichuan; Land of the Panda. The scenery you will encounter along the way will surprise you. Located in southwest China, Sichuan is bordered by the Tibetan Plateau in the west, the Three Gorges and the Yangtze River in the east and Yunnan Province to the south.

The Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou) is a favoured destination of our very own Ms Wendy Wu, who describes the stunning beauty of this region as simply 'breathtaking'. Sichuan is known as the 'Land of Abundance' and has three places on the World Cultural and National Heritage lists; Jiuzhaigou (Nine Villages Valley), Huang Long Valley and Mt. Emei. The name Jiuzhaigou refers to the nine Tibetan villages that are situated within the valley. Huang Long Valley has some of the most stunning scenery in the world. Mt. Emei is regarded as one of Buddhism's most sacred and China's most remarkable mountains. Known for its awe inspiring landscape and legendary Buddhist sites, this gracious mountain kingdom will certainly delight all who visit. Mingle with the many pilgrims that pay homage to this holy site. Most of the monasteries and temples on Mt. Emei were built during the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220AD).

Your journey will take you to fascinating sites such as the Grand Buddha of Leshan, an enormous statue carved into the side of the Lingyun Mountain, the Baodin Stone Carvings dating from the Tang Dynasty (9th Century) and the equally fascinating Huanglong Temple. Visit the Sanxindui Museum, home to many significant relics unique to the Chengdu area. At the Dujiangyan Irrigation Project, learn how in the 3rd Century BC the project succeeded in capturing flood waters for use during the drought periods, linking this inaccessible region with the Grand Canal and the far corners of the kingdom. This was quite an incredible feat in China's history!

In some ways, it is unfair to suggest what the highlights of this tour may be. For some, it may be visiting the famous Panda Research Centre to see these gorgeous animals being reared in surroundings reminiscent of their natural habitat. For others it could be devouring the wonderful Sichuan food on offer. Yet, for many it most certainly will be the incredible scenery that is on offer in this special part of China. Previously known as the 'Sichuan Explorer', this tour will definitely leave an impression!

## Days 1-2: Australia to Chengdu

Fly overnight with Cathay Pacific to Chengdu for an overnight stay. Our welcome dinner will be a sumptuous Sichuan Banquet.

## Day 3: Chengdu to Dazu

Travel to the small town of Dazu for an overnight stay. This afternoon we view some of the most remarkable frescoes in the world at Beishan.

## Day 4: Dazu to Chengdu

Today we view the Baodin Stone Carvings dating from the Tang Dynasty (9th Century) to the Song Dynasty (13th Century). This afternoon we return to Chengdu for an overnight stay.

## Day 5: Chengdu to Mt. Emei via Leshan

Travel by coach to Mt. Emei, one of Buddhism's most sacred and China's most impressive mountains. En route we will explore Leshan's Grand Buddha, an enormous statue carved

into the side of the Lingyun Mountain. The Buddha is over 71 metres tall and is wide enough for more than 100 people to sit between its feet. From here we continue on to Mt. Emei. Upon arrival this evening we transfer to our hotel for a 2 night stay.

## Day 6: Mt. Emei

Local legend has it that the mountain derived its name from two peaks that face each other and resemble eyebrows. The undulating peaks, covered with lush forests and green bamboo occupy an area of more than 300 square kilometres. Most of the monasteries and temples on Mt. Emei were built during the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220AD), while others were added later. As a well-known Buddhist sanctuary, Mt. Emei once had more than 100 monasteries. The mountain is known for its steep cliffs, lofty peaks, roaring waterfalls, gurgling springs, towering trees and fragrant flowers. Today we explore the magnificent

mountain and mingle with the locals and the many pilgrims that pay homage to this holy site.

## Day 7: Mt. Emei to Chengdu

We depart Mt. Emei this morning and travel back to Chengdu by coach for an overnight stay.

## Day 8: Chengdu to Mianyang

Visit the famous Panda Research Centre to see these delightful animals being reared in surroundings reminiscent of their native habitat, as well as a local bamboo park. We will also visit the Sanxindui Museum before we continue our journey to Mianyang, a town within Sichuan Province for an overnight stay.

## Days 9-10: Mianyang to Nine Villages Valley

Travel to the breathtaking Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou), a botanical gallery that is heavily forested and home to many protected

species. Entering the valley is like being transported into a different world, where crystal clear lakes gather at the foot of every waterfall and rich coloured forests are dotted with flowers. It is as if one of the world's most beautiful silk scroll paintings unfolds along this scenic valley. We stay in the valley for 2 nights to further explore its beauty.

## Day 11: Nine Villages Valley to Mao County

Today we journey by coach to Mao County. En route we visit the Huanglong Temple at the peak of the mountain. Huanglong, also called the 'Five-Coloured Pools', has some of the most amazing ponds located behind the temple. From its hundreds of sparkling ponds, beautiful colours intertwine making it a rainbow splendour. Upon arrival in Mao County we transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay.

## Day 12: Mao County to Chengdu

Today we leave Mao County and return to Chengdu visiting the Dujiangyan Irrigation Project along the way. In the 3rd Century BC the project succeeded in capturing flood waters for use during the drought periods, linking this inaccessible region with the Grand Canal and the far corners of the kingdom. This was an incredible feat in China's history, altering trade between the coast and western regions over the following centuries. Upon arrival in Chengdu we transfer to our hotel and check in for our final night in China.

## Day 13: Depart Chengdu

Enjoy the morning at leisure before transferring to the airport to board our overnight flight to Australia.

## Day 14: Arrive Australia

Arrive home this morning.

## Inclusions

International airfares, all transportation in China, accommodation, all meals, entrance fees, guides and daily tours, taxes and charges, Australia and China departure taxes and visa fees for Australian passport holders

## Price Guide

14 Days, Fully Inclusive Twin Share  
 ✈ From \$3,976 per person - Departing Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth with Cathay Pacific

- 🏨 Single Hotel Supplement - From \$800
- 🚗 Land Only - From \$2,952 (includes Tipping)
- ★★★ Active Paced Tour (see page 2)

## Make the most of your holiday

- Hong Kong Hotels and Touring (see pages 64-65)

## Departures

Tour Code	Depart Australia	Arrive Australia	Twin Share Price
<b>2010</b>			
T26040	25 Apr	08 May	\$3,976
T26041	02 May	15 May	\$3,976
T26042	16 May	29 May	\$3,976
T26043	05 Sep	18 Sep	\$3,976
T26044	03 Oct	16 Oct	\$4,176
<b>2011</b>			
T26050	24 Apr	07 May	\$3,976
T26051	01 May	14 May	\$3,976
T26052	15 May	28 May	\$3,976

**Important note:** Above prices include Airline fuel surcharges and Tipping of \$196 (correct as at 31 August 2009 and subject to change). Please note the Tipping amount of US\$60 (A\$72) is payable on arrival in China.

