



A China Adventure Tour Dossier

Discovery Tour | 17 Days | Active

Beijing - Great Wall (Gubei Water Town) - Xian - Pingle - Chengdu - Ping An - Guilin - Yangshuo - Shanghai

Spend more time hiking on the Great Wall and through the beautiful rice terraces of Longji on this active tour of China. Soak up the simple rural beauty of Yangshuo, the history of Xian, the majesty of Beijing and the fast pace of dazzling Shanghai.

Tour Highlights:

- **Beijing** - The Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square
- **Jinshanling** - Hike the Great Wall of China
- **Xian** - The archaeological marvel of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses
- **Pingle** - Stopping point along ancient Tea Horse Road
- **Chengdu** - Home to the Giant Panda
- **Ping An** - Enjoy stunning views of the Longji Rice Terraces
- **Guilin & Yangshuo** - Beautiful landscapes of the Li River
- **Shanghai** - Exploration of China's most cosmopolitan city



A China Adventure Tour Inclusions

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated on your itinerary
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers)
- Visa fees for Australian passport holders

Personal expenditures e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, meals not stated in the itinerary, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary are at your own expense.

Discovery Tours

Designed for those who wish to be further immersed in the authentic charm of Asia; our Discovery Tours include more cultural and active experiences. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts or Local Guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience. Our Discovery tours include:

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

Active Tour

'A China Adventure' is an **active** tour. Active tours require a good level of fitness, as they are physically more demanding. They may involve hiking, and some travel to remote, high altitude areas where tourist facilities are less developed.

- On the Great Wall of China, you will trek over rough, uneven and steep ground for 6 hours from the Gubeikou section to the Jinshanling section of the wall.
- At the Longji rice terraces you will trek for approximately 5 hours, the ground here is uneven and the trek will include steep climbs.
- In Beijing, Xian, Pingle Ancient Town and Shanghai there will be long periods of walking whilst sightseeing.
- You will need to be able to cycle a bicycle for approximately 1 hour in Xian.

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.

Country Profile: China

China's civilization is the oldest in the world and has a history dating back over 5,000 years. With 56 ethnic groups, 22 provinces and 8 major dialects, China has a rich and varied culture and way of life. It is home to a wealth of tourist sights and cultural relics, which entice our guests to return repeatedly to this exciting destination.

Itinerary Changes

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.

- The Forbidden City is closed on Mondays, due to maintenance. If it is not open on the day our group is due to visit, Beijing touring will be rearranged by your National Escort/Local Guide accordingly.

The following itinerary changes have been made to the 2017 itinerary to improve the flow and pace of sightseeing:

- This tour is now one day longer in duration with the addition of 1 night in Pingle Ancient Town.
- Passengers stay 1 night at Gubei Water town rather than Jinshanling. The hiking section of the Great Wall remains unchanged.

- 2 nights in Ya'an have been replaced with 2 nights in Chengdu.
- Replaced a visit to the Bifengxia Panda Base and Bifengxia Gorge with visits to Dujiangyan Panda Base and Mt Qingcheng.

Joining Your Tour

The tour is 17 days in duration including international flights. Travellers booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the starting point. Join the tour on Day 1 in Beijing and end the tour on Day 16 in Shanghai. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

Important Information Regarding Itinerary Changes and Flight Delays

Due to unforeseen circumstances, flights can be delayed, and therefore connecting flights may be missed. If you find yourself in this situation, please contact our China office on **+86 21 5888 5681** or **+86 159 0929 1082** (24 hours) to urgently advise your arrival details have changed. Please ensure you have your trip number, tour name (both included in your final documentation) and new arrival details (flight number and arrival time) handy to pass on to our local office in China. This will ensure your National Escort/Local Guide can be informed of your most up to date information and an arrival transfer will be arranged accordingly. We will endeavour to arrange a transfer as soon as possible however, delays may occur.

If we are not advised of late changes and missed connections, Wendy Wu Tours cannot guarantee someone will be able to meet you upon arrival in China as our local office will have no way of knowing which flight you will be arriving on. Wendy Wu Tours will not be responsible for providing reimbursement of transportation costs from the airport to your hotel in the event that our local office was not advised of changes to arrival times.

A China Adventure Itinerary

DAY 1: AUSTRALIA TO BEIJING

Fly to Beijing, the capital of China, for a two night stay. On arrival in Beijing Capital International 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 one hour to your hotel. A tour introduction will be held in the hotel either this evening or the next. Food and drinks will not be served at this meeting, it is simply an opportunity for your group to meet and learn more about travelling in China.

Meals included: None

Destination Information

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

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DAY 2: BEIJING

Walk through Tiananmen Square and into the magnificent Forbidden City. This afternoon, explore the grounds of the Summer Palace, a former holiday home of the Qing emperors. Whilst here, climb magnificent Longevity Hill for spectacular views over the palace's Kunming Lake. Today's sightseeing involves approximately 5 to 6 hours, predominately on foot. Take 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.

Please note: The Forbidden City is closed on Mondays. If this day of touring falls on a Monday, your touring in Beijing will be rearranged round so that the Forbidden City is visited on an alternative day.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Tiananmen Square - Built under the guidance of Chairman Mao Zedong, Tiananmen Square is said to hold a capacity crowd of over one million and is one of the largest public squares in the world. 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.

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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.

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 3: BEIJING TO GUBEI WATER TOWN

Start your day at the Temple of Heaven where you can watch the locals taking part in early morning exercise, including dancing, Tai Chi and Mah-jong. Next, explore the Hutongs, visiting Yandaixiejie Hutong where you will have lunch with a local family. This morning's sightseeing will be approximately 4 hours. This afternoon, drive 3 hours to the Simatai section of the Great Wall, where you will stay overnight at Gubei Watertown. On arrival, ascend Simatai Great Wall by cable car for spectacular views.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Temple of Heaven - The Temple of Heaven is one of the perfect examples of Ming architecture set in amongst a 267-hectare park with four gates set at each point of a compass. The Temple of Heaven was created as a place of worship for the Emperors, who would ask for prosperity, longevity and good harvest for the people. Walking through the park we will see the many groups of local people that gather here every day to sing folk songs, practice Tai Chi and sword dancing, play chess or just come to sit and chat.

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 four hutongs joining to make a courtyard in the middle, known as Siheyuan. In more recent times, the hutong suburbs were in jeopardy of disappearing, but a fierce debate between developers and those who fought to protect the architecture and the hutong way of life diminished the threat.

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.

DAY 4: GUBEI WATER TOWN TO BEIJING

Rise early to transfer 30 minutes to the Gubeikou Section of the Great Wall. Much less frequented by tourists than other parts of the Wall, the walk from Gubeikou to Jinshanling winds through wooded countryside and over dramatic hills. The stark, yet magnificent surroundings allow you to put yourself in the shoes of those who walked this incredible edifice hundreds of years ago. Trek through dramatic landscapes and rugged terrain for approximately 6 hours. The walk will briefly take you off-wall for a short section as you navigate around a Chinese Military Base. The walk also features some extremely steep steps of different heights so it can be tricky to maintain a pace or routine. There are also many walkways where the wall has fallen away giving way to sheer drops, which require extra care whilst walking. Underfoot, the pathway is rocky and largely unmaintained; it is strongly advised that you wear sturdy footwear with ankle support if needed. Later, head back to Beijing, where you will have the evening at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch (*Please note today's lunch may be a packed lunch*)

Destination Information

Gubeikou Great Wall - Meaning "Northern Pass", this section of the Great Wall formed the northern defensive line of Beijing during the Tang Dynasty. As it has not been renovated or maintained, this section of the Great Wall represents a fabulous opportunity to experience an authentic piece of Chinese history; as well as a challenging walk.

Jinshanling Great Wall - Located northeast of Beijing, the Jinshanling Section of the Great Wall snakes through

stunning mountain scenery and offers panoramic views over the neighbouring countryside. This Ming Dynasty section of the Great Wall offers one of the most breath-taking walks.

DAY 5: BEIJING TO XIAN

Enjoy your morning at leisure before transferring to Beijing railway station and boarding your 5 hour bullet train to Xian. On arrival wander round the Muslim Quarter, Xian's Islamic centre, where there are a myriad of small food stalls selling ample mouth-watering dishes. The Muslim Quarter can get crowded, so please be mindful of your belongings. The evening is at your leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

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.

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, a trove of silks and fabrics, and delightful oriental knick-knacks.

DAY 6: XIAN

Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of the life-sized Terracotta Warriors. The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses is located more than one-hour drive outside of Xian. From the bus park to the museum entrance, it 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 approximately two and a half hours to explore. After this visit, the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition centre to see smaller models of the warriors being made. Return to the city for a cycle ride (1-hour duration) around the Xian city walls which encloses the city. This evening enjoy a traditional dumpling dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

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

Ancient City Wall - 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 location and layout gives visitors a bird's eye view over this fantastic city. Follow the locals' example and take a bike to get an ever more spectacular experience.

DAY 7: XIAN - CHENGDU TO PINGLE

This morning fly 1 hour 30 minutes to Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province. On arrival, drive 2 hours to the ancient town of Pingle, dating back to the Han Dynasty where you will enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

In Pingle you will stay at a basic guesthouse with no facilities for making meals, however, your guide will be happy to give you recommendations of the best places to eat.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

Destination Information

Pingle Ancient Town - Regarded as one of the best ancient towns in Sichuan Province, Pingle Ancient Town dates back to the Han Dynasty and was a stopping point on legendary Silk Road.

DAY 8: PINGLE TO CHENGDU

Relax with a morning at leisure. Breakfast is not included this morning however your guide will be able to suggest all the best places to eat at. Later take a walk across the magnificent Jinji Rope Bridge for vistas of the bamboo forest below before driving 2 hours back to Chengdu for your two night stay.

Meals included: Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Chengdu - China's symbolic western capital and the residence of the country's most lovable black and white

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bear, Chengdu has an abundance to offer. A fast paced economy which is bringing 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 definite, a necessity, a must visit on any trip to China.

DAY 9: CHENGDU

Located in the forested Sichuanese countryside north of Chengdu you will visit Dujiangyan Panda base, which offers refuge to Giant Pandas with the ultimate aim to reintroduce them into the wild. The centre offers one of the most authentic, spacious and natural settings in the country to see the Giant Pandas. Later, explore the slopes of Mt Qingcheng, one of China's holy Taoist Mountains. Take the cable car to the higher slopes, and walk around Yuecheng Lake. Drive back to Chengdu for dinner this evening.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Dujiangyan - Located 72km northwest of Chengdu and less than a one-hour drive to Mt. Qingcheng, Dujiangyan is well renowned for its Irrigation System and provides most of the water supply to Chengdu and neighbouring towns.

China Conservation and Research Center Dujiangyan Panda Base - Equipped with the latest technology and research materials to gain a further understanding in how we can protect the panda and 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.

Mt. Qingcheng - Located 65km west of Chengdu, Mt Qingcheng is an important holy Taoist mountain. Home to a trove of temples, beautiful trails lined with sweet-scented fruit and spectacular views over the Sichuan countryside.

DAY 10: CHENGDU – GUILIN TO PING'AN

Rise early this morning for your 1 and 45-minute flight to Guilin. On arrival drive 2 hours to the scenic village of Ping'An in Longsheng County. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure here.

You will need to pack a smaller overnight bag for your trip to Ping'An. Main luggage will be left in safe storage at the hotel in Guilin and picked up your return.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

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Destination Information

Ping'An - Ping'An is located in the stunning scenery of the Longji Rice Terraces. The area dates back over 600 years and has traditionally been the home of the Zhuang People.

DAY 11: PING AN TO GUILIN

Take a full day tour around the Longji Rice Terraces starting at Ping An and visiting both viewing terraces Nine Dragons, Five Tigers and 7 stars surrounded by the Moon before passing through Zhuang Village if time allows. Trekking will be approximately 5 hours today depending on the capability of the group. Later drive 2 hours back to Guilin for your overnight stay.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

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.

Guilin - 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.

DAY 12: GUILIN TO YANGSHUO

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 costs.

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Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Li River - Today you will 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 13: YANGSHUO

This morning take part in a traditional Tai Chi class learning the skills behind this ancient and spiritual exercise. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure; there are many activities to take part in including cycling and rafting along the Yulong River (arranged locally and at extra cost).

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

DAY 14: YANGSHUO - GUILIN TO SHANGHAI

Return to Guilin by road, visiting the Reed Flute Caves en route, to admire the stunning colours of the stalagmites and stalactites. You will take a short walk through the caves, sometimes along damp paths and stairs. It usually takes about an hour to complete the route and it is very cool inside. Visit the South China Pearl Museum before taking your flight to the cosmopolitan city of Shanghai (2 hours and 20 minutes in duration). Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel and the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

Destination Information

Reed Flute Cave - Named so because of the clumps of slender reed once commonly found at the entrance to the caves, which was also used to make flutes, the Reed Flute Caves houses a grotto of multi-coloured stalactites and stalagmites.

South China Pearl Museum - Gain a fascinating insight into the pearling industry of southern China at the South China

Pearl Museum, where you have the opportunity to purchase some of these elegant silver jewels.

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 15: SHANGHAI

This morning take an exciting breakfast tour around some of Shanghai's most exciting districts, tasting local delicacies, including pancakes and fried bread sticks. Wander the pleasant Yu Gardens and bustling Old Town before visiting the informative Silk Museum. Take a stroll on the colonial Bund and enjoy a farewell Shanghainese meal this evening, before cruising down the Huangpu River to see the neon lights of Pudong.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

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.

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.

Silk Museum - The Silk Museum 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 which brought this product across Asia and Europe.

Huangpu River - The Huangpu River flows through the centre of Shanghai and separates the city into Pudong, meaning 'east of the Huangpu' and Puxi, 'west of the

Huangpu'. Cruising down the river, you will see the contrast of the historical Bund architecture on one side of the river with the modern Pudong skyline on the other side. At night, the banks of the Huangpu light up, turning Shanghai into a neon wonder.

DAY 16: DEPART SHANGHAI

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.

Meals included: Breakfast

Late check-out is not included in our China group tours. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day in

Shanghai, please contact our reservations department who can confirm additional pricing and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.

Due to flight schedules, Brisbane passengers may arrive home on Day 16.

DAY 17: ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Arrive home today.

A CHINA ADVENTURE TRAVEL INFORMATION

Visas

Entry visas are required by all visitors to China and Wendy Wu Tours' Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. We will supply you with all paperwork and submit the visa application on your behalf. Visas for China are valid for 90 days from the date of issue and allow you to stay in the country for up to 30 days. Please be advised that your passport must have at least 6 months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

Visa application forms and all relevant documentation are due in our office 75 days prior to departure; if received after this date urgent visa processing fees will apply. Passports will be returned with your final documentation 2-3 weeks prior to your group tour's scheduled departure. If you require your passport to be returned earlier, a \$15 courier fee will apply.

Please note that if you intend to arrive more than 24 hours before your tour commences or intend to stay in China after your tour has ended and you are NOT staying in a hotel you will need to register with the local police station. If you are staying in a hotel, registration is done on your behalf as part of the check-in process.

Insurance

We strongly 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 originals.

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. Chinese dishes incorporate many spices and seasoning to create an explosion of flavours. Though Chinese cuisine can vary greatly from Chinese food we get in Australia, it is important to keep an open mind and be adventurous. Selected meals are included in our Discovery Tours, meals that are included (excluding drinks) are indicated in the below itinerary as Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

In Sichuan Province, the cuisine (known as Szechwan in the west) is distinguished by its use of ginger, chili 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.

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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 Australia and China. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. 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. Please note double bed requests can be made at time of booking but cannot be guaranteed.

Please note that the Chinese government has strict environmental regulations in regards to the use of air conditioning and heating during certain times of the year. Hotels are only permitted to turn air conditioning on in the summer months from mid-May to mid-October and heating is permitted to turn on from mid-November to mid-March.

Transport

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Main and inner city roads in China have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in China have generally been 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 one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections below are approximations only.

Please note that seatbelts are not compulsory by law in China and therefore the Chinese people largely choose not to wear them. For this reason, some vehicles may not be fitted with seatbelts or they may be hidden underneath protective seat covers. It is recommended that where seatbelts are available customers must use them and remain seated at all times while the vehicle is moving. If you have any concerns, please notify your National Escort/Local Guides.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

Day Trains: On this tour, you will take a bullet train journey from Beijing to Xian. You will travel in second-class soft seat class with air conditioning. *On high speed trains, the train companies have implemented a policy which does not allow passengers to carry inflammable liquids including aerosols, styling gel, compressed air or insecticides; any explosives, magnetised material, 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).*

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 Australia. It is important that our guests travel to China with an open mind and a sense of humour. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort/Local Guide.

Chinese 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

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Souvenirs

be crowded. Chinese New Year is on 28th January 2017 and 16th February 2018. Golden Week public holidays fall annually between 1-3 May and 1-7 October.

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs; so in each city, we will visit a museum or exhibition, 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.

Group Size

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

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 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.

Tipping Policy

Tipping while on holiday is a firm and expected element in the tourism industry and China is no exception. To remove the uncertainty and stress of not knowing how much is appropriate to tip or to whom, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy for our group tours where a nominated tipping amount is paid upon commencement of the programme by each tour member. This amount is stated in all group pricing, however it is not collected in your final payment received by Wendy Wu Tours.

This nominated tipping amount is to be given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour, who will then distribute it amongst your main service providers – guides, drivers and attendants – on your behalf during the tour. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

The tipping amount is determined based on the total number of passengers travelling in the group. 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. The final tipping amount will be outlined in your final documentation, which is distributed 2 weeks prior to your tours departure.

Packing List and Climate

You will find a complete packing list and a helpful climate chart in the 'Suggested Packing List', which will be included in the pre-departure information link sent within your deposit documentation. Seasonal weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found on www.weather.com.

Luggage

All travelers 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 5kgs. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that Chinese 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

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 such as Australian Dollars 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 & Optional Tours

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. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of AUD\$350 per week should be sufficient; however for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

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. In your Final Documentation an Optional Excursion Sheet will be included outlining the activities available in each city and local cost associated. 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.

Vaccinations and Your Health

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au.

Before You Leave

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian 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 by deposit documentation via email. This includes important information and links to access the visa application form and instructions sheet online (if applicable). Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

Updated 03 May 2017

Travelling on an Active Paced Tour

We hope you are looking forward to what we are sure will be a trip of a lifetime. Before you embark on this adventure, we ask you to consider the points listed below that relate to our active paced tours. This will ensure you understand what is involved with an active paced tour and therefore help you decide if your chosen tour is right for you.

This is to ensure that your tour runs as smoothly as possible for you and your fellow tour members.

Please consider the following aspects of active paced tours prior to confirming your arrangements;

- While we believe that age is no barrier, please give special consideration to the fact that medical assistance and public infrastructure can be limited in these areas.
- There will be long periods of physical activity, including walking, climbing of stairs, in/out of boats. Tour participants who will travel with a cane/walking stick may come across difficulties. It is our experience that using a cane/walking stick in these areas where there are rough and uneven surfaces, stairs to climb and high altitudes, becomes difficult.
- Only limited meal options will be available. People with special dietary requirements should expect difficulties on these tours. Please understand that depending on the trip you are taking, you may be given very little or no meat.
- Your tour may include basic accommodation facilities including home stays, guest houses, truck stops and tented accommodation. This may mean, no or limited hot water, and no private bathroom facilities.
- There will be long periods of driving on often unsealed, rural and bumpy roads in vehicles ranging from tour coaches to local jeeps and canter vehicles.
- Altitude affects people in many different ways and a certain level of fitness is required in order to limit the effects. Please discuss how to manage altitude sickness with a health care professional.
- Overnight trains only have basic bedding in four berth compartments with limited or no ladder facilities to climb to the top bunk. You may be sharing with other tour members or locals.
- Some tours may have sightseeing en route to the next destination. Therefore participation is required or you will need to remain with the coach until the rest of the group has finished touring.

National Escorts/ Local Guides will endeavor to provide rest stops in your itinerary where possible. Please be advised that some days may have a more physical programme than others.

If you are comfortable with the above mentioned aspects of travelling on an active paced tour, we look forward to welcoming you on what is sure to be a unique and memorable experience.

However, if you have any hesitations please contact your valued travel agent or our reservations department to discuss the tour further or explore alternative options.