



## Exquisite China Dossier

### Deluxe Collection Tour | 15 Days | Physical Level 1

Beijing - Xian – Chengdu - Yangtze River Cruise - Shanghai

This relaxed itinerary is a Deluxe Collection tour of China's most iconic sights, from imperial treasures and the Terracotta Warriors to adorable pandas and vibrant cities, complete with delicious gastronomy, special experiences and a deluxe cruise on the mighty Yangtze River.

- Take part in a Tai Chi class at the Temple of Heaven
- Toast your tour with a glass of champagne on the Great Wall of China
- Learn about the Terracotta Warriors' discovery
- Gain a further insight into the Giant Panda and current conservation efforts
- Take a deluxe 3-night cruise down the mighty Yangtze River



### Exquisite China Tour Inclusions:

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

### Deluxe Collection Tours:

The Deluxe Collection combines luxurious five-star accommodation with exclusive experiences. These handcrafted tours feature high-class restaurants, money can't buy experiences and additional touches like VIP door-to-door home transfers. If you are looking for a truly distinctive journey, the Deluxe Collection is for you. Our deluxe collection tours include:

- Champagne moments
- Unique experiences
- Small group sizes
- Porter service to and from your hotel rooms
- A mid tour Laundry service
- Soft drinks included with all meals; local wine/beer included with dinner
- Complementary AU chauffeur transfers available for customers who live within 60km of selected airport

### Physical Level 1:

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.

'Exquisite China' is rated as a **physical level 1** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time
- On the Great Wall of China in Beijing, some of the walking will be at an incline
- You will be required to get on and off the boats along your Yangtze River cruise

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.

## Country Profile: China

China's civilisation is the oldest in the world and has a history dating back over 5,000 years. With 56 ethnic groups, 22 provinces and eight 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 again and again to this exciting destination.

## Joining Your Tour

The tour is 15 days in duration including international flights. Please note due to flight schedules passengers may arrive/depart on Day 2.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only, the price includes visa fees and your arrival/ departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to reservations. Join the tour on Day 1 in Beijing and end the tour on Day 14 in Shanghai. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure

## 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 maintaining the integrity of your trip.

- From November to March the Tang Dynasty music and dance performance is not available on all evenings. If it is not operating on the evening your group is due to attend, a suitable alternative will be arranged by your National Escort/Local Guide.
- 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
- Yangtze River. Please note that all sections of the itinerary for the Yangtze River Cruise are especially subject to change. The river's rapid flow, the narrowness of the gorges and the recent increase in numbers of passengers means that the timetables are under some pressure. Local authorities allocate times for access to mooring points, embarkation and disembarkation at docks and passage through the gorges. This means that the captain of each cruise ship is unable to confirm a final itinerary until shortly before departure (usually 24 hours prior). This can affect both the time and location where you embark and disembark your cruise ship. Your National Escort/Local Guide will explain any such changes to you as soon as they are informed by the cruise operator.
- The rickshaw ride in the hutongs in Beijing has been replaced with a walk through the hutongs from September 2019 onwards.

## Luxury Hotels:

We have handpicked luxury hotels throughout China in the best possible locations for our Deluxe Collection tours meaning you will experience 5-star comfort throughout. On your 'Exquisite China' tour you will be staying in the following hotels:

- **Beijing** - Regent Beijing Wangfujing
- **Xian** – Shangri-La
- **Chengdu** - Ritz Carlton
- **Shanghai** - Fairmont Peace



### Century Cruises:

On 'Exquisite China' you will spend 3 nights cruising on the Century Paragon or Century Legend down the mighty Yangtze river. Century cruises have one of the newest fleets on the river and are well known for providing an exceptional experience; with a passenger to crew ratio of 2:1 the service on-board is both attentive and conscientious.

Your spacious cabin will have panoramic sliding glass doors and a private balcony for admiring the spectacular scenery as you float by. Each room has a seating area, television and an en-suite bathroom with a shower and bath tub.

Whilst on board you can expect to enjoy a mix of Chinese and western cuisine from buffet style breakfasts and lunches to luxurious evening banquets. Each ship also offers a range of on board activities and entertainment such as Tai Chi, ethnic dance shows, and cooking classes; as well as shore excursions to fascinating and enticing spots along the banks of the Yangtze River. When you are not taking in the spectacular views from the sun deck you will be able to make use of the many luxurious facilities including a library, a fitness centre and indoor swimming pool.

#### **Your Yangtze River Cruise includes a VIP Package, which consists of:**

- Complimentary morning coffee and tea service
- Welcome fruit basket on arrival
- Complimentary Wi-Fi service in the Executive Lounge
- Complimentary use of computer with internet in the Executive Lounge
- Nightly turn down service with printed daily itinerary
- Complimentary shoeshine service
- Soft drinks included for lunch and dinner
- Private shore excursions if there are 10 or more Wendy Wu Tours passengers in each group
- Dining selection from two dining rooms (*choice of dining room to be made at the beginning of the voyage depending on availability*)
- Hot and cold soft drinks available daily in the Executive Lounge (juice/fruit/coffee/ tea)
- Complimentary "Happy Hour" one hour before dinner in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5 (including Santa Carolina/Chilean wine, local beer and soda)
- Complimentary house wine and local beer offered at dinner



## Itinerary – Exquisite China

### Day 1: Beijing

Travel by chauffeured transfer to the airport for your flight to Beijing, the capital of China. You will be met 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 hour to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. 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.



#### 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.

### Day 2: Beijing

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Begin your day with a relaxing 45-minute Tai Chi lesson with a master in the idyllic location of the Temple of Heaven Park. Walk through the length of Tiananmen Square before entering the former royal centre of the Forbidden City, home of the Ming and Qing emperors for over 500 years. Whilst here, admire the trove of imperial jewellery, homewares and art at the Treasure Hall. Touring will include approximately 5 to 6 hours of sightseeing, you will spend most of your time at Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City walking. This evening, dine on Peking duck, a favourite delicacy of the Chinese emperors.



*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

**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. 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, play chess or just come to sit and chat.

**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.

### Day 3: The Great Wall

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Today we will rise early to beat the crowds and drive approximately 2 hours to China's most iconic and magnificent sight, the Great Wall of China. We will head to the Mutianyu Section where we will toast your trip with a glass of champagne. There is a cable car at this section of the wall to take you up the side of the hill, and you will be given approximately 2 hours to explore. Visit the Jade Factory before returning to Beijing where you will enjoy a leisurely stroll through the warren-like hutongs where you will meet a local family before mastering the skills of calligraphy. Spend the evening in the lively Houhai area which is home to many dining options and bars.



#### 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.

**Jade Factory** – Learn about one of China's most symbolic and important materials: jade, at this comprehensive factory. Understand how to tell if jade is real or fake and watch artisans at work, carving this emerald stone into works of art.

**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 Fengshui with 4 hutongs joining together 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.

### Day 4: Beijing – Xian

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

This morning, you will transfer approximately 1 hour to Beijing airport for your 2-hour flight to Xian. Later, stroll on the beautifully preserved 14<sup>th</sup> 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. This evening, there will be an option to see a performance of traditional Tang Dynasty dancing.



Please note: If you wish to undertake a bike ride on the Ancient City Wall, we strongly recommend wearing a helmet

### 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.

**Ancient city walls** – 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 spot and layout gives visitors a bird’s eye view over this fantastic city. Follow the locals’ example and hire a bike to get an ever more spectacular experience.

## Day 5: Terracotta Warriors

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of the life-sized Terracotta Warriors with an expert guide. The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses is located approximately 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 ½ hours to explore. Later, meet one of the discoverers of these enigmatic soldiers who will describe his unbelievable discovery, and visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Workshop to see smaller models of the warriors being made.



### Destination Information

**Terracotta Warriors** – One of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

## Day 6: Xian - Chengdu

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Transfer approximately 1 hour to the airport via the Hanyangling Mausoleum, the final resting place of Emperor Jing of the Han Dynasty. You will spend approximately 2 hours here and visit the restoration laboratory. Some excavation work has already occurred and glass floors have been put down over these areas, allowing you to walk over and get a bird’s eye view of the pits below. Fly 1 hour and 20 minutes to Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province and home of the Giant Panda. On arrival, transfer 1 hour to your hotel for a 2-night stay. This evening, there will be an optional ‘Face Changing’ Show (at your own expense).

### Destination Information

**Hanyangling Mausoleum** – The Hanyangling Mausoleum dates back to the Han Dynasty (206BC – 220AD) and is the final resting place of Emperor Jing (Liu Qi) and Empress Wang, prominent and popular rulers from this period.

**Chengdu** – China's symbolic western capital and the residence of the country's most lovable black and white bear, Chengdu has an abundance to offer. With a fast-paced economy which is dragging China's west into the 21st century, it is no wonder that Chengdu's appeal is growing year on year. As the gateway into Sichuan Province's large collection of sights, as well as Chengdu being its own trove of historical and cultural treasures, Chengdu is a must-visit on any trip to China.

### Day 7: Giant Pandas

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will visit China's most famous resident, the Giant Panda at the Panda Conservation Centre, where you can learn about China's celebrated bear. 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 ½ hours on foot and there are electric carts offered by private vendors that can be organised at your own cost. Later, visit Matchmaker's Corner, where you can watch parents search for suitable suitors for their children, and a traditional tea house where you can try traditional Chinese tea (at your own expense). This evening, dine on a traditional Sichuanese Hot Pot Dinner.



### Destination Information

**Panda Conservation Centre** – With over 80 pandas holding residence, the Chengdu Panda Research Base is equipped with the latest technology and research materials to gain a further understanding in how we can protect the panda and maintain, if not increase, its numbers. The park is set up to resemble the mountain and forest regions in north Sichuan, the original home of the Giant Panda, with extensive bamboo trees and large green spaces. Red Pandas, the Giant Panda's lovable cousin, and flamboyant peacocks too roam the park, making for an interesting mix.

**Sichuan Hot Pot** – Sichuanese cuisine is famous for its use of Sichuan pepper and chillies. These spices from the area are known for their 'mala' (numb and spicy) flavours, which seem to cool and heat your mouth at the same time.

### Day 8: Chengdu – Yangtze River Cruise

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Drive 4 hours to Chongqing where you will stroll through Ciqikou, a historic district full of traditional architecture. Enjoy dinner before boarding your luxurious Yangtze River cruise ship this evening. Your spacious cabin will provide a peaceful sanctuary – with a private balcony and panoramic glass windows you are always able to admire the scenery floating by.

*Please note the Yangtze River cruise section of your itinerary will not be confirmed by the cruise operators until after you commence your tour as it is subject to local river conditions and water levels. Your Local Guide will do their utmost*



To book call **1300 727 998** or visit your local travel agent

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*to keep you informed of any changes but cannot guarantee against delays or – in rare cases – cancellations of sections of your itinerary. Shore excursions are subject to change depending on local conditions. A detailed itinerary will be handed out on the vessel each day.*

*If you do not wish to take part in a shore excursion but you still wish to disembark the cruise ship, there is a mandatory port tax which must be paid by each customer. The port tax amount is approx. USD20-USD30 per person; however, this amount can vary and for security reasons, it is not always possible to disembark at all ports of call.*

*Please be aware that there are a number of steps involved in embarking and disembarking your Yangtze River Cruise Ship, particularly during low tide. If you think this may be an issue, please inform us in advance.*

#### **Destination Information**

**Yangtze River** – One of the world's great and legendary waterways, this 6,300km river has its origins high up in the snow-covered mountain of Tanggula, in the southwestern Qinghai Tibet Plateau, and runs into the ocean in Shanghai. The banks of this river are home to almost a third of China's population.

#### **Day 9: Yangtze River Cruise**

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

If you would like to take part, start the day with a Tai Chi session. There will also be an optional excursion to Fengdu Ghost City. This afternoon, visit the Shibaozhai Temple, an 18th century architectural marvel. This small temple was built at the top of a nine-storey pavilion clinging to the sheer south bank near Qutang Gorge. Disembark from the ship to the dock close to the pavilion's entrance. Sightseeing here involves climbing the nine storeys inside the building. You will be off the ship for 2 hours. This evening, the captain will hold a welcome party before dinner.



#### **Destination Information**

**Shibaozhai Temple** – The Shibaozhai Temple is a nine-storey temple, named after the hill on which it stands. Dating back to the 18th century, it was built during the Xianfeng Emperor's reign and is an example of Buddhist architecture. The temple is said to have been constructed without the use of nails.

#### **Day 10: Yangtze River Cruise**

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Prepare for breathtaking vistas as the ship passes through Wu and Qutang gorges. Switching to smaller vessels, take a relaxing trip on the Lesser Three Gorges Stream or Equally impressive Shennong Stream, cruising through the beautiful and narrow gorges for approximately 15km. Many protected species make the stunning peaks their home, including monkeys, mountain goats, deer and wild boar. There will also be an optional excursion to The White Emperor City today and a range of on board activities to take part in.



### Destination Information

**Lesser Three Gorges** – On both sides impressive stone cliffs are interspersed with surrounding rural scenery and forested areas. The Lesser Three Gorges refers to the three separate valleys of the Daning River, namely "Dragon-Gate Gorge", "Misty Gorge" and "Emerald Gorge".

**Shennong Stream** – This crystal-clear stream flows from north to south through stunning deep gorges finally merging with the Yangtze to the east of the mouth of Wu Gorge.

### Day 11: Yangtze River Cruise - Shanghai

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Visit the Three Gorges Dam, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world. Disembark the ship and drive approximately 20 minutes through the surrounding areas (the coach is not permitted to stop for photos) to the viewing area above the ship locks where you can truly appreciate the scale of this hydroelectric project. There is a small museum and a lookout here. The sightseeing will involve around 1 hour on foot. You will then continue upstream, passing through the Xiling Gorge. Check-out of your cabin, disembark the ship in Yichang and board your coach to Wuhan. On arrival at Wuhan Airport you will board your 2-hour flight to Shanghai.



### Destination Information

**Three Gorges Dam** – Commenced in 1994 and completed in 2009, the Three Gorges Dam is the largest water conservancy project ever undertaken. The Dam is located near Sandouping, which is in the middle of the Xiling Gorge, the longest of the Three Gorges. The dam is 2,335m long, 185m high, 18m wide on the top and 130m wide at the bottom, and has raised the river to a level of 175m above sea level, creating a 600km long reservoir. The building of this huge dam was for flood control, electricity, navigation, and irrigation.

**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 12: Zhujiajiao

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Today, head 1 hour west of Shanghai to the sleepy water town of Zhujiajiao. Admire the white-faced houses that line the canals, dotted with traditional wooden boats. Sightseeing at Zhujiajiao is leisurely and involves around 2 hours exploring on foot. Return to Shanghai this afternoon to explore this exciting metropolis or enjoy some relaxation time at your hotel.



### Destination Information

**Zhujiajiao** – One of Shanghai's sleepy water towns, Zhujiajiao is built on an old canal system once used to transport goods all over imperial China. The town's alleyways exude old-world charm, whilst the waterways are lined with ancient buildings and crossed by stone bridges.

### Day 13: Shanghai

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Gardens and the atmospheric alleys of the old town. Admire the magnificent colonial architecture that lines the Huangpu River with a stroll along the Bund before visiting the Silk Factory. Discover the antiquities of the impressive Shanghai Museum before dining on delicious Shanghainese cuisine. Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the centre of the city with 4 hours on foot. This evening, head to the Jinmao Tower's Cloud 9 bar for a farewell cocktail overlooking the Huangpu River.



### 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.

**Shanghai Museum** – One of the most esteemed and acclaimed museums in China, the Shanghai Museum has a comprehensive collection of ancient Chinese art. Sprawled over five floors, there is plenty of exploring to do. The shape of the museum was designed to resemble a Chinese vessel, known as a Ding.

### Days 14-15: Depart Shanghai

Meals included: Breakfast

Any time before your flight is at leisure. After check out, transfer to the airport for your onward flight. You will arrive on the same day or following day back into Australia. On arrival at the airport in Australia, be met by your airport chauffeur who will transfer you back home.

Late check-out is not included in our India group tours. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day in India, please contact our reservations department who can confirm additional pricing and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.



## Exquisite China 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 six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

Visa application forms and all relevant documentation are due in our office 60 days prior to departure; if received after this date urgent visa processing fees will apply. Passports will be returned with your final documentation four weeks prior to your group tour's scheduled departure. If you require your passport to be returned earlier, a \$15AUD 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.

Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

### 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 in the group. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours, as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout China.

We have included most of your breakfast and lunch meals throughout your itinerary and some evening meals. Tea and coffee will be complimentary with all meals. For these included meals, we have arranged for you to dine in not only high-end restaurants, but those that allow customers to experience and taste the real flavours of the local area; local wine and beer will be complimentary with your evening meals. On the evenings where meals are not included, you are given the opportunity to select your own dining experience, allowing you to immerse in the local culture or take advantage of your hotels' many restaurant options.

Your National Escort will do their utmost to cater for any special requests such as gluten free or vegetarian meals, however, people on restricted diets should expect complications. Although most Asian countries are now quite developed, only quite recently have they started to widely accept Western guests. Western food requirements are quite far removed from Asian food requirements, and even medical reasons can be quite difficult to explain. While our ground partners will do everything they can to cater for a wide range of dietary requirements on tour, we ask kindly for your patience and understanding that they cannot always be delivered to the standard you will be used to at home. It is recommended that passengers with food intolerances bring snacks or additional food



items with them, especially when travelling further from major cities as not all dietary requests will be met due to the limited foods available.

Please read your travel guide which you will receive with your final documents for more information about eating in China. 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!

### Evenings at Leisure

To give you more flexibility and choice when travelling on selected Deluxe Collection tours; we have carefully balanced special highlight meals with evenings at leisure so that you can explore the many culinary delights that China has to offer. Alternatively, you can use this time to enjoy the facilities of your luxurious accommodation. Your National Escort will be happy to provide you with advice about good places to eat and assist in the booking of transportation to get you there (at your own expense).

### Accommodation

As the 'Exquisite China' tour is part of our Deluxe Collection, you will be staying in international 5 star accommodation throughout your tour. We have provided free time during your tour so you can experience the facilities of your accommodation, or relax, allowing you to get the most out of the hotel experience. On this tour, you will spend 3 nights aboard a cruise ship on the Yangtze River. The ships we use feature fully air conditioned, deluxe cabins with large windows leading out onto private balconies. All cabins have private bathrooms.

### Transport

**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on our Deluxe Collection for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in China have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road – not just 1-2 kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only. There may be sections of road where the surface is comparatively bumpy but our drivers will do their utmost to lessen the impact.

**Planes:** Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. Pre-seat flight allocation is not available.

**Cruise ships:** On the Yangtze River, you will be cruising on the Century Paragon or Century Legend; each ship offers a mixture of Chinese and western cuisine, a range of entertainment and a spacious sun deck with Panoramic views. There will be a laundry service provided on board; the laundry service is for 15 items per person (excluding suits, tuxedos, ties, scarfs, evening dresses and overcoats). Please note that the cruise ship and all shore excursions arranged by the cruise are on a shared basis.

Please also note that due to a tightened security process for luggage upon cruise disembarkation in Yichang, the Transport Authority has imposed a fee of RMB25 per main luggage item. Wendy Wu tours will cover the cost of one main luggage item per person. If you have additional items (excluding hand luggage) you will need to cover the cost yourself locally – RMB25 per item.

## 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.

## 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 be crowded. Chinese New Year is on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Golden Week public holidays fall annually between 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October.

## Souvenirs

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs; so in some cities, we will visit a workshop or factory 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 and 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. The minimum age of customers on this tour is 18 years old.

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

Local tipping is customary in Asia. However, this can often lead to awkwardness in knowing when it is appropriate to tip and how much, as well as ensuring you have a suitable amount of change available at the time. For your convenience, with years of experiences in providing the best customer service, Wendy Wu Tours operates a kitty system on our Group Tours so your National Escort will look after this aspect of your trip for you. It also ensures that the amounts paid are reasonable for you but still fair for the local people. The amount is stated on each Group Tour page will be advised again on your final documentation. Tipping is in RMB and will be collected by your National Escort on arrival and distributed throughout the tour on your behalf. Any additional tipping on any of our tours is welcomed at your discretion. Further guidance for tipping contributions will be outlined in your final documentation.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

### 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](http://www.weather.com)

### 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.

### 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.

### Personal Expenses & Optional Tours

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 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 \$450AUD per person, 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.

### Climbing Steps

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

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

### Vaccinations and Your Health

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](http://www.travelvax.com.au)

### Before You Leave

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://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 followed by deposit documentation, which includes 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.

**Last updated 28/03/19**