



## Essential Yangtze Essential Tour | 13 Days | Comfortable

Shanghai - Yangtze River - Giant Pandas - Xian - Beijing

Be inspired by the natural grandeur of the Three Gorges on a relaxing Yangtze River Cruise – just one part of a wonderful tour that also includes China's enthralling cities of Shanghai, Xian and Beijing.



- Enjoy the bright lights of Shanghai
- Take a four-night cruise along the Yangtze River
- Get up close to the Giant Pandas
- Experience the spectacular Terracotta Warriors
- Explore the Great Wall of China

## Essential Yangtze tour inclusions

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges
- All accommodation
- Meals as specified in itinerary below
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as specified
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking Local Guides

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

## Essential Tours

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of China on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. You'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

## Comfortable Tour

'Essential Yangtze' is a **comfortable** tour. Although this is the easiest grading of tour Wendy Wu Tours offers it still requires a reasonable level of fitness.

- 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

Of course, our 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.

## 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.

- 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 movement of each vessel along the Yangtze is regulated by the Government's Yangtze River Authority (YRA). 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. The YRA allocates 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.

## 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** (outside China) or **21 5888 5681 or 159 0929 1082** (within China) 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 Local Guide can be informed of your most up to date information and ensure someone is at the airport to meet you on arrival.

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 time.

## Essential Yangtze Itinerary

### **DAY 1: SHANGHAI**

Fly to Shanghai. On arrival you will be met at the airport by your local guide from Wendy Wu Tours. Depending on your time of arrival, the rest of the day is at leisure. As dinner is not included, you may wish to take advantage of the hotel's selection of restaurants.

#### **Destination Information**

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

### **DAY 2: SHANGHAI**

Today's explorations include the traditional Yu Gardens and the atmospheric alleys of the old town. Continue to the Xintiandi Area and Tianzifang, and wander down the streets to admire the 1920s architectural styling. Learn about the age-old silk production process at the Silk Museum, where gorgeous, handmade items are for sale. In the evening, you can marvel at the contrast of the colonial Bund and the futuristic Pudong on an optional Huangpu River cruise with dinner at your own expense.

#### **Optional Activity: Huangpu River Cruise with Dinner**

*RMB280pp (payable locally)*

There is no better way to see the juxtaposition of eras in Shanghai's history than by taking a cruise on the Huangpu River. At night, the dazzling colours and lights from the futuristic Pudong shine bright onto the more modest twilight of the colonial Bund.

*Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch*

#### **Destination Information**

**Old Town and Yu Gardens** – The old town of Shanghai, where cobbled streets are lined with traditional shops selling herbal medicines, handicrafts, Chinese tea and a variety of tantalising snacks, is the original centre of Shanghai and was for decades the seat of Chinese authority in Shanghai. The Yu Gardens is 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.

**Xintiandi Area** – An affluent area, Xintiandi is a newly redeveloped district in the centre of Shanghai, home to boutique shopping and luxurious dining. The buildings here are designed and redeveloped from traditional style of Shanghai housing from the early 20th century, called Shikumen.

**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.

### **DAY 3: SHANGHAI TO YICHANG**

Take the bullet train for just under seven hours to Yichang, where you will board your Yangtze River Cruise ship and check into what will be your cabin for the next four nights. Please prepare some food for the train journey at your own expense.

*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 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.

Further note: 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 approximately USD20-USD30 dollars 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.

*Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner*

#### **Destination Information**

**Yangtze River** – One of the world's great and legendary waterways, the 6,300km Yangtze river has its origins high up in the snow-covered mountains of Tanggula, in the south-western Qinghai Tibet Plateau, and flows into the East China Sea in Shanghai. It is estimated that the banks of this river are home to almost a third of China's population.

#### **DAY 4: YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE**

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). They will drop your group off at the viewing area above the ship locks so you can truly appreciate the scale of this hydroelectric project. There is a small museum and a lookout. The sightseeing will involve around 1 hour on foot. You will then continue upstream on your ship.

*Meals Included: Breakfast Lunch, Dinner*

#### **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 Three Gorges Dam is 2,335m long, 185m high, 18m wide on the top and 130m wide at the bottom. The dam has raised the river to a level of 175m above sea level, creating a 600km long reservoir. The purpose for building this huge dam was flood control, electricity, navigation, and irrigation.

#### **DAY 5: YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE**

Prepare for breathtaking vistas as the ship passes through Wu and Qutang gorges. Switching to smaller vessels, take a relaxing trip on the Goddess 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.

*Depending on local conditions you may travel along the Shennong Stream instead of the Goddess Stream.*

*Meals Included: Breakfast Lunch, Dinner*

#### **Destination Information**

**Goddess Stream** – Also known as 'Shennü Xi' in Chinese, the Goddess Stream flows from the southern bank of the Yangtze opposite Goddess Peak. Once just a stream, the Three Gorges Dam raised the water level to 70-100m in depth, depending on the season.

#### **DAY 6: YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE**

Today, visit the Fengdu Relocation Village, also known as the Ghost City, on a two-hour shore excursion. Disembark via a pontoon and walkway. There is a free passenger 'cart' which takes you up to the middle area of the temple complex. It can carry 10-12 people at a time, and takes about four minutes each way. You will then need to walk the rest of the way up. There are 150-200 large steps, without any handrails.

*Meals Included: Breakfast Lunch, Dinner*

#### **Destination Information**

**Fengdu** – Also known as Ghost City, Fengdu is home to a large complex of shrines, temples and monasteries dedicated to the Chinese belief of the afterlife. With nearly two thousand years' history, the Ghost City combines the cultures of Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism with the mystique of ghosts. After the water level rose due to the Three Gorges Dam, Fengdu Ghost City became separated from the city of Fengdu.

#### **DAY 7: CHONGQING TO XIAN**

Disembark your cruise vessel in the large river port city of Chongqing and transfer to the Chongqing Panda House to visit China's iconic bears. Afterwards, take a 1-and-a-half-hour flight to the ancient city of Xian. This evening you may choose to partake in an optional Tang Ever-Bright City Night Tour at your own expense.

#### **Optional Activity: Tang Ever-Bright City Night Tour with Dinner**

*RMB180pp (payable locally)*

Take a night walk around Xian and marvel at the fountain and light show outside the Big Wild Goose Pagoda.

*Meals Included: Breakfast Lunch*

#### **Destination Information**

**Chongqing Panda House** – The Panda House in Chongqing Zoo is designed according to the natural environment and living habits of the giant panda, with rockeries, caves, streams, and waterfalls. However, there is also an indoor air-conditioned habitat for the pandas' comfort, as well as halls with floor-to-ceiling glass for visitors.

**Xian** – As one of the four ancient capitals of China and the starting point of the fabled Silk Road, Xian has long played a pivotal role in the country's extensive history. For centuries, Xian has been a thriving hub for cultural exchange, economic trade, as well as national politics. Home to some of China's most ancient sights, diverse architecture and delicious fare, Xian is a must-see destination.

#### **DAY 8: XIAN**

Spend this morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of the life-like Terracotta warriors, who stand in their original formations at the exact location where they were excavated. Visit the workshop of the craftsmen who recreate Terracotta Warriors in the style of their ancient counterparts. Watch the skilled production process and buy a souvenir warrior to take home. In the afternoon, you will be taken to Little Wild Goose Pagoda, one of the two significant pagodas in Xian. Tonight, you will have the option to feast on traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and watch a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing at your own expense.

#### **Optional Activity: Tang Dynasty Show with Dumpling Dinner**

*RMB290pp (payable locally)*

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

*Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch*

#### **Destination Information**

**Terracotta Warriors** – One of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this unearthed terracotta army comprises 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.

Visit [wendywutours.com.au](http://wendywutours.com.au)

**Little Wild Goose Pagoda** – Dating back to the Tang Dynasty, the Little Wild Goose Pagoda is one of two prominent pagodas in Xian. A former centre for translating Buddhist scriptures from India, the Little Wild Goose Pagoda was said to have survived one of the strongest earthquakes in world history.

#### **DAY 9 – XIAN TO BEIJING**

Take a 5-6-hour bullet train to Beijing, China's vast capital.

*Meals Included: Breakfast*

#### **Destination Information**

**Beijing** – The historical capital of the People's Republic of China has an 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 10: BEIJING**

Today, explore Beijing and discover why it was one of the greatest capitals during the Medieval era. Begin with a stroll across Tiananmen Square. At the head of the square, enter the magnificent Forbidden City, a monument to dynasties past (sightseeing will involve 3-4 hours on foot). Later, soak up the harmonious ambiance of the Temple of Heaven, where you can watch, or participate in, a dance class. This evening there is an optional Kung Fu Show with dinner at your own expense.

*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. Please remember to bring your passport with you when visiting the Forbidden City for security check.*

*Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch*

#### **Optional Activity: Kung Fu Show with Dinner**

*RMB280pp (payable locally)*

The Kung Fu show is a mix of traditional martial arts and modern theatre. Exhibiting stunning Kung Fu skills, exquisite ballet and music, this exciting show has become the most loved of all Kung Fu shows in China.

#### **Destination Information**

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

Call 1300 727 998 to speak to a Reservations Consultant

**Forbidden City** – The sacred centre of the Chinese empire for 500 years and home to the Ming and Qing dynasties, the Forbidden City is a vast complex of over 900 buildings and covers an area of 180 acres. Since 1987, the Forbidden City has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site and its palatial architectural style has been an influence on many imperial buildings throughout Asia.

**Temple of Heaven** – The Temple of Heaven is one of the most perfect examples of Ming architecture. It is set in a 267-hectare park surrounded by a long wall with a gate at each compass point. 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. It is an orderly oasis in an urban landscape, and when walking through the park you 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.

#### **DAY 11: BEIJING**

This morning is dedicated to the iconic Great Wall. Drive approximately two hours northwest of the city to the Juyongguan Pass where you can walk on the Great Wall of China, appreciating both the wall itself and the magnificent scenery. Your visit here involves walking from the bus to the first section. After your group has been given an introduction to the Great Wall's unique history you will have free time to explore at your own pace. After lunch, visit the Jade Factory where you will have the chance to buy souvenirs made of jade. On your way back to Beijing, stop at the Olympic Green for a photo opportunity. In the

evening, you have the option to take a rickshaw ride and enjoy dinner at a local family home in Beijing's Hutong at your own expense.

#### **Optional Activity: Hutongs by Rickshaw**

*RMB280pp (payable locally)*

Explore the Beijing hutongs by rickshaw, meeting a local family and learning more about family life.

*Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch*

#### **Destination Information**

**Great Wall of China** – Originally built under the first Emperor of China, Qin Shihuang, 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. Learn how to spot real jade, watch artisans at work carving this precious stone, and even buy a piece to take home yourself.

#### **DAY 12-13: DEPART BEIJING**

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to the airport, as per the departure time of your international flight. Arriving home the same or following day.

*Meals Included: Breakfast*

## **ESSENTIAL YANGTZE TRAVEL INFORMATION**

### **Visas**

Entry visas are required by all visitors to China and is not included in the cost of your holiday.

Wendy Wu Tours' Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa for an additional cost. 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 60 days prior to departure; if received after this date urgent visa processing fees will apply. Passports will be returned with your final documentation two to three 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.

## 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. Meals shown on the above itinerary (excluding drinks) are included in our group tours.

Sichuan cuisine (or Szechwan as it is still known 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 Local Guide so that they may resolve the problem for the next meal. Please note that long driving distances or flight times, for example, may delay/alter your mealtime.

## 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 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 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 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.

**Air:** Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. Pre-flight seat allocation is not available on international and internal flight sectors.

**Cruise ships:** On this tour you will take a 4-night cruise up the Yangtze River. Your cabin on your Yangtze River cruise ship will have a private bathroom and balcony. Please note that the cruise ship and all shore excursions arranged by the cruise are on a shared basis.

**Day Trains:** On this tour, you will take a bullet train journey. 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 Local Guide.

## Chinese Public Holiday

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 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018. 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 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 Local Guides. There will usually be no more than 40 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 10 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.

## 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 Guide 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 paid in RMB (Chinese Yuan) or US Dollars (on selected tours) and will be collected by your Local Guide on arrival and distributed throughout the tour on your behalf.

If you are taking a tour that includes a Yangtze River cruise, the total amount listed on the tour pages is collected in two parts: 1) RMB amount, paid to your Local Guide on arrival, as above, and 2) A separate service levy in RMB to be paid upon boarding the cruise vessel.

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.

## 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 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 Local Guide 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\$270 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 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](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 with 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 two weeks prior to departure.

**Updated: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018**