Wendy Wu Tours

Legends of China Dossier

Deluxe Tour | 17 Days | Comfortable

Beijing - Xian – Guilin – Yangshuo - Yangtze River Cruise - Shanghai

Discover China's finest wonders on this lavish cross-country adventure. Experience natural grandeur and imperial treasures, witness manmade marvels and ultra-modern miracles, as you wind your way from Beijing to Shanghai in style.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sip champagne on the Great Wall
- Meet the farmer who unearthed the Terracotta Warriors
- Three nights on a deluxe Yangtze cruise
- Step back in time in old Zhujiajiao

Legends of China tour inclusions

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

Personal expenditures e.g. drinks, 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.

Deluxe Tours

These tours have been meticulously designed with the more discerning traveller in mind. Our deluxe journeys through Asia feature distinctive and exclusive experiences, which bring the region to life. Our Deluxe 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

Comfortable Tour

'Legends of China' is a **comfortable** tour. Although this is the easiest grading of tour Wendy Wu Tours offers it still requires a reasonable level of fitness. Accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and average mobility. Tours may involve sightseeing on foot, some climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats.

Our National Escort/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 17 days in duration including international flights.

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 16 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 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.

Changes to itinerary in 2018:

- **On Day 10** - Replaced touring in Ciqikou with a visit to Chongqing Zoo to see the Giant Pandas
- Due to an evening arrival into Shanghai on Day 13, dinner on this night has been removed. Lunch on Day 14 will now be provided in its place.

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 National Escort/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.

Legends of China Itinerary

DAY 1: FLY TO BEIJING

Travel today 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 one 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

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 five to six 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.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

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.

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.

Peking duck – A favourite of the Emperor's court and the upper class elite during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), Peking duck quickly spread throughout Chinese society to become a national favourite and a symbol of China.

DAY 3: THE GREAT WALL

Today we will rise early to beat the crowds and drive approximately two hours to China's most iconic and magnificent sight, the Great Wall of China. We will travel 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, you will be given approximately two hours to explore. Visit the Jade Museum before returning to Beijing where you will take a 40 minute rickshaw ride through the warren-like hutongs before mastering the skills of calligraphy. Spend the evening in the lively Houhai area which is home to many dining options and bars.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

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 Museum – 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 four 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 TO XIAN

This morning you will transfer approximately one hour to Beijing airport for your two hour flight to Xian. Later, stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th 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 a performance of traditional Tang Dynasty dancing.

Meals Included: Breakfast, 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.

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 take a bike ride to get an ever more spectacular experience.

Tang Dynasty Dancing show – 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.

DAY 5: TERRACOTTA WARRIORS

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 one 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 and a half 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 centre to see smaller models of the warriors being made.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

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.

DAY 6: XIAN TO GUILIN

Transfer approximately one hour to the airport via the Hanyangling Mausoleum, the final resting place of Emperor Jing of the Han Dynasty. You will spend approximately two hours here and visit the restoration laboratory. Some excavation work has already occurred and glass floors have been placed over these areas, allowing you to walk over and get a bird's eye view of the pits below. Fly two hours to the beautiful southern city of Guilin and enjoy the rest of your day at leisure.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

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.

Guilin – Guilin is one of China's most stunning and panoramic cities and was founded during the 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 7: GUILIN TO YANGSHUO

Cruise downstream for four hours on the languid Li River, passing striking karst mountain scenery and lush, green fields. Look out for the cormorant fishermen, gently cruising along the waters in search of fish. 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. Disembarking from the cruise, your local guide will walk with you to your hotel, approximately a 30 minute walk from the river. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost. This evening, watch the spectacular 'Impressions Liu Sanjie' show from your VIP seats.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Please note: The Impressions Liu Sanjie show is subject to weather conditions and may be moved to the following evening or even cancelled if the weather is particularly bad.

Destination Information

Li River Cruise – Joining the twin beauty spots of Guilin and Yangshuo, the Li River offers a leisurely tour through some of the area's most stunning and dramatic scenery. Pass karst mountain landscapes and unhurried cormorant fishermen as you sail along on your river cruise ship.

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 spot in China.

Impressions Liu Sanjie – Directed by Zhang Yimou, the visionary behind the 2008 Beijing Olympics opening ceremony, Impressions Liu Sanjiu is a spectacular son et lumiere show which uses the karst mountains of Yangshuo as a backdrop and the Li River as a stage.

DAY 8: YANGSHUO

Enjoy a half day tour of the countryside around Yangshuo, wandering through verdant fields, karst scenery and winsome streams. This afternoon is at leisure to further explore Yangshuo's stunning countryside. There will be an optional bamboo rafting experience (at your own expense) or you may wish to make the most of your accommodation.

Meals Included: Breakfast

DAY 9: YANGSHUO TO GUILIN

Drive one hour back to Guilin. Stop for a photo opportunity on the banks of the Li River and meet a genuine cormorant fisherman. Enjoy a leisurely walk around West Lake and visit Sun & Moon Pagodas for spectacular views over downtown Guilin. Take a tour of the South China Pearl Museum.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Destination Information

Cormorant Fishing – A traditional fishing method used for centuries in both China and Japan, skilled fishermen have trained their cormorants to catch fish for them by diving into the water and returning with their prize.

Sun and Moon Pagodas – Known as the Gold and Silver Pagodas because of their colours at night, the Sun and Moon pagodas sit on top of the Chinese Fir Lake but are connected underwater by a glass tunnel.

South China Pearl Museum – Gain a fascinating insight into the pearling industry of southern China at the South China Pearl Museum, where you also have the opportunity to purchase some of these elegant silver jewels.

DAY 10: GUILIN – YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE

Transfer to the airport and fly one hour to Chongqing. Here you will visit China's celebrated bear at Chongqing Zoo's dedicated Panda House. Enjoy dinner before boarding your luxurious Yangtze River cruise vessel this evening. Your spacious cabin will provide a peaceful sanctuary – with a private balcony and panoramic glass windows so you are always able to admire the scenery floating by.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

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.

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 approx. 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.

You may be offered cabin upgrades locally and payable direct to the cruise company, which may include some of the amenity package services. The amenity package benefits start on the second day of the cruise.

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. It is estimated that the banks of this river are home to almost a third of China's population.

DAY 11: YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE

Today, 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 two hours.

Depending on local conditions of the river and the cruise programme, you may visit Jade Emperor Scenic Area near Fengdu or the Shibaozhai Temple.

Destination Information

Shibaozhai - is a nine-storey temple, named after the hill on which it stands. Dating back to the 18th century, the Shibaozhai temple 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 12: YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE

Prepare for breath-taking 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.

Destination Information

Goddess Stream - Goddess Stream, also known as 'Shennü Xi' in Chinese, 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.

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 13: YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE – SHANGHAI

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 one hour on foot. You will then continue upstream passing through the Xiling Gorge. Disembark your cruise ship in Yichang, transfer by coach to Wuhan Airport (approximately six to seven hours drive) and board your two hour flight to Shanghai.

Meals Included: Breakfast and Lunch

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 building of this huge dam was for the purpose of 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 14: ZHUJIAJIAO

Today, head one 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 two hours exploring on foot. Return to Shanghai this afternoon to explore this exciting metropolis or enjoy some relaxation time at your hotel.

Meals Included: Breakfast and Lunch

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 15: SHANGHAI

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 a Silk Museum. 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 four hours on foot. This evening, head to the Jinmao Tower's Cloud 9 bar for a farewell cocktail overlooking the Huangpu River.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Old Town and Yu Gardens -The Old Town (Yuan Bazaar) 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 for decades was the seat of Chinese authority in Shanghai. 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.

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.

Shanghainese Cuisine – Influenced by neighbouring provinces and known for its sweeter taste, Shanghai cuisine is a plethora of delicious treats. Dishes are usually seasoned with vinegars and rice wines and a popular cooking method is to braise the food.

DAYS 16-17: SHANGHAI TO AUSTRALIA

This morning is at leisure before you are transferred to Shanghai airport to board your flight to Australia, arriving home the same or following day.

Meals Included: Breakfast

LEGENDS OF 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.

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 National Escort/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.
Your itinerary has been carefully crafted to introduce you to a range of local dishes and we hope that you enjoy the culinary adventure ahead. When dining in China, although some restaurants have adopted a western approach to dining, expect some restaurants to follow the traditional communal style of eating. Typically, this will mean each diner has their own small bowl and may serve themselves from a variety of shared dishes. At some local restaurants, appetizers and main courses might be served when they are ready instead of following a particular order.

Determining when it's appropriate to use chopsticks, forks or spoons can be challenging for some travellers, even other Asians, as each country has different customs. In China, dishes are normally placed in the centre and people serve food for themselves with their own chopsticks and bowl. In parts of China, forks and spoons are used for most dishes and chopsticks are typically provided to eat noodles. Usually chopsticks or other utensils are provided to scoop the food into your bowl to prevent your own chopsticks from touching the food that remains on the table. Dining in China is fairly casual with not too many rules. Leaving food on the plate is not considered rude.

Accommodation

As the 'Legends of 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

Australian Airport Transfer - Your Deluxe Collection tour includes private chauffeur-driven transfers from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Canberra and Cairns based on executive sedan or similar. Available within a radius of 60 driven kilometres from the nearest international airport. After hours surcharges apply between 12:00am-6:00am. Please contact reservations for further information.

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: 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.

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 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 16th February 2018. Golden Week public holidays fall annually between 1-3 May and 1-7 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 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

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 paid in RMB (Chinese Yuan) or US Dollars (on selected tours) and will be collected by your National Escort 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 National Escort 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

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 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 and any flammable liquids in hand luggage will 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$450 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 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 2 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: 26th April 2018