



## See China with The Traveller & Correspondents

Classic Tour | 16 Days | Moderate

Beijing - Xian - Guilin - Yangtze River - Shanghai

This itinerary encompasses the best of China's natural and man-made wonders, from the magnificent Great Wall to the mighty Yangtze River. You will take a comprehensive journey through China's most iconic sites relishing the delights of China both ancient and modern.

### Tour Highlights:

- **Beijing** - The Great Wall, Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square
- **Xian** - The archaeological marvel of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses
- **Guilin** - Beautiful landscapes of the Li River
- **Yangtze River** - Spectacular scenery of the Three Gorges
- **Shanghai** - Exploration of China's most cosmopolitan city



## See China with The Traveller & Correspondents Tour Inclusions

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking National Escort
- Visa fees for Australian passport holders

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

## Classic 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. The tours are on a fully inclusive basis so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escort, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

## Moderate Tour

See China with The Traveller & Correspondents is a **moderate** tour. This has been defined in our brochure as anyone with a good level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. These programmes are not strenuous but do include several days where long periods of sightseeing on foot, climbing of stairs and in/out of boats will be necessary. These tours are generally longer in duration and could involve long days of driving. Some programmes may also include easy hiking or a home stay.

Our National Escort will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

## Country Profile: China

China's civilization is the oldest in the world and has a history dating back over 5,000 years. With 56 ethnic groups, 22 Provinces and 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 16 days in duration including international flights. Travellers booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the starting point. Join the tour on Day 1 in Beijing and end the tour on Day 15 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 whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

- 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 will explain any such changes to you as soon as they are informed by the cruise operator.

## Important Information Regarding 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 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

## See China with The Traveller & Correspondents Itinerary

### DAY 1: AUSTRALIA TO BEIJING

Fly to Beijing, the capital of China, for a four-night stay. On arrival in Beijing Capital International Airport, you will be met in the arrival hall by your local guide and/or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer approximately one hour to your hotel. A tour introduction will be held in the hotel either this evening or the next. Food and drinks will not be served at this meeting, it is simply an opportunity for your group to meet and learn more about travelling in China.

### **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

Walk through Tiananmen Square and into the magnificent Forbidden City; sightseeing here will involve approximately three to four hours on foot. Later soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape for approximately an hour. This evening join Beijing correspondent Kirsty Needham and Wendy Wu who will share insights into the magnificent city of Beijing.

### **Destination Information**

**Tiananmen Square** - Built under the guidance of Chairman Mao Zedong, Tiananmen Square is said to hold a capacity crowd of over one million and is one of the largest public squares in the world. It houses not only the Monument to the People's Heroes, it is also the final resting place of Chairman Mao himself in the Mausoleum of Mao Zedong.

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

### **China Correspondent**

**Kirsty Needham** - Newly appointed Sydney Morning Herald and The Age correspondent for China. Kirsty is an author of *A Season in Red*, a non-fiction book on life in modern China during the lead up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics. She is a regular commentator on China affairs.

**Wendy Wu** - Founder and chairperson of Wendy Wu Tours, share in Wendy's passion for her homeland and its fascinating culture. With over 22 years of experience in

touring China, Wendy Wu Tours has become one of the leading operators in the region.

### **DAY 3: BEIJING**

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 - the Mutianyu section. 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 2 hours to explore. Later, visit a jade factory before returning to your hotel.

Tonight, eat a traditional Peking duck dinner.

#### **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.

**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 4: BEIJING**

Today explore Beijing's Silk Market, a shopper's paradise where you will be able to find an array of items to purchase. Continue onto the 798 Art District exploring the galleries, museums and art exhibitions on display. Later there will be a photo stop only at the sites of the 2008 Olympic Games, before returning to your hotel.

#### **Destination Information**

**Beijing Silk Market** - Selling many items including furniture, sculptures, jewellery and of course silk! These markets are the perfect shopping area for Chinese memorabilia and knick-knacks.

**798 Art District** - Known by locals as Dashanzi, this district was once an industrial area in northeast Beijing. Today it

has been transformed into an urban and eclectic hotspot. Immerse yourself in culture and art in the many exhibitions on display.

**Olympic Sites** - Home of the most watched Olympic events in history at the Beijing Olympic Village. Most spectacular of sights here is the iconic Bird's Nest Stadium, host to the spectacular opening and closing ceremonies in 2008 and the Water Cube, venue to all aquatic sporting events.

### **DAY 5: BEIJING TO XIAN**

This morning you will be transferred approximately one hour to Beijing airport for your two-hour flight to Xian. Upon arrival into Xian transfer and check into your hotel.

Later stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city wall that enclose Xian's old town. The local guide will give you time to explore the ancient city wall 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.

#### **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 Wall** - Dating back to the Ming Dynasty in the 14th century, the Xian ancient city wall is one of the best-preserved urban fortifications in China. The wall's ideal location and layout gives visitors a bird's eye view over this fantastic city. Follow the locals' example and take a bike to get an ever more spectacular experience.

### **DAY 6: XIAN**

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 3 different 'pits', which are active archaeological digs. The site is large and will take approximately two and a half hours to explore.

Afterwards visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition centre to see smaller models of the warriors being made.

Returning to Xian and wander through the Muslim Quarter, then later this evening enjoy a delicious feast of traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

#### **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.

**Muslim Quarter** - The Muslim Quarter is the hub of Xian's Islamic community and is home to many stalls selling a myriad of snack foods and delightful oriental knick-knacks.

**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 this period.

#### **DAY 7: XIAN TO GUILIN**

Today you will fly two hours to the attractive city of Guilin, on the banks of the Li River. Upon arrival transfer one hour to your hotel and the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to explore.

#### **Destination Information**

**Guilin** - Guilin is one of China's most stunning and panoramic cities and was founded during the reign of the first Chinese empire, the Qin Dynasty. It is renowned for the unique beauty of the mountains that fringe it. Guilin developed as a trading town due to the building of the Ling Canal, which links the important Pearl and Yangtze River systems.

#### **DAY 8: GUILIN - YANGSHUO - GUILIN**

Take a relaxed three-hour cruise along the Li River to the charming village of Yangshuo with national travel editor Anthony Dennis and Wendy Wu. Around every river bend is

a view to take your breath away as jagged peaks loom over rural scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalos and local fishermen. Your cruise boat will have an enclosed dining area on the lower deck and an open viewing area on the upper deck. The boat generally departs at 9am; from the dock located a one-hour drive from your hotel. However, when the river level is low they depart from further downstream which would mean a longer drive and an earlier check-out from your hotel. Disembarking from the cruise and spend the afternoon exploring Yangshuo at a leisurely pace. Drive approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes back to Guilin.

#### **Destination Information**

**Li River** - Today you will pass tranquil farming and fishing scenes and picturesque villages as you cruise down the Li River. The main attraction is the stunning limestone karsts that tower above the river creating a magical landscape of mountains and water. The unique and natural beauty of this region has for centuries been an inspiration to Chinese artists and poets alike.

**Yangshuo** - Yangshuo is home to some of the best scenery in the world. This quaint town is renowned for its breathtaking vistas and peaceful country life. Surrounded by stark karst peaks and attractively located on the Li River, Yangshuo, alongside Guilin, prides itself in being the most sought after beauty spots in China.

#### **China Correspondent**

**Anthony Dennis** - National travel editor of the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age. Anthony has visited China on several occasions, which has seen him traverse the country far and wide venturing to unique destinations. Many of his articles on China have appeared in the Traveller section and elsewhere.

#### **DAY 9: GUILIN TO CHONGQING – YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE**

Today you will transfer to Guilin Airport and fly one hour and 10 minutes to the city of Chongqing. First stop will be at Chongqing Zoo's Panda House where you can see China's most famous resident, the Giant Panda. This afternoon take a tour around Ciqikou, a centre of cobbled streets and porcelain wares before boarding your Yangtze River cruise this evening.

*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 USD20-30 dollars per person however, this amount can vary and for security reasons, it is not always possible to disembark at all ports of call.*

#### **Destination Information**

**Chongqing** - Chongqing is a city perched on the steep hills overlooking the confluence of the Jialing and the Yangtze Rivers and is the chief industrial centre of south west China, producing approximately one fifth of Sichuan's industrial output. Chongqing has been reshaped by the Three Gorges Dam Project, which now allows larger sea-going vessels to sail all the way upriver to China's most famous waterfront mountain city.

**Ciqikou** - Known colloquially as 'Little Chongqing' and the 'Porcelain Port', Ciqikou dates back to the Ming Dynasty and has maintained its original appearance. Lined with shops selling delicious snacks, Ming-style trinkets and Chinese curios, Ciqikou is a fun way to spend a morning and is a must-see in Chongqing.

**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 10: 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, you may visit the Fengdu Relocation Village instead of the Shibaozhai Temple.*

#### **Destination Information**

**Shibaozhai** – 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 11: 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.

#### **DAY 12: YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE TO SHANGHAI**

Visit the Three Gorges Dam, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world. Disembark the ship and drive approximately 20 minutes passing through the surrounding areas (the coach is not permitted to stop for photos) and will drop your group off at the viewing area above the ship locks to truly appreciate the scale of this hydroelectric project. There is a small museum and a lookout and the sightseeing will involve around one hour on foot. Disembark your cruise ship in Yichang, transfer by coach to Wuhan Airport (approximately a four to five hour drive) and board your two-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 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 13: SHANGHAI**

Shanghai is China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th century temples. Begin your day with a walking tour of the French Concessions. Here you can wander down tree lined streets and really get a feel for the old Shanghai. After lunch, visit the ancient treasures of the Shanghai Museum.

#### **Destination Information**

**French Concession** - Traditional style of Shanghai housing from the early 20th century, called Shikumen intertwine with boutiques and high-end restaurants.

**Shanghai Museum** - One of the most esteemed and acclaimed museums in China, the Shanghai Museum is a comprehensive collection of the Middle Kingdom's millennia old history. Sprawled over five floors, one could spend half, if not a full day exploring. The shape of the museum was designed to resemble a Chinese vessel, known as a Ding.

#### **DAY 14: SHANGHAI**

Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Garden; and a quick visit to old town. Admire the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the Bund. Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the centre of the city including three to four hours on foot. This evening view the city from the Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise with Dr Geoff Raby and Wendy Wu before sampling some traditional Shanghai cuisine.

#### **Destination Information**

**Yu Gardens** - The Yu Gardens is seen as one of the perfect examples of Chinese garden style. Built by the Ming-era governor, Pan Yunduan, as a retirement gift for his father, the Yu Gardens is home to exquisite jade rock, goldfish-filled ponds and stunning, tranquil pavilions.

**The Bund** - Recognised as Shanghai's former 'Wall Street', the Bund is home to an impressive collection of buildings

from the early trade houses of the 1850s to the glamorous Art Deco modernism of the 1920s. Originally, the home of the foreign population of Shanghai, the Bund's architecture has inherited much western influence and is a stark contrast to the Pudong skyline, sitting across the Huangpu River.

**Silk Museum** - The Silk Museum is an educational journey through the production of silk, one of China's most famous and luxurious materials. Learn about the use of silkworms and silk moths in its production; the manufacturing process; as well as silk's journey along the Silk Road which brought this product across Asia and Europe.

**Huangpu River** - The Huangpu River flows through the centre of Shanghai and separates the city into Pudong, meaning 'east of the Huangpu' and Puxi, 'west of the Huangpu'. Cruising down the river, you will see the contrast of the historical Bund architecture on one side of the river with the modern Pudong skyline on the other side. At night, the banks of the Huangpu light up, turning Shanghai into a neon wonder.

#### **China Correspondent**

**Dr Geoff Raby** - Australia's ambassador to China between 2007 and 2011. Dr Geoff Raby is a leading expert on China and was made a friendship ambassador to Shandong Province and an honorary citizen of Chengdu City for his contributions to advancing relations between Australia and China.

#### **DAY 15: DEPART SHANGHAI**

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to the airport, according to the departure time of your international flight.

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

#### **DAY 16: ARRIVE AUSTRALIA**

Arrive home today.

## SEE CHINA WITH THE TRAVELLER & CORRESPONDENTS TRAVEL INFORMATION

### Visas

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

Visa application forms and all relevant documentation are due in our office 60 days prior to departure; if received after this date urgent visa processing fees will apply. Passports will be returned with your final documentation 2-3 weeks prior to your group tour's scheduled departure. If you require your passport to be returned earlier, a \$15 courier fee will apply.

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

### Insurance

We strongly encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the originals.

### Eating in China

Chinese cuisine is one of the most influential, diverse and flavoursome culinary styles in the world with a legacy stretching back thousands of years. Chinese dishes incorporate many spices and seasoning to create an explosion of flavours. Though Chinese cuisine can vary greatly from Chinese food we get in Australia, it is important to keep an open mind and be adventurous. All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive See China with The Traveller and Correspondents tours from the groups' arrival until the groups' day of departure.

### Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the Australia and China. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs. Please note double bed requests can be made at time of booking but cannot be guaranteed.

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

### Transport

**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Main and inner city roads in China have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner.



Roads in China have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections below are approximations only.

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

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

**Cruise ships:** On this tour, you will take a four-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.

## Development in China

Though parts of China match the west in modernity and technological advances, it is important to remember that China is still a developing country and as such, many aspects of tourism in China do not have the solid infrastructure and safety standards as seen here in Australia. It is important that our guests travel to China with an open mind and a sense of humour. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort/Local Guide.

## Chinese Public Holidays

If you are travelling within the below Chinese Public Holidays please note that celebrations last for several days and during these times some businesses will be closed and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open, but may be crowded. Chinese New Year is on 28th January 2017 and 16<sup>th</sup> 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 be no more than 30 travellers in each group. Due to the popularity of this tour there will be multiple groups attending the special events.

## Tipping Policy

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

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

Yangtze River Cruise operators have introduced a compulsory service levy, which is to be paid immediately upon boarding the cruise vessel. For the purposes of your overall cost, this has been calculated into your AUD/RMB tipping amount as reflected on your invoice.

The tipping amount is determined based on the total number of passengers travelling in the group. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort. The final tipping amount will be outlined in your final documentation, which is distributed 2 weeks prior to your tours departure.

## Packing List and Climate

You will find a complete packing list and a helpful climate chart in the 'Suggested Packing List', which will be included in the pre-departure information link sent within your deposit documentation. Seasonal weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found on [www.weather.com](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 5kgs. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that Chinese authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

## Exchanging Cash

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to cities outside of Beijing and Shanghai. US Dollars are easily exchanged throughout China and other currencies such as Australian Dollars can generally be exchanged in hotels and airports provided notes are new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

## Personal Expenses & Optional Tours

**Personal Expense** - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of AUD\$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 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](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 2 weeks prior to departure.

**Updated: 21 April 2017**