



Yunnan & Sichuan

Classic Tour | 17 Days | Moderate

Kunming – Dali – Lijiang – Chengdu – Mt. Emei - Nine Villages Valley

As the two of the most diverse and colourful provinces in China, travelling through Yunnan and Sichuan makes a fascinating adventure for nature lovers. From the famous Tiger Leaping Gorge to the lesser known Huanglong pools there are spectacular landscapes around every corner on this itinerary.

Tour Highlights:

- **Kunming** – The capital of Yunnan Province
- **Dali** – Town nestled between Erhai Lake and the Cangshan Mountains and home to the Bai Ethnic Group
- **Lijiang** – Veritable 'living museum' set at the foothills of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and home to the Naxi minority group
- **Chengdu** – The Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding
- **Mt. Emei** – UNSECO World Heritage Site and one of four sacred Buddhist mountains in China
- **Nine Villages Valley** – 'Jiuzhaigou' Nature Reserve; breath taking natural scenery



Yunnan & Sichuan 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 (if your group is 10 or more passengers)
- Visa fees for Australian passport holders

Personal expenditures e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, 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/Local Guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

Moderate Tour

'Yunnan & Sichuan' 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 or overnight train journeys. Some programmes may also include easy hiking or a home stay.

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.

Altitude

This itinerary visits areas of high altitude. If you have an existing respiratory, vascular or coronary condition, we recommend checking with your doctor before undertaking this itinerary. The following parts of the itinerary have high altitude:

1. Jade Snow Dragon Mountain near Lijiang. Sightseeing is at Yunshaping (Cloud Fir Meadow) which has an altitude of approximately 3,200m [11,498ft]. Please note that the town of Lijiang, where you will be staying overnight is not at high altitude.
2. Changhai (Long Lake) in the Nine Villages Valley. Sightseeing is at an altitude of 3,100m [10,170ft]. Please note that the place where you will be staying overnight is not at high altitude.
3. Huanglong – sightseeing is at 3,500m [11,483ft].

AMS (Acute Mountain Sickness) occurs in some people when they travel to altitudes over 3,000m. Mild symptoms of AMS include dizziness, fatigue, nausea or loss of appetite, breathlessness or headache. These usually develop over the first 36 hours at altitude and not immediately on arrival. AMS symptoms are experienced by people of varying ages and levels of fitness, and usually the symptoms will subside after a day or so. If symptoms worsen, you should seek medical advice and descend in altitude immediately. It is recommended to drink more water, non-alcoholic and noncaffeinated drinks and avoid exertion after arriving in altitude over 3,000m.

Making sure you are well hydrated (by drinking lots of water and refraining from alcohol/caffeine) before and during the tour, as well as exercising to improve your aerobic fitness before you leave, are generally considered to be excellent ways to prevent or alleviate the severity of mild AMS. If you smoke, your doctor will probably also advise you to stop several weeks before your tour. If you have an existing respiratory, vascular or coronary condition, we recommend checking with your doctor before undertaking this tour. Take this Tour Dossier with you to your appointment to explain the altitude at which you will be travelling. Information on AMS can also be found at http://www.travelvax.com.au/resource_files/Travel-Tips---Altitude-Sickness.pdf

Country Profile: China

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 17 days in duration including international flights. Travellers booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the starting point. Join the tour on Day 2 in Kunming and end the tour on Day 16 in Chengdu. 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.

- 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.

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

- An additional one night in Dali has been added, increasing this tour to 17 days in duration.

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/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

Yunnan & Sichuan Itinerary

DAYS 1-2: AUSTRALIA TO KUNMING

Fly overnight to Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province. On arrival into Kunming 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 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

Kunming - Nicknamed China's 'Spring City' due to its temperate weather, Kunming is the capital of Yunnan Province. Kunming has been an important city for trade due to its significant location on the borders of Southeast Asia.

DAY 3: KUNMING

Drive one and a half hours to the Stone Forest and spend the morning exploring the unusual limestone rock formations of the Kunming Stone Forest. This involves around three and a half hours walking along cobblestone paths to view the maze of rock pinnacles, lake and ponds. Return to Kunming for an afternoon at leisure and dine this evening on the delicious local delicacy, Across the Bridge Noodles.

Destination Information

Kunming Stone Forest - Located 120km south east of Kunming, the Stone Forest consists of thousands of narrow, fantastically shaped pillars of rock, scattered over an area of more than 80 hectares. The park is designed so that you can follow a walkway through the formations of water pools and grey pinnacles, the tallest of which is over 30m high. See if you can find the following formations for yourself – Everlasting Fungus, Baby Buffalo, Moon Grazing Rhino, Sword Pond and Baby Elephant.

Across the Bridge noodles - Across the Bridge noodles are a type of rice noodle soup from Yunnan Province served in a broth style. Usually accompanied by meat, bean curd and vegetables, this is a truly therapeutic dish.

DAY 4: KUNMING TO DALI

Drive approximately five hours to the pretty city of Dali. In Dali enjoy some light sightseeing around Dali's Old Quarter and the symmetrical Three Pagodas. This evening take a stroll round lively Foreigner's Street.

Destination Information

Dali - Sandwiched between the Jade Green Mountains and serene Erhu Lake, Dali is naturally striking in its setting. Mainly a base for the Bai people, Dali has played an important role in the history of south China and was once a post on the old Burma Road.

Three Pagodas - Presented in a perfect triangle, the Three Pagodas date back to the 9th century and were built under the Nanzhao State. Made of brick and white mud, the Pagodas are known for their resilience, having survived many natural disasters, including earthquakes.

Foreigners Street - Popular with the foreign backpack community, Dali's Foreigners Street is lined with market stalls selling items from the Bai people, beautiful fabrics and delicious 'small eats' snacks.

DAY 5: DALI

Today relax with a cruise on tranquil Erhai Lake before an afternoon at leisure.

Destination Information

Erhai Lake - The centrepiece of Dali, Erhai Lake is a beautiful oasis of striking blue waters, temple islands and cormorant fishermen. Erhai literally means 'ear sea' and is named so due to the ear shape of the lake. A cruise on the lake is the best way to fully appreciate the natural beauty of the area.

DAY 6: DALI TO LIJIANG

This morning, head over to Xizhou Village to explore the local wares at the market. Drive four hours to Lijiang, one of China's best preserved old towns, you will spend around two hours on foot visiting the picturesque Black Dragon Pool where you can enjoy spectacular vistas of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain.

Destination Information

Lijiang - A beautiful tapestry of cobbled streets, rickety wooden buildings and sultry streams, Lijiang is a vision of idyllic wonder; a great place to just take a stroll and soak up the atmosphere.

Black Dragon Pool - Constructed in 1737 during the reign of the Qing Dynasty, the Black Dragon Pool is a popular pond in Lijiang which offers stunning vistas and walking opportunities. From this area, visitors can enjoy beautiful panoramas of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, the tallest mountain in the area. It is said that there is a black dragon living within the pond's waters, hence the name.

DAY 7: LIJIANG

A magnificent mountain massif, the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain incorporates several peaks, the tallest of which is 5,500m. Visiting Jade Dragon Snow Mountain is very popular with travellers to this area so to avoid the large crowds of people queuing at the same time, the local Government's tourist authority allocates times to each group. The bus will drive to the base of the mountain; then take a 10 minute ride on a chairlift from the base to Yunshaping (Cloud Fir Meadow) at an altitude of approximately 3,200m. From the chairlift there is a wooden pathway to the meadow and this walking route takes approximately one hour. Descend by chairlift and re-board the bus. Later visit Baisha Old Town to view the fascinating murals, painted during the early Ming Dynasty, and visit the Mu Family Embroidery School. Sightseeing at Baisha Old Town is leisurely. There are ruthless souvenir sellers near the car park so be firm to avoid any hassle.

Please note this section of the itinerary is subject to change at late notice. Your Local Guide will keep you informed of any changes as they are made aware of them.

Destination Information

Jade Dragon Snow Mountain - Jade Dragon Snow Mountain is known for its mysterious ambience and snow-covered peaks and is considered the Holy Mountain amongst the Naxi ethnic group and other ethnic minorities in Lijiang. Popular for hiking, mountaineering, botanising and skiing, Jade Dragon Snow Mountain attracts thousands of visitors every year who enjoy exploring its lofty peaks.

Mu Family Embroidery School - Watch as locals make intricate pieces of embroidery and take the opportunity to buy a piece yourself.

Baisha Old Town and Frescoes - Once the capital of the Naxi minority group, the Baisha Old Town is home to typical Naxi architecture and a great place to see the Naxi people going about their daily lives. The Baisha Frescoes date back to the early Ming Dynasty and are made up of 44 pieces. Most of the paintings depict religious stories from Taoism and Buddhism.

DAY 8: LIJIANG

Today you will visit the 3,000m deep Tiger Leaping Gorge, said to be the deepest gorge in the world. Drive approximately two hours, depending on number of photo stops, to the northern bank of the Tiger Leaping Gorge and stop for a short while at the steps above the famous Tiger Leaping Rock. You can choose to walk down the steps to the water, or have some free time while other group

members complete this. There are usually sedan chairs offered by local vendors, which can be organised at your own expense. Lunch today will be a simple meal as the choice of restaurants in this area is limited. Return to Lijiang to explore the Old Quarter.

Destination Information

Tiger Leaping Gorge - Tiger Leaping Gorge believed to be one of the deepest and most dramatic gorges in the world, measuring at 16km deep. Hiking along Tiger Leaping Gorge has become incredibly popular, as those who do can view its roaring stream, cascading waterfalls and magnificent scale.

DAY 9: LIJIANG TO CHENGDU

This morning fly an hour and a half to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province and home of the Giant Panda. This afternoon spend one to two hours sightseeing around the People's Park to visit a teahouse and see the famous Matchmaker's Corner where parents look for suitable suitors for their children.

Destination Information

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

People's Park - An ideal centre for people to meet, the Square is iconic for its famous Matchmaker's Corner, where parents search for suitable suitors for their children.

DAY 10: CHENGDU TO MT. EMEI

Travel two hours south of Chengdu to Leshan, where you will see the world's largest stone-carved Buddhist monument, the Leshan Grand Buddha. Take a short boat ride in front of the statue to grasp the size of this structure. You will spend approximately one hour at Leshan and you are required to get on and off the boat. Continue approximately one hour to Mt. Emei, one of the earliest sources of Buddhism in China.

Destination Information

Leshan Grand Buddha - The Leshan Buddha was built in the 9th century under the direction of Haitong, a monk who felt the presence of Buddha would help calm the waters below so that shipping vessels could make their journey safely. Amazingly, once the structure was completed, the waters

below did calm, some say due to the Buddha's presence, others to the large amount of rock removed in order to carve the Buddha, causing the current changing. The Buddha remains watching over the waters below!

Mt. Emei - One of the Four Sacred Buddhist Mountains of China, Mt. Emei is located in Sichuan Province and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996. Mt. Emei is home to the first Buddhist temple to be built in China, dating back to the 1st century.

DAY 11: MT. EMEI

Spend a full day exploring spiritual Mt. Emei. There are many pathways to allow exploration of the steep cliffs, lofty peaks and towering trees. Take the cable car up to the golden summit from Jieyin Temple. You will walk for approximately two and half hours from Wannian Temple to the Wuxian Gang Parking lot. From here you will be transferred back to your hotel in the evening.

DAY 12: MT. EMEI TO NINE VILLAGES VALLEY

Drive approximately four hours to Chengdu for your one hour flight to Jiuzhaigou, on arrival transfer three hours to the Nine Villages Valley National Park. A national park of ragged peaks, sapphire Lakes, abundant forests and rushing Waterfalls, Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou) is considered one of China's most beautiful areas.

Destination Information

Nine Villages Valley - Named after the nine typical Tibetan settlements scattered through the valley, the park is a World Biosphere Reserve, full of endemic flora and 140 species of birds. Whilst the scenery transfers with the seasons it is always spectacular and you will spend time in the depths of it, taking in your striking surroundings.

DAY 13: NINE VILLAGES VALLEY

Enjoy a full day exploring the diverse scenery of the splendid Nine Villages Valley, China's most awe-inspiring National Park. You will spend five to six hours walking over varying terrain today.

DAY 14: NINE VILLAGES VALLEY – HUANGLONG TO CHENGDU

Drive around four hours to the Huanglong Temple and Huanglong pools where you will find hundreds of vivid pools in striking colours, formed by thousands of years of mineral deposit, tumbling gently down through the bright green forests of the Huanglong Valley. There is an option to take a chairlift up both up and down to allow more time for sightseeing at the top; the cost of this is at your own

expense. We usually spend around two hours sightseeing here. This area is at an altitude of 3,500m. Drive one and half hours to the airport for your flight to Chengdu.

Destination Information

Huanglong - Within neighbouring distance of Nine Villages Valley is the equally alluring area of Huanglong. Huanglong which means 'Yellow Dragon' is renowned for its wide variety of colourful pools and natural ponds which are said to shimmer like a 'yellow dragon'. The colour of the pools is caused by calcium deposits in the water which bring out the strong greens, blues and yellows colours.

DAY 15: CHENGDU

Today we will visit China's most famous resident, the Giant Panda. Visit the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding where you can learn about China's celebrated bear. See these lovable creatures in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. It is not guaranteed that you will be able to see the feeding of the younger pandas, as this only happens at the start and end of each day. Sightseeing involves approximately one and half hours on foot and there are electric carts offered by private vendors and can be organised at your own expense. Visit the Shu Brocade and Embroidery Museum. Later stroll around the Wuhou Temple and ancient Jinli Street, before enjoying a traditional Sichuan meal.

Destination Information

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

Shu Brocade and Embroidery Museum - Brocade production has been an integral piece of Chinese history for over 2,000 years. At this museum, enjoy the opportunity to learn further how these richly decorative fabrics are created and take the opportunity to purchase a piece yourself.

Jinli Street - Recorded back as far as the 2nd century BC, Jinli Street houses traditional-style buildings and shops selling delicious snacks. Jinli Street is a great place to stop for a traditional Chinese tea in one of the many teahouses.

DAY 16: DEPART CHENGDU

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 check-out 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.

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

DAY 17: ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Arrive home today.

YUNNAN & SICHUAN TRAVEL INFORMATION

Visas

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

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

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

Insurance

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

Eating in China

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

This itinerary visits areas which are popular with domestic Chinese tourists, but not yet known by international tourists. Facilities throughout Nine Villages Valley and Mt. Emei cater for Chinese people and this usually means the hotels serve few if any western dishes for breakfast. Typical Chinese breakfast dishes include cold vegetable and pickle dishes, bean curd noodles, soups, congee (a rice porridge), steamed buns with pork or sweet red bean and green tea. Black tea and coffee are not always served, but usually can be requested. You may also be served fruit, a fried egg, or toast – although the bread tends to be very sweet and unlike the bread we have in Australia. Fresh milk is not generally available. If you cannot do without, you could either bring milk and cereal supplies / or muesli bars from home, or purchase them in Kunming. Other meals (lunch and dinner) could include dishes of local style, meaning there may be bones or fat in meat and fish

Please be aware that dishes selected for your meals reflect the cooking styles and signature dishes of the local area you are in. 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.

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 National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Please note 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.

Please note double bed requests can be made at time of booking but cannot be guaranteed.

Transport

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Main and inner city roads in China have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in China have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections below are approximations only.

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

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

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 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 29 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with Local Guides only.

Tipping Policy

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

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

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

Packing List and Climate

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

Luggage

All 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.

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.

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