



Tour Dossier

A China Experience

Classic Tour | 10 Days | Comfortable Pace

This document has been designed to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour. All passengers should read this dossier to assess the physical requirements of the programme and their ability to complete the tour.

Classic Tours

Our Classic Tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures on a fully inclusive excellent value group tour.

A China Experience is a Comfortable Paced tour; this has been defined in our brochure as the easiest pace of tour which Wendy Wu Tours offers. Anyone with a reasonable level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. Our National Escort/Local Guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

While you will encounter extensive sightseeing on foot and climbing of stairs and in/out of boats throughout the tour, these programmes are comfortably operated to appeal to most people. Generally these tours are shorter in duration and visit the mainstream tourist attractions.

Tour highlights:

On our A China Experience itinerary, you will visit **Shanghai, Xian** and **Beijing**.

- **Shanghai** – Exploration of China's most cosmopolitan city
- **Xian** – The archaeological marvel of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses
- **Beijing** – The Great Wall, Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square

Destination 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.

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 8th February 2016 and 28th January 2017. Golden Week public holidays fall annually between 1-3 May and 1-7 October.

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 extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort/Local Guides.

Roads in China - Roads in China have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. 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. There may be sections of road where the surface may be comparatively bumpy but our drivers will do their utmost to lessen the impact. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road – not just one or two kilometers as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections below are approximations only.

Cuisine 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 A China Experience group tours from the groups' arrival until the groups' day of departure. Please be aware that dishes selected for your meals reflect the cooking styles and signature dishes of the local area you are in.

Joining Your Tour - The tour is 10 days in duration including international flights. Travellers booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the starting point. Please refer to your Final Itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure. Join the tour on Day 1 in Shanghai and end the tour on Day 9 in Beijing.

Itinerary Changes

1. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. A visit to Nanjing Road, Shanghai was featured in our 2016/2017 China brochure. Due to client feedback we have removed this from the itinerary allowing for more relaxed sightseeing on day 3.

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 times.



Drive one hour to the water canal town of Zhujiajiao. Sightseeing here is leisurely and involves several of hours exploring on foot. Return to Shanghai in the afternoon and spend approximately two hours exploring the Shanghai Museum and People's Square.

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, while the waterways are lined with ancient buildings and crossed by stone bridges.

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 in this comprehensive museum. The shape of the museum was designed to resemble a Chinese vessel, known as a Ding.

People's Square - Home to the Shanghai Museum, People's Square is an ideal centre for people to meet, do Tai-Chi and take part in dance classes.

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

Day 3: Shanghai

Day Outline

Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Garden and the atmospheric alleys of the Old Town. Admire the magnificent colonial architecture along the Huangpu River with a stroll along the Bund before visiting the Silk Museum. Cruise on the Huangpu River for stunning night vistas.

Physical Description

Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the city center with 3-4 hours on foot, including visits to the Yu Gardens, the Old Town and a stroll on the Bund. Be mindful of your valuables while in the Old Town as it is very crowded. You will need to get on and off the boat on your Huangpu River cruise.

Destination Information

Old Town and Yu Gardens - The Old Town of Shanghai, where cobbled streets are lined with traditional shops selling herbal medicines, handicrafts, Chinese tea and a variety of tantalising snacks, is the original center 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 western influence and is a stark contrast to the Pudong skyline, sitting across the Huangpu River.

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 transported this product across Asia and Europe.

Huangpu River Cruise - There is no better way to see the juxtaposition of eras in Shanghai's history than by taking a cruise on the Huangpu River. At night, the dazzling colours and lights from Pudong shine bright onto the more modest twilight of the Bund. Pass under two of Shanghai's majestic bridges, the Nanpu and Yangpu Bridge, the latter being one of the longest bridges in the world to witness further the strength of this city.

Day 4: Shanghai to Xian

Day Outline

Fly to Xian for a two night stay. This evening, feast on traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and enjoy a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

Physical Description

You will be transferred to Shanghai airport (approximately one hour to Shanghai Pudong Airport and approximately 20 minutes to Shanghai Hongqiao Airport). The flight duration is approximately 2.5 hours. Transfer from Xian airport to your hotel is approximately one hour. ***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.***

Destination Information

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.

Tang Dynasty Dancing show - Xian, previously known as Chang'an, was an important cultural and historical centre, 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: Xian

Day Outline

Spend the morning viewing the formidable ranks of Terracotta Warriors and Horses. Visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition centre to see smaller models of the warriors being made. Take a stroll on Xian's ancient City Wall this afternoon.

Physical Description

The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses is located more than a 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, towards the summer months, can be hot outside. Sightseeing here involves approximately 2.5 hours on foot. This afternoon you will visit the City Wall. You will be required to walk upstairs to access the City Wall, where the National Escort/Local Guide will give you time to explore 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

Terracotta Warriors - One of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 20th century, this subterranean necropolis is comprised of over 7,000 soldiers, horses and chariots. The army was built in life-sized form by thousands of workers for the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, who felt he needed military protection 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 miniature soldier.

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 enjoy a bike ride to have an even more spectacular experience.

Day 6: Xian to Beijing

Day Outline

Today visit the lovely Little Wild Goose Pagoda before taking a stroll through the exotic Muslim Quarter. This afternoon fly to Beijing.

Physical Description

Sightseeing at the Little Wild Goose Pagoda includes 1.5 hours walking. ***Please be mindful of your valuables in the Muslim Quarter, due to large crowds.*** Fly from Xian to Beijing (flight duration one hour 50 minutes). On arrival, transfer to your hotel for check-in (approximately one hour drive). ***The Little Wild Goose Pagoda is closed on Tuesday due to maintenance. If this day of touring falls on a Tuesday, your touring in Xian will be re-arranged so that the Little Wild Goose Pagoda is visited on an alternative day.***

Destination Information

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

Muslim Quarter - Is the hub of Xian's Islamic community and is home to many stalls selling a myriad of snack foods, a

trove of silks and fabrics, and delightful oriental knick-knacks.

Day 7: Beijing

Day Outline

Walk across the lengths of Tiananmen Square and into the magnificent Forbidden City. Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven where you can watch or take part in, an outdoor dance class. This evening enjoy a Chinese acrobatic show.

Physical Description

Sightseeing at Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City will involve approximately 3-4 hours on foot. This afternoon you will spend approximately two hours on foot at the Temple of Heaven. ***The Forbidden City is closed on Mondays due to maintenance. If this day of touring falls on a Monday, your touring in Beijing will be re-arranged so that the Forbidden City is visited on an alternative day. Please remember to bring your passport with you when visiting the Forbidden City for security check.***

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 influenced many imperial buildings throughout Asia.

Temple of Heaven - Is one of the most 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 you will see the many groups of local people that gather here every day to sing folk songs, practice Tai-Chi and sword dancing, play chess or just come to sit and chat.

Chinese Acrobatics - Incorporates many forms of dramatic art, including acrobatics, contortionism, juggling, plate spinning and many more.

Day 8: Beijing

Day Outline

Take a walk on the Great Wall of China, appreciating the wall itself and the dramatic scenery. Later, visit the jade factory and this afternoon wander the Summer Palace. This evening savour a delicious Peking duck dinner.

Physical Description

You will rise early this morning to drive approximately two hours (60km) northwest of the city to the Juyongguan Pass

of the Great Wall. The aim of this is to avoid the crowds of tourists who will arrive later in the morning, and the heat of the day. Your visit here involves walking from the bus to the first section. After your group has been given an introduction to the Great Wall's unique history you will have free time to explore the rest at your own pace. After lunch, drive approximately 1.5 hours to the Summer Palace in the north of the city. The palace is set over an extensive park and man-made lake complex and there is 1.5-2 hours on foot involved at this site.

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 and is over 700 years old.

Jade Factory - Learn about one of China's most symbolic and important materials: jade, at this comprehensive factory. Learn how to spot real jade, watch artisans at work carving this precious stone, and even buy a piece to take home yourself!

Summer Palace - The former holiday retreat of the Qing emperors, the Summer Palace is a stunning example of

Chinese garden style. The Summer Palace incorporates the Fengshui notion of 'Mountain' and 'Water', seen here with tranquil Kunming Lake and magnificent Longevity Hill. A favourite resort of the Empress Dowager Cixi, the Summer Palace is home to a stunning Marble Boat and the Long Corridor, one of the longest outdoor passageways in the world.

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 9: Depart Beijing

Day Outline

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 check-out 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 10: Arrive Australia

Day Outline

Arrive home today.

Tour Profile

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.

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 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 a 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.

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 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\$250 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 Excursions - 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. The cost for each optional activity can range from RMB150 (AUD\$33) to RMB350 (AUD\$76) per activity. 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.

Transport: Roads - Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary.

Transport: Air - Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

Group Size - In most cases the group will operate with a minimum of nine travellers with expert Local Guides in each of the main cities. If there are 10 travellers or more, your group will be accompanied by a National Escort as well as Local Guides. There will usually be no more than 29 travellers in each group.

Climate - You will find a complete packing list and a helpful climate chart in the 'Suggested Packing List', which is 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.

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.

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 5kg. 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.

Tipping - Is a firm and expected element in the tourism industry. A nominated tipping amount is included in all group tour pricing, however is not collected in your final payment received by Wendy Wu Tours. This is so that it can be paid directly to your National Escort/Local Guides who will then distribute the tips among your main service providers – guides and drivers – on your behalf. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants or hotel porters is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services. The final tipping amount will be outlined in your final documentation.

After your booking - Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately two weeks prior to departure, and will include a travel wallet, a travel guide (which includes a suggested phrase book) and packing list, along with your final itinerary and international e-tickets.

Updated: 12 April 2016