



Tour Dossier Ancient China

Classic Tour | 18 Days | Moderate 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.

Ancient China is a Moderate Pace tour; this has been defined in our brochure as anyone with a good 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.

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.

Tour highlights:

On our Ancient China itinerary, you will visit **Beijing, Datong, Wutaishan, Taiyuan, Pingyao, Xian, Luoyang, Zhengzhou** and **Shanghai**.

- **Beijing** – The Great Wall, Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square
- **Datong** – One of China's historically rich cities and gateway to the Yungang Caves and Hanging Monastery
- **Wutaishan** – Meaning 'Five Terrace Mountains', this monastic village is home to the Bodhisattva of Wisdom
- **Taiyuan** – Provincial capital surrounded by mountains on the north, west and east sides
- **Pingyao** – UNESCO World Heritage listed town that showcases 'ancient China'
- **Xian** – The archaeological marvel of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses
- **Luoyang** – One of China's true ancient capitals with 13 dynasties once ruling from within its walls. Gateway to the magnificent Longmen Grottoes
- **Shanghai** – Exploration of China's most cosmopolitan city

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 Ancient China 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 18 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 Beijing and end the tour on Day 17 in Shanghai.

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

Flight Delays or Changes to Arrival Times - 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** (24 hours) 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 an arrival transfer will be arranged accordingly. We will endeavor to arrange a transfer as soon as possible however delays may occur.

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.



Itinerary – Ancient China

Day 1: Australia to Beijing

Day Outline

Fly with to Beijing, China's fascinating capital, for a four night stay. *Darwin passengers may depart one day earlier.*

Physical Description

Upon arrival in Beijing 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. ***In the event of flight delays or changes to arrival times, please see the previous page for details as to what to do in this circumstance.***

Destination Information

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

Day Outline

Walk through Tiananmen Square and into the magnificent Forbidden City. Later, enjoy a rickshaw ride through the warren-like where you will meet a local family to learn about local culture. Tonight, eat a traditional Peking duck dinner and watch an exquisite Peking Opera performance.

Physical Description

Sightseeing at Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City will involve approximately 3-4 hours on foot. Your rickshaw ride through the Hutongs will last approximately 40 minutes including a 20-30 minute visit to a local family.

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 a 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.

Hutongs - The Mongol rulers of Beijing established this style of housing in the 13th century as tenancy for the growing population of the city. Hutongs were designed to reflect the Chinese system of Fengshui with four Hutongs joining together to make a courtyard in the middle, known as Siheyuan. In more recent times, the hutong suburbs were in jeopardy of disappearing, but a fierce debate between developers and those who fought to protect the architecture and the hutong way of life diminished the threat.

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

Peking Opera - Dating back to the 18th century, Peking Opera is a form of traditional Chinese theatre popular during the Qing Dynasty. Works of opera usually tell the stories of Chinese history and folklore.

Day 3: 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 stroll through the Summer Palace.

Physical Description

You will rise early this morning to drive approximately two hours 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 for casual sightseeing. 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.

Day 4: Beijing

Day Outline

Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven where you can watch, or take part in, an outdoor dance class. Later, search for Chinese antiques and knick-knacks at Panjiayuan Market.

Physical Description

You will spend approximately one hour on foot at the Temple of Heaven. This afternoon you will have a sufficient amount of time to browse the wares of the Panjiayuan Market.

Destination Information

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.

Panjiayuan Market - Selling many items including furniture, sculptures and Mao era items, Panjiayuan Market is the perfect shopping area for Chinese memorabilia, knick-knacks and antiques.

Day 5 Beijing to Datong

Day Outline

Travel by train to Datong, the former western capital of the Jin Dynasty.

Physical Description

Transfer to Beijing West Railway Station. Your day train departs in the late morning and takes approximately 6.5 hours (over 360km). Upon arrival in Datong this evening transfer to the hotel for an overnight stay. There is no sightseeing today.

Destination Information

Datong - Located in Shanxi Province, Datong was formerly known as Pingcheng and is located near the Great Wall Pass

which separates Shanxi from Inner Mongolia. Datong's most famous sight is the Yungang Grottoes, home to thousands of intricately carved Buddhist statues.

Day 6: Datong to Wutaishan

Day Outline

Visit the Yungang Caves, replete with intricate Buddhist imagery before viewing the jaw-dropping Hanging Temple which seemingly floats up the face of Jinxia Gorge. Continue to Wutaishan.

Physical Description

Drive 40 minutes (approximately 25km) to Yungang Caves. Touring at the caves involves some steps and walking approximately one km. You will spend two hours here before lunch. Drive one hour and 45 minutes (approximately 80km) on a winding mountainous road to the Hanging Monastery, where sightseeing involves walking for around one hour. Continue driving another four hours to Wutaishan and check into your hotel.

Destination Information

Yungang Caves - Prime examples of rock-cut architecture, the Yungang Caves are ancient Chinese Buddhist temple grottoes, home to over 50,000 Buddhist statues.

Hanging Temple - Built over 1,500 years ago, the Hanging Temple is not only stunning for its unique location in the side of Jinxia Gorge, it is also one of the only existing temples to combine Buddhism, Taoism and Confucian symbols.

Wutaishan - Is one of China's four sacred Buddhist Mountains and received UNESCO status in 2009. Wutaishan literally translates as Five Plateau Peak and its most northern Peak, also known as Beitai, is the highest point in northern China.

Day 7: Wutaishan to Taiyuan

Day Outline

Spend the day exploring Wutaishan's alpine valleys and important monasteries, including the Bodhisattva Temple and Xian tong Temple. Continue onto Taiyuan, home to the Twin Pagoda Temple.

Physical Description

This morning visit Wutaishan. Sightseeing here involves walking (with some steps) to see some of the temples and views along the way. Temples include Bodhisattva Summit Temple and Xian tong Temple. This afternoon, drive 4.5 hrs (240km) to Taiyuan, arriving in the late afternoon. If time permits, there will be easy sightseeing at the Ming Dynasty Twin Pagoda Temple.

Destination Information

Taiyuan - Is the capital of Shanxi Province and its largest city. The city has had a long and important history, especially during the 20th century.

Twin Pagoda Temple - Is home to two Pagodas which date back to the Ming Dynasty and are the tallest set of twin pagodas in China.

Day 8: Taiyuan to Pingyao

Day Outline

This morning we will visit the Jin Ci Temple in Taiyuan. Afterwards, drive to the small ancient town of Pingyao. In Pingyao, visit the Tang Dynasty Buddhist Shuanglin Temple.

Physical Description

This morning enjoy sightseeing around Taiyuan, involving around 1-2 hours on foot. Sightseeing here will include the Jin Ci Temple. Later, drive two hours (100km) to Pingyao. On the outskirts of Pingyao Old Town, you will need to transfer to an 'environmental vehicle' electric cart to transfer to your hotel. You will spend approximately one hour touring around the Shuanglin Temple in Pingyao.

Destination Information

Jin Ci Temple - Is situated at the foot of Mount Xuanweng and was built in memory of Jiyu, the Founding Father of the Jin State.

Pingyao - A UNESCO World Heritage listed town, Pingyao is renowned for its ancient City Wall, which was built in the 11th century and still stands encircling the town. With a 2,000 year history, Pingyao has retained its layout from the Ming and Qing dynasties; the houses, streets, storefronts and temples have all been preserved in their historical appearance.

Shuanglin Temple - Dating back to the Tang Dynasty, the Shuanglin Temple is a Buddhist temple that houses a number of rare painted statues, dating back to the Song and Yuan Dynasty.

Day 9: Pingyao to Xian

Day Outline

Take a walk round the cobbled streets for spectacular views of the city wall of Pingyao, dating back to the Zhou Dynasty. Next visit the Rishengchang Financial House Museum. There will also be some time to visit the Yamen, a former government building from the Qing Dynasty. This afternoon take a bullet train to Xian, the former ancient capital.

Physical Description

Sightseeing through different historic sites within the Old Town area involves at least four hours of easy walking, with a break for lunch. Sightseeing here will include visiting the ancient City Wall built in the Zhou Dynasty (877-728BC), the Rishengchang Financial House and the Yamen. Transfer to Pingyao Railway Station for your bullet train to Xian (three hours in duration). Transfer to your hotel in Xian on arrival.

Destination Information

Pingyao Ancient City Wall - One of the best preserved fortifications in China, the Pingyao ancient City Wall encloses the Old Town of Pingyao.

Rishengchang Financial House - Is the home of China's first draft bank, dating back to the 17th century.

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.

Day 10: 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. This evening enjoy a delicious feast of Shui Jiao dumplings and a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

Physical Description

The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses is located more than 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. ***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

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.

Tang Dynasty Dancing show - Xian, previously known as Chang'an, was an important cultural and historical centre, not only in 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 11: Xian

Day Outline

Today admire the thousands of antiquities on display at the Xian Museum. Later you will visit the Little Wild Goose

Pagoda and watch a short traditional calligraphy demonstration. This afternoon, browse the wares and fares of the exotic Muslim Quarter.

Physical Description

Sightseeing today is at the Little Wild Goose Pagoda and Shaanxi Provincial Museum and involves at least 2.5 hours on foot. ***Please be mindful of your valuables in the Muslim Quarter, due to large crowds.***

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

Xian Museum - Opened in 2007 this museum holds thousands of cultural relics that represent the history of Xian.

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 12: Xian to Luoyang

Day Outline

Transfer to the railway station for your bullet train to Luoyang. Upon arrival visit the Longmen Grottoes which dates back to the 5th century.

Physical Description

Transfer to Xian Railway Station. Your bullet train departs in the morning and the journey takes approximately two hours. There will be steps on to the train and you'll need to be able to carry your own luggage on board. Upon arrival in Luoyang, transfer to your hotel and check-in. This afternoon drive 40 minutes (approximately 13km) to the Longman Grottoes. Sightseeing here involves some uneven steps and walking for approximately two hours.

Destination Information

Luoyang - A city in Henan Province, Luoyang is situated on the north bank of the Luo River and interchanged as the ancient capital city with Xian. It is also known as the 'City of Peonies', as the Peony Festival is held in Wangcheng Park every April in celebration of the blossoming flower.

Longmen Grottoes - Are regarded as one of the three most famous treasure houses of stone inscriptions in China, along with Yungang and Magao caves. The Grottoes date back to 493AD, when Emperor Xiaowen moved the capital of Luoyang, and housed numerous historical material concerning art, music, religion, calligraphy, medicine, costumes and architecture.

Day 13: Luoyang to Zhengzhou

Day Outline

Travel to the famous Shaolin Temple, best known for its association with martial arts, and walk through the Pagoda Forest, a collection of 228 pagodas from the Tang and Qing Dynasties. Watch a Kung Fu demonstration by the famous Shaolin Monks. Continue to Zhengzhou.

Physical Description

Drive for two hours (80km) to the Shaolin Temple and Pagoda Forests where you will spend approximately three hours to explore, of which at least 2.5 hours are on foot. Here you will watch a Kung Fu Demonstration by the famous Shaolin Monks. Drive three hours (approximately 120km) to Zhengzhou where you will stay overnight.

Destination Information

Shaolin Temple - Is the place of origin for Chinese Zen Buddhism and Chinese martial arts. Here, watch a Kung Fu Demonstration by the famous Shaolin Monks.

Pagoda Forest - Located at the foot of Shaoshi Mountain, the Pagoda Forest is made up of over 200 stone pagodas, dating back to the Tang Dynasty to the Qing Dynasty.

Day 14: Zhengzhou to Shanghai

Day Outline

This morning visit the Yellow River Museum to learn about China's second longest river and the 'Birthplace of Chinese Civilisation'. Fly to Shanghai, the Paris of the East.

Physical Description

Visit the Yellow River Museum which is located within the city; enjoy two hours visit including driving time. Then drive one hour (approximately 30km) to a lookout over the Yellow River for approximately one hour. Transfer to Zhengzhou Airport and board your flight to Shanghai (flight duration is 1.5 hours). ***The Yellow River Museum is closed on Monday due to maintenance. If this day of touring falls on a Monday, your touring in Zhengzhou will be re-arranged so that the Yellow River Museum is visited on an alternative day.***

Destination Information

Shanghai - Once known as the 'Paris of the East', Shanghai is now one of Asia's most influential cities. Prior to communist arrival in 1949, Shanghai was a city with European-style mansions and 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 15: Shanghai

Day Outline

Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Garden, the atmospheric alleys of the Old Town and the Shanghai Museum. Admire the magnificent colonial architecture along the Huangpu River with a stroll along the Bund and this evening watch a Chinese acrobatic show.

Physical Description

Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the centre of the city 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.

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.

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.

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.

Day 16: Shanghai

Day Outline

Wander through Xintiandi area to admire the 1920s architectural styling and visit a Silk Museum. This evening view the city from the Huangpu River on a scenic cruise. Taste the delicious, traditional Shanghai cuisine for dinner.

Physical Description

Sightseeing today involves exploring the Xintiandi area, famous for its 1920's Shikumen buildings (approximately two hours on foot). This evening cruise the Huangpu River and enjoy a traditional Shanghai meal.

Destination Information

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

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.

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 17: Depart Shanghai

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 18: 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.

Transport: Rail - On this tour, you will take three bullet train journey from Beijing to Datong, Pingyao to Xian and Xian to Luoyang. You will travel in second class soft seat class with air conditioning.

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 lanyard, 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

