

CHINA DELIGHTS

Classic | 18 Days | Physical Level 1

Shanghai – Suzhou – Hangzhou – Guilin – Yangshuo – Chengdu – Xian – Beijing

Enjoy the classical gardens of Suzhou and explore the lakes, temples and tea plantations of Hangzhou on a tour that also encompasses China's myriad delights – the Great Wall, Terracotta Warriors, pandas and Shanghai.

- Enjoy vibrant Shanghai
- Relax on a Li River Cruise
- Explore the peaceful Yangshuo countryside
- Marvel at the Grand Buddha
- Experience the spectacular Terracotta Warriors
- Walk on the Great Wall of China

TOUR MAP



CHINA DELIGHTS 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 Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) and Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

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 Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique charm of each destination.

'China Delights' is rated as a physical level 1 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights, carrying your luggage on and off trains, and climbing some steps. Please consider:

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time
- On the Great Wall of China in Beijing, some of the walking will be at an incline
- You will be required to get on and off boats without assistance

Our National Escort is dedicated to providing a high level of service and support throughout your journey. However, their primary role is to manage the daily aspects of the tour. They are unable to offer extensive personal physical assistance. We kindly ask our travellers to be prepared for the physical aspects of the tour to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 18 days in duration including international flights or 17 days in duration based on 'Land Only'. Join the tour on Day 1 in Shanghai and end the tour on Day 17 in Beijing.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Fly to Shanghai Meals: D



On arrival in Shanghai Pudong or Shanghai Hongqiao 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 1 hour to your hotel.

Early check-in is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.

An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 1. Late arrivals will receive a box dinner.

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 2: Shanghai Meals: B, L, D



Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Garden and the atmospheric alleys of the old town. Admire the magnificent colonial architecture of Shanghai with a stroll along the Bund and round off your day with some delicious Shanghainese cuisine. Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the centre of the city including approximately 2-3 hours on foot.

Destination Information

Old Town – 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 centre of Shanghai and for decades was the seat of Chinese authority in Shanghai.

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

The Bund – Recognised as Shanghai's former 'Wall Street', the Bund is home to an impressive collection of buildings from the early trade houses of the 1850s to the glamorous Art Deco modernism of the 1920s. Originally the home of the foreign population of Shanghai, the Bund's architecture has inherited much western influence and is a stark contrast to the Pudong skyline, sitting across the Huangpu River.

Shanghainese Cuisine – Influenced by neighbouring provinces and known for its sweeter taste, Shanghai cuisine is a plethora of delicious treats.

Day 3: Shanghai

Meals: B, L, D



Wander the quaint yet vibrant streets of Tianzifang before visiting a silk mill to learn about the production of one of China's most famous exports. This afternoon, discover the ultramodern district of Pudong before scaling the heights of the Jin Mao Tower for sweeping views of Shanghai's dramatic skyline. Return to ground level and round off the day with a panoramic evening cruise on the Huangpu River. Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the centre of the city including approximately 3-4 hours on foot.

Destination Information

Tianzifang – Tianzifang is a lively neighbourhood of narrow lanes and traditional houses in Shanghai's former French Concession. Once a quiet residential area, it's now home to small shops, cafés, and art studios.

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

Pudong – Originally an underdeveloped farming area, Pudong went under mass-expansion in the early 1990s to become one of China's top financial hubs. Characterised by its forest of skyscrapers, Pudong is now a world economic zone with one of the most recognisable skylines in the world.

Huangpu River Cruise – There is no better way to see the juxtaposition of eras in Shanghai than 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.

Day 4: **Shanghai – Suzhou** Meals: B, L, D



Today, enjoy a leisurely day of sightseeing. Transfer 2 hours to Suzhou, renowned for its gardens and quaint charm. Start your day with a tour of the Humble Administrator's Garden, one of the most exquisite examples of Chinese garden style in the world. There is approximately 1.5 hours on foot at the garden with stone pathways and bridges to across. Later, cruise on the thousand-year-old Grand Canal, an important commercial route for centuries.

Destination Information

Suzhou – Suzhou, situated on the lower reaches of the Yangtze and close to Shanghai, may be a modern city at first glance, but venture into the old centre and you'll find a world of meticulously designed classical gardens, cobbled streets and picturesque waterways.

Humble Administrator's Garden – Part of the UNESCO World Heritage site of classical gardens in Suzhou, the Humble Administrator's Garden is the largest and is seen as one of the most iconic and beautiful in the area. Dating back to 1509, the Humble Administrator's Garden was designed by the Ming Dynasty civil servant, Wang Xianchen, as a private garden residence.

Grand Canal – China's Grand Canal is the longest man made waterway in the world with some sections dating back to the 5th century BC. The section that passes through Suzhou makes for an interesting journey as the banks are lined with places of historical interest and crossed by elegant bridges.

Day 5: **Suzhou – Wuzhen – Hangzhou** Meals: B, L, D



Transfer 1-2 hours to the water town of Wuzhen, laced with wooden canal boats and white-faced houses, for a leisurely tour on foot. Enjoy a Chinese wine tasting experience while discovering the fascinating fermentation and distillation process behind it. Continue your journey for around 2-3 hours to the garden city of Hangzhou and check in at your hotel.

Destination Information

Wuzhen – Wuzhen is a very small tranquil water town whose origin as an important port dates back to the Tang Dynasty. Wuzhen was an important gateway to the Grand Canal – the largest canal in the world - which stretches from Hangzhou in the south to Beijing in the north.

Hangzhou – As the southern terminus of the Grand Canal, Hangzhou has long played a leading part not just as a trade port, but also as a place for relaxation and contemplation. Most famous is the city's stunning West Lake which sits peacefully amongst verdant hill and the city itself.

Day 6: Hangzhou Meals: B, L, D



A restful morning is spent wandering around the Temple of Inspired Seclusion, one of China's most renowned Buddhist temples. The Temple of Inspired Seclusion (Lingyin Temple) is one of the largest and most significant temples in southern China so it can get crowded with domestic tourists, particularly during weekends and holidays. Cruise 40-minutes on Hangzhou's West Lake, admiring the gardens, pagodas and old bridges on its shores before browsing through the local markets for souvenirs. Lastly, visit Mejiawu, famous for its tea cultivation and enjoy a tea tasting tour. Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring including approximately 3-4 hours on foot.

Destination Information

Temple of Inspired Seclusion – The most famous Buddhist Temple in Hangzhou, the Temple of Inspired Seclusion dates back to the 4th century during the Eastern Jin Dynasty when founded by an Indian monk named Hui Li. Though it has been destroyed and repressed throughout time due to war, religion and disrepair, the temple today is an important place of pilgrimage for Buddhists and a centre for tourism.

West Lake – The central inspiration of Chinese garden style and a muse to the Chinese literati for centuries, Hangzhou's West Lake epitomizes China's natural charm, refinement and beauty. Laced with temples and pagodas, Hangzhou's West Lake is a source of Buddhist architecture and traditional Chinese ideologies.

Meijiawu Tea – Tea has long played an important role in China. At Meijiawu Village, enjoy the opportunity to see how tea is cultivated and sample a cup of local tea yourself.

Day 7: Hangzhou – Guilin Meals: B, L, D



Fly 2 hours to Guilin. Explore the colourful stalagmites and stalactites of the Reed Flute Caves. There are approximately 500 steps in the cave and 1.5 hours on foot.

Destination Information

Guilin – Guilin is one of China's most stunning and panoramic cities and was founded during the reign of the Qin Dynasty. It is renowned for the unique karst mountain that encloses the city. Guilin developed as a trading town due to the building of the Ling Canal which links the important Pearl and Yangtze River systems.

Reed Flute Cave – Named so because of the clumps of slender reed once commonly found at the entrance to the caves which was also used to make flutes, the Reed Flute Caves houses a grotto of multi-coloured stalactites and stalagmites.

Day 8: Guilin – Yangshuo Meals: B, L, D



Take a relaxed 4-hour cruise along the Li River to the charming village of Yangshuo where you will spend 2 nights. Around every river bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged peaks loom over rural scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalos and local fishermen.

These are small cruise boats usually holding around 100 passengers; with an enclosed dining area on the lower deck and an open viewing area on the upper deck. As it is so popular, there are generally many boats at the docks – please be reassured that the cruise itself will be scenic and relaxing as the boats cruise past unspoilt countryside. Usually, the boats depart at 9am from the dock located a 1-hour drive from your hotel. However, when the river level is low, they depart from further downstream which would mean a longer drive and an earlier check-out from your hotel.

Disembarking from the cruise, your Local Guide will walk with you to your hotel, around a 30-minute walk from the river. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost. In Yangshuo, visit the local markets.

After Hours Experience: For those seeking extra excitement this evening, you may wish to see the Sanjie Liu Night Show, an open-air show which is directed by Zhang Yimou, the creator of the Beijing Olympics opening ceremony (time and weather permitting, payable locally).

Destination Information

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

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

Day 9: Yangshuo Meals: B, L, D

Start the day with a relaxing and invigorating session of Tai Chi, taking a class with a master to learn this ancient martial art. The relaxation continues with a soothing Chinese reflexology massage. Spend the rest of the morning exploring the verdant countryside of Yangshuo, and the afternoon free.



Day 10: Yangshuo – Guilin – Chengdu Meals: B, L, D

Transfer an hour to Guilin railway station for your 5.5-hour bullet train to Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province. On arrival, transfer to your hotel for check-in.



Please note, you will need to carry your own luggage on and off the train. The onboard duration may be up to 8 hours, depending on train availability.

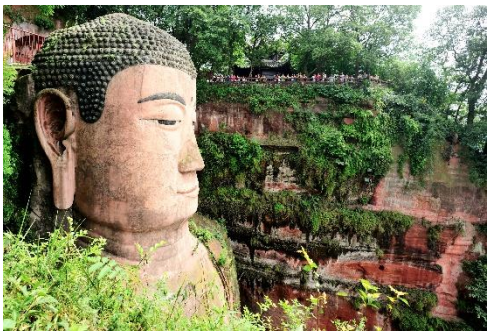
After Hours Experience: For those seeking extra excitement this evening, you may wish to see the Face Changing Show, a sub-genre of the Sichuan Opera (time permitting, payable locally).

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. With a fast-paced economy that is dragging 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 must-visit on any trip to China.

Day 11: Chengdu Meals: B, L, D

Travel 2-hours south of Chengdu to Leshan, where you will see the world's largest stone-carved Buddhist monument, the Leshan Grand Buddha and take a short boat ride in front of the statue to grasp the size of this structure.



On arrival at the Grand Buddha there is a 10-minute walk up to the entrance of the park. From here there are 250 steps to ascend and a similar amount to descend to the feet of the Buddha; a time of approximately 2 and a half to 3 hours. The steps are extremely steep and can be very slippery in wet weather. There are handrails but the utmost care is still required. You must be physically capable if you decide to take part. Once you have started the walk to the feet of the Buddha you are committed as the steps are very narrow and strictly one-way only.

Please note there are often long queues when descending to the feet of the Buddha. There are a number of attractions for those who wish to stay at the Grand Buddha Park. Covering an area of 18sqkm, the park is home to such sights as Haishi Cave, Lingyun Temple, Dragon Pond and Tiger Cave. Return to Chengdu and dine on a delicious Sichuanese meal in the evening.

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, which resulted in a current change in the waters. The Buddha remains watching over the waters below; no position gives a better view of this structure than from a boat ride along the river.

Sichuanese Meal – Sichuanese cuisine is famous for its use of Sichuan pepper and chillies. The spices from the area are known for their 'mala' (numb and spicy) flavours, which seem to cool and heat your mouth at the same time. Famous dishes include Kung Pao Chicken, twice-cooked pork and spicy Sichuanese hotpot.

Day 12: Chengdu – Xian

Meals: B, L, D



Today, see China's most famous resident, the Giant Panda. Visit the Panda Conservation Centre 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 around 2-hours on foot. There are electric carts offered by private vendors that can be organised at your own cost. Later, take a 3-and-a-half-hour bullet train to Xian.

Please note, you will need to carry your own luggage on and off the train.

After Hours Experience: For those seeking extra excitement this evening, you may wish to visit Tang Ever Bright City for its traditional architecture, colourful costumes, and dazzling lights (time permitting, payable locally).

Destination Information

Panda Conservation Centre – 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.

Xian – Xian has long played a pivotal role in China's extensive history and has been a thriving hub for cultural exchange, economic trade as well as national politics for centuries. Home to some of China's most ancient sights, diverse architecture and delicious fares, Xian is a must-see destination

Day 13: Xian Meals: B, L, D



Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of the life-sized Terracotta Warriors. The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses is located approximately a 1-hour drive outside of Xian. From the bus park to the museum entrance there is a 15-minute walk. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost. There is no electric cart available for the return from the museum exit to the bus park.

Within the museum area the warriors can be seen in three different 'pits', which are active archaeological digs. The site is large and will take about 2 and a half hours to explore. After this, visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Workshop to see smaller models of the warriors being made.

Later, stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town, where your local guide will give you time to explore at your own pace. Afterwards, quench your thirst with a trip to a local brewery where you will enjoy a refreshing beer tasting experience (non-alcoholic beverages are available).

This evening, dine on delicious Shui Jiao dumplings and watch a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing this evening.

Destination Information

Terracotta Warriors – One of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 20th century, this unearthed terracotta army holds over 7,000 soldiers, horses and chariots. The army was built in life-sized form by thousands of workers and designed by Emperor Qin Shi Huang to defend himself in the afterlife.

Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Workshop – See smaller versions of the enigmatic Terracotta Warriors being created at the captivating Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Workshop; even purchase your own portable soldier.

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

Tang Dynasty Dancing Show – Xian, previously known as Chang'an, was an important cultural and historical centre in not only China, but in the known world. The Tang Dynasty dancing show is an exciting exponent of this prosperous society and keeps alive the splendour of this period.

Day 14: Xian – Beijing

Meals: B, L, D



Today, you will try your hand at traditional Chinese calligraphy. This afternoon, board your 5.5-hour bullet train to Beijing, China's capital. On arrival, drive 1 hour to your hotel. Spend your evening soaking up the atmosphere of this fascinating city.

You will need to carry your own luggage on and off the train.

Destination Information

Beijing – Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China. With its unequalled wealth of history, Beijing served as the centre for the many different empires and cultures that ruled China and has been the heart of politics and society throughout its long history. The ancient monuments, the stories of days gone by as well as the dynamic and modern city Beijing has become today, make it a destination not to be missed.

Day 15: Beijing

Meals: B, L, D



Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape.

Next, head into Beijing's symbolic heart, Tiananmen Square, and head into the magnificent Forbidden City – a complex full of imperial treasures. A Chinese acrobatic show rounds off the day. Today includes a full day of sightseeing, predominately on foot.

Please note: The Forbidden City is closed on Mondays. If this day of touring falls on a Monday, your touring in Beijing will be switched round so that the Forbidden City is visited on an alternative day.

In an effort to preserve the Forbidden City, the number of entry tickets per day has been significantly reduced. Whilst every effort will be made to obtain the tickets, should this not be possible, then you will instead visit the Forbidden City from the outside and visit the nearby Prince Kung's Palace Museum.

Destination Information

Temple of Heaven – Set in a 267-hectare park surrounded by a long wall and with a gate at each compass point, The Temple of Heaven is absolutely unique. It is one of the most perfect examples of Ming architecture. 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.

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

Forbidden City – The sacred centre of the Chinese empire for 500 years and home to the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the Forbidden City is a vast complex of over 900 buildings and covers an area of 180 acres. Since 1987, the Forbidden City has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site and its palatial architectural style has been an influence on many imperial buildings.

Chinese Acrobatics – Chinese acrobatics incorporates many forms of dramatic art, including acrobatics, contortionism, juggling and plate spinning.

Day 16: Beijing

Meals: B, L, D



Rise early this morning and drive around 2 hours northwest of the city to the Juyongguan Pass. Here you can take a walk on the Great Wall of China, appreciating the wall itself and the dramatic scenery. After walking from the coach to the first section, your group will receive an introduction to the Great Wall's unique history and a briefing on the different walking routes available, depending on your level of fitness. You will then have approximately 2.5-hours free time to explore at your own pace. Please note that there are many steps at the wall and certain sections are steeper than others. Later, visit a jade factory, and in the afternoon, wander around the beautiful grounds of the Summer Palace. In the evening, enjoy a traditional dinner of Peking Duck.

Destination Information

Great Wall of China – Originally built under the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, The Great Wall of China is the country's most iconic sight. Snaking through the northern countryside from the Gobi Desert in the west into the Bohai Sea in the east, the Great Wall of China is the longest wall in the world and was used as a fortification against northern nomadic tribes. The current structure dates back to the Ming Dynasty - over 700 years old.

Jade Factory – Learn about one of China's most symbolic and important materials: jade, at this comprehensive factory. 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.

Days 17- 18: Depart Beijing Meals: B

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. Additional nights before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.



CHINA TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

A visa is not required for Australian passport holders for entry into China for stays **up to 30 Days**. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

INSURANCE:

It is a condition of your booking that you are insured for the duration of your trip. We recommend comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, medical requirements, luggage, repatriations and additional expenses. At a minimum, the policy is required to cover medical requirements including medical evacuations / repatriations. The choice of insurer is yours.

We strongly suggest you purchase insurance at the time you pay your deposit. This is because cancellation fees and charges are payable from that time. We may request you to provide evidence that you have taken out and paid for a policy to comply with this condition. If you fail to provide a certificate of currency of insurance within a reasonable time after our request, then this will be deemed a cancellation by you and standard cancellation fees will apply.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by both a National Escort and local guides. On Classic Tours, will be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu our groups while you are travelling. Dedicated Solo Departures have a maximum group size of 18 passengers.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 10 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.

EATING IN CHINA:

Chinese cuisine is one of the world's most diverse and flavourful, with a rich history spanning thousands of years. The local dishes you'll experience on tour may differ from what you're used to at home, offering an authentic taste of China's regional flavours and cooking styles.

All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from the groups' arrival until the day of departure. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout China – from the bold, spicy cuisine of Sichuan to the savoury flavours of Shanghainese cooking, as well as the hearty noodles and dumplings of the north and fresh seafood of the south.

Breakfasts are buffet-style at your hotel with both Western and Chinese options available, although rural parts of China may offer limited options. Lunches and dinners on our tours are varied, with a mix of vegetable-based and meat-based dishes. Many are pre-seasoned with soy sauce or other traditional flavours, though our selected restaurants offer plenty of mild options. Dishes may be served at different temperatures, as is customary in China.

Dining mostly follows the traditional 'family style' approach, with dishes placed on a lazy Susan for everyone to share. Serving chopsticks are provided for each dish, and individual bowls, chopsticks, and cups are set for personal use. If you require a fork or spoon, please ask your server. This communal style of dining is an integral part of Chinese culture and a fun, social experience.

If you have allergies or dietary requests, you must inform us prior to departure. Western food requirements differ from those in Asia, and even medical dietary needs can be challenging to accommodate. While your National Escort will do their best to assist, we kindly ask for your patience and understanding, as dietary requests may not always be met to the standard you are accustomed to at home. Passengers with food intolerances are advised to bring snacks or additional food items, especially when traveling beyond major cities, where options may be more limited. Kosher and Halal food are extremely limited in China, and we regret that we are unable to cater to these dietary requirements.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is chosen for its convenience, comfort, or character. Hotels are generally of a four-star standard in major cities, though there is no international classification system, so facilities and quality may differ from Australia. In remote areas, standards may be lower, and some Western amenities may be unavailable.

All group tour hotels include private Western-style bathrooms, air conditioning*, TV, and a telephone. Due to environmental regulations, toiletries may not always be provided. Plumbing and electricity can be inconsistent, and power in rooms is often switched off when unoccupied. If you encounter any issues, please speak to your National Escort or Local Guide. Rest assured, all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected to ensure they meet our standards.

**Please note that regional energy conservation and environmental regulations may restrict air-conditioning and heating use during certain months, with minimum and maximum temperature limits in place.*

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

If you are traveling during a Chinese public holiday, please note that while tourist attractions remain open, they may be crowded with domestic visitors. Festivities often span several days, during which some businesses may close, and coach, air, and train services could be impacted. The major Golden Week holidays occur annually from April 29 to May 3 and September 30 to October 7.

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. This is a requirement on internal trains and flights. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. In general, we recommend packing only as much as you can lift as you will need to carry your own luggage on and off trains.

TRANSPORT:

Trains: When traveling by high-speed 'bullet' train, you will be seated in second-class soft seats with air conditioning. **Facilities** may vary depending on the train. Most carriages feature a Western-style toilet, and most seats are equipped with a foldable tray table and a power socket for charging electronic devices. Luggage is stored at the end of the carriage or in overhead. Dining carts are available on board if you wish to purchase additional food.

For daily products containing flammable ingredients, such as perfumes, colognes, sprays, and gels, non-self-spray pressure containers should not exceed 100 millilitres per item, with only one container allowed per product. For self-spray pressure containers (e.g., hair mousse, hair spray, hair dye, cold wave lotion, insecticides, and air fresheners), each container must not exceed 150 millilitres, with a total cumulative volume of all such items not exceeding 600 millilitres. Passengers are not permitted to carry insecticides, explosives, magnetised materials, knives (including Swiss Army knives) with a blade longer than 60mm, scissors, or other sharp objects. Bag checks are conducted at random, and any restricted items—whether in hand luggage or main luggage—may be confiscated before boarding. Your National Escort will provide specific details before your journey.

Yangtze River Cruise Vessel: If travelling on a Yangtze River cruise, a standard cabin is included equipped with Wi-Fi access, an ensuite bathroom, and a private balcony. Upgrades are available at an additional cost upon enquiry with our Reservations team.

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in China have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only.

Planes: Internal flight/s are based on economy class. Lithium Ion batteries, usually used in laptops, cell phones and digital cameras, must be carried in your hand luggage (not in your checked luggage). Portable chargers with a case that does not state the capacity or with a capacity of 160wh and more are not allowed on internal flights at all.

AFTER-HOURS EXPERIENCES:

Our Classic tours include full days of sightseeing, so you can experience all the must-see sights and create unforgettable memories. Occasionally, when time permits, we may offer extra evening experiences, such as a show, for those who want a little extra excitement. These experiences are not mandatory, will be outlined in your final documents, and can be paid for locally in RMB, either by cash or mobile payment app.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and China is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. 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.

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, then tipping is paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognise that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs; so in each city, we will visit a workshop or factory 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.

DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA:

Though parts of China match the west in modernity and technological advances, it is important to remember that parts of China are still developing and as such, many aspects of tourism in China do not have the solid infrastructure and safety standards as seen here in the west.

INTERNET RESTRICTIONS IN CHINA:

In China, certain Western apps, such as Google Services (e.g. Gmail, Google, Google Maps) and social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, WhatsApp), are blocked due to government restrictions on internet content. Some travellers may choose to download and use a VPN (Virtual Private Network) to bypass these restrictions and access blocked apps. Guests are strongly advised to conduct their own research into the legal implications as VPN usage is subject to government regulations. E-Sim providers such as Airalo and Holafly have built-in VPN capabilities.

TRAVEL MONEY IN CHINA:

We recommend having access to multiple sources of money while traveling. A combination of payment methods, including mobile payment apps, cash, and cards, will offer the most security and flexibility. Mobile payment apps like WeChat and Alipay are often more widely accepted than international cards or cash in China. You will need an internet connection when in China to use the apps. For more information, please refer to our currency and spending money in China: https://help.wendywutours.com.au/knowledge/currency-spending-money-china

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 an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

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