



Wendy Wu Tours



Tour Dossier China Splendour Classic Tour | 15 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.

China Splendour 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.

Altitude

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

1. Changhai (Long Lake) in the Nine Villages Valley. Sightseeing is at an altitude of 3,100m [10,170ft]. Please note that the place where you will be staying overnight is not at high altitude.
2. Huanglong – sightseeing is at 3,500m [11,483ft].

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

descend in altitude immediately. It is recommended to drink more water, non-alcoholic and non-caffeinated drinks and avoid exertion after arriving in altitude over 3,000m.

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

Tour highlights:

On our China Splendour itinerary, you will visit **Shanghai, Beijing, Xian, Nine Villages Valley and Chengdu.**

- **Shanghai** – Exploration of China's most cosmopolitan city
- **Beijing** – The Great Wall, Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square
- **Xian** – The archaeological marvel of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses
- **Nine Villages Valley** – 'Jiuzhaigou' Nature Reserve; breathtaking natural scenery
- **Chengdu** – Gateway to the Grand Buddha of Leshan and home to the Giant Pandas

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 China Splendour 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.

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

Sichuan cuisine (or Szechwan as it is still known in the West) is distinguished by its use of ginger, chili and the 'Sichuan peppercorn' called fagara. Each meal will usually have some mild dishes for those who don't enjoy eating hot or spicy food, but please bear in mind that the majority of local specialty dishes will be hot. If your group finds there are not any mild dishes served, please inform your National Escort/Local Guide so that they may resolve the problem for the next meal. Please note that long driving distances or flight times, for example, may delay/alter your mealtime.

Joining Your Tour - The tour is 15 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 2 in Shanghai and end the tour on Day 14 in Chengdu.

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 – China Splendour

Day 1-2: Australia to Shanghai

Day Outline

Fly overnight to the exuberant city of Shanghai, called 'the Paris of the East', for a two night stay. *Brisbane and Perth passengers may depart one day earlier.*

Physical Description

You will be met at Pudong (or Hongqiao) Airport in the Arrivals Hall by your Local Guide and/or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer (one hour drive) 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

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 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 with a stroll along the Bund, before visiting the Silk Museum and the amazing Shanghai Museum. This evening, dine on delicious Shanghaiese cuisine and take a cruise on the Huangpu River.

Physical Description

Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the centre of the city including 3-4 hours on foot. Be mindful of your valuables while in the Old Town and the wharf, for your Huangpu River cruise 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Beijing

Day Outline

Fly to Beijing for a three night stay. Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, a perfect example of Ming architecture. This evening, feast on Peking duck, a favourite of the emperors.

Physical Description

Transfer one hour to Shanghai airport for your flight to Beijing (approximately two hours and 20 minutes in duration). Upon arrival, you will be transferred (one hour drive) to your hotel. This afternoon you will spend approximately one hour on foot at the Temple of Heaven.

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.

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.

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 5: Beijing

Day Outline

Walk across the length of Tiananmen Square and into the magnificent Forbidden City, former home of the Ming and Qing Emperors. Watch a spectacular acrobatic show this evening.

Physical Description

Sightseeing in central Beijing involves 3-4 hours on foot this morning to visit Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. ***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.

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

Day 6: 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 two hours (60km) northwest of the city to the Juyongguan Pass section 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. In the

afternoon, drive one hour to the Summer Palace. 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 7: Beijing to Xian

Day Outline

Fly to Xian, the ancient former capital. Visit the lovely Little Wild Goose Pagoda. This evening dine on a delicious feast of Shui Jiao dumplings and a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing

Physical Description

You will be transferred one hour to Beijing airport for your flight to Xian (flight duration one hour and 50 minutes). Sightseeing at the Little Wild Goose Pagoda involves approximately 1.5 hours on foot. ***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.***

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.

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.

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 8: 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. Stroll atop the beautifully preserved Ming Dynasty wall that encloses Xian's Old Town before exploring the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter.

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 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. ***Please be mindful of your valuables in the Muslim Quarter, due to large crowds.***

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.

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 9: Xian to Nine Villages Valley

Day Outline

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Nine Villages Valley, China's most famous National Park.

Physical Description

Transfer to approximately one hour to Xian airport for your flight to Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou), approximately one hour in duration. Upon arrival transfer to the hotel for a two night stay.

Destination Information

Nine Villages Valley - One of China's most beautiful secrets, Nine Villages Valley (or Jiuzhaigou) is a natural wonderland, accidentally discovered by a lumberjack in 1972. Covering over 700sq kilometres of magnificent mountain valleys, the area is dotted with traditional Tibetan villages and exhibits a wealth of striking alpine scenery.

Day 10: Nine Villages Valley

Day Outline

Spend the day exploring the magnificent scenery of Nine Villages Valley, including visits to Long Lake, Five Coloured Lake, Nuorilang Falls and a Tibetan Temple.

Physical Description

You will spend approximately 5-6 hours walking around Nine Villages Valley over different types of terrain.

Day 11: Nine Villages Valley – Huanglong to Chengdu

Day Outline

Hundreds of vivid pools in striking colours, formed by thousands of years of mineral deposit, tumble gently down through the bright green forests of the Huanglong Valley. There is an option to take a chairlift up the Huanglong Temple (at your own expense). Later fly to Chengdu.

Physical Description

Most of the driving today is on sealed, winding mountain roads. This morning, drive three hours (130km) to Huanglong. You are required to walk both up and down the Huanglong scenic area. There is now a cable car here and it is possible to take the 10 minutes ride both up and down (at your own expense), allowing more time for sightseeing at the top of the waterfall. We usually spend over two hours sightseeing here and this area is at an altitude of 3,500m. After lunch at a nearby restaurant, transfer to the airport for your flight back to Chengdu (flight duration 50 minutes.)

Destination Information

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

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

Day 12: Chengdu

Day Outline

Today we will visit China's most famous resident, the Giant Panda. Visit the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding where you can learn about China's celebrated bear. See these lovable creatures in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Visit the Shu Brocade and Embroidery Museum. Later enjoy a delicious Sichuan meal.

Physical Information

The Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding is located only 18km from the city centre. It is not guaranteed that you will be able to see the feeding of the younger pandas, as this only happens at the start and end of each day. Sightseeing involves approximately 1.5 hours on foot. There are electric carts offered by private vendors and can be organised at your own cost.

Destination Information

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

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

Sichuan Meal - Sichuan cuisine is famous for its use of Sichuan pepper and chillies. These 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 kungpao chicken, twice-cooked pork and spicy Sichuan hotpot.

Day 13: Chengdu – Leshan

Day Outline

Travel south of Chengdu to Leshan, where you will see the world's largest stone-carved Buddhist monument, the Leshan Grand Buddha. You will take a cruise in front of the Buddha to see it in all its glory and visit the park near the top of the Buddha. Return to Chengdu.

Physical Information

Drive approximately two hours (138km) to Leshan to see the Grand Buddha carving. Spend at least three hours at Leshan before driving back to Chengdu in the afternoon. You will need to get on and off the boat in Leshan. There is an option to descend from the top of the Grand Buddha down steps to the base and then climb up stairs on the other side. Taking part in this activity will depend on weather conditions and the number of people that take part as it can get very crowded during peak travel periods. There are 250 steps to descend and a similar amount to return up; taking approximately two hours. The steps are extremely steep and can be very slippery in wet weather. There are handrails but the utmost care is still required and you must be physically capable if you decide to take part. Once you have started the walk you are committed as the steps are very narrow and strictly one-way only. There are a number of attractions for those who wish to stay at the Grand Buddha Park. Covering an area of 18 sq km, the park is home to such sights as Haishi Cave, Lingyun Temple, Dragon Pond and Tiger Cave.

Destination Information

Leshan Grand Buddha - Was built in the 9th century under the direction of Haitong, a monk who felt the presence of

Buddha would help calm the treacherous whirlpool that overturned so many boats and drowned so many fishermen. The locals carved an enormous statue of Buddha at this point on the river, to pray to him to placate the whirlpool below. Whether it was due to Buddha's pleasure or the fact that the locals threw tonnes of rock into the riverbed as they carved away at the mountain, the river is nowadays calm.

Day 14: Depart Chengdu

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 15: 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 be turned 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.smarttraveller.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