



CHRISTMAS ON THE YANGTZE & NEW YEAR IN HONG KONG

Classic Tour | 15 Days | Physical Level 2

Chongqing – Yangtze River Cruise – Zhangjiajie – Hong Kong

Celebrate the festive season on a magical journey through China and Hong Kong. Beginning in the futuristic city of Chongqing, spend Christmas cruising the mighty Yangtze River through some of China's most spectacular scenery, explore the misty sandstone peaks of Zhangjiajie before concluding in vibrant Hong Kong.

- Visit China's beloved Giant Panda in Chongqing
- Spend Christmas sailing through the dramatic gorges of the Yangtze
- Discover the thousand-year old Dazu Rock Carvings
- Marvel at the soaring sandstone pillars of Zhangjiajie
- Take an exhilarating walk along the world's highest glass bridge
- Ring in the New Year with Hong Kong

To book call **1300 727 998** or visit your local travel agent

Visit wendywutours.com.au

TOUR MAP


 CHRISTMAS ON THE YANGTZE TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals (from dinner on the day of arrival until breakfast on the day of departure)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditures e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, meals not included, 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 2:

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.

'Christmas on the Yangtze & New Year in Hong Kong' is rated as a **physical level 2** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it is 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:

- On several days there will be sightseeing on foot for extended periods of time
- On the Victoria Harbour cruise, Yangtze River Cruise and the day trips arranged from onboard, you will be required to get on and off boats without assistance
- In Zhangjiajie there are periods of walking up and down stone steps and walkways as well as walking across a glass bridge, getting on and off escalators and in and out of cable cars. The ground may be slippery depending on the weather.

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 15 days in duration including international flights. Join the tour on Day 2 in Chongqing and end the tour on Day 14 in Hong Kong.

Travellers booked on a 'Land Only' package, the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight information to our reservations team.

NOTICE - NEW YEAR FIREWORKS IN HONG KONG (7 JAN 2026):

Please note that the Victoria Harbour New Year's Eve fireworks display was cancelled in 2025, and it has not yet been confirmed whether it will resume for 2026 New Year celebrations. As such, the fireworks viewing experience included in this tour may be subject to change. If the fireworks do not go ahead, Hong Kong will still offer a lively New Year's atmosphere with city-wide celebrations and spectacular skyline views, and a similar celebratory experience will be arranged.

Further updates will be shared no later than 75 days before departure.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly overnight to Chongqing

Meals: D

You will be met at Chongqing Airport by your Local Guide or National Escort. 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 2. Late arrivals will receive a box dinner.

Destination Information

Chongqing – A city perched on the steep hills overlooking the confluence of the Jialing and the Yangtze Rivers. Known for its incredible night lights, drone shows, hotpot culture, and buzzing nightlife, it's a city that perfectly captures the spirit of contemporary China.

In 2012, Chongqing was awarded the brand title of "The World Hot Spring Capital" by the World Federation of Hydrotherapy and Climatotherapy.

Day 3: Discover Chongqing's Pandas & City

Meals: B, L, D

Today you'll explore the best of what this fascinating and unique city has to offer. Start the day with a visit to Chongqing Zoo's Panda House, home to China's beloved giant pandas and a range of fascinating native species. Next, stop by Liziba Intersection, where metro trains famously glide straight through a residential high-rise.

Later, enjoy a leisurely afternoon unwinding in the soothing waters of a local hot spring resort. Choose from 53 pools of varying temperatures, some infused with Chinese teas and oils. Included in your visit are lockers with electronic wristbands, showers, hairdryers, towels, cover ups, and waterproof bags. Water and specialty teas are provided throughout the resort. Swimwear and treatments available for an extra cost (approx. 99 RMB for 30-minute massage).



Alternatively, enjoy a guided walk and free time in the lively Jiefangbei Pedestrian Street, the heart of downtown Chongqing, with many shops, cafés and food stalls to wander through.

In the evening, enjoy dinner and see the city come alive in a dazzling light display.

Destination Information

Liziba Intersection – A striking example of Chongqing's innovative urban design, Liziba Intersection is where the city's monorail passes directly through a residential building between the sixth and eighth floors without disturbing residents, thanks to advanced soundproofing technology.

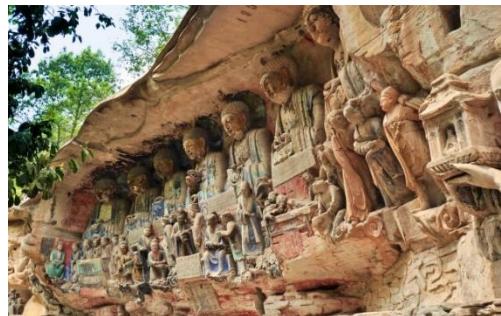
Jiefangbei Pedestrian Street – The bustling heart of downtown Chongqing, Jiefangbei is packed with shops, restaurants, and cafés. Centered on the iconic Liberation Monument, it's alive day and night with street performers, local culture, and the vibrant energy of the city.

Day 4: Dazu Rock Carvings – Board Yangtze River Cruise

Meals: B, L, D

Travel approximately 3 hours by road to Dazu, home to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Dazu Rock Carvings. Here, you will find thousands of Buddhist, Taoist and Confucianist idols and symbols carved into rock faces over 70 sites. Made between the 9th and 13th centuries, they are some of the best preserved in China.

Return to Chongqing and board your Yangtze River cruise vessel, home for the next three nights.



Amenities Package Upgrade

All Wendy Wu passengers enjoy an upgrade to the Bridge Deck and enhanced Yangtze experience with these special onboard extras from Day 2:

- Access to à la carte dining room
- Private afternoon tea in the Executive Lounge
- Welcome fruit basket in your cabin
- Nightly turn-down service
- Daily refreshments and pre-dinner Happy Hour
- House wine and beer with dinner
- Complimentary morning coffee and tea service



For cabin upgrades, please enquire with our Reservations team.

Cruise Information

The cruise includes one daily shore excursion along with various onboard activities and entertainment. Additional shore excursions (approx. RMB350 per person) are available, payable onboard, subject to local conditions. Please consult your guide about physical requirements, as some ports may involve many steps.

The Yangtze River cruise section of your itinerary will not be confirmed by the cruise operators until after you commence as it is subject to local river conditions and water levels. Your local guide will do their utmost to keep you informed of any changes but cannot guarantee against delays or – in rare cases – cancellations of sections of your itinerary. A detailed itinerary will be handed out on the vessel each day.

If you don't take part in a shore excursion but wish to disembark, a port tax (approx. RMB250 per person) applies, though disembarkation may not always be possible due to security reasons.

Please be aware that embarking and disembarking the cruise ship may involve several steps, especially at low tide. Notify us in advance if this may be an issue.

Destination Information

Dazu Rock Carvings – Known for their grand scale and beauty, the exceptional UNESCO World Heritage listed Dazu Rock Carvings cover a diverse range of subject matter and shed light on everyday life in China in the 9th – 13th centuries.

Day 5: Christmas Eve on the Yangtze

Meals: B, L, D

Spend your Christmas Eve cruising along the mighty Yangtze River. Relax on your balcony, take part in an activity onboard, or disembark to explore the elegant pavilions of Mount Shuanggui and view the impressive cliff brush writings by Song Dynasty calligraphers.

Depending on local conditions, you may visit Shibaozhai Temple or Xiaoguanshan Folk Culture Park instead.



Additional shore excursions may include Fengdu's "Ghost City" and Fengyan Sanguo "Romance of the Three Kingdoms" evening show (river conditions permitting).

Destination Information

Mt. Shuanggui – A national forest park known for its picturesque scenery and has for centuries been a favourite destination for literati and artists. There are cliff brush writings of calligraphists here from the Song Dynasty to the present day, and pavilions are named for notable historic figures.

Day 6: Christmas Day on the Yangtze

Meals: B, L, D

Merry Christmas! Prepare for breathtaking vistas as you enter the Three Gorges and pass through Wu and Qutang gorges. Wu gorge is known for its quiet beauty, forest-covered mountains, and sheer cliffs, while Qutang Gorge is the shortest, narrowest, and most dramatic gorge. Transfer to smaller vessels for a relaxing excursion through the Goddess Stream, which are narrower than the Three Gorges, but very impressive.



There is no walking involved on this excursion; however you will need to get on and off the boat without assistance. Return to the ship and continue cruising through the gorges.

Later, enjoy Christmas festivities, food and music onboard.

Depending on local river conditions, you may visit Shennong Stream instead of Goddess Stream. Additional shore excursions may include White Emperor City.

Destination Information

Goddess Stream – Goddess Stream, also known as ‘Shennü Xi’ in Chinese, flows from the southern bank of the Yangtze opposite Goddess Peak. Once just a stream, the Three Gorges Dam raised the water level to 70-100 metres in depth, depending on the season.

Day 7: Travel to Zhangjiajie

Meals: B, L, D

Disembark in Yichang and drive 4-hours to Zhangjiajie, a scenic area of over 3,000 sandstone pillars, rising from misty folds of subtropical forest.



Destination Information

Zhangjiajie – A scenic area of over 3,000 sandstone pillars, rising from misty folds of subtropical forest and cloaked in vibrant green vegetation, Zhangjiajie’s striking beauty is unforgettable.

Day 8: Discover Zhangjiajie

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy a full day of exploring Zhangjiajie National Park. Begin at the Yuanjiajie Scenic Area, and ride the remarkable Bailong glass elevator, the highest and fastest outdoor elevator in the world. Embedded into the mountain, the elevator soars up the mountain side to a towering height of 326 metres in as little as two minutes!



This impressive elevator will transport you to Mihun Stage, where you will enjoy amazing views of the majestic peaks, including the 'First Bridge under the Sun' and Hallelujah Mountain. Continue to Emperor Mountain and visit Helong Park before taking a cable car down. End the day at Jinbian Stream.

Sightseeing today will involve around 3-4 hours of walking, including wooden and stone steps.

Destination Information

Yuanjianie Scenic Area – The area is dotted with stunning limestone karst formations, including natural stone arches and caves, providing ample opportunities for photography and exploration. Wildlife enthusiasts can also encounter a diverse array of flora and fauna, adding to the area's allure as a haven for nature lovers.

Bailong Elevator – Also known as the Hundred Dragons Elevator, this architectural marvel holds an impressive three world records: the largest, highest and fastest sightseeing elevator in the world.

Day 9: Tianmen Mountain & Glass Bridge

Meals: B, L, D

Soar up the heights of Tianmen Mountain in the world's longest cable car, a 7-kilometre journey taking approximately 40-minutes. Atop the mountain, marvel at Tianmen Cave, nicknamed 'Heaven's Door', standing proudly at the top of 999 steep steps.

Next, take a thrilling walk along a glass skywalk, aptly named the "Walk of Faith" as though you're walking on air. If time permits, you may also walk across the Cliff-Hanging Walkway or Coiled Dragon Cliff.



Later, brace yourself for an exhilarating walk across Zhangjiajie's Glass Bridge, the world's longest and highest glass-bottomed bridge spanning 430-metres over the Grand Canyon.

Sightseeing today will involve around 3-4 hours of walking, including wooden and stone steps.

Please note: The 999 step walk up to Tianmen Cave and the glass skywalk is optional. The steps can take around 40 – 60 minutes. Alternatively, there is an escalator on the other side of the mountain leading up to Tianmen Cave. There is also a small platform at the foot of the steps where you can soak up the spectacular views and wait for the group.

This evening, there is an optional Fairy Fox Outdoor Music & Dancing Show (time and weather permitting, payable locally), a musical drama of a Chinese tale told against the stage backdrop of the mountains.

Destination Information

Tianmen Mountain – Regarded as the symbol and soul of Zhangjiajie, Tianmen Mountain is a national forest park bursting with natural beauty. The area is home to breathtaking glass skywalks, the 999-step stairway leading to 'Heaven's Door' and the world's longest cable car journey.

Zhangjiajie Glass Bridge – The world's longest and highest glass-bottomed bridge, spanning 430 metres across the Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon.

Day 10: Bullet train to Hong Kong

Meals: B, L, D

Drive to 4-hours to Changsha and after lunch, board a bullet train 3-hours to Hong Kong, the famous skyline growing bigger and more impressive as you approach the city.



Destination Information

Hong Kong – Once a British colony from 1842 until its return to China in 1997, it has evolved into a global hub of culture and commerce. Set around the stunning Victoria Harbour, the city is famous for its striking skyline, vibrant street life, and world-class dining.

Day 11: Explore Lantau Island

Meals: B, L, D

Discover the charms of Lantau Island, beginning your journey with visits to the renowned Wong Tai Sin Temple and Tin Hau Temple. Next, take a spectacular cable car ride to the Ngong Ping Plateau, home to the majestic Grand Buddha and Po Lin Monastery. Explore the Giant Buddha Exhibition Hall and monastery before enjoying a delightful vegetarian lunch. Conclude your adventure with a scenic cable car ride back to the city.



Destination Information

Lantau Island – The largest of Hong Kong's islands, Lantau offers a peaceful escape from Hong Kong Island and is home to the impressive Tian Tan Buddha, one of the world's largest outdoor bronze statues, and the tranquil Po Lin Monastery. Visitors can enjoy scenic views over mountains and sea, explore traditional fishing villages like Tai O, or stroll coastal walks revealing a more natural side to this world-famous destination.

Wong Tai Sin Temple – One of Hong Kong's most famous temples, Wong Tai Sin Temple is dedicated to the Taoist deity Wong Tai Sin, known as the Great Immortal Healer. Built in the 1920s, it attracts both worshippers and visitors who come to admire its colourful architecture and perform "kau cim" fortune telling.

Day 12: New Year's Eve Fireworks

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy a relaxed morning then explore Hong Kong on an afternoon city tour. Begin with a ride on the state-of-the-art 6th-generation Peak Tram to Victoria Peak, soaking in breathtaking views of Hong Kong's iconic skyline. Continue to the sun-kissed shores of Repulse Bay before heading to Aberdeen Fishing Village, where traditional sampans and houseboats offer a glimpse into the city's maritime heritage.



Return to your hotel for some free time before joining an evening harbour dinner cruise. Watch the night sky come alive at midnight with champagne toast and a spectacular New Year's Eve fireworks display.

Please note that the Victoria Harbour New Year's Eve fireworks display was cancelled in 2025, and it has not yet been confirmed whether it will resume for 2026 New Year celebrations. As such, the fireworks viewing experience included in this tour may be subject to change.

If the fireworks do not go ahead, Hong Kong will still offer a lively New Year's atmosphere with city-wide celebrations and spectacular skyline views, and a similar celebratory experience will be arranged.

Destination Information

Victoria Peak – Hong Kong's most famous viewpoint, Victoria Peak rises 552 metres above sea level and offers panoramic views over Victoria Harbour, the skyline, and surrounding islands. Reached by the historic Peak Tram, which has operated since 1888, the summit is home to scenic walking trails, shops, and restaurants.

Aberdeen Fishing Village – Once a thriving fishing community, Aberdeen is still home to traditional sampan boats and a small floating village that contrasts sharply with the modern high-rises nearby. Visitors can take a short boat ride through the harbour, learn about Hong Kong's fishing traditions, and see how this historic neighbourhood has adapted to the city's rapid urban growth.

Day 13: New Year's Day in Hong Kong

Meals: B, L, D

Start the new year with a free leisurely morning. In the afternoon, take a walking tour through Kowloon's vibrant Tsim Sha Tsui area, exploring the bustling Temple Street markets and lively shops along Nathan Road. Finish the day and the tour with a farewell dinner.



Destination Information

Kowloon – Located just across Victoria Harbour from Hong Kong Island, Kowloon includes major districts such as Tsim Sha Tsui, Mong Kok, Yau Ma Tei, and Kowloon City. Known for its high population density, Kowloon is a major commercial, residential, and cultural centre. Highlights include the lively Temple Street Night Market, the luxury shopping of Tsim Sha Tsui, and the serene Nan Lian Garden.

Days 14 - 15: Depart Hong Kong

Meals: B

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to Hong Kong 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.

Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items.

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*, 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.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Our fully-inclusive Classic tours feature full days of sightseeing to ensure you experience all the must-see sights and unforgettable moments. Occasionally, when time allows, we offer optional extras such as evening shows for those seeking extra excitement. These excursions can be arranged and paid for locally through your guide.

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. Yangtze cruise companies operate a service charge policy and this is paid separately when boarding the vessel.

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.

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

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>

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.

Updated January 2026