



Tour Dossier

Classic China

Classic Tour | 20 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.

Classic China is a Moderate Pace tour; this has been defined in our brochure as anyone with a good level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. Our National Escort/Local Guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

These programmes are not strenuous but do include several days where long periods of sightseeing on foot, climbing of stairs and in/out of boats will be necessary. These tours are generally longer in duration and could involve long days of driving or overnight train journeys. Some programmes may also include easy hiking or a home stay.

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. Jade Snow Dragon Mountain near Lijiang. Sightseeing is at Yunshaping (Cloud Fir Meadow) which has an altitude of approximately 3,200m. Please note that the town of Lijiang, where you will be staying overnight is not at high altitude.

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 Classic China itinerary, you will visit **Shanghai, Beijing, Xian, Yangtze River, Guilin, Kunming and Lijiang**.

- **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
- **Yangtze River** – Spectacular scenery of the Three Gorges
- **Yangshuo & Guilin** – Beautiful landscapes of the Li River
- **Kunming** – The dramatic Stone Forest
- **Lijiang** – Veritable 'living museum' set at the foothills of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and home to the Naxi minority group.

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

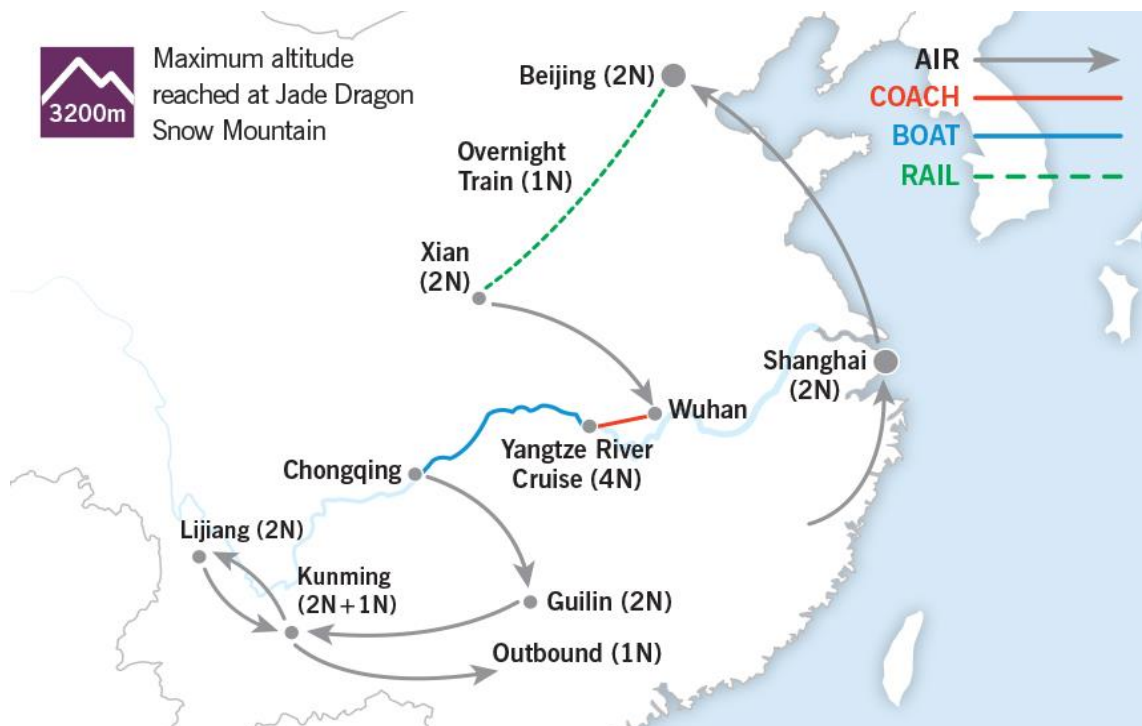
Joining Your Tour - The tour is 20 days in duration including international flights. Travellers booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the starting point. Please refer to your Final Itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure. Join the tour on Day 1 in Shanghai and end the tour on Day 19 in Kunming.

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 – Classic China

Day 1: Australia to Shanghai

Day Outline

Fly to the exuberant city of Shanghai, called 'the Paris of the East', for a two night stay. *Adelaide, Perth and Darwin 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 2: Shanghai

Day Outline

Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Garden; and the atmospheric alleys of the Old Town. Explore the ancient treasures of the Shanghai Museum and admire the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the Bund before visiting the Silk Museum. This evening, take a panoramic cruise on the Huangpu River and later dine on delicious Shanghainese cuisine.

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

Shanghai Museum - One of the most esteemed and acclaimed museums in China, the Shanghai Museum is a comprehensive collection of the Middle Kingdom's

millennia old history. Sprawled over five floors, one could spend half, if not a full day in this comprehensive museum. The shape of the museum was designed to resemble a Chinese vessel, known as a Ding.

The Bund - Recognised as Shanghai's former 'Wall Street', the Bund is home to an impressive collection of buildings from the early trade houses of the 1850s to the glamorous Art Deco modernism of the 1920s. Originally the home of the foreign population of Shanghai, the Bund's architecture has inherited much 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 brought this product across Asia and Europe.

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

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

Day 3: Shanghai to Beijing

Day Outline

This morning visit People's Square where at Matchmaker's Corner, you can watch parents looking for suitable suitors for their children. Fly to Beijing for a two night stay. This evening, feast on Peking duck, a favourite of the Emperors.

Physical Description

Enjoy easy sightseeing this morning before you are transferred to the airport for your flight to Beijing (flight duration two hours and 20 minutes). You will be transferred (one hour drive) to your hotel, where you will check-in for a two night stay.

Destination Information

People's Square - Home to the Shanghai Museum, People's Square is an ideal centre for people to meet, do Tai-Chi and take part in dance classes. The Square is iconic for its famous Matchmaker's Corner, where parents search for suitable boyfriends or girlfriends for their children.

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.

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 4: Beijing

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

Physical Description

Sightseeing in central Beijing involves approximately 3-4 hours on foot during the morning to see Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. This afternoon, visit the Temple of Heaven, where sightseeing involves two hours on foot. ***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.

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 we 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.

Day 5: Beijing – Overnight Train

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 visit the Summer Palace. This evening enjoy a Chinese acrobatic show. Afterwards, transfer to the Beijing train station to catch your overnight train to Xian.

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, also north of the city. The palace is set over an extensive park and man-made lake complex and there is 1.5-2 hours on foot involved at this site.

The overnight train departs in the evening and takes approximately 12 hours (over 1,300km). Cabins are first-class soft sleeper compartments where each cabin consists of four shared berths. Wear comfortable clothes on board to sleep in on the train and you may wish to take some snacks.

Please note: When you depart the hotel this morning, please take a change of comfortable clothes and some snacks in your day pack to take on board the overnight train, as there will not be an opportunity to go back to the hotel before boarding the train.

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.

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

Day 6: Xian

Day Outline

Arrive into Xian Railway Station this morning. Visit the lovely Little Wild Goose Pagoda and afterwards, explore the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter, which are lined

with Islamic food stalls. This evening dine on scrumptious Shui Jiao dumplings before a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing in the evening.

Physical Description

Please note check-out time in China is midday so it is unlikely that your group's rooms will be available. This morning you will commence sightseeing and return to your hotel later to rest and freshen up.

You will arrive at Xian Railway Station very early this morning and transfer to your hotel, where you can have breakfast and freshen up if rooms are available. Sightseeing at the Little Wild Goose Pagoda and Muslim Quarter involves 2.5 hrs on foot. *Please be mindful of your valuables in the Muslim Quarter, due to large crowds.*

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.

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.

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 7: 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. Next take a stroll on the ancient City Wall.

Physical Description

The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses is located more than one hour drive outside of Xian. From the bus park to the museum entrance is a 15 minute walk. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost. There is no electric cart available for the return from the museum exit to the bus

park. Within the museum area the warriors can be seen in three different 'pits', which are active archaeological digs. The site is large and, towards the summer months, can be hot outside. Sightseeing here involves approximately 2.5 hours on foot. This afternoon you will visit the City Wall. You will be required to walk upstairs to access the City Wall, where the National Escort/Local Guide will give you time to explore at your own pace. There are options here to hire a bicycle or an electric cart to drive along the length of the wall. These are offered by private vendors and can be organised at your own expense.

Destination Information

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

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

Ancient City Wall - Dating back to the Ming Dynasty in the 14th century, the Xian ancient City Wall is one of the best preserved urban fortifications in China. The wall's ideal location and layout gives visitors a bird's eye view over this fantastic city. Follow the locals' example and enjoy a bike ride to have an even more spectacular experience.

Day 8: Xian – Wuhan to Yangtze River Cruise

Day Outline

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Wuhan. Upon arrival into Wuhan, transfer by road to Yichang where you will board your Yangtze River cruise vessel.

Physical Description

You will take a morning flight from Xian to Wuhan (one hour and 15 minutes in duration). Then transfer 4-5 hours by road through the countryside from Wuhan airport to the docks near Yichang, which is located downstream from the Three Gorges Dam. Board the ship and check into your cabin for the next four nights. ***Please note: the Yangtze River cruise section of your itinerary will not be confirmed by the cruise operators until after you commence your tour as it is subject to local river conditions and water levels. Your National Escort/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. Shore excursions are subject to change depending on local conditions. A detailed itinerary will be handed out on the vessel each day. If you do not wish to take part in a shore excursion but you still wish to disembark the cruise ship, there is a mandatory port tax which must be paid by each customer locally. The port tax amount is approximately USD20-USD30 dollars per person, however this amount can vary and for security reasons, it is not always possible to disembark at all ports of call.***

Destination Information

Yangtze River - One of the world's great and legendary waterways, this 6,300km river has its origins high up in the snow covered mountain of Tanggula in the south western Qinghai Tibet Plateau and runs into the ocean in Shanghai. It is estimated that the banks of this river are home to almost a third of China's population.

Day 9: Yangtze River Cruise

Day Outline

Visit the Three Gorges Dam, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world. There will be time to visit the viewing area to truly appreciate the scale of this hydroelectric project. Continue upstream, passing through the Xiling Gorge, our boat must negotiate the five-tiered Three Gorges Dam ship lock.

Physical Description

Disembark the ship and drive approximately 20 minutes to the Three Gorges Dam. The coach will pass through the surrounding areas (they are not permitted to stop for photos) and will drop your group off at the viewing area above the ship locks. There is a small museum and a lookout and the sightseeing will involve around one hour on foot.

Destination Information

Three Gorges Dam - Commenced in 1994 and completed in 2009, the Three Gorges Dam is the largest water conservancy project ever undertaken. The Dam is located near Sandouping, which is in the middle of the Xiling Gorge, the longest of the Three Gorges. The Three Gorges Dam is 2,335m long, 185m high, 18m wide on the top and 130m wide at the bottom. The dam has raised the river to a level of 175m above sea level, creating a 600km long reservoir. The building of this huge dam was for the purpose of flood control, electricity, navigation, and irrigation.

Day 10: Yangtze River Cruise

Day Outline

Prepare for breathtaking vistas as the ship passes through Wu and Qutang gorges. Switching to smaller vessels take a relaxing trip on the Goddess Stream.

Physical Description

Shore excursion to the Goddess Stream: cruise through the beautiful and narrow gorges. Many protected species make the stunning peaks their home, including monkeys, mountain goats, deer and wild boar. You will board a smaller craft for a ride of about 15km each way, to view the beauty of its narrow gorges.

Destination Information

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 70-100m in depth, depending on the season. ***Please note: if for some reason your cruise is unable to travel along the Goddess Stream you will pass along the Shennong Stream instead.***

Day 11: Yangtze River Cruise

Day Outline

Today visit the Shibaozhai Temple, an 18th century architectural marvel.

Physical Description

Shore excursion to Shibaozhai Temple (two hours off ship): This small temple was built at the top of a nine-storey pavilion clinging to the sheer south bank near Qutang Gorge. Disembark from the ship to the dock close to the pavilion's entrance. Sightseeing here involves climbing the nine storeys inside the building.

Destination Information

Shibaozhai - Is named after the hill on which it stands. Dating back to the 18th century, the Shibaozhai temple was built during the Xianfeng Emperor's reign and is an example of Buddhist architecture. The temple is said to have been built without any nails. ***Please note: if you are unable to visit the Shibaozhai Temple you will visit the Fengdu Relocation Village instead.***

Day 12: Yangtze River Cruise – Chongqing to Guilin

Day Outline

Disembark from your Yangtze River cruise vessel in Chongqing and visit the Panda House at Chongqing Zoo. Fly to Guilin and enjoy the rest of your afternoon at leisure.

Physical Description

Check-out of cabins early this morning and disembark in Chongqing and visit Chongqing Zoo's new Panda House. Transfer to Chongqing Airport for your flight to Guilin (flight duration one hour). Upon arrival transfer 50 minutes to your hotel and check-in for a two night stay.

Destination Information

Chongqing - A city perched on the steep hills overlooking the confluence of the Jialing and the Yangtze Rivers, Chongqing is the chief industrial centre of south west China, producing approximately one fifth of Sichuan's industrial output. Chongqing has been reshaped by the Three Gorges Dam Project, which now allows larger sea-going vessels to sail all the way upriver to China's most famous waterfront mountain city.

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 beauty 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.

Day 13: Guilin – Yangshuo

Day Outline

Take a relaxed cruise along the Li River to the charming village of Yangshuo. 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. Upon arrival in Yangshuo visit the local markets and return to Guilin late afternoon. ***NB: You will be staying in Yangshuo for two nights before returning to Guilin***

airport. Your main luggage will be transferred by coach while you cruise on the Li River. Please ensure you carry your medication and valuables in your hand luggage for the day as you will not have access to your main luggage until late afternoon.

Physical Description

You will take a three hour leisurely cruise from Guilin to the small town of Yangshuo. These are small cruise boats usually holding approximately 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 one 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. The drive back to Guilin is approximately one hour.

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 - 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 14: Guilin to Kunming

Day Outline

Visit the Reed Flute Caves this morning to admire the stunning colours of the stalagmites and stalactites. Afterwards take a tour of the South China Pearl Museum where you will have the opportunity to buy these precious stones. Fly to Kunming, China's 'Spring City', and this evening dine on the local delicacy of Across the Bridge noodles.

Physical Description

This morning you will visit the Reed Flute Caves. While there you will take a short walk through the caves, sometimes along damp paths and stairs. It usually takes about an hour to complete the route and it is very cool inside. Transfer to airport for your flight to Kunming (flight duration one hour and 20 minutes). Transfer to your hotel and check-in.

Destination Information

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.

South China Pearl Museum - Gain a fascinating insight into the pearling industry of southern China at the South China Pearl Museum, where you also have the opportunity to purchase some of these elegant stones.

Kunming - Nicknamed China's 'Spring City' due to its temperate weather, Kunming is the capital of Yunnan Province. Kunming has long played an important role as a trading city due to its significant location on the borders of Southeast Asia.

Across the Bridge Noodles - Are a type of rice noodle soup from Yunnan Province served in a broth style. Usually accompanied by meat, bean curd and vegetables, this is a truly therapeutic dish.

Day 15: Kunming

Day Outline

Spent the morning exploring the unusual limestone rock formations of the Kunming Stone Forest. Return to Kunming for an afternoon free at leisure.

Physical Description

Drive 1.5 hours (100km) to the Stone Forest. Sightseeing here involves up to 3.5 hours walking along cobblestone paths to view the maze of rock pinnacles, lake and ponds. After lunch you will drive back to Kunming.

Destination Information

Stone Forest - Located 100km south east of Kunming, the Stone Forest consists of thousands of narrow, fantastically shaped pillars of rock, scattered over an area of more than 80 hectares. The park is designed so that you can follow a walkway through the formations of water pools and grey pinnacles, the tallest of which is over 30m high.

Day 16: Kunming to Lijiang

Day Outline

Fly to Lijiang, one of Yunnan's most beautiful spots and quintessential Chinese towns. Take a wander through the Old Quarter to appreciate the traditional architecture before visiting Black Dragon Pool where you can enjoy spectacular views of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain.

Physical Description

Transfer to the airport for an early morning flight to Lijiang (flight duration 50 minutes). Transfer (40 minute drive) to Lijiang Old Quarter and explore the maze of canals and cobbled alleys. This involves at least two hours walking. After, visit Black Dragon Pool (there may be no water in the pool in some seasons) before continuing to the hotel and check-in for a two night stay.

Destination Information

Lijiang - A beautiful tapestry of cobbled streets, rickety wooden buildings and sultry streams, Lijiang is a vision of idyllic wonder; a great place to just take a stroll and soak up the atmosphere.

Black Dragon Pool - Constructed in 1737 during the reign of the Qing Dynasty, the Black Dragon Pool is a popular pond in Lijiang which offers stunning views and walking

opportunities. From this location, visitors can enjoy beautiful panoramas of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, the tallest mountain in the area. It is said that there is a black dragon living within the pond's waters, hence the name.

Day 17: Lijiang

Day Outline

Venture out of Lijiang to the Tiger Leaping Gorge, one of China's most dramatic sights. The whole area is spectacular, prepare for breathtaking views. Later visit a local embroidery school where young tribes-people learn vital skills and create handcrafts.

Physical Description

Drive 100km (approximately two hour drive depending on number of photo stops) to the southern end of the Tiger Leaping Gorge. The bus will drop you off at the southern end of a walkway which follows the gorge as far as the upper rapids. It is a newly constructed, even walkway. There are sedan chairs offered by local vendors, which can be organised at your own cost. Lunch today will be a simple meal as the choice of restaurants in this area is limited. Return to Lijiang.

Destination Information

Tiger Leaping Gorge - Is believed to be one of the deepest and most dramatic gorges in the world, measuring at 16km in length. Hiking along Tiger Leaping Gorge has become incredibly popular, and those who do can view its roaring streams, cascading waterfalls and it's immense scale, great for those who crave an adventure.

Mu Family Embroidery School - Watch as locals make intricate pieces of embroidery and take the opportunity to buy a piece yourself.

Day 18: Lijiang to Kunming

Day Outline

A magnificent mountain massif, the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain incorporates several peaks, the tallest of which is 5,500m. Taking a chairlift, explore one of the beautiful high meadows and enjoy the amazing vistas. Fly back to Kunming.

Physical Description

Visiting Jade Dragon Snow Mountain is very popular with travellers to this area so to avoid the large crowds of people queuing at the same time, the local Government's tourist authority allocates times to each group. ***This section of the itinerary is subject to change at late notice. Your National Escort/Local Guide will keep you informed of any changes as they are made aware of them.*** The bus will drive to the base of the mountain; there is a 10 minute ride on a chairlift from the base to Yunshaping (Cloud Fir Meadow) at an altitude of approximately 3,200m. From the chairlift there is a wooden pathway to the meadow; this walking route takes approximately one hour. Descend by chairlift to re-board the bus. Transfer to the airport for the afternoon flight to Kunming for an overnight stay. ***You may reach a maximum altitude of 3,200m during your time on Jade Dragon Snow Mountain.***

Destination Information

Jade Dragon Snow Mountain - Is known for its mysterious ambience and snow-covered peaks and is considered the Holy Mountain amongst the Naxi ethnic group and other ethnic minorities in Lijiang. Popular for hiking, mountaineering and skiing, Jade Dragon Snow Mountain attracts thousands of visitors every year who enjoy exploring its lofty peaks.

Day 19: Depart Kunming

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 20: Arrive Australia

Day Outline

Arrive home today.

Tour Profile

Visas - Entry visas are required by all visitors to China and Wendy Wu Tours' Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. We will supply you with all paperwork and submit the visa application on your behalf. Visas for China are valid for 90 days from the date of issue and allow you to stay in the country for up to 30 days. Please be advised that your passport must have at least 6 months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

Visa application forms and all relevant documentation are due in our office **60 days prior to departure**; if received after this date urgent visa processing fees will apply. Passports will be returned with your final documentation **2-3 weeks prior to your group tour's scheduled departure**. If you require your passport to be returned earlier, a \$15 courier fee will apply.

Please note that if you intend to arrive more than 24 hours before your tour commences or intend to stay in China after your tour has ended and you are **NOT** staying in a hotel you will need to register with the local police station. If you are staying in a hotel, registration is done on your behalf as part of the check-in process.

Insurance - We strongly encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the originals.

Accommodation - Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a Family-run guesthouse in a smaller town. In remote areas accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia and China. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and a telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Please note that the Chinese government has strict environmental regulations in regards to the use of air conditioning and heating during certain times of the year. Hotels are only permitted to turn air conditioning on in the summer months from mid-May to mid-October and heating is permitted to turn on from mid-November to mid-March.

Exchanging Cash - It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to cities outside of Beijing and Shanghai. US Dollars are easily exchanged throughout China and other currencies such as Australian Dollars can generally be exchanged in hotels and airports provided notes are new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate

amount of AUD\$250 per week should be sufficient; however for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional Excursions - May be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available. The cost for each optional activity can range from RMB150 (AUD\$33) to RMB350 (AUD\$76) per activity. In your Final Documentation an Optional Excursion Sheet will be included outlining the activities available in each city and local cost associated. Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

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

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

Transport: Water - In this tour you will take a four night cruise down the Yangtze River. Your cabin on your Yangtze River cruise ship will have private bathroom and balcony.

Transport: Train - You will take an overnight train journey during your 'Classic China' tour. The overnight train journey is in first-class soft sleeper compartments where each cabin consists of four shared berths. Wendy Wu Tours cannot always guarantee you will be only sharing with Wendy Wu Tours customers and you could be sharing a berth with members of other tour groups or local Chinese passengers. Facilities on board are basic with both western-style and Asian-style toilets. **Please note that you may find yourself carrying your luggage over numerous train tracks to reach your platform and carriage because of the layout of train stations.**

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

Climate - You will find a complete packing list and a helpful climate chart in the 'Suggested Packing List', which is included in the pre-departure information link sent within your deposit documentation. Seasonal weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found on www.weather.com.

Vaccinations and Your Health - We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au.

Before You Leave - We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

Luggage - All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each; a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that Chinese authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

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

Yangtze River Cruise operators have introduced a compulsory service levy of RMB150 per person (approximately AUD\$33 per person) which is to be paid immediately upon boarding the cruise vessel. For the purposes of your overall cost, this has been calculated into your AUD/USD tipping amount as reflected on your invoice.

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