



# BEIJING TO SINGAPORE WITH CELEBRITY CRUISES

## Classic Cruising Tour | 25 Days | Physical Level 1

Beijing – Pingyao – Xian – Chengdu – Hong Kong – Hanoi – Hue – Ho Chi Minh – Bangkok – Koh Samui – Singapore

Embark on an epic tour of China and Southeast Asia with this exciting land and cruise itinerary. Take in the iconic sights of the Great Wall and Terracotta Army, and journey up one of the world's oldest funicular railway systems in Hong Kong to experience the panoramic vistas from Victoria Peak, before venturing on your voyage of Southeast Asia onboard Celebrity Solstice.

- Uncover the ancient treasures of Beijing
- Come face to face with the loveable Giant Pandas
- Stroll along the second coolest street in the world in Hong Kong
- Embark on a cruise through some of Southeast Asia's most influential coastal cities
- Marvel at the modern metropolis of Singapore and admire the Gardens by the Bay Light Show

TOUR MAP
 

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 CLASSIC CRUISING TOURS:
 

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These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of China and Southeast Asia on an excellent value group tour combined with a cruise. The tours are on a fully inclusive basis pre and post cruise, so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements before and after your cruise 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.

 ITINERARY CHANGES:
 

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We intend to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours, or as dictated by local conditions. In these circumstances, we will endeavour to make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip. Similarly, while cruise liners always endeavour to adhere to the published itineraries, they may be changed at the discretion of the captain due to weather advisories, port traffic, and any other unforeseeable circumstances.

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

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- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 12 nights Celebrity cruise on Celebrity Solstice
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated (*if dining on board throughout*) – 24 breakfasts (B), 23 lunches (L), 24 dinners (D)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees, transportation and transfers pre and post cruise
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides pre and post cruise
- Visa fees for Australian passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

*Pre and post cruise, the only elements or aspects you may have to pay for are personal expenditures e.g., drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.*

*During the cruise, your meals on board will be included in the main dining areas, however, should you wish to dine in any of the speciality restaurants not included in your cruising package, you will be required to pay for these locally. In addition, if you opt to dine off the ship, these meals will also be paid for locally, and please note you will not be refunded for meals missed on board. Excursions are also available to book with your cruise reservation at your own expense.*

## PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

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All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

‘Beijing to Singapore with Celebrity Cruises’ is rated as a **physical level 1** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required, and you should expect to be on your feet for much of the day. You will be getting on and off coaches, trains or boats and walking around the sights, often including steps, plus occasional longer walks.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time, often on uneven surfaces
- You will be required to get on and off small boats without assistance
- You will be required to board the cruise ship without assistance and get on and off at ports if you wish to disembark the ship

Of course, our National Escort and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

**JOINING YOUR TOUR:**

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The tour is 25 days in duration including international flights. Join the tour on Day 1 in Beijing and end the tour on Day 25 in Singapore.

For travellers booked on a 'Land and Cruise Only' package, which omits the inclusion of international flights, 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.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrive in Beijing

Meals: D

On arrival in Beijing Daxing or Beijing Capital Airport, you will be met in the arrival hall by your local guide and/or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer approximately 1 hour to your hotel.



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

### Destination Information

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

### Day 2: Beijing

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will be met by your guide, where you will walk through Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificent Forbidden City, the former residence of the Ming and Qing emperors. Entering through the Gate of Supreme Harmony, you will find a complex full of imperial riches.



Later, soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape, before enjoying a traditional Peking duck dinner.

Sightseeing at Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City will involve approximately 3-4 hours on foot.

*Please note: The Forbidden City is closed on Mondays. If this day of touring falls on a Monday, your touring in Beijing will be switched round so that the Forbidden City is visited on an alternative day. In an effort to preserve the Forbidden City, the number of entry tickets per day has been significantly reduced. Whilst every effort will be made to obtain the tickets, should this not be possible, then you will instead visit the Forbidden City from the outside and visit the nearby Prince Kung's Palace Museum.*

## Destination Information

**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 been an influence on many imperial buildings throughout Asia.

**Temple of Heaven** – Set in a 267-hectare park surrounded by a long wall and with a gate at each compass point, the Temple of Heaven is absolutely unique. It is one of the most perfect examples of Ming architecture, created as a place of worship for the Emperors, who would ask for prosperity, longevity and good harvest for the people.

**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 3: Beijing

Meals: B, L, D

Rise early this morning to avoid the crowds and drive approximately 2 hours northwest of the city to the Juyongguan Pass to take a walk on the Great Wall of China, appreciating the wall itself and the dramatic scenery. Your visit involves walking from the bus to the first section. Once your group has been given an introduction to the Great Wall's unique history, you will have free time to explore at your own pace.



Later, visit the Jade Factory where there will be an opportunity to buy your own handcrafted piece, before, heading to the Sacred Way and Ming Tombs, the final resting place of 13 of the Ming emperors.

Drive approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes back to Beijing, where this evening, you will experience a thrilling acrobatic show before returning to your hotel.

## Destination Information

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

**Jade Factory** – Learn about one of China's most symbolic and important materials: jade, at this comprehensive factory. Understand how to tell if jade is real or fake and watch artisans at work, carving this emerald Jade into works of art.

**The Sacred Way and Ming Tombs** – The Sacred Way is a long statue lined path leading to the Ming Tombs, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an impressive complex housing the mausoleums of thirteen out of the sixteen Ming Dynasty emperors.

**Day 4: Beijing – Pingyao**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, transfer to Beijing train station where you will board your 4-hour bullet train to Pingyao.



On arrival, embark on an ancient city tour with your English-speaking guide around the cobbled streets for spectacular views of the city walls of Pingyao, dating back to the Zhou Dynasty. Next, visit the Rishengchang Financial House Museum. There will also be some time to visit the Yamen, a former government building from the Qing Dynasty, before transferring to your hotel for check-in.

Sightseeing today will involve around 4 hours on foot, including a stop for lunch.

*Please note you will need to carry your own luggage on and off the trains.*

**Destination Information**

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

**Pingyao Ancient City Walls** – One of the best-preserved fortifications in China, the Pingyao Ancient City Wall encloses the old town of Pingyao.

**Rishengchang Financial House** – The Rishengchang Financial House is the home of China's first draft bank, dating back to the 17th century.

## Day 5: Pingyao – Xian

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, you will have the chance to enjoy a hands-on noodle making demonstration (optional, payable locally) before transferring to the Pingyao train station to board your 3-hour bullet train to Xian, the former ancient capital. On arrival, transfer to your hotel for check-in.

*Please note you will need to carry your own luggage on and off the trains.*


**Destination Information**

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

## Day 6: Xian

Meals: B, L, D

Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of the life size Terracotta Warriors. The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses is located approximately a 1-hour drive outside of Xian. From the bus park to the museum entrance there is a 15-minute walk. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own expense. There is no electric cart available for the return from the museum exit to the bus park. Within the museum area the warriors can be seen in three different 'pits', which are active archaeological digs. The site is large and will take about 2 and a half hours to explore.



After this, visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Workshop to see smaller models of the warriors being made. Later, stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town. The local guide will give you time to explore the ancient city walls 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.

Tonight, enjoy a dumpling demonstration, followed by a Shui Jiao Dumpling banquet and a Tang Dynasty show.

**Destination Information**

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

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

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

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

**Day 7: Xian – Chengdu**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, enjoy a stroll around the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter, which are lined with Islamic food stalls. Later, transfer with your English-speaking assistant to Xian train station to board your bullet train to Chengdu, a journey of approximately 3-hours and 40-minutes. On arrival, transfer to your hotel before enjoying an evening of the local specialty Sichuan hot pot and a face changing show.



**Destination Information**

**Muslim Quarter** – The Muslim Quarter is the hub of Xian's Islamic community and is home to many stalls selling a myriad of snack foods and delightful oriental knick-knacks.

**Day 8: Chengdu**

Meals: B, L, D

This morning you will visit China's most loveable resident, the Giant Panda. Visit the Panda Conservation Centre where you can learn about China's celebrated bear. See these lovable creatures in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. It is not guaranteed that you will be able to see the feeding of the younger pandas, as this only happens at the start and end of each day. Sightseeing involves approximately 1 and a half hours on foot and there are electric carts offered by private vendors that can be organised at your own cost.



*There will be the opportunity to volunteer at the Panda base here before returning to your hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure.*

*Please note this volunteering opportunity is optional and time permitting.*

## Destination Information

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

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

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### Day 9: Depart Chengdu – Hong Kong

Meals: B, L, D

Check-out after breakfast, and transfer to Chengdu airport to board your 2-hour and 40-minute flight to Hong Kong. On arrival into Hong Kong, you will be met by an English-speaking assistant and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day will be yours to enjoy at leisure.



## Destination Information

**Hong Kong** – Nestled in the Pearl River Estuary, Hong Kong is the personification of culture blend. Influenced by Chinese and British traditions, ways of life and habits, Hong Kong has emerged from being a small fishing community to one of the leading financial districts and richest cities in the world. With its deep-water harbour, stunning mountain vistas and urban glamour, Hong Kong is a buzzing blend of excitement and mystery.

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### Day 10: Hong Kong City Tour

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, be met by your English-speaking guide and journey up the Victoria Peak by the impressive Peak Tram, one of the world’s oldest funicular railways offering incredible views of Hong Kong. Here, you will enjoy a guided walking tour before returning to Central, where you will ride the world’s longest outdoor covered escalator system, the Central Escalator to Tai Kwun, Hong Kong’s latest art hub.



Next you will enjoy a short walking experience of Hollywood Road which is named the second coolest street in the world before visiting Man Mo Temple. Then, visit Blue House Cluster before a dim sum making demonstration, where you will also enjoy dim sum for your lunch today.

Afterwards, visit the West Kowloon Cultural District with some free time to explore the area before transferring to a local restaurant for dinner. After dinner, visit The Avenue of Stars to admire Victoria Harbor at night.

### Destination Information

**Victoria Peak** – Sat on the west side of Hong Kong Island, Victoria Peak offers stunning panoramas of the Hong Kong skyline and the Victoria Harbour – truly the best viewing point on the island.

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**Day 11: Embark Celebrity Cruise in Hong Kong**

Meals: B, L, D

Transfer to the port and board your cruise ship Celebrity Solstice, ready to embark on your spectacular journey through Southeast Asia.

*Please note, your National Escort or Local Guide will travel with you to the port, however they will not board the cruise with you. You will be met again by your new National Escort or Local Guide once you disembark in Singapore.*

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**Day 12: Cruising**

Meals: B, L, D

Spend today at sea and take the time to recharge before arriving in Hanoi, your next destination. Maybe take a visit to the Martini Bar and enjoy the culinary delights on board, wonder through the art gallery or unwind at the spa.



## Day 13: Cruising - Hanoi

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will be docked in Hanoi (Ha Long Bay), Vietnam's charming capital city. Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise.

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*


**Destination Information**

**Hanoi** – With a population of approximately four million, Hanoi is a charming and richly historic city of lakes, shaded boulevards and leafy open parks. The centre is an architectural museum piece housing groups of ochre coloured buildings holding the air of French towns of the 1930s; a “Paris of the Orient”, as people have called it.

**Halong Bay** – Compared to the landscape of the limestone islets of Guilin in China and Krabi in southern Thailand, Halong Bay shares a common border with China in the north and harbours some of the most stunning scenery in Vietnam. Unique rock sculptures jut out dramatically from the clear emerald waters of the Gulf of Tonkin and numerous grottoes have created an enchanting, timeless world, looking out onto the horizon with the sails of the junks and sampans completing the picture.

## Day 14: Cruising - Hanoi

Meals: B, L, D

Spend today at port in Hanoi (Ha Long Bay) before you set sail to Hue, allowing you time to enjoy what your cruise ship Celebrity Solstice has to offer.

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*



**Day 15: Cruising – Hue/Danang**

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will be docked in Hue/Danang (Chan May), Vietnam's former imperial capital city. You can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise.

*Please note the journey time from the port of Chan May to Hue is approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes.*

*Please also note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*


**Destination Information**

**Hue** – Having been the imperial capital from 1802 until 1945 after the last emperor abdicated, Hue is still regarded as the centre of Vietnam's culture and religion. The city is dominated by the Imperial Citadel, modelled on the Forbidden City in China. There are many wonderful pagodas and temples of high significance and it contains the Grand Tombs of the Nguyen Emperors.

**Day 16: Cruising**

Meals: B, L, D

Spend today at sea with a day at leisure enjoying what your cruise ship Celebrity Solstice has to offer.


**Day 17: Cruising - Ho Chi Minh**

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will be docked in Ho Chi Minh (Phu My), a bustling city situated on the edge of the Mekong Delta, with an exciting mix of local culture and colonial influences. You can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable on your cruise.

*Please note the journey time from the port of Phu My to Ho Chi Minh is approximately 2 hours.*

*Please also note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*



## Destination Information

**Ho Chi Minh City** – Formally renamed Ho Chi Minh City, but still locally known by its older name of Saigon, this exuberant city is driving Vietnam forward into the modern world, but is also a treasure trove of fascinating heritage. It was a major base of the American military during the Vietnam War, and was the seat of the South Vietnam government until the events that led to the country's reunification. Today, the old mixes seamlessly with the new and you can wander through timeless alleys to incense-infused temples before catching up with the present in designer malls beneath sleek skyscrapers.

### Day 18: Cruising

Meals: B, L, D

Spend today at sea with a day at leisure enjoying what your cruise ship Celebrity Solstice has to offer.

### Day 19: Cruising - Bangkok/Laemchabang

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will be docked in Laemchabang, close to Bangkok; a vibrant city bursting with a blend of gleaming skyscrapers traditional architecture. You can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable on your cruise.

*Please note the journey time from the port of Laemchabang to Bangkok is approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes.*



*Please also note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

## Destination Information

**Bangkok** – Bangkok has been Thailand's dominant city since the 18th century. It was established as the capital after the former capital, Ayutthaya, was razed to the ground by the Burmese army. It was the centre point of the modernisation of Siam in the late 19th century, leading the introduction of rail transport, the printing press, healthcare and utilities infrastructure. With a population of over 10 million, the fast pace of the city can be intense; however, beneath the hustle and bustle, there are many hidden gems waiting to be discovered.

**Day 20: Cruising - Bangkok/Laemchabang**

Meals: B, L, D

Spend today at port in Bangkok/Laemchabang before you set sail to Koh Samui, allowing you time to enjoy what your cruise ship Celebrity Solstice has to offer.

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*


**Day 21: Cruising - Koh Samui**

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will be docked in Koh Samui, an idyllic island and tropical paradise. You can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable on your cruise.

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*


**Destination Information**

**Koh Samui** – Thailand's second largest island, situated off the shores of the east coast, Koh Samui is an oasis of natural beauty with clear, blue waters and white sand beaches. This idyllic island sits within the Ang Thong National Marine Park, making it a serene location to relax, while sights of the impressive Big Buddha and Na Muang Waterfall are not to be missed.

**Day 22: Cruising**

Meals: B, L, D

Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship Celebrity Solstice has to offer.

*Please note: You will be requested to leave your bags outside your cabin this evening. This allows the cruise team to collect your luggage in the early morning ahead of your disembarkation, without disturbing you in the early hours.*


**Day 23: Disembark Celebrity Cruise in in Singapore**

Meals: B, L, D

Cruise into the port of Singapore, where on arrival you will be met by your English-speaking guide and new National Escort or Local Guide.

From here transfer to your hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure to soak up the local culture of Singapore, a modern metropolis located at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula where east meets west.


**Destination Information**

**Singapore** – This tiny republic sits just above the equator and the tip of the Malay peninsula, and despite its size, beautifully intertwines its vast greenery with urban landscapes. The trading port was put on the global map by Stamford Raffles, who negotiated the 1819 Treaty of Singapore, when the British East India Company opened up a trading port. Singapore passed through the hands of Britain, Japan and Malaysia before gaining full independence in 1965. Today, it has a highly developed economy and is ranked as a world leader in healthcare and education.

## Day 24: Singapore City Tour

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, begin your full day city tour with a visit to Singapore's historic Chinatown, a bustling mix of old and new, filled with traditional shops and markets as well as a selection of stores and cafes.

Enjoy a stop at the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Museum, located in the Chinatown before visiting the Kampong Glam's rich history and shops in this vibrant neighbourhood. Here, you will also get to learn about the art of teh tarik or "pulling tea".



Continue your tour with a visit to the Civic District, passing by the historic Parliament House and the National Gallery Singapore before arriving at the Merlion Park. Enjoy views of the Marina Bay before taking a stroll through the hidden underground walkway, once a vital tunnel used for transporting mail, now serving as a corridor for The Fullerton Hotel where you will relish an Afternoon High Tea for lunch.

Later this evening, embark on a sunset river cruise along the Singapore River before enjoying dinner at a local seafood restaurant. Afterwards, pay a visit to Singapore's iconic masterpiece, the Gardens by the Bay and explore the architecture before admiring the Gardens by the Bay Light Show.

**Destination Information**

**Civic District** – This area has a rich history dating back to the colonial era, serving as the administrative and political heart of the city-state. It was here the Singapore declared its independence in 1965.

**Gardens by the Bay** – This large public garden is famous for its Supertree Grove – vertical gardens built on tree-like sculptures up to 50 metres tall. Atop them sits the Sky Garden, accessible by elevated walkway.

## Day 25: Depart Singapore

Meals: B

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to Singapore Changi 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.*

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### VISAS:

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Entry visas are required for Australian passport holders to visit Vietnam. Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa.

A visa is not required for Australian passport holders for entry into Hong Kong, Thailand and Singapore for stays up to 90 days.

A visa is not required for Australian passport holders for entry into China for stays up to 30 days. This information is valid for travel up to 31 December 2025

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in 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.

All information with regards to visas will be updated regularly on our website as we find visa processes are changing on regular basis.

### INSURANCE:

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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.

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES PRE AND POST CRUISE:

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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 will be offered by your National escort in country.

### ACCOMMODATION PRE AND POST CRUISE:

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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 more 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 the Australia and China and Southeast Asia. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and 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.

**China:** Due to environmental regulations, not all hotels in China provide toiletries in the rooms.

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.

### CHINESE AND SOUTHEAST ASIA PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

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If you are travelling within the below Public Holidays, please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some businesses will be closed and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Some tourist attractions may be closed, and those that are open may be crowded.

**China:** Chinese New Year is on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and 6<sup>th</sup> February 2027 . Golden Week public holidays fall annually between 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Vietnam:** In Vietnam, Tet Holiday is 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 & 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 & 6<sup>th</sup> February 2027; International Labour Day is on 1<sup>st</sup> May every year; Reunification Day is on 30<sup>th</sup> April every year and National Independence Day is on 2<sup>nd</sup> September every year.

**Thailand:** In Thailand: Chakri Memorial Day – 6<sup>th</sup> April (if 6<sup>th</sup> April falls on a weekend, Chakri is observed on the following Monday); Songkran Festival usually 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> April; Labour Day – 1<sup>st</sup> May; Coronation Day – 6<sup>th</sup> May; the King's Birthday – 29<sup>th</sup> July; the Queen's Birthday – 12<sup>th</sup> August; Chulalongkorn Day – 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

## LUGGAGE:

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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 authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

## EATING IN CHINA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA:

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On this tour you will get to experience a variety of dining options. Pre and post cruise in China, and Singapore you will dine as a group, whereas during the cruise, you will dine independently. You will have the option to dine in the main on-board restaurants included as standard in your cruise package. Alternatively, you can opt to dine in the on-board specialty venues or restaurants on land, both of which will be payable locally.

**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. Often you will find that the local Chinese style is very different from what you are used to at home. We welcome people on our tours with a wide variety of tastes and as such try to present an array of food to suit everyone in the group. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout China.

Dishes served in restaurants on our group tours are varied. Some will be vegetable-based with meat mixed in, and a few will be meat-based. Traditionally, Chinese people cook with a lot of vegetables because meat used to be hard to come by. Dishes often come pre-seasoned with soy sauce or other sauces. Our restaurants are well aware of the western palate – there are plenty of non-spiced options. Most meals are served with plain rice on the side which is intended as an accompaniment to your meal. Unlike the western world, Chinese people do not normally pre-heat their plates and food can be presented at a variety of temperatures, which is a typical Chinese way of doing things.

When eating meals on group tours, you will be seated around a circular table with other tour members. Dishes will be served in the traditional ‘family style’ on a lazy susan; meaning that various dishes will be laid out on a spinning turntable in the centre of the tabletop. These dishes are intended to be shared amongst the group – there is always more than enough to feed everybody. ‘Family style’ means that there is a pair of serving chopsticks for each dish which are used specifically to serve the food (please ask your server if you require a fork or spoon) and everybody will help themselves to all the dishes on the lazy susan. You will have an individual bowl, chopsticks and cup for your own use. Please be courteous and consider your fellow diners; if your favourite dish is on the other side of the table, it will make its way round to you soon! We find our customers really enjoy this sociable style of eating.

We recommend that when it comes to Chinese food, you stay open minded, try to be adventurous and always have a go with the chopsticks!

Please read your travel guide which you will receive with your final documents for more information about eating in China.

**Southeast Asia:** Southeast Asia is home to an incredibly rich food history. The local cuisine is known for its intense flavours, spices and some of the freshest ingredients you can find. In general, meals include either rice or noodles and are packed full of flavour. Lemongrass, ginger, lime leaves, coriander, fish sauce and soy sauce are used in many local dishes. Whilst Southeast Asian food has a reputation for being hot and spicy, each region actually has its own distinct characteristics. Vietnam, for example, is perhaps best known for its fresh and aromatic dishes – relying heavily on flavours from fresh herbs such as mint, basil and dill.

When dining in Southeast Asia, although some restaurants have adopted a western approach to dining, expect some restaurants to follow the traditional communal style of eating. Typically, this will mean each diner has their own small bowl and may serve themselves from a variety of shared dishes. At some local restaurants, appetizers and main courses might be served when they are ready instead of following a particular order.

Determining when it is appropriate to use chopsticks, forks or spoons can be challenging for some travellers, even other Asians, as each country has different customs. In Vietnam, dishes are normally placed in the centre and people serve food for themselves with their own chopsticks and bowl. Usually, chopsticks or other utensils are provided to scoop the food into your bowl to prevent your own chopsticks from touching the food that remains on the table. Dining in Southeast Asia is fairly casual with not too many rules. Leaving food on the plate is not considered rude.

It is imperative that you clearly communicate any and all dietary needs when booking, and don't forget to reaffirm them during your welcome briefing with your tour guide. However, it is crucial to understand that local restaurants might face limitations in accommodating specific dietary requests, particularly in the cases of gluten-free, celiac, or vegan requirements. Please bear in mind that finding gluten-free options may not be as effortless as it is in Australia. Regrettably, we cannot assure that the food served will be entirely free from allergens.

Although most Asian countries are now quite developed, only quite recently have they started to widely accept Western guests. Western food requirements are quite far removed from Asian food requirements, and even medical reasons can be quite difficult to explain. While our ground partners will do everything they can to cater for a wide range of dietary requirements on tour, we ask kindly for your patience and understanding that they cannot always be delivered to the standard you will be used to at home. All beverages will be at your own expense and are readily available.

### **SOUVENIRS:**

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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 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 AND SOUTHEAST ASIA:

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**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 the west.

**Southeast Asia:** Although Southeast Asia is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in the Australia. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in the Australia; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. 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 or Local Guides.

## TRANSPORT:

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**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. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road – not just 1-2 kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only. There may be sections of road where the surface is bumpy, but our drivers will do their utmost to lessen the impact.

**Planes:** Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. 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.

**Trains:** On this tour, you will experience China's high-speed train. You will travel in second-class soft seats with air conditioning. For train journeys you must ensure that you pack liquids, aerosols and gels/lotions in your hand luggage as per recent regulations. Passengers are not allowed to carry any aerosols over 100ml. Passengers are also not allowed to carry flammable gases or liquids including styling gel, compressed air or insecticides; any explosives, magnetised material, knives (including Swiss Army knives), scissors or sharp items (medication is fine). Bag checks are conducted randomly and any of these items may be confiscated before boarding the train (in hand luggage or main luggage). The National Escort will inform you of specific details prior to boarding.

### GROUP SIZE:

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Most of our groups pre & post cruise consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a national escort. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

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.

### TIPPING POLICY PRE & POST CRUISE:

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

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

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognize 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.

**Cruise:** On board gratuities are included in your tour cost (Based on standard cruise inclusions).

Please note: a 20% gratuity will be automatically added to all additional pre-cruise and onboard purchases of spa and salon services, beverages and beverage packages, specialty dining and specialty dining packages, room service and mini bar purchases.

### CELEBRITY CRUISE:

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Celebrity Solstice boasts many world class amenities as well as a wide choice of complimentary and specialty dining, including menus by a Michelin-starred chef. Offering award-winning onboard experiences from an array of live music and shows to varied culinary delights, the plethora of lounges and decks also provide incredible views and idyllic spots to unwind during your days at sea.

**Boarding Procedures:** Online and app Check-in is available 45 days before your cruise and remains available up to 3 days before you cruise. Once you have completed the Check-In process online or in the app, you will receive an Xpress Boarding Pass. This indicates that you successfully completed the check-in process for yourself, and those guests listed on your Xpress Pass.

During check-in, you're required to select an arrival time. One of the benefits of app check-in is that your arrival time is listed on your mobile Xpress Pass. Please arrive during your selected window to avoid delays at the terminal.

Due to government regulations requiring cruise lines to submit final departure manifests at least 60 minutes prior to sailing, guests are requested to complete Check-in no later than 3 days prior to their cruise. If you do not complete Check-in 3 days prior, you will be required to complete this process at the pier at least two hours prior to the published sailing time.

*Please note: All guests must be checked-in and onboard the ship no later than 90 minutes prior to the published sailing time or you will not be permitted to sail.*

**Cruise Schedule:** While we do our best to adhere to our published itineraries, they may be changed at the discretion of the captain due to weather advisories, port traffic, and any other unforeseeable circumstances.

**Dress Code:** Smart Casual attire is required for entry to main dining, specialty dining, and the Celebrity Theatre. Smart Casual means you look comfortable yet tasteful in a dress, skirt, long pants, or jeans, and a stylish top or button-down. Shorts and flip flops are not considered Smart Casual. Your 7-night cruise will feature two "formal" nights we call Evening Chic. Evening Chic means you dress to impress, glamorous and sophisticated in your own way, with a cocktail dress, skirt, slacks, or designer jeans, an elegant dress top or blazer - some guests even pack a tuxedo or gown for onboard photos. The Daily program, delivered to your stateroom and available at the Guest Relations Desk, will be your guide to the correct attire each evening. If you do not wish to participate in Evening Chic, Smart Casual attire is acceptable for dining and theatre.

**Dining:** Please note, there are no set menus onboard the cruise ship, instead, you will have the opportunity to dine at your choice of restaurant included in your package and have the option to upgrade your package whilst onboard to dine in the various speciality restaurants.

Your package also includes soft drinks and alcoholic beverages whilst onboard your cruise. There is the option to upgrade your drinks package on your Guest Account or on your cruise.

**Tipping:** On board gratuities are included in your tour cost (Based on standard cruise inclusions).

Please note: a 20% gratuity will be automatically added to all additional pre-cruise and onboard purchases of spa and salon services, beverages and beverage packages, specialty dining and specialty dining packages, room service and mini bar purchases.

**SHORE EXCURSIONS:**

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When docked at each port you will have the opportunity to experience shore excursions. Celebrity Cruises offer a wide array of authentic shore excursions, making it a great way to explore more of each destination. Please note, not all shore excursions will include a guide and shore excursions may be cancelled due to inclement weather conditions or for any other reason at the discretion of Celebrity Cruises. Any shore excursions will be at your own expense and bookable on your cruise reservation.

**CRUISE ACCOMODATION AND CABINS:**

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At the time of booking, subject to availability you may have the choice to book from an outside cabin or balcony cabin. Should you wish to upgrade to a suite or have a special request for cabin location, please speak to our reservations department who will be able to assist.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Staterooms allocated may be subject to obstructed views.

**VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:**

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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](http://www.travelvax.com.au).

**BEFORE YOU LEAVE:**

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We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://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:**

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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