

DISCOVER CHINA BY RAIL

Classic Tour | 22 Days | Physical Level 2

Shanghai – Mount Huang – Huangshan City – Changsha – Zhangjiajie – Guilin – Yangshuo – Zhaoxing – Chengdu – Xian – Beijing

Embark on an extraordinary rail journey through China's diversity of landscapes and cultures, pausing at ancient towns, natural wonderlands, iconic sights and mega-cities as you go to explore, discover and experience the things that make China the country that it is today.

- Traverse China entirely by high-speed rail
- Ascend spectacular Mount Huang
- Experience nature in Zhangjiajie
- Cruise on the Li River
- Visit the beautiful Zhaoxing Dong Village
- See Pandas, the Great Wall and Warriors

TOUR MAP



DISCOVER CHINA BY RAIL TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) and Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

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

CLASSIC TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of China on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

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.

'China by Rail' is rated as a **physical level 2** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it is more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You will be getting on and off coaches and boats, carrying your luggage on and off trains, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- On several days there will be sightseeing on foot for extended periods of time
- On the Great Wall of China in Beijing, some of the walking may be at more of an incline
- In Zhangjiajie and Huangshan, there are periods of walking up and down stone steps and walkways as well as walking across a glass bridge, getting on and off escalators and in and out of cable cars.
- The rice terraces around Zhaoxing are unpaved and often uneven ground. Sturdy walking shoes are recommended.

Of course, our National Escorts 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. If you require any more information about the pace of our tours, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 22 days in duration including international flights or 21 days in duration based on 'Land Only'. Join the tour on Day 1 in Shanghai and end the tour on Day 21 in Beijing.

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

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It's our intention 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 local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we'll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive in Shanghai Meals: D



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

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

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

Destination Information

Shanghai – Once known as the 'Paris of the East', Shanghai is now one of Asia's most influential cities. Prior to communist arrival in 1949, Shanghai was a city with England-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 occidental and oriental. Modern skyscrapers intermingle with 1920s 'shikumen' buildings. This combination is what attracts millions of visitors each year.

Day 2: Explore Shanghai Meals: B, L, D



Shanghai is China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th-century temples. Today's explorations include the Yu Garden and the quaint old town before visiting a silk mill and then admiring the colonial architecture along the Bund. Then board the super-fast Maglev train, one of only a few in the world, and be whisked along at top speeds of up to 300km/h. This evening, view the city from the Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise.

Sightseeing today is around 3-4 hours on foot.

Destination Information

Old Town – The old town of Shanghai, where cobbled streets are lined with traditional shops selling herbal medicines, handicrafts, Chinese tea and a variety of tantalising snacks, is the original centre of Shanghai and for decades was the seat of Chinese authority in Shanghai.

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

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.

Silk Mill – The Silk Mill 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.

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.

Day 3: Shanghai – Overnight atop Mt Huang

Meals: B, L, D



Board a bullet train from Shanghai to Huangshan City. Your journey will take approximately 3 hours.

Next, take a 10 minute cable car to the summit of Mount Huang, more commonly known as Yellow Mountain, the loveliest mountain in China. On your way up, enjoy views of the oddly shaped peaks, rock formations, thousand year-old pine trees and ever-changing mist. Spend 2-3 hours on foot including stairs exploring the scenic area including West Sea Grand Canyon and Paiyun Pavilion.

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

For your one-night stay on Mount Huang, we recommend packing an overnight bag. Your main luggage will be securely stored at your next hotel.

Destination Information

Mount Huang – Often referred to as Yellow Mountain, Mt Huang or 'Huangshan' has played an important role in the history of art and literature in China since the Tang Dynasty. A legend dated from the year 747 described the mountain as a place of discovery of the elixir of immortality.

Day 4: Mt Huang Sunrise – Huangshan City Meals: B, L, D



This morning, rise early to watch the sunrise and see the yellow-tinted granite mountains light up. Continue exploring by foot including stairs approximately 2-3 hours (depending on local conditions) visiting more stunning notable attractions such as Dispelling Cloud Pavilion and Flying-over Rock.

Board the scenic cable car journey back down the mountain to Huangshan City, home for the next two nights. This afternoon enjoy a leisurely stroll through the ancient town of Tunxi, home to the best preserved old street in China lined with shops selling a bit of everything.

Destination Information

Dispelling Cloud Pavilion – Located on Bright Summit Peak, one of the mountain's major peaks, it offers visitors breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. The name "Dispelling Cloud Pavilion" reflects its location above the clouds, and it's a popular spot for tourists to witness the sunrise and enjoy the spectacular sea of clouds.

Flying-Over Rock – An iconic rock formation on Huangshan. This peculiar rock resembles a stone bridge or arch suspended in the air, seemingly defying gravity.

Tunxi Ancient Street – Well located in the centre of Tunxi District of Huangshan City. With about 630 years' history, Tunxi Ancient Street is the best preserved old street in China in the style of the Southern Song Dynasty, Ming and Qing Dynasties.

Day 5: Huangshan City | Hongcun Village & Dumpling Making Meals: B, L, D



Venture to Hongcun, a UNESCO World Heritage village frozen in time**.** Just 1.5 hours away, spend the morning discovering this 900-year-old settlement and its incredible Hui-style architecture.

Then get hands-on with a cooking lesson in Hui cuisine, where you'll learn to prepare pouch dumplings, a time-honoured regional speciality, delicate in form and deeply satisfying in flavour.

Destination Information

Hongcun – Often called a "village in a Chinese painting," Hongcun is a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its pristine Hui-style architecture, characterized by white-washed walls, black-tiled roofs, and exquisite wood carvings. The village is famously laid out in the shape of an ox, with a complex 800-year-old water system that channels mountain springs into the serene Moon Pond and South Lake, creating mirror-like reflections that have inspired artists for centuries.

Pouch Dumplings – In the Huizhou region surrounding Hongcun, pouch dumplings (often known as money bag dumplings or danjiao) are a celebrated local delicacy featuring a savory meat filling bundled inside a thin, golden sheet of fried egg.

Day 6: Travel to Changsha

Meals: B, L, D



Board a bullet train to Changsha, a journey of 4 hours. A city with a three millennia long history and a thoroughly modern look and feel, Changsha exudes an energetic and friendly vibe.

This evening, stroll through the bustling night markets, where sizzling street foods like stinky tofu and grilled skewers await!

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

Destination Information

Changsha – With its modern skyline, historical landmarks like Yuelu Mountain and Orange Isle, and a thriving culinary scene featuring spicy Hunan cuisine, Changsha offers a perfect blend of ancient charm and contemporary allure.

Day 7: Explore Changsha, Travel to Zhangjiajie

Meals: B, L, D



This morning will visit the Yuelu Academy, home to valuable collections, ancient books, and cultural relics that offer a glimpse into China's scholarly traditions and intellectual heritage.

Later, drive 4 hours to Zhangjiajie National Park and prepare to be awestruck by its otherworldly landscapes.

Destination Information

Yuelu Academy – Yuelu Academy, located in Changsha, Hunan Province is a prestigious educational institution with a profound history dating back over a thousand years. Nestled on the slopes of Yuelu Mountain, the academy serves as a cultural landmark, housing valuable collections, ancient books, and cultural relics that offer a glimpse into China's scholarly traditions and intellectual heritage.

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

Day 8: Discover Zhangjiajie Meals: B, L, D



Enjoy a full day of exploring Zhangjiajie National Park. Begin at the Yuanjianie Scenic Area, and ride the remarkable Bailong glass elevator, the highest and fastest outdoor elevator in the world. Embedded into the mountain, the elevator soars up the mountain side to a towering height of 326 metres in as little as two minutes! This impressive elevator will transport you to Mihun Stage, where you will enjoy amazing views of the majestic peaks, including the 'First Bridge under the Sun' and Hallelujah Mountain. Continue to Emperor Mountain and visit Helong Park before taking a cable car down.

Sightseeing today will involve around 3-4 hours of walking.

Destination Information

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

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

Day 9: Zhangjiajie | Tianmen Mountain Meals: B, L, D



Soar up the heights of Tianmen Mountain in the world's longest cable car, a 7-kilometre journey taking approximately 40-minutes. Atop the mountain, marvel at Tianmen Cave, nicknamed 'Heaven's Door', standing proudly at the top of 999 steep steps. Next, take a thrilling walk along a glass skywalk, aptly named the "Walk of Faith" as though you're walking on air. If time permits, you may also walk across the Cliff-Hanging Walkway or Coiled Dragon Cliff. Return down the mountain by cable car.

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

**Notice:* *From 6 November 2025, the upper section of the Tianmen Mountain Grand Cableway will be closed for maintenance, likely until the end of 2026. The cable car from the lower section to the middle station will continue to operate as normal. After arriving at the middle station, we will take an eco-bus up the spectacular 99 bends road to reach the summit for sightseeing as planned, and return down the mountain via the Express Cableway.*

Please note: The 999 step walk up to Tianmen Cave and the glass skywalk is optional. The steps can take around 25 – 40 minutes. Alternatively, there is an escalator on the other side of the mountain leading up to Tianmen Cave. There is also a small platform at the foot of the steps where you can soak up the spectacular views and wait for the group.

Destination Information

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

Day 10: Bullet train to Guilin

Meals: B, L, D

Board a bullet train to Guilin, departing one spectacularly scenic area to arrive in another. The journey time is approximately 7 hours.

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



Destination Information

Guilin – Guilin is one of China's most stunning and panoramic cities and was founded during the reign of the first Chinese empire, the Qin Dynasty. It is renowned for the unique beauty of the mountains that fringe it. Guilin developed as a trading town due to the building of the Ling Canal which links the important Pearl and Yangtze River systems.

Day 11: Li River Cruise

Meals: B, L, D

Take a relaxed 4-hour cruise along the Li River to the charming village of Yangshuo, where you will spend 2 nights. 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. Usually, the boats depart at 9am from the dock located a 1-hour drive from your hotel. However, when the river level is low they depart from further downstream which would mean a longer drive and an earlier check-out from your hotel. Your luggage will be transferred by road.



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

Later, sit back and relax with a Chinese reflexology massage.

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

Destination Information

Li River Cruise – Today you will pass tranquil farming and fishing scenes and picturesque villages as you cruise down the Li River. The main attraction is the stunning limestone karsts that tower above the river creating a magical landscape of mountains and water. The unique and natural beauty of this region has for centuries been an inspiration to Chinese artists and poets alike.

Chinese Reflexology – A wellness and relaxation practice based on the belief that specific points on the feet correspond to organs and systems throughout the body, promoting circulation, reducing tension, and restoring the body's natural balance.

Day 12: Yangshuo — Meals: B, L, D

This morning, explore the bucolic landscapes around Yangshuo, where limestones karst cliffs and pinnacles tower over a patchwork of paddy fields. This afternoon is yours to spend as you wish.



Destination Information

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

Day 13: Yangshuo – Guilin – Zhaoxing Village — Meals: B, L, D

Travel around 1.5 hours to Guilin by road, then board a 1 hour bullet train to Zhaoxing.

Upon arrival, you'll be welcomed with a traditional ceremony before spending a free afternoon exploring the village at your own pace, gaining a genuine glimpse into the daily life and rich culture of the Dong ethnic minority people. As the sun goes down, make your way to the village viewpoint to take in a breathtaking panoramic view of the village and drum towers lit up.



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

Destination Information

Zhaoxing – Zhaoxing is a village in southern China known for its five tall, wooden drum towers and beautiful "wind-and-rain" bridges. It is home to the Dong people, who are celebrated for their unique architecture and the Dong Grand Song, a UNESCO-recognised traditional group singing performed without any musical instruments.

Day 14: Zhaoxing Rice Terraces — Meals: B, L, D



Travel to the top of a remarkable set of stepped rice terraces close to Zhaoxing. Walk around 1 hour through the terraces to different vantage points, admiring their engineering and, depending on the time of year, their vibrant colour or moody reflections of the sky above.

This afternoon enjoy a batik workshop, a local living tradition, and create something special to take home as a souvenir.

Destination Information

Zhaoxing Rice Terraces – The Zhaoxing Rice Terraces (often called Tang'an) are massive, hand-carved stairs of green and gold that climb up the steep mountainside. These ancient fields use a clever water system to grow rice, creating a stunning landscape that changes colors with the seasons.

Batik Workshop – This region of China is famous for the traditional art of indigo dyeing with batik being a central part of the Dong culture. You will often see lengths of deep blue fabric drying in the sun or being beaten with wooden mallets to create a characteristic metallic sheen.

Day 15: Zhaoxing – Chengdu — Meals: B, L, D



Board a bullet train to Chengdu, a journey of around 5.5 hours.

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

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. A fast paced economy which is dragging China's west into the 21st century; it is no wonder that Chengdu's appeal is growing year on year. As the gateway into Sichuan Province's large collection of sights, as well as Chengdu being its own trove of historical and cultural treasures, Chengdu is a definite, a necessity, a must visit on any trip to China.

Day 16: Chengdu – Xian Meals: B, L, D

Today you will see China's most famous resident, the giant panda. Visit the Panda Conservation Centre where you can learn about China's celebrated bear. See these lovable creatures in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. It is not guaranteed that you will be able to see the feeding of the younger pandas, as this only happens at the start and end of each day. Later, board your bullet train to Xian, a journey of 3-4 hours.



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

Destination Information

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

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 fare, Xian is a must-see destination.

Day 17: Explore Xian Meals: B, L ,D

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



The site is large and will take about 2 and a half hours to explore. After this, visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Workshop to see smaller models of the warriors being made.

Later, stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town. The local guide will give you time to explore the ancient city walls at your own pace.Stop by a local brewery for a refreshing beer tasting, where you can learn about the brewing process and sample a selection of beers (non-alcoholic drinks are available).

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

Sightseeing today will involve approximately 3-4 hours on foot.

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

Destination Information

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.

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 18: Bullet train to Beijing

Meals: B, L, D

Today, transfer to the railway station for your 5-hour bullet train to Beijing. On arrival, transfer to your hotel to check in.

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



Destination Information

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

Day 19: Imperial Beijing Meals: B, L, D



Walk through Tiananmen Square and into the magnificent Forbidden City. Next, take a step back in time as you stroll through the warren-like hutongs, Beijing's historic neighbourhoods, and discover what it is like to live in these traditional areas. Later, dine on a delicious local delicacy, Peking duck. Sightseeing today will involve approximately 3-4 hours on foot.

Destination Information

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

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

Hutongs – Beijing's hutongs are narrow, ancient alleyways lined with traditional grey-brick courtyard houses that have served as the heart of local life for over 700 years. Today, these maze-like neighborhoods offer a charming mix of old and new, where elderly residents play chess on the sidewalk while just around the corner, hidden cafes and boutiques tuck into beautifully restored historic buildings.

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 20: The Great Wall Meals: B, L, D



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

Later, visit a jade factory before taking a stroll through the exquisite Summer Palace.

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 stone into works of art.

Summer Palace – The former holiday retreat of the Qing emperors, the Summer Palace is a stunning example of Chinese garden style. The Summer Palace incorporates the Fengshui notion of 'Mountain' and 'Water', seen here with tranquil Kunming Lake and magnificent Longevity Hill. A favourite resort of the Empress Dowager Cixi, the Summer Palace is home to a stunning Marble Boat and the Long Corridor, one of the longest outdoor passageways in the world.

Days 21-22: Fly Beijing to Australia Meals: B

Any time before your flight is at leisure. After check-out, transfer to the airport for your onwards flight.

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

CHINA TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

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

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

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

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

INSURANCE:

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

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

GROUP SIZE:

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

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 10 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

EATING IN CHINA:

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

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

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

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

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

ACCOMMODATION:

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

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

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

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

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

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. This is a requirement on internal trains and flights. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. In general, we recommend packing only as much as you can lift as you will need to carry your own luggage on and off trains.

TRANSPORT:

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

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

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

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

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

AFTER-HOURS EXPERIENCES:

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

TIPPING POLICY:

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

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

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

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs; so in each city, we will visit a workshop or factory which demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places which hold local interest; for example, in Shanghai you will be able to see how silk is created all the way from the silk worm to beautiful garments; and in Xian we will take you to a workshop which creates replicas of the Terracotta Warriors, from tiny little warriors to seven foot behemoths! We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA:

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

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

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

INTERNET RESTRICTIONS IN CHINA:

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

TRAVEL MONEY IN CHINA:

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

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

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

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

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

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