



# Wendy Wu Tours



## Tour Dossier

### Grand Tour of China

### Classic Tour | 26 Days | Moderate Pace

*This document has been designed to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour. All passengers should read this dossier to assess the physical requirements of the programme and their ability to complete the tour.*

#### Classic Tours

Our Classic Tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures on a fully inclusive excellent value group tour.

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

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

#### Tour highlights:

On our Grand Tour of China itinerary, you will visit **Beijing, Xian, Yangtze River, Chengdu, Kunming, Dali, Guilin, Yangshuo, Hangzhou, Suzhou and Shanghai.**

- **Beijing** – The Great Wall, Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square
- **Xian** – The archaeological marvel of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses
- **Yangtze River** – Spectacular scenery of the Three Gorges
- **Chengdu** – The Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding
- **Kunming** – Home to the dramatic Stone Forest
- **Dali** – Nestled between Erhai Lake and the Cangshan Mountains and home to the Bai Ethnic Group
- **Guilin & Yangshuo** – Beautiful landscapes of the Li River
- **Suzhou & Hangzhou** – China's famed garden and waterway cities
- **Shanghai** – Exploration of China's most cosmopolitan city

## **Destination Profile**

**China** - China's civilization is the oldest in the world and has a history dating back over 5,000 years. With 56 ethnic groups, 22 provinces and eight major dialects, China has a rich and varied culture and way of life. It is home to a wealth of tourist sights and cultural relics which entice our guests to return again and again to this exciting destination.

**Chinese Public Holidays** - If you are travelling within the below Chinese Public Holidays please note that celebrations last for several days and during these times some businesses will be closed and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open, but may be crowded. Chinese New Year is on 8th February 2016 and 28th January 2017. Golden Week public holidays fall annually between 1-3 May and 1-7 October.

**Development in China** - Though parts of China match the west in modernity and technological advances, it is important to remember that China is still a developing country and as such, many aspects of tourism in China do not have the solid infrastructure and safety standards as seen here in Australia. It is important that our guests travel to China with an open mind and a sense of humour. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort/Local Guides.

**Roads in China** - Roads in China have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. There may be sections of road where the surface may be comparatively bumpy but our drivers will do their utmost to lessen the impact. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road – not just one or two kilometers as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections below are approximations only.

**Cuisine in China** - Chinese cuisine is one of the most influential, diverse and flavoursome culinary styles in the world with a legacy stretching back thousands of years. Chinese dishes incorporate many spices and seasoning to create an explosion of flavours. Though Chinese cuisine can vary greatly from Chinese food we have in Australia, it is important to keep an open mind and be adventurous. All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive Grand Tour of China group tours from the groups' arrival until the groups' day of departure. Please be aware that dishes selected for your meals reflect the cooking styles and signature dishes of the local area you are in.

Sichuan cuisine (or Szechwan as it is still known in the west) is distinguished by its use of ginger, chili and the 'Sichuan peppercorn' called fagara. Each meal will usually have some mild dishes for those who don't enjoy eating hot or spicy food, but please bear in mind that the majority of local specialty dishes will be hot. If your group finds there are not any mild dishes served, please inform your National Escort/Local Guide so that they may resolve the problem for the next meal. Always remember if you cannot find suitable food, please speak to your National Escort who will be happy to assist you.

During your stay in Yunnan Province, breakfast may consist of mostly local cuisine and western-style breakfast choices will be limited.

**Joining Your Tour** - The tour is 26 days in duration including international flights. Travellers booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the starting point. Please refer to your Final Itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure. Join the tour on Day 1 in Beijing and end the tour on Day 25 in Shanghai.

### **Itinerary Changes**

1. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

2. From November to March the Tang Dynasty music and dance performance is not available on all evenings. If it is not operating on the evening your group is due to attend, a suitable alternative will be arranged by your National Escort/Local Guide.
3. The Forbidden City is closed on Mondays, due to maintenance. If it is not open on the day our group is due to visit, Beijing touring will be rearranged by your National Escort/Local Guide accordingly.
4. The Six Harmonies Pagoda has been removed from sightseeing on Day 20 of the itinerary due to its restrictive accessibility. We have replaced this with a visit to the Former Residence of Hu Huxueyang.

**Flight Delays or Changes to Arrival Times** - Due to unforeseen circumstances, flights can be delayed, and therefore connecting flights may be missed. If you find yourself in this situation, please contact our China office on **+86 21 5888 5681** or **+86 159 0929 1082** (24 hours) to urgently advise your arrival details have changed. Please ensure you have your trip number, tour name (both included in your final documentation) and new arrival details (flight number and arrival time) handy to pass on to our local office in China. This will ensure your National Escort/Local Guide can be informed of your most up to date information and an arrival transfer will be arranged accordingly. We will endeavor to arrange a transfer as soon as possible however delays may occur.

If we are not advised of late changes and missed connections, Wendy Wu Tours cannot guarantee someone will be able to meet you upon arrival in China as our local office will have no way of knowing which flight you will be arriving on. Wendy Wu Tours will not be responsible for providing reimbursement of transportation costs from the airport to your hotel in the event that our local office was not advised of changes to arrival times.



### Itinerary – Grand Tour of China

#### Day 1: Australia to Beijing

##### Day Outline

Fly to Beijing, China's fascinating capital, for a four night stay. *Darwin passengers may depart one day earlier.*

#### Physical Description

Upon arrival in Beijing International 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 one hour to your hotel. A tour introduction will be held in the hotel either this evening or the next. Food and drinks will not be served at this meeting, it is simply an opportunity for your group to meet and learn more about travelling in China. ***In the event of flight delays or changes to arrival times, please see the previous page for details as to what to do in this circumstance.***

#### Destination Information

**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**

##### Day Outline

Walk across the lengths of Tiananmen Square and into the magnificent Forbidden City, former seat of the Chinese emperors. This evening dine on delicious Peking duck – Beijing's most famous dish.

##### Physical Description

Sightseeing today includes a stroll through Tiananmen Square, past Chairman Mao's Mausoleum to the treasure-filled Forbidden City (approximately three hours on foot). Our evening meal includes the local delicacy, Peking duck.

***The Forbidden City is closed on Mondays due to maintenance. If this day of touring falls on a Monday, your touring in Beijing will be re-arranged so that the Forbidden City is visited on an alternative day. Please remember to bring your passport with you when visiting the Forbidden City for a security check.***

#### Destination Information

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

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

**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**

##### Day Outline

Take a walk on the Great Wall of China, appreciating the wall itself and the dramatic scenery. Later, visit the jade

factory and this afternoon visit the Summer Palace. This evening enjoy a Chinese acrobatic show.

##### Physical Description

You will rise early this morning to drive two hours (60km) northwest of the city to the Juyongguan Pass section of the Great Wall. The aim of this is to avoid the crowds of tourists who will arrive later in the morning, and the heat of the day. Your visit here involves walking from the bus to the first section. After your group has been given an introduction to the Great Wall's unique history you will have free time to explore the rest at your own pace. In the afternoon, drive one hour to the Summer Palace, also north of the city. The palace is set over an extensive park and man-made lake complex and there is 1.5-2 hours on foot involved at this site.

#### Destination Information

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

**Jade Factory** - Learn about one of China's most symbolic and important materials: jade, at this comprehensive factory. Learn how to spot real jade, watch artisans at work carving this precious stone, and even buy a piece to take home yourself!

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

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

#### **Day 4: Beijing to Xian - Overnight Train**

##### Day Outline

This morning browse the bustling markets of Liulichang, later soaking up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven where you can watch, or take part in, an outdoor dance class. Afterwards, transfer to Beijing train station to catch your overnight train to Xian.

##### Physical Description

This morning explore the Liulichang markets. After lunch, drive to the Temple of Heaven where there will be 1-2 hours on foot here. Transfer to the train station for your overnight train that departs in the evening and takes approximately 12 hours (over 1,300km). Cabins are first class soft sleeper compartments where each cabin consists of four shared berths. ***Wear comfortable clothes on board***

***to sleep in on the train and you may wish to take some snacks.***

#### Destination Information

**Liulichang** – Named after a coloured glass that was produced in the area during the Ming Dynasty, Liulichang is one of Beijing's traditional old quarters and is a great place to shop for a variety of calligraphy, pottery, books and many other traditional Chinese items.

**Temple of Heaven** - Is one of the most perfect examples of Ming architecture set in amongst a 267 hectare park with four gates set at each point of a compass. The Temple of Heaven was created as a place of worship for the emperors, who would ask for prosperity, longevity and good harvest for the people. Walking through the park you will see the many groups of local people that gather here every day to sing folk songs, practice Tai-Chi and sword dancing, play chess or just come to sit and chat.

#### Day 5: Xian

##### Day Outline

Arrive into Xian Railway Station this morning. Visit the lovely Little Wild Goose Pagoda and afterwards, explore the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter, which are lined with Islamic food stalls. This evening dine on scrumptious Shui Jiao dumplings before a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing in the evening.

##### Physical Description

***Please note check-out time in China is midday so it is unlikely that your group's rooms will be available. This morning you will commence sightseeing and return to your hotel later to rest and freshen up.*** You will arrive at Xian Railway Station very early this morning and transfer to your hotel, where you can have breakfast and freshen up. Sightseeing at the Little Wild Goose Pagoda involves at least 1.5 hours on foot. Stroll through the Muslim Quarter taking extra care of your valuables in the busy alley market stalls. ***From November to March the Tang Dynasty music and dance performance is not available on all evenings. If it is not operating on the evening your group is due to attend, a suitable alternative will be arranged by your National Escort/Local Guide.***

#### Destination Information

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

**Little Wild Goose Pagoda** - Dating back to the Tang Dynasty, the Little Wild Goose Pagoda is one of two prominent pagodas in Xian. A former centre for translating Buddhist scriptures from India, the Little Wild Goose Pagoda was said to have survived one of the strongest earthquakes in world history.

**Muslim Quarter** - Is the hub of Xian's Islamic community and is home to many stalls selling a myriad of snack foods, a

trove of silks and fabrics, and delightful oriental knick-knacks.

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

#### Day 6: Xian

##### Day Outline

Spend the morning viewing the formidable ranks of Terracotta Warriors and Horses. Visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition centre to see smaller models of the warriors being made. Next take a stroll on the ancient City Wall.

##### Physical Description

The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses is located more than one hour drive outside of Xian. From the bus park to the museum entrance is a 15 minute walk. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost. There is no electric cart available for the return from the museum exit to the bus park. Within the museum area the warriors can be seen in three different 'pits', which are active archaeological digs. The site is large and, towards the summer months, can be hot outside. Sightseeing here involves approximately 2.5 hours on foot. This afternoon you will visit the City Wall. You will be required to walk upstairs to access the City Wall, where the National Escort/Local Guide will give you time to explore at your own pace. There are options here to hire a bicycle or an electric cart to drive along the length of the wall. These are offered by private vendors and can be organised at your own expense.

#### Destination Information

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

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

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

#### Day 7: Xian - Wuhan to Yangtze River Cruise

##### Day Outline

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

### Physical Description

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

### Destination Information

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

### Day 8: Yangtze River Cruise

#### Day Outline

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

#### Physical Description

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

#### Destination Information

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

### Day 9: Yangtze River Cruise

#### Day Outline

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

#### Physical Description

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

#### Destination Information

**Goddess Stream** - Also known as 'Shennü Xi' in Chinese, flows from the southern bank of the Yangtze opposite Goddess Peak. Once just a stream, the Three Gorges Dam raised the water level to 70-100m in depth, depending on the season. ***Please note: if for some reason your cruise is unable to travel along the Goddess Stream you will pass along the Shennong Stream instead.***

### Day 10: Yangtze River Cruise

#### Day Outline

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

#### Physical Description

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

#### Destination Information

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

### Day 11: Yangtze River Cruise - Chongqing to Chengdu

#### Day Outline

Disembark your Yangtze River cruise this morning in Chongqing and take a tour around Ciqikou, a centre of cobbled streets and porcelain wares. Next transfer to Chengdu and visit the Shu Brocade and Embroidery Museum. This evening enjoy a Sichuan meal.

#### Physical Description

Check-out of cabins early this morning and disembark in Chongqing. Visit the porcelain district of Ciqikou before driving 4-5 hours to Chengdu, arriving in the late afternoon and check into your hotel for an overnight stay.

#### Destination Information

**Ciqikou** - Known colloquially as 'Little Chongqing' and the 'Porcelain Port', Ciqikou dates back to the Ming Dynasty and has maintained its original appearance. Lined with shops selling delicious snacks, Ming-style trinkets and

Chinese curios, Ciqikou is a fun way to spend a morning and is a must-see in Chongqing.

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

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

**Sichuan Meal** - Sichuan cuisine is famous for its use of Sichuan pepper and chillies. These spices from the area are known for their 'mala' (numb and spicy) flavours, which seem to cool and heat your mouth at the same time. Famous dishes include kungpao chicken, twice-cooked pork and spicy Sichuan hotpot.

#### **Day 12: Chengdu to Kunming**

##### Day Outline

Today you will visit China's most famous resident, the Giant Panda. Visit the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding where you can learn about China's celebrated bear. Fly to Kunming and this evening dine on Across the Bridge noodles, a Kunming speciality.

##### Physical Description

The Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding is located only 18km from the city centre. It is not guaranteed that you will be able to see the feeding of the younger pandas, as this only happens at the very start and end of each day. Sightseeing here involves at least 1.5 hours on foot. There are electric carts offered by private vendors and can be organised at your own cost. Transfer approximately one hour to Chengdu airport and fly to Kunming (flight duration 1.5 hours). Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel (approximately one hour) and check-in for a two night stay.

##### Destination Information

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

**Kunming** - Nicknamed China's 'Spring City' due to its temperate weather, Kunming is the capital of Yunnan Province. Kunming has long played an important role as a

city for trade due to its significant location on the borders of Southeast Asia.

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

#### **Day 13: Kunming**

##### Day Outline

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

##### Physical Description

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

##### Destination Information

**Stone Forest** - Located 120km south east of Kunming, the Stone Forest consists of thousands of narrow, fantastically shaped pillars of rock, scattered over an area of more than 80 hectares. The park is designed so that you can follow a walkway through the formations of water pools and grey pinnacles, the tallest of which is over 30m high. See if you can find the following formations for yourself – Everlasting Fungus, Baby Buffalo, Moon Grazing Rhino, Sword Pond and Baby Elephant.

#### **Day 14: Kunming to Dali**

##### Day Outline

Drive to Dali, a great destination to get a peek of a China of times gone by. Visit the ancient Three Pagodas this afternoon.

##### Physical Description

Drive 5 hours to Dali and have lunch en route at Chuxiong. Upon arrival in Dali check-in for a two night stay. There will be easy sightseeing at the Three Pagodas.

##### Destination Information

**Dali** - Sandwiched between the Jade Green Mountains and serene Erhu Lake, Dali is naturally striking in its setting. Mainly a base for the Bai people, Dali has played an important role in the history of south China and was once a post on the old Burma Road.

**Three Pagodas** - Presented in a perfect triangle, the Three Pagodas date back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century and were built under the Nanzhao State. Made of brick and white mud, the Pagodas are known for their resilience, having survived many natural disasters, including earthquakes.

#### **Day 15: Dali**

##### Day Outline

Explore Dali's quaint old quarter, the Yen Family House before you head over to Xizhou Village to explore the local wares at the market. Later watch a tie-dyeing demonstration and take a cruise on tranquil Erhai Lake.



### Physical Description

Sightseeing around Dali's old quarter and surrounding countryside is relaxed, involving approximately three hours on foot. You will be required to get on and off the boat at Erhai Lake.

### Destination Information

**Xizhou Village** - Located just north of Dali, the Xizhou Village was once a military stronghold and flourished during the Ming Dynasty. Surrounded by rice paddies and shadowed by Cangshan Mountain, Xizhou is not only famous historically but is a great place to shop and browse for Bai minority people wares and delicious fares.

**Erhai Lake** - The centrepiece of Dali, Erhai Lake is a beautiful oasis of striking blue waters, temple islands and cormorant fishermen. Erhai literally means 'ear sea' and is named so due to the ear shape of the lake. A cruise on the lake is the best way to fully appreciate this natural wonder.

### Day 16: Dali – Kunming to Guilin

#### Day Outline

Transfer back to Kunming and fly to the attractive southern city of Guilin.

### Physical Description

Transfer time from Dali to Kunming is approximately five hours and the flight duration from Kunming to Guilin is 1.5 hours. Transfer to your hotel in Guilin (approximately one hour) and check-in for an overnight stay.

### Destination Information

**Guilin** - Is one of China's most stunning and panoramic cities and was founded during the reign of the Qin Dynasty. It is renowned for the unique karst mountain beauty that encloses the city. Guilin developed as a trading town due to the building of the Ling Canal which links the important Pearl and Yangtze River systems.

### Day 17: Guilin to Yangshuo

#### Day Outline

Take a relaxed cruise along the Li River to the charming village of Yangshuo where you will spend two nights. Around every river bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged peaks loom over rural scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalos and local fishermen. In Yangshuo, visit the local markets. **NB: You will be staying in Yangshuo for two nights before returning to Guilin airport. Your main luggage will be transferred by coach while you cruise on the Li River. Please ensure you carry your medication and valuables in your hand luggage for the day as you will not have access to your main luggage until late afternoon.**

### Physical Description

You will take a three hour leisurely cruise from Guilin to the small town of Yangshuo. These are small cruise boats usually holding approximately 100 passengers; with an enclosed dining area on the lower deck and an open viewing area on the upper deck. As it is so popular, there are generally many boats at the docks – please be

reassured that the cruise itself will be scenic and relaxing as the boats cruise past unspoilt countryside. Usually the boats depart at 9am, from the dock located a one hour drive from your hotel. However when the river level is low they depart from further downstream which would mean a longer drive and an earlier check-out from your hotel. Disembarking from the cruise, your National Escort/Local Guide will walk with you to your hotel, approximately a 15 minute walk from the river. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost.

### Destination Information

**Li River Cruise** - Joining the twin beauty spots of Guilin and Yangshuo, the Li River offers a leisurely tour through some of the area's most stunning and dramatic scenery. Pass karst mountain landscapes and unhurried cormorant fishermen as you sail along on your river cruise ship.

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

### Day 18: Yangshuo

#### Day Outline

Spend the morning exploring the green countryside of Yangshuo. Walk by lush paddy fields and slow-moving water buffalos as you admire the panoramic mountain scenery that so epitomises the area. This afternoon is at leisure. There are many activities to take part in including cycling, rafting (at your own expense) and walking. This evening see a spectacular cormorant fishermen demonstration.

### Physical Description

Spend the morning touring around Yangshuo's beautiful countryside. The afternoon is at leisure and there are many activities available (at your own expense) including cycling, rafting and walking or you may choose to relax in the town. In the evening see cormorant fishermen. **For the Cormorant Fishing, if it is raining and the water levels are raised, customers may view the show from the river banks instead or the show may even be cancelled.**

### Destination Information

**Cormorant Fishermen Show** - This evening watch as the Yangshuo fishermen demonstrate the ancient technique of using cormorant birds to catch fish from the Li River. By tying a piece of string around the neck of the cormorants, the bird is unable to swallow the fish, allowing the fishermen to remove them. The cormorant doesn't lose out though, usually after every ten fish caught; the fishermen will reward his business partner to a piece of his catch.

### Day 19: Yangshuo – Guilin to Hangzhou

#### Day Outline

Drive back to Guilin and visit the Reed Flute Caves this morning to admire the stunning colours of the stalagmites and stalactites. Afterwards take a tour of the South China



Pearl Museum where you will have the opportunity to buy these precious jewels. Fly to Hangzhou.

#### Physical Description

Take a short walk through the Reed Flute Caves. It usually takes about one hour to complete the route, and is very cool inside. Please note that the ground may be slippery. Transfer to the airport for your afternoon flight to Hangzhou (two hours in duration). Transfer to your hotel and check-in for two nights.

#### Destination Information

**Reed Flute Cave** - Named so because of the clumps of slender reed once commonly found at the entrance to the caves which was also used to make flutes, the Reed Flute Caves houses a grotto of multi-coloured stalactites and stalagmites.

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

**Hangzhou** - As the southern terminus of the Grand Canal, Hangzhou has long played a leading part not just as a trade port but also as a place for relaxation and contemplation. Most famous is the city's stunning West Lake which sits peacefully amongst green hill and the city itself.

#### Day 20: Hangzhou

##### Day Outline

A restful morning is spent wandering around the Temple of Inspired Seclusion, one of China's most renowned Buddhist temples. Visit the Former Residence of Huxueyan before cruising on Hangzhou's West Lake and admiring the gardens, pagodas and old bridges on its shores.

##### Physical Description

The Temple of Inspired Seclusion (Lingyin Temple) is one of the largest and most significant temples in southern China so it can get crowded with domestic tourists, particularly during weekends and holidays. There will be approximately two hours sightseeing on foot at this site. Later cruise on West Lake, this will involve getting on and off the boat.

##### Destination Information

**Temple of Inspired Seclusion** - The most famous Buddhist Temple in Hangzhou, the Temple of Inspired Seclusion dates back to the 4th century during the Eastern Jin Dynasty when founded by an Indian monk named Hui Li. Though it has been destroyed and repressed throughout time due to war, religion and disrepair, the temple today is an important place of pilgrimage for followers of the Buddhist religion and a centre for tourism.

**The Former Residence of Huxueyan** - The founder of Huqingyutang Pharmacy and the first Mandarin billionaire of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Hu Xueyan built this outstanding collection of pavilions and gardens surrounding a palatial main building.

**West Lake** - The central inspiration of Chinese garden style and a muse to the Chinese literature for centuries, Hangzhou's West Lake epitomizes China's natural charm, refinement and beauty. Laced with temples and pagodas, Hangzhou's West Lake is a source of Buddhist architecture and traditional Chinese ideologies.

#### Day 21: Hangzhou to Suzhou

##### Day Outline

Take a morning stroll through the local markets and visit the Meijiawu tea plantation before transferring to the garden city of Suzhou.

##### Physical Description

There will be light sightseeing this morning around the local markets in Hangzhou and at the tea plantation. Transfer from Hangzhou to Suzhou will be approximately four hours.

##### Destination Information

**Meijiawu Tea** - Has long played an important role in China. At Meijiawu Village, enjoy the opportunity to see how tea is cultivated and sample a cup of local tea yourself.

**Suzhou** - Situated on the lower reaches of the Yangtze and close to Shanghai, Suzhou may be a modern city at first glance, but venture into the old centre and you'll find a world of meticulously designed classical gardens, cobbled streets and picturesque waterways.

#### Day 22: Suzhou

##### Day Outline

Renowned for its gardens, visit one of its most famous this morning with a tour of the Humble Administrator's Garden, typical of the Chinese idea of Fengshui. Cruise on the Grand Canal, the longest in the world, and visit a local silk mill to gain an understanding of the silk-making process.

##### Physical Description

Spend approximately two hours on foot exploring the Humble Administrator's Garden. You will need to be able to get on and off the boat on the Grand Canal.

##### Destination Information

**Humble Administrator's Garden** - Part of the UNESCO World Heritage site of classical gardens in Suzhou, the Humble Administrator's Garden is the largest and is seen as one of the most iconic and beautiful in the area. Dating back to 1509, the Humble Administrator's Garden was designed by the Ming Dynasty civil servant, Wang Xianchen, as a private garden residence.

**Grand Canal** - China's Grand Canal is the longest artificial waterway in the world with some sections dating back to the 5th century BC. The section that passes through Suzhou makes for an interesting journey as the banks are lined with places of historical interest and crossed by elegant bridges.

**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 transported this product across Asia and Europe.

### **Day 23: Suzhou to Shanghai**

#### **Day Outline**

Transfer to Shanghai. This afternoon watch parents search for suitable suitors for their children at Matchmaker's Corner in People's Square. This evening dine on a delicious Shanghainese dinner.

#### **Physical Description**

Travel to Shanghai by road (approximately two hours). Upon arrival explore the People's Square which involves approximately one hour on foot. Dinner this evening will be of traditional Shanghai cuisine.

#### **Destination Information**

**Shanghai** - Once known as the 'Paris of the East', Shanghai is now one of Asia's most influential cities. Prior to communist arrival in 1949, Shanghai was a city with European-style mansions and was the most important trading port in Asia. Today it presents a blend of cultures; the modern and the traditional, along with the European and oriental. Modern skyscrapers intermingle with 1920s 'shikumen' buildings. This combination is what attracts millions of visitors each year.

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

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

### **Day 24: Shanghai**

#### **Day Outline**

Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Garden and the atmospheric alleys of the Old Town. Explore the ancient treasures of the Shanghai Museum and admire the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the Bund. This evening cruise on the mighty Huangpu River for panoramic night vistas of the Shanghai skyline.

#### **Physical Description**

Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the centre of Shanghai and will include 3-4 hours on foot. Be mindful of your valuables while in the Old Town and at the wharf of your Huangpu River cruise as these areas tend to

get crowded. You will be required to get on and off the boat on the Huangpu River cruise.

#### **Destination Information**

**Old Town and Yu Gardens** - The Old Town of Shanghai, where cobbled streets are lined with traditional shops selling herbal medicines, handicrafts, Chinese tea and a variety of tantalising snacks, is the original centre of Shanghai and for decades was the seat of Chinese authority in Shanghai. The Yu Gardens is seen as one of the most perfect examples of Chinese garden style. Built by the Ming-era governor, Pan Yunduan, as a retirement gift for his father, the Yu Gardens is home to exquisite jade rock, goldfish-filled ponds and stunning, tranquil pavilions.

**Shanghai Museum** - One of the most esteemed and acclaimed museums in China, the Shanghai Museum is a comprehensive collection of the Middle Kingdom's millennia old history. Sprawled over five floors, one could spend half, if not a full day in this museum. The shape of the museum was designed to resemble a Chinese vessel, known as a Ding.

**The Bund** - Recognised as Shanghai's former 'Wall Street', the Bund is home to an impressive collection of buildings from the early trade houses of the 1850s to the glamorous Art Deco modernism of the 1920s. Originally the home of the foreign population of Shanghai, the Bund's architecture has inherited western influence and is a stark contrast to the Pudong skyline, sitting across the Huangpu River.

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

### **Day 25: Depart Shanghai**

#### **Day Outline**

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to the airport, according to the departure time of your international flight. ***Late check-out is not included in our China group tours. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day in China, please contact our reservations department who can confirm additional pricing and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.***

### **Day 26: Arrive Australia**

#### **Day Outline**

Arrive home today.

## **Tour Profile**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Personal Expense** - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of AUD\$250 per week should be sufficient; however for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

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

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

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

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

**Transport: Train** - You will take an overnight train journey during your 'Grand Tour of China' tour. The overnight train journey is in first-class soft sleeper compartments where each cabin consists of four shared berths. Wendy Wu Tours cannot always guarantee you will be only sharing with Wendy Wu Tours customers and you could be sharing a berth with members of other

tour groups or local Chinese passengers. Facilities on board are basic with both western-style and Asian-style toilets. **Please note that you may find yourself carrying your luggage over numerous train tracks to reach your platform and carriage because of the layout of train stations.**

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

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

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

**Before You Leave** - 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.

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

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

Yangtze River Cruise operators have introduced a compulsory service levy of RMB150 per person (approximately AUD\$30 per person) which is to be paid immediately upon boarding the cruise vessel. For the purposes of your overall cost, this has been calculated into your AUD/USD tipping amount as reflected on your invoice.

**After your booking** - Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately two weeks prior to departure, and will include a travel wallet, a travel guide (which includes a suggested phrase book) and packing list, along with your final itinerary and international e-tickets.

**Updated: 12 April 2016**