



## Tour Dossier

### Grand Yangtze

### Classic Tour | 18 Days | Comfortable 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 Yangtze is a Comfortable Paced tour;** this has been defined in our brochure as the easiest pace of tour which Wendy Wu Tours offers. Anyone with a reasonable 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.

While you will encounter extensive sightseeing on foot and climbing of stairs and in/out of boats throughout the tour, these programmes are comfortably operated to appeal to most people. Generally these tours are shorter in duration and visit the mainstream tourist attractions.

#### **Tour highlights:**

On our Grand Yangtze itinerary, you will visit **Shanghai, Yangtze River, Chengdu, Xian and Beijing.**

- **Shanghai** – Exploration of China's most cosmopolitan city
- **Yangtze River** – Spectacular scenery of the Three Gorges
- **Chengdu** – Home to the Giant Pandas
- **Xian** – The archaeological marvel of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses
- **Beijing** – The Great Wall, Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square

## **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 Yangtze 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.

**Joining Your Tour** - The tour is 18 days in duration including international flights. Travellers booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the starting point. Please refer to your Final Itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure. Join the tour on Day 1 in Shanghai and end the tour on Day 17 in Beijing.

### **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. **Yangtze River.** Please note that all sections of the itinerary for the Yangtze River Cruise are especially subject to change. The movement of each vessel along the Yangtze is regulated by the Government's Yangtze River Authority (YRA). The river's rapid flow, the narrowness of the gorges and the recent increase in numbers of passengers means that the timetables are under some pressure. The YRA allocates times for access to mooring points, embarkation and disembarkation at docks and passage through the gorges. This means that the captain of each cruise ship is unable to confirm a final itinerary until shortly before departure (usually 24 hours prior). This can affect both the time and location where you embark and disembark your cruise ship. Your National Escort/Local Guide will explain any such changes to you as soon as they are informed by the cruise operator.

**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 Yangtze

### Day 1: Australia to Shanghai

#### Day Outline

Fly to the exuberant city of Shanghai, called 'the Paris of the East'. *Perth passengers may depart one day earlier.*

#### Physical Description

You will be met at Pudong (or Hongqiao) Airport in the Arrivals Hall by your Local Guide and/or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer (one hour drive) to your hotel. A tour introduction will be held in the hotel either this evening or the next. Food and drinks will not be served at this meeting, it is simply an opportunity for your group to meet and learn more about travelling in China. ***In the event of flight delays or changes to arrival times, please see the previous page for details as to what to do in this circumstance.***

#### Destination Information

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

### Day 2: Shanghai

#### Day Outline

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

#### Physical Description

Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the centre of the city including 4-5 hours on foot. Be mindful of your valuables while in the Old Town and the wharf for your Huangpu River cruise as it is very crowded.

#### Destination Information

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

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

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

**Silk Museum** - Is an educational journey through the production of silk, one of China's most famous and luxurious materials. Learn about the use of silkworms and silk moths in its production; the manufacturing process; as well as silk's journey along the Silk Road which transported this product across Asia and Europe.

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

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

### Day 3: Yangtze River Cruise

#### Day Outline

Board your Yangtze River cruise ship to begin an eight night cruise to Chongqing.

#### Physical Description

Transfer one hour to the wharf to check into your Victoria Cruises ship for the next eight nights. Embarkation is prior to 11:00. The ship will depart from the wharf in the early afternoon. ***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 4: Yangtze River Cruise

##### Day Outline

Today enjoy a half day excursion to historical Nanjing, China's capital under six dynasties. Visit the Dr Sun Yat Sen Memorial.

##### Physical Description

The shore excursion in Nanjing will be approximately four hours in length and will involve light sightseeing and leisurely walking. **Please note: if for some reason your cruise is unable to dock at Nanjing you will visit Yangzhou instead.**

#### Destination Information

**Nanjing** - Recognised as one of the four ancient capitals of China and has been China's capital for several periods of its extensive history. Literally meaning 'southern capital', Nanjing is located on the Yangtze River Delta and has played a pivotal role in the nation's history. Still enclosed by a magnificent city wall, Nanjing is a city bursting with activity and culture.

#### Day 5: Yangtze River Cruise

##### Day Outline

Visit one of the four sacred mountains of Chinese Buddhism, Mt Jiuhua is known for its beautiful ridges and peaks, winding paths, fountains, pine trees, waterfalls, streams and temples. Return to the ship this afternoon.

##### Physical Description

You will spend approximately 4-5 hours at Mt Jiuhua which may involve some length of walking.

#### Destination Information

**Mt Jiuhua** - Translating literally as the 'Nine Glorious Mountains', Mt Jiuhua is one of the four sacred mountains of Chinese Buddhism and is dotted with shrines and temples, mostly dedicated to the Bodhisattva Ksitigarbha.

#### Day 6: Yangtze River Cruise

##### Day Outline

Take a shore excursion to the characterful city of Wuhan, the capital of Hubei Province, where you will take a tour of the Hubei Provincial Museum.

#### Physical Description

Your excursion to Wuhan will be approximately four hours in length and will include easy sightseeing in central Wuhan. **The Hubei Provincial Museum is closed on Monday due to maintenance. If this day of touring falls on a Monday, your touring in Hubei will be re-arranged so that the Hubei Provincial Museum is visited on an alternative day.**

#### Destination Information

**Wuhan** - Made up of three ancient cities, Wuhan is a hub for commerce and industry, and played the role as capital during the war. The city sits elegantly on the bends of the Yangtze River and the city is home to some beautiful sights, including the tranquil Yellow Crane Tower and the informative Hubei Provincial Museum.

#### Day 7: Yangtze River Cruise

##### Day Outline

Continue cruising towards Yichang. There will be no shore excursions today.

#### 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 ship 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 Qutang and Wu 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 ancient 'ghost city' of Fengdu.

##### Physical Description

Shore excursion to Fengdu 'ghost city' on the north bank of the Yangtze River (two hours off ship).

Disembark via a pontoon and walkway. There is a free passenger 'cart' which takes you up to the middle area of the temple complex (this is a temporary measure until the construction of an elevator from the port to Fengdu is complete). It can carry up to 10-12 people at a time and takes about 3-5 minutes each way. You will then need to walk the rest of the way up. There are around 150-200 steps to climb without handrails at Fengdu. ***Please note: if for some reason your cruise is unable to visit Fengdu 'ghost city' you will visit Shibaozhai Temple instead.***

#### Destination Information

**Fengdu** - The original supposedly haunted 'ghost town', is themed on numerous legends and folktales and is home to 'diyu' architecture – a Chinese mythological style based on the underworld. The town of Fengdu was relocated due to the Three Gorges Dam Project and sits on a steep hill above the previous location.

#### 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. This afternoon drive to Chengdu and enjoy a Sichuan meal.

##### Physical Description

Check-out of cabins early this morning and disembark in Chongqing. Enjoy some light sightseeing in Ciqikou before you drive 4-5 hours to Chengdu, arriving in the late afternoon.

#### 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 a definitely a must visit on any trip to China.

**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 Xian

##### Day Outline

Today we will visit China's most famous resident, the Giant Panda. Visit the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda where you can learn about China's celebrated bear. See these lovable creatures in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Visit the Shu Brocade Embroidery Museum and fly to Xian. This evening dine on delicious Shui Jiao dumplings and watch a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

##### 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 start and end of each day. Sightseeing involves 1.5 hrs on foot. There are electric carts offered by private vendors and can be organised at your cost. Later you will transfer (30 minute drive) to the airport for your flight to Xian (flight duration one hour and 20 minutes). Upon arrival, you will transfer one hour to your hotel for check-in. ***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

**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.

**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 further how these richly decorative fabrics are created and take the opportunity to purchase a piece yourself.

**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.

**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 13: Xian

#### Day Outline

After their fortuitous discovery in the 1970s, the Terracotta Army of China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors ever since. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of these life sized warriors. Visit the workshop of the craftsmen who recreate Terracotta Warriors in the style of their ancient counterparts. Watch the skilled production process and choose your own warrior to take home. Take an afternoon stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city wall that encloses Xian's Old Town.

#### Physical Description

The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses is located more than a 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 visit the ancient 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 14: Xian to Beijing

#### Day Outline

A relaxed morning includes time to walk through the atmospheric Muslim Quarter which is lined with Islamic food stalls. Later fly to Beijing, China's capital city.

#### Physical Description

This morning have a leisurely walk through the Muslim Quarters. ***Please be mindful of your valuables in the Muslim Quarter, due to large crowds.*** This afternoon, you will transfer to the airport for your flight to Beijing (flight duration two hours). Transfer approximately one hour to your hotel for a three night stay.

#### Destination Information

**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.

**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 15: Beijing

#### Day Outline

Walk across the lengths of Tiananmen Square and into the magnificent Forbidden City. Later soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven where you can take part in an outdoor dance class. This evening watch a thrilling Chinese acrobatic show.

#### Physical Description

Sightseeing in central Beijing involves 3-4 hours sightseeing on foot during the morning to see Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. This afternoon, transfer to the Temple of Heaven where sightseeing involves one hour on foot. ***The Forbidden City is closed on Mondays due to maintenance. If this day of touring falls on a Monday, your touring in Beijing will be re-arranged so that the Forbidden City is visited on an alternative day. Please remember to bring your passport with you when visiting the Forbidden City for a security check.***

#### Destination Information

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

**Forbidden City** - The sacred centre of the Chinese empire for 500 years and home to the Ming and Qing dynasties,

the Forbidden City is a vast complex of over 900 buildings and covers an area of 180 acres. Since 1987, the Forbidden City has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site and its palatial architectural style has influenced many imperial buildings throughout Asia.

**Temple of Heaven** - Is one of the most perfect examples of Ming architecture set in amongst a 267 hectare park with four gates set at each point of a compass. The Temple of Heaven was created as a place of worship for the emperors, who would ask for prosperity, longevity and good harvest for the people. Walking through the park 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.

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

#### **Day 16: 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 the Summer Palace. This evening, savour Beijing's best known delicacy – Peking Duck.

##### **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. After lunch, drive 1.5 hrs to the Summer Palace in the 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.

**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 17: Depart Beijing**

##### **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 18: 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 an eight night cruise up the Yangtze River. Your cabin on your Yangtze River cruise ship will have private bathroom and balcony.

**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 RMB300 per person (approximately AUD\$66 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**