



NEW HORIZONS OF CHINA

Classic | 17 Days | Physical Level 2

Beijing – Xian – Zhangjiajie – Yangtze River Cruise – Chongqing

Venture through China's epic history, from the ancient Terracotta Warriors to the futuristic 'cyberpunk' city of Chongqing. Taking in the sights of Beijing and Xian, cruising the Yangtze River, visiting giant pandas and savouring the extraordinary nature of Zhangjiajie, you'll see China at its most iconic but the tour ends with a glimpse of new horizons in Chongqing, where the mind-bending urban landscape waits to blow you away.

- Uncover the ancient treasures of Beijing
- Walk along the legendary Great Wall of China
- Discover the spectacular Terracotta Warriors
- Cruise through the majestic gorges of the Yangtze River
- Take an exhilarating walk along the world's highest glass bridge in Zhangjiajie
- Experience the futuristic energy of Chongqing

TOUR MAP



NEW HORIZONS OF CHINA TOUR INCLUSIONS:

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

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

CLASSIC TOURS:

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

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique charm of each destination.

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

- On several days there will be sightseeing on foot for extended periods of time
- On the Great Wall of China in Beijing, some of the walking may be at more of an incline
- On the Yangtze River Cruise and the day trips arranged from onboard, you will be required to get on and off boats without assistance
- In Zhangjiajie there are periods of walking up and down stone steps and walkways as well as walking across a glass bridge, getting on and off escalators and in and out of cable cars.

Our National Escort is dedicated to providing a high level of service and support throughout your journey. However, their primary role is to manage the daily aspects of the tour. They are unable to offer extensive personal physical assistance. We kindly ask our travellers to be prepared for the physical aspects of the tour to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 17 days in duration including international flights. Join the tour on Day 1 in Beijing and end the tour on Day 16 in Chongqing.

Travellers booked on a ‘Land Only’ package, the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight information to our reservations team.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It’s our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we’ll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY**Day 1: Fly to Beijing**

Meals: D

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

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



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

Destination Information

Beijing – 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. It has been the heart of politics and society throughout its long history. The ancient monuments, stories of days gone by, and the dynamic, modern city Beijing has become today, make it a destination not to be missed.

Day 2: Beijing

Meals: B, L, D

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



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

Destination Information

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

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

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

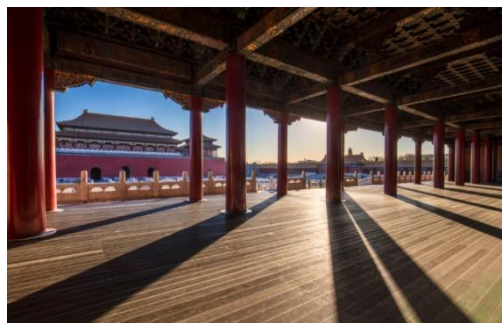
Day 3: Beijing

Meals: B, L, D

Walk through Tiananmen Square and into the magnificent Forbidden City. Later, wander through the warren-like hutongs, then enjoy a Peking Duck dinner.

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

Please note: The Forbidden City is closed on Mondays. If this day of touring falls on a Monday, your touring in Beijing will be switched round so that the Forbidden City is visited on an alternative day.



In an effort to preserve the Forbidden City, the number of entry tickets per day has been significantly reduced. Whilst every effort will be made to obtain the tickets, should this not be possible, then you will instead visit the Forbidden City from the outside and visit the nearby Prince Kung’s Palace Museum.

Destination Information

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

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

Hutongs – The Mongol rulers of Beijing established this style of housing in the 13th century as tenancy for the growing population of the city. Hutongs were designed to reflect the Chinese system of Feng Shui with 4 sides of buildings enclosing together to make a courtyard in the middle, known as Siheyuan.

Peking duck – A favourite of the Emperor's court and the upper-class elite during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), Peking duck quickly spread throughout Chinese society to become a national favourite and a symbol of China.

Day 4: Beijing – Xian

Meals: B, L, D

This morning transfer to the train station and board your bullet train to Xian, with a journey time of 5-hours.

Wander through the Muslim Quarter and later enjoy a delicious dinner of traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

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

**Destination Information**

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

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

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

Day 5: Xian

Meals: B, L, D

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



After this, visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Workshop to see smaller models of the warriors being made.

Later, stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town. Your guide will give you time to explore the ancient city walls at your own pace.

Stop by a local brewery for a refreshing beer tasting, where you can learn about the brewing process and sample a selection of beers (non-alcoholic drinks are available).

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

Destination Information

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

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

Ancient City 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 spot and layout gives visitors a bird's eye view over this fantastic city. Follow the locals' example and take a bike to get an ever more spectacular experience.

Day 6: Xian – Zhangjiajie

Meals: B, L, D

Fly south to the breathtaking landscapes of Zhangjiajie, where soaring sandstone pillars and lush forests await.



Destination Information

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

Day 7: Zhangjiajie

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy a full day of exploring Zhangjiajie National Park. Begin at the Yuanjiajie Scenic Area, and ride the remarkable Bailong glass elevator, the highest and fastest outdoor elevator in the world. Embedded into the mountain, the elevator soars up the mountain side to a towering height of 326 metres in as little as two minutes!



This impressive elevator will transport you to Mihun Stage, where you will enjoy amazing views of the majestic peaks, including the 'First Bridge under the Sun' and Hallelujah Mountain. Continue to Emperor Mountain and visit Helong Park before taking a cable car down. End the day at Jinbian Stream.

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

Destination Information

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

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

Day 8: Zhangjiajie

Meals: B, L, D

Soar up the heights of Tianmen Mountain in the world's longest cable car, a 7-kilometre journey taking approximately 40-minutes. Atop the mountain, marvel at Tianmen Cave, nicknamed 'Heaven's Door', standing proudly at the top of 999 steep steps.



Next, take a thrilling walk along a glass skywalk, aptly named the "Walk of Faith" as though you're walking on air. If time permits, you may also walk across the Cliff-Hanging Walkway or Coiled Dragon Cliff.

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

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

Please note: The 999 step walk up to Tianmen Cave and the glass skywalk is optional. The steps can take around 40 – 60 minutes. Alternatively, there is an escalator on the other side of the mountain leading up to Tianmen Cave. There is also a small platform at the foot of the steps where you can soak up the spectacular views and wait for the group.

After Hours Experience: For those seeking extra excitement this evening, there is a Fairy Fox Outdoor Music & Dancing Show (time and weather permitting, payable locally), a musical drama of a Chinese tale told against the stage backdrop of the mountains.

Destination Information

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

Day 9: Zhangjiajie – Yichang – Yangtze River Cruise

Meals: B, L, D

Drive 4-hours to Maoping docks and board your cruise ship which will take you on an amazing journey up China’s Yangtze River for the next 4-nights.

Cruise Information

The cruise includes one daily shore excursion along with various onboard activities and entertainment. Additional shore excursions (approx. RMB280 per person) are available, payable onboard, subject to local conditions. Please consult your guide about physical requirements, as some ports may involve many steps.



The Yangtze River cruise section of your itinerary will not be confirmed by the cruise operators until after you commence as it is subject to local river conditions and water levels. Your 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. A detailed itinerary will be handed out on the vessel each day.

If you don’t take part in a shore excursion but wish to disembark, a port tax (approx. RMB250 per person) applies, though disembarkation may not always be possible due to security reasons.

Please be aware that embarking and disembarking the cruise ship may involve several steps, especially at low tide. Notify us in advance if this may be an issue.

There are amenities package (starting from Day 2), deck and cabin upgrades available to pre-book. Please enquire with our Reservations team.

Day 10: Yangtze River Cruise

Meals: B, L, D

Visit the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydroelectric dam, and marvel at this incredible feat of engineering. Disembark the ship and take a scenic 45-minute drive (please note that the coach is not permitted to take photo stops) to the viewing area above the ship locks, where you will be able to appreciate the immense scale of this monumental project. Explore a small museum and a lookout point for further insight into its construction and impact on the region. This excursion includes approximately one hour of walking. Return to the ship and cruise through Xiling Gorge, the longest and deepest of the Three Gorges.



Additional shore excursions may include the Three Gorges Dam Lift, visit to the Tribe of the Three Gorges or to the Hometown of Qu Yuan.

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 11: Yangtze River Cruise

Meals: B, L, D

Transfer to smaller vessels for a relaxing 1.5-hour excursion through the Shennong Stream gorges. Though narrower than the Three Gorges, these dramatic waterways offer equally as impressive scenery. There is no walking involved on this shore excursion, however you will need to get on and off the boat without assistance. Later, as the cruise ship continues upstream, prepare for breathtaking vistas as you pass through Wu and Qutang gorges. Wu Gorge is known for its quiet beauty, with forest-covered mountains and towering cliffs, while Qutang Gorge, the shortest and narrowest, captivates with its sheer rock faces and dramatic landscapes.



Depending on local river conditions, you may travel along the gorges of Goddess Stream instead of Shennong Stream.

Additional shore excursions may include White Emperor City and a "Return to the Three Gorges" show..

Destination Information

Shennong Stream – Shennong Stream flows from north to south through stunning deep gorges finally merging with the Yangtze to the east of the mouth of Wu Gorge. The landscape on both banks of this crystal-clear stream is unique and tranquil.

Day 12: Yangtze River Cruise

Meals: B, L, D

Continue cruising along the mighty Yangtze River. Relax onboard or disembark to explore the Xiaoguanshan Folk Culture Park, a reconstructed park featuring ancestral homes, the historic Tianfo Temple, and Huichuan Gate, all rescued from the submerged areas of the Three Gorges Dam. Sightseeing is leisurely on foot, taking approximately 1-2 hours.



Depending on local river conditions and the cruise programme, you may visit Shibaozhai or Mt Shuanggui instead. Additional shore excursions may include Fengdu's "Ghost City".

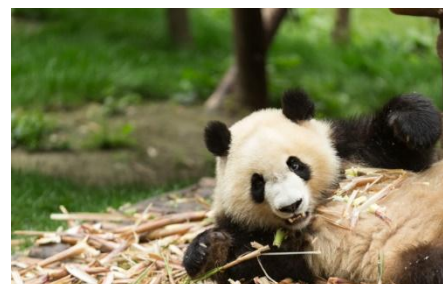
Destination Information

Xiaoguanshan Folk Culture Park – Spanning 2,001 square meters, the park features the historic homes of the Qin, Zhou, Wang, and Lu families, as well as the ancient Tianfo Temple and Huichuan Gate, all originally located in the Three Gorges Dam's submerged areas of Gaojia and Mingshan towns. These valuable structures were painstakingly dismantled, with each piece meticulously numbered, and then transported to Xiaoguanshan. Over the course of five years, from 2002 to 2007, they were carefully reconstructed to preserve their historical integrity.

Day 13: Disembark in Chongqing

Meals: B, L, D

Disembark from your cruise vessel in Chongqing. Start the day with a visit to Chongqing Zoo's Panda House. Watch giant pandas feed, climb and play, while learning about their unique behaviours and the zoo's long-standing role in giant panda breeding and conservation programmes that support the future of this vulnerable species.



Later, enjoy a leisurely afternoon unwinding in the soothing waters of a local hot spring resort. Choose from 53 pools of varying temperatures, some infused with Chinese teas and oils. Included in your visit are lockers with electronic wristbands, showers, hairdryers, towels, cover ups, and waterproof bags. Water and specialty teas are provided throughout the resort. Swimwear and treatments available for an extra cost (approx. 99 RMB for 30-minute massage).

Alternatively, enjoy a guided walk and free time in the lively Jiefangbei Pedestrian Street, the heart of downtown Chongqing, with many shops, cafés and food stalls to wander through.

Please note – If low water levels prevent sailing all the way to Chongqing, the ship may dock at Fengdu instead, with a transfer drive of approximately 2 hours to the city.

Destination Information

Chongqing – A city perched on the steep hills overlooking the confluence of the Jialing and the Yangtze Rivers. Known for its incredible night lights, drone shows, hotpot culture, and buzzing nightlife, it's a city that perfectly captures the spirit of contemporary China.

In 2012, Chongqing was awarded the brand title of "The World Hot Spring Capital" by the World Federation of Hydrotherapy and Climatotherapy.

Chongqing Zoo – The Panda House offers the opportunity to observe these charismatic animals up close while learning about their behaviour and the zoo's important contribution to giant panda breeding, research and conservation.

Jiefangbei Pedestrian Street – The bustling heart of downtown Chongqing, Jiefangbei is packed with shops, restaurants, and cafés. Centered on the iconic Liberation Monument, it's alive day and night with street performers, local culture, and the vibrant energy of the city.

Day 14: Chongqing

Meals: B, L, D

Travel approximately 3 hours by road to Dazhu, home to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Dazhu Rock Carvings. Here, you will find thousands of Buddhist, Taoist and Confucianist idols and symbols carved into rock faces over 70 sites. Made between the 9th and 13th centuries, they are some of the best preserved in China.



Return to Chongqing and enjoy some time at leisure.

This evening, head to a waterfront location to watch Chongqing's spectacular Saturday night drone show. Over 5,000 drones light up the sky in a dazzling display above the waterfront area where the Yangtze and Jialing rivers converge, creating an unforgettable visual experience.

Please note, the show may be cancelled due to poor weather or other unforeseen circumstances, as advised by the Chongqing local authorities.

Destination Information

Dazu Rock Carvings – Known for their grand scale and beauty, the exceptional UNESCO World Heritage listed Dazhu Rock Carvings cover a diverse range of subject matter and shed light on everyday life in China in the 9th – 13th centuries.

Glamorous Chongqing Drone Light Show – Held most Saturday evenings around 9pm at the confluence of the Yangtze and Jialing Rivers, the "Glamorous Chongqing" drone show features thousands of drones flying in coordinated patterns to create large-scale images above the city.

Day 15: Chongqing

Meals: B

Start the day exploring the charming old quarter of Ciqikou, where narrow alleyways are lined with traditional teahouses, craft shops and tempting local snacks. Next, stop by Liziba Intersection, where metro trains famously glide straight through a residential high-rise.



Enjoy some time at leisure this afternoon then head out for a final farewell dinner and scenic river cruise along the Yangtze and Jialing Rivers. Watch as Chongqing comes alive after dark, with its glittering skyline and the beautifully illuminated Hongya Cave.

Destination Information:

Ciqikou – An ancient town on the banks of the Jialing River, Ciqikou was once a bustling porcelain production hub during the Ming and Qing dynasties. Today, its narrow lanes are lined with teahouses, snack stalls, and craft shops.

Chongqing Two Rivers – The confluence of the Yangtze and Jialing Rivers forms the heart of Chongqing and has long been central to the city's development as a major inland port and commercial centre. Framed by steep hills and a dense skyline, the two rivers define Chongqing's distinctive geography and create one of the most recognisable urban landscapes in China.

Days 16 - 17: Depart Chongqing

Meals: B

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to Chongqing Airport, according to the departure time of your international flight.

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



CHINA TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

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

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

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

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

INSURANCE:

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

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

GROUP SIZE:

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

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

EATING IN CHINA:

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

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

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

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

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

ACCOMMODATION:

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

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

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

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

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

LUGGAGE:

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

TRANSPORT:

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

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

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

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

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

AFTER-HOURS EXPERIENCES:

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

VICTORIA CRUISE AMENITIES PACKAGES:

If you choose to add an amenities package to your Yangtze Cruise, this will include the following:

- Cabin on higher deck
- Complimentary morning coffee and tea service
- Welcome Fruit Plate
- Nightly turn down service with printed Daily Itinerary
- Diet soda included for lunch and dinner
- Dining selection from two dining rooms (choice of dining room to be made at the beginning of the voyage)
- Hot & Cold soft drinks available daily in Executive Lounge (Pepsi, Sprite, Juice, Coffee, and Tea)
- Complimentary "Happy Hour" one hour before dinner in the Executive Lounge (including House Wine, Beer, and Soda)
- Complimentary house wine and beer offerings at dinner

SOUVENIRS:

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

DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA:

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

TIPPING POLICY:

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

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, then tipping is paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups. Yangtze cruise companies operate a service charge policy and this is paid separately when boarding the vessel.

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

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

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

INTERNET RESTRICTIONS IN CHINA:

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

TRAVEL MONEY IN CHINA:

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

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

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

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

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

Updated July 2026