



# CHINA BY LAND, JAPAN BY SEA WITH ROYAL CARIBBEAN

Classic Cruising Tour | 21 Days | Physical Level 1

BEIJING – PINGYAO – XIAN – CHENGDU – SHANGHAI – KOBE – MT FUJI (SHIMIZU) - TOKYO – SHANGHAI

Reveal the many ancient marvels of China and Japan as you journey by land and sea through the historic cities of Beijing, Pingyao, Xian and Chengdu. Experience the contemporary and bustling cities of Tokyo and Shanghai, as well as coming face to face with the China's favourite bear.

- Uncover the ancient treasures of Beijing
- Walk the cobbled streets and city walls of ancient Pingyao
- Explore the incredible Great Wall of China
- Meet the loveable Giant Pandas
- Face the vast Terracotta Army
- Journey to Japan onboard Royal Caribbean's mighty Spectrum of the Seas
- Marvel at modern Shanghai with a sunset cruise on the Huangpu River

## TOUR MAP



## TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 8 nights Royal Caribbean cruise on Spectrum of the Seas
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated (*if dining onboard throughout*) – 19 breakfasts (B), 18 lunches (L), 19 dinners (D)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees, transportation and transfers pre and post cruise
- English-speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) and Local Guides pre and post cruise
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

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

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

## CLASSIC CRUISING TOURS

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Your tour is fully inclusive before and after the cruise, ensuring that all arrangements, from accommodation to guided sightseeing, are seamlessly taken care of. Throughout the land portions of your journey, you will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and Local Guides, whose expert knowledge and passion will transform your holiday into an extraordinary adventure. While on the cruise, you will enjoy the excellent services and facilities provided by the cruise staff. There will be no Wendy Wu guides or representatives on the cruise.

## PHYSICAL LEVEL

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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.

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

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

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

## JOINING YOUR TOUR

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The tour is 21 days in duration including international flights. Join the tour on Day 1 in Beijing and end the tour on Day 20 in Shanghai.

For travellers booked on a ‘Land and Cruise Only’ package, which omits the inclusion of international flights, the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour or arranging pre/post accommodation through Wendy Wu Tours. Please advise your international flight information to our reservations team.

## ITINERARY CHANGES

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We intend to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours, or as dictated by local conditions. In these circumstances, we will endeavour to make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

This itinerary includes travel by road, air and cruise ship, and timings may be affected by weather, traffic, port operations, sea conditions or other local operational factors. Similarly, while Royal Caribbean Cruise Line will endeavour to follow the published cruise itinerary, port calls, scenic cruising routes and timings may be changed at the discretion of the cruise line due to weather advisories, port traffic, sea conditions, safety considerations or other unforeseeable circumstances.

**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 a local guide and/or your 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.

*Please note: Additional nights before and after your tour can be arranged. Early check-in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservation's consultant.*

**Destination Information**

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

**Day 2: Beijing**

**Meals: B, L, D**

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



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

Sightseeing today will involve approximately 5-6 hours on foot.

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

### **Destination Information**

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

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

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

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

**Day 3: Beijing****Meals: B, L, D**

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



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

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

You will be on your feet for approximately 3-4 hours today.

**Destination Information**

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

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

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

**Day 4: Beijing – Pingyao****Meals: B, L, D**

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

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



Sightseeing today will involve around 2-3 hours on foot.

*Please note: you will need to carry your own luggage off the train in Pingyao.*

**Destination Information**

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

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

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

**Day 5: Pingyao – Xian****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, you will have the chance to enjoy a hands-on Chinese noodle making experience (optional & payable locally) or enjoy some free time before transferring to Pingyao train station. The bullet train journey to the former ancient capital, Xian, will take approx. three hours.

On arrival, transfer to your hotel for check-in. This evening, after dinner at a local restaurant, there will be an optional Tang Everbright City Night Tour (optional & payable locally).



*Please note: you will need to carry your own luggage on to the train in Pingyao.*

**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 cuisine, Xian is a must-see destination.

**Day 6: Xian****Meals: B, L, D**

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



After this, visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Workshop to see smaller models of the warriors being made. Later, stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town. The local guide will give you time to explore the ancient city walls at your own pace. There are options here to hire a bicycle or an electric cart to travel along the length of the wall. These are offered by private vendors and can be organised locally at your own expense.

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

Sightseeing today will involve around 4-5 hours on foot.

**Destination Information**

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

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

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

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

**Day 7: Xian – Chengdu****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, enjoy a stroll around the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter, which are lined with Islamic food stalls. Later, transfer to Xian train station to board the bullet train to Chengdu, a journey of approximately three hours.

On arrival, transfer to your hotel before enjoying an evening of the local specialty, Sichuan hot pot, and a face changing show.

**Destination Information**

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

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

**Day 8: Chengdu****Meals: B, L, D**

Today, see the Giant Pandas at Dujiangyan Panda Base. Located in the forested Sichuanese countryside around one hour’s drive north of Chengdu, Dujiangyan offers refuge to Giant Pandas with the aim to reintroduce them into the wild.

After lunch, take a stroll around People’s Park and visit a teahouse for a cup of delicious Chinese tea.



*There will be the opportunity to volunteer at the Panda base before returning to your hotel and spending the remainder of the day at leisure. Please note this volunteering opportunity is optional, arranged locally, at your own expense and time permitting.*

**Destination Information**

**Dujiangyan Panda Base** – Offering one of the most authentic, spacious and natural settings in the country, Dujiangyan is home to around 20 Giant Pandas.

**People’s Park** – People’s Park is a pleasant respite from urban Chengdu. Here you can see beautiful golden koi, locals dancing and practicing Tai Chi.

**Day 9: Depart Chengdu – Shanghai****Meals: B, L, D**

Check-out after breakfast, and transfer to Chengdu airport to board your 2-hour and 45-minute flight to Shanghai.

On arrival into Shanghai, you will be met by an English-speaking assistant and transferred to your hotel.

Later, admire the magnificent colonial architecture along the Huangpu River with a stroll along the Bund. Finish with a cruise on the mighty Huangpu River for stunning views of the Shanghai skyline.

**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 occidental and oriental. Modern skyscrapers intermingle with 1920s ‘shikumen’ buildings. This combination is what attracts millions of visitors each year.

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

**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.

**Day 10: Embark Royal Caribbean Cruise in Shanghai****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, be met by an English-speaking assistant and transfer from your hotel to the Baoshan cruise port and board your Royal Caribbean cruise ship - Spectrum of the Seas, ready to embark on your journey through Japan.

**Please note:** Your National Escort or local representative will accompany you to the port; however, they will not board the cruise with you.

Check-in and embarkation will be completed with Royal Caribbean Cruise Line staff.



**Day 11: Cruising – At Sea**

**Meals: B, L, D**

Spend today at sea and take the time to recharge before the next adventure.



**Day 12: Cruising – At Sea**

**Meals: B, L, D**

Spend another at sea and take the time to recharge before the next adventure.



**Day 13: Cruising – Kobe****Meals: B, L, D**

Arrive in Kobe, one of the closest ports to Kyoto and Nara. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later for an overnight stay in port.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Kobe** – Rebuilt after the Great Hanshin earthquake in 1995, Kobe is regarded as one of Japan’s most attractive cities. The thriving port city of Kobe is compact, making it easy to explore on foot, yet it is still home to a plethora of culinary delights and a buzzing atmosphere, and recognised for its Kobe beef and Sake breweries.

**Kyoto** – Kyoto was the ancient capital of Japan for approximately 1,000 years until 1867 when it was moved to Tokyo. Many national treasures can be found in Kyoto and in nearby Nara, including old shrines and temples, screen paintings, beautiful gardens, and statues of Buddha.

**Day 14: Cruising – Mt Fuji (Shimizu)****Meals: B, L, D**

Today you will dock in the port of Shimizu, the closest port to Mt Fuji. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Shimizu** – Renowned for being one of the most scenic ports in Japan, the port of Shimizu provides breathe-taking views of Mt Fuji (weather dependent). The port that was once used primarily for exporting tea, is now home to a four storey shopping centre, a number of museums and the Kashi-no-Ichi fish Market.

**Day 15: Cruising – Tokyo****Meals: B, L, D**

Today you will be docked in the striking modern metropolis of Tokyo, Japan's capital. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later for an overnight stay in port.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Tokyo** – One of the world's most cutting-edge capital cities, Tokyo is a city of contrasts, famous for its neon-lit landscape, towering skyscrapers, peaceful shrines and lovingly tended gardens. Although long the political and cultural centre of Japan, Tokyo became the official capital when the Meiji Emperor moved it to Tokyo in 1867.

**Day 16: Cruising – At Sea****Meals: B, L, D**

Spend today at sea, taking time to recharge before the next adventure. Enjoy time at your own leisure.

**Day 17: Cruising – At Sea****Meals: B, L, D**

Spend another day at sea, taking time to recharge before the next adventure. Enjoy a final day at your own leisure, until arriving at Shanghai, your next destination.

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

**Day 18: Disembark Royal Caribbean cruise in Shanghai****Meals: B, L, D**

Cruise into the port of Shanghai, where on arrival you will be met by your new National Escort or local representative.

From here, transfer to your hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure to soak up the local culture of Shanghai and its vibrant atmosphere.



**Day 19: Shanghai****Meals: B, L, D**

Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Garden, the atmospheric alleys of the old town and the Xintiandi area, an affluent pedestrianised eating and shopping district. You will also visit a silk factory where you will follow the age-old silk production process from the cultivation of silkworms up to creating the final piece.

This evening, enjoy a traditional Shanghainese meal before returning back your hotel.



Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the centre of the city with 3-4 hours on foot.

**Destination Information**

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

**Yu Garden** – The Yu Garden 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 Garden is home to exquisite jade rock, koi-filled ponds and stunning, tranquil pavilions.

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

**Days 20-21: Depart Shanghai****Meals: B**

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to Shanghai Pudong or Shanghai Hongqiao Airport, according to the departure time of your international flight. Fly to Australia, arriving home the same or the following day.

*Please note: Only breakfast is included today. Late check-out is not included. If you wish to book a late check-out or additional nights, please contact our reservations department who can confirm additional pricing and arrangements for you, subject to availability at the hotel.*



*Transfers: In the even that your flight departs outside of the majority group departure time, you will be transferred to the airport by a shared coach (not with other Wendy Wu Tours passengers). If you are on a shared coach transfer, you may have to walk for a few minutes to get to the coach.*

**PLEASE INFORM OUR RESERVATIONS TEAM OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING.**

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### VISAS

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A visa is not required for Australian passport holders for entry into Japan for stays up to 90 days.

A visa is not required for Australian passport holders for entry into China for stays up to 30 days.

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

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

Please note, the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items. All information with regards to visas will be updated regularly on our website as we find visa processes are changing on regular basis.

### INSURANCE

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It is a condition of your booking that you are insured for the duration of your trip. We recommend comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, medical requirements, luggage, repatriations and additional expenses. At a minimum, the policy is required to cover medical requirements including medical evacuations / repatriations. The choice of insurer is yours. We strongly suggest you purchase insurance at the time you pay your deposit. This is because cancellation fees and charges are payable from that time.

We may request you to provide evidence that you have taken out and paid for a policy to comply with this condition. If you fail to provide a certificate of currency of insurance within a reasonable time after our request, then this will be deemed a cancellation by you and standard cancellation fees will apply.

### LUGGAGE:

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All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

**On your cruise:** While your cruise may allow for additional luggage, we ask you to adhere to the above restrictions due to airline and touring allowances. Luggage tags can be accessed electronically via your Guest Account (under "View Your Documents") and can be printed in advance. We recommend attaching luggage tags to your bags before arriving at the port. If printing is not possible, tags will be available at the cruise terminal. Ensure your stateroom number is clearly marked on each tag.

It may take a few hours after embarkation for your luggage to be delivered to your stateroom. Likewise, suitcases are collected on the last night of your cruise. To avoid any complications, be sure to bring a small bag such as a backpack for carrying any necessary medication, valuables, important documents and essential items.

## PORTERAGE

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**Pre & Post Cruise:** Please be aware that portorage is not included on our tours in pre & post cruise. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

**Cruise:** If you check your luggage with a porter at the cruise terminal, your checked baggage should be delivered to your stateroom within a few hours of setting sail, provided it is tagged correctly. When disembarking, you will leave your luggage outside your cabin door on the last night of your cruise. Staff will then be able to make arrangements for your luggage, ready for disembarkation early next morning. Please keep any medication, valuables, travel documents and essential overnight items with you in a small hand luggage bag. Please also note, it is customary to tip for the portorage service and this is not included in your tour cost.

## AIRPORT TRANSFERS

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As we offer our customers a variety of airlines to suit your needs, passengers will arrive and depart at various times during the day. Depending on the number of customers arriving or departing on the same flight as yourself, the type of transfer to your hotel or airport will vary.

On arrival in China, you will always be met by English-speaking staff and transferred to your hotel either by:

- Direct shared bus, shared with other passengers and not just Wendy Wu Tours clients
- Shared bus plus taxi from the nearest bus stop to the hotel, with a maximum 5-minute walk
- Chartered coach, if there are more than 8 Wendy Wu Tours passengers arriving at the same time

You will meet your National Escort at dinner on the first night or, if arriving late, the following morning after breakfast at the welcome meeting.

Please ensure your Wendy Wu Tours luggage tag is visible on your suitcase or hand luggage, as this may also assist your guide in identifying you. If at any stage you are unable to locate your representative, please contact our local ground operator on the number included in your final documents.

## TRANSPORT

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**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in China have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road – not just 1-2 kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only. There may be sections of road where the surface is bumpy, but our drivers will do their utmost to lessen the impact.

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

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

## ACCOMMODATION

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Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities.

Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia and China.

All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. Due to environmental regulations, not all hotels in China provide toiletries in the rooms. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

## GROUP SIZE

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For pre and post cruise touring, most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by National Escorts. On this tour, there will be no more than 28 travellers in each group, although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

Your Royal Caribbean Cruise Line is aboard Spectrum of the Seas, which carries approximately 4,200 guests, most of whom will not be part of your Wendy Wu tour group.

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

## TIPPING / GRATUITIES

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Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world, including the destinations visited on this tour. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not always 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, tipping may be paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides, we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups. We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognise that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour, we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure the smooth operation of your tour.

**Cruise:** Standard gratuities are included onboard your cruise. Any additional services you may choose to partake in, such as spas or speciality dining, will incur additional tipping charges that are not included and to be paid for on cruise.

**Japan:** Tipping is not customary in Japan and may even be politely declined. However, if you feel you have received exceptional service, offering a tip discreetly at your discretion is acceptable.

## FOOD, MEALS & DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

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On this tour you will experience a variety of dining options. Pre- and post-cruise in China, you will dine as a group, while during the cruise you will dine independently. Onboard Spectrum of the Seas, you will have a choice of complimentary dining venues included as part of your cruise, as well as speciality restaurants available at an additional charge. If you choose to dine ashore during time at port, these meals will be payable locally

Chinese cuisine is known for its vibrant, varied and often healthy flavours. Meals typically consist of rice, vegetables and meat, with dishes often served 'family style' so that everyone can share. During your cruise, you may also wish to sample Japanese cuisine independently while in port, where common dishes include rice, miso soup, fish, pickled vegetables and noodles such as udon and soba.

In China, meals are served in the traditional 'family style' on a lazy susan, allowing everyone to share the dishes. There will be a pair of serving chopsticks for each dish, and guests are encouraged to help themselves to the food, which adds to the sociable nature of the dining experience. If you're unfamiliar with using chopsticks, don't worry; the guides will ensure that everyone is comfortable, and forks or spoons can be provided upon request. Chinese dishes are often served with a variety of sauces or seasonings, and meals are frequently enjoyed with plain rice as an accompaniment. Unlike the western world, Chinese people do not normally pre-heat their plates and food can be presented at a variety of temperatures, which is a typical Chinese way of doing things. We recommend that when it comes to Chinese food, you stay open minded, try to be adventurous and always have a go with the chopsticks!

**Pre & post cruise:** All meals, excluding drinks, are included in your group touring in China. Breakfast is usually buffet-style but may occasionally be a set menu. Lunch is often pre-set, as is common in local restaurants, while dinner may be buffet-style or pre-set, offering a variety of Chinese and Western dishes. Meals are pre-booked by your guides, helping you experience a wide range of local dishes and cooking styles throughout your tour. On busy sightseeing days, you may dine directly after touring without returning to the hotel, so it is best to be prepared for an earlier dinner.

**Cruise dining:** While onboard Spectrum of the Seas, you will have a range of complimentary and speciality dining venues to choose from. Complimentary options include the Main Dining Room and Windjammer, which are open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as casual options such as Sorrento's Pizza and Dog House. Spectrum also offers a number of speciality dining venues at an additional charge.

**Dietary requirements:** If you have dietary requirements, please inform us before your tour starts. Our guides will make every effort to accommodate requests such as vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free or other dietary needs. However, it's important to note that in some destinations, dining options may be more limited, and certain dietary requests may be harder to fulfil. Additionally, some local dishes may be traditionally cooked using animal fats, broths or sauces, which may not always be easily adapted to suit certain dietary needs.

While on the cruise, the ship's restaurants are well-equipped to cater to a wide range of dietary requirements, though it is still recommended to notify Royal Caribbean Cruise Line of any specific needs in advance. During shore excursions, dining options may vary, and local food establishments may have limited capacity to meet special dietary requests.

For travellers with food intolerances or strict dietary needs, we recommend bringing snacks or suitable food items to supplement meals, particularly when exploring during long excursions or during the cruise. Your patience and understanding are appreciated, as local suppliers may not always be able to provide the same level of accommodation as you might expect at home. However, we aim to ensure you have an enjoyable and authentic culinary experience throughout your journey.

### **CRUISE – ROYAL CARRIBEAN CRUISE LINE - SPECTURUM OF THE SEAS**

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As one of Royal Caribbean's Quantum Ultra-Class ships, the impressive Spectrum of the Seas is among the largest in the fleet. On board, you will find a wide variety of restaurants featuring many flavours of the Far East, along with innovative dining concepts, lively bars and lounges, comfortable public areas and plenty of space to relax during your cruise. Facilities include a range of complimentary and speciality dining venues, stylish bars such as the Bionic Bar®, where your mixologists are two robotic bartenders, and a host of cafés, decks and entertainment spaces.

**Royal Caribbean App:** The app can be used to pre-book restaurants on board. Alternatively, on board cruise planners will be able to assist with reservations.

**Drinks Inclusions:** Selected soft drinks are included, however, alcoholic drinks are payable on board the ship or can be purchased using your onboard credit, where applicable.

**Onboard Credit:** You will receive onboard credit as part of your booking, which can be used towards shore excursions, alcoholic drinks and speciality dining venues.

### **CRUISE ACCOMODATION AND CABINS**

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

Outside cabins offer natural light and ocean views from the window, providing a comfortable space to relax between days ashore. Balcony cabins offer the added benefit of a private veranda, allowing you to step outside and enjoy the sea air and surrounding views from your own cabin. Cabin availability, location and layout will vary by category and are subject to confirmation at the time of booking.

## CRUISE EMBARKATION & DISEMBARKATION

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Embarkation time is when you should arrive at the cruise terminal. Departure time is when your ship sets sail.

Before travelling, we strongly recommend completing Royal Caribbean's online check-in process and submitting the required details for your sailing. Guests are asked to arrive at the terminal within the arrival time slot selected during app check-in, as shown on the mobile boarding pass. Completing check-in in advance will help ensure a smoother boarding process at the pier, and Royal Caribbean asks guests to complete this no later than 3 days prior to the cruise.

Once online check-in has been completed, you will be able to access your boarding pass. Please note that all guests must be checked in and onboard the ship no later than 90 minutes prior to the published sailing time.

**Boarding Time in Ports of Call:** In all ports of call, it is also the guest's responsibility to be back onboard the ship no later than one hour prior to the ship's scheduled departure time. Please be aware that shipboard time may differ from the time in the port of call and it is the guest's responsibility to follow the shipboard time. In the event a guest misses the ship, it will be the guest's responsibility to pay all expenses incurred to rejoin the ship.

## SHORE EXCURSIONS

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Your itinerary combines two different styles of touring, each offering a distinct experience. The land portion pre- or post-cruise is more in-depth and fast-paced, with full days of sightseeing, cultural highlights, and detailed commentary from local guides. This allows for a comprehensive understanding of each destination, although the pace can feel busy and information-rich.

During the cruise, the touring style becomes more relaxed. Shore excursions still provide opportunities to explore each port, but they are typically less intensive, with a slower pace, lighter commentary, and more free time. This contrast is designed to offer a balance between structured, guided touring and more flexible exploration.

At ports of call, optional shore excursions will be available through the cruise line. These are subject to availability and may be amended or cancelled due to weather or operational reasons at their discretion. Unless otherwise stated, excursions are at your own expense and can be booked in advance through your Royal Caribbean reservation, onboard the ship, or independently with a third-party provider. If you choose independently or through a third-party provider, it is your responsibility to ensure the excursion timing allows sufficient return time before the ship's all-aboard deadline.

If you opt to book through the cruise line, we recommend booking early, as availability is limited and operates on a first-come, first-served basis. A shore excursions desk is available onboard for last-minute arrangements although this does not always guarantee availability. Excursions can be pre-booked online via your Guest Account. Please note that any add-ons must be paid

within 72 hours of being added to your reservation to avoid automatic removal. To secure your selections, payment should be completed at the time of booking. Shore excursions are not always available online straight away, and sometimes appear closer to the departure date. If you cannot see them, it is worth checking back at a later date.

## APPROPRIATE DRESS / WHAT TO PACK

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When traveling to China and Japan, pack for their varied four-season climates. In spring and autumn, lightweight layers such as cotton shirts, cardigans, and jackets are ideal for mild weather. During summer, opt for breathable, moisture-wicking fabrics in light colours, and bring a hat and sunscreen for sun protection. Winters can be cold, particularly in northern China and Japan's Hokkaido region, so pack warm clothing, including coats, thermals, scarves, and gloves.

For city exploration, casual yet neat attire is suitable, especially when visiting cultural or religious sites where modesty is appreciated. Comfortable walking shoes are essential for navigating urban areas like Beijing, Shanghai, or Tokyo. For outdoor activities, such as hiking in China's scenic landscapes or exploring Japan's national parks, bring sturdy footwear and weather-appropriate outerwear.

An umbrella or lightweight waterproof jacket is recommended for unexpected rain, particularly during the summer rainy season. Don't forget a camera or smartphone with extra storage and chargers to capture highlights such as China's historic landmarks, and both countries' vibrant cities. A small medical kit with basic first aid supplies and personal medications is also recommended. Whether exploring ancient temples, strolling through bustling markets, or enjoying local cuisine, you'll be well-prepared for an unforgettable journey.

**Onboard Dress Code:** The dress code on board varies depending on the venue. We recommend packing a mix of casual, smart casual, and formal attire to suit different dining and entertainment experiences.

- **Casual:** Suitable for daytime activities and includes items such as shorts, T-shirts, and sundresses. Even in the dining room, tasteful casual wear is acceptable during the day.
- **Smart Casual:** A step up from casual wear, smart casual attire includes collared shirts, dresses, skirts and blouses, or pantsuits. Jackets, sports coats, and blazers are welcome.
- **Formal:** On formal nights, the dress code suggests a black-tie look, including suits and ties, tuxedos, cocktail dresses, or evening gowns. There will be up to 2 formal nights on your cruise.
- **Main Dining Room & Specialty Dining:** Bare feet and tank tops are not permitted for dinner.
- **Casino:** Shirts and shoes are required at all times, and cover-ups must be worn over bathing attire.

*Please note:* Dress codes are enforced at the discretion of the ship's staff. It's advisable to adhere to these guidelines to ensure a comfortable experience for all guests.

## TERRAIN CONSIDERATIONS (STEPS, SLOPES & UNEVEN SURFACES)

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Sightseeing at nearly all the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps. These palaces were built to provide defence against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steps to slow down the advance of enemies once they were inside. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails.

Buddhist temples or pagodas also tend to be built at an elevation, as this is the most auspicious position according to ancient beliefs. This means you sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb some steps inside.

People with knee or hip injuries who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

## MONEY, CASH AND PERSONAL EXPENSES

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This tour visits several countries, so different currencies may be useful during your journey. It is important to plan ahead and ensure you have access to suitable funds for locally payable costs, tipping, smaller purchases and personal expenses.

For the destinations visited on this tour, you may wish to have access to local currency for personal spending during the land touring sections and cruise port calls. Card acceptance is generally strong in major cities, but cash may still be useful for smaller shops, markets, street stalls, tips and some independent purchases ashore.

We recommend having access to more than one payment method while travelling, such as a combination of cash and cards. During time in mainland China, mobile payment platforms are widely used, and international cards or cash may not always be accepted as readily in some settings. Wendy Wu Tours' separate Paying in China guidance should be consulted before travel.

ATMs are available in major cities, although access may be more limited during sightseeing days, travel days and cruise port calls. We recommend consulting your bank about withdrawal fees, overseas card charges and daily limits before travelling. Your National Escorts or local guides will advise you locally where possible.

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to cities outside of Tokyo. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be very limited.

**Personal expenses:** You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry, souvenirs, optional shore excursions and any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. During the cruise, most onboard purchases will be charged to your shipboard account and settled at the end of your voyage.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES PRE AND POST CRUISE

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Our fully-inclusive Classic tours feature full days of sightseeing to ensure you experience all the must-see sights and unforgettable moments. Occasionally, when time allows, we offer optional extras such as evening shows for those seeking extra excitement. These excursions will be communicated and paid for locally through your guide.

## SOUVENIRS

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

## CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

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Japanese and Chinese societies are steeped in tradition and intricate social etiquette. As visitors, you are not expected to know every custom, but being respectful will enhance your experience in both countries.

In Japan, it is customary to remove your shoes and hats when entering temples, traditional houses, or certain restaurants. Slippers may be provided, but packing spare socks and wearing shoes that are easy to slip on and off is recommended.

In China, respect for cultural traditions includes polite gestures such as accepting items with both hands and following dining etiquette, like using serving spoons or shared chopsticks for communal dishes. Modest attire is appreciated, particularly at religious or historical sites.

Your National Escort will provide further guidance on local customs to ensure a smooth and enjoyable journey in both countries.

## DEVELOPMENT

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

**Japan:** Japan is a developed country and as such matches the West in modernity and technological advances. Japan is an extremely safe country and takes great responsibility in maintaining high safety standards.

## WEATHER

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China and Japan each experience distinct four-season climates, offering a variety of weather conditions throughout the year. In Japan, the climate varies by region but generally includes hot, humid summers from June to September and cold winters, with snowfall in northern areas like Hokkaido. Spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November) are especially popular for their mild temperatures, cherry blossoms, and vibrant fall foliage.

China's climate is equally diverse due to its vast size and geographical range. Summers (June to August) can be hot and humid, particularly in southern and eastern regions, while winters (December to February) are cold, especially in northern areas like Beijing and Harbin, which may experience snow. Spring and autumn offer comfortable temperatures, making them ideal times to visit, with blooming flowers in spring and golden hues in autumn. Weather can vary significantly depending on the region, so layering is recommended to accommodate these changes.

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

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If you are travelling within the below Public Holidays, please note that celebrations can last a several days and during these times some businesses will be closed. Coach, air and train travel may also be affected. Tourist attractions will be open; but may be crowded.

### China:

- **Chinese New Year:** 26th January – 1st February 2028
- **Qingming Festival:** 2nd–4th April 2028
- **Labor Day:** 1st–5th May (annually)
- **Mid-Autumn Festival:** 3rd October 2028

### Japan:

- **Showa Day:** 29th April (annually)
- **Golden Week public holidays:** End of April to the beginning of May (annually)
- **Constitution Memorial Day:** 3rd May (annually)
- **Emperor's Birthday:** 23rd February (annually)

## VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

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

### BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

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

### AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

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Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: June 2026