



Magnificent China
21 Days
Fully Inclusive from the US

Take an in-depth look at the best of China on one of our most popular tours. All the famous sights are covered along with some special treats. Gaze in awe at the Grand Buddha in Leshan, visit the traditional gardens of Suzhou and admire the magnificent Giant Pandas in Chengdu.

Fully Inclusive price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals (excluding drinks)
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for US residents



Your Tour Dossier

This document is designed to be read in conjunction with the other pre-departure information provided by Wendy Wu Tours including the tour itinerary as described in our brochure and/or website. It aims to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour.

If there are any particular challenges, from the length of time spent on your feet, the length of drives and flights, to the standard of remote accommodation; they will be explained here.

All passengers must read this document to ensure the itinerary is suitable for their interests and physical capabilities. This is not your final itinerary and therefore does not mention all the sites visited.

Welcome to Wendy Wu Tours

China continues to amaze, fascinate and thrill our passengers, many of whom have travelled to one country in Asia with us, then another, year after year. We urge you to keep in mind all the rewards, as well as challenges of travelling in a country with a history, culture and attitude so unlike your own.

A typical day's sightseeing may include the bustle and noise of a city street, sights and smells of a local market and interacting with the locals. Travelling in China requires patience and potential delays are to be expected due to standards of service. There is a low level of English spoken throughout China, so your local guides or National Escort will be indispensable during your trip.

Almost everything will be different to what you may be used to. We have found that our passengers who embark with a sense of humour and adventure, who accept that things do not always go to plan, are those who find their experience most rewarding. It is essential that all passengers recognize the demands of factors such as basic facilities and cultural differences they may encounter in some areas.

Magnificent China - Comfortable Paced Tour

This itinerary is accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves sightseeing on foot, some climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats throughout the tour.

This is the easiest pace of tour which Wendy Wu Tours offers in China. Anyone with a reasonable level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. Of course our guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

NB Please note that times and distances listed in the tour dossier are approximate.

Days 1-2: US/Beijing

You will be met on day 2, at Beijing Airport in the arrivals hall by your Local Guide and/or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all the other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer to your hotel, approx. 1 hour drive. This evening, when the whole group has arrived, a tour introduction will be held in the hotel. There will not be food or drinks served at this meeting; it is simply an opportunity for your group to meet and learn more about travelling in China.

Day 3: Beijing

Sightseeing in central Beijing involves approx. 3-4 hours on foot during the morning to see Tiananmen Square (past Mao's Mausoleum) and the Forbidden City.

Day 4: Beijing

We rise early this morning to drive approx. 2 hours (40 miles) northwest of the city to the Juyongguan Pass section of the Great Wall. The aim of this is to avoid the crowds of tourists who will arrive later in the morning, and the heat of the day. Visiting the Wall involves walking approx. 600ft from the bus to the first section. After your group has been given an introduction to the Great Wall's unique history you will have free time to explore the rest at your own pace.

Later, you will visit the Temple of Heaven – there will be approx. 1 hour on foot here.

Day 5: Beijing

There will be shopping time allowed at the Silk Markets in central Beijing this morning before driving approx. 1.5 hours to the Summer Palace in the north of the city. The palace is set over an extensive park and man-made lake complex and there is approx. 1 hour on foot involved at this site.

Day 6: Beijing/Xian

Transfer back to the airport for your morning flight to Xian (flight duration 1 hour 40 minutes). Transfer directly to the Shaanxi Museum and start sightseeing – this site involves approx. 2 hours on foot. Afterwards, transfer to the hotel and check-in this afternoon.

Day 7: Xian

The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors is located approx. 1 hour drive outside of Xian. From the bus park to the Museum entrance is approx. 15 minutes walk, usually without any shade. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost. There is no electric cart available for the return from the Museum exit to Bus Park. Within the Museum area the warriors can be seen in 3 different "pits", which are active archaeological digs. The site is large and, towards the summer months, can be hot outside. Sightseeing here involves 2.5 hours on foot.

This afternoon we visit the City Walls. The Local Guide will give you time to explore at your own pace. There are options here to hire a bicycle or an electric cart to drive along the length of the walls. These are offered by private vendors and can be organised at your own cost. Sightseeing in the Muslim Quarter involves approx. 1 hour on foot. Take care of your valuables while in the Muslim Quarter's alley market stalls.

Day 8: Xian/Wuhan/Yangtze Cruise

After easy sightseeing approx. 1 hour on foot at the Little Wild Goose Pagoda, transfer back to the airport for a morning flight to Wuhan (flight duration 1 hour 10 minutes).

Then transfer drive approx. 4-5 hours from Wuhan airport to the docks, located downstream from the Three Gorges Dam. Board the ship and check-in to your cabin for the next 4 nights.

NB: the Yangtze section of your itinerary, from Day 8 to 12 will not be confirmed until after you commence your tour. Your Local Guide will do his/her utmost to keep you informed of all changes but cannot guarantee against delays or – in rare cases – cancellations of sections of your itinerary. This is because vessels are regulated by the Yangtze River Authority and the captain of each cruise ship is unable to confirm a final itinerary until shortly before departure.

Here is a rough guideline to the cruise schedule:

Day 9: Yangtze River Cruise

Shore excursion to the site of Three Gorges Dam approx. 4 hours off ship: Disembark and drive approx. 20 minutes to the Three Gorges Dam. Your coach will drive through the construction areas (they are NOT allowed to stop for photos) and drop you off at the viewing area above the locks. There is a small museum and look out point. Cruise through the Xiling Gorge. Spend your 2nd night on board with Captain's Dinner.

Day 10: Yangtze River Cruise

Cruise through the Wu Gorge. Today, you will visit either the Lesser Three Gorges OR Shennong Stream.

Shore excursion at Lesser Three Gorges involves approx. 2-3 hours off ship: Transfer between the ship and small ferry at Wushan, then travel up the Daning River to see the remains of an ancient plank walkway and suspended coffin and enjoy the undisturbed natural scenery.

Shore excursion at the Shennong Stream involves approx. 3 hours off ship: Transfer between the ship and small ferry, to travel further up the Shenglong tributary approx. 1 hour. Then transfer from the ferry onto the small peapod rowboats, to experience the tradition of the 'boatmen' or 'trackers'. Spend your 3rd night on board.

Day 11: Yangtze River Cruise

Cruise through the Qutang Gorge. Today, you will visit either Shibaozhai Temple on the south bank, or Fengdu on the north bank.

Shore excursion to Shibaozhai Temple involves approx. 2 hours off ship: This small temple was built at the top of a 9 storey pavilion clinging to the sheer south bank near Qutang Gorge. Disembark from ship to dock close to the pavilion's entrance. Sightseeing here involves viewing the 9 storeys inside the building.

Shore excursion to Fengdu "Ghost City" involves approx. 2 hours off ship: The town of Fengdu was relocated across to the south bank for the Three Gorges Dam Project. The Fengdu "Ghost City" Temple lies on the steep hill above the demolished town. Disembark via a pontoon and walkway. There is a free passenger 'cart' which takes you up to the middle area of the temple complex. It can carry 10-12 people up at a time and takes about 3-5 minutes each way. You will then need to walk the rest of the way up. There are about 150-200 large steps, without handrails. Spend your 4th night on board with Captain's Farewell Dinner.

NB: The passenger 'cart' is a temporary measure until the construction of an elevator from the port to Fengdu is complete.

Day 12: Chongqing/Chengdu

Check-out of cabins/ship early this morning and disembark from ship in Chongqing. Drive approx. 4-5 hours to Chengdu, arriving in the early afternoon and check-in at the hotel.

Day 13: Chengdu – Leshan day trip

Drive approx. 3 hours (110 miles) to Leshan to see the Grand Buddha carving. From the bus park walk to board the small cruise boat to view the Buddha from the river. Spend approx. 1 hour in Leshan before driving back to Chengdu in the afternoon.

Day 14: Chengdu/Guilin

Checkout from the hotel. There will be a morning visit to the Panda Research Centre, located 6 miles away. It's not guaranteed that you will be able to see the feeding of the younger pandas, as this only happens at the start and end of each day. Sightseeing here involves at least 1.5 hours on foot. There are electric carts offered by private vendors and these can be organised at your cost. Afterwards drive approx. 1 hour to the airport for an afternoon flight to Guilin (flight duration 1 hour 20 minutes). Transfer to the hotel and check-in.

Day 15: Li River Cruise/Yangshuo

NB: You will be staying in Yangshuo for a single night before returning to Guilin. We recommend you leave your main luggage in safe storage at our hotel in Guilin; taking only a small, overnight bag with you for days 14 & 15.

We take a 3 hour cruise from Guilin to the small town of Yangshuo. A simple meal will be served on board (usually before midday at "Chinese lunch time"). These are small cruise boats, holding approx. 100 passengers; with an enclosed dining area on lower deck and an open viewing area on upper deck. As it is so popular, there are generally many boats at the docks – please be reassured that the cruise itself will be scenic and relaxing as the boats cruise past unspoilt countryside. Usually the boats depart at 9am, from a dock 1 hours' drive from your hotel. However when the river level is low they depart from further downstream which would mean a longer drive and an earlier check-out from your hotel.

Disembarking from the cruise, your Local Guide will walk with you to your hotel, approx. 15 minute walk from the river. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost.

Day 16: Yangshuo/Guilin

The drive back to Guilin takes approx. 1 hour (40 miles). En route, visit the Reed Flute Caves. Take a short walk approx. 1 hour, through the caves, sometimes along damp paths and stairs. It is very cool inside. Continue to the hotel and check-in overnight. In the afternoon visit Mt Diecai, a low, Karst Mountain; we usually spend approx. 1.5 hours here.

Day 17: Guilin/Shanghai/Suzhou

Transfer to airport for an afternoon flight to Shanghai Hongqiao domestic airport (flight duration is 2 hours). From here drive for approx. 2 hrs (60 miles) to the city of Suzhou. This can be quite a long day as this section of road is often subject to heavy traffic or road construction. Arrive at Suzhou hotel and check-in overnight.

Day 18: Suzhou/Shanghai

There is approx. 3-4 hours walking involved whilst sightseeing today. There will be a cruise on the Grand Canal, to see a section of the ancient waterway. Afterwards drive back to Shanghai for the next 3 nights.

Days 19 & 20: Shanghai

Sightseeing around the central city with approx. 3-4 hours on foot each day. Beware of your valuables while in the Old Town (Yuan Bazaar) as it is very crowded.

Day 21: Depart Shanghai

Transfer from your hotel to Pudong International Airport for your flight to the US. Depending on your chosen airline, some flights to the US will arrive the same day, whereas others will arrive the following day.

Land Only

If you are travelling on a land only basis, then we will provide a transfer for you from Beijing airport to your hotel on Day 2 of the itinerary. On Day 21, you will check out from your hotel, and transfer to Shanghai Pudong airport. Please ensure that you confirm your flight details with us as soon as possible before departure.

Please refer to the Wendy Wu Tours brochure and/or website for details on departure dates, prices, itineraries, inclusions and tour extensions available as well as full booking conditions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**Before You Leave**

Itinerary Changes - The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in China are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your Local Guide or National Escort will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Roads in China have generally been improved over recent years, but some road construction and/or weather conditions may still lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day to day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

- If time permits during your Beijing touring you will be taken through the Beijing Olympic precinct to view and photograph such sites as the Beijing Olympic Stadium (Bird's Nest) and the Aquatic Centre (Water Cube). This would normally occur on the day you visit the Great Wall.
- Yangtze River. Please note that all sections of the itinerary for the Yangtze River Cruise are especially subject to change. The movement of each vessel along the Yangtze is regulated by the Government's Yangtze River Authority (YRA). The river's rapid flow, the narrowness of her gorges and the recent increase in numbers of passengers means that the timetables are under some pressure. The YRA allocates times for access to mooring points, dis/embarkation docks and passage through the gorges. This means that the captain of each cruise ship is unable to confirm a final itinerary until shortly before departure (usually 24 hours prior). This can affect both the time and location where you dis/embark your cruise ship. Your National Escort or Local Guide will explain any such changes to you as soon as they are informed by the cruise operator.

Visas - A visa is required for entry into China. A standard visa processing service is included in your tour cost. We will require your passport, completed visa application form, and 1 passport photo, taken within the last 6 months, to process your visa. We will require all this information 8 weeks prior to departure. With our standard visa processing service, we will have your passport for at least 4 weeks. Any passports and visa applications that require a faster service, or that are received in our office less than 6 weeks prior to departure will incur a \$100 per person expedite fee. In some cases, you may be required to provide further information or documentation and if this is the case we will notify you as soon as possible.

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

Vaccinations and Your Health - We recommend that you contact either your primary care physician or a travel doctor for advice on vaccinations and travel health.

Climate - Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

Insurance – We strongly recommend that you take out suitable travel insurance at the time of booking and Wendy Wu Tours offers a travel policy with Travel Guard. You may choose an alternative policy but you should provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter in case of emergency. You will also need to provide insurance details on your China visa application form. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

What to Expect on Tour

Development - Although China is developing quickly, it still lacks international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. For example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade; concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in the US. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in the US. However, all of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense as well as refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort/Local Guides.

Group Size – This group tour is guaranteed to run subject to a minimum of 8 travellers and a National Escort will accompany each group of over 10. The maximum group size varies depending on the tour, but is usually no more than 28 passengers.

Accommodation - Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In 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 the UK and China. Rest assure that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Meals - 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 the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout China.

Tipping - As with most countries, tipping is a way of life in China. For our passengers' convenience we ask for a compulsory amount to be paid at the beginning of our group tours to cover tipping for guides, drivers, restaurant staff etc (does not include Yangtze River Cruise staff). Approximate tipping amounts can be found in our brochure and/or website; however exact tipping amounts will be stated in your final documentation pack.

Some departures may utilise a vessel from an American company called 'American Victoria Cruises' and therefore an additional tipping amount of approximately US\$22.50 per person is payable upon checking in to your cabin. Information regarding the confirmed cruise vessel will be detailed in your final itinerary which will be available closer to your tour departure. For departures that do not use 'American Victoria Cruises', tipping on the cruise is discretionary and paid whilst onboard.

Optional Extras - Our tours are planned to be as fully inclusive as possible. However, from time-to-time your National Escort or Local Guide may suggest optional tours/sightseeing in addition to the standard sightseeing planned for that city. Such options are at an additional cost, with prices ranging from 100-300 Yuan per person (payable in local currency). If you do not wish to take part in any optional extras, you will have the option of enjoying some free time at leisure or to return to the hotel.

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

After Your Booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form, help sheet, and a China travel guide. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approx. 2 weeks prior to departure, and will include a travel wallet, badge, lanyard, suggested packing list and a phrase book, along with your final itinerary and international etickets.