

China Splendour

From \$5,145 - 14 Days - Fully Inclusive From New Zealand

One of the wonderful areas that this amazing tour visits is the incredible UNESCO World Heritage listed site of the 'Nine Villages Valley' (Jiuzhaigou) in Sichuan Province. Our very own Ms Wendy Wu describes this area as the most beautiful she has ever travelled to. Our clients return equally as enthralled. Imagine a world where crystal turquoise lakes and cascading waterfalls punctuate the skyline. Picture a stunning landscape of natural wonders with thick forests, springs, streams and rivers. Visualise a variety of plants and rare animals such as the Giant panda, Lesser panda, Golden monkey, and 140 bird species. The scenery here is quite splendid!

The China Splendour itinerary takes you on a discovery of this magnificent area and much more. In contrast you will have the opportunity to visit the cosmopolitan city of Shanghai to capture not only the old, but the new wonders of this alluring city. Shanghai buzzes with character and is known for its frenetic energy. Its attractions include the beautiful Yu Gardens, the treasure filled Shanghai Museum and the famous Bund. Chengdu will charm you as it is home to the Giant pandas. See these cuddly animals in surroundings akin to their natural habitat. Be intrigued by a visit to the Dujiangyan Irrigation Project. It is regarded as the oldest and only surviving no-dam irrigation system in the world and quite a wonder in the development of Chinese science. At Leshan you will visit the massive Grand Buddha which was constructed to calm the waters that plagued ships travelling down the river. View the amazing ancient Terracotta Warriors in Xian first founded by a local farmer in 1974. As China's oldest city, Xian played a key role in much of the country's history and as a result is rich in historic sites.

One cannot travel to China without visiting the Great Wall. Marvel at the enormity of this wonderful site which stretches over 6,400km. Tour Beijing's UNESCO World Heritage listed Summer Palace, regarded as 'a masterpiece of Chinese garden design', stroll along Tiananmen Square and the remarkable Temple of Heaven.

This balance of touring provides ample opportunity to cover the diversity of this great country. Seize this opportunity to experience all the timeless images of China. There will be time to relax; sample delicious local fare, indulge in the many souvenirs on offer and enjoy performances of Tang Dynasty dancing and an Acrobatic show. With so many delights on offer, how could you not be tempted to travel on this unforgettable and truly delightful Chinese experience?

Day 1: New Zealand to Shanghai

Fly with Singapore Airlines to Shanghai for 2 nights. Our welcome dinner this evening will be a sumptuous banquet of traditional Shanghai cuisine.

Day 2: Shanghai

Experience this exciting city by visiting the beautiful Yu Gardens, the Old Town, the superb antiques and fine arts at the Shanghai Museum. This afternoon we take a stroll along the famous Bund before we enjoy a breathtaking cruise on the Huangpu River this evening.

Day 3: Shanghai to Chengdu

This morning we will be transferred to the airport to board our flight to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province for an overnight stay. Chengdu is renowned for its natural beauty as well as its popular and distinct cuisine.

Days 4-5: Chengdu to Nine Villages Valley

Today we fly to the breathtaking Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou), a botanical gallery that is heavily forested and home to many protected species. Entering the valley is like being transported into a different world, where crystal clear lakes gather at the foot of every waterfall and rich coloured forests are dotted with flowers. We stay in the valley for the next 2 nights to further explore its beauty.

Day 6: Nine Villages Valley to Chengdu

Today we travel to Huanglong where we will walk or take an optional cable car ride to the temple at the head of the valley. Huanglong is renowned for its hundreds of sparkling mineral pools where beautiful colours intertwine and the water cascades down the mountainside. This afternoon we continue to the airport and fly back to Chengdu.

Day 7: Chengdu - Leshan

Today we travel to Leshan where we will marvel at the Grand Buddha, an enormous statue carved into the side of the Lingyun Mountain. The Buddha is over 71 metres tall and is wide enough for more than 100 people to sit between its feet. A local saying is, 'the Mountain is a Buddha, the Buddha is a Mountain'.

Day 8: Chengdu to Xian

This morning we visit the famous Panda Research Centre to see these endearing animals being reared in surroundings reminiscent of their natural habitat. We then transfer to the airport for our flight to the former Imperial Capital, Xian. Enjoy a sumptuous Shui Jiao Dumpling Banquet this evening.

Day 9: Xian

Today we visit one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 20th



Century, the life-size Terracotta Warriors followed by the ancient City Wall and enjoy a stroll through the lively Muslim Quarter. This evening we witness a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

Day 10: Xian to Beijing

Enjoy a morning visit to the Little Wild Goose Pagoda and the renowned Shaanxi Provincial Museum before flying to the capital of China, Beijing for a 3 night stay. For dinner this evening we sample the local delicacy 'Peking Duck'.

Day 11: Beijing

Beijing is a city full of wonders. During our sightseeing today we enjoy a stroll through famous Tiananmen Square and pass Chairman Mao's Mausoleum. Later this afternoon we visit the 15th Century treasure filled Forbidden City. Our evening entertainment will be a fascinating performance of traditional Chinese Acrobats.

Day 12: Beijing

An often quoted saying in Beijing goes 'you have not been to China until you have climbed the Great Wall'. Begun over 2000 years ago, it stretches all the way from the Shanhaiguan Pass on the east coast to the Gobi Desert in the west, more than 5,000km away. Walk along the wall admiring the panoramic views and reflect on the enormity of the material and labour required for its construction. It is estimated that a million people were used at different stages during the construction periods and that thousands died building it. This afternoon we will also wander through the landscaped beauty of the Summer Palace.

Day 13: Beijing to New Zealand

Transfer to the airport for our overnight flight to New Zealand.

Day 14: Arrive New Zealand

Arrive home this morning.

Inclusions

International airfares, all transportation in China, accommodation, all meals, entrance fees, guides and daily tours, New Zealand and China departure taxes (where included in air tickets)

Price Guide

14 Days, Fully Inclusive Twin Share

✈ From \$5,145 per person - Departing Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch with Singapore Airlines

🏨 Single Hotel Supplement - From \$682

🚗 Land Only - From \$3,244

★★ Medium Paced Tour (see page 2)

💰 Compulsory Tipping: Approx US\$64 per person - see page 54

Please note that Christchurch passengers will need to depart 2 days earlier from New Zealand and require an extra night in Shanghai at their own expense. This will extend the itinerary to 16 days

Departures

Tour Code	Depart New Zealand	Arrive New Zealand	Twin Share Price
2010			
T31042	15 Apr	28 Apr	\$5,145
T31043	13 May	26 May	\$5,145
T31044	03 Jun	16 Jun	\$5,145
T31045	26 Aug	08 Sep	\$5,145
T31046	23 Sep	06 Oct	\$5,145
T31047	07 Oct	20 Oct	\$5,145
T31048	04 Nov	17 Nov	\$5,145
2011			
T31050	14 Apr	27 Apr	\$5,145
T31051	12 May	25 May	\$5,145
T31052	02 Jun	15 Jun	\$5,145

