



WENDY WU TOURS

Tour Dossier

GRAND TOUR OF CHINA, 28 DAYS

This document was designed to be read in conjunction with our other pre-departure information provided after you have made a booking with Wendy Wu Tours. It aims to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour. All passengers should read this dossier to confirm their ability to complete the tour. This is not your **Final Itinerary** and therefore does not mention all the sites visited.

Tour grade - Medium paced tour

This is defined in our brochure as the following: "These tours are not strenuous but do include several days where periods of sightseeing on foot and climbing of steps will be necessary. These tours are not recommended for those that are unable to walk for prolonged periods without assistance. These tours are generally longer in length and could involve long days of driving."

Anyone with a good level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. Of course, our local guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for passengers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. Please refer to Your Travel Guide's TRANSPORTATION section for further information about the Yangtze cruise.

Group size

In most cases, the group will operate with a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 28 passengers.

Tipping

If there are less than 10 people in your group, please allow NZD\$170 each, if there are more than 10, please allow NZD\$140 each for tipping.

Rail Journeys

This trip involves 1 overnight train journey between Beijing and Xian. Train journeys are in first class soft sleeper compartments where each cabin consists of 4 berths.

Itinerary changes

1. Order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.
2. The Hall of Supreme Harmony within the Forbidden City complex in Beijing has recently undergone comprehensive restoration work.
3. 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 24hrs 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.

NB: Times and distances listed in this section are approximations only.

Day 1-2: New Zealand/Beijing. You will be met at Beijing airport in the arrivals hall by your Local Guide and/or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer (1 hr drive) to your hotel. This afternoon, 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 3 to 4 hrs on foot during the morning to see Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. Visiting Mao's Mausoleum is subject to the length of the queue, as so many domestic tourists visit every day.

Day 4: Beijing. We have an early rise this morning to drive 1 ½ hrs (50km) 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 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. This afternoon, visit the Temple of Heaven – at least 2 hrs on foot here.

Day 5: Beijing. Shopping time allowed at Silk Markets in central Beijing this morning before driving 1 ½ hrs to the Summer Palace in the north of the city. The palace is set over an extensive park and man-made lake complex and there is approx 2 to 3 hrs on foot involved at this site.

Day 6: Beijing/Xian. You will have time at leisure before checking out of your hotel rooms at approx midday, easy sightseeing at calligraphy markets and transfer to Beijing Railway Station. The overnight train departs in the evening and takes approx 12 hrs (over 1,200 km).

Day 7: Xian.

You will arrive at Xian station very early this morning and transfer to your hotel, where you can have breakfast and freshen up. Sightseeing at the Little Wild Goose Pagoda and Shaanxi Museum involves at least 2 ½ hrs on foot. Beware of your valuables while in the Muslim Quarter's alley market stalls.

[NB: Check-out time in China is midday so your group's rooms are unlikely to be available. This morning you will commence sightseeing and return to hotel later to rest and freshen up.]

Day 8: Xian. The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors is located more than 1 hrs drive outside of Xian. From the bus park to the Museum entrance is a 15 min walk. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost. There is no electric cart available for the return from Museum exit to the 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 2½ hrs 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 organized at your own cost.

Day 9: Xian/Yangtze. Transfer (1hr drive) to the airport for your flight to Wuhan (flight duration 1hr 10mins). Then transfer (4-5 hrs drive) 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 9 to 13 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. Please refer to Your Travel Guide for further information.]

Here is a rough guideline to the cruise schedule:

Day 10: Yangtze River Cruise.

Shore excursion to the site of Three Gorges Dam (4 hrs off ship):

Disembark ship and drive (approx 20 mins) to the Three Gorges Dam. Coach will drive through the construction areas (they are NOT allowed to stop for photos) and drop you off at viewing area above the locks. There is a small museum and lookout.

Cruise through the Xiling Gorge.

2nd night on board with Captain's Dinner.

Day 11: 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 (2-3 hrs 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 (3 hrs off ship):

Transfer between the ship and small ferry, to travel further up the Shenglong tributary approx 20 mins. Then transfer from the ferry onto the small peapod rowboats, to experience the tradition of the 'boatmen' or 'trackers'.

3rd night on board.

Day 12: 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(2 hrs 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" (2 hrs 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 a hill above the demolished town. Disembarkation is via a pontoon and walkway. There is a chairlift (at your own cost) which takes you up to the base of the temple complex

4th night on board with Captain's Farewell Dinner.

Day 13: Chongqing/Kunming. Check out of cabins/ship early this morning and disembark from ship in Chongqing. Visit

Chongqing Zoo's new Panda House. Then transfer directly to the airport to catch afternoon flight to Kunming (flight duration 1hr 40mins). Check-in for 2 nights.

Day 14: Kunming. Drive 1 ½ hrs (120 km) to Stone Forest. Sightseeing here involves up to 3 ½ hrs on foot to view the maze of rock pinnacles, lake and ponds. After lunch drive back to Kunming.

Day 15: Kunming/Dali. Drive 5 hrs to Dali and have lunch en route. Check-in for 2 nights.

Day 16: Dali. Sightseeing around the Dali Ancient Quarter and surrounding countryside is relaxed, involving approx 3 hrs on foot.

Day 17: Dali/Kunming. Check-out of hotel and depart Dali; enjoying some leisurely sightseeing in Xizhou Village before driving back to Kunming. Check-in for overnight stay.

Day 18: Kunming/Guilin. This morning is at leisure before checking out of hotel approx midday. Enjoy some easy sightseeing then transfer (10mins drive) to airport for your evening flight to Guilin (flight duration 1hr). Transfer to the hotel and check-in for overnight stay.

Day 19: 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 style bag with you for Days 19 and 20.]

We take a 3 hr cruise from Guilin to the small town of Yangshuo. A simple meal will be served onboard (usually before midday at "Chinese lunch time"). These are small cruise boats, usually 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 one hrs 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 mins walk from the river. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost.

Day 20: Yangshuo/Guilin. The drive back to Guilin takes 1 hr (65km). Visit Mt Diecai en route - a low, Karst Mountain. We usually spend 1 ½ hrs here. Continue to the hotel and check-in overnight.

Day 21: Guilin/Shanghai. This morning Visit Reed Flute Caves - take short walk through the caves. It usually takes about 1 hr to complete the route, and is very cool inside. Transfer to airport for your afternoon flight to Shanghai (flight duration 2hrs). Transfer (20mins drive) to the hotel and check-in for 2 nights.

Day 22: Shanghai. Full day of sightseeing around the central city involving 3 to 4 hrs on foot. Beware of your valuables while in the Old Town (Yuan Bazaar) as it is very crowded.

Day 23: Shanghai/Suzhou. Drive for approx 3 hrs (90km) to Suzhou. *[NB: this section of road is often subject to heavy traffic or road construction.]* Leisurely sightseeing around Suzhou and the Grand Canal.

Day 24: Suzhou/Hangzhou. This morning take a cruise on the Grand Canal, to see a section of the ancient waterway. After lunch drive (4hrs) to Hangzhou and check into the hotel for 2 nights.

Day 25: Hangzhou. Lingyin Temple; this is one of the largest and most significant temples in southern China so can get crowded with domestic tourists, particularly during weekends and holidays. 2 hrs on foot involved here. Adjacent to the temple entrance is Feilai Fen – a hill covered in Buddhist carvings and statues. If you wish to see these, you must be aware that the stone path is not level in parts.

Day 26 – Hangzhou/Shanghai. Drive for approx 4 hrs back to Shanghai and check into the hotel for overnight stay. Sightseeing in Xintiandi involves 2 hrs on foot.

Day 27 – Depart Shanghai. Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from the hotel to the airport, according to the departure time of your international flight.

Day 28 – New Zealand. Arrive home.

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