



ANCIENT EMPIRES OF CHINA & JAPAN

Classic Tour | 21 Days | Physical Level 1

Beijing – Xian – Guilin – Yangshuo – Shanghai – Osaka – Hiroshima –
Miyajima – Kurashiki – Okayama – Kyoto – Hakone – Tokyo

The ultimate tour for those wishing to combine the very best of two ancient nations. Join us on an incredible journey from Beijing to Tokyo by road, boat, rail and air on this epic three-week tour!

- Walk on the Great Wall of China
- Face the spectacular Terracotta Warriors
- Take a cruise down the tranquil Li River
- Reflect in Hiroshima
- Explore Japan's history in Kyoto
- Admire breath-taking Mount Fuji

To book call **0800 936 3998** or visit your local travel agent

Visit wendywutours.co.nz

TOUR MAP



ANCIENT EMPIRES OF CHINA & JAPAN TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a 'Land Only' option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is more than 10 passengers) and Local Guides in China
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with IATA

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

CLASSIC TOURS:

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

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

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.

'Ancient Empires of China & Japan' falls under a Physical Level 1 category. This indicates a level of fitness that allows you to comfortably remain on your feet with occasional rest. Expect to effortlessly navigate boarding and disembarking from various modes of transport, including coaches, trains, and boats. You'll be walking around remarkable sites and ascending steps to capture those awe-inspiring views!

Sightseeing may often involve walking for a reasonable duration, sometimes over multiple steps, or uneven surfaces. You will also be required to get on and off the boat in Tokyo Bay without assistance.

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

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 21 days in duration including international flights. Please note that due to flight schedules passengers may depart/arrive on Day 2.

Travelers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to Reservations.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Beijing and end the tour on Day 20 in Tokyo. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

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

DETAILED ITINERARY**Day 1-2: Beijing**

Meals: D

Fly to Beijing, the capital of China. On arrival you will be met at the airport 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'll transfer approximately one hour to your hotel for your 3-night stay.

Please note: Early check-in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservation 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 make it a destination not to be missed.

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'll have free time to explore at your own pace.



Later, visit the Jade Factory before strolling through the exquisite Summer Palace. In the evening, enjoy a traditional Peking Duck dinner.

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. Understand how to tell if jade is real or fake and watch artisans at work, carving this emerald stone into works of art.

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

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

Day 4: Explore the Forbidden City

Meals: B, L, D

Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven for about one hour.

Next, enjoy a leisurely stroll in the warren-like hutongs where you will meet a local family before walking through Tiananmen Square and into the magnificent Forbidden City. Sightseeing will involve approximately 3-4 hours on foot.



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

Destination Information

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.

Hutongs – The Mongol rulers of Beijing established this style of housing in the 13th century as tenancy for the growing population of the city.

Hutongs were designed to reflect the Chinese system of Feng Shui with 4 hutongs joining together to make a courtyard in the middle, known as Siheyuan. In more recent times, the hutong suburbs were in jeopardy of disappearing, but a fierce debate between developers and those who fought to protect the architecture and the hutong way of life diminished the threat.

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

Day 5: Travel to Xian

Meals: B, L, D

Transfer to the train station and take the bullet train for around 5-hours to the ancient city of Xian.

Upon arrival, enjoy some time at leisure at Xian's Muslim Quarter, where you will find an array of food stalls selling a wealth of flavours. Here, you will also have an opportunity to shop for some souvenirs at the various stalls selling a variety of trinkets and mementos.

In the evening, enjoy a delicious feast of traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and a lively performance of Tang Dynasty dancing

**Destination Information**

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

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 6: Terracotta Warriors

Meals: B, L, D

Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of the life-sized 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 is a 15-minute 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 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 2.5 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 drive along the length of the wall. These are offered by private vendors and can be organised at your own expense.

Destination Information

Terracotta Warriors – One of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 20th century, this unearthed terracotta army comprises 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 workshop and even purchase your own portable soldier.

Ancient City Walls – Dating back to the Ming Dynasty in the 14th century, Xian ancient city wall is one of the best-preserved urban fortifications in China. The wall's ideal spot gives visitors a bird's eye view over the city.

Day 7: Xian to Guilin

Meals: B, L, D

Today, transfer to the airport and flying approximately 2 hours to Guilin, best known for its incredible natural landscapes

Destination Information

Guilin – Guilin is one of China's most stunning and panoramic cities and was founded during the reign of the first Chinese empire, the Qin Dynasty. It's renowned for the unique beauty of the mountains that fringe it. Guilin developed as a trading town due to the building of the Ling Canal which links the important Pearl and Yangtze River systems.



Day 8: Guilin

Meals: B, L, D

This morning stroll around picturesque Ronghu Lake and admire the Sun and Moon Pagodas – two towering examples of traditional Chinese-Buddhist architecture.

Go on to see the colourful stalagmites and stalactites of Reed Flute Cave.

Sightseeing will involve approximately 3-4 hours on foot.



Destination Information

Ronghu Lake – One of two lakes originating from the Tang Dynasty, Ronghu Lake once made up part of the city moat. As Guilin expanded in all directions, the moat became a lake within the city area.

Sun and Moon Pagodas – Known as the Gold and Silver Pagodas because of their colours at night, the sun and moon pagodas sit on top of the Chinese Fir Lake but are connected underwater by a glass tunnel.

Reed Flute Cave – Named so because of the clumps of slender reed that were once commonly found at the entrance to the caves, also used to make flutes, the Reed Flute Caves houses a grotto of multi-coloured stalactites and stalagmites.

Day 9: Guilin to Yangshuo

Meals: B, L, D

Take a relaxed 4-hour cruise along the Li River to the charming town of Yangshuo, where you will stay overnight.

Around every river bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged peaks loom over rural scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalos and local fishermen.

These are small cruise boats that usually hold approximately 100 passengers: with an enclosed dining area on the lower deck and an open viewing area on the upper deck. Usually, the boats depart at 9am from the dock located a 1-hour 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, approximately a 30-minute walk from the river. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost.

In Yangshuo, enjoy some time strolling along West Street and visit the local markets.

Destination Information

Li River – Pass tranquil farming and fishing scenes and picturesque villages as you cruise down the Li River. The main attraction is the stunning limestone karsts that tower above the river creating a magical landscape of mountains and water. The unique and natural beauty of this region has for centuries been an inspiration to Chinese artists and poets alike.

Yangshuo – Yangshuo is home to some of the best scenery in the world. This quaint town is renowned for its breathtaking vistas and peaceful country life. Surrounded by stark karst peaks and attractively located on the Li River, Yangshuo, alongside Guilin, prides itself in being the most sought-after beauty spots in China.

Day 10: Yangshou to Shanghai

Meals: B, L, D

Today fly just over 2 hours to the exuberant city of Shanghai for a 2-night stay.

Upon arrival, check-in to your hotel, where the remainder of your day will be at leisure.

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 European and oriental. Modern skyscrapers intermingle with 1920s 'shikumen' buildings. This combination is what attracts millions of visitors each year.

Day 11: Explore Shanghai

Meals: B, L, D

Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Garden and a quick visit to the old town.

Admire the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the Bund and visiting the Silk Factory. Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the centre of the city including 3-4 hours on foot.

In the evening, view the city from the Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise.

**Destination Information**

Yu Gardens – The Yu Gardens 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 Gardens is home to exquisite jade rock, goldfish-filled ponds and stunning, tranquil pavilions.

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.

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.

Huangpu River – The Huangpu River flows through the centre of Shanghai and separates the city into Pudong, meaning 'east of the Huangpu' and Puxi, 'west of the Huangpu'. Cruising down the river, you will see the contrast of the historical Bund architecture on one side of the river with the modern Pudong skyline on the other side. At night, the banks of the Huangpu light up, turning Shanghai into a neon wonder.

Day 12: Goodbye China, hello Japan!

Meals: B, L, D

It's time to say goodbye to China and hello to Japan!

Transfer to the airport and fly just over two hours to the vibrant city of Osaka. On arrival you will be met by your English-speaking Japanese guide and transferred to your hotel.

Destination Information

Osaka – Osaka, formerly known as Naniwa, is Japan's third largest city and remains the economic powerhouse of the Kansai Region. The city is famed for its delicious food and is often referred to as the culinary capital. The city also boasts vibrant colours that surround each street, rich history and culture.



Day 13: Osaka Castle

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, visit the famous Osaka Castle before taking a 20-minute cruise along the Yodogawa River. Next, stroll around the Dotonbori district, a restaurant mecca, where you can sample delicious local delicacies for lunch.

Spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure before dinner in the evening.

**Destination Information**

Osaka Castle – Osaka Castle is one of Japan's most famous castles known for sweeping views of the city from its hilltop perch. Construction began in 1583 by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who intended the castle to become the centre of a new, unified Japan under his rule.

Dotonbori District – Historically a theatre district and still a popular entertainment area today, the Dotonbori district offer an eccentric and electric atmosphere.

Day 14: Discover Okayama & Kurashiki

Meals: B, L, D

Transfer to Osaka Station and take the speedy bullet train for 45 minutes to Okayama.

Visit Korakuen Garden, one of the 'Three Great Gardens of Japan' before continuing around 1 hour to Kurashiki to explore the beautifully preserved Bikan Historical Quarter.

Later, transfer around two hours to Hiroshima.



Please note: You will need to pack a smaller overnight bag for the next two nights as your main luggage will be transferred separately to Kyoto.

Destination Information

Okayama – Okayama, an old castle town of the Ikeda daimyo family, is the capital city of its namesake prefecture. The prefecture is known for its delicious fruit and is often called the land of sunshine.

Korakuen Garden – Along with Kanazawa's Kenrokuen and Mito's Kairakuen, Korakuen is one of the 'Three Great Gardens of Japan'. Korakuen was built in 1687 and opened to the public in 1884. It's a spacious garden with typical Japanese landscape garden features, including a large pond, streams and walking paths.

Bikan Historical Quarter – During the Edo Period (1603-1867), Kurashiki was an important point along the distribution route of Japan's most important commodity, rice. A central section of the city's former canal system has been preserved in the Bikan Historical Quarter. Along the canal, there are many of the original storehouses, which have been converted into cafes, boutiques, souvenir shops and museums.

Hiroshima – An atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima on 6th August 1945, and the city's name became famous worldwide for this unenviable distinction. The destructive power of the bomb obliterated nearly everything within a 2km radius. The city has been rebuilt and has risen phoenix-like from the ashes and destroyed sites of historical heritage were reconstructed.

Day 15: Explore Hiroshima & Miyajima

Meals: B, L, D

Take a short ferry ride to Miyajima Island, where sightseeing will be at a leisurely pace on foot.

Visit Itsukushima Shrine and explore the traditional market town at leisure. Return by ferry and coach to Hiroshima and, after lunch, visit the famous Peace Memorial Park and Museum.



Please be aware that the museum may be confronting and upsetting for some group members, and it is at your discretion if you wish to visit or enjoy time at leisure exploring the Peace Memorial Park.

Later, visit the observation deck of Orizuru Tower and enjoy great views of the city.

Destination Information

Miyajima – Miyajima is a small island outside of Hiroshima. While officially named Itsukushima, the island is more commonly referred to as Miyajima, meaning 'Shrine Island'. This is because the island is well-known for its main attraction, Itsukushima Shrine, a giant torii gate, which at high tide seems to float on the water.

Peace Memorial Park and Museum – The Peace Memorial Park and Museum is one of the most prominent features of the city. The trees, lawns and walking paths are in stark contrast to the surrounding downtown area. Before the bomb, this area was the political and commercial heart of the city and is why it was chosen as the target. The museum focuses on the events of August 6th and the ensuing outcome for the residents.

Orizuru Tower - The 50-metre-tall Orizuru Tower is located beside the A-Bomb Dome and is one of the few tall buildings around the Peace Memorial Park. It offers a great view of the surroundings, including the less commonly seen view of the A-Bomb Dome from above.

Day 16: Travel to Kyoto

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, transfer to Hiroshima Station and catch a bullet train to Kyoto, a journey of 1 hour 40 minutes.

The capital city for a thousand years, this enchanting city is the epitome of traditional Japan. After lunch, visit Ryoanji Temple, with its famous Zen Garden, and Kinkakuji Temple, known as the 'Golden Pavilion' due to its golden exterior.



You will need to remove your shoes at both temples. Sightseeing on foot will be approximately 2-3 hours on foot today.

Destination Information

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.

Ryoanji Temple – Ryoanji Temple is a Zen temple renowned for its garden which features a dry, sand landscape with large rocks and smooth pebbles.

Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) – Kinkakuji Temple is a Buddhist temple and is an excellent example of Japanese garden design. The structure is a brilliant golden hue colour and is very minimalistic.

Day 17: Explore Kyoto

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, visit the mesmerising Fushimi Inari Shrine, which stretches from the bottom to the top of Mount Inari (233 metres high). You will walk up part of the mountain and the incline allows a steady-paced walk of around 15 minutes with a flat road and steps to reach the torii gates.



Due to the limited space of Fushimi Inari Shrine coach parking, you may need to walk from coach parking for 15 minutes.

Next, head to Nishiki Market, also known as ‘Kyoto’s Kitchen,’ with its lively open-air market specialising in all things food!

Also visit a restored wooden Japanese townhouse to experience the ritual of a tea ceremony accompanied by a Tea Master and try your hand at the traditional art of origami. Due to the nature of the cultural experience, you will be required to remove your shoes before entering the venue.

Destination Information

Fushimi Inari Shrine (Taisha) – An important Shinto shrine in southern Kyoto, Fushimi Inari is most famous for its thousands of vermilion torii gates which form a network of tunnels around the main shrine buildings. The shrine itself is dedicated to Inari, the Shinto god of rice. There are many fox statues in the grounds of the shrine as foxes are thought to be Inari’s messengers.

Nishiki Market - A narrow, five block long shopping street lined by more than 100 shops and restaurants, this lively retail market specialises in all things food related, like fresh seafood, produce, knives and cookware. It’s a great place to find seasonal foods and Kyoto specialties, like sweets, dried seafood and sushi.

Day 18: Bullet Train to Hakone

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, transfer to Kyoto station and take the super-fast bullet train to the Hakone area, a journey of around 2 hours.

In Hakone, board a coach to explore this beautiful area. The region is spectacular with the calm waters of the five lakes, formed by past volcanic eruptions, reflecting Fuji's picture-perfect cone.



Head up Fuji's 5th Station for spectacular mountain vistas, please note it is only possible to reach the 5th station if weather permits. If the 5th Station is closed, the Fuji San World Heritage Centre (formerly Fuji Visitor Centre) will be visited instead.

Continue to tranquil Lake Ashi. Take a cruise across the lake before taking the Komagatake cable car for spectacular views of Mount Fuji and the lake below.

Later, continue by coach for around 2 hours to Tokyo, Japan's capital.

Please note you will need to pack a smaller overnight bag today as your main luggage will be transferred separately to Tokyo, arriving the following day.

Destination Information

Hakone – Situated next to picturesque Lake Ashi, Hakone is a pleasant town, popular with weary Tokyoites looking for a break from the city and a great overnight stop after visiting Mount Fuji.

Lake Ashi – Formed after Mount Hakone's last eruption 3000 years ago, Lake Ashi is the symbol of Hakone and on a clear day offers spectacular views of Mount Fuji in the distance.

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 lovely gardens. Although long the political and cultural centre of Japan, Tokyo became the official capital when the Meiji Emperor moved it there in 1867.

Day 19: Contrasts of Tokyo

Meals: B, L, D

Tokyo is the ultimate metropolis, perfectly blending modern technology with beautifully serene backstreets and old temples. Today take a tour by coach of this fascinating city. Head to the 1st observatory of the Tokyo Skytree for panoramic views over the city before taking a wander through the district of Asakusa for an opportunity to pick up some souvenirs on Nakamise Shopping Street. Go on to visit Sensoji Temple, Tokyo's oldest and most famous temple, home to a five-story pagoda and the iconic large red Kaminarimon Thunder Gate lantern.



Due to the limited coach parking, you may need to walk around 15 minutes on flat road.

Drive past Tokyo's Imperial Palace Double Bridge and visit Meiji Jingu Shrine. You will be on your feet for 4-5 hours during your touring in Tokyo.

Enjoy your evening meal whilst leisurely cruising along Tokyo Bay. You will need to get on and off your boat without assistance.

Destination Information

Tokyo Skytree – The tallest structure in Japan, Tokyo Skytree is predominantly a television and radio broadcast tower and is earthquake-resistant.

Sensoji Temple – Sensoji Temple is an ancient Buddhist Temple and the oldest in Tokyo. The temple was originally founded in the 7th century. The temple adorns an image of the Buddhist Goddess Kannon, who was said to have been rescued by two fishermen from the Sumida River in Tokyo.

Imperial Palace Plaza – Imperial Palace Plaza is the main residence of the Emperor of Japan. Built on the original site of Edo Castle, the Plaza is made up of a palace, museum and large park.

Meiji Jingu Shrine – Meiji Shrine is a Shinto shrine dedicated to the Emperor Meiji and his wife Empress Shoken. The shrine is located in an evergreen forest within in the busy city and consists of 120,000 trees which were donated by people from all over Japan when the shrine was established.

Days 20-21: Depart Tokyo

Meals: B

This morning is free at leisure before transferring to the airport for your overnight flight home.

Please note: Only breakfast is included today. Late check-out is not included in our Ancient Empires of China & Japan tour. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day in Tokyo, please contact our Reservations Department, request is subject to availability



Transfers: In the event that your flight departs outside of the majority group departure time, you'll 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.

CHINA - TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

China Visas are not required for New Zealand passport holders for stays 30 days and under. For longer periods in China and/or other passport holders a visa will be required. Full details will be advised by Wendy Wu Tours upon booking.

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

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. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original

GROUP SIZE:

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

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

EATING IN CHINA:

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

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

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

Dining mostly follows the traditional ‘family style’ approach, with dishes placed on a lazy Susan for everyone to share. Serving chopsticks are provided for each dish, and individual bowls, chopsticks, and cups are set for personal use. Most restaurants can provide a fork or spoon if needed. This communal style of dining is an integral part of Chinese culture and a fun, social experience that will also help you to bond with your fellow passengers.

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

ACCOMMODATION:

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

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

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

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

If you are traveling during a Chinese public holiday, please note that while tourist attractions remain open, they may be crowded with domestic visitors. Festivities often span several days, during which some businesses may close, and coach, air, and train services could be impacted. The major Golden Week holidays occur annually around 1 to 5 May and 1 to 7 October.

DEVELOPMENT IN 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.

TRANSPORT:

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

For daily products containing flammable ingredients, such as perfumes, colognes, sprays, and gels, non-self-spray pressure containers should not exceed 100 millilitres per item, with only one container allowed per product.

For self-spray pressure containers (e.g., hair mousse, hair spray, hair dye, cold wave lotion, insecticides, and air fresheners), each container must not exceed 150 millilitres, with a total cumulative volume of all such items not exceeding 600 millilitres. Passengers are not permitted to carry insecticides, explosives, magnetised materials, knives (including Swiss Army knives) with a blade longer than 60mm, scissors, or other sharp objects.

Bag checks are conducted at random, and any restricted items—whether in hand luggage or main luggage—may be confiscated before boarding. Your National Escort will provide specific details before your journey.

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

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

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

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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 listed in your final documents and can be paid for locally through your guide.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs; so, in each city, we will visit a workshop or factory which demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places which hold local interest; for example, in Shanghai you will be able to see how silk is created all the way from the silkworm to beautiful garments.

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.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping is a common practice in most parts of the world, including China. However, knowing who to tip and how much can be unclear, and travellers may not always have the right cash on hand. To make the process seamless, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount (refer to our brochure or online tour page) is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. This system ensures a hassle-free experience for travellers while maintaining a fair and reasonable gratuity for the local people including the National Escort.

If you are travelling in a smaller group of under 10 passengers with local guides only, then tipping is paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups. We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognise that it may not suit everyone.

However, as this is a group tour, we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

LUGGAGE:

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

INTERNET RESTRICTIONS IN CHINA:

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

TRAVEL MONEY IN CHINA:

We recommend having access to multiple sources of money while traveling. A combination of payment methods, including mobile payment apps, cash, and cards, will offer the most security and flexibility. Mobile payment apps like WeChat and Alipay are often more widely accepted than international cards or cash in China. You will need an internet connection when in China to use the apps. For more information, please refer to our China Travel Guide and Phrase book online Page 16 – [Travel guide and Phrasebook CHINA](#)

EXCHANGING CASH:

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to cities outside of Beijing and Shanghai. US Dollars are easily exchanged throughout China and other currencies can generally be exchanged in hotels and airports provided notes are new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

CLIMBING STEPS:

Sightseeing at nearly all the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a few 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.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

Wendy Wu does not give specific health advice, but we do recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you. Safe travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements. You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

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

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