

CHARMS OF CHINA

Classic | 21 Days | Physical Level 2

Beijing – Xian – Zhangjiajie – Yangtze River Cruise – Chongqing – Congjiang – Xijiang – Guiyang – Shanghai

Discover China's incredible diversity, from Beijing's iconic Great Wall and Forbidden City to Xian's Terracotta Warriors, Zhangjiajie's dramatic sandstone peaks and the Three Gorges. Continue to Guizhou, exploring its charming traditional villages and beautiful scenery. Immerse yourself in the region's ethnic heritage in Xijiang, renowned for its Miao culture, and Zhaoxing Dong Village, where the traditions of the Dong people come to life. Conclude in dazzling Shanghai.

- Discover Beijing's historic treasures and walk along the Great Wall
- Explore Xian's Terracotta Warriors
- Marvel at Zhangjiajie's dramatic sandstone pillars and cruise the scenic Yangtze River
- Discover Guizhou's traditional villages and natural wonders, before concluding in Shanghai

TOUR MAP



'CHARMS OF CHINA' 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 Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) and Local Guides
- 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, customary 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 China on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

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.

'Charms of China' is rated as a **physical level 2** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it is more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights, carrying your luggage on and off trains, and climbing some steps. Please consider:

- On several days there will be sightseeing on foot for extended periods of time
- On the Great Wall of China in Beijing, some of the walking may be at more of an incline
- On the Yangtze River Cruise and the day trips arranged from onboard, you will be required to get on and off boats without assistance
- In Zhangjiajie there are periods of walking up and down stone steps and walkways as well as walking across a glass bridge, getting on and off escalators and in and out of cable cars.

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 travellers 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 or 19 days in duration based on 'Land Only'.

Travellers booked on a 'Land Only' package, 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 information to our reservations team.

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

DETAILED ITINERARY

Days 1-2: **Fly overnight to Beijing** Meals: D



On arrival in Beijing Daxing or Beijing Capital Airport, you will be met in the arrival 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 approximately 1 hour to your hotel.

Early check-in is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.

An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 2. Late arrivals will receive a box dinner.

Destination Information

Beijing – 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. It has been the heart of politics and society throughout its long history. The ancient monuments, stories of days gone by, and the dynamic, modern city Beijing has become today, make it a destination not to be missed.

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



Begin the day at Beijing's symbolic heart, Tiananmen Square, before exploring the magnificent Forbidden City. Enter through the Gate of Supreme Harmony and discover its fascinating imperial history. Continue to the Temple of Heaven, a beautiful masterpiece of Ming architecture set within peaceful parkland. This evening, savour a traditional Peking duck dinner, one of Beijing's most famous culinary specialities.

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 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 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.

Day 4: The Great Wall

Meals: B, L, D



Rise early this morning and drive around 2-hours northwest of the city to the Juyongguan Pass. Here you can take a walk on the Great Wall of China, appreciating the wall itself and the dramatic scenery. After walking from the coach to the first section, your group will receive an introduction to the Great Wall's unique history and a briefing on the different walking routes available, depending on your level of fitness. You will then have approximately 2.5 hours free time to explore at your own pace. Please note that there are many steps at the wall and certain sections are steeper than others. Later, visit a jade factory before taking a stroll through the exquisite Summer Palace.

After Hours Experience: For those seeking an evening of breathtaking stunts and elegant choreography, you may wish to see the Chaoyang Acrobatic Show (time permitting, payable locally).

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 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.

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

This morning transfer to the train station and board your bullet train to Xian, with a journey time of 5-hours. Wander through the Muslim Quarter, wandering its bustling streets while soaking up the atmosphere of this historic neighbourhood.

Please note you will need to carry your own luggage on and off the train.



After Hours Experience: For those seeking extra excitement this evening, you may wish to visit Tang Ever Bright City for its traditional architecture, colourful costumes, and dazzling lights (time permitting, payable locally).

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.

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.

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, stop by a local brewery for a refreshing beer tasting, where you can learn about the brewing process and sample a selection of beers (non-alcoholic drinks are available), before enjoying a delicious feast of traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing in the evening.

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.

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 – Zhangjiajie** Meals: B, L, D

Fly south from Xi'an to Zhangjiajie (approximately 1.5 hours), where breathtaking landscapes of towering sandstone pillars and lush forests await. On arrival, visit Huanglong Cave, an impressive underground wonderland of vast caverns, dramatic stalactites and underground rivers.



Destination Information

Zhangjiajie – A scenic area of over 3,000 sandstone pillars, rising from misty folds of subtropical forest and cloaked in vibrant green vegetation, Zhangjiajie's striking beauty is unforgettable.

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

Enjoy a full day of exploring Zhangjiajie National Park. Begin at the Yuanjiajie Scenic Area, and ride the remarkable Bailong glass elevator, the highest and fastest outdoor elevator in the world. Embedded into the mountain, the elevator soars up the mountainside to a towering height of 326 metres in as little as two minutes! This impressive elevator will transport you to Mihun Stage, where you will enjoy amazing views of the majestic peaks, including the 'First Bridge under the Sun' and Hallelujah Mountain. Continue to Emperor Mountain and visit Helong Park before taking a cable car down.



Sightseeing today will involve around 3-4 hours of walking.

Destination Information

Yuanjiajie Scenic Area – The area is dotted with stunning limestone karst formations, including natural stone arches and caves, providing ample opportunities for photography and exploration. Wildlife enthusiasts can also encounter a diverse array of flora and fauna, adding to the area's allure as a haven for nature lovers.

Bailong Elevator – Also known as the Hundred Dragons Elevator, this architectural marvel holds an impressive three world records: the largest, highest and fastest sightseeing elevator in the world.

Day 9: **Zhangjiajie** Meals: B, L, D



Soar up the heights of Tianmen Mountain in the world's longest cable car, a 7-kilometre journey taking approximately 40 minutes. Atop the mountain, marvel at Tianmen Cave, nicknamed 'Heaven's Door', standing proudly at the top of 999 steep steps. Next, take a thrilling walk along a glass skywalk, aptly named the "Walk of Faith" as though you're walking on air. If time permits, you may also walk across the Cliff-Hanging Walkway or Coiled Dragon Cliff. Sightseeing today will involve around 3-4 hours of walking.

Please note: The 999 step walk up to Tianmen Cave and the glass skywalk is optional. The steps can take around 25 – 40 minutes. Alternatively, there is an escalator on the other side of the mountain leading up to Tianmen Cave. There is also a small platform at the foot of the steps where you can soak up the spectacular views and wait for the group.

**__Notice:__ The upper section of the Tianmen Mountain Grand Cableway is currently closed for maintenance until further notice. The cable car from the lower section to the middle station will continue to operate as normal. After arriving at the middle station, we will take an eco-bus up the spectacular 99 bends road to reach the summit for sightseeing as planned, and return down the mountain via the Express Cableway.*

After Hours Experience: For those seeking extra excitement this evening, there is a Fairy Fox Outdoor Music & Dancing Show (time and weather permitting, payable locally), a musical drama of a Chinese tale told against the stage backdrop of the mountains.

Destination Information

Tianmen Mountain – Regarded as the symbol and soul of Zhangjiajie, Tianmen Mountain is a national forest park bursting with natural beauty. The area is home to breathtaking glass skywalks, the 999-step stairway leading to 'Heaven's Door' and the world's longest cable car journey.

Day 10: Zhangjiajie – Yichang – Yangtze River Cruise Meals: B, L, D

Drive 4-hours to Maoping docks and board your cruise ship which will take you on an amazing journey up China's Yangtze River for the next 4-nights.



Cruise Information

The cruise includes one daily shore excursion along with various onboard activities and entertainment. Additional shore excursions (approx. RMB280 per person) are available, payable onboard, subject to local conditions. Please consult your guide about physical requirements, as some ports may involve many steps.

The Yangtze River cruise section of your itinerary will not be confirmed by the cruise operators until after you commence as it is subject to local river conditions and water levels. Your local guide will do their utmost to keep you informed of any changes but cannot guarantee against delays or – in rare cases – cancellations of sections of your itinerary. A detailed itinerary will be handed out on the vessel each day.

If you don't take part in a shore excursion but wish to disembark, a port tax (approx. RMB250 per person) applies, though disembarkation may not always be possible due to security reasons.

Please be aware that embarking and disembarking the cruise ship may involve several steps, especially at low tide. Notify us in advance if this may be an issue.

There are amenities package (starting from Day 2), deck and cabin upgrades available to pre-book. Please enquire with our Reservations team.

Destination Information

Yangtze River – One of the world's great and legendary waterways, this 6,300km river has its origins high up in the snow-covered mountain of Tanggula, in the southwestern Qinghai Tibet Plateau, and runs into the ocean in Shanghai. It is estimated that the banks of this river are home to almost a third of China's population.

Day 11: Yangtze River Cruise Meals: B, L, D



Visit the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydroelectric dam, and marvel at this incredible feat of engineering. Disembark the ship and take a scenic 45-minute drive (please note that the coach is not permitted to take photo stops) to the viewing area above the ship locks, where you will be able to appreciate the immense scale of this monumental project. Explore a small museum and a lookout point for further insight into its construction and impact on the region. This excursion includes approximately one hour of walking. Return to the ship and cruise through Xiling Gorge, the longest and deepest of the Three Gorges.

Additional shore excursions may include the Three Gorges Dam Lift or a visit to the Tribe of the Three Gorges.

Destination Information

Three Gorges Dam – Commenced in 1994 and completed in 2009, the Three Gorges Dam is the largest water conservancy project ever undertaken. The Dam is located near Sandouping, which is in the middle of the Xiling Gorge, the longest of the Three Gorges. The dam is 2,335m long, 185m high, 18m wide on the top and 130m wide at the bottom. The dam has raised the river to a level of 175m above sea level, creating a 600km long reservoir. The purpose of building the dam was flood control, electricity, navigation, and irrigation.

Day 12: Yangtze River Cruise Meals: B, L, D



Transfer to smaller vessels for a relaxing 1.5-hour excursion through the Shennong Stream gorges. Though narrower than the Three Gorges, these dramatic waterways offer equally as impressive scenery. There is no walking involved on this shore excursion, however you will need to get on and off the boat without assistance. Later, as the cruise ship continues upstream, prepare for breathtaking vistas as you pass through Wu and Qutang gorges. Wu Gorge is known for its quiet beauty, with forest-covered mountains and towering cliffs, while Qutang Gorge, the shortest and narrowest, captivates with its sheer rock faces and dramatic landscapes.

Depending on local river conditions, you may travel along the gorges of Goddess Stream instead of Shennong Stream.

Additional shore excursions may include White Emperor City or Peak of the Three Gorges.

Destination Information

Shennong Stream – Shennong Stream flows from north to south through stunning deep gorges finally merging with the Yangtze to the east of the mouth of Wu Gorge. The landscape on both banks of this crystal-clear stream is unique and tranquil.

Day 13: Yangtze River Cruise Meals: B, L, D



Continue cruising along the mighty Yangtze River. Relax onboard or disembark to explore the Xiaoguanshan Folk Culture Park, a reconstructed park featuring ancestral homes, the historic Tianfo Temple, and Huichuan Gate, all rescued from the submerged areas of the Three Gorges Dam. Sightseeing is on foot at a leisurely pace, taking approximately 1-2 hours.

Depending on local river conditions and the cruise programme, you may visit Shibaozhai or Mt Shuanggui instead.

Additional shore excursions may include Fengdu's "Ghost City" or Mt. Wuling Great Rift Valley.

Destination Information

Xiaoguanshan Folk Culture Park – Spanning 2,001 square meters, the park features the historic homes of the Qin, Zhou, Wang, and Lu families, as well as the ancient Tianfo Temple and Huichuan Gate, all originally located in the Three Gorges Dam's submerged areas of Gaojia and Mingshan towns. These valuable structures were painstakingly dismantled, with each piece meticulously numbered, and then transported to Xiaoguanshan. Over the course of five years, from 2002 to 2007, they were carefully reconstructed to preserve their historical integrity.

Day 14: Chongqing – Zhaoxing Dong Village Meals: B, L, D



Disembark from your cruise vessel in Chongqing and board a bullet train to Congjiang, in Guizhou Province. Enjoy the comfortable journey through the scenic landscapes of southwest China, with a journey time of approximately 4 hours. Continue to Zhaoxing Dong Village, one of China's largest Dong settlements, renowned for its traditional wooden houses and drum towers, set against a backdrop of lush green mountains and terraced rice fields.

Please note, you will need to carry your own luggage on and off the train.

If low water levels prevent sailing all the way to Chongqing, the ship may dock at Fengdu instead, with a transfer drive of approximately 2 hours to the city.

Destination Information

Chongqing – A city perched on the steep hills overlooking the confluence of the Jialing and the Yangtze Rivers. Known for its incredible night lights, drone shows, hotpot culture, and buzzing nightlife, it's a city that perfectly captures the spirit of contemporary China.

Congjiang – A scenic county in southeastern Guizhou, Congjiang is renowned for its traditional Dong and Miao villages, terraced rice fields and beautiful mountain landscapes. Offering an insight into the region's rich ethnic heritage, it is an ideal base for discovering traditional architecture, local customs and the timeless rural charm of southwest China.

Zhaoxing Dong Village – Surrounded by verdant mountains and terraced fields, Zhaoxing is renowned for its traditional Dong wooden houses, five distinctive drum towers and covered wind-and-rain bridges. The village offers a wonderful opportunity to discover the architecture, music and enduring traditions of the Dong people.

Day 15: Xijiang Meals: B, L, D



Explore the beautiful Tangan Rice Terraces, taking in the sweeping views of layered rice fields and surrounding mountains. Then drive to Xijiang Miao Village, where you'll enjoy a traditional Miao meal accompanied by the famous "Mountain & River" rice wine-pouring ceremony. As evening falls, soak up the atmosphere and admire the village's spectacular night views. Overnight in Xijiang.

After Hours Experience: enjoy the Beautiful Xijiang Show, a spectacular song and dance performance showcasing Miao culture through traditional music, dance, colourful costumes and theatrical scenes depicting the history and customs of the Miao people (time permitting, payable locally).

Destination Information

Tang'an Rice Terraces – Located in the mountains of southeastern Guizhou, these impressive stepped rice fields follow the natural contours of the hillsides, showcasing generations of traditional Dong farming practices and offering beautiful countryside views.

Xijiang Miao Village – Also known as the Thousand Household Miao Village, Xijiang is one of China's largest Miao settlements, famed for its traditional wooden stilt houses, hillside setting and rich cultural heritage. The village is particularly atmospheric when illuminated after dark.

Day 16: Guizhou Ethnic Villages — Meals: B, L, D



Discover the rich cultural heritage and traditional craftsmanship of Guizhou's ethnic villages. Travel to Langde Miao Village (approximately 45 minutes), where you'll explore its traditional wooden houses and enjoy a cultural performance showcasing Miao music, dance and costumes. Then, drive approximately 1 hour to Shiqiao Papermaking Village to discover the traditional art of handmade paper, before continuing to the nearby Qingman Embroidery Village to admire its intricate Miao embroidery and traditional craftsmanship. Afterwards, drive approximately 3 hours to Guiyang.

Destination Information

Guiyang – The capital of Guizhou Province, Guiyang serves as the gateway to the region's spectacular natural landscapes and rich ethnic heritage. Its excellent transport links make it an ideal base for exploring Guizhou's famous waterfalls, dramatic karst scenery and traditional Miao and Dong villages.

Day 17: Huajiang Canyon Bridge & Huangguoshu Waterfall — Meals: B, L, D



Today, visit two of Guizhou's most notable attractions. Drive from Guiyang (approximately 2.5–3 hours) to Huajiang Canyon Bridge, the world's highest bridge, standing 625 metres above the Huajiang Grand Canyon. Take time to appreciate the scale of the structure and the surrounding mountain scenery. Continue to Huangguoshu Waterfall (approximately 1 hour), one of China's most famous waterfalls. Explore the scenic area, taking in the impressive main waterfall, surrounding cascades and lush natural landscapes. Later, return to Guiyang (approximately 1.5–2 hours' drive).

Sightseeing today will take approximately 3–4 hours. At Huangguoshu Waterfall, expect some walking along paved paths and steps, with shuttle bus transfers within the scenic area.

Destination Information

Huajiang Canyon Bridge – The world's highest bridge, Huajiang Canyon Bridge stands approximately 625 metres above the Beipan River in Guizhou Province. Spanning the dramatic Huajiang Grand Canyon, this impressive suspension bridge connects the surrounding mountainous terrain and offers views across the deep gorge and rugged karst landscape.

Huangguoshu Waterfall – One of China's most famous waterfalls, Huangguoshu is renowned for its powerful cascade, verdant surroundings and dramatic karst landscape. A network of scenic walkways and viewpoints allows visitors to appreciate the waterfall from several different angles.

Day 18: Guiyang – Shanghai

Meals: B, L, D

Transfer to Guiyang Airport for your 2.5-hour flight to Shanghai.

On arrival, transfer to the city and enjoy a cruise along the Huangpu River, offering views of Shanghai's famous waterfront, from the historic colonial-era buildings of the Bund to the modern skyline of Pudong.



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.

Huangpu River – There is no better way to see the juxtaposition of eras than taking a cruise on the Huangpu River. At night, the dazzling lights from Pudong shine bright onto the more modest twilight of the Bund.

Day 19: Shanghai

Meals: B, L, D

Shanghai is China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th century temples. Today's explorations include 3-4 hours of sightseeing on foot, visiting the peaceful Yu Garden and the atmospheric alleys of the old town. Admire the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the historical waterfront Bund, before visiting a silk mill. Also head to the top of Jin Mao tower for incredible views of the city (weather permitting).



Destination Information

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, goldfish-filled ponds and stunning, tranquil pavilions.

Silk Mill – 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.

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.

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 home, arriving the following day.

Late check-out is not included. Additional nights before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.



CHINA TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

New Zealand passport holders can currently enter China visa-free for stays of up to 30 days, for travel completed before 31 December 2026. If you hold a different passport, please contact us.

If you're travelling in 2027 or beyond, visa requirements may change. Should a visa be required for New Zealand passport holders, Wendy Wu Tours will organise this for you at no additional cost. Full details of the visa process – including processing times, required documentation and instructions – will be sent to you electronically at full payment.

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.

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. 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 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 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 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. If you require a fork or spoon, please ask your server. This communal style of dining is an integral part of Chinese culture and a fun, social experience.

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. While your National Escort will do their best to assist, 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 travelling 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*, TV, 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 from April 29 to May 3 and September 30 to October 7.

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.

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 on overhead racks. 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.

AFTER-HOURS EXPERIENCES:

Our Classic tours include full days of sightseeing, so you can experience all the must-see sights and create unforgettable memories. Occasionally, when time permits, we may offer extra evening experiences, such as a show, for those who want a little extra excitement. These experiences are not mandatory, will be outlined in your final documents, and can be paid for locally in RMB, either by cash or mobile payment app.

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

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and China is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not 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, 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.

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.

DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA:

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

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 silk worm to beautiful garments; and 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.

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 Paying in China guide www.wendywutours.co.nz/help-and-visas/china-travel-tips/

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It's 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'll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

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 an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

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