



# CHINA BY LAND, JAPAN BY SEA WITH ROYAL CARIBBEAN

## Classic Cruising Tour | 21 Days | Physical Level 1

Beijing – Pingyao – Xian – Chengdu – Shanghai – Kobe – Kyoto – Tokyo – Shanghai

Reveal the many ancient marvels of China and Japan as you journey by land and sea through the historic cities of Beijing, Pingyao, Xian and Kyoto. Experience the contemporary and bustling cities of Tokyo and Shanghai, as well as coming face to face with the nation's favourite bear.

- Uncover the ancient treasures of Beijing
- Walk the cobbled streets and city walls of ancient Pingyao
- Explore the incredible Great Wall of China
- Meet the loveable Giant Pandas
- Face the vast Terracotta Army
- Journey to Japan onboard Royal Caribbean's mighty Spectrum of the Seas
- Marvel at modern Shanghai with a sunset cruise on the Huangpu River

## TOUR MAP



## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 7 nights Royal Caribbean cruise on Spectrum of the Seas
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated (*if dining on board throughout*) – 18 breakfasts (B), 17 lunches (L), 18 dinners (D)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees, transportation and transfers pre and post cruise
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides pre and post cruise
- Visa fees for New Zealand passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with IATA

*Pre and post cruise, the only elements or aspects you may have to pay for are personal expenditures e.g., drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.*

*During the cruise, your meals on board will be included in the main dining areas, however, should you wish to dine in any of the speciality restaurants not included in your cruising package, you will be required to pay for these locally. In addition, if you opt to dine off the ship, these meals will also be paid for locally, and please note you will not be refunded for meals missed on board. Excursions are also available to book with your cruise reservation at your own expense.*

*Tipping during the cruise will be payable onboard the ship.*

### CLASSIC CRUISING TOURS:

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These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of China and Southeast Asia on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people combined with a cruise. The tours are on a fully inclusive basis pre and post cruise, so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements before and after your cruise 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.

### JOINING YOUR TOUR:

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The tour is 21 days in duration including international flights. Join the tour on Day 2 in Beijing and end the tour on Day 20 in Shanghai.

For travellers booked on a 'Land and Cruise Only' package, which omits the inclusion of international flights, 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.

### ITINERARY CHANGES:

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We intend 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 dictated by local conditions. In these circumstances, we will endeavour to make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip. Similarly, while cruise liners always endeavour to adhere to the published itineraries, they may be changed at the discretion of the captain due to weather advisories, port traffic, and any other unforeseeable circumstances.

### PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

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All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

'China by Land, Japan by Sea with Royal Caribbean' is rated as a **physical level 1** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required, and you should expect to be on your feet for much of the day. You will be getting on and off coaches, trains or boats and walking around the sights, often including steps, plus occasional longer walks.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time, often on uneven surfaces
- You will be required to get on and off small boats without assistance
- You will be required to board the cruise ship without assistance and get on and off at ports if you wish to disembark the ship

Of course, our National Escort and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

**DETAILED ITINERARY****Days 1-2: Fly 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.*

**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 as well as the dynamic and modern city Beijing has become today, make it a destination not to be missed.

**Day 3: Beijing**

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will be met by your guide, where you will walk through Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificent Forbidden City, the former residence of the Ming and Qing emperors. Entering through the Gate of Supreme Harmony, you will find a complex full of imperial riches.

Later, soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape, before enjoying a traditional Peking duck dinner.



*Sightseeing at Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City 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**

**Tiananmen Square** – Built under the guidance of Chairman Mao Zedong, Tiananmen Square is said to hold a capacity crowd of over one million and is one of the largest public squares in the world.

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.

**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.

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

#### Day 4: 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 will have free time to explore at your own pace.



Later, visit the Jade Factory where there will be an opportunity to buy your own handcrafted piece, before, heading to the Sacred Way and Ming Tombs, the final resting place of 13 of the Ming emperors.

Drive approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes back to Beijing, where this evening, you will experience a thrilling acrobatic show before returning to your hotel.

#### 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 Jade into works of art.

**The Sacred Way and Ming Tombs** – The Sacred Way is a long statue lined path leading to the Ming Tombs, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an impressive complex housing the mausoleums of thirteen out of the sixteen Ming Dynasty emperors.

**Day 5: Beijing – Pingyao**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, transfer to Beijing train station where you will board your 4-hour bullet train to Pingyao.

On arrival, embark on an ancient city tour with your English-speaking guide around the cobbled streets for spectacular views of the city walls of Pingyao, dating back to the Zhou Dynasty. Next, visit the Rishengchang Financial House Museum.

There will also be some time to visit the Yamen, a former government building from the Qing Dynasty, before transferring to your hotel for check-in.



*Sightseeing will involve around 4 hours on foot, including a stop for lunch.*

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

**Destination Information**

**Pingyao** – A UNESCO World Heritage listed town, Pingyao is renowned for its ancient City Wall, which was built in the 11th century and still stands encircling the town. With a 2,000-year history, Pingyao has retained its layout from the Ming and Qing dynasties; the houses, streets, storefronts and temples have all been preserved in their historical appearance.

**Pingyao Ancient City Walls** – One of the best-preserved fortifications in China, the Pingyao Ancient City Wall encloses the old town of Pingyao.

**Rishengchang Financial House** – The Rishengchang Financial House is the home of China's first draft bank, dating back to the 17th century.

**Day 6: Pingyao – Xian**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, you will have the chance to enjoy a hands-on noodle making demonstration (optional, payable locally) before transferring to the Pingyao train station to board your 3-hour bullet train to Xian, the former ancient capital. On arrival, transfer to your hotel for check-in.

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

**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.

**Day 7: 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, 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.

Tonight, enjoy a dumpling demonstration, followed by a Shui Jiao Dumpling banquet and a Tang Dynasty show.

**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.

**Ancient City Walls** – Dating back to the Ming Dynasty in the 14th century, the Xian ancient city wall is one of the best preserved urban fortifications in China. The wall's ideal spot and layout gives visitors a bird's eye view over this fantastic city. Follow the locals' example and take a bike to get an ever more spectacular experience.

**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 8: Xian – Chengdu**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, enjoy a stroll around the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter, which are lined with Islamic food stalls.

Later, transfer with your English-speaking assistant to Xian train station to board your bullet train to Chengdu, a journey of approximately 3-hours and 40-minutes. On arrival, transfer to your hotel before enjoying an evening of



the local specialty Sichuan hot pot and a face changing show.

### Destination Information

**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 9: Chengdu

Meals: B, L, D

This morning you will visit China's most loveable resident, the Giant Panda. Visit the Panda Conservation Centre where you can learn about China's celebrated bear. See these lovable creatures in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. It is not guaranteed that you will be able to see the feeding of the younger pandas, as this only happens at the start and end of each day. Sightseeing involves approximately 1 and a half hours on foot and there are electric carts offered by private vendors that can be organised at your own cost.



*There will be the opportunity to volunteer at the Panda base here before returning to your hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure.*

*Please note this volunteering opportunity is optional and time permitting.*

### Destination Information

**Chengdu** – China's symbolic western capital and the residence of the country's most lovable black and white bear, Chengdu has an abundance to offer. With a fast-paced economy which is dragging China's west into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is no wonder that Chengdu's appeal is growing year on year. As the gateway into Sichuan Province's large collection of sights, as well as Chengdu being its own trove of historical and cultural treasures, Chengdu is a must-visit on any trip to China.

**Panda Conservation Centre** – The Chengdu Panda Research Base is equipped with the latest technology and research materials to gain a further understanding in how we can protect the panda and maintain, if not increase, its numbers. The park is set up to resemble the mountain and forest regions in north Sichuan, the original home of the Giant Panda, with extensive bamboo trees and large green spaces. Red Pandas, the Giant Panda's lovable cousin, and flamboyant peacocks too roam the park, making for an interesting mix.

### Day 10: Depart Chengdu – Shanghai

Meals: B, L, D

Check-out after breakfast, and transfer to Chengdu airport to board your 2-hour and 45-minute flight to Shanghai. On arrival into Shanghai, you will be met by an English-speaking assistant and transfer to your hotel.

Later, admire the magnificent colonial architecture along the Huangpu River with a stroll along the Bund followed by a cruise on the mighty Huangpu River for stunning views of the Shanghai skyline.



### 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 occidental and oriental. Modern skyscrapers intermingle with 1920s ‘shikumen’ buildings. This combination is what attracts millions of visitors each year.

**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.

**Huangpu River Cruise** – There is no better way to see the juxtaposition of eras in Shanghai’s history than by taking a cruise on the Huangpu River. At night, the dazzling colours and lights from Pudong shine bright onto the more modest twilight of the Bund.

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**Day 11: Embark Royal Caribbean Cruise in Shanghai**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, be met by an English-speaking assistant and transfer from your hotel to the Baoshan cruise port and board your Royal Caribbean cruise ship - Spectrum of the Seas, ready to embark on your journey through Japan.

*Please note, your National Escort or Local Guide will travel with you to the port, however they will not board the cruise with you. You will be met again by your new National Escort or Local Guide once you disembark in Shanghai.*




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**Day 12: Cruising**

Meals: B, L, D

Spend today at sea and take the time to recharge before the next adventure. Enjoy a day at your own leisure, until arriving at Kobe, your next destination.




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**Day 13: Cruising – Kobe**

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will be docked in Kobe, a prominent port city renowned for its scenic harbor, Kobe beef and devastating earthquake history. Here you can enjoy a range of optional excursions.

*Please note: Any excursions on this day will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the Spectrum of the Seas.*

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*



### Destination Information

**Kobe** – Rebuilt after the Great Hanshin earthquake in 1995, Kobe is regarded as one of Japan's most attractive cities. The thriving port city of Kobe is compact, making it easy to explore on foot, yet it is still home to a plethora of culinary delights and a buzzing atmosphere, and recognised for its Kobe beef and Sake breweries.

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#### Day 14: Cruising – Kyoto

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will be docked in Kyoto, Japan's former capital for 1000 years. It is a treasure trove of culture and history, making it a city bursting with tranquil temples, geishas and sublime gardens. Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation.

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*



### 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.

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#### Day 15: Cruising – Tokyo

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will be docked in the striking modern metropolis of Tokyo (Yokohama), Japan's capital. Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation.

*Please note the journey time from the port of Yokohama to Tokyo is approximately 1 hour by road and 45 minutes by train.*

*Please also note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*



### Destination Information

**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 lovingly tended gardens. Although long the political and cultural centre of Japan, Tokyo became the official capital when the Meiji Emperor moved it to Tokyo in 1867.

**Days 16 - 17: Cruising**

Meals: B, L, D

Spend today and tomorrow at sea, taking time to recharge before the next adventure. Enjoy a couple of days at your own leisure, until arriving at Shanghai, your next destination.

*Please note: You will be requested to leave your bags outside your cabin this evening. This allows the cruise team to collect your luggage in the early morning ahead of your disembarkation, without disturbing you in the early hours.*

**Day 18: Disembark Royal Caribbean cruise in Shanghai**

Meals: B, L, D

Cruise into the port of Shanghai, where on arrival you will be met by your English-speaking guide and new National Escort or Local Guide. From here transfer to your hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure to soak up the local culture of Shanghai, and its vibrant atmosphere.

**Day 19: Shanghai**

Meals: B, L, D

Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Garden, the atmospheric alleys of the old town and the Xintiandi area, an affluent pedestrianised eating and shopping district. Admire the magnificent colonial architecture along the Huangpu River with a stroll along the Bund before visiting a silk factory where you will follow the age-old silk production process from the cultivation of silkworms up to creating the final piece.

This evening, enjoy a traditional Shanghainese meal before returning back your hotel.

Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the centre of the city with 3-4 hours on foot.

**Destination Information**

**Old Town** – The old town of Shanghai, where cobbled streets are lined with traditional shops selling herbal medicines, handicrafts, Chinese tea and a variety of tantalising snacks, is the original centre of Shanghai and for decades was the seat of Chinese authority in Shanghai.

**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, koi-filled ponds and stunning, tranquil pavilions.

**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 which brought this product across Asia and Europe.

**Day 20-21: Depart Shanghai**

Meals: B

Anytime 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.

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





## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### VISAS:

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China Visas are not required for New Zealand passport holders for stays 15 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 into 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.

**Japan:** Visas are not required for New Zealand passport holders for entry into Japan for stays of up to 90 days.

### INSURANCE:

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It is a condition of booking Cruise & Tour that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter.

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.

### CRUISE:

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As one of Royal Caribbean's Quantum Ultra-Class ships, the impressive Spectrum of the Seas is among the largest of their fleet. On board you will find a wide variety of restaurants featuring many flavours of the far east, as well as innovative dining concepts and the Bionic Bar®, where your mixologists are two robotic bartenders. There are a host of cafes and decks for your relaxation and an expansive array of on-board entertainment.

**Royal Caribbean App:** The app can be used to pre-book restaurants on board. Alternatively, on board cruise planners will be able to assist with reservations.

**Boarding Procedures:** Guests are asked to arrive at the terminal within the arrival time slot you select during Royal App check-in. Your arrival time is listed on your mobile boarding pass. Those who arrive early will not be able to begin boarding, and those who arrive late will need to wait until you can be worked into another group.

Due to government regulations requiring cruise lines to submit final departure manifests at least 60 minutes prior to sailing, guests are requested to complete Check-in no later than 3 days prior to their cruise. If you do not complete Check-in 3 days prior, you will be required to complete this process at the pier at least two hours prior to the published sailing time.

*Please note: All guests must be checked-in and onboard the ship no later than 90 minutes prior to the published sailing time or you will not be permitted to sail.*

**Cruise Schedule:** While we do our best to adhere to our published itineraries, they may be changed at the discretion of the captain due to weather advisories, port traffic, and any other unforeseeable circumstances.

**Dress Code:** Dress code on board can vary dependent on venue, however it would be recommended to pack a mix of casual, smart casual and formal clothing. When in the Main Dining Room or Speciality Dining, bare feet and tank tops are not permitted for dinner. When in the Casino, shirt and shoes are always required and cover-ups should be worn over bathing attire.

**Drinks Inclusions:** Soft drinks are included however alcoholic drinks are payable on board the ship or using your on-board credit (see below).

**On Board Credit:** You will receive on board credit as part of your booking which can be used towards shore excursions, alcoholic drinks and specialty dining venues.

#### **TIPPING POLICY:**

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**Pre and Post Cruise:** 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 recognize 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.

**On Board Spectrum of the Seas:** Gratuities are not included and will be payable on the ship or can be pre-paid through your cruise reservation.

#### **PORTERAGE:**

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**Pre and Post Cruise** - Please be aware that portage is not included on this tour. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

Cruise - Portage service is included onboard the **Spectrum of the Seas** Cruise Ship. Please note, you will be able to leave your luggage outside your cabin door on the last night of your cruise, staff will then be able to make arrangements for your luggage, ready for disembarkation early next morning. Please also note, it is customary to tip for the portage service.

### EXCHANGING CASH:

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**Money** - In New Zealand exchanging money prior to departure can be done at money exchanges, or at international airports. We recommend you carry cash in local currency, along with any credit/debit cards. ATMs are widely available in larger cities. We suggest withdrawing/exchanging your money in larger cities as facilities can be limited when travelling to smaller towns. Your National Escort will be able to assist you to do this when on tour.

- China – the local currency is known as the RMB
- Japan – the local currency is known as the Japanese Yen
- Cruise – A Cruise Card will be issued on embarkation for all purchases on board. The balance of the Cruise Card is to be paid in USD when disembarking

### SHORE EXCURSIONS

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When docked at each port you will have the opportunity to experience shore excursions. With Royal Caribbean offering shore excursions in every port of call, it is a great way to explore more of each destination. Please note, not all shore excursions will include a guide and shore excursions may be cancelled due to inclement weather conditions or for any other reason at the discretion of Royal Caribbean. Any shore excursions will be at your own expense and bookable on your cruise reservation.

### CRUISE ACCOMODATION AND CABINS

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At the time of booking, subject to availability you may have the choice to book from an outside cabin or balcony cabin. Should you wish to upgrade to a suite or have a special request for cabin location, please speak to our reservations department who will be able to assist.

### ACCOMMODATION PRE & POST CRUISE:

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Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort, or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage-type hotel. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand, Japan and China. Due to environmental regulations not, all hotels provide toiletries in the rooms. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

All hotels have private western bathroom facilities, TV, and a telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide or National Escort.

Please be aware that there are heightened security measures being carried out at all hotels, on guests and vehicles entering the properties.

Japan: Please note that in Japan, hotel rooms and bathrooms are renowned for being small. Standard single rooms are usually smaller than a standard double or twin room, contain one small double bed (or one single bed), and are designed for one person to use. In the Fuji area, hotels tend to be more traditional in style and culture. In this area, you may be asked to take your shoes off at the door and store them in a secure locker – this is very traditional Japanese culture.

### PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:

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Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you.

Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during your pre and post cruise tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available.

Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion

### EATING IN CHINA AND JAPAN:

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On this tour you will get to experience a variety of dining options. Pre and post cruise in China, and Japan you will dine as a group, whereas during the cruise, you will dine independently. You will have the option to dine in the main on-board restaurants included as standard in your cruise package. Alternatively, you can opt to dine in the on-board specialty venues or restaurants on land, both of which will be payable locally.

**China:** Chinese cuisine is one of the most influential, diverse and flavoursome culinary styles in the world with a legacy stretching back thousands of years. Often you will find that the local Chinese style is very different from what you are used to at home. We welcome people on our tours with a wide variety of tastes and as such try to present an array of food to suit everyone in the group. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout China. Most restaurants are well aware of the western palate – there are plenty of non-spiced options. Most meals are served with plain rice on the side which is intended as an accompaniment to your meal. Unlike the western world, Chinese people do not normally pre-heat their plates and food can be presented at a variety of temperatures, which is a typical Chinese way of doing things.

When eating meals on group tours, you will be seated around a circular table with other tour members. Dishes will be served in the traditional 'family style' on a lazy susan; meaning that various dishes will be laid out on a spinning turntable in the centre of the tabletop. These dishes are intended to be shared amongst the group – there is always more than enough to feed everybody. 'Family style' means that there is a pair of serving chopsticks for each dish which are used specifically to serve the food (please ask your server if you require a fork or spoon) and everybody will help themselves to all the dishes on the lazy susan. You will have an individual bowl, chopsticks and cup for your own use. Please be courteous and consider your fellow diners; if your favourite dish is on the other side of the table, it will make its way round to you soon! We find our customers really enjoy this sociable style of eating. We recommend that when it comes to Chinese food, you stay open minded, try to be adventurous and always have a go with the chopsticks!



**Japan:** Japanese cuisine is delicious, colourful and healthy. Meals are usually served with a bowl of rice and a bowl of miso soup and consist usually of fish, pickled vegetables and meat. Japan's other main staple is noodles, most famous being Udon and Soba. Food is an important element of Japanese culture. It is a time for families and friends to come together and much of family life revolves around the dinner table. Most food is eaten with chopsticks so best get practicing as cutlery is not always available at restaurants.

**Pre and Post Cruise** - When eating lunches and dinners, you will usually be seated around a large table with other tour members. Dishes will be served in the traditional 'family style'; meaning that various dishes will be laid out in the centre of the table. These dishes are intended to be shared amongst the group – there is always more than enough to feed everyone. All beverages will be at your own expense.

**Pre and Post Cruise** - On some days where lots of sights are covered, dinner times may be early and your tour group may head directly to the restaurant after sightseeing without stopping at your hotel to freshen up.

**Please note:** if you have any dietary requirements, you must inform us before your tour starts, and please be aware that restaurants may not always be able to accommodate these. It is recommended that passengers with food intolerances bring snacks or additional food items with them, especially when travelling further from major cities as not all dietary requests will be met due to the limited foods available.

PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING.

### DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA AND JAPAN:

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**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.

**Japan:** Japan is a developed country and as such matches the West in modernity and technological advances. Japan is an extremely safe country and takes great responsibility in maintaining high safety standards.

### CULTURAL DIFFERENCE:

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Japanese society and culture are built on intricate social etiquette and customs. As foreigners, we are not expected to be knowledgeable about all etiquette, but it will make your time in Japan more enjoyable if you are respectful of local customs. Some examples of scenarios you may encounter include removing your shoes and hats when entering a temple or house (some restaurants as well). You may be supplied with slippers at some places, but please come prepared with plenty of spare socks, and shoes that are easy to take off for the fairly regular occasions when they must be removed. Your National Escort will advise you of some of these other customs at the beginning of your tour.

### TRANSPORT:

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**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. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road – not just 1-2 kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only. There may be sections of road where the surface is bumpy, but our drivers will do their utmost to lessen the impact.

**Planes:** Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. 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.

**Trains:** On this tour, you will experience China's high-speed train. You will travel in second-class soft seats with air conditioning. For train journeys you must ensure that you pack liquids, aerosols and gels/lotions in your hand luggage as per recent regulations. Passengers are not allowed to carry any aerosols over 100ml.

Passengers are also not allowed to carry flammable gases or liquids including styling gel, compressed air or insecticides; any explosives, magnetised material, knives (including Swiss Army knives), scissors or sharp items (medication is fine).

Bag checks are conducted randomly and any of these items may be confiscated before boarding the train (in hand luggage or main luggage). The National Escort will inform you of specific details prior to boarding.

#### CHINESE AND JAPANESE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

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If you are travelling within the below Public Holidays, please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some businesses will be closed and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Some tourist attractions may be closed, and those that are open may be crowded.

**China:** Chinese New Year is on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Golden Week public holidays fall annually between 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Japan:** Showa Day is on 29<sup>th</sup> April every year, which will start Golden Week which then runs from 29<sup>th</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> May, Constitution Memorial Day is on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, and Emperor's Birthday is on 23<sup>rd</sup> February every year.

#### SOUVENIRS:

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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 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.

### GROUP SIZE:

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Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by both a National Escort and local guides (pre and post cruise). There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

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.

### LUGGAGE:

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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. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

### CLIMBING STEPS:

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Sightseeing at nearly all the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of 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:

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We recommend that you contact either your doctor or Health centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safetravel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz)

### BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

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We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://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:**

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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.

Updated: June 2024