



CHINA

Splendour

14 Days

Fully Inclusive from the UK

Discover the spectacular beauty of Nine Villages Valley. Rarely seen by western visitors, this delightful scenery is one of China's real treasures. Combined with the most popular sights of Beijing, Xian and Shanghai this tour really provides the best of both worlds.



YOUR TOUR DOSSIER

This document is designed to be read in conjunction with the other pre-departure information provided by Wendy Wu Tours including the tour itinerary as described in our brochure and/or website. It aims to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour.

If there are any particular challenges, from the length of time spent on your feet, the length of drives and flights, to the standard of remote accommodation for our more adventurous tours; they will be explained here.

All passengers must read this document to ensure the itinerary is suitable for their interests and physical capabilities. This is not your final itinerary and therefore does not mention all the sites visited.

FULLY INCLUSIVE
 Price includes international flights, departure taxes, current fuel surcharges, domestic transportation, accommodation, all meals, daily tours, entrance fees, guides and visa fees for UK passport holders.

Welcome to Wendy Wu Tours

China continues to amaze, fascinate and thrill our passengers, many of whom have travelled to one country in Asia with us, then another, year after year. We urge you to keep in mind all the rewards, as well as challenges of travelling in a country with a history, culture and attitude so unlike your own.

A typical day's sightseeing may include the bustle and noise of a city street, sights and smells of a local market and interacting with the locals. Travelling in China requires patience and potential delays are to be expected due to standards of service. There is a low level of English spoken throughout China, so your local guides or National Escort will be indispensable during your trip.

We have found that our passengers who embark with a sense of humour and adventure, who accept that things do not always go to plan, are those who find their experience most rewarding.

This tour is not strenuous but it is longer in duration and includes several days where long periods of driving, sightseeing on foot and climbing of steps may be necessary. Anyone with an average level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. Of course our local guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for passengers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you do have mobility difficulties, please contact us for our range of private tours which are more flexible and can better cater for individual needs.

To fully participate in this tour, you must be able to:

- Walk, sometimes for long distances, and sometimes over uneven surfaces without assistance
- Complete some long days of touring with minimal breaks
- Climb steps sometimes without handrails
- Step on/off coaches without assistance
- Dis/embark between moving pontoons, docks and boats, sometimes without handrails or assistance

The more difficult aspects of this itinerary include the areas of high altitude in Changhai (Long Lake) and Huanglong which are situated in the Nine Villages Valley as well as the

long driving distances along mountain roads.

This itinerary visits areas which are popular with domestic Chinese tourists, but not yet known by international tourists. Facilities in Nine Villages Valley typically cater for Chinese people and this could mean the hotels serve few if any western dishes for breakfast. Chinese breakfast dishes include cold vegetable and pickle dishes, bean curd noodles, soups, congee (a rice porridge), steamed buns with pork or sweet red bean and green tea. You may also be served fruit, a fried egg, or toast – although the bread tends to be very sweet. Black tea and coffee are not always served, but can be requested. Fresh milk is not generally available. Other meals (lunch and dinner) could include dishes of local style, meaning there may be bones or fat in meat and fish.

Although China is developing quickly, it still lacks international standards of civil infrastructure and therefore tourist facilities. For example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade; concepts of personal responsibility are different to those in the UK. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in the UK. However, all of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense as well as refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort/Local Guides.

Altitude

This itinerary visits the following areas of high altitude:

1. Changhai (Long Lake) in the Nine Villages Valley. Sightseeing is at an altitude of 3,100m [10,170ft]. Please note that the place where you will be staying overnight is not at high altitude.
2. Huanglong located between the Nine Villages Valley and Mao County. Sightseeing is at 3,500m [11,483ft]. Please note that the place where you will be staying overnight is not at high altitude.

If you have an existing respiratory, vascular or coronary condition, we recommend checking with your doctor before undertaking this itinerary.

Days 1-2: UK/Shanghai

You will be met at Shanghai's Pudong Airport in the arrivals hall by your



Local Guide and/or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all the other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer (1 hr drive) to your hotel. There is no sightseeing today. A tour introduction will be held in the hotel later today or tomorrow morning. There will not be food or drinks served at this meeting; it is simply an opportunity for your group to meet and learn more about travelling in China.

Day 3: Shanghai

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing in central Shanghai involving approx 3-4 hrs on foot. Beware of your valuables while in the Old Town (Yuan Bazaar) as it is very crowded.

Day 4: Shanghai/Chengdu

Transfer to the airport for your afternoon flight to Chengdu (flight 2 hrs 15 mins). Transfer (approx 30 mins drive) to your hotel and check-in.

Day 5: Chengdu/Nine Villages Valley

Transfer to the airport for your afternoon flight to Chengdu (flight 2 hrs 15 mins). Transfer (approx 30 mins drive) to your hotel located at the entrance of the National Park for the next two nights.

Day 6: Nine Villages Valley

The National Park authorities have introduced an 'environmental vehicle' which is aimed at reducing the pollution by vehicles in the area. Your group will receive an entrance pass and a voucher for this transport. The vehicles run between the different sites at regular times, and this will

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mean you will be sharing these vehicles with people from other tourist groups. Your Local Guide will remain with you. Today's sightseeing involves at least 4 hrs on foot – with a maximum altitude at Changhai (Long Lake) Lake at 3,100m.

NB: There is only one restaurant within the National Park, which will cater to all the tourist groups in the park on any given day so it can get very crowded and noisy.

Day 7: Nine Villages Valley/ Huanglong/Chengdu

Most of the driving today is on sealed, winding mountain roads. This morning, drive 3 hrs (130km) to Huanglong. There is now a cable car here and it is possible to take the 10 min ride both up and down, allowing more time for sightseeing at the top of the waterfall. The cost of the cable car is at your own expense. We usually spend over 2 hrs sightseeing here and this area is at an altitude of 3,500m. After lunch at a nearby restaurant, transfer to the airport for the return flight to Chengdu.

Day 8: Leshan day tour

Drive 1.5 hrs (180km) to Leshan to see the Grand Buddha carving. From the Bus Park, we walk to board the small cruise boat to view Buddha from the river. Spend at least 2 hrs at Leshan before driving back to Chengdu in the evening.

Day 9: Chengdu/Xian

The Panda Reserve is located only 10km from the city centre. 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 here involves approx 1.5 hrs on foot. There are electric carts offered by private vendors and these can be organised at your own cost. Transfer (30 mins) to the airport for your flight to Xian (flight duration 1 hr 20 mins). Transfer to your hotel and check-in.

Day 10: Xian

The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors is located just over 1 hr drive outside of Xian. From the bus park to the Museum entrance is a 15 mins walk, usually without any shade. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost. There is no electric cart available for the return from the Museum exit to Bus Park. Within the Museum area the warriors can be seen in 3 different "pits", which are active archaeological digs. The site is large and, towards the summer months, can be hot outside. Sightseeing here involves 2.5 hrs on foot. This afternoon we visit the City Walls. The Local Guide will give you time to explore at your own pace. There are options here to hire a bicycle or an electric cart to drive along the length of the walls. These are offered by private vendors and can be organised at your own cost.

Day 11: Xian/Beijing

Sightseeing at the Little Wild Goose Pagoda, Shaanxi Museum and Muslim Quarter involves 2.5 hrs on foot. Beware of your valuables while browsing the Muslim Quarter's alley market stalls. Later, transfer to the airport for your flight to Beijing

(flight duration 1 hr 40 mins). Transfer (1 hr drive) to your hotel and check-in.

Day 12: Beijing

Sightseeing in central Beijing involves approx 3-4 hrs sightseeing on foot during the morning to see Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. Visiting Mao's Mausoleum is subject to the length of the queue, as so many domestic tourists visit every day. This afternoon, visit the Temple of Heaven – at least 2 hrs on foot here.

Day 13: Beijing

We rise early this morning to drive 1.5 hrs (50km) northwest of the city to the Great Wall. The aim of this is to avoid the crowds of tourists who will arrive later in the morning, and the heat of the day. Visiting the Wall involves walking 200m from the bus to the first section. After your group has been given an introduction to the Great Wall's unique history you will have free time to explore the rest at your own pace. Later, drive approx 1.5 hrs to the Summer Palace in the north of the city. The palace is set over an extensive park and man-made lake complex and there is approx 2-3 hrs walking involved at this site.

Day 14: Depart Beijing

Transfer from your hotel to Beijing Airport for your flight to the UK.

Depending on your chosen airline, some flights to the UK will arrive the same day, whereas others will arrive the following day.

“ THE NINE VILLAGES VALLEY WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR HOLIDAY. THE AREA IS ONE OF OUTSTANDING BEAUTY WITH PRISTINE FORESTS, MOUNTAINS AND LAKES AND WE FELT VERY PRIVILEGED TO BE THERE. ”

Mr & Mrs Appleton,
October 2008



TOUR EXTENSIONS



Adding an extension is the perfect ending to your group tour. Hong Kong is known for its endless shopping opportunities and the breathtaking skyline across the Victoria Harbour. If you're flying with Emirates, then why not stop off in the exciting city of Dubai which highlights the contrasts between old and new. And make the most of the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai. From 1st May to 31st October more than 200 countries from across the globe will exhibit at this spectacular event presenting their ideas on the theme "Better City, Better Life".

Please refer to our brochure and/or website for a list of the specific extensions available for this tour.

HOW TO BOOK

Choose your perfect tour

Select from our choice of fully inclusive group tours or flexible private touring options.

Add further arrangements

Make the most of your holiday by adding extra arrangements such as a visit to Hong Kong, a stop-off in Dubai or a World Expo Extension in Shanghai.

Select flight options

Travel in style and upgrade your flight. We can also arrange departures from many UK regional airports.

Check availability and prices

Call us or speak with your travel agent and we will check the availability of flights and tour places and confirm your full package price.

Secure your tour place

Group tour places can usually be confirmed immediately on payment of a deposit of £250 per person. Private touring arrangement can usually be confirmed within 48 hours.

Complete your booking

Once your tour has been booked we will send you written confirmation either by email or post.

It is essential that you promptly send to us a completed booking form which includes further vital information (such as passport numbers) and so we can check that your personal details are correctly recorded.

To book now speak with one of our experienced travel consultants on **0844 499 3899** or see your preferred travel agent.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Group Size

This tour will operate with a National Escort with a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 28 passengers.

Itinerary Changes

Order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

The schedules of the domestic airlines in China are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your Local Guide or National Escort will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them.

Roads in China have generally been improved over recent years, but some road construction and/or weather conditions may still lengthen the driving times.

NB: Times and distances listed in this Tour Dossier are approximate.

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance covering at least circumstances leading to the cancellation of your booking and providing sufficient medical cover for illness or injury and repatriation while overseas.

You must provide us with the name of your insurers and their 24 hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Tipping

As with most countries, tipping is a way of life in China. For our passengers' convenience we ask for a compulsory amount to be paid at the beginning of our group tours to cover tipping for guides, drivers, restaurant staff etc.

Tipping amounts can be found in our brochure and/or website. Exact tipping amounts will be stated in your final documentation pack.

Additional Information

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, your final documentation pack will include a travel guide, suggested packing list and a phrase book.

Please refer to the Wendy Wu Tours brochure and/or website for details on departure dates, prices, itineraries and inclusions. Please also refer to the brochure for full booking conditions.

“ADDING AN EXTENSION IS THE PERFECT ENDING TO YOUR TOUR.”

