



Classic

CHINA

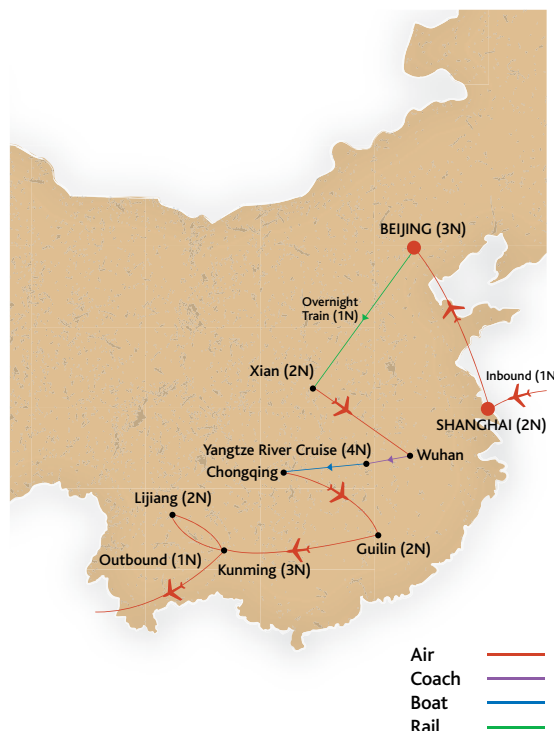
22 Days

Fully Inclusive from the UK

This tour combines many of the great sights of China with a Yangtze River Cruise and picturesque Yunnan Province. Discover the bizarrely eroded limestone pinnacles of the Stone Forest, stroll through the beautiful Old Town of Lijiang and gaze in awe at the dramatic Tiger Leaping Gorge.

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.



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.

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 embarking and disembarking on the Yangtze River Cruise. Passengers must be able to get on/off the boat to sometimes without assistance or handrails. Also, the tour reaches a maximum altitude of 4,500m when visiting Jade Dragon Snow Mountain near Lijiang.

This tour involves one overnight train journey which is in first class soft sleeper compartments where each cabin consists of four berths (sharing).

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:

Jade Snow Dragon Mountain near Lijiang. Sightseeing is at an altitude of 4,500m [14,760feet]. Please note that the town of Lijiang, where you will be staying overnight is not at high altitude.

If you have existing respiratory, vascular or coronary conditions, 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/Beijing

Transfer (1 hr drive) to the airport for your flight to Beijing (flight duration 2 hrs). Transfer (1 hr drive) to the hotel and check-in. 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 5: 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. This afternoon, visit the Temple of Heaven – at least 2 hrs on foot here.

Day 6: 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.

Day 7: Beijing/Xian

You will have time at leisure before checking out of your hotel rooms before midday. Shopping at the Silk Markets this morning involves approx 1.5 hrs on foot. Later, transfer to Beijing Railway Station and board the overnight sleeper train to Xian – usually a 12 hr journey (1,200km).

Day 8: Xian

You will arrive at Xian Railway Station and transfer to your hotel, where you can have breakfast and freshen up. 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.

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

Day 9: 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

“ THIS TOUR COMBINES MANY OF THE GREAT SIGHTS OF CHINA WITH A YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE AND PICTURESQUE YUNNAN PROVINCE. ”



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 10: Xian/Wuhan

Transfer to the airport for your morning flight to Wuhan (flight duration 1 hr 10 mins). Transfer (4-5 hrs drive) to the docks, which is located downstream from the Three Gorges Dam. Board the ship and check-in to your cabin for the next four nights.

NB: The Yangtze section of your itinerary, from day 10 to 13 will not be confirmed until after you commence your tour. Your guide will do their utmost to keep you informed of all changes but cannot guarantee against delays or – in rare cases – cancellations of sections of your itinerary. This is because vessels are regulated by the Yangtze River Authority and the captain of each cruise ship is unable to confirm a final itinerary until shortly before departure.

Here is a guide to the cruise schedule:

Day 11: Yangtze River Cruise

Cruise through the Xiling Gorge. Shore excursion to the site of the Three Gorges Dam (4 hrs off ship): Disembark the ship and drive (approx 20 mins) to the Three Gorges Dam. The coach will drive through the construction areas (they are NOT allowed to stop for photos) and drop you off at viewing area above the locks. There is a small museum and lookout point. *2nd night on board with Captain's welcome dinner.*

Day 12: Yangtze River Cruise

Cruise through the Wu Gorge. Today you will visit either the Lesser Three Gorges OR Shennong Stream.

Shore excursion at Lesser Three Gorges (2-3 hrs off ship):

Transfer between the ship and small ferry at Wushan, then travel up the Daning River to see the remains of an ancient plank walkway and suspended coffin and enjoy the undisturbed natural scenery.

Shore excursion at the Shennong Stream (3 hrs off ship):

Transfer between the ship and small ferry to travel further up the Shennong tributary for approx 20 mins. Then transfer from the ferry onto the small peapod rowboats to experience the tradition of the 'boatmen' or 'trackers'. *3rd night on board with Captain's dinner.*

Day 13: Yangtze River Cruise

Cruise through the Qutang Gorge. Today you will visit either Shibaozhai Temple on the south bank, OR Fengdu on the north bank.

Shore excursion to Shibaozhai Temple (2 hrs off ship):

This small temple was built at the top of a nine-storey pavilion clinging to the sheer south bank near Qutang Gorge. Disembark from ship to dock close to the pavilion's entrance. Sightseeing here involves viewing the nine-storeys inside the building.

Shore excursion to Fengdu "Ghost City" (2 hrs off ship):

The town of Fengdu was relocated across to the south bank for the Three Gorges Dam Project. The Fengdu "Ghost City" Temple lies on a hill above the demolished town. Disembarkation is via a pontoon and walkway. There is a chairlift (at your own cost) which takes you up to the base of the temple complex.

4th night on board with Captain's farewell dinner.

Day 14: Chongqing/Guilin

Check-out from the cabins early this morning and disembark from the ship

in Chongqing. Visit Chongqing Zoo's new Panda House. Later, transfer to the airport for your early evening flight to Guilin (flight duration 1 hr). Transfer (1 hr drive) to your hotel and check-in.

NB: You will be staying in Yangshuo for a single night before returning to Guilin. We recommend you leave your main luggage in safe storage at our hotel in Guilin; taking only a small, overnight bag with you for days 15 & 16.

Day 15: Guilin/Li River Cruise/ Yangshuo

We take a 3 hr cruise from Guilin to the small town of Yangshuo. A simple meal will be served onboard (usually before midday at "Chinese lunch time"). These are small cruise boats, usually holding approx 100 passengers; with an enclosed dining area on the lower deck and an open viewing area on the upper deck. As it is so popular, there are generally many boats at the docks – please be reassured that the cruise itself will be scenic and relaxing as the boats cruise past unspoilt countryside. Usually the boats depart at 9am, from a dock 1 hr drive from your hotel. However when the river level is low they depart from further downstream which would mean a longer drive and an earlier check-out from your hotel. Disembarking from the cruise, your Local Guide will walk with you to your hotel, approx 15 mins walk from the river. Electric carts offered by private vendors can be organised at your own cost.

Day 16: Guilin/Kunming

The drive back to Guilin takes 1 hr (65km). Visit the Reed Flute Caves, which usually takes approx 1 hr to complete the route, and is very cool inside. Later, visit Mt Diecai; a low, karst mountain with 450 steps. We usually spend 1.5 hrs here. Later, transfer to the airport for your flight to **over** →

“ WE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A GREAT TRIP TO CHINA. WE VERY MUCH ENJOYED THE TRIP AND IN PARTICULAR MUST MENTION OUR NATIONAL ESCORT, MAGGIE, WHO WAS EXCELLENT, VERY ORGANISED AND INFORMATIVE. ”

Mr & Mrs Searle,
April 2009



Kunming (flight duration 1 hr 20 mins). Transfer (30 mins drive) to your hotel and check-in.

Day 17: Stone Forest day trip

Drive 1.5 hrs (120km) to the Stone Forest. Sightseeing here is approx 3.5 hrs on stone paths to view the maze of rock pinnacles, lake and ponds. Return to Kunming.

Day 18: Kunming/Lijiang

Transfer to the airport for your very early morning flight to Lijiang (flight duration 50 mins). Transfer (20 mins drive) to Lijiang's Old Quarter and explore the maze of canals and cobbled alleys, which involves approx 2 hrs on foot. Continue to your hotel and check-in.

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

Day 19: Tiger Leaping Gorge day trip

Drive 75km (approx 2 hrs depending on the number of photo stops) to the southern end of the Tiger Leaping Gorge. The bus will drop you off at the southern end of a walkway which follows the Gorge as far as the upper rapids. It is a newly constructed, even walkway. There are sedan chairs* offered by local vendors, which can be organised at your own cost. Lunch

today will be a simple meal as the choice of restaurants in this area is limited. Return to Lijiang and transfer to your hotel.

**A chair borne on two poles carried by two or four people.*

Day 20: Lijiang/Kunming

Visiting the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain is very popular with travellers to this area so, to prevent large crowds of people queuing at the same time, the local government's tourist authority allocates times to each group. This section of the itinerary is subject to change at late notice. Your Local Guide will keep you informed of any changes as he/she is made aware of them. The bus will drive to the base of the mountain; there is a 10 min ride on a chairlift from the base to Yunshaping (Cloud Fir Meadow) at an altitude over 4,000m. From the chairlift there is a wooden pathway to the meadow; this walking route takes approx 1 hr. Descend by chairlift to re-board the bus. Transfer to the airport for your afternoon flight to Kunming (flight duration 50 mins). Transfer to your hotel and check-in.

Day 21: Depart Kunming

Transfer from your hotel to Kunming Airport for your overnight flight to the UK (via Hong Kong).

Day 22: UK

Arrive home.

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.

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.

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

