



# YUNNAN & SICHUAN

Classic Tour | 17 Days | Physical Level 3

Kunming – Dali – Lijiang – Leshan – Emeishan – Jiuzhaigou (Nine Villages Valley) –  
Chengdu

As two of the most fascinating, diverse and colourful provinces in China, Yunnan and Sichuan are a cornucopia of wonders, from the lofty peaks of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain to the colourful calcite pools of Huanglong, to the lovable nature of the Giant Panda.

- Explore the fascinating Stone Forest
- Relax In tranquil Dali
- Discover Ancient Lijiang
- Get up close to the Pandas
- Walk In the spectacular Nine Villages National Park
- Enjoy the panorama of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain

## TOUR MAP

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## YUNNAN & SICHUAN TOUR INCLUSIONS:

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- 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
- Chinese visa fees for Australian passport holders (please see visa section below for further information)
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

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:

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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 3:

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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.

'Yunnan & Sichuan' is rated as a physical level 3 tour. A good level of fitness is required as you need to be comfortable walking for 2-3 hours and covering longer distances. Walking or other activities such as cycling will be at a gentle pace and will involve straightforward terrain.

- On several days, there will be sightseeing on foot for extended periods of time, especially in Nine Villages Valley National Park and Jade Dragon Snow Mountain areas
- You will be at a higher altitude in Jade Dragon Snow Mountain in Lijiang and at Mt Emeishan
- In Dali and Leshan you will be required to get on and off boats without assistance

This tour has been carefully designed to minimise the effects of Altitude Sickness whilst in Lijiang and Mt Emeishan. Please be prepared for mild symptoms of Altitude Mountain Sickness (AMS) which include dizziness, fatigue, nausea, loss of appetite, breathlessness, headache and disturbed sleep. These usually develop over the first 36 hours at altitude and not immediately on arrival. AMS symptoms are experienced by people of varying ages and levels of fitness, and usually the symptoms will subside after a day or so. If symptoms worsen, you should seek medical advice and descend in altitude immediately. The following precautions may help to prevent or lessen the effects of AMS:

- Since fluid loss usually accompanies the acclimatisation process, drink plenty of fluids (3 - 4 litres daily at least) and eat carbohydrate food to keep the body properly hydrated
- Do not over exert and only partake in light activity immediate after your arrival
- Don't smoke, drink alcohol or take other depressants such as tranquilisers and sleeping pills, as these depress the respiratory drive and reduce oxygen intake.
- Assume any sickness at high altitude is AMS until proven otherwise
- Never ascend to higher altitudes while showing symptoms of AMS
- You must report any symptoms of AMS immediately to your National Guide

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.

### JOINING YOUR TOUR:

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The tour is 17 days in duration including overnight international flights in both directions as this is the most likely flight option from Australia. Please note, some flights may depart and arrive on Day 2.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours. Please email your international flight times to [info@wendywutours.com.au](mailto:info@wendywutours.com.au) so we can arrange your transfers accordingly.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Kunming and end the tour on Day 16 in Chengdu. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure. An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 2 of the itinerary. If you miss this due to your arrival time, all information will be provided to you at breakfast the following morning.

### ITINERARY CHANGES:

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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.

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

Meals: D

Fly overnight to Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province. On arrival into Kunming 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 1 hour to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

**Destination Information**

**Kunming** – Nicknamed China's 'Spring City' due to its temperate weather, Kunming is the capital of Yunnan Province. Kunming has long played an important role as a trading city due to its significant location on the borders of Southeast Asia.

**Day 3: Kunming**

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, drive 1.5 hours to the Stone Forest. Spend the morning exploring the unusual limestone rock formations of the Kunming Stone Forest which involves up to 3.5 hours on foot along cobblestone paths. Return to Kunming for an afternoon at leisure, and dine this evening on the delicious local delicacy, Across the Bridge Noodles, a type of rice noodle soup from Yunnan Province served in a broth style.

**Destination Information**

**Kunming Stone Forest** - Located 120km south east of Kunming, the Stone Forest consists of thousands of narrow, fantastically shaped pillars of rock, scattered over an area of more than 80 hectares. The park is designed so that you can follow a walkway through the formations of water pools and grey pinnacles, the tallest of which is over 30m high.



**Day 4: Kunming - Dali**

Meals: B, L, D

Drive approximately 5 hours to the pretty city of Dali. In Dali, enjoy some light sightseeing around Dali's Old Quarter and the symmetrical Three Pagodas. This evening, take a stroll round lively Foreigner's Street.

**Destination Information**

**Dali** – Sandwiched between the Jade Green Mountains and serene Erhu Lake, Dali is naturally striking in its setting. Mainly a base for the Bai people, Dali has played an important role in the history of south China and was once a post on the old Burma Road.

**Three Pagodas** – Presented in a perfect triangle, the Three Pagodas date back to the 9th century and were built under the Nanzhao State. Made of brick and white mud, the Pagodas are known for their resilience, having survived many natural disasters, including earthquakes.

**Foreigners Street** - Popular with the foreign backpack community, Dali's Foreigners Street is lined with market stalls selling items from the Bai people, beautiful fabrics and delicious 'small eats' snacks.

**Day 5: Dali**

Meals: B, L, D

Spend the morning cruising the mirror-like waters of Erhai Lake, admiring the spectacular scenery provided by the Cang Mountains. The rest of your afternoon is at leisure to further explore the area.

**Destination Information**

**Erhai Lake** – The centrepiece of Dali, Erhai Lake is a beautiful oasis of striking blue waters, temple islands and cormorant fishermen. Erhai literally means 'ear sea' and is named so due to the ear shape of the lake. A cruise on the lake is the best way to fully appreciate the natural beauty of the area.

**Day 6: Dali - Lijiang**

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, head over to Xizhou Village to explore the local wares at the market. Drive 4 hours to Lijiang, one of China's best preserved old towns. You will spend around 2 hours on foot, visiting the picturesque Black Dragon Pool where you can enjoy spectacular vistas of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain.

**Destination Information**

**Lijiang** – A beautiful tapestry of cobbled streets, rickety wooden buildings and sultry streams, Lijiang is a vision of idyllic wonder; a great place to just take a stroll and soak up the atmosphere.

**Black Dragon Pool** - Constructed in 1737 during the reign of the Qing Dynasty, the Black Dragon Pool is a popular pond in Lijiang which offers stunning vistas and walking opportunities. From this area, visitors can enjoy beautiful panoramas of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, the tallest mountain in the area.

**Day 7: Lijiang**

Meals: B, L, D

A magnificent mountain massif, the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain incorporates several peaks, the tallest of which is 5,500m. Today, you will explore one of the beautiful high meadows and enjoy the amazing vistas. To avoid the large crowds of people queuing at the same time, the local government's tourist authority allocates times to each group. The bus will drive to the base of the mountain from where you will take a 10-minute ride on a chairlift to Yunshaping (Cloud Fir Meadow) at an altitude of around 3,200m. From the chairlift, there is a wooden pathway to the meadow. This walking route takes approximately 1 hour. Descend by chairlift and re-board the bus. Later, visit Baisha Old Town to view the fascinating murals, painted during the early Ming Dynasty, and visit the Mu Family Embroidery School. Sightseeing at Baisha Old Town is leisurely. There are ruthless souvenir sellers near the bus park so be firm to avoid any hassle.



Daytime altitude: 3,200m at Jade Dragon Snow Mountain

Overnight altitude: 2,300m

Please note this section of the itinerary is subject to change at late notice. Your local guide will keep you informed of any changes as they are made aware of them.

### Destination Information

**Jade Dragon Snow Mountain** – Jade Dragon Snow Mountain is known for its mysterious ambience and snow-covered peaks and is considered the Holy Mountain amongst the Naxi ethnic group and other ethnic minorities in Lijiang. Popular for hiking, mountaineering, botanizing and skiing, Jade Dragon Snow Mountain attracts thousands of visitors every year who enjoy exploring its lofty peaks.

**Baisha Old Town and Frescoes** – Once the capital of the Naxi minority group, the Baisha Old Town is home to typical Naxi architecture and a great place to see the Naxi people going about their daily lives. The Baisha Frescoes date back to the early Ming Dynasty and are made up of 44 pieces. Most of the paintings depict religious stories from Taoism and Buddhism.

**Mu Family Embroidery School** – Watch as locals make intricate pieces of embroidery and take advantage to buy a piece yourself.

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### Day 8: Lijiang

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will visit the 3,000m deep Tiger Leaping Gorge, said to be the deepest gorge in the world. Drive approximately 2 hours, depending on the number of photo stops, to the northern bank of the Tiger Leaping Gorge and stop for a short while at the steps above the famous Tiger Leaping Rock. You can choose to walk down the steps to the water or have some free time while other group members do this. There are usually sedan chairs offered by local vendors, which can be organised at your own expense. Lunch today will be a simple meal as the choice of restaurants in this area is limited. Return to Lijiang to explore the Old Quarter.



### Destination Information

**Tiger Leaping Gorge** – Tiger Leaping Gorge is believed to be one of the deepest and most dramatic gorges in the world, measuring at 16km. While hiking along the gorge you can view its roaring stream, cascading waterfalls and magnificent scale – great for those who crave an adventure.

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### Day 9: Lijiang - Chengdu

Meals: B, L, D

Fly 1.5 hours to Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province and home of the Giant Panda. This afternoon is at leisure.





### Destination Information

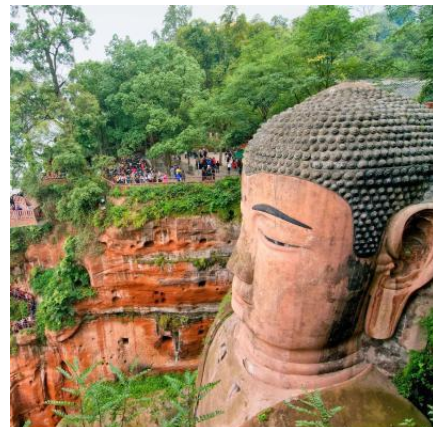
**Chengdu** - China's symbolic western capital and the residence of the country's most lovable black and white bear, Chengdu has an abundance to offer. A fast paced economy which is dragging China's west into the 21st century, it is no wonder that Chengdu's appeal is growing year on year. As the gateway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

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**Day 10: Chengdu – Leshan - Emeishan**

Meals: B, L, D

Drive 2.5 hours south of Chengdu to Leshan, where you will see the world's largest stone-carved Buddhist monument - the Leshan Grand Buddha. Take a short boat ride in front of the statue to grasp the size of this structure. You will spend around 1 hour at Leshan and will need to get on and off the boat. Continue 1 hour to Emeishan to check in for your 2-night stay.



### Destination Information

**Leshan Grand Buddha** – The Leshan Buddha was built in the 9th century under the direction of Haitong, a monk who felt the presence of Buddha would help calm the waters below so that shipping vessels could make their journey safely. Amazingly, once the structure was completed, the waters below did calm, some say due to the Buddha's presence, others to the large amount of rock removed in order to carve the Buddha, which resulted in a current change in the waters. The Buddha remains watching over the waters below.

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**Day 11: Emeishan**

Meals: B, L, D

Spend a full day exploring spiritual Emeishan. There are many pathways to allow an exploration of the steep cliffs, lofty peaks and towering trees. Take the cable car up to the golden summit from Jieyin Temple. You will walk for approximately 2.5 hours from Wannian Temple to the Wuxian Gang Parking lot. From here you will be transferred back to your hotel in the evening.

Daytime altitude: 3,100m at Mt Emeishan

Overnight altitude: 500m



### Destination Information

**Emeishan** – One of the Four Sacred Buddhist Mountains of China, Emeishan is located in Sichuan Province and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996. Emeishan is home to the first Buddhist temple to be built in China, dating back to the 1st century.

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**Day 12: Emeishan – Jiuzhaigou (Nine Villages Valley)**

Meals: B, L, D

Drive approximately 4 hours to Chengdu for your 2 hour flight to Jiuzhaigou, on arrival transfer 3 hours to the Nine Villages Valley National Park. A national park of ragged peaks, sapphire Lakes, abundant forests and rushing Waterfalls, Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou) is considered one of China's most beautiful areas.



### Destination Information

**Nine Villages Valley** – Lying in the southwest of China in the Northern Sichuan province, hidden in a national park is the Nine Villages Valley (or Jiuzhaigou) home to Nine Tibetan villages scattered throughout a natural wonderland. A national park of ragged peaks, sapphire Lakes, abundant forests and rushing Waterfalls, Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou) is considered one of China's most beautiful areas. Covering over 700 square kilometres, the valley is one of China's greatest natural assets, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992 and a World Biosphere Reserve in 1997.

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**Day 13: Jiuzhaigou (Nine Villages Valley)**

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy a full day exploring the diverse scenery of splendid Nine Villages Valley, China's most awe-inspiring National Park.

*Walking today will be approximately 5-6 hours on some uneven and slippery terrain which require extra care whilst walking. It is strongly advised that you wear sturdy footwear with ankle support if needed.*



### Destination Information

**Nine Villages Valley** – Lying in the southwest of China in the Northern Sichuan province, hidden in a national park is the Nine Villages Valley (or Jiuzhaigou) home to Nine Tibetan villages scattered throughout a natural wonderland. A national park of ragged peaks, sapphire Lakes, abundant forests and rushing Waterfalls, Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou) is considered one of China's most beautiful areas. Covering over 700 square kilometres, the valley is one of China's greatest natural assets, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992 and a World Biosphere Reserve in 1997.

**Day 14: Jiuzhaigou (Nine Villages Valley) - Chengdu**

Meals: B, L, D

Drive around 4 hours to the Huanglong Temple and Huanglong pools where you will find hundreds of vivid pools in striking colours, formed by thousands of years of mineral deposit, tumbling gently down through the bright green forests of the Huanglong Valley. There is an option to take a chairlift up both up and down to allow more time for sightseeing at the top; the cost of this is at your own expense. We usually spend around 2 hours sightseeing here. This area is at an altitude of 3,500m. Drive 1.5 hours to the airport for your flight to Chengdu.

**Destination Information**

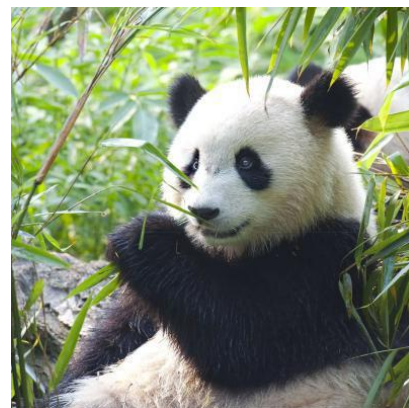
**Huanglong** - Within neighbouring distance of Nine Villages Valley is the equally alluring area of Huanglong. Huanglong which means 'Yellow Dragon' is renowned for its wide variety of colourful pools and natural ponds which are said to shimmer like a 'yellow dragon'. The colour of the pools is caused by calcium deposits in the water which bring out the liquids in strong greens, blues and yellows.

**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 that is dragging China's west into the 21st 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.

**Day 15: Chengdu**

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will see China's most famous resident, the Giant Panda. Visit the Panda Conservation Centre where you can learn about China's celebrated bear and see these lovable creatures in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. It is not guaranteed that you will see the feeding of the younger pandas, as this only happens at the start and end of each day. Sightseeing involves approximately 1.5 hours on foot and there are electric carts offered by private vendors that can be organised at your own cost. Later, spend 1-2 hours sightseeing around People's Park, visiting a teahouse and the famous Matchmaker's Corner where parents look for suitable suitors for their children. Tonight, enjoy a traditional Sichuanese meal.



### Destination Information

**Panda Conservation Centre** - With over 80 pandas holding residence, 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.

**People's Park** – People's Park is a pleasant respite from urban Chengdu. Here you can see beautiful golden koi, locals dancing and practicing Tai Chi.

**Sichuanese Meal** – Sichuanese cuisine is famous for its use of Sichuan pepper and chillies. These spices from the area are known for their 'mala' (numb and spicy) flavours, which seem to cool and heat your mouth at the same time.

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### Days 16-17: Depart Chengdu

Meals: B

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to the 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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Entry visas are required by all visitors to China and Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/>

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.

Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items.

### INSURANCE:

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

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

### GROUP SIZE:

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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. There will be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu our 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.

## ACCOMMODATION:

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Your accommodation is 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. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia and China. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. Due to environmental regulations, not all hotels in China provide toiletries in the rooms. 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 National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

## 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 take a high-speed train journey. 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.

**High-Speed Train Facilities:** The second-class seats are in a 3 x 2 seating configuration. Facilities vary from train to train. Most carriages have a western style toilet. Most seats will have a foldable tray table and power socket for charging your electronic devices. There are dining carts on board if you wish to purchase your own additional food.

## EATING IN CHINA:

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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'll find that the local Chinese style is very different from what you're 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.

Dishes served in restaurants on our group tours are varied. Some will be vegetable-based with meat mixed in, and a few will be meat-based. Traditionally, Chinese people cook with a lot of vegetables because meat used to be hard to come by.

Dishes often come pre-seasoned with soy sauce or other sauces. Our 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.

Your National Escort will do their utmost to cater for any special requests such as gluten free or vegetarian meals, however, people on restricted diets should expect complications. Although most Asian countries are now quite developed, only quite recently have they started to widely accept Western guests. Western food requirements are quite far removed from Asian food requirements, and even medical reasons can be quite difficult to explain. While our ground partners will do everything they can to cater for a wide range of dietary requirements on tour, we ask kindly for your patience and understanding that they cannot always be delivered to the standard you will be used to at home. 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 read your travel guide which you will receive with your final documents for more information about eating in China. 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!

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

### DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA:

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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.

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

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If you are travelling within the below Chinese Public Holidays please note that celebrations last for several days and during these times some businesses will be closed and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open, but may be crowded. Chinese New Year is from 9 – 16 February 2024 and 28 January – 4 February 2025. Golden Week public holidays fall annually between 29 April – 3 May and 30 September – 7 October.

### 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. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

### TIPPING POLICY:

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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.



## 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. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of \$300AUD per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available. In your Final Documentation an Optional Excursion Sheet will be included outlining the activities available in each city and local cost associated. 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.

## 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. 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. 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.

## VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

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We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au)

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

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We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au) as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian 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: April 2024