



CHINA REVEALED: TOP TO TOE

2024 Private Tour | 17 Days | Physical Level 2

Beijing – Xian – Zhangjiajie – Changsha – Chengdu – Shanghai

Experience China's fast-paced and bustling cities, discovering their ancient and modern wonders. Stroll along the magnificent Great Wall and be amazed as you uncover the natural beauty of Zhangjiajie, soaking up the sights from the many ground-breaking architectural marvels including the world's longest cable car and the world's highest glass bottomed bridge!

- Uncover the ancient treasures of Beijing
- Take a thrilling toboggan ride down the Great Wall
- Come face to face with Chengdu's majestic Giant Pandas
- Soar up Zhangjiajie's mountainside in the world's tallest sightseeing elevator
- Relax as you cruise along Shanghai's Huangpu River
- Alight your tastebuds with a visit to Chengdu's Street food market

To book call **0800 936 3998** or visit your local travel agent

Visit [wendywutours.co.nz](https://www.wendywutours.co.nz)

TOUR MAP



CHINA REVEALED: TOP TO TOE TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- All accommodation
- Meals as stated – 16 breakfasts (B), 9 lunches (L), 4 dinners (D)
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as stated
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR: International flights, visas, drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, meals not included early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

PRIVATE TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who want some independence and flexibility. They offer the choice to explore local cuisine, leisure time for optional activities or excursions, and travel when it suits you. Our Private Tours offer excellent value holidays alongside the assurance that most of your arrangements are taken care of. You will also be accompanied by a dedicated and professional guide whose knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

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 Revealed: Top to Toe’ is rated as a **physical level 2** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it is more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You will be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- On several days there will be sightseeing on foot for extended periods of time
- On the Great Wall of China in Beijing, some of the walking may be at more of an incline
- In Zhangjiajie there are periods of walking up and down stone steps and walkways as well as walking across a glass bridge, getting on and off escalators and in and out of cable cars

Of course, our 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.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

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.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Days 1: Arrive to Beijing

Meals: None

On arrival in Beijing Daxing or Beijing Capital Airport, you will be met in the arrival hall by your local guide or English-speaking assistant from Wendy Wu Tours and transferred approximately 1-hour to your hotel for an evening at leisure.

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 – The capital of the People’s Republic of China, with its unequalled wealth of history, Beijing served as the centre for the many different empires and cultures that ruled China. It has been the heart of politics and society throughout its long history. The ancient monuments, stories of days gone by, and the dynamic, modern city Beijing has become today, make it a destination not to be missed.

Day 2: Beijing

Meals: B, L, D

This morning is dedicated to China’s most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Drive approximately 2 hours to the Mutianyu section. Reaching the summit by a scenic chairlift or cable car ride, take a stroll along its ancient stones, admiring the magnificence of its construction and the dramatic scenery it crosses. After you have been given an introduction to the Great Wall’s unique history you will have free time to explore at your own pace. Descend back down to the ground via a thrilling toboggan ride or by the more serene cable car.



Later, visit the Jade Factory, and in the afternoon, drive approximately 1 and a half hours to wander around the Summer Palace. This evening, savour Beijing’s most famous delicacy – Peking duck.

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.

Summer Palace – The former holiday retreat of the Qing Emperors, the Summer Palace is a stunning example of Chinese garden style. The Summer Palace incorporates the Fengshui notion of ‘Mountain’ and ‘Water’, seen here with tranquil Kunming Lake and magnificent Longevity Hill. A favourite resort of

the Empress Dowager Cixi, the Summer Palace is home to a stunning Marble Boat and the Long Corridor, one of the longest outdoor passageways in the world.

Day 3: Beijing

Meals: B, L, D

Walk through Tiananmen Square and into the magnificent Forbidden City. Sightseeing at Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City will involve approximately 3-4 hours on foot. Later, soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape, before enjoying a Wangfujing street foodie tour.



Please note: The Forbidden City is closed on Mondays. If this day of touring falls on a Monday, your touring in Beijing will be switched round so that the Forbidden City is visited on an alternative day.

In an effort to preserve the Forbidden City, the number of entry tickets per day has been significantly reduced. Whilst every effort will be made to obtain the tickets, should this not be possible, then you will instead visit the Forbidden City from the outside and visit the nearby Prince Kung's Palace Museum.

Destination Information

Tiananmen Square – Built under the guidance of Chairman Mao Zedong, Tiananmen Square is one of the largest public squares in the world, said to hold a capacity crowd of over one million. It houses not only the Monument to the People's Heroes, it is also the final resting place of Chairman Mao himself in the Mausoleum of Mao Zedong.

Forbidden City – The sacred centre of the Chinese empire for 500 years and home to the Ming and Qing dynasties, the Forbidden City is a vast complex of over 900 buildings and covers an area of 180 acres. Since 1987, the Forbidden City has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site and its palatial architectural style has been an influence on many imperial buildings throughout Asia.

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.

Day 4: Beijing

Meals: B

Enjoy a day at leisure to unwind at your hotel or explore your local area (no sightseeing included today).

Alternatively, speak to our Reservations team to pre-book a guided tour:

Destination Information

Beijing Silk Market: Visit the Beijing Silk Market where you will find a vast array of silk clothing, accessories and souvenirs.

Hongqiao Pearl Market: Take a trip to the bustling Hongqiao Pearl Market brimming with jewellery and accessories.

Hutongs & Lama Temple: Weave your way through the narrow alleys of the Hutong's, admiring the ornate Lama Temple – the biggest Tibetan Buddhist temple in Beijing!

**Day 5: Beijing – Xian**

Meals: B, D

This morning transfer to the train station and board your bullet train to Xian, with a journey time of 5-hours. Tonight, enjoy a delicious feast of traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing in the evening.

**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.

Tang Dyansty 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 6: Xian

Meals: B, L, D

Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of the life size Terracotta Warriors. The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses is located approximately a 1-hour drive outside of Xian. From the car 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 car 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. Later wander through the Muslim quarter on a foodie tour, taking you around the local delicacies of Xian.

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.

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 7: Xian – Zhangjiajie

Meals: B

Transfer to the airport and board your flight from Xian to Zhangjiajie. Here you will spend the next three days exploring the mysterious landscapes and remarkable scenery of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site, home to over 3,000 striking sandstone pillars amongst the deep valleys, caves and forests.

**Destination Information**

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

Day 8: Zhangjiajie

Meals: B, L

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



Walk across the Jinbian Stream before exploring the Ten-Mile Natural Gallery via a picturesque train journey. Later, enjoy a scenic sampan cruise on Lake Baofeng, a turquoise expanse of water amongst picturesque karst scenery.

Sightseeing today will involve around 3-4 hours of walking, including wooden and stone steps.

This evening, there is an optional Fairy Fox Outdoor Music & Dancing Show (time and weather permitting, payable locally through your local guide), a musical drama of a Chinese tale told against the stage backdrop of the mountains.

Destination Information

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

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

Jinbian Stream – Called Golden Whip Stream after the 380 metre high Golden Whip Rock, Jinbian Stream is famous for its pristine water, lush mountains, steep cliffs and serene valley. Exotic plants and rare animals co-exist, and the valley in which it lies is known as one of the most beautiful valleys in the world.

Ten-Mile Natural Gallery – Ten Mile Natural Gallery is a 5.8 kilometre long valley with picturesque scenery. Peaks on both sides of the valley form natural sculptures.

Lake Baofeng – Located up in the mountains, Lake Baofeng is an abundance of fresh water, accompanied by stunning waterfalls.

Day 9: Zhangjiajie

Meals: B, L

Discover the colourful stalagmites and stalactites of the Huanglong Cave, stretching across 120-acres. Then, brace yourself for an exhilarating walk across Zhangjiajie's Glass Bridge, the world's longest and highest glass-bottomed bridge spanning 430-metres over the Grand Canyon.

Sightseeing today will involve around 3-4 hours of walking, including 2 hours of walking at the Huanglong Cave, up and down stone steps.

**Destination Information**

Huanglong Cave – The Huanglong Cave is a karst cave stretching over 120 acres in area. Inside the cave there are waterfalls, rivers, pools and lakes.

Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon – Located in the Wulingyuan Scenic Area, famed for its breathtaking scenery of towering sandstone pillars, lush forests, and the meandering course of the Li River.

Zhangjiajie Glass Bridge – The world's longest and highest glass-bottomed bridge, spanning 430 metres across the Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon.

Day 10: Zhangjiajie – Changsha

Meals: B, L

Soar up the heights of Tianmen Mountain in the world's longest cable car, a 7-kilometre journey taking approximately 40-minutes, over the 99-bend road 'Avenue to Heaven'. Atop the mountain, marvel at Tianmen Cave, nicknamed 'Heaven's Door', standing proudly at the top of 999 steep steps. Next, take a thrilling walk along a glass skywalk, aptly named the "Walk of Faith" as though you're walking on air. If time permits, you may also walk across the Cliff-Hanging Walkway or Coiled Dragon Cliff.



Return down the mountain by cable car and to Jun Sheng Sandstone painting gallery before boarding your 3.5-hour bullet train to Changsha.

Sightseeing today will involve around 3-4 hours of walking, including wooden and stone steps.

Please note: The 999 step walk up to Tianmen Cave and the glass skywalk is optional. The steps can take around 40 – 60 minutes. Alternatively, there is an escalator on the other side of the mountain leading up to Tianmen Cave. There is also a small platform at the foot of the steps where you can soak up the spectacular views.

Destination Information

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

Jun Sheng Sandstone – Opened by Li Junsheng, the founder of sandstone painting, this exhibition hall showcases the art form which uses natural materials and seamlessly combines the styles of watercolour, oil painting and traditional Chinese painting methods.

Changsha – Changsha, the capital city of Hunan Province, China, is a vibrant metropolis steeped in history and surrounded by natural beauty. With its modern skyline, historical landmarks like Yuelu Mountain and Orange Isle, and a thriving culinary scene featuring spicy Hunan cuisine, Changsha offers a perfect blend of ancient charm and contemporary allure.

Day 11: Changsha

Meals: B, L

Begin the day by stepping into history at the Yuelu Academy, a hub of learning for centuries, nestled by the scenic Mt. Yuelu. Explore Orange Island, a picturesque island home to the 32-metre statue of Mao Zedong and lush gardens. Later, take a visit to the Hunan Museum, showcasing an expansive collection of art and cultural treasures from the province.

Please note, the Hunan Museum is closed on Monday’s.



Destination Information

Yuelu Academy – As one of the four great ancient academies in China, Yuelu Academy has been a center for Confucian studies, attracting scholars and intellectuals throughout history. Today, it serves as a cultural landmark, housing valuable collections, ancient books, and cultural relics that offer a glimpse into China's scholarly traditions and intellectual heritage.

Orange Island – Situated in the heart of Changsha, Orange Island is a picturesque island renowned for its natural beauty and historical significance. This elongated island stretches along the Xiangjiang River, offering panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. Lush greenery, blooming flowers, and serene walking paths make it a popular destination for leisurely strolls and outdoor activities. The island is also

home to several cultural landmarks, including the renowned 32-metre statue of Mao Zedong, which stands tall as a tribute to the leader's connection to the region.

Day 12: Changsha – Chengdu

Meals: B

Travel by bullet train to Chengdu, home of the celebrated Giant Panda. Later in the day, head to a local food market and tuck into some authentic Chengdu street food.

**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 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 13: Chengdu

Meals: B, L

Today you will visit China's most famous 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.



Later, wander through the vibrant People's Park to see the fascinating Matchmaker's Corner, where parents search for suitable partners for their children.

Destination Information

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.

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, and most interesting of all, Matchmaker's Corner, where parents search for suitable boyfriends or girlfriends for their children.

Day 14: Chengdu – Shanghai

Meals: B

Transfer to the airport and board your flight to Shanghai, a great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th century temples. Enjoy the rest of your day at leisure and unwind in your hotel or start exploring the bustling city.

**Destination Information**

Shanghai – Once known as the 'Paris of the East', Shanghai is now one of Asia's most influential cities. Prior to communist arrival in 1949, Shanghai was a city with European-style mansions and was the most important trading port in Asia. Today it presents a blend of cultures; the modern and the traditional, along with the European and oriental. Modern skyscrapers intermingle with 1920s 'shikumen' buildings. This combination is what attracts millions of visitors each year.

Day 15: Shanghai

Meals: B, L

Today's explorations include 3-4 hours of sightseeing on foot, visiting the peaceful Yu Garden and the atmospheric alleys of the old town and Xintiandi area. Admire the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the historical waterfront Bund, before visiting the Silk Factory. This evening, view the city from the Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise.

**Destination Information**

Yu Garden – The Yu Garden is seen as one of the most perfect examples of Chinese garden style. Built by the Ming-era governor, Pan Yunduan, as a retirement gift for his father, the Yu Garden is home to exquisite jade rock, goldfish-filled ponds and stunning, tranquil pavilions.

Silk 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.

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.

Xintiandi - Located in the central area of Shanghai City, Xintiandi is an affluent car-free shopping, eating and entertainment district of Shanghai, China. Xintiandi highlights an area of reconstituted traditional stone gate houses on narrow alleys, some adjoining houses which now serve as bookstores, cafes and restaurants, and shopping malls. When you walk into this area, you will get the taste both of Shanghai in the 1920's and the sonic modern lifestyle of urbanites of the 21st century.

Day 16: Shanghai

Meals: B

Enjoy a day at leisure to unwind at your hotel or explore your local area (no sightseeing included today).

Alternatively, speak to our Reservations team to pre-book a guided tour:

Zhuajiajiao Watertown: Discover one of the ancient and tranquil water towns of Shanghai on a Zhuajiajiao.

Shopping at Shanghai Qipu Road: Take a shopping trip to Shanghai Qipu Road and be guided through Shanghai's largest wholesale clothing market packed with the latest trends.



Day 17: Depart Shanghai

Meals: B

You will be transferred from your hotel approximately 1-hour to Shanghai Pudong or Shanghai Hongqiao Airport, according to your onward travel arrangements.

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



CHINA - TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

China - Entry visas are required by all visitors to China. Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. Please note - Once an online visa application has been completed you may be advised to visit one of three visa centres in New Zealand – Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch. Full details will be advised by Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Currently a visa is required for New Zealand Passport holders. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

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. Currently a visa is required for New Zealand Passport holders. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance. We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

EATING IN 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'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. 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 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.

Your guide 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.

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!

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

To give you more flexibility and choice when travelling on our private tours, we have allowed time for various evenings at leisure so that you can explore the many culinary delights that China has to offer. Your private guide will be happy to provide you with advice about good places to eat and assist in the booking of transportation to get you there (at your own expense). We have also factored in a few days at leisure interspersed throughout the tour, and should you wish to take part in additional sightseeing, these options can be pre-booked with our Reservations team. Alternatively, you can use this time to enjoy the facilities of your hotel.

CHINESE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

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 on 29 January and 17 February 2026. Golden Week public holidays fall annually between 01 – 03 May and 01 – 7 October.

TRANSPORT:

Vehicles: Private cars with air conditioning are used on our private tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. The size of the vehicle will vary between cities and dependant on the number of travellers. All vehicles have space for one suitcase and one hand luggage per person. 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 with reputable airlines. Domestic flight luggage allowance is usually limited to 20kg. Extra luggage needs to be purchased locally. 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 “bullet” train journey. You will travel in first-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 first-class seats are in a 2 x 2 seating configuration. Each carriage has 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. 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.

ACCOMMODATION:

Hotels are generally rated as four-star standard if a ‘Superior’ option is selected and five-star standard if a ‘Deluxe’ option is selected, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand and China. All hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. Hotel check-in is generally from 2pm and check-out is by 10am. 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 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.

DEVELOPMENT IN 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.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and China is no exception. For Private Tours, tipping is at your own discretion, and we recommend the following amounts paid in the equivalent local currency.

Tour Guide: USD10.00 per person, per day.

Drivers: USD5.00 per person, per day.

Hotel Maid & Porterage: US\$1-2 per use

Restaurants (with no added service charge to the bill): 10-15% per meal

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that 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 that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5 kg due to the included domestic flight.

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.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

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.

EXCHANGING CASH:

Exchanging Money - We recommend exchanging money prior to departure at banks, money exchanges, or at international airports in New Zealand. It is possible to exchange money at your arrival airport and some banks in China, we recommend bringing USD which is more widely accepted.

Credit/Debit Card & Mobile Payment Apps - It's hard for those of us who live outside of China to grasp how paying for everything has gone digital in the country.

Most businesses there, from the fanciest hotels to roadside fruit stands, display a QR code — a type of bar code — that people scan with a smartphone camera to pay. However, it is not possible to utilise this without a Chinese bank account. Therefore, we recommend taking a mixture of payment methods (cash, debit/credit cards)

Please do not rely on a credit/debit card as your only source of spending money. We strongly suggest taking enough cash to cover your trip. We strongly suggest you alert your bank in New Zealand of your travel plans and check any potential foreign transaction fees or ATM withdrawal limits imposed by your bank.

Your tour guide will explain more regarding this at your welcome meeting.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

Wendy Wu does not give specific health advice, but we do recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you. Safe travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements.

You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Please note that it can take 2-7 business days to confirm a Private Tour. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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