



SECRETS OF SOUTHWEST CHINA

Classic Tour | 17 Days | Physical Level 2

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

As two of the most diverse and colourful provinces in China, travelling through Yunnan and Sichuan makes a fascinating adventure for nature lovers. From the famous Tiger Leaping Gorge to the lesser known Nine Villages Valley National Park, there are spectacular landscapes around every corner on this itinerary.

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

TOUR MAP



'SECRETS OF SOUTHWEST CHINA' TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated – 14 breakfasts (B), 13 lunches (L), 10 dinners (D)
- sightseeing and entrance fees where stated
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) and Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with IATA

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.

GO BEYOND TOURS:

Venture off the beaten track to explore fascinating destinations away from the tourist trail. These tours take you away from the comforts of home but will reward you with the experiences of a lifetime. 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. These tours include:

- Walking through classic sites
- Unique cultural experiences and encounters
- Off the beaten track destinations
- More evenings at leisure for independent exploration

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.

'Secrets of Southwest China' is rated as a physical level 2 tour. A moderate level of fitness is required. You will be on your feet for most of the day, with longer walks that include ascents and descents on steps or uneven paths. Travelling conditions may be more challenging in some areas.

- On multiple days you will be required to spend around 3-5 hours walking up and down wooden and stone steps and walkways
- You will be required to get on and off varying sizes of boats without assistance during the tour
- There are multiple days at altitude, ranging from 2500 metres to 3500 metres
- At Huanglong Pools you will walk 7 kilometres over a 4-hour period, at an altitude of 3,100 metres to 3,500 metres

The Nine Villages Valley sits at an altitude of up to 3,500 metres. 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 overexert and only partake in light activity immediately after your arrival
- Do not 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:

The tour is 17 days in duration including international flights or 15 days in duration based on 'Land Only'. Join the tour on Day 2 in Kunming and end the tour on Day 16 in Chengdu.

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.

DETAILED ITINERARY**Days 1-2: Fly to Kunming**

Meals: D

On arrival in Kunming Airport, you will be met in the arrival hall by your local guide and/or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer for approximately 1 hour to your hotel. An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 2. Late arrivals will receive a boxed dinner.



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

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

Drive 1 and a half hours to the Stone Forest and spend the morning exploring the unusual limestone rock formations of the Kunming Stone Forest. This involves around a golf car ride into the park and around 2-hours of walking along cobblestone paths to view the maze of rock pinnacles, lake and ponds.



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.

Enjoy the evening at leisure or experience the Dynamic Yunnan show, an introduction to the minority groups of Yunnan province through music and dance (time permitting, payable locally).

Destination Information

Kunming Stone Forest - Located 120km southeast 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. Time permitting, you may wish to take the cable car to Cangshan Mountain (payable locally).

This evening, take a stroll round lively Foreigner's Street.

**Destination Information**

Dali – Sandwiched between the Jade Green Mountains and serene Erhai 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

Today, relax with a cruise on tranquil Erhai Lake, before spending an afternoon at leisure.

**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 persistent 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.

Day 8: Lijiang

Meals: B, L

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.

Day 9: Lijiang – Chengdu

Meals: B, L

Fly 1.5 hours to Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province and home of the Giant Panda. This afternoon is at leisure. Later, enjoy time to explore the local food markets at leisure and get a taste for local cuisine, with your guide on hand to recommend the best dishes!



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.

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.

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.

Day 12: Emeishan – Jiuzhaigou (Nine Villages Valley)

Meals: B, L, D

Drive approximately 4-hours to Chengdu and board your 3-hour bullet train to Jiuzhaigou, on arrival transfer to your accommodation in the Nine Villages Valley National Park.

**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 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. 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.

Overnight Altitude: 1900 metres

Day 14: Jiuzhaigou (Nine Villages Valley) – Chengdu

Meals: B, L

Drive around 2.5-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. Drive 1.5 hours to the train station for your 3-hour bullet train to Chengdu.



There is an option to take a chairlift 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 4-hours on foot here walking approximately 7-kilometres. This area is at an altitude of 3,500 metres.

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.

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.

Day 16-17: Depart Chengdu

Meals: B

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to Chengdu 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.



CHINA TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

China Visas are not required for New Zealand and Australia passport holders for stays 30 days and under. For longer periods in China and/or other passport holders a visa will be required. Full details will be advised by Wendy Wu Tours upon booking.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into New Zealand.

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

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

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by both a National Escort and local guides. There will usually be no more than 18 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 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.

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 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.

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 29th January 2025 and 17th February 2026. Golden Week public holidays fall annually between 1st – 3rd May and 1st – 7th October.

ACCOMMODATION:

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 the New Zealand 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:

Trains: On this tour, you will take multiple high-speed “bullet” train journeys. 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. 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.

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 flight/s 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.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Occasionally, when time allows, we offer optional extras such as evening shows for those seeking extra excitement. These can be paid for locally through your guide and will be listed in your final documents.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so, in each city, we will visit a workshop or factory which demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places which hold local interest; for example, in Shanghai you will be able to see how silk is created all the way from the silk worm to beautiful garments; and in Xian we will take you to a workshop which creates replicas of the Terracotta Warriors, from tiny little warriors to seven foot behemoths!

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

TIPPING POLICY:

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. Yangtze cruise companies operate a service charge policy, and this is paid separately when boarding the vessel.

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.

EXCHANGING CASH:

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to cities outside of Beijing and Shanghai. US Dollars are easily exchanged throughout China and other currencies can generally be exchanged in hotels and airports provided notes are new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

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 5kg.

It is essential that your luggage is lockable. 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.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours in Taiwan. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

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.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your Doctor or Health centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safetravel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

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. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is 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 will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

Updated: November 2024