

China: The Big One

Go Beyond Tour | 28 Days | Physical Level 2

Beijing – Xian – Chengdu – Lijiang – Dali – Kunming – Guilin – Yangshuo – Chongqing – Yangtze River Cruise – Yichang – Shanghai

This complete Chinese adventure offers you time to absorb the atmosphere of China's bustling cities and quirky ancient towns at your own pace, visiting all the major sights and some lesser known treasures.

- Walk on the Great Wall of China
- Cycle the ancient city walls of Xian
- Explore the fascinating Stone Forest
- Unearth the quaint town of Lijiang
- Get up close to the Giant Pandas
- Relax with a cruise on the Yangtze River
- Discover vibrant Shanghai

TOUR MAP



TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as per itinerary
- 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

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. You will discover the local culture in depth and see sights rarely witnessed by other travellers. These tours take you away from the comforts of home but will reward you with the experiences of a lifetime.

'China the Big One' allows you to explore at your own pace within the comfort of a group setting, guided by our expertise.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique charm of each destination.

'China: The Big One' is rated as a physical level 2 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps. There are also more active optional excursions you can add on locally. Some of the optional excursions, such as hiking in the Longji Rice Terraces, will require a higher level of fitness to take part in.

- On the Great Wall of China, you may be walking on steep ground
- In Beijing, Xian and Shanghai there will be long periods of walking whilst sightseeing
- You will be required to get on and off varying sizes of boats without assistance during the tour
- You will be at higher altitude at Jade Dragon Snow Mountain

This tour has been carefully designed to minimise the effects of Altitude Sickness whilst in Lijiang. 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

Our National Escort is dedicated to providing a high level of service and support throughout your journey. However, their primary role is to manage the daily aspects of the tour. They are unable to offer extensive personal physical assistance. We kindly ask our travellers to be prepared for the physical aspects of the tour to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

JOINING YOUR TOUR

The tour is 28 days in duration including international flights or 27 days in duration based on 'Land Only'. Join the tour on Day 1 in Beijing and end the tour on Day 27 in Shanghai.

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.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

We've curated this itinerary to showcase China's must-visit cities and attractions, guided by our expert team, while ensuring ample free time for personal exploration. Optional excursions and evening performances are available for those seeking extra excitement; **the full list and approx. costs are at the end of this document.**

ITINERARY CHANGES:

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

Days 1: Fly to Beijing Meals: D



On arrival in Beijing Daxing or Beijing Capital 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 approximately 1 hour to your hotel.

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

An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 1. Late arrivals will receive a box dinner.

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



Walk across Tiananmen Square into the magnificent Forbidden City. Next, visit Yandaixiejie where you will have some free time to explore the Hutongs and enjoy a local lunch. Sightseeing will be approximately 4 hours. Later, enjoy some free time in the traditional Houhai area.

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

Please note: 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.

Hutongs – The Mongol rulers of Beijing established this style of housing in the 13th century as tenancy for the growing population of the city. Hutongs were designed to reflect the Chinese system of Feng Shui with 4 hutongs joining together to make a courtyard in the middle, known as Siheyuan.

Day 3: The Great Wall

Meals: B, L



Rise early this morning and transfer 2 hours to the Huanghuacheng section of the Great Wall of China, one of the most picturesque sections. You will need to get on and off a boat, taking you across a lake to where you will begin your walk on the wall. First, you will be given a brief history of the area before having a couple of hours free to walk on the fortified wall. On your return to Beijing, visit a jade factory. This evening, stroll around Qianmen Street and Dashilan area. An optional Peking Duck dinner is available this evening (payable locally).

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.

Day 4: Beijing Meals: B, L



Wander around the beautiful grounds of the Summer Palace, former holiday home of the Qing emperors. Whilst here, climb magnificent Longevity Hill for spectacular views over the palace's Kunming Lake. Make a photo stop this afternoon at the iconic Bird's Nest Stadium, home of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The time at the Olympic Village will not include entry to any of the Olympic venues.

Destination Information

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.

Olympic Village – See the home of the most watched Olympic event in history at the Beijing Olympic Village. Most spectacular of sights here is the iconic Bird's Nest Stadium, host to the spectacular opening and closing ceremonies in 2008.

Day 5: Beijing – Xian Meals: B, L



Start your day exploring at the Temple of Heaven. Later, board your 5-hour bullet train to Xian. Enjoy the evening free to explore.

Please note you will need to carry your own luggage on and off the train.

Destination Information

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.

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.

Day 6: Xian Meals: B, L



Transfer 1 hour to view the formidable ranks of terracotta warriors and horses, lined up in ranks to protect the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang. From the bus 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 cost. There are no electric carts available for the return from the museum exit to the bus park. Within the museum area the warriors can be seen in three different 'pits', which are active archaeological digs. The site is large and, towards the summer months, can be hot outside. Sightseeing here involves approximately 2 and a half hours on foot.

Next, visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Workshop to see smaller models of the warriors being made, before returning to explore the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter.

After, take a walk around the nine miles of the Xian Ancient City Wall and enjoy a calligraphy lesson.

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 hire a bike to get an ever more spectacular experience.

Day 7: Xian Meals: B



Today, there is an option to explore the impressive Mt Hua (payable locally).

This evening, there will be an optional Tang Ever-Bright City Night Tour (payable locally) and an optional Tang Dynasty Dancing Show & Dumpling Dinner (payable locally).

Destination Information

Mount Hua – Also known as Huashan, this incredible area located just outside Xi'an, is one of China's Five Great Sacred Mountains and renowned for its dramatic peaks, steep trails, and stunning vistas. Rich in Taoist history, it offers a mix of spiritual heritage and adventure, with ancient temples dotted across its five peaks.

Day 8: Xian – Chengdu

Meals: B



Take a 3-hour bullet train to Chengdu, capital of fascinating Sichuan Province. Check in to your hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Tonight, you will have the option of enjoying Sichuan Hotpot for dinner, in addition to a traditional Face Changing Show (both payable locally).

Please note you will need to carry your own luggage on and off the train.

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 9: Chengdu

Meals: B,L



See 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. Later, take a stroll around People's Park and visit a teahouse for a cup of delicious Chinese tea, as well as Matchmaker's Corner, where parents search for suitable suitors for their children. This evening, stroll around in the Wide and Narrow Alley.

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.

Wide and Narrow Alley – Wide and Narrow Alley is one of Chengdu's historical and cultural reserves that can be dated back to the Qing Dynasty (1644 - 1911 AD). The area was renovated in 2003 and is today a popular entertainment and tourism site, with lots of restaurants, pubs, teahouses, and shops.

Day 10: Chengdu – Lijiang

Meals: B

Fly 1.5-hours to Lijiang, set in the foothills of the magnificent Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Check in and enjoy time at leisure.



Overnight altitude: 2,300m

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.

Day 11: Lijiang

Meals: B, L



A magnificent mountain, the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain comprise 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 a time to each group. The bus will drive to the base of the mountain, from where you will take a 10-minute cable car to Yunshaping (Cloud Fir Meadow) at an altitude of approximately 3,200m. From the chairlift, there is a wooden pathway to the meadow, which takes approximately 1 hour to walk. Descend by cable car and re-board the bus. Later, visit Baisha Old Town to view the fascinating Baisha Frescoes, painted during the early Ming Dynasty, and visit the Mu Family Embroidery School. Sightseeing at Baisha Old Town is leisurely.

Daytime altitude: 3,200m

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. Jade Dragon Snow Mountain is at an altitude of 3,200M. All passengers should stay well hydrated to acclimatise to the higher altitude.

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 12: Lijiang

Meals: B

Today, there is an option to visit the impressive Tiger Leaping Gorge and take a mini-trek (payable locally). Alternatively, you can spend the day at leisure in Lijiang.

Overnight altitude: 2,300m



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. Hiking along Tiger Leaping Gorge has become incredibly popular, as those who do can view its roaring stream, cascading waterfalls and magnificent scale – great for those who crave an adventure.

Day 13: Lijiang – Dali

Meals: B, L

Drive 2 hours to Shaxi, a former ancient market town on the famous Tea and Horse Route, and enjoy some easy sightseeing around the old town. Continue a further 2 hours to the quaint town of Dali. Spend the evening at your leisure.



Destination Information

Shaxi – Shaxi became an important traing point on the famous Tea and Horse Route during the Tang Dynasty. The Tea and Horse Route like the Silk Route, increase trade between China and the rest of Asia, as it passed through Tibet and Burma.

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.

Day 14: Dali — Meals: B

Enjoy a day at leisure in peaceful Dali.

There will be an optional visit to Cangshan Mountain including return cable car ride (payable locally).



Destination Information

Cangshan Mountain – Famous for its majestic alpine landscapes, diverse flora, and panoramic views over Dali and Erhai Lake. A cable car ride provides easy access to scenic walking trails and the famed Jade Belt Road, allowing visitors to experience the mountain's natural beauty and serenity without the strenuous climb.

Day 15: Dali – Kunming — Meals: B, L

View the Three Pagodas and wander around Dali's charming Old Town before heading to lively Foreigners' Street. Drive approximately 4-hours to Kunming



Destination Information

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.

Kunming – Nicknamed China's 'Spring City' due to its temperate weather, Kunming is the capital of Yunnan Province. Kunming has long plated an important city for trade due to its significant location on the borders of Southeast Asia.

Day 16: Kunming — Meals: B, L

Spend the morning exploring the unusual limestone rock formations of the Kunming Stone Forest. Visit Green Lake Park before an evening at leisure in the Wenhua Alley district. Today, there will be an optional Yunnan Impression Show (payable locally).



Destination Information

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 17: Kunming – Guilin — Meals: B, L

Board the 7-hour bullet train to Guilin, one of China's most beautiful spots. This afternoon, you will stop by the Reed Flute Caves, before taking a stroll around two of Guilin's most beautiful lakes, Ronghu and Shanhu, heading on to Zhengyang Pedestrian Street where there are many dining options for your perusal. There is an optional visit to the Sun and Moon Pagodas today (payable locally).



Please note you will need to carry your own luggage on and off the train.

Destination Information

Guilin – Guilin is one of China's most stunning and panoramic cities and was founded during the reign of the Qin Dynasty. It is renowned for the unique karst mountain beauty that encloses the city. Guilin developed as a trading town due to the building of the Ling Canal which links the important Pearl and Yangtze River systems.

Ronghu Lake – One of two lakes originating from the Tang Dynasty when they made up part of the city moat. As Guilin expanded in all directions the moat became a lake within the city area.

Sun and Moon Pagodas – Known as the Gold and Silver Pagodas because of their colours at night, the sun and moon pagodas sit on top of the Chinese Fir Lake but are connected underwater by a glass tunnel.

Day 18: Guilin — Meals: B



Today there is an option to take a full day tour of the Longji Rice Terraces at Ping An (payable locally). Alternatively, you can explore the beautiful scenery of Guilin independently.

Please note: The optional tour to Longji involves approximately 4 hours of trekking, depending on the capability of the group. The ground here is uneven and the trek will include steep climbs.

Destination Information

Longji Rice Terrace – Longji is home to some of the most famous and beautiful rice terraces in China. The name 'Longji' literally translates as 'Dragon's Backbone' and is called so because the rice terraces resemble the scales on a dragon's back.

Day 19: Guilin – Yangshuo — Meals: B, L



Take a relaxed 4-hour cruise along the Li River to the charming village of Yangshuo where you will spend 2 nights. Around every river bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged peaks loom over rural scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalos and local fishermen. These are small cruise boats usually holding approximately 100 passengers; with an enclosed dining area on the lower deck and an open viewing area on the upper deck. As it is so popular, there are generally many boats at the docks – please be reassured that the cruise itself will be scenic and relaxing as the boats cruise past unspoilt countryside. Usually the boats depart at 9am from the dock located a 1-hour drive from your hotel. However, when the river level is low they depart from further downstream which would mean a longer drive and an earlier check-out from your hotel. Disembarking from the cruise, your Local Guide will walk with you to your hotel, approximately a 15-minute walk from the river. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own cost. Take a walk in the idyllic countryside this afternoon.

This evening, you may wish to experience the Impression Sanjie Liu show (weather permitting, payable locally). There will also be an optional half day excursion to Ruyi Peak via cable car for an unforgettable panoramic view of the Li River(payable locally).

Destination Information

Li River Cruise – Pass tranquil farming and fishing scenes and picturesque villages as you cruise down the Li River. The main attraction is the stunning limestone karsts that tower above the river creating a magical landscape of mountains and water. The unique and natural beauty of this region has for centuries been an inspiration to Chinese artists and poets alike.

Day 20: Yangshuo — Meals: B

This morning, take part in a traditional Tai Chi class to learn the skills behind this ancient and spiritual exercise. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Explore independently or take part in optional morning countryside cycling trip and/or an afternoon bamboo rafting trip (payable locally).



Destination Information

Yangshuo – Yangshuo is home to some of the best scenery in the world. This quaint town is renowned for its breathtaking vistas and peaceful country life. Surrounded by stark karst peaks and attractively located on the Li River, Yangshuo, alongside Guilin, prides itself in being the most sought-after beauty spots in China.

Day 21: Yangshuo – Yangtze River Cruise — Meals: B, D

Transfer back to Guilin by road. Take the bullet train 5 hours to Chongqing, one of the most important cities on the Yangtze River, where you will visit the porcelain district of Ciqikou. Enjoy dinner before boarding your Yangtze River Cruise ship for a 3-night stay. There are around 200 steps from the coach to port.



The cruise includes one daily shore excursion along with various onboard activities and entertainment. Additional shore excursions (approx. RMB350 per person) are available, payable onboard, subject to local conditions. Please consult your guide about physical requirements, as some ports may involve many steps.

The Yangtze River cruise section of your itinerary will not be confirmed by the cruise operators until after you commence as it is subject to local river conditions and water levels. Your local guide will do their utmost to keep you informed of any changes but cannot guarantee against delays or – in rare cases – cancellations of sections of your itinerary. A detailed itinerary will be handed out on the vessel each day.

If you don't take part in a shore excursion but wish to disembark, a port tax (approx. RMB250 per person) applies, though disembarkation may not always be possible due to security reasons.

Please be aware that embarking and disembarking the cruise ship may involve several steps, especially at low tide. Notify us in advance if this may be an issue.

There are amenities package (starting from Day 2), deck and cabin upgrades available to pre-book. Please enquire with our Reservations team.

Destination Information

Chongqing – A city perched on the steep hills overlooking the confluence of the Jialing and the Yangtze Rivers, Chongqing is the chief industrial centre of south west China, producing approximately one fifth of Sichuan's industrial output. Chongqing has been reshaped by the Three Gorges Dam Project, which now allows larger sea-going vessels to sail all the way upriver to China's most famous waterfront mountain city.

Ciqikou – Known colloquially as 'Little Chongqing' and the 'Porcelain Port', Ciqikou dates back to the Ming Dynasty and has maintained its original appearance. Lined with shops selling delicious snacks, Ming-style trinkets and Chinese curios, Ciqikou is a fun way to spend a morning and is a must-see in Chongqing.

Yangtze River – One of the world's great and legendary waterways, this 6,300km river has its origins high up in the snow-covered mountains of Tanggula, in the southwestern Qinghai Tibet Plateau, and runs into the ocean in Shanghai. It is estimated that the banks of this river are home to almost a third of China's population.

Day 22: Yangtze River Cruise Meals: B, L, D

Cruise along the mighty Yangtze River. Relax onboard or disembark to explore the elegant pavilions of Mount Shuanggui and view the impressive cliff brush writings by Song Dynasty calligraphers.



Depending on local conditions, you may visit Shibaozhai Temple or Xiaoguanshan Folk Culture Park instead.

Additional shore excursions may include Fengdu's "Ghost City" and Fengyan Sanguo "Romance of the Three Kingdoms" evening show (river conditions permitting).

Destination Information

Mt. Shuanggui – A national forest park known for its picturesque scenery and has for centuries been a favourite destination for literati and artists. There are cliff brush writings of calligraphists here from the Song Dynasty to the present day, and pavilions are named for notable historic figures.

Day 23: Yangtze River Cruise Meals: B, L, D



Prepare for breathtaking vistas as you enter the Three Gorges and pass through Wu and Qutang gorges. Wu gorge is known for its quiet beauty, forest-covered mountains, and sheer cliffs, while Qutang Gorge is the shortest, narrowest, and most dramatic gorge. Transfer to smaller vessels for a relaxing excursion through the Goddess Stream, which are narrower than the Three Gorges, but very impressive. There is no walking involved on this excursion; however you will need to get on and off the boat without assistance. Return to the ship and continue cruising through the gorges.

Depending on local river conditions, you may visit Shennong Stream instead of Goddess Stream.

Additional shore excursions may include White Emperor City.

Destination Information

Goddess Stream – Goddess Stream, also known as 'Shennü Xi' in Chinese, flows from the southern bank of the Yangtze opposite Goddess Peak. Once just a stream, the Three Gorges Dam raised the water level to 70-100 metres in depth, depending on the season.

Day 24: Yangtze River Cruise – Shanghai Meals: B, L, D



Visit the Three Gorges Dam, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world. Disembark the ship and drive approximately 20 minutes through the surrounding areas (the coach is not permitted to stop for photos) to the viewing area above the ship locks where you can truly appreciate the scale of this hydroelectric project. There is a small museum and a lookout point here. The sightseeing will involve around 1 hour on foot.

Later, transfer to Yichang train station and board your 7-hour bullet train to the cosmopolitan Shanghai.

Please note you will need to carry your own luggage on and off the train.

Destination Information

Three Gorges Dam – Commenced in 1994 and completed in 2009, the Three Gorges Dam is the largest water conservancy project ever undertaken. The Dam is located near Sandouping, which is in the middle of the Xiling Gorge, the longest of the Three Gorges. The Three Gorges Dam is 2,335m long, 185m high, 18m wide on the top and 130m wide at the bottom. The dam has raised the river to a level of 175m above sea level, creating a 600km long reservoir. The building of this huge dam was for the purpose of flood control, electricity, navigation, and irrigation.

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 25: Shanghai — Meals: B, L

This morning, take a breakfast tour around some of Shanghai's most exciting districts, tasting local delicacies, including pancakes and fried bread sticks. Afterwards, wander the pleasant Yu Gardens and the bustling Old Town, stroll along the bund and visit the informative silk mill. This evening, take a cruise down the Huangpu River to see the neon lights of Pudong.



Destination Information

Yu Gardens – The Yu Gardens 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 Gardens is home to exquisite jade rock, goldfish-filled ponds and stunning, tranquil pavilions.

Silk Mill – 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.

Day 26: Shanghai — Meals: B, D

Today is free to explore the vibrant city of Shanghai independently.



You can take an optional day trip to the laid-back water town of Zhujiajiao (payable locally). There will be no other sightseeing or activities arranged in Shanghai, however, your National Escort will be happy to recommend things for you to do (at your own expense) such as heading up the Jinmao Tower, exploring the impressive Shanghai Museum or taking a ride on the futuristic Maglev Train.

This evening, watch a performance of the ERA acrobatic show and enjoy a farewell dinner of Shanghainese cuisine.

Destination Information

Zhujiajiao – One of Shanghai's sleepy water towns, Zhujiajiao is built on an old canal system once used to transport goods all over imperial China. The town's alleyways exude old-world charm, whilst the waterways are lined with ancient buildings and crossed by stone bridges.

ERA Show – One of Shanghai's most famous shows, the "ERA – Intersection of Time" is a multi-million-dollar acrobatics extravaganza that redefines Chinese acrobatics. It is a meditation on time and a love story told through a spectacular sequence of acrobatic performances guaranteed to leave you enthralled and amazed.

Days 27-28: Depart Shanghai Meals: B

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to Shanghai Pudong or Shanghai Hongqiao 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:

A visa is not required for Australian passport holders for entry into China for stays **up to 30 Days**. 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:

It is a condition of your booking that you are insured for the duration of your trip. We recommend comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, medical requirements, luggage, repatriations and additional expenses. At a minimum, the policy is required to cover medical requirements including medical evacuations / repatriations. The choice of insurer is yours.

We strongly suggest you purchase insurance at the time you pay your deposit. This is because cancellation fees and charges are payable from that time. We may request you to provide evidence that you have taken out and paid for a policy to comply with this condition. If you fail to provide a certificate of currency of insurance within a reasonable time after our request, then this will be deemed a cancellation by you and standard cancellation fees will apply.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by both a National Escort and local guides. On Go Beyond tours, will be no more than 18 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.

EATING IN CHINA:

Chinese cuisine is one of the world's most diverse and flavourful, with a rich history spanning thousands of years. The local dishes you'll experience on tour may differ from what you're used to at home, offering an authentic taste of China's regional flavours and cooking styles.

This tour features some meals (drinks excluded) with some time at leisure to purchase your own meals. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout China – from the bold, spicy cuisine of Sichuan to the savoury flavours of Shanghainese cooking, as well as the hearty noodles and dumplings of the north and fresh seafood of the south.

Breakfasts are buffet-style at your hotel with both Western and Chinese options available, although rural parts of China may offer limited options. Lunches and dinners on our tours are varied, with a mix of vegetable-based and meat-based dishes. Many are pre-seasoned with soy sauce or other traditional flavours, though our selected restaurants offer plenty of mild options. Dishes may be served at different temperatures, as is customary in China.

Dining mostly follows the traditional 'family style' approach, with dishes placed on a lazy Susan for everyone to share. Serving chopsticks are provided for each dish, and individual bowls, chopsticks, and cups are set for personal use. If you require a fork or spoon, please ask your server. This communal style of dining is an integral part of Chinese culture and a fun, social experience.

If you have allergies or dietary requests, you must inform us prior to departure. Western food requirements differ from those in Asia, and even medical dietary needs can be challenging to accommodate. While your National Escort will do their best to assist, we kindly ask for your patience and understanding, as dietary requests may not always be met to the standard you are accustomed to at home. Passengers with food intolerances are advised to bring snacks or additional food items, especially when traveling beyond major cities, where options may be more limited. Kosher and Halal food are extremely limited in China, and we regret that we are unable to cater to these dietary requirements.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is chosen for its convenience, comfort, or character. Hotels are generally of a four-star standard, though there is no international classification system, so facilities and quality may differ from Australia. In remote areas, standards may be lower, and some Western amenities may be unavailable.

All group tour hotels include private Western-style bathrooms, air conditioning*, and a telephone. Due to environmental regulations, toiletries may not always be provided. Plumbing and electricity can be inconsistent, and power in rooms is often switched off when unoccupied. If you encounter any issues, please speak to your National Escort or Local Guide. Rest assured, all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected to ensure they meet our standards.

**Please note that regional energy conservation and environmental regulations may restrict air-conditioning and heating use during certain months, with minimum and maximum temperature limits in place.*

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

If you are traveling during a Chinese public holiday, please note that while tourist attractions remain open, they may be crowded with domestic visitors. Festivities often span several days, during which some businesses may close, and coach, air, and train services could be impacted. The major Golden Week holidays occur annually around 1 to 5 May and 1 to 7 October.

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. This is a requirement on internal trains and flights. 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.

TRANSPORT:

Trains: When traveling by high-speed 'bullet' train, you will be seated in second-class soft seats with air conditioning. **Facilities** may vary depending on the train. Most carriages feature a Western-style toilet, and most seats are equipped with a foldable tray table and a power socket for charging electronic devices. Luggage is stored at the end of the carriage or in overhead. Dining carts are available on board if you wish to purchase additional food.

For daily products containing flammable ingredients, such as perfumes, colognes, sprays, and gels, non-self-spray pressure containers should not exceed 100 millilitres per item, with only one container allowed per product. For self-spray pressure containers (e.g., hair mousse, hair spray, hair dye, cold wave lotion, insecticides, and air fresheners), each container must not exceed 150 millilitres, with a total cumulative volume of all such items not exceeding 600 millilitres. Passengers are not permitted to carry insecticides, explosives, magnetised materials, knives (including Swiss Army knives) with a blade longer than 60mm, scissors, or other sharp objects. Bag checks are conducted at random, and any restricted items—whether in hand luggage or main luggage—may be confiscated before boarding. Your National Escort will provide specific details before your journey.

Yangtze River Cruise Vessel: If travelling on a Yangtze River cruise, a standard cabin is included equipped with Wi-Fi access, an ensuite bathroom, and a private balcony. Upgrades are available at an additional cost upon enquiry with our Reservations team.

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. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only.

Planes: Internal flight/s are based on economy class. 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.

VICTORIA CRUISE AMENITIES PACKAGES:

If you choose to add an amenities package to your Yangtze Cruise, this will include the following:
- Cabin on higher deck
- Complimentary morning coffee and tea service
- Welcome Fruit Plate
- Nightly turn down service with printed Daily Itinerary
- Diet soda included for lunch and dinner
- Dining selection from two dining rooms (choice of dining room to be made at the beginning of the voyage)
- Hot & Cold soft drinks available daily in Executive Lounge (Pepsi, Sprite, Juice, Coffee, and Tea)
- Complimentary "Happy Hour" one hour before dinner in the Executive Lounge (including House Wine, Beer, and Soda)
- Complimentary house wine and beer offerings at dinner

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping is a common practice in most parts of the world, including China. However, knowing who to tip and how much can be unclear, and travellers may not always have the right cash on hand. To make the process seamless, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount (refer to our brochure or online tour page) is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. This system ensures a hassle-free experience for travellers while maintaining a fair and reasonable gratuity for the local people including the National Escort.

If you are travelling in a smaller group of under 10 passengers 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 recognise 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.

DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA:

Though parts of China match the west in modernity and technological advances, it is important to remember that parts of China are still developing and as such, many aspects of tourism in China do not have the solid infrastructure and safety standards as seen here in the west.

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.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

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

INTERNET RESTRICTIONS IN CHINA:

In China, certain Western apps, such as Google Services (e.g. Gmail, Google, Google Maps) and social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, WhatsApp), are blocked due to government restrictions on internet content. Some travellers may choose to download and use a VPN (Virtual Private Network) to bypass these restrictions and access blocked apps. Guests are strongly advised to conduct their own research into the legal implications as VPN usage is subject to government regulations. E-Sim providers such as Airalo and Holafly have built-in VPN capabilities.

TRAVEL MONEY IN CHINA:

We recommend having access to multiple sources of money while traveling. A combination of payment methods, including mobile payment apps, cash, and cards, will offer the most security and flexibility. Mobile payment apps like WeChat and Alipay are often more widely accepted than international cards or cash in China. You will need an internet connection when in China to use the apps. For more information, please refer to our currency and spending money in China: https://help.wendywutours.com.au/knowledge/currency-spending-money-china

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with 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:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: November 2026

China the Big One 2027 | Optional Excursion List

Wendy Wu Tours Go Beyond range is designed for those who wish to be further immersed in the authentic charm of Asia. With this in mind we have allowed free time at leisure in different locations throughout the itinerary, so you can explore at your own pace, or use the time to relax in your hotel. Below is a list of optional excursions in which you may wish to participate in to further enhance your cultural and immersive experience. The choice is yours!

All optional excursions include return transfers and are accompanied by an expert local guide. These excursions are not included in the cost of your tour. If you choose to participate in any of these options, payment must be made in RMB to your Local Guide in China. Please note that Wendy Wu Tours cannot pre-book these optional excursions prior to departure, as they are organised locally in China.

Optional excursions costs outlined below are indicative, subject to change, and are dependent on time and availability while on tour. The prices below are based on a minimum of 10 participants (per excursion); should the number of participants be less, then a higher amount will be quoted by your guide. Please note that the optional excursions are subject to local conditions and might be cancelled at short notice, for example due to bad weather.

Beijing

Optional Evening Beijing Opera - RMB 280 per person
Also known as the Peking Opera, this spectacular stage show features a captivating blend of mime, dance and acrobatics.

Optional Evening Peking Duck Dinner - RMB 200 per person
Feast on traditional Peking Duck. A favourite of the Emperor's court and the upper-class elite during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), Peking Duck has become a national dish and a symbol of China.

Xian

Optional Evening Tang Ever-Bright City Night Tour with Tang Costumes Experience - From RMB 240 per person
Dress in traditional Tang Dynasty costumers and take a night walk around Xian. Marvel at the fountain and light show outside the Big Wild Goose Pagoda.

Optional Evening Tang Dynasty Dancing Show & Dumpling Dinner - From RMB 350 per person
Feast on traditional dumplings and watch a lively spectacular of dancing and music, with beautifully designed, colourful costumes depicting the Tang Dynasty in Xian.

Optional Mt Hua Day Tour - From RMB 900 per person
Located about 120km from Xi'an, Mt. Huashan is one of China's most spectacular and sacred mountains. You'll be picked up from your hotel around 08:30 for a 2-hour drive to the mountain, followed by a scenic 20-minute cable car ride from the West Peak station. The West Peak, known for its dramatic beauty and soaring 2,082m height, offers breathtaking views and a true taste of Huashan's grandeur. We recommend taking the cable car both ways for ease and comfort. Once

at the top, you can explore at your own pace—walk as much or as little as you like. Please bring a packed lunch, as food options on the mountain are limited and costly. A bottle of water will be provided.

Chengdu

Optional Evening Hot Pot & Face Changing Show - From RMB 495 per person

The Face Changing show is a sub-genre of the Sichuan Opera. It is said that ancient people painted their faces in order to scare off wild animals. This dramatic skill is incorporated into the performance and is accompanied by fast, rhythmic music. Enjoy the show with a traditional Hot Pot Dinner.

Lijiang

Optional Day Tour to Tiger Leaping Gorge - RMB 550 per person

Take a day trip and hike down to Tiger Leaping Gorge, the deepest gorge in the world, enjoying dramatic alpine scenery on the way (lunch is included).

Dali

Optional Cangshan Cable Car Day Tour - RMB 220 per person

From your Dali hotel, enjoy a 20-minute drive to Cangshan Mountain, where you'll take the scenic Gantong Cableway up the slopes. Located near the sacred Gantong Temple, the 2,630-metre-long cable car offers spectacular views of Cangshan's snow-capped peaks, Erhai Lake, the ancient city of Dali, and the iconic Three Pagodas. The round-trip cable car ride takes around 40 minutes. Once at the top, you'll have time to explore the forested trails or visit a peaceful mountain monastery.

Kunming

Optional Evening Yunnan Impression Show: RMB280-RMB380 per person

The Yunnan Impression Show is a captivating cultural show that celebrates the diverse ethnic traditions of Yunnan Province through mesmerising music, dance, and elaborate costumes.

Guilin

Optional Day Tour to Longji Rice Terraces - RMB 510 per person

Take a full day tour of the Longji Rice Terraces at Ping An, hiking through the villages and terraces and soaking up the incredible scenery.

Please note: The optional tour to Longji involves approximately 4 hours of trekking, depending on the capability of the group. The ground here is uneven and the trek will include steep climbs.

Optional Visit to the Sun & Moon Pagodas – RMB 20 per person

Yangshuo

Optional Evening Impression Liu Sanjie Show - From RMB 310 per person

Watch the magnificent open-air show which is directed by Zhang Yimou, the creator of the Beijing Olympics opening ceremony.

Optional Bamboo Rafting on the Yulong River - From RMB 380 per person (Minimum 2 passengers)
Take a relaxing raft ride along the stunning Yulong River, a small tributary of the larger Li River in Southeastern Guangxi. You will can sit back and enjoy the views while you are punted along - this is the Chinese version of the Cam.

Optional Half Day Yangshuo Cycling tour: RMB 80 per person
Explore the stunning countryside around Yangshuo by bike, offering a unique way to experience its natural beauty and local culture.

Optional Half Day Ruyi Peak tour: RMB 330 per person
Discover this distinctly shaped mountain that resembles a scepter of good fortune. It's a popular destination for nature lovers, and is accessible by a cableway.

Shanghai
Optional Day Tour to Zhujiajiao - RMB 430 per person
A vibrant ancient water town, Zhujiajiao was established around 1700 years ago. Here you can wander the traditional streets, watching the busy waterways and the local people going about their daily lives.