



China's Mountains & Gardens

China's Mountains and Gardens

15 Days

Fully Inclusive from the UK

- * Discover Lushan and Botanical Gardens
- * Cruise the West Lake in Hangzhou
- * Explore the stunning Mt. Huangshan
- * Visit the fascinating gardens of Suzhou
- * Experience cosmopolitan Shanghai
- * Enjoy a private guided tour of Chenshan Botanical Garden

Fully Inclusive price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals (excluding drinks)
- Touring with guides and entrance fees

Your Tour Dossier

This document is designed to be read in conjunction with the other pre-departure information provided by Wendy Wu Tours including the tour itinerary as described in our brochure and/or website. It aims to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour.

If there are any particular challenges, from the length of time spent on your feet, the length of drives and flights, to the standard of remote accommodation; they will be explained here.

All passengers must read this document to ensure the itinerary is suitable for their interests and physical capabilities. This is not your final itinerary and therefore does not mention all the sites visited.



Welcome to Wendy Wu Tours

China continues to amaze, fascinate and thrill our passengers, many of whom have travelled to one country in Asia with us, then another, year after year. We urge you to keep in mind all the rewards, as well as challenges of travelling in a country with a history, culture and attitude so unlike your own.

A typical day's sightseeing may include the bustle and noise of a city street, sights and smells of a local market and interacting with the locals. Travelling in China requires patience and potential delays are to be expected due to standards of service. There is a low level of English spoken throughout China, so your local guides or National Escort will be indispensable during your trip.

Almost everything will be different to what you may be used to. We have found that our passengers who embark with a sense of humour and adventure, who accept that things do not always go to plan, are those who find their experience most rewarding. It is essential that all passengers recognize the demands of factors such as basic facilities and cultural differences they may encounter in some areas.

Tour Guide

All of your tours will be accompanied by National Escorts and/or Local Guides. These guides have an interest in gardens but they are not horticultural experts. When visiting botanical gardens we will normally hire local curators and horticultural experts but this cannot be guaranteed and will be difficult in more remote regions. These experts will usually speak some English but if there are any problems your guides will be able to translate.

Selected tours will be accompanied by RHS Specialist Hosts, these are chosen by the RHS for their interest in the horticulture of China and will be available throughout the tour.

China's Mountains and Gardens – Moderately paced tour

These tours are not strenuous but do require higher levels of fitness than our comfortable paced tours. A typical tour may include longer periods of sightseeing on foot, climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats will be necessary. These tours may involve longer periods of driving; sometimes on poorly maintained roads, and overnight train journeys; as well as some easy hiking. Some Moderate Tours may involve several days at altitude.

Anyone with a good level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. Of course our local guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you do have mobility difficulties, please contact us for further information.

NB: Please note that times and distances listed in the tour dossier are approximate.

Days 1-2: UK - Shanghai

You will be met at Shanghai's Pudong Airport in the Arrivals Hall by your National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, transfer approx. 1 hour drive to the hotel. This evening, a tour introduction will be held in the hotel. Food and drinks will not be served at this meeting. It is simply an opportunity for your group to meet and learn more about travelling in China. Dinner will be served separately.

Day 3: Shanghai

This morning drive approximately 1 hour to Shanghai's Chenshan Botanical Gardens where you will be taken around by a botanical expert (approx. 2-3 hours). The Chenshan Botanical Gardens are Shanghai's largest green space and were designed by German landscape architects Valentien + Valentien. Later, return to Shanghai and enjoy your evening meal. This evening, enjoy a Huangpu River cruise, where you will have the opportunity to see the ultramodern Pudong

skyline lit up in neon (approx. 1 hour). Transfer back to your hotel this evening.

Day 4: Suzhou

Drive for approx. 2 hours (90km) to Suzhou. This section of road is often subject to heavy traffic or road construction. After lunch, explore the Humble Administrator's Garden and the Master of the Nets Garden, two examples of Chinese garden artistry (approx. 4 hours touring at a leisurely pace). Afterwards, cruise the Grand Canal. Check into your hotel in Suzhou.

Day 5: Suzhou

This morning, take a leisurely walk around the Lingering Garden. After lunch, explore for 4 hours approx. at the Lion Forest Garden.

Day 6: Hangzhou

The morning is free to explore Suzhou independently. The National Escort will advise of other sights in Suzhou which

you may wish to visit during this time of leisure. After lunch, drive to Hangzhou (approx. 3 hours by coach). Evening meal in Hangzhou.



Day 7: Hangzhou

Drive to Hangzhou's Botanical Garden where you will be escorted by a botanical expert (approx. 2 hours). Sample Longjing tea, native to Hangzhou. After lunch, leisurely explore West Lake and the Hangzhou Lakeshore Garden (2 hours 30 minutes) and then cruise on West Lake. If a cruise is not possible, visit Six Harmonies Pagoda.

Day 8: Tunxi

Enjoy a free morning to explore Hangzhou independently. The National Escort will be able to advise of new sights to visit. Drive approx. 4 hours to Tunxi.

Day 9: Mt. Huangshan

NB: You will need to carry your own overnight bag from the cable car to your hotel on Mt. Huangshan, so pack light. You will need to take all medications, clothing, toiletries etc. that you will need for the night. The weather here is very changeable and usually foggy, so you will need a rain jacket.

Leave your main luggage in storage at your Tunxi hotel, taking only an overnight bag to Mt. Huangshan. Transfer approx. 1 hour to the base of Mt. Huangshan. Take the Yungu cable car to the summit (approx. 10 minutes ride). Here enjoy sightseeing at the Beginning-to-Believe and Beihai scenic areas. Lunch will be eaten on the mountain either at a local hotel or a packed lunch. This afternoon, sightseeing involves a tour of Xihai (west sea) scenic area. Transfer to your hotel on top of the mountain.

NB: There will be steps and some quite steep climbs during your time in Mt. Huangshan, please make sure you check with your doctor if worried about this activity being too strenuous.

Day 10:

Mt. Huangshan to Tunxi

This morning there is the option to rise early to view the spectacular sunrise from Mt. Huangshan. Depending on the day, the time of the sunrise may vary. Your National Escort will advise at the time of travel. Continue sightseeing around the summit, involving at least 2 hours on foot. Return by cable car and coach to your Tunxi hotel for an overnight stay. After lunch, there will be some leisurely sightseeing in the city.

NB: your tickets for the cable car descent will be booked in advance to avoid the crowds. Sometimes VIPs and Government groups can take priority in the queue and occasionally cause delays.



Day 11: Jingdezhen

This morning take a 4 hour coach ride to Jingdezhen, the home of Chinese porcelain production. Afterwards, visit the Historical Exhibition Area in Jingdezhen (approx. 1 hour 30 minutes) Drive to Lushan this afternoon (4 hours).

Day 12: Lushan

NB: Lushan is known as the Summer's Cool Mountain. Depending on the time of year, the temperature rarely gets above 22 degrees. Please keep this in mind and dress appropriately.

Please note, there are steps at the Wulaofeng Peak which requires some physical capability.

Visit the Lushan Botanical Gardens this morning with a botanical expert (3 hours approx.). After lunch, there will be flexible time for exploring the Lushan area. You can use this time to hike up Wulao Peak and see the Lushan three-step waterfalls.

NB: The hike to the Lushan three-step waterfall has some steep climbs and many steps and does require a good level of fitness.

Day 13: Lushan

This morning, see the Lushan flower diameter park, Jinxiu Valley and Xianren Cave (approx. 2-3 hours on foot). Visit Lulin Lake and the plantlife around Mt. Lushan.

Day 14: Shanghai

Transfer to Nanching (approx. 2 hour drive) and fly to Shanghai (flight duration approx. 1 hour 30 minutes). This

afternoon, enjoy sightseeing in Shanghai, including the Yu Yuan Gardens (approx. 3 hours on foot). Return to your hotel this evening.

Day 15: Shanghai - UK

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to the airport (1 hour drive), according to the departure time of your international flight.

Land Only

If you are travelling on a land only basis, then you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel in Shanghai on Day 2. On Day 15, you will checkout from your Shanghai hotel, and continue as per your own arrangements.

Please refer to the Wendy Wu Tours brochure and/or website for details on departure dates, prices, itineraries, inclusions and tour extensions available as well as full booking conditions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Before You Leave

Itinerary Changes - The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in China are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your Local Guide or National Escort will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Roads in China have generally been improved over recent years, but some road construction and/or weather conditions may still lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day to day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions:

Visas - A visa is required for entry into China. A standard visa processing service is included in your tour cost. We will require your passport, completed visa application form, and 1 passport photo, taken within the last 6 months, to process your visa. We will require all this information 8 weeks prior to departure. As per our standard visa processing service, we will have your passport for at least 4 weeks. Any passports and visa applications that require an express 2 week service, or that are received in our office less than 6 weeks prior to departure, will incur a £50 per passport express fee.

In rare cases, you may be required to provide further information or documentation to the Chinese embassy and or be required to attend an interview at the embassy in London. If this is the case we will notify you as soon as possible.

Please note that if you intend to arrive more than 24 hrs before your tour commences or intend to stay in China after your tour has ended and **you are NOT staying in a hotel** you will need to register with the local Public Security Bureau. If you are staying in a hotel, registration is done on your behalf as part of the check-in process.

Vaccinations and Your Health - We recommend that you contact either your local GP or a travel doctor for advice on vaccinations and travel health. www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk is a comprehensive website that you may also find useful.

Climate - Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

Insurance - It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

What to Expect on Tour

Development - Although China is developing quickly, it still lacks international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. For example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade; concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in the UK. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in the UK. However, all of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense as well as refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort/Local Guides.

Some of the paths on the tour are steep and do not always have handrails.

Some parts of the tour can be quite physical. Please remember, if you do not feel physically capable of an excursion, you can sit out of that activity and explore the local area independently.

Group Size – All our group tours are guaranteed to run subject to a minimum number of 8 travellers and a National Escort will accompany each group of over 10. The maximum group size varies depending on the tour, but is usually no more than 28 passengers.

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 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 UK and China. 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.

Meals - This itinerary visits areas which are popular with domestic Chinese tourists, but not widely known by international tourists.

Chinese breakfast dishes include cold vegetable and pickle dishes, bean curd noodles, soups, congee (a rice porridge), steamed buns with pork or sweet red bean and green tea. Black tea and coffee are not always served, but usually can be requested. You may also be served fruit, a fried egg, or toast – although the bread tends to be very sweet and unlike the bread we have in the UK. Fresh milk is not generally available. If you cannot do without, it is recommended that you bring milk and cereal supplies / or muesli bars from home, or purchase them in Chengdu. Other meals (lunch and dinner) could include dishes of local style, meaning there may be bones or fat in meat and fish.

Tipping - As with most countries, tipping is a way of life in China. For our passengers' convenience we ask for a compulsory amount to be paid at the beginning of our group tours to cover tipping for guides, drivers, restaurant staff etc. Approximate tipping amounts can be found in our brochure and/or website; however exact tipping amounts will be stated in your final documentation pack.

Personal Expenses- You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of £150 per week should be sufficient; however for those that can't resist a bargain, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional Extras - Our tours are planned to be as fully inclusive as possible. However, from time-to-time your National Escort or Local Guide may suggest optional tours/sightseeing in addition to the standard sightseeing planned for that city. Such options are at an additional cost, with prices ranging from 100 – 300 Yuan per person (payable in local currency). If you do not wish to take part in any optional extras, you will have the option of enjoying some free time at leisure or to return to the hotel.

After Your Booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form, help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approx. 2 weeks prior to departure, and will include a travel wallet, badge, lanyard, suggested packing list and a China travel guide and phrase book, along with your final itinerary and international tickets.

