



Luxury Travel
since 1927

China to a T.

ESSENTIAL TOUR INFORMATION

PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP

Passports and Visas

A valid passport is required, with at least six months' validity beyond your holiday return date. Always carry your passport and travel documents in your hand luggage. Keep photocopies in a separate bag. Please ensure we have your full name exactly as shown on your passport, including any middle name(s).

APT requires passport details at least 90 days prior to departure to obtain relevant permits. Please provide colour copies showing both information pages clearly, including the photo and full page. APT is not responsible for delays or missed portions of your holiday due to incorrect or incomplete travel documents.

Australian and New Zealand passport holders travelling on ordinary passports may enter mainland China for tourism without a visa for stays of up to 30 days under China's visa-free entry program.

Travellers of other nationalities should check with the relevant consulate or embassy for the most up-to-date entry requirements, fees, and processing times.

For more information, visit: aptouring.com/en-au/before-you-travel/visa-requirements

Arrival Cards

We recommend completing your China Arrival Card online before departure. Please visit the official website and follow the instructions: <https://s.nia.gov.cn/ArrivalCardFillingPC/entry-registration-home>

When completing the Arrival Card, you will be asked a series of questions regarding your entry into China. If you are an Australian passport holder, or hold a passport that is eligible for China's visa-free entry program, and your stay in China is less than 30 days, select "No" when asked whether you hold a valid visa or other entry permit, then choose "Visa-free entry" from the available options.

For your accommodation details, enter the address of your first hotel in China (refer to your final travel documents). When asked "Do you have any inviting entities or inviters in China?", select "No."

Once the form has been submitted, a QR code will be generated. You can save the QR code to your device or have it emailed to you. Please ensure you can easily access the QR code during your journey, as immigration officials may request it upon arrival in China.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is not included in your holiday package. We strongly recommend that you take out comprehensive travel insurance that covers, without limitation, the full cost of your holiday, medical costs, medical evacuation, loss of luggage and any additional charges for cancellations due to both land and air disruptions, natural disasters and industrial actions such as strikes. Please ensure that your insurance covers you for the entire duration of your trip, and check what circumstances and activities are not included in your policy.

Please ensure that all pre-existing medical issues are declared to the insurer so that non-covered conditions are identified in advance. You should have the details recorded and accessible in the case of an emergency.

Dietary and Allergies

If you have any dietary requirements or allergies that need to be managed while travelling with APT, and you have not made these known already, please advise your booking agent as soon as possible, as well as your Tour Director upon arrival. Most suppliers require advance notice to accommodate these requirements and in some cases you may be required to fill out a form or waiver. Every effort will be made to fulfill requests, but these cannot always be guaranteed.

Food and Beverages

Meals are included as per your tour itinerary. Breakfast is typically served buffet-style with hot and cold options. Lunches and dinners, when provided, may be buffet or set menu with two or three courses. Water, tea, and coffee are included with all meals. Welcome and farewell dinners include one alcoholic drink (house wine or beer). Additional drinks are at your own expense.

WHAT TO PACK

Luggage

The luggage limit on your tour is one suitcase weighing 20kg (44 pounds). We advise keeping your luggage to a manageable weight, as you may be required to handle your luggage independently at airports and hotels. Additional fees will be charged to cover portage handling of any excess luggage. Your Tour Director will provide details of any additional charges. If your tour includes flights within China, the luggage limit is 20kg. If this weight is exceeded, an excess luggage fee may be charged at the time of check-in for each flight.

Clothing and Footwear

What you pack is a matter of personal preference. Most guests dress casually during the tour, with smart casual attire recommended when dining at restaurants or aboard the Yangzi Explorer. While there are no formal or black-tie events, you may wish to bring a smart outfit for the welcome and farewell dinners.

When visiting temples, religious sites and private homes, dress modestly and respectfully. In some locations, it is customary to remove your hat and, on occasion, your shoes before entering private residences. Follow any local signage or instructions provided by your guide.

AT THE AIRPORT

Reconfirmation of Flights

We recommend you check your booking directly on the airline's website to ensure there have been no last-minute schedule changes. Your airline booking number can be found at the top of your e-ticket.

Internal Flights

Flights within China are included in the tour price where stated on the itinerary. These flights are booked by APT's ground operator, and the flight details will not appear on your final documentation. Your Tour Director or local guide will carry all necessary documents for these flights including the e-tickets. Please note all flights included in your tour are in economy class and have a luggage limit of 20kg.

Delayed or Missed Flights

In the unfortunate event that you miss your flight or experience a significant delay, please inform the airline representative that you are

booked on a group tour with a specific start location, date, and time. Be sure to notify APT of your new travel arrangements immediately.

Airport Transfers

If you have confirmed arrival transfers, you will be welcomed upon arrival by a local representative holding an APT sign with your name on it. If you cannot locate your transfer representative, refer to your itinerary for the relevant contact number to call. If you miss the pre-booked transfers, you must make your own way to and from the hotel at your own expense. Flight details must be provided at least 60 days prior to departure in order to confirm the airport transfers. Transfers cannot be re-routed to other pick-up points or destinations. No refund will be given for unused transfers.

GENERAL DESTINATION INFORMATION

Passports

Your passport is an essential travel document in China and should be carried with you throughout your trip. Many bookings are linked directly to your passport, which is used to verify your identity rather than a traditional paper ticket. You may be asked to present your passport upon boarding high-speed trains, entering attractions such as the Great Wall of China, checking into hotels, and verifying domestic flights or other pre-booked services. As many tickets and reservations are issued electronically and linked to your passport details, staff will often scan or check your passport before granting entry. We recommend carrying your original passport each day and keeping it secure. A photocopy or digital copy is useful as a backup, however it is generally not accepted in place of your original passport.

Electricity

Electrical plugs used in China range from flat two-pin US plugs (Type A), Australian/New Zealand three-pin plugs (Type I) and, less frequently, you may also come across the two round-pin Type C. We recommend bringing universal travel adaptors.

Powerbanks

Please be advised that power banks are only permitted in your carry-on luggage and usage is prohibited during take-off or landing. When travelling in China, power banks require a visible '3C certification' label or they will be confiscated.

Queuing for Major Attractions

Please be aware that many of China's most popular attractions receive large numbers of both domestic and international visitors. As a result, queues and waiting times should be expected at some locations. Visitor numbers are typically highest at major sites in Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai and Chengdu, particularly during weekends, public holidays and peak travel seasons.

Travelling by Train

When travelling by train in China, all luggage is subject to security screening prior to boarding. Certain items are prohibited or restricted and may be confiscated if detected during bag checks.

Flammable liquid and gel products, such as perfume and styling gel, are generally limited to containers of no more than 100ml per item. Aerosol products, including hairspray and deodorant, must not exceed 150ml per container. Compressed gases, flammable liquids, fireworks, strong magnetic materials, and certain sharp or dangerous items, including many types of knives, are prohibited. Medication required for personal use is permitted.

As regulations may change and security staff have final discretion, we recommend packing only essential items and avoiding packing potentially restricted goods when travelling by train in China.

Public Restrooms

Throughout many public areas in China, toilet facilities can be quite basic, particularly outside hotels and major shopping centres. Please be aware that Western-style toilets are not always available, and squat toilets are commonly used. We recommend carrying tissues or toilet paper with you, as public restrooms may not be equipped with paper.

Money

We recommend carrying both an international credit or debit card and a small amount of cash while travelling, ensuring you have access to more than one source of funds.

China is largely a cashless society, with Alipay and WeChat Pay being the most commonly used payment methods. Eligible international bank cards can be linked to these platforms, allowing payments to be made by scanning QR codes. To make transactions easier during your tour, we recommend downloading and setting up your preferred mobile payment app before departure.

International credit cards are generally accepted at international hotels and larger restaurants. However, smaller restaurants, local shops, supermarkets and market stalls may only accept mobile payments or, in some cases, cash. For this reason, we recommend carrying a small amount of local currency for incidental purchases and situations where electronic payment methods are unavailable.

SIM Cards and Internet Access

We recommend arranging your mobile connectivity before departure. You may choose to activate international roaming with your mobile service provider or purchase a travel eSIM, provided your device is compatible.

Please be aware that internet access in mainland China is subject to government regulations, and a number of commonly used websites and applications are generally inaccessible when using local internet services. These may include Google services (such as Google Search, Gmail and Google Maps), as well as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, X (formerly Twitter) and YouTube.

Many travellers choose to use a VPN to access these services. If you intend to use a VPN, we strongly recommend downloading, installing and testing it on all of your devices before departing for China, as VPN websites and applications may be difficult to access once you have arrived.

Please note that some international roaming services and travel eSIM providers route data through networks outside mainland China. Depending on the provider, this may enable access to websites and applications that are otherwise restricted without the use of a VPN. As capabilities vary between providers and may change over time, this should not be considered guaranteed.

If uninterrupted access to services such as Gmail, Google Maps, WhatsApp and social media platforms is important to you, we recommend researching connectivity options and completing all setup prior to departure.

STAYING HEALTHY ON HOLIDAY

It's important for you to be as healthy as possible before you travel and to maintain your health by applying good hygiene practices while on tour. Practising good hygiene is vital in preventing the spread of common viral infections such as colds, flu or gastroenteritis, which can spread quickly. Respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses, while usually minor in nature, can spread rapidly within a tour group and have a major impact on everyone's enjoyment. APT is committed to reducing the spread of infections on all tours and asks that you read and follow our recommendations to ensure a healthy, safe and enjoyable holiday for yourself and your fellow travellers.

APT's Health and Safety Protocol

APT has a Health and Safety Protocol that all our Tour Directors are required to follow. Please read our Health and Wellbeing information on our website for more information aptouring.com/en-au/before-you-travel/health-and-wellbeing.

Water and Food Safety

Please note, tap water in China is not safe to drink. Be mindful of the different meals you consume each day while on holiday. It is a good idea to pack medication that can help alleviate the symptoms of an upset stomach, as you may be exposed to foods and ingredients that are not typically part of your regular diet.

It is best to drink bottled or filtered water when travelling. Always ensure the seal is intact prior to consuming.

Bottled or filtered water should always be used for cleaning your teeth, unless you are specifically advised the tap water is safe for this purpose. If you are unsure, please ask your Tour Director.

Sun Exposure and Dehydration

Weather conditions will vary on tour. Drinking plenty of water is important to prevent dehydration. A hat and high-quality sunscreen are important for preventing sunburn, even on overcast days.

THE YANGZI EXPLORER

Ship Schedule

Under normal operating conditions, itineraries will follow what is outlined in the brochure. However, changes to the itinerary may be necessary due to factors such as road, rail, river or weather conditions, strikes, or other circumstances beyond APT's control. If conditions make any routes unsafe for navigation, APT reserves the right to provide alternative services, including, but not limited to, accommodation on the docked ship or substitute land arrangements.

Getting On and Off the Ship

During the Yangzi Explorer cruise, you will be required to climb into smaller boats to be transferred to shore for your sightseeing excursions. In ports where we dock directly against the shore, the landing areas are not established ports, so you may need to walk up and down embankments. Please also note that some ports, including Yichang and Chongqing, involve a significant number of stairs and uneven walking surfaces between the vessel, landing points, and transport areas.

Onboard Information

Dining Aboard Yangzi Explorer

Yangzi Explorer's onboard dining options are designed to be a highlight of your cruise experience, with a range of venues offering both regional and international cuisine.

Dynasty Restaurant

Dynasty is the main dining venue on board. This venue serves buffet-style breakfast and lunch, accompanied by unlimited soft drinks, tea, and coffee. Dinner features a combination of buffet selections and à la carte dishes, offering a varied dining experience each evening.

Amber Restaurant

Amber is an exclusive dining venue for guests staying in Ambassador and Celebrity Suites. It serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner, with menus featuring seasonal ingredients and dishes inspired by the theme of each voyage.

Sunset Hotpot House

Sunset Hotpot House offers panoramic views and traditional Chinese hotpot for lunch and dinner. Dining is complimentary for Celebrity Suite guests, while Suite guests may dine for an additional charge. Advance reservations are required.

Petrus Restaurant

Petrus offers a curated tasting menu created by the Executive Chef and is available for both lunch and dinner. Celebrity Suite guests are entitled to one complimentary dining experience per voyage while Suite guests may dine for an additional charge. Advance reservations are required.

Beverages

Enjoy unlimited coffee, tea, soft drinks, local beer, and house wines during lunch and dinner on board, plus a selection of spirits and cocktails available throughout the day at the Explorer Bar.

Medical Assistance

Yangzi Explorer features a 24-hour doctor service. If a passenger requires medical assistance on shore, a transfer will be arranged to the nearest land hospital for further medical treatment. Please note, guests are responsible for any expenses incurred from medical visits while on or off the ship. APT is not responsible for the type or quality of the medical services you may receive, and we strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance.

USEFUL TRAVEL WEBSITES

Customs

Australia: homeaffairs.gov.au

New Zealand: customs.govt.nz

UK: gov.uk

China: english.customs.gov.cn

Travel Advisory and Visa Information

Australia: smartraveller.gov.au

New Zealand: safetravel.govt.nz

UK: gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

USA: travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/travel-advisories.html

Canada: travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories



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