

relax, explore, discover . . . new friendships!



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**www.sisterhoodwomenstravel.com.au**

a unique travel experience just for women

## Natural Wonders of China

26 Days | Departing Thursday 6th September 2018 and returning Monday 1st October 2018



### HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Walk on the Great Wall
- Visit to the Summer Palace & Emperors Royal Garden
- Visit to Tianamen Square & The Forbidden City
- Visit to Temple of Heaven
- Scenic Li River Cruise
- Visit to Reed Flute Cave
- Tai Chi Lesson with a master
- Village walk through Zhuang & Yao
- Visit to Zhangjiajie National Forest
- Visit to Huanglong (Yellow Dragon) Cave
- Lake Baofeng Cruise with views of Spectacular Waterfalls
- Mountain Cable Car Ride at Yuanjiajie Avatar Mountain
- 4 night Yangtze River Cruise
- Visit to Nine Villages Valley
- Visit to Five Coloured Lake and Nuorilang Falls
- Visit to the Shuzheng Village to spend time with a local Tibetan family
- Waterfalls & Hot Springs in the Huanglong Valley
- Visit to the World's largest Buddha at Leshan
- Visit to Mt Emei and a 1st Century Temple
- Visit to Pingle with Time to Walk through a Maze of Teahouse Lined Streets
- A morning with the Giant Pandas at Chengdu

**PRICE: \$9,999.00 per person twin share**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1,699.00**

**DEPOSIT: \$2,500.00**

### PRICE INCLUDES:

- Personally Escorted from Melbourne by a Sisterhood Tour Hostess who is on hand to ensure your tour is a memorable one (other departure cities on request)
- Return Economy Airfares including taxes with Cathay Pacific
- Transportation Throughout
- Specialists Guides at each destination
- All Sightseeing as per detailed itinerary
- 4 night Luxury Yangtze River Cruise
- All port charges and taxes
- All tipping and gratuities included (except when enjoying free time)
- All meals as per our itinerary including Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner whilst cruising
- Chinese Single Entry Visa (for Australian & NZ Passport Holders)
- Willing to Share Option
- Meet and Greet prior to departure (subj. to minimum numbers)

**NOTICE \*\*** All hotels are subject to change (will be of similar standard)

**\*\*** Airline is dependent on number of travellers and may change

## **DAY 1 Thursday 6 September 2018**

### **Melbourne – Beijing**

Our Adventure begins! Meet your Sisterhood hostess and fellow travellers at Melbourne Airport for our flight to Beijing, China. Sit back relax and enjoy the flight.

## **DAY 2 Friday 7 September 2018**

### **Welcome to Beijing**

Upon arrival in Beijing, you will be greeted by your local English speaking guide, who will accompany you to your hotel for check in. Settle in and enjoy some time at leisure to refresh.

Overnight: Beijing Gongda Jianguo Hotel or similar

## **DAY 3 Saturday 8 September 2018**

### **Beijing ~ (B,L)**

Today we visit China's most famous attraction, the Great Wall. It is more than 5,000 kms long, stretching from the Shanhaiguan Pass on the east coast to the Gobi desert in the West. Later this afternoon we will visit the jade factory and the summer palace, a royal garden and summer retreat for the emperors and their families

Overnight: Beijing Gongda Jianguo Hotel or similar

## **DAY 4 Sunday 9 September 2018**

### **Beijing ~ (B,L)**

This morning we start our day sightseeing in Tianemen Square, followed by the treasure filled Forbidden City where we will pass under the famous portrait of Chairman Mao as we enter through the main gate.

After lunch we will visit the 15th century Temple of Heaven, one of the most perfect examples of Ming architecture.

Overnight: Beijing Gongda Jianguo Hotel or similar

## **DAY 5 Monday 10 September 2018**

### **Beijing – Guilin ~ (B)**

Today we transfer to the airport for our flight to Guilin, home to some of the most stunning scenery in China, with its dramatic karst landscapes towering above the tranquil waters of the Li River, Guilin is a slice of paradise.

Overnight: Guilin Lijiang Waterfall Hotel

## **DAY 6 Tuesday 11 September 2018**

### **Yangshou ~ (B,L,D)**

Today we take a gentle cruise along the Li River to Yangshuo. Lined with dramatic limestone cliffs, the serenity of life on the riverbanks is a wonderful sight. Later, take a walk through this idyllic wonderland and get an insight into life here.

There's an option to take a short and steep hike to the top of Moon Hill for epic sunset views (at own expense).

Overnight: Yangshou New Century Hotel or similar

## **DAY 7 Wednesday 12 September 2018**

### **Yangshou ~ (B,L)**

With an early start to the day we will enjoy a relaxing and invigorating session of Tai Chi, taking time with a master to learn this ancient martial art.

This afternoon there is an option to go bamboo rafting on the Yulong River (at your own expense). Drift past verdant riverbanks and under ancient bridges as you paddle on the glass-like water, while this evening you have the option of enjoying the magical Sanjie Liu night show (at your own expense).

Overnight: Yangshou New Century Hotel or similar

## **DAY 8 Thursday 13 September 2018**

### **Guilin ~ (B,L)**

Today we will drive back to Guilin and spend the afternoon exploring the Reed Flute Cave, a natural limestone cave over 180 million years old featuring a fascinating range of stalagmites and stalactites of all different shapes and sizes. We will also learn about the South China pearling industry at the Pearl Museum.

Overnight: Guilin Lijiang Waterfall Hotel or similar

## **DAY 9 Friday 14 September 2018**

### **Guilin ~ (B,L)**

This morning we travel to the iconic Longji Rice Terraces and head out for a four hour walk through the traditional rural landscapes. This area is famous for the excessively large number of terraced rice paddy fields on its mountain, which have created an intricate pattern on the hillsides. Set amongst the villages of the minorities Zhuang and Yao. We will stop at several viewpoints boasting picture-postcard views of the extensive rice terraces that cover the hillside, then drive back to Guilin, with the rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight: Guilin Lijiang Waterfall Hotel or similar

## **DAY 10 Saturday 15 September 2018**

### **Guilin – Zhangjiajie ~ (B,L,D)**

A day of travel today where we fly from Guilin to Changshan. Then take the train to Zhangjiajie.

Overnight: Jingxiu Hotel or similar

## **DAY 11 Sunday 16 September 2018**

### **Zhangjiajie ~ (B,L,D)**

Explore Zhangjiajie National Forest Park, the landscape which was the inspiration for James Cameron's famous film Avatar, featuring countless towering sandstone pillars, poking out from a sea of clouds, as well as peaceful streams, gaping karst caves and an abundant natural wildlife. We will also visit the Huanglong cave also known as the Yellow Dragon Cave with its many chambers and subterranean streams.

Overnight: Jingxiu Hotel or similar

## **DAY 12 Monday 17 September 2018**

### **Zhangjiajie ~ (B,L,D)**

Cruise on Lake Baofeng, view green trees and stone peaks of various shapes which surround the lake, also marvel at stunning waterfalls. We will also further explore Zhangjiajie. Yuanjiajie Avatar Mountain taking the Bailong elevator up and the Emperor Mountain cable car down.

Overnight: Jingxiu Hotel or similar

## **DAY 13 Tuesday 18 September 2018**

### **Zhangjiajie – Yichang ~ (B,L,D)**

Today we will take the train to Yichang where we will board our Yangtze River three day cruise.

Upon arrival in Yichang, we will be met and transferred to Yichang wharf where we will board our Victoria Cruises vessel for the next four nights.

Boarding the ship in the evening we will settle in and become familiar with the amenities on offer, while shedding the hustle and bustle of our travels. We will refresh and prepare for the next day's sightseeing on the amazing Yangtze, the ancient pathway across China, spanning centuries of cultures and blending the best of the old and the modern.

## **DAY 14 Wednesday 19 September 2018** **Yangtze River Cruise ~ (B,L,D)**

Soon after departing Yichang, we arrive in the Three Gorges dam. This 60-story, mile wide structure is a stunning example of human achievement and a hallmark of an emerging China. We'll transit the dam in a series of lifts that takes us from the lower river into the gorges themselves.

The cruise continues upstream through the Xiling Gorge, the first of these dramatic slices through the surrounding mountains. The new reservoir has altered the landscape, and with more than a million people relocated, the picture is now of a wild countryside – the physical embodiment of thousands of beautiful Chinese landscape paintings. Watch the fog move in that turns the mountains into ghostly sculptures and enjoy our sumptuous Captain's Dinner for your evening meal.

## **DAY 15 Thursday 20 September 2018** **Yangtze River Cruise ~ (B,L,D)**

The Wu Gorge. Here we will see where the mighty Yangtze flows faster and has carved narrower, even more dramatic, rising stone cliffs. We'll spot the coffins of the Ba people hanging suspended along an ancient plank road that hugs the cliff face.

A side excursion is offered into the Lesser Three Gorges or Shennong stream in our smaller boats. Tonight's dinner features local cuisine and entertainment while you feast.

## **DAY 16 Friday 21 September 2018** **Yangtze River Cruise ~ (B,L,D)**

On our last full day, we'll be in the narrowest of the Three Gorges. We'll visit Fengdu, the "Ghost City." This ancient village of temples is full of shrines to the gods of the underworld. Visitors are said to be purified after they "survive" the scares. Surrounded by misty mountains, this area was revered as a crossing-over point, a mix of the material and spiritual worlds. The day finishes with a Farewell Banquet. Tomorrow we will finish up at Chongqing.

## **DAY 17 Saturday 22 September 2018** **Fly to Jiuzhaigou ~ (B,L,D)**

Today we bid goodbye to our Yangtze river cruise ship and transfer to our flight to Jizhaigou where we will check into our hotel and enjoy dinner.

## **DAY 18 Sunday 23 September 2018** **Nine Villages Valley ~ (B,L,D)**

Today we visit the Nine Villages Valley National Park. View ragged peaks, sapphire lakes, abundant forests and rushing waterfalls.

The Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou National Park) is considered one of China's most beautiful areas. We will take a trip up to the top of the valley to the Long Lake, the highest, deepest and largest in the area, which offers spectacular alpine views then a short walk to the Five-Coloured Lake and Nuorilang Falls which showcases some of the valley's most beautiful sights.

Overnight: New Jiuzhai Hotel or similar

## **DAY 19 Monday 24 September 2018** **Shuzheng Valley ~ (B,L,D)**

This morning we visit Shuzheng village, the largest settlement in the park. Spend some time with a local Tibetan family who will give you an insight into daily life in Nine Villages Valley. A lovely afternoon walk takes you from Rhinoceros Lake, passing Tiger Lake ending at Red Lake – an excellent way to really relish the local scenery. You'll pass an old watermill and Tibetan prayer flags en route.

Overnight: New Jiuzhai Hotel or similar

## **DAY 20 Tuesday 25 September 2018** **Huanglong Valley – Chengdu ~ (B,L)**

Todays touring we visit Huanglong Valley, we marvel at the hundreds of vivid pools in striking colours, formed by thousands of years of mineral deposits, which tumble gently down through the bright green forests of the Huanglong Valley. The whole area is studded with waterfalls and hot springs and is relatively undiscovered. There is an option to take the chair lift up to Huanglong Temple (at your own expense) at the head of the valley for excellent panoramic views, before you catch a flight to Chengdu.

Overnight : Xinliang Hotel or similar

## **DAY 21 Wednesday 26 September 2018** **Leshan – Emishan ~ (B,L,D)**

Today we travel to Leshan to see the Grand Buddha. The 71 metre Buddha, the world's largest and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is carved into a hillside overlooking the confluence of the Dadu and Min Rivers. Completed in the year 803, it is said that the Buddha's presence has calmed the turbulent waters of the river. We will view the Buddha from above before a short boat trip, which will give us an even better perspective. Continue to Mt Emei.

Overnight: Hongzhu Hotel or similar

## **DAY 22 Thursday 27 September 2018** **Emishan ~ (B,L,D)**

Todays touring will have us visit Mt. Emei, the cradle of the Buddhist religion in China with the first temple built here, on its peak, in the 1st century. Pilgrims and tourists mix amongst the lush vegetation and inconspicuous old temples, all admiring the striking and diverse natural beauty of the mountain and its setting. Spend the day soaking up the ambience and exploring.

Overnight: Hongzhu Hotel or similar

## **DAY 23 Friday 28 September 2018** **Emishan – Chengdu ~ (B,L)**

Our touring today takes us to Pingle, an ancient town dating back to the Han Dynasty, Pingle was a stopping point on the Tea Horse Road. We will take time to walk through its maze of teahouse-lined streets before seeing the bamboo forest from above on Jinji Suspended Rope Bridge. Later we will drive back to Chengdu.

Overnight: Xinliang Hotel or similar

## **DAY 24 Saturday 29 September 2018** **Chengdu ~ (B,D)**

Today we spend the morning visiting with the Giant Pandas of Chengdu Panda Base. Here we will observe these gorgeous creatures lounging, playing and chomping through piles of bamboo in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat.

This afternoon, absorb the culture at People's Park. People watching here is an endless pleasure, from the locals playing mah-jong to the lonely singles looking for love in Matchmaker's Corner.

In the evening enjoy a delicious Sichuan hot pot dinner and an optional 'face changing' show (at your own expense).

Overnight: Xinliang Hotel or similar

## **DAY 25 Sunday 30 September 2018** **Depart Chengdu – Melbourne ~ (B, meals in flight)**

The morning is at leisure before boarding the overnight flight to Australia.

## **DAY 26 Monday 01 October 2018** **Welcome home**

Arriving into Melbourne today. *Thank you for travelling with Sisterhood Womens Travel and we look forward to welcoming you back for your next adventure!*



# terms and conditions

## Booking Conditions

### CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL

When booking a Sisterhood Womens Travel tour it is imperative that you are aware of all of our terms and conditions as these form part of your agreement with Sisterhood Womens Travel. **It is recommended that all travellers adopt a sense of adventure, an easy going outlook and the ability to 'expect the unexpected'.** It is the expectation that all travellers will respect fellow passengers and understand the key to an enjoyable tour is you.

### ABILITY TO TRAVEL

A minimum level of fitness is required to be able to participate on a Sisterhood tour. As a minimum you will need to be able to walk 2km on uneven ground, carry your own luggage and walk up a few flights of stairs. We rely on the information you provide on our 'Fit to Travel' form completed as part of your booking application. You acknowledge that there are no other medical issues (both physical/mental) that SWT needs to be aware of when making your travel arrangements. SWT will not be liable for any damage, injury, death or loss of any kind arising from your failure to disclose relevant medical information. Women with disabilities are welcome on all SWT tours provided you are accompanied by an able bodied companion and do not require special assistance from SWT personnel. SWT reserves the right to refuse to carry anyone if it is felt the individual cannot cope with the requirements of the tour and who may require services and facilities that SWT cannot guarantee will be available.

### EXCLUSION FROM TOUR

You may be excluded from any tour at our discretion if you fail to comply with our reasonable instructions whilst on tour or if you interfere with other client's enjoyment of the tour and you will be responsible for all costs associated with your tour expelition.

### VARIATION TO TOUR COMPONENT

No deduction in our tour costing will be made for leaving a tour early as this will cause a reduction in our travelling numbers and create additional costs.

### ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

SWT is happy to assist with additional arrangements before and after each tour subject to an additional handling fee of \$150.

### DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENTS

Payments required are:

International	25% deposit within 7 days
	35% deposit within 120 days
	Final Payment 90 days prior to departure
Domestic	25% deposit within 7 days
	Final Payment 75 days prior to departure

On occasion and outside of SWT's control a higher deposit or earlier payment date may be required.

### LAST MINUTE BOOKINGS

Bookings made after final payment date will be subject to availability and will require full payment upon confirmation. A late fee of \$100 per person will apply.

### ACCEPTED FORMS OF PAYMENT

We accept direct deposit, money order, bank cheque or Visa/Mastercard payment. For credit card payments an additional 1.28% surcharge is payable (non-refundable)

### MINIMUM NUMBERS

All tours are subject to minimum numbers. If a tour falls below the minimum number required for a fully escorted tour, SWT reserves the right to offer the tour escorted by a local guide upon arrival to your destination. If SWT cancels a tour due to lack of numbers a full refund is offered or transfer to another tour. Should a tour be cancelled, SWT cannot assume any responsibility for any additional costs relating to travel arrangements made outside of SWT or travel insurance not taken out through SWT.

### CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS

All cancellations must be made in writing to Sisterhood Womens Travel and will be subject to cancellation charges from the date the written cancellation is received.

### CANCELLATION

**Prior to Final Payment:** Loss of Deposit

**After Final Payment:** 100% of tour cost.

Regrettably cancellation charges cannot be waived.

**After Departure:** No refund

Final Payment dates are determined by SWT suppliers and may vary from tour to tour.

### AMENDMENTS

Once your tour is confirmed and a deposit is paid, a \$100 amendment fee will be incurred for any changes to your tour arrangements.

### TOUR PRICING & ITINERARY CHANGES

SWT operates on the basis of fluid pricing. This is the practice within the Travel Industry where pricing changes due to various factors including, but not limited to changing airfares, currency fluctuations, and availability of product. We reserve the right to change our prices without notice. This can mean that different passengers on the same tour may have been charged different prices. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our tours SWT takes no responsibility for any itinerary changes that may occur prior to or during travel and any such changes will be at the discretion of the airlines and our ground operators. Changes in flights and land arrangements are beyond the control of SWT. Every effort will be made to minimise any inconvenience to SWT passengers. SWT advises making full payment for tours as early as possible to avoid any potential price increases.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking that travellers are adequately insured for the full duration of their tour arrangements in respect of illness, injury, death, loss of baggage and personal items, cancellation and curtailment. SWT offers comprehensive travel insurance at a competitive price and will not be responsible outside their offered policy for inadequate travel insurance in the event of any insurance claims.

### SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

When travelling alone a great way to keep your costs down and make new friends is to be prepared to share a room with another traveller. We are unable to guarantee that your room mate will be of similar age group but it is an enjoyable way to travel and could mean the start of a great friendship. Of course if you prefer a room to yourself the single supplement will apply. If we are successful in matching you with a fellow traveller we give you the opportunity prior to departure to make contact. SWT takes no responsibility for any mismatch of passengers and will not be liable for any additional charges incurred for changing room configuration whilst on tour.

### HEALTH & IMMIGRATION

The traveller is responsible for all visa, passport, immigration, quarantine, customs, health and other requirements of the countries visited or transited. If travelling on an Australian passport you will need at least 6 months validity on your passport taken from the date of re-entry into Australia. If you are travelling under any other passport please advise at the time of booking. Sisterhood Womens Travel will not be held responsible for any incorrect re-entry visas for non-australian passport holders. SWT is happy to offer assistance with visas (additional charges may apply). Please note that passport and visa requirements are the responsibility of you the traveller and SWT takes no responsibility for failure to comply with the provided advice.

### NAMES AS PER PASSPORTS

When booking on any tour, it is imperative that you provide SWT with your full correct name as per your passport and a copy of your passport (for international tours) SWT will not be held liable for any or expense incurred for incorrect names.

### CONSULAR ADVICE

Official travel advice issued by Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is available by contacting 1300 444135 or visiting their website [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au). We recommend that you review this

information both prior to making your booking and prior to departure.

### GENERAL CONDITIONS

These conditions represent the entire agreement between the client and Sisterhood Womens Travel. SWT will be responsible to the client for supplying the services and accommodation as described in their itineraries, except where such service cannot be supplied or the itinerary used is changed due to delays or other cause of whatever kind or nature beyond the control of SWT. In such circumstances we will do our best to supply comparable services, accommodations and itineraries, and there shall be no refund in this situation. SWT acts only as agent for the client and upon the express condition that SWT will not be held liable or responsible for any direct, indirect, consequential or incidental damage, injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity of any kind, which may be occasioned by reason or any act or omission of any third party (including without limitation, any act, inaction or breach of contract of any third party, which is to or does supply any goods or services for SWT tours). Without limiting the foregoing, SWT does not own or operate any third party suppliers of services such as hotels, restaurants, transportation companies, sightseeing companies or local tour operators and is not responsible for any injury, death or expense due to overbooking accommodation, default of any third parties, sickness, weather, strikes, acts of God, Government, acts of terrorism, criminal activity, war, quarantine, force majeure events or any other cause beyond its control. All such risk, loss and expense must be borne by the client. Any personal expenses incurred by a client as a result of any delay, alteration or curtailment of any tour, whether caused by mechanical defect, strikes or any other cause are the responsibility of the client (travel insurance is mandatory on all SWT tours). SWT is unable to guarantee exact arrival and departure times, and is not liable for any failure to make connections with any other services, or guarantee the operation of any particular service. In the case of breakdown or other unforeseen circumstances, the operator reserves the right to substitute vehicles other than specified to ensure the operation of a tour. SWT reserves the right to cancel any ticket or booking, or to refuse to carry client where payment has not been received by SWT.

Updated 1 June 2015

Registered Office:

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1300 885 255

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

Please read through our full terms and conditions. It is a condition that upon booking this tour you have read and fully understood this important information. Minimum numbers are required to operate this tour. This tour requires a certain level of fitness as it may include walking for extended periods of time, on uneven ground and climbing of steps. Please take this into consideration when booking. Travel Insurance is mandatory.



TRAVELLERS  
CHOICE

WE'RE  
PROUD  
TO BE

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A10927

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