

# SICHUAN EXPLORER

11-night Escorted Tour

escape  
WORLDWIDE

**CHENGDU • TONGLIANG • DAZU • LESHAN • MT EMEI • MIANYANG • NINE VILLAGES VALLEY  
HUANGLONG • JIANGYOU**

Sichuan Province is the natural habitat of the Giant Panda and we observe these magnificent creatures at the famous reserve in Chengdu. Visit Mt Emei, Buddhist Dazu and beautiful Nine Villages Valley. This is a fabulous tour for the connoisseur or second-time visitor to China.

## FULLY INCLUSIVE TOUR

Tour prices include international flights, departure taxes, current fuel surcharges, domestic transportation, accommodation, all meals, daily tours, entrance fees, guides and visa fees for UK passport holders.

All you'll have to pay for locally is the compulsory tipping and personal expenditure such as souvenirs, drinks and any optional shows and excursions that aren't included in your itinerary. We pride ourselves on having 'no hidden extras'.



## Days 1-2 : UK – Chengdu

Fly overnight via Hong Kong to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province.

## Day 3 : Chengdu – Dazu

Travel to the small and rural town of Dazu. In the afternoon, we see some of the most fascinating rock carvings in the world – the Beishan Frescoes, which are a UNESCO world heritage site.

## Day 4 : Dazu – Chengdu

We visit the magnificent Baodin stone carvings, which are a series of Chinese religious sculptures and carvings, depicting and influenced by Buddhist, Confucian and Taoist beliefs. Often compared to other great Buddhist cave sculptures at Dunhuang, Luoyang and Datong; these sculptures date from the Tang Dynasty (9th century) to the Song Dynasty (13th century). The thousands of exquisitely carved and painted figures form a graceful horseshoe round the mountainside. After lunch, we return to Chengdu.

## Day 5 : Leshan – Mt Emei

Travel to Leshan to visit the Grand Buddha, the world's largest stone-carved Buddhist statue. We take a short boat trip to view the statue from the river. The carving of the Buddha into the side of Lingyun Mountain began in 713AD and was completed in 803AD. After lunch, continue to Mt Emei (Emeishan) – a UNESCO world heritage site, one of China's most picturesque mountains and the highest of the four sacred Buddhist mountains in China. We stay in the area for two nights.

GRAND BUDDHA, LESHAN



## Day 6 : Mt Emei

We spend the day exploring the magnificent mountain and mingle with the locals and the many pilgrims that pay homage to this holy site. Mt Emei once had more than 100 monasteries and occupies an area of more than 300 square kilometers. The mountain is known for its steep cliffs, lofty peaks, roaring waterfalls, gurgling springs, towering trees and fragrant flowers.

## Day 7 : Mt Emei – Chengdu

Return to Chengdu and stay overnight.

For more details or to book call **020 8989 0970**  
or visit us at [www.escapeworldwide.co.uk](http://www.escapeworldwide.co.uk)

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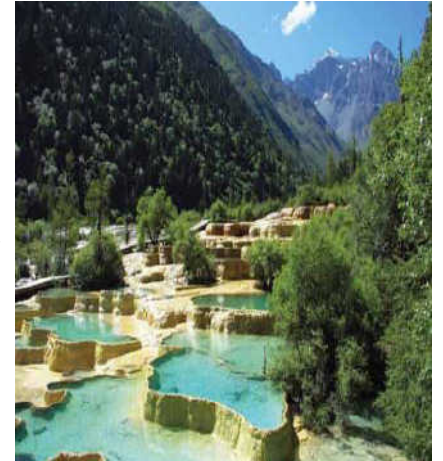
## Day 8 : Chengdu – Mianyang

Visit the famous Panda Reserve to see these adorable animals being reared in wooded surroundings reminiscent of their natural habitat. We also explore a local bamboo park. Later we visit the Sanxingdui Museum before continuing to Mianyang, which houses pieces of ceramics, jade, bronze and gold.

## Days 9-10 : Mianyang – Nine Villages Valley

Travel by coach to the breathtaking Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou), a botanical gallery that is heavily forested and home to many protected species. Entering the valley is like being transported into a different world, where crystal clear lakes gather at the foot of every waterfall and rich dense forests are dotted with colourful flowers. The entire valley presents a seemingly never-ending display of stunning natural scenery that will inspire any budding photographer. We stay in the area for two nights.

HUANGLONG



## Day 11 : Nine Villages Valley – Jianguyou

Travel by coach to Huanglong, which is renowned for its hundreds of sparkling mineral pools where beautiful colours intertwine and the waters cascade down the mountainside. We have the option to take a cable car or walk past the many waterfalls to visit Huanglong Temple at the head of the valley. After lunch, we continue to the rural town of Jianguyou.

## Day 12 : Jianguyou – Chengdu

Return to Chengdu, stay overnight and enjoy a delicious Sichuan meal.

GIANT PANDAS, CHENGDU



## Days 13-14 : Chengdu – UK

Fly overnight to the UK via Hong Kong, arriving home the following day.

N.B. Varying road conditions in Sichuan Province may require an alternative route to be taken to Nine Villages Valley or flights may be used.

### ESCORTED TOUR

One of the very special features about this tour is the constant presence of the National Escort and Local Guides. They will meet you at the airport on arrival and will be with you throughout your tour right up to your departure. The National Escort will be with you throughout the tour, while a Local Guide will be in individual locations to share their expert knowledge with you. All of the guides are knowledgeable and proud to show off their English skills - they are completely dedicated to making every minute of your stay in their country an enjoyable one.



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## EXTENSIONS

Your tour can be extended with a few nights in one of a number of destinations, depending on the airline you choose. Stopovers in the Middle East are popular, with Dubai and Abu Dhabi being possible when flying with Emirates. Hong Kong also works well, with itineraries taking in Lantau Island or Macau also being possible. We can also arrange a beach extension in Sanya, or a visit to Japan taking in Tokyo, Mt Fuji and a ride on the Bullet Train!

Here's a few ideas for extensions to this tour:

### HIANAN ISLAND - SANYA

5 nights from £410 per person



Relax on the beaches of Hianan Island, staying at China's premier beach resort of Sanya. Explore the Island or just chill on the beach, where temperatures average 22-26 degrees. A great way to relax and unwind after your tour.

5\* Crowne Plaza Hotel from £410 per person

Prices exclude connecting flights from the tour and are subject to seasonal variations

### HONG KONG

3 nights from £260 per person



Explore exciting Hong Kong with a 3-night stopover, with a half day island tour taking in Victoria Peak, Stanley Market and Aberdeen fishing village included.

3\* BP International from £260 per person

4\* Park Hotel from £290 per person

5\* Intercontinental Grand from £390 per person

Prices exclude connecting flights from China and are subject to seasonal variations

## Meals

All meals (excluding beverages) are included in the fully inclusive group tours. Breakfast is a mix of local and western food, usually served in a buffet style. Lunches and dinners consist of traditional local cuisine, with a wide range of dishes to choose from so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked. Meals on group tours start with lunch on the normal day of arrival and finish with lunch on the normal day of departure. As we offer a range of flight options, passengers may arrive and depart at different times during the day.

## Hotels

All of the hotels used in China are of international four-star or three-star superior standard. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. The hotels are selected for their comfort, convenience of location and character.

## Group Sizes

All group tours are guaranteed to run subject to a minimum of 8 passengers. A National Escort will accompany the group subject with a minimum of 10 passengers. The maximum group size varies depending on the tour, but is never more than 28 passengers.

## 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. For this itinerary, tips of approximately US\$60 per person is required. Exact tipping amounts will be stated in your final documentation pack.



Tour details are correct to the best of our knowledge, however, they are provided for guidance purposes only. Please check the details of any features that are important to you at the time of booking.

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