



CURATED CHINA JOURNEY
Dragon Discover




Chengdu

7 Days 6 Nights




Pandas Taoist Mountains & Tibetan Craft

BEFORE YOU GO

Key Travel Prep

-  Please book your own international flights to and from Chengdu.
-  Please arrange your own travel and medical insurance. We recommend supplemental medical and evacuation coverage for international travel.
-  Check China visa requirements for your nationality before booking.

See the full "Prepare for Travel" section later in Before Booking.

-  Bring any personal prescriptions you need.
-  Please inform us of any dietary needs, allergies, or restrictions when booking. Sichuan cuisine is famously spicy; the guide can adjust meal selection to suit milder palates.
-  Most scheduled venues accept international credit cards. For smaller shops, please have local cash or a local mobile payment app ready.

Overview

Seven days circling Chengdu at a slow, restorative pace — pandas, Taoist mountains, World Heritage waterworks, and a private Tibetan craft afternoon.

Spend mornings with giant pandas, afternoons on the tea-table lanes of Kuanzhai and Jinli, and a full day inside the 3,000-year-old bronze world of Sanxingdui. Cross to the World Heritage waterworks at Dujiangyan, then climb the Taoist mists of Mount Qingcheng before soaking at a forest-edge hot spring. Close the journey in Wenjiang with a private Tibetan manuscript museum and a hands-on craft afternoon of incense and thangka.

Trip Snapshot

Accommodation

4 nights at 4-Star Equivalent Chengdu city hotels, 1 night at a Dujiangyan boutique hotel, 1 night at a Mount Qingcheng hot spring resort.

Airport Transfers

Private airport transfers in Chengdu on arrival and departure.

Guide & Transport

Bilingual guide and private luxury MPV for 7 days. Private group, no joiners. Group size 4 to 12.

Meals

Daily breakfast plus lunches and dinners on Days 2 through 6. Sichuan classics, temple tea, Tibetan-influenced regional cooking.

Signature Experiences

Panda Base morning, Sanxingdui bronzes, Taoist tea meditation, Mount Qingcheng, hot spring soak, Tibetan craft workshop.

Trip Style

A slow Chengdu-based loop. Gentle walking, two scenic-area overnights, plenty of teahouse and recovery time built in.

Where You'll Stay

4-Star Equivalent

Chengdu City Hotels

4 Nights

Modern 4-star-equivalent city hotels in central Chengdu, chosen for non-smoking floors and convenient access to the panda base, Kuanzhai Alley, and the Qingyang Temple area. Comfortable, well-located, and easy to come back to between scenic-area nights.

Scenic Stay

Dujiangyan Boutique Hotel

1 Night

A boutique hotel a short walk from the Min River canal bridges. You finish the day at the floodlit Anlan Suspension Bridge, eat fresh river fish at a canal-side table, and sleep close enough to hear the water working.

Scenic Stay

Mount Qingcheng Hot Spring Resort

1 Night

A forest-edge resort at the foot of Mount Qingcheng with open-air mineral pools fed by local geothermal springs. After a day on the mountain, a long soak under the trees is the kind of recovery the itinerary is built around.


Itinerary


Day 1 — Arrival & Welcome to Chengdu


Your private driver meets you at **Chengdu Tianfu International Airport**, **Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport**, or **Chengdu East Railway Station** with an English name sign — from here, everything is handled. The drive to your downtown hotel takes 30–60 minutes depending on which terminal you arrive at.

The rest of the day is yours to recover from the flight and settle into the city at your own pace. Early arrivals can usually request an early check-in subject to availability. After dark, if you would like to step out, the driver can run you over to **Jiuyanqiao** (*Jiuyan Qiao*) — the floodlit nine-arch bridge over the Jin River, the city's most photographed night-skyline scene, with riverside bars and snack streets close by.

Day 2 — Sanxingdui Bronzes · Kuanzhai · Jinli by Night

 Sanxingdui Museum

 Kuanzhai Alley

 Jinli Ancient Street

After breakfast you meet your bilingual guide for the first time. A 90-minute drive north takes you to the **Sanxingdui Museum** (*Sanxingdui*) in Guanghan — the home of one of the most anomalous Bronze Age civilisations ever excavated. Until the 1986 dig, no one knew this kingdom existed. Today the rebuilt museum displays towering bronze figures, masks with protruding eyes, gold-leaf staves, and ritual bronze trees unlike anything else in Chinese archaeology. Your guide walks you through the discovery story, the puzzles archaeologists are still working on, and the reason this culture left no written records. Plan on a deep three to four hours inside.


Lunch is a Guanghan local-style meal near the museum.

The afternoon drives back into central Chengdu for **Kuanzhai Alley** (*Kuanzhai Xiangzi*) — three parallel lanes dating to the Qing garrison era, each with a different pace. Wide Alley is for slow strolling and tea, Narrow Alley for craft shops, and Well Alley for courtyard restaurants. Your guide introduces traditional Sichuan courtyard architecture and the city's famously unhurried tea culture.

After sunset you continue to **Jinli Ancient Street** (*Jinli*) — a Three Kingdoms-era lane next to the Wuhou Shrine, reopened as the city's busiest night-market spine. Dinner is a stand-up Sichuan-snack walk along the lane, with stops for whatever catches your eye.

Day 3 — Pandas at Sunrise · Taoist Tea & Sutra Copying

 Chengdu Panda Base

 Qingyang Temple

 Taoist tea meditation

An early breakfast and a 40-minute drive bring you to the **Chengdu Panda Base** (*Daxiongmao Jidi*) at the morning feeding window — the only stretch of the day when the pandas are reliably awake and active. Your guide narrates the conservation story: how China brought the species back from the edge of extinction, and the role these animals have played as global ambassadors since the 1970s. The visit includes the Panda Tower viewpoint, the red-panda enclosures, and time to watch both adult and juvenile pandas.

Lunch is a farm-style meal near the base — light, traditional Sichuan home cooking.

The afternoon shifts to **Qingyang Temple** (*Qingyang Gong*) — Sichuan's oldest Taoist sanctuary, named for the pair of bronze goats in its courtyard. Inside the covered tea garden you take a **Taoist tea meditation** session with a Chengdu-style bowl-lid tea (*gaiwan cha*), sit through a guided introduction to Taoist quiet-mind practice in the Laozhuang Shuyuan reading hall, and end at the sutra-copying hall where you brush a passage of the Tao Te Ching to take home. The atmosphere here is the opposite of a touristic temple visit — slow, hushed, and rooted in living practice.

The evening returns to the hotel. Dinner is at your own pace — your guide leaves a curated list of nearby restaurants before stepping back.

Day 4 — People's Park & Drive to Dujiangyan

 People's Park  Dujiangyan Irrigation System  +4 more

A relaxed breakfast and check-out. The morning is given over to **People's Park** (*Renmin Gongyuan*) — Chengdu's most beloved public garden, where locals come to drink tea under the camphor trees, play mahjong, get a sidewalk ear-cleaning, and nap in bamboo chairs. Your guide explains why the teahouse remains the social heart of Sichuan life, and orders you a covered-bowl tea at a long-running tea garden inside the park. Sit as long as you like — this is the rhythm Chengdu locals call slow living.

Lunch is a featured Chengdu meal nearby.

Around mid-afternoon, the drive west to **Dujiangyan** (*Dujiangyan*) takes about 90 minutes through the Chengdu plain. You arrive at the **Dujiangyan Irrigation System** in time for the late-afternoon light — a 2,200-year-old engineering work that still diverts the Min River across the Sichuan plain today, the world's oldest large-scale civil-engineering project without a dam. Your guide walks you across the channel weirs, the **Yuzui** fish-mouth divider, the **Feishayan** spillway, and the **Baopingkou** bottleneck, and out onto the floodlit **Anlan Suspension Bridge**.

Dinner is a riverside meal at a local canal-side restaurant — fresh river fish and Dujiangyan classics — before checking in nearby for the night.

Day 5 — Mount Qingcheng & Hot Spring Recovery

 Mount Qingcheng  Hot spring soak  +3 more

A leisurely breakfast and a short 30-minute drive bring you to **Mount Qingcheng** (*Qingcheng Shan*) — a sacred Taoist mountain where, in 142 CE, Zhang Daoling first organised Taoism as a religion. The mountain is small and green, wrapped in mist most days, walled by old-growth forest, and threaded by red-pillared temple pavilions hidden in the trees.

You enter at the front gate, take a short boat ride across **Yuecheng Lake**, and ride the cable car up the steepest section — this turns the day into a gentle uphill walk instead of a hard climb. Highlights along the way include **Tianshi Cave** (*Tianshi Dong*) — the cave where Zhang Daoling is said to have lectured — and the panoramic **Shangqing Temple** on the upper ridge. Your guide explains the difference between Taoism on this mountain and the Buddhist

temples elsewhere in the country: Mount Qingcheng is a living monastic mountain, not a tourist set, and the pace and etiquette match. Pauses for tea at one of the wayside teahouses are part of the day.

Lunch is a mountain vegetarian meal at a temple-style restaurant — the local specialty.

By late afternoon you check into the **hot spring resort at the foot of the mountain** — a forest-edge property with open-air mineral pools. Dinner is at the resort, followed by a long evening soak in the geothermal pools to ease tired legs.

Day 6 — Tibetan Manuscripts & Hands-On Craft

 Rongfu Tibetan Culture Museum

 Tibetan craft workshop

+2 more

After a slow breakfast at the resort, a 90-minute drive crosses back to **Wenjiang** (*Wenjiang*) — Chengdu's eco-garden western district — for the day's centerpiece: the **Rongfu Tibetan Culture Museum** (*Rongfu Bowuguan*). This private museum is the deepest collection of Tibetan manuscripts, ritual art, and printing-block sutras on the Chengdu plain. The morning is a privately guided tour of the collection with the museum's own resident scholar, who walks you through the long literary connection between western Sichuan and the Tibetan plateau, and lets you handle a few of the working manuscripts up close.

Lunch is a Tibetan-influenced meal at the museum — barley, butter tea, and Sichuan-Tibetan fusion dishes.

The afternoon is a hands-on **Tibetan craft workshop** covering three traditional practices: hand-rolling natural Tibetan incense from juniper and herbs, pressing clay **ts'a-t's'a** (*cha cha*) ritual tablets, and outlining a **thangka** (*tangka*) under a craftsman's guidance, plus copying a short passage from a Tibetan sutra in calligraphy. Everything you make is yours to take home.

In the early evening, the drive back to central Chengdu takes about 90 minutes. After hotel check-in, the evening is free. If you would like to walk and eat, your guide recommends the **Chunxi Road** (*Chunxi Lu*) shopping district close by — Chengdu's best evening street life and a good place to pack up the trip's last souvenirs.

Day 7 — Departure from Chengdu

A final breakfast and a relaxed morning to pack at your own pace.

Your private driver takes you to **Chengdu Tianfu International Airport**, **Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport**, or **Chengdu East Railway Station**, timed to your flight or train. The drive is 30–60 minutes depending on terminal. Your driver assists with luggage at the door before the journey closes.

Before Booking

✓ What's Included

Transport — Private business vehicle (luxury MPV) for the full 7 days, plus airport transfers in Chengdu on arrival and departure.

Guide — Professional bilingual guide for five touring days (Day 2 through Day 6). Day 1 arrival and Day 7 departure are airport-handover days handled by your private driver alone — the standard arrangement for this route.

Accommodation — 6 nights: 4 nights at 4-Star Equivalent city hotels in Chengdu, 1 night at a boutique hotel near the Dujiangyan canal bridges, and 1 night at a hot spring resort at the foot of Mount Qingcheng.

Meals — Daily breakfast plus included lunches and dinners on Days 2 through 6. Featured meals include Sichuan classics, Guanghan local cooking near Sanxingdui, Taoist temple-style vegetarian, Dujiangyan canal-side river fish, and Tibetan-influenced regional cooking at the Rongfu Museum.

Entrance Fees — All scheduled sightseeing including the Sanxingdui Museum, Kuanzhai Alley, Jinli Ancient Street, the Chengdu Panda Base, Qingyang Temple, People's Park, the Dujiangyan Irrigation System, Mount Qingcheng (including the boat across Yuecheng Lake and the cable car), and the Rongfu Tibetan Culture Museum.

Experiences — A Taoist tea meditation and sutra-copying session at Qingyang Temple, an evening walk along the floodlit Dujiangyan canal bridges, and a Tibetan craft workshop at the Rongfu Museum covering hand-rolled incense, ts'a-tsa clay tablets, and thangka outlining (take-home pieces).

WiFi — Portable WiFi provided for the group throughout the tour.

Pricing Promise — Everything in the itinerary is included in the tour price. Optional packages and room choices, if any, are shown clearly before payment. No hidden on-trip charges.

+ Booking Options


Everything in the itinerary is included in the tour price. No paid activity packages apply to this route.

Panda-themed VIP airport meet-and-greet — A panda-themed VIP arrival can be added at the airport for an extra 1,000 CNY per arrival. Let us know at booking if you would like it.






Single-room supplement — Pricing is based on twin-shared occupancy. A single-room supplement is available on request — please ask at the time of booking for the current rate.

Prepare for Travel

 Please book your own international flights to and from Chengdu.

 Please arrange your own travel and medical insurance. We recommend supplemental medical and evacuation coverage for international travel.

 Check China visa requirements for your nationality before booking.

-  Bring any personal prescriptions you need.
-  Please inform us of any dietary needs, allergies, or restrictions when booking. Sichuan cuisine is famously spicy; the guide can adjust meal selection to suit milder palates.
-  Most scheduled venues accept international credit cards. For smaller shops, please have local cash or a local mobile payment app ready.
-  Gentle pace throughout. Walking is mostly easy — flat city streets, short temple visits, and a moderate uphill walk on Mount Qingcheng (cable car available). No high-altitude exposure.
-  Chengdu sits on the Sichuan Basin and stays mild but cloudy year-round. Summers are warm and humid; winters are damp and cool. Bring layers, a light rain jacket, and comfortable walking shoes.

? FAQ

Where does the tour start and end?

Starts and ends in Chengdu. Private airport transfers are included on arrival and departure.

What is the cancellation policy?

Our cancellation and refund policy is tiered based on how far in advance you cancel. Full details at [Terms & Conditions](#).

Can I fly a drone during the tour?

China requires all drone operators (including foreign visitors) to register with the CAAC before flying. Several stops on this route — Sanxingdui Museum, Qingyang Temple, the Dujiangyan World Heritage zone, Mount Qingcheng, and central Chengdu — are no-fly zones. Inform your guide in advance if you plan to bring a drone.

Should I book pre/post-tour accommodation?

If your flight arrives early on Day 1, early check-in is usually available. If departing late on Day 7, we can adjust your airport transfer timing. For longer Chengdu stays, your guide can recommend hotels and a quiet half-day route.

How physically demanding is the tour?

The tour is gentle overall. Most days involve flat walking on city streets, courtyards, and museum interiors. The Mount Qingcheng day includes a moderate uphill walk on stone steps; a cable car covers the steepest section, so the route is suitable for travelers comfortable with normal city walking. There is no high-altitude exposure.

Is this tour suitable for children?

Yes. With a private vehicle and a dedicated guide, the pacing flexes around your family. The minimum age is 5. Children typically enjoy the panda base, the bronze masks at Sanxingdui, the hot spring soak, and the hands-on Tibetan craft workshop.

How much will I notice the Sichuan spice?

Restaurant choices follow the regional cuisine, but the guide adjusts ordering for international palates — milder dishes, separate spice on the side, and clear translations of what's coming. If you prefer to avoid heat entirely, mention it at booking and the guide will plan around it.

Can we add a panda volunteer experience or VIP airport pickup?

Panda close-contact experiences are not part of this itinerary; the panda base visit covers the morning feeding

window with the regular viewing routes. A 'panda-themed' VIP airport meet-and-greet (extra cost of 1,000 CNY per arrival) can be arranged on request — let us know at booking. Several optional wellness add-ons (a foot massage, a high-end spa, a private health screening) can also be arranged through your guide on the day at your own expense.

What kind of vehicle and guide should I expect?

A private luxury MPV (business-class minivan) is with you for all 7 days, sized for the group. Your bilingual guide joins the tour from Day 2 through Day 6 — the touring days. Day 1 (arrival) and Day 7 (departure) are handled by your private driver alone for the airport handover, which is the standard arrangement for this route.

Is there a single-room supplement?

Pricing is based on twin-shared occupancy. A single-room supplement is available on request — please ask at the time of booking for the current rate.

Local Names

Sanxingdui sahn-shing-DWAY

Sanxingdui Museum — where China's most anomalous Bronze Age civilisation surfaces in monumental bronze masks, none with a counterpart anywhere else

Kuanzhai Xiangzi kwahn-JAI shahng-zuh

Kuanzhai Alley — three parallel Qing garrison lanes, each at a different speed of Chengdu life

Jinli jin-LEE

Jinli Ancient Street — a Three Kingdoms-era lane reopened as a night-market spine of food stalls and craft shops

Daxiongmao Jidi dah-shyohng-MAO JEE-dee

Chengdu Panda Base — the world's leading giant-panda research and breeding centre, best visited at the morning feeding window

Qingyang Gong ching-YAHNG gohng

Qingyang Temple — Sichuan's oldest Taoist sanctuary, with bronze goats, a sutra-copying hall, and a covered tea garden

Renmin Gongyuan ren-MIN gohng-yew-AHN

People's Park — Chengdu's most beloved tea-table garden, where locals come for ear-cleaning, mahjong, and afternoon naps

Dujiangyan doo-jee-ahng-YEN

Dujiangyan Irrigation System — the 2,200-year-old waterworks still running today, the world's oldest large-scale civil-engineering project without a dam

Qingcheng Shan ching-CHUNG shahn

Mount Qingcheng — the misty birthplace of organised Taoism in the 2nd century, walled by green ridges and rain-cooled forest

Wenjiang wun-jee-AHNG

Wenjiang — Chengdu's eco-garden district, the geothermal and garden-village edge of the city

Rongfu Bowuguan rohng-FOO boh-woo-GWAHN

Rongfu Tibetan Culture Museum — a private collection of Tibetan manuscripts and sacred art with a hands-on craft workshop