



## CCCWA Tour Guide

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## Table of Contents

<b>Legacy Journey CCCWA Tour .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Introduction .....	3
Requirements .....	4
<b>CCCWA Tour Itineraries .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Standard Tour Itinerary .....	4
<b>Legacy Journey Pricing.....</b>	<b>5</b>
Overview .....	5
Standard Tour Price .....	6
Extended Tour Price .....	6
Additional Costs.....	6
Payment Policy .....	7
<b>Additional Services .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Visa Service .....	7
Travel Management System (TMS).....	8
Gifts of Love .....	8
Travel Insurance.....	8
CCWAA Keepsake Book .....	9
Jade Family Seal .....	9
<b>Travel Preparation.....</b>	<b>9</b>
Before You Travel .....	9
While in China .....	10
<b>Frequently Asked Questions .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Legacy Journey Policies, Guidelines and Liabilities.....</b>	<b>14</b>
Communication.....	14
Waiver of Liability.....	14
CCCWA Travel Agreement.....	14
CCCWA Acknowledgment of Funds Received .....	14
<b>Testimonials.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Our Commitment to You .....</b>	<b>15</b>

## Legacy Journey CCCWA Tour

### *Introduction*

The Legacy Journey CCCWA Tour is an opportunity for you and your adoptive child to explore his or her homeland together. Great Wall China Adoption is proud to be one of few adoption agencies able to offer the CCCWA sponsored Legacy Journey Tours! These tours are designed for your family to experience the local flavor, shows, and culture classes! You will visit some of China's greatest national treasures during this 6-city, 9-day tour to Beijing, Xian, Chengdu, Guilin, Yangshuo, and Guangzhou.



Our standard tour offers your family a way to see the main attractions of China, but also enjoy fun and lively experiences. While in Beijing, you will also have access to the CCCWA (formerly known as the CCAA). Because of our excellent relationships with foreign adoption authorities, your family will be honored with a welcome ceremony with CCCWA officials present, a visit to the Matching Room, and more. This wide array of activities creates an environment that is not only entertaining, but educational – allowing your family to embrace the rich history and culture of China.



**What's really special about the standard tour is that your adopted child(ren) can travel for free within China on the standard tour thanks to sponsorship by the Chinese government. Even better, you can also add on the extended tour to visit your child's orphanage.** A local, in-country guide will advocate for your family to experience the orphanage in full, including meeting with the orphanage director, viewing your child's file, playing with orphanage children, having lunch with staff member(s), and even meeting visiting with your child(ren)'s foster family if applicable.

Whether you choose solely the standard tour or also the extended tour option, this will be a life-changing experience for your family, as well as an opportunity to build strong bonds, traverse the other side of the world, and embark on an adventure you will remember forever.

We will walk you through every step of planning your trip. From registration and packing to boarding the plane, we will prepare you for everything. Once on the ground, our attention to detail will allow you to relax without having to worry about logistics. You will be free to experience and enjoy the beauty of your child's fascinating culture.

From our team here in Texas, including your Travel Advisor, to GWCA's China staff, to our connections with CCCWA/BLAS, we are all committed to making your journey the happiest and smoothest possible. Your Travel Advisor is here to act as a bridge to CCCWA/BLAS, and is dedicated to advocating and helping to facilitate all

aspects of your trip. We know you have enough on your mind so let us take care of the work so that you can focus on sharing this experience with your family.



### ***Requirements***

Legacy Journey offers services to ALL adoptive families, regardless of which adoption service provider you have worked with for your child(ren)'s adoption. We also offer our services to families that are in process with an adoption so that they might learn the culture and heritage of their child prior to the adoption finalization.

In terms of documentation, all that is required to join the CCCWA tour is a copy of your adoption decree for your adopted child(ren). A sample can be provided to you if you do not remember what this document looks like. If you do not have a copy of the adoption decree, you will be required to pay the tour fee for your adopted child(ren). CCCWA requires copies of this document in order to secure the funding that is used to subsidize your child(ren)'s intra-China standard tour travel costs. You will also need a valid passport copy for each traveler.

## **CCCWA Tour Itineraries**

### ***Standard Tour Itinerary***

#### **Day 1 – Depart from United States**

#### **Day 2 – Beijing**

- Arrive in Beijing; guide will meet guests at airport and transport to hotel; optional tours to Temple of Heaven in morning and/or acrobatic show in evening

#### **Day 3 – Beijing**

- Visit to Great Wall and Jade Factory

#### **Day 4 – Beijing**

- Visit Tiananmen Square & Forbidden City; take Hutong Tour by rickshaw (group lunch); visit CCCWA; take Chinese culture class; traditional roast duck dinner

#### **Day 5 – Beijing/Chengdu**

- Depart for Chengdu; enjoy tea at a local park and experience local life; traditional Sichuan food for dinner; Sichuan Variety Show in evening

#### **Day 6 – Chengdu**

- Visit the Panda Reserve & Breeding Center; explore famous Jinli Street

#### **Day 7 – Chengdu/Xi'An**

- Depart for Xi'An; Visit Ancient Wall (including bike ride!)

#### **Day 8 – Xi'An/Guilin**

- Visit Terra Cotta Soldiers and Museum; Depart for Guilin via flight.

#### **Day 9 – Guilin/Yangshuo**

- Take a Li River Cruise to Yangshuo with lunch; learn to make Chinese food at cooking school with dinner included; optional: experience the opera “Impression of Liu Sanjie”

#### **Day 10 – Yangshuo/Guilin**

- Take Tai Chi lesson with lunch included; drive back to Guilin and visit South Pearl Factory on the way; farewell dinner

#### **Day 11 – Guilin/Guangzhou**

- Fly to Guangzhou to depart back to the United States



- You may fly to other international airport in China for an additional charge
- If not returning to the United States, add-on extended tour

### ***Extended Tour Itinerary***

#### **Day 1 – Orphanage Province**

- Fly to province and check into hotel

#### **Day 2 – Orphanage Province**

- Drive to orphanage and visit; lunch; drive back to hotel

#### **Day 3 – Province/Departing Location**

- Depart to departure city via flight

#### **Day 4 – Departing Location**

- Depart back to U.S. (or other home country)

NOTE: This itinerary is based on a family's visit to *one* orphanage and is an estimate only. Depending on location of the orphanage, this itinerary could be slightly shorter. If you are visiting two (or more) orphanages, you can estimate that your itinerary would include double the number of days.

## **Legacy Journey Pricing**

### ***Overview***

All travel expenses are estimated and subject to change. Factors affecting travel expenses include but are not limited to: time of year, currency exchange rate, change in intra-China airfare and hotel rates, additions beyond basic tour itineraries, etc.

### **Our Price Includes**

- English speaking adoption guides who have traveled with hundreds of adoptive families
- Airport transfer to hotel in Beijing (\*including early arrivals!)
- All flights and train tickets in the itinerary
- All domestic ground transportation and tax
- Standard room(s) dependent on your family's size
- Special cultural shows and events
- Hands-on crafts, Chinese Historical & Cultural Arts
- Sightseeing entrance fees
- Breakfasts daily, lunch and dinner as specified
- Airport transfer to hotel in Beijing (\*including early arrivals!)
- All flights and train tickets in the itinerary

### **Our Price Does Not Include**

- International airfare
- Food and snacks other than daily breakfast and specified meals in itinerary
- Transfer to airport at the end of the standard tour (if not participating in extended tour)
- Personal cash
- Travel amenities, including insurance
- Visa processing fees
- Passport fees
- Additional side trips in China
- Laundry, room service, and rollaway bed fees
- Business center fees at hotel
- Holding Panda in Chengdu
- Guide/driver tips

NOTE: Children are age 0-11; Children 12 and up are considered adults.

### ***Standard Tour Price***

- Adult (12 and older, non-adoptee): \$2,099
- Child (11 and under, non-adoptee): \$1,599
- Child (adoptee, any age): FREE

NOTE: Intra-China travel and costs listed as “included” in our pricing outline are free for your adopted child, but international airfare is not included.

### ***Extended Tour Price***

Extended tour pricing is entirely dependent on the location of your orphanage. Please contact your Travel Advisor with your orphanage and province for an estimate.

NOTE: Adopted children are subsidized solely for the standard tour. Please see the Policies, Liabilities, and Guidelines section of this guide for more information on fee policies.

### ***Additional Costs***

Please find a below a list of additional costs you should anticipate depending on your family’s specific itinerary. Contact your Travel Advisor for an estimate for your travel.

### **Tipping – Required**

Though tipping is not a Chinese norm, we do ask that you tip your guides and driver for your tour.

#### Guide(s): \$10-15/guide/day

You will have a national guide, as well as a local guide for each location you visit. You will be broken into smaller groups for the standard tour so your local guide will be able to provide more individualized service. For extended tour families, one guide will work with each individual family.

#### Driver(s): \$5/driver/day

There will be one driver per subgroup for the standard tour. For extended tour families, one driver will work with each individual family.

### **Tours – Optional**

Below you will find a list of optional additional touring or services.

#### Standard Tour

- Acrobat Show in Beijing: \$35/person (cash in China, RSVP in advance)
- Forbidden City Tour in Beijing: \$35/person (cash in China, RSVP in advance)
- CCCWA File Review in Beijing: \$300/family (pay now, RSVP in advance)
- Liu Sanjie Impression Show: \$67.50/person (pay in advance)
- Holding Panda at Chengdu Panda Reserve: \$350/person/mandatory donation (cash in China, only one person at a time)

#### Extended Tour

- Orphanage File Review: cost will vary

### **Hotels - Optional**

Please note these costs only apply for those families wishing to arrive early or depart late for the standard tour. These costs do NOT apply to those families wishing to do an extended tour.

- Beijing: \$135/night/room, \$45/night/extra bed
- Guangzhou: \$135/night/room, \$45/night/extra bed
- Shanghai: \$195/night/room, \$45/night/extra bed

### **Intra-China Travel - Optional**

Please note these costs only apply for those families wishing for alternate departure locations other than Guilin or Guangzhou for the standard tour. These costs do NOT apply to those families wishing to do an extended tour.

- Guilin to Beijing (Flight): \$300/adult, \$150/child
- Guilin to Shanghai (Flight): \$165/adult, \$82.50/child
- Guilin to Hong Kong (Flight): \$300/person
- Guangzhou to Hong Kong (Train): \$67.50/person

### **Additional Airport Transfers - Optional**

Please note these costs only apply for those families wishing to arrive/depart late from the standard tour. These costs do NOT apply to those families wishing to do an extended tour.

- 1 Transfer: \$225/family (1-4 people), \$375/family (5-8 people)
- 2 Transfers: \$375/family (1-4 people), \$600/family (5-8 people)

### ***Payment Policy***

#### **Deposits and Cancellations**

- Nonrefundable deposit of \$200.00 per family at time of registration.
  - If you do not withdraw from the tour, your deposit will be credited to your final invoice.
- Total trip payment is due no later than sixty (60) days prior to tour departure date
- 80 percent of trip payment will be refunded if trip is canceled prior to thirty (30) days before departure
- Payment is nonrefundable if the trip is canceled less than thirty (30) days before departure

NOTE: Some aspects of the tour may be changed at request after the 30 day cancellation deadline; however, additional fees may apply.

### **Acceptable Payment Forms**

#### Registration

Credit Cards (Visa or Mastercard), Cashier's Check or Money Order

#### Final Payment

CASHIER'S CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY.

NOTE: Final payment will be made out to "Great Wall China Adoption," the facilitator of Legacy Journey.

### **Additional Services**

We want to help you make sure all bases are covered so you have a worry-free, fun-filled time with your family. Below are the services we offer, so you can get everything prepared for your trip from start to finish using Legacy Journey.

#### ***Visa Service***

In order to travel to China, all individuals must have a visa issued to their passport by a Chinese Consulate. Legacy Journey will help take care of the visa application process for you! This frees up more time for you to relax and prepare for your journey. Contact us for more information on current visa processing fees.

We want to make families aware of the following potential roadblocks to visa issuance: you've changed your child's name (from what was listed on the adoption registration certificate) and/or you do not have your adopted child's original Chinese passport – EVEN IF they have been granted a visa before. If you find yourself in one of the above situations, please contact the Travel Advisor immediately to advise on visa procedure. This does not mean you will not be granted a visa, but additional documentation will likely be required. Please note if you changed your child's DOB once arriving in the U.S., it is very possible that you will not be able to secure a visa due to the DOB not matching the original Chinese passport. If there is any question about your child(ren)'s visa, we highly recommend applying – whether through our service or another – as soon as possible in order to provide ample time for review.

If you do secure visas on your own, please note that there are 6 Consular districts here in the US. These districts tend to be spread out over many states, and Chinese Consulates do not accept visa applications through any mail carrier. Visa applications must be personally submitted by the applicant or a courier service. It typically takes 4-5 business days for a Consulate to issue a visa. Please keep in mind that no Consulate offers same-day service, though you can contact your Consulate to see if they offer expedited or rush service. If you do choose to secure a visa on your own, please make sure to confirm this with your Travel Advisor.

NOTE: Visa fees are not included in the Legacy Journey tour fee.

### ***Travel Management System (TMS)***

Legacy Journey and GWCA have pioneered an online, secure system that acts as a one-stop travel system in order to organize your travel. You will be able to access your itinerary and billing on this system, as well as have another form of communication with your Travel Advisor. Once you have registered, you will be activated into TMS and emailed a username and password!

### ***Gifts of Love***

Over the years, families have wanted to donate gifts to the Chinese orphanages that cared for their children - gifts that improve the orphanages and enhance the lives of the children left behind. With the Legacy Journey CCCWA tour, we open this donation program up to prior adoptive families as a way for you to show your appreciation to the orphanage that cared for your child. The "Gifts of Love" program does all the work for you and your child's orphanage will reap all the benefits by getting that needed washing machine, air conditioner, or whatever else it is that they might be lacking.

Past Legacy Journey families have used Gifts of Love as way to recruit donations from family and friends prior to their trip. These donations can be made anonymously online should the donor wish to do so. If you would like to use Gifts of Love as your donation program, please contact your Travel Advisor today for a personalized donation form to send to possible donors.

All Gifts of Love donations are tax-deductible!

NOTE: Though this is not required for families embarking on a CCCWA Tour, we do *highly recommend* donating if you plan to take an extended tour.

### ***Travel Insurance***

Most medical insurance plans do not extend coverage when traveling overseas. Although the chance of an injury or medical emergency is slim, we offer our families the opportunity to ease their minds by purchasing low cost travel insurance. You will receive a virtual ID card in advance of your trip. Your policy will cover the following for up to 30 days in China: medical coverage, hospital indemnity, emergency medical evacuation, emergency reunion, local ambulance visit, and more.



### ***CCWAA Keepsake Book***

CCCWA has created a very unique book specifically for parents who have adopted from China. Beautiful illustrations can be found throughout this treasured book, which contains over 40 stories told in the Chinese tradition. This book is a wonderful way to share China's traditions and history with your entire family and it is sure to become a valued keepsake for generations of adoptive families. Great Wall is honored to be the ONLY agency entrusted by the CCCWA to distribute this book to U.S. adoptive parents. Your order will be mailed to your home in the continental U.S.



### ***Jade Family Seal***

Great Wall is proud to offer an ink stamp made of Jade in one of the twelve animals of the Chinese Lunar Calendar. This unique stamp is housed in a beautifully decorated Chinese silk box. The stamp includes one name translated into Chinese characters.

You will receive this “Chinese Chop” during your trip in China, unless requested to be shipped to your home prior to travel (additional cost).



## **Travel Preparation**

### ***Before You Travel***

#### **Passport**

All travelers, regardless of age, must have a valid passport. The U.S. Department of State is responsible for issuing and renewing U.S. passports.

More information on passports can be found at:

[http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html)

**If you do not have valid passports, we encourage you to apply immediately.** Many people have experienced increased wait times and Legacy Journey can not be held responsible for failure to secure a valid passport. It is important to note that your passport must be valid for at least 6 months AFTER your planned return from China, or you will not be issued a visa.

#### **Food and Nutritional Needs**

90% of the included lunch and dinners will be served family style from a set menu. Breakfast is always included and will be served buffet style in the hotel and will generally have a greater variety of food. If you have (or are!) a picky eater, we highly suggest bringing some ramen noodles and snack foods with you in your checked bag that can supplement your diet.

While we do our best to provide for the dietary needs of our participants, we can not control the contents of food prepared in China. We will make every effort to suit your dietary needs, but can not be held responsible for

uncommon allergies or general dislike of the food. If you have a food allergy or stick to a particular diet, please let your Travel Advisor know ahead of time so that they can provide you with an “allergy card” noting this.

### **Physical Demands**

The CCCWA summer tour is a fast-paced, walking-intensive tour. While we do build some free/rest time into the itinerary as we are able, please be prepared for some tiring days.

### **Visit Your Physician**

Though the CDC and the Chinese Government do not have any specific requirements for entry into China by American citizens, Legacy Journey highly encourages all travelers to consult with their physicians about any recommended vaccinations. Travelers should visit a health-care provider at least 4–6 weeks before their trip to allow time for their vaccines to take effect.

Fill all prescriptions before your trip and remember to bring any medication you may not take regularly, such as allergy treatments. If you have severe allergies it is recommended that you bring Epi-pens along - they are not available in China.

More Information on Vaccines & Travel to China is Available on the CDC website:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/china.aspx>

### **Packing Tips**

- Please pack according to intra-China airfare restrictions. Per ticketed passenger, you are allowed one checked bag under 44 pounds (16x24x39 inches). Additional checked baggage will be charged and is very expensive. Per ticketed passenger, you are also allowed one carryon item under 11 pounds (8x16x12 inches). We recommend a backpack as your carryon.
- Travel light and comfortably! You should pack mostly casual clothes for your visit, and two pairs of good walking shoes. Please also bring a bathing/swimming cap for each traveler as this will be required when swimming at any of the hotel pools. For your visit to the CCCWA, one or two nicer outfits should suffice for the welcome ceremony/farewell dinner. Keep in mind you will need to leave extra space in your suitcase for your souvenirs!
- Pack an extra set of clothes and toiletries in your carry on bag, just in case your luggage is lost, you are on a long layover, or you wish to change clothes.
- Pack your medications in your carry on bag. Please note that “proof of need” may be requested of you for each of your medications, so we highly recommend carrying a doctor’s letter certifying your need for any prescription medication. Prescription medications should be kept in their original containers, and you may want to consider bringing cold medicines and anti-diarrheal medicines, as well as over the counter pain killers. Remember to bring more than enough medication for your trip, in case your stay is extended for any reason beyond your control.
- Don’t forget your camera, extra batteries and/or charger with plug adaptor/converter, sunglasses, extra contact lenses or glasses, sunscreen, personal toiletries, insect repellent, hand sanitizer, a journal for you and your child(ren), cash, and your travel documents. We highly recommend making a copy of each traveler’s passport and storing in a safe and secure place.

### ***While in China***

#### **Money**

The currency in China is the Renminbi (RMB) and the basic unit is the Yuan. The exchange rate to the U.S. Dollar fluctuates. Most hotels and stores will accept major credit cards. However, you will also want to bring personal cash. We recommend bringing approximately \$25/day/traveler in cash, but this depends entirely on the type of traveler.

ATMs are available but are not always convenient. Be sure to alert your credit/debit card company that you will be traveling overseas in order to avoid triggering your issuer's fraud alert system. This is also a good time to ask your provider about fees charged overseas when using a credit card.

### **Orphanage Visits**

Please be aware that there is always a chance that circumstances could occur to prohibit or otherwise disrupt an orphanage visit. While GWCA and the CCCWA do their very best to ensure you have a quality experience, ultimately it is up to the orphanage and the local Civil Affairs whether an orphanage visit is allowed and how you will be received.

### **Hotels**

We do our best to put families in 4-star and higher hotels when available, but we can not guarantee that all hotels have all services families may desire.

### **Calling Home**

Calls to the U.S. can be made from your room, but service fees are high. It is recommended that you contact your phone service provider before your trip to arrange for international coverage for the time you will be gone – please note you will likely be charged additional fees. We also recommend using Skype if you are able.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q:** *Can our family join the tour if we did not adopt through GWCA?*

**A:** Yes. All adoptive families are welcome!

**Q:** *Can we fly home from Beijing/Shanghai/Hong Kong rather than Guangzhou?*

**A:** Yes, but please note that the main/standard tour starts in Beijing and ends in Guangzhou. If you would like to fly back from another city, CCCWA/BLAS will make the arrangements and charge you the difference in airfare.

**Q:** *What is required to participate in the CCCWA/BLAS Tour?*

**A:** Each traveler will need a valid U.S. passport, as well as a Chinese visa. The passport must be valid for at least 6 months. Your adoptee will also need his/her original Chinese passport and a color copy of their adoption certificate.

**Q:** *Are adoptees over 18 free for the standard tour?*

**A:** Yes! Adoptees of any age are welcome to attend at no cost for the adoptee.

**Q:** *I am taking someone else's adoptee on this tour with me and my child(ren). Is this allowed?*

**A:** Yes! All we require is a notarized Power of Attorney from the parent of the adoptee(s) granting you the power to travel with said child(ren).

**Q:** *Will GWCA arrange for our flights in and out of China?*

**A:** No, though we do highly recommend using our partner travel agency, Delight Travel. They are experienced in the arrangements for this tour, and if something were to happen while you were traveling, GWCA would be able to facilitate on your behalf. However, you will be responsible for booking these arrangements.

**Q:** *I have a large family with multiple adoptees. Is this okay?*

**A:** This depends on the current number of adoptees registered, so please contact your Travel Advisor to learn more! Generally this is not a problem at all.

**Q:** *My family structure has changed from when I adopted my child(ren). Will this be a problem for CCCWA?*

**A:** No, not at all. Family structures change over time, including divorce, deaths in the family, etc. This is absolutely not a problem and requires no additional documentation.

**Q:** *Can extended family or friends travel with us?*

**A:** Of course! Please make sure to include them on the registration form. If they have their own adoptees, however, please make sure they register on their own. We will then group you together.

**Q:** *What type of hotel room is included?*

**A:** A standard hotel room with a queen or two double beds. You may be given two hotel rooms if you have a larger family size. Depending on the makeup of your family, you may also need or be required to book an extra bed.

**Q:** *Will our tour group be split up?*

**A:** Yes. CCCWA/BLAS will divide the families into smaller groups of 10-12 families, usually dependant on the age of adoptees. You will be designated a color and will share one bus with 40 person capacity. Each sub-grouping will have a tour guide and a BLAS representative.

**Q:** *I am traveling with another family and/or a reunion group. Can we make arrangements to be grouped together?*

**A:** Yes! Please make sure to let your Travel Advisor know ahead of time.

**Q:** *How are we picked up at the airport?*

**A:** A CCCWA/BLAS guide will be waiting for you outside the immigration area. He/she will be holding a sign reading “CCCWA/GWCA Heritage Tour.”

**Q:** *I/we have allergies. Will this be a problem?*

**A:** No. Please tell your Travel Advisor if this is the case as soon as possible, and we will make sure the staff knows. If you would like a card with your allergy information translated, please contact your Travel Advisor. While most meals included on the tour are served family style, the BLAS guides will do whatever they can to accommodate you.

**Q:** *I/we have a disability. Can I go on the tour?*

**A:** Yes, though some customizations may have to be made. Please note, however, that the days on the tour are long and require quite a bit of walking. We can arrange for a wheelchair if your disability requires it, but some attractions may not be handicap accessible or do not have smooth roads/pathways.

**Q:** *If we have a medical need or emergency during the tour, what happens?*

**A:** If the hotel you are staying at does not have a clinic and/or this is an emergency, a CCCWA/BLAS guide will be able to take you to the nearest hospital. Please note that if you take regular medication, bring enough with you for the trip (along with some extras) in the original container. You should also make sure to bring a doctor’s letter for customs certifying that you need to take the medication. For more information, please review the following information provided by the TSA:

<http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/travelers-disabilities-and-medical-conditions>

**Q:** *I would like to arrive in Beijing early or stay in China after the tour ends. Can CCCWA/BLAS accommodate my request?*

**A:** Yes. CCCWA/BLAS can make all the arrangements for you.

**Q:** *How much does it cost to hug a baby panda in Chengdu at the Panda Reserve?*



**A:** Currently it costs \$350USD, which will be paid in cash directly to the staff of the Reserve. This is a required donation which goes towards the Panda Preservation Fund. You can make a reservation for this the day prior. Please note that the Panda Reserve only allows one person at a time in the room, and the staff will take a picture for you and provide you with a gift bag.

**Q:** *Can our family skip a portion of the tour?*

**A:** Yes; however, you will not receive a refund or credit for the activities or guide service you did not participate in. Please make sure to tell your guide in advance so that they have an accurate headcount.

**Q:** *We would like to take part in the Extended Tour. Do we have to pay the orphanage visit approval fee?*

**A:** No, this is included in your Extended Tour price.

**Q:** *Some of our family would like to take part in the standard tour, but will not take part in the extended tour. Is this okay?*

**A:** Yes. Only the travelers attending the extended tour will be invoiced for their costs as long as the family confirms this ahead of time.

**Q:** *Can we have more time in the adoptee's orphanage city?*

**A:** Yes, customizations can be arranged for an additional cost. To visit a finding spot or a local village, please make sure to provide your Travel Advisor with a copy of your child(ren)'s Abandonment Certificate(s).

**Q:** *We are traveling with two children and would like to split the orphanage visits between one parent and child each. Is this possible?*

**A:** Yes, but please make sure to tell your Travel Advisor immediately.

**Q:** *Is it required to bring gifts on this trip?*

**A:** No. While gifts are always welcome, it is not required. We do recommend families donate through our Gifts of Love program (especially if doing an orphanage visit), but this is also not required.

**Q:** *What should I expect during my orphanage visit?*

**A:** Though our staff and your guides will advocate for your family, it is important to remember that you must be flexible during these visits. Typically, your orphanage visit will include a welcome by the staff, a tour of the orphanage itself, and if possible you will be allowed to view your child's file. If you are visiting an orphanage in Jiangxi, you will also have lunch with the orphanage staff. For other orphanages, you may have lunch with the staff; however, this is up to each orphanage and can not be anticipated beforehand.

**Q:** *Can we meet with the foster family?*

**A:** We can try to facilitate this, and will include this request on the formal orphanage visit application made on your behalf. If the orphanage approves a foster family visit (not guaranteed), the orphanage will request the foster family be present on the day of your visit. Again, please note that this is not guaranteed – records may be lost, families may have moved, and ultimately the foster family can reject this request. It is in your best interest to provide your Travel Advisor with as much detail as you have on your child(ren)'s foster family, if possible, so that we can pass this to the orphanage.

**Q:** *Is there a fee for viewing my child's file?*

**A:** In some cases, yes. This does depend on the orphanage and the province, so if seeing your child's file is very important to you, please make sure to discuss this ahead of time with your Travel Advisor. We will then do our best to inquire as to the procedures so you are well-prepared. At this time the only province we are aware that charges is Guangdong, as each file is housed at a central archive office.

**Q:** *Can GWCA help me facilitate a donation to my child's orphanage?*

**A:** Yes! You can donate through our Gifts of Love program, and the full amount of your donation will be sent to China to purchase an item of the orphanage's wishlist of items. The donation will be made in your child's name.

**Q:** *Is it required to tip your guide(s) and driver(s) in China?*

**A:** Yes. Please see more about this in the "Additional Costs" section of this guide.

## Legacy Journey Policies, Guidelines and Liabilities

Legacy Journey's quality customer service will provide you with timely responses to your inquiries, as well as setting up your tour as quickly as possible.

### ***Communication***

Your Travel Advisor will respond to emails and calls within 2 business days, and in the 2 months leading up to the tour will respond within 1 business day. Anything urgent will be dealt with as immediately as possible. Emergency calls should go through the operator if not immediately picked up so that your Travel Advisor can be notified.

### **Timeframe**

Within one week of signing up for the tour, you will receive confirmation of your registration. Additionally, in the months prior to your summer tour, you will receive biweekly newsletters from the Travel Advisor providing information and updates.

Approximately 3 months prior to your departure, the required documents to participate in the tour will be officially due as you are sent an invoice for the tour costs. Additionally, approximately 2 months prior to your departure, final payment will be due via cashier's check or money order.

### ***Waiver of Liability***

As a CCCWA tour participant, you will be required to sign a waiver of liability. Each participant over the age of 18 will be required to sign a copy. Please contact your Travel Advisor for a PDF copy in full.

### ***CCCWA Travel Agreement***

As a CCCWA tour participant, you will also be required to sign the CCCWA travel agreement. Each participant over the age of 18 will be required to sign a copy. Please contact your Travel Advisor for a PDF copy in full.

### ***CCCWA Acknowledgment of Funds Received***

Each adoptee will be subsidized for their intra-China arrangements for the standard tour. While you are in China, the parent or guardian of each adoptee will be required to sign an acknowledgment of funds received. It is required to sign this form, which simply notes for the central government that the adoptee has benefited from the social service project and received the funding. Please contact your Travel Advisor for an example of this form in PDF form.

## Testimonials

Below are some testimonials from past Legacy Journey CCCWA Tour families! If you would like to speak with a prior CCCWA tour family, please contact your Travel Advisor for a list of references.

*We liked the mix of sightseeing and cultural classes. Everything went so smoothly. It was a wonderful experience for family. - The Dalby Family*

*This was a wonderful experience for our girls and they made many wonderful friends. Thank you for everything! - The McCall Family*

*Overall...it was the trip we could have never done ourselves. Yes..it was the big touristy things..but we never got to see those while in adoption mode, so it was good. It included the big cities and big attractions..and it slowly worked its way to a more rural area as we went south. When you think of China...Great Wall, Terra Cotta Warriors, pandas, limestone mountains...they were all included. Plus, the little things..culture class at CCCWA, calligraphy and cooking classes too...getting to walk around Hutong, Jinli Street, bike riding on the city wall (awesome!!!!) West Street - really gave us a more up close view of China. Our daughters are still talking about it, and we hope that these memories of China, their homeland, will stay with them and become a source of great pride. Thank you so much...it was a trip of a lifetime! - The Devakos Family*

*Overall we were extremely impressed with the amount of value for our money, and the coordination. I hadn't expected so many shows, so many banquets, so much good food. Having one in country guide who stayed with us was great! Her English was wonderful, and she did all kinds of behind the scenes stuff to make it all work. I am sure every family had some little crisis, from lost cameras, to twin beds in the hotel when queen beds were expected. She handled it great! Overall - I thought this was very top drawer, and appreciate all the hard work GWCA puts in to make this a great, solid vacation experience! - The Craft Family*

*Best - The range of places we visited, the variety of programs, and how well organized the trip was. The accommodations and food were very good. Also, the visit to the orphanage and finding place was very well done and we were warmly and generously received. - The Katz Family*

*We loved the families we got to travel with (the kids really bonded over the course of the ten days), the guides were wonderful (especially Vicki, our national guide), and we loved getting to see so much of the country over the course of the tour. -The Delpha Family*

*The best part about the trip was seeing all of the wonderful sites we were taken to. It was also very special having the CCCWA officials at the welcoming dinner, and visiting their office for the culture classes. Our children also made very good friends on the trip, which we felt was important. - The McNamara Family*

*We had a great time on the trip. I think [our child] was the perfect age for the trip since she can now go into adolescents with a real sense of where she came from and what it means to be Chinese. All the Chinese people we met were so sweet and genuine. It was also great for [our child] to be with other families with adopted children and get to make new friends. We appreciate GWCA for organizing everything and for the CCCWA for sponsoring [our child] to have a heritage tour of her country. It is a trip we will never forget and will always hold dear in our hearts! - The Fenton Family*

## **Our Commitment to You**

At Legacy Journey we are committed to making your family's dream trip to China a reality. We hope this guide has proven to be useful in helping you decide to travel with us. If at any time you have questions about Legacy Journey tours and services, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone at 512-323-9595 or by email at [info@legacyjourney.org](mailto:info@legacyjourney.org). Our experienced Travel Advisor is available 8 am - 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday, Central Standard Time to assist you.