



HuangLong Scenic Area

British Contact Lens Association
Chengdu Conference Package
Including a 'Wonders of Sichuan' extension

7 – 10 March 2024
with extension 7 – 13 March 2024



Jon Baines
tours



Pandas in Wolong Reserve

Join the BCLA on their next conference in the BCLA Asia series, held in conjunction with the West China Symposium (WCS) in Chengdu in Sichuan Province, China. The conference is followed by a bespoke 'Wonders of Sichuan' extension.

This short tour takes you on a journey through one of China's most rewarding provinces. Sichuan is known for its stunning natural beauty, its famous giant pandas, ancient culture and delicious spicy food. Its main city, Chengdu, is Unesco's first-ever City of Gastronomy and boasts a vibrant contemporary society and a relaxing teahouse culture. Take the path less

travelled to see the dramatic landscapes of HuangLong and visit the Ming Dynasty town of SongPan.

'John was the best. We have not been on any other tours like this – we really feel we have got to know China – not just through the visits – but by listening to John and hearing about his life as China has been going through so many changes.'

Colin Ridley, *Medicine in China*, October 2019

Tour Leader

Zhang Zhong Jiu (known as John) has worked with Jon Baines as a national guide and ground agent since 1994, taking healthcare, education, other professional groups and cultural groups around China. Educated in Beijing and London and widely travelled, John is extremely knowledgeable and popular with our groups for his warmth and sense of humour, as well as his ability to bring China's history and society to life with personal anecdotes. Having led a wide variety of professional groups over so many years, his breadth of knowledge is second to none.



Conference package

Day 1: Chengdu (Thurs, 7 March)

Am/Pm: Arrive Chengdu and transfer to the hotel from the airport.

Eve: Overnight at the hotel.

Day 2: Chengdu (Fri, 8 March) **B**

Am/Pm: Full day conference.

Eve: Option to explore old Chengdu by night with John.

Day 3: Chengdu (Sat, 9 March) **B**

Am/Pm: Full day conference.

Eve: Option to take part in a culinary tour.

Day 4: Chengdu (Sun, 10 March) **B**

Am/Pm: Transfer to the airport or take the 'Wonders of Sichuan' extension.

'Wonders of Sichuan' itinerary

Day 4: Chengdu (Sun, 10 March) **B D**

Am: Explore Chengdu on a walking tour. Visit the excellent five-storey Chengdu Museum, highly interactive with each floor presenting a different major period of Chinese history and crafts and artifacts from those periods.

Pm: Visit beautiful People's Park, Chengdu's first public space and its largest downtown green space – the park is well named as it's a fascinating place for people watching, full of locals doing all sorts of interesting things; relaxing with friends and family, playing games like mahjong, jianzi (Chinese hacky sack), badminton, cards, and chess, as well as calligraphy writers, music and food of all kinds. Visit a bonsai garden and tea house and enjoy a cup of tea as the locals do. Continue to Wide and Narrow Alley, a famous historical area dating back to the Qing Dynasty (1644 - 1911 AD)

with traditional Sichuan style courtyards.

Eve: Visit one of Chengdu's vibrant and popular evening markets and enjoy authentic local food.

Day 5: Chengdu (Mon, 11 March) **B D**

Am: Drive up to 2200m to see pandas in the semi-wild at Wolong National Nature Reserve, an area of outstanding natural beauty and the largest breeding centre for giant pandas worldwide. Travel along the eastern end of Tibetan plateau and see how the endangered species of giant pandas and other rare animals and plants are protected.

Pm: Continue along the reserve to magnificent SongPan Ancient Town, an vast site dating back to the Ming Dynasty (1368 – 1644 AD) that was considered the 'West Portal of Sichuan,' with very well-preserved city walls and gates and the remains of ancient battlefields and structures within the city. It was a major site along the ancient Tea Horse Road (which was part of the Silk Road) between the Tibetan plateau and the Sichuan basin.

Eve: Check into the charming traditional courtyard style 56 Courtyards Hotel in the old town. Dinner at the hotel.



Visit a bonsai garden

Day 6: Chengdu (Tues, 12 March)

B D

Am: Drive to peaceful Chuanzhusi, a town surrounded by beautiful natural scenery at an altitude of 2980 metres, and visit the historic Buddhist temple. Chuanzhusi's largest ethnic group are Tibetan, who have been living here for centuries and maintain their Tibetan traditions. Drive to Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area, a Natural World Heritage site famous for its beautiful calcification pools, where geological deposits result in vividly coloured ponds, against a backdrop of snow-covered mountains peaks, waterfalls and forests.

Pm: Drive back to Chengdu and check in to the hotel. B

Day 7: Chengdu (Wed, 13 March)

Am: Depart after breakfast.



Chengdu old town by night

'The excellence of this China trip relied not only on the various sceneries and visits but also on the outstanding quality of the tour guide. John provided in-depth information throughout on Chinese history, culture and economic development and health care. In addition to his excellent command in English, John has a very pleasant personality and was very resourceful in sorting all unexpected events during the trip.'

Pauly Nance and Roland Edmond, *RSM Medicine and Society in China tour*, May 2018

Hotels:

Chengdu

Galaxy Minyoun Chengdu Hotel is an upmarket four-star riverfront hotel with spacious, comfortable rooms. The staff are friendly, courteous and speak good English. The hotel has several on-site restaurants, including Chinese, Western, BBQ and an acclaimed Japanese restaurant. There is also a gym, massage centre and spa. Both Western and Chinese breakfasts are available.

'Wonders of Sichuan' Extension

56 Courtyards Hotel in Songpan Ancient Town is a modern hotel built to replicate the traditional style of the local inns. The hotel is comfortable and has a good location in the heart of the ancient town. As befits a traditional style hotel, the breakfasts are Chinese.

The cost of the conference package at Galaxy Minyoun Chengdu Hotel is £640 per person sharing (BCLA MEMBER COST £600)

The cost with a room to yourself is £755 (BCLA MEMBER COST £715)

The cost includes:

- Three nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in four-star hotel
- Breakfast daily
- Conference transport services (not airport transfers). Airport Transfers can be booked via Jon Baines Tours.
- BCLA Asia Conference Delegate Fee
*BCLA members receive a £40 discount.

The cost of the conference and extension package is £1,359 per person sharing (BCLA MEMBER COST £1,319)

The cost of the conference and extension package with a room to yourself is £1,579 (BCLA MEMBER COST £1,539)

The cost includes:

- Six nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in a hotel
- Breakfast daily, three dinners
- BCLA Asia Conference Delegate Fee
*BCLA members receive a £40 discount
- All tours and admission fees
- English speaking guide on the extension
- All transport services (on the conference and extension)

The cost excludes:

- Meals not mentioned and drinks with meals
- International flights and transfers
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Travel insurance
- Visa
- All tips

How to book:

1. Book online via the BOOK NOW button on the web page or [HERE](#)
2. Include all your contact information as required.
3. State whether you want a single room or not (if sharing, two bookings can be included on the same booking).
4. State if you would like the extension or not (this may also be added at a later date).
5. In the notes section, please state if you are a BCLA member.

Costs are based on a minimum of ten paying participants. There may be a surcharge for lower numbers.

Flights

Flights to Chengdu are available on Qatar, Cathay and Lufthansa as well as Air China, China Southern and China Eastern.

You may book your own flights or book via Phil Burdekin at Flight Centre on + 44 20 8605 9806 or Phil.Burdekin@flightcentre.co.uk



About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun.

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Pouring tea in a Chengdu tea house (top);
Sichuan spices;
Tea house culture, Chengdu (above)



Jon Baines
tours

