

CHINESE *WHISPERS*

TRAVEL INSPIRATION FROM AUSTRALIA'S ASIA SPECIALIST

WIN!

*We're renaming
Chinese Whispers and
we need your help.*

Learn more inside

SRI LANKA

Travel Tales

**OUR CLOSEST
COUSINS**

Learning with Leif Cox

HONG KONG

More than just a stopover

BIENVENIDOS!

Wu Welcomes
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Asia vs South America

**WENDY'S
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MASTERCLASS

How not to offend in Vietnam

A MESSAGE FROM WENDY



Welcome to our Autumn 2018 issue of Chinese Whispers, filled with exhilarating travel articles and the latest news from Wendy Wu Tours.

We've been busy creating new and exciting experiences for your holiday plans in 2018! We've been spicing things up with a new range of Central & South America tours. You can now experience the breath-taking Machu Picchu, spectacular scenery and experience the vibrant Rio de Janeiro.

In Asia, we continue to innovate, and are excited to announce another Fairfax Reader Tour, this time to the wilds of Borneo. In this edition, you'll hear from Leif Cox, who has dedicated his life to the study and conservation of orangutans.

As Australia's leading experts in Asia, we've filled this issue with tips, inspiration, immersive tours, and fun facts for your reading pleasure.

As always, I do hope you enjoy reading this issue and look forward to welcoming you on a Wendy Wu Tours adventure very soon.

Best wishes,

Wendy Wu,
Owner & Founder, Wendy Wu Tours

Cover image: Colourful Locals in Sacred Valley, Peru

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Asia and South America go head to head in a battle of continents.



A TASTE OF ASIA

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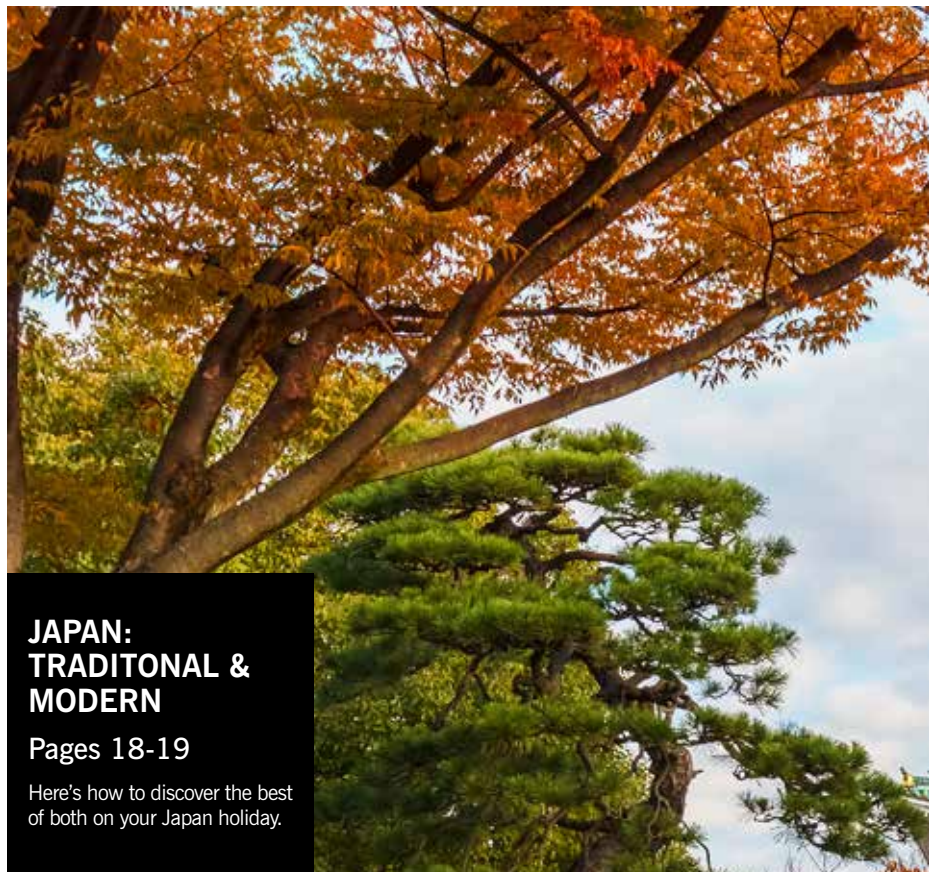
Prepare delicious Cambodian cuisine in your own kitchen.



TRAVEL TALES

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Our Business Development Manager for SA/NT, Shoana Bannister shares her experience in Sri Lanka.



JAPAN: TRADITIONAL & MODERN

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Here's how to discover the best of both on your Japan holiday.



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Hong Kong is so much more
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Meet Leif Cox, one of the
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James Joseph shares his
experience exploring epic Asia.



MASTERCLASS

Page 17

Get educated on Vietnamese
Etiquette.

REFER A
FRIEND AND
RECEIVE A
HAMPER!

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time of their booking. There's no limit on how
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WHAT'S NEW?

OUR EXPERTS BRING YOU THE LATEST NEWS FROM WENDY WU TOURS

Bienvenidos!

SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA

CHECK OUT
OUR NEW
SOUTH & CENTRAL
AMERICA
BROCHURE
ONLINE NOW!

WELCOME SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA

Due to overwhelming demand from our loyal past guests, we're delighted to announce a brand-new collection of tours to South & Central America.

A destination packed with deserts, rainforests, mountains and glaciers; this continent is a kaleidoscope of colours and flavours! In South & Central America, you'll uncover Pre-Colombian civilisations, delve into a rich colonial heritage and savour the fun, fiery and vibrant rhythm that pulses throughout the continent.

The best part? You can still expect the seamless, end-to-end experience that you've come to know from Wendy Wu Tours; but now, you can explore even further.

Tours of 14 to 20 days commence departures on 04 Sep 2018.

The brand new South America brochure is available to view and download online.

Visit wendywutours.com.au/south-america



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COMPETITION

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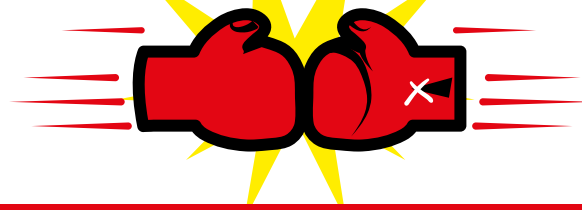
This is your final edition of Chinese Whispers, but never fear – the magazine will be coming to you next issue with an exciting new title and format. And we'd like to invite you to help us name it!

By entering the competition, you'll be in with a chance to win a delicious hamper of goodies. To enter, simply visit wendywutours.com.au/magazine/



HEAD TO HEAD

ASIA



SOUTH
AMERICA

THE WORLD RENOWNED SIGHTS OF ASIA AND THE LANDMARKS OF SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA FACE OFF IN A CLASH OF CONTINENT VS CONTINENT.

How do you compare two of the world's most culturally and geographically diverse continents? It's almost impossible!

So, in the spirit of exploration, travel writer **Ben Groundwater** has developed our most friendly head to head to date to help you learn more about South America. The similarities of the two continents include bucket list locations, delectable flavours, UNESCO World Heritage sites, and natural wonders. So, why choose?



TAKE ME THERE
**ESSENCE OF ARGENTINA
& BRAZIL**

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LOVED THE GREAT WALL? TRY MACHU PICCHU!

If it's man-made treasures you seek, particularly those in spectacular locations, then go no further than the lost Incan citadel of Machu Picchu. These Andean mountain ruins command one of the most impressive views imaginable, perched high above the clouds, and it's as much an experience getting here – either by road or on foot – as it is taking in the amazing Incan city itself.



LOVED THE HIGHEST PLACE ON EARTH?

TRY THE DRIEST PLACE ON EARTH

If you've been to Nepal and stared in wonder at the lofty heights of Mt Everest, then you clearly have an interest in natural phenomena. So why not go from the highest, to the driest: Chile's Atacama, a stunning high-altitude desert that receives only a few measly millimetres of rain a year. In the Atacama you'll be able to see huge geysers at El Tatio, plus indulge in some of the best stargazing around come nightfall.



LOVED DUMPLINGS?

TRY EMPANADAS

A good dumpling is a pretty difficult thing to beat, but South America's version of meat wrapped in dough, the empanada, is also extremely tasty. You'll find excellent versions of empanadas – pastries stuffed with beef mince, olives and boiled eggs – throughout Argentina, and an excellent, soupier version called a "salteña" in Bolivia.



LOVED PANDAS?

TRY LLAMAS

While Asia has its share of eye-catching wildlife, including the ever-adorable pandas, South America, too, is a heavy hitter. Take, for instance, llamas, those doe-eyed and often lovable creatures that roam the highlands of the Andes. In Peru you'll see llamas with colourful pom-poms dangling from their ears, a traditional mark of ownership used by local farmers. Keep an eye out, too, for the llamas' woolly cousins, the alpacas.



LOVED THE MONGOLIAN STEPPE?

TRY SALAR DE UYUNI

There's a sense of true isolation on the Mongolian Steppe, a feeling as you gaze around that there's no other being on Earth – and that's a feeling you'll have again at Bolivia's Salar de Uyuni. This huge salt pan covers more than 10,000 square kilometres, and when you're standing in the middle of it, it seems to stretch on into an empty eternity.



LOVED TANDOORI?

TRY CHURRASCO

Most cultures have their own version of the traditional barbecue. In India, meat is skewered and then roasted to perfection in the tandoor oven. In Brazil, meanwhile, skewers of pork, beef, chicken and just about anything else you can imagine are cooked over hot coals and then sliced at your table at traditional churrascarias. These restaurants are a lot of fun, and the food is incredibly good.



LOVED GALLE?

TRY CARTAGENA

There's an air of romance to sultry Galle, the coastal fort town in southern Sri Lanka, and that's a feeling you'll find is replicated perfectly in the Colombian city of Cartagena. Like Galle, Cartagena has a walled Old Town that oozes charm, with cobbled streets that could tell endless tales of pirates and marauders past. And where Galle has the Indian Ocean, Cartagena has the Caribbean – you really can't go wrong.



LOVED CRICKET?

TRY FOOTBALL

In sub-continental Asia, sports fans are consumed with their passion for cricket. In South America, meanwhile, the obsession is football. Whether you're in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile or pretty much anywhere else on this continent, you'll find all the locals talking about the big game. To go along and see one of these matches is to truly appreciate the meaning of the word "passion".



LOVED GIANT BUDDHA?

TRY GIANT JESUS

If oversized deities are your thing, obviously Asia has you covered: there are gigantic statues of the Buddha in Leshan, China; in Danang, Vietnam; in Thimphu, Bhutan; and in Wat Pho, Thailand. In South America, meanwhile, they're all about the giant Jesus: see an outsized saviour gazing over Santiago, Chile, and more famously over Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

Conclusion

It's impossible to compare these two remarkable places, so don't try. Instead, make plans to visit yourself, and find a brand new "head to head" of your own.

TAKE ME THERE

PANORAMIC PERU

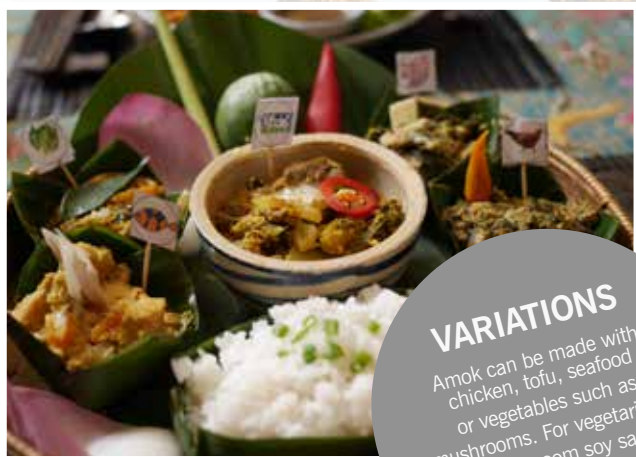
Discover the heart of the Inca Empire at Machu Picchu, encounter the colourful Quechua people and venture onto Lake Titicaca to meet the Uros people on their floating islands.

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A TASTE OF ASIA

FISH AMOK: CAMBODIAN CUISINE



VARIATIONS

Amok can be made with chicken, tofu, seafood or vegetables such as mushrooms. For vegetarians, use mushroom soy sauce instead of fish sauce.



FISH AMOK

SERVES 6 | PREPARATION 30 MINS
(INCLUDING SOAKING TIME) | COOK 10 – 20 MINS

INGREDIENTS:

- ☐ 6 tbsp yellow Kroeung
- ☐ 1 tbsp chilli paste
- ☐ 375ml coconut cream
- ☐ 3 tbsp fish sauce
- ☐ 6 kaffir lime leaves, finely shredded
- ☐ 3 tbsp palm sugar, grated
- ☐ ½ tsp salt
- ☐ 600g firm white fish fillets, such as snapper or cod, cut into 2cm cubes
- ☐ 6 baby spinach leaves
- ☐ 12 banana leaves, for baskets
- ☐ 6 tbsp coconut cream to garnish
- ☐ Red chillies, sliced diagonally, to garnish

PREPARATION

1. Combine the Kroeung with the chilli paste, coconut cream, fish sauce, half the lime leaves, palm sugar and salt and mix well. Add the fish and leave to marinate for 30 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, if using banana leaves as vessels, shape them into baskets using two leaves for each basket (see below). Alternatively, use small ramekins.
3. Place a spinach leaf in the bottom of each basket or ramekin and spoon the fish mixture evenly between baskets or ramekins.
4. Using a large steamer basket over a saucepan of simmering water, steam the amok in two batches for 10 minutes or until just cooked.
5. Garnish with coconut cream, the remaining kaffir lime leaves and the sliced chillies.

Chilli paste, banana leaves and mushroom soy sauce can be found in Asian supermarkets or grocery stores.

To ensure banana leaves do not split when folded, pour boiling water over them in the sink and wipe dry.

6. Layer two banana leaves together and, using scissors or a knife, cut out a circle of approximately 25cm in diameter, using a plate as guidance. Using both index fingers, mark a point 5cm in from the edge and lift up one side of the leaves with your thumbs. Squeezing index fingers and thumbs together on either side of the banana leaves, fold the leaves back onto each other to create a fold and secure with a cocktail stick or stapler. Repeat the process on the opposite side of the circle and then on the remaining ends.

TIP

A store-bought green or yellow curry paste or lemongrass paste may be used as an alternative but the result will not be quite the same.

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TRAVEL TALES

IN SRI LANKA



Shoana on tour

Shoana Bannister, our Business Development Manager for SA/NT recently visited Sri Lanka, visiting the island's famous attractions and those that perhaps you'll have never heard of. Intrigued? Let Shoana tell you more...

What did you most love about Sri Lanka?

The jeep safari to see the elephants in Kadualla National Park was so special. Spending time with the beautiful wild creatures is something I will never forget. The Dambulla Rock Caves were such a pleasant surprise and peaceful. The train ride from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya was also a highlight. Breaking up road touring by travelling over the tea plantations by train was fantastic. I loved travelling with the locals and watching the lush scenery whiz by.

What was not as you expected in Sri Lanka?

The roads in Sri Lanka are often slow going with wildlife and traffic. Travel time is longer than you would expect. You just have to be patient and there's always plenty to look at.

What was your most memorable meal?

The buffet lunch at the Cinnamon Lodge in Sigiriya was unbelievable! They even had their own dessert room! However, the dahl and mango chutney throughout Sri Lanka was consistently to die for.

Did you meet any interesting characters on your trip?

Our National Escort Jeremy was such a beautiful soul – a father of three, it was always interesting to hear about his life and the way he lives. Beautifully spoken and calm, his demeanour matched the overall tone of the country. He gave us much insight into even the small things about life in Sri Lanka.

Any interesting cultural encounters?

We took part in the daily worship of the Sacred Tooth Relic in Kandy – the whole temple shook as they began to chant which was so powerful.

Tell us about the beautiful landscapes.

Climbing Sigiriya is a hard, but rewarding climb to see the ancient fortress at the top. The views are amazing. But the wildlife safari was my favourite. Just to be out among the herds of wild elephants is something I'll never forget.

Essential Travel Tip

Come with an open mind and an empty stomach! Sri Lanka offers so much in terms of cultural sightseeing and outdoor activities. The food is unbelievable – fresh, varied and so tasty!

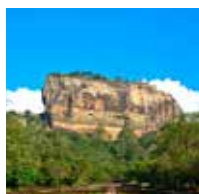
SHOANA'S TOP SRI LANKA HIGHLIGHTS



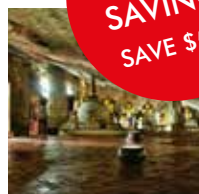
Tea Plantation



Delicious curry



Sigiriya Rock Fortress



Dambulla Caves

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HIGHLIGHTS OF SRI LANKA

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Hong Kong

MORE THAN JUST A STOPOVER

BY BEN GROUNDWATER, TRAVEL WRITER



It's tempting to simply use Hong Kong as a transit hub: to enjoy the great facilities at Chek Lap Kok Airport, to spend a day or two soaking up the big-city charms of the Central district, and then to continue on your way to somewhere else. That, however, would be a huge mistake, because there's so much more to Hong Kong than an airport and a cityscape.

This is the sort of place in which you could spend weeks without ever getting bored, a multi-faceted destination with plenty to surprise those who only know the towering skyscrapers of Central and little else. Yes, the clichés exist here, and they're great: the passion for shopping, the obsession with cuisine. But there's plenty more to discover over days or even weeks in this amazing place.

Take Kowloon, for example, the district across the harbour from sparkling Hong Kong Island, an area known as the "dark side" of Hong Kong thanks to the absence of the neon skyscrapers of Central, and for the fact this district is a little grittier, a little more ramshackle than across the water. However, there's more to Kowloon than meets the eye. This is the home of some of Hong Kong's finest restaurants, for example, the likes of T'ang Court, which boasts three Michelin stars, and Yan Yoh Heen, which has been awarded two.

Tsim Sha Tsui, at the forefront of Kowloon, is also home to some of Hong Kong's best museums, including the Hong Kong Science Museum, the Hong Kong Space Museum,

and facilities dedicated to the history of Hong Kong, and a collection of its finest artworks.

Time your visit to Hong Kong right, and you could also experience one of the many cultural festivals that take place throughout the year: May is Tin Hau, or the "fishermen's festival", celebrating the goddess of the sea with parades and dances; later that month there's Cheung Chau, a week-long celebration full of costumes, music and dance; and June is time for the famous dragon boat festival.

Many of the attractions that make Hong Kong unique, however, and that are worthy of a longer stopover exist outside of the city itself. Kat Hing Wai is one of those attractions: a "walled village", an ancient settlement surrounded by high ramparts that were built to protect its inhabitants from pirates and rival clans. This particular village is more than 500 years old, and today boasts a mix of modern and traditional buildings within its fortifications.

Further afield, the town of Stanley is a popular day-trip destination for Hong Kong residents and tourists alike. Stanley is the perfect antidote to the fast-paced city life, a once-quiet fishing village that these days has morphed into a beachy escape. The town also provides access to the Dragon Back Trail, a 5km hiking path with spectacular views.

Lantau Island, too, is a popular getaway from Hong Kong proper. A separate island that's accessible by ferry from Central, Lantau is a picturesque beauty, with forested hills, sandy beaches, panoramic views from the top of the Ngong Ping Cable Car, and a 34-metre-high statue of the Buddha. More than enough to keep visitors occupied for days.



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CUSTOMER CORNER

Tell us about your Wendy Wu Tours holiday

With a travel repertoire that extends to Mongolia, provincial China, Sri Lanka and Central Asia, Mr James Joseph has certainly had his fair share of adventures.

An “Epic Journeyman”, who grew up in Sri Lanka, James has explored the world for almost 80 years, seeing destinations change, and always with a wanderlust that keeps him searching for more. Here, he shares some of his lessons, from a lifetime spent travelling.

“ I have many fond memories of my travels in India and Sri Lanka also as I found out more and more about my family heritage and descendants. ”

“ One cannot travel and not make some good friends along the way. After our earthquake experience, I got to know a lovely couple from QLD whom I still am good friends with today. ”



Terelj National Park



Ulaanbaatar



Lhasa



Everest Base Camp

Which is your favourite destination and why?

Tibet! The snow-capped mountains were outstanding. The sun would come up on patches of snow which had come down from the peaks, making patterns only mother nature could create. It was just beautiful. I will also always have a place in my heart for Nepal as I was there during the 2015 Earthquake. We felt very lucky to have escaped and seeing the Nepalese helping each other and supporting one another was an experience I won't forget.

Can you tell us some of your favourite travel experiences?

There are so many to choose from! I particularly enjoyed my visit to Shangri-La and learning about the famous book the Lost Horizon. Visiting Mother Teresa's tomb at her home in Kolkata was another amazing experience I will never forget.

Biggest culture shock?

I think the biggest culture shock for me was watching the open air cremations at the tasunath temple in Tibet. The Hindu culture and the cremations here are a sight I have never seen or experienced before and was quite the eye-opener. The cremations along the bank of the river Ganges in India were also another huge culture shock.

What do you think are the positive things to be gained from travelling?

You learn that the best education comes from travelling. You also realise you are living in heaven when you return and learn to appreciate home so much more. You see a lot of smiling faces overseas and despite the fact people there don't have many material goods, they are so close knit with their families and communities and always offer help if needed. You learn to appreciate one another and what a good life you have after travelling.

What are some of your best travel tips?

Always be on your guard! Especially in third world countries and in bazaars. Bargaining is quite a revolution so keep your wits about you and be smart. Also when travelling in a group it is important to show compassion and adjust to the company in your group to ensure you all have the best time.

What do you never leave home without?

A first aid kit and US Dollars. Always carry US dollars as that currency is negotiable everywhere. \$1 US bills are like gold and great for tipping with.

WHERE TO NEXT?

I would love to go to Borneo as I haven't been there yet and really want to see orangutans – and of course I would love to explore more of India, I am fascinated with the country.

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As a thank you for your loyalty, there are a series of rewards for our valued customers with Wendy Wu Tours:

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\$200 OFF

SAVE \$200pp when you book your 3rd, 4th and 5th group tour with us. Quote 'loyalty discount' when booking.

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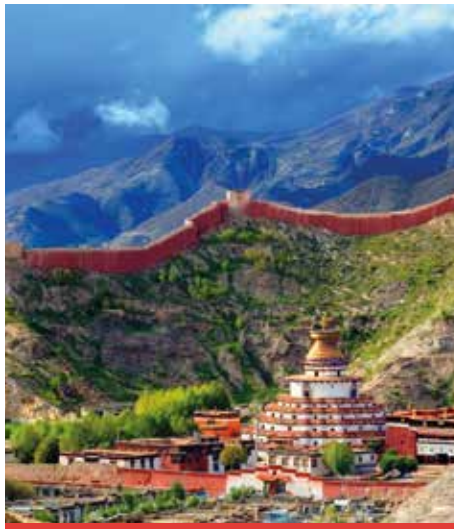


WENDY'S TOUR HOTLIST

Want to try something a bit further off-the-beaten-path?
We asked Wendy herself for her top picks for your next
trip. Whether you seek city buzz or country chill, here's
what she recommends. Get in before everyone finds out
about these picture-perfect spots.



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Delving into some of the more hidden areas of China and Tibet, Epic Dreams earns its title with its unique remote overland itinerary, perfect for those seeking a trip beyond the usual destinations. Travel along the world's highest road for panoramic views, then visit Mt Everest base camp. Get up close with Pandas in Chengdu and indulge yourself with a glorious feast to finish your journey.

HIMALAYAN HERITAGE TRAIL

Spend your time walking the foothills of the Himalayas and taking a trip to Naggar where the old castle will offer you breathtaking views of the Mountains. Explore the Taj Mahal, visit local markets and bask in the vibrant Indian culture of Delhi. Indulge yourself in Yoga, meditation, and finish your journey cruising down the river Ganges.



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PEARL OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

This rich Sri Lankan tour is perfect for those of you who love to sink their feet into the sand and spend time in beautiful nature. Discover stunning beaches, find lost ruins in the jungle, gaze at the stunning waterfalls and meet the unique wildlife. Immerse yourself in the culture and meet the humble Sri Lankan people who will introduce you to their beautiful rehabilitated elephants.

MONGOLIA & THE NAADAM FESTIVAL

This Mongolian tour offers an action-packed itinerary. Spend your time immersed in the natural beauty that is the Gobi Desert, go 4WD'ing through Mongolia's plains and largest sand dunes. Plunge into volcanic hot springs, and witness wrestling, horse racing and archery during the Naadam Festival.

BORNEO READER TOUR

In partnership with the Sydney Morning Herald, The Age and Sydney Sun Herald, Wendy Wu Tours invites you on an adventure to one of the most bio-diverse regions on the planet – Borneo.



Accompanying the group will be highly distinguished guests who will share their wealth of knowledge about Borneo's diverse history, culture, flora and fauna. One such guest is world-renowned orangutan expert **Leif Cocks, Founder & President of The Orangutan Project**. Leif has been a passionate campaigner for orangutans for over 30 years. We took a few moments of his time to catch up.

Q: WHAT GUIDED YOU TOWARDS DEDICATING YOUR LIFE TO ORANGUTANS?

A: I learnt that they are self-aware 'persons'. Orangutans represent a more noble form of humanity and an orangutan friendship is one of the most sincere relationships that we can experience. Humans can learn much from orangutans 'best practice' in childcare and non-violence. Orangutans are extremely patient and intelligent mammals. They are very observant and inquisitive.

Q: WHAT ARE THE CURRENT FIGURES ON ORANGUTAN AND HABITAT DESTRUCTION?

A: Around 80% of their former habitat is gone leaving the remaining population in degraded habitats outside of protected areas. In the last 15 years, over 150,000 orangutans have been killed.

Q: TELL US ABOUT CURRENT BORNEO MISSIONS FOR THE ORANGUTAN PROJECT.

A: We financially support the Hutan Community Rangers along the Kinabatangan River, where guests on the Traveller Reader Tour will visit. This protects the orangutan population, as well as other wildlife, and supports and connects the local community.

Q: WHAT IS THE MOST COMMON MISCONCEPTION ABOUT ORANGUTANS?

A: People expect them to live on the ground in groups, however they live semi-solitary lives in the trees. Seeing them in captivity is like seeing a caricature of these magnificent persons – when seeing them in the wild, be prepared to see something very different!

Q: HOW CAN TRAVELLERS BE MORE RESPONSIBLE AND ETHICAL?

A: Orangutan rehabilitation and commercial eco-tourism do not mix. It reduces the chances of the orangutans' survival in the wild and increases the chances of exposure to human diseases. Always see them in the wild and maintain a respectful distance.

“ Give a screwdriver to a chimpanzee and it will throw it at another chimpanzee. Give a screwdriver to a gorilla and it will use it to scratch itself, (they are like the sports scholarship winners of the great apes, beautiful, but not bright). But give a screwdriver to an orangutan and it will use it to escape! ”



VIETNAMESE ETIQUETTE

As our intrepid travellers know, different cultures around the world have unique etiquettes, some of which are remarkably different to our own.

Never fear, with our guide to Vietnam, you'll make new friends and be sure not to offend.



DRESS
RESPECTFULLY



DO NOT POINT WITH
YOUR FINGER



PASS ITEMS WITH
BOTH HANDS



DON'T LOSE
YOUR TEMPER

DO NOT TOUCH OR PASS ITEMS OVER
SOMEONE'S HEAD



SPEAKING IN A LOUD
TONE WITH EXCESSIVE
GESTURES IS
CONSIDERED RUDE



Elderly people always have the right of way and should be treated with great respect. Always address the eldest in a group first.



Take your shoes off when entering homes or temples.



Bargain in markets, **but once a price is agreed upon, you must buy.**

TABLE MANNERS



Hold your rice bowl in your hand; it is considered lazy to eat from a bowl that is on the table



Chopsticks should be placed on the table or a chopstick rest after a few mouthfuls



When you are finished eating, rest your chopsticks on top of your rice bowl



Try to finish all of your meal – but if you don't like something, it's better to leave it untouched



AN OFFER OF TEA OR DRINK IS A RITUAL FORM OF HOSPITALITY AND **SHOULD NOT BE REFUSED**

JAPAN...

Whilst Japan might appear to have an insatiable appetite for all things contemporary, there is nowhere else in the world where traditional culture and modern culture sit more comfortably side by side.

Here's how to discover the best of both on your Japan holiday.

Traditional

Japan's traditional culture stems from its long and illustrious past. Having historically not been colonised or invaded, and with a long period of isolation from the rest of the world, Japan's culture has stayed unusually intact. Today, it's easy to experience deeply established customs that date back hundreds and hundreds of years in the form of regularly practiced rituals; from tea ceremonies to origami to onsen bathing. Particularly good places to experience this are Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines, which remain houses of timeless traditions that are still visited and treasured by the Japanese people today.

TOP FIVE WAYS TO EXPERIENCE TRADITIONAL JAPAN



Meet a Geisha in Kyoto



Bathe in an onsen



Visit the temples of Koya-san



Wander the streets of Takayama



Take part in a tea ceremony in Kyoto

TOP FIVE WAYS TO EXPERIENCE MODERN JAPAN



Visit the Robot Café in Tokyo



Ride on a bullet train



Admire the bright lights of Osaka



Explore Harajuku district in Tokyo



Do some karaoke, anywhere!



MODERN

After the Meiji Restoration in 1868, when Japan opened itself up to the world once more, outside influence flooded in and modernisation began in earnest. The country went to every effort to equal the West in terms of technology and society as quickly as possible, creating a unique and fascinating hybrid culture. Today, Japan is at the forefront of emerging technologies and its culture is hugely influential around the world (karaoke anyone)? Tokyo is at the cutting-edge of unique contemporary culture, but all over Japan you've got bullet trains, unusual vending machines, capsule hotels and high-tech toilets to enjoy!

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