

CHINESE *WHISPERS*

TRAVEL INSPIRATION FROM AUSTRALIA'S ASIA SPECIALIST

*2019 Early
Bird Specials*

Learn more inside

SOUTH AMERICA

A new touring range

TRAVEL TALES

Learn more about Nepal

JAPANESE ETIQUETTE

The do's and don'ts

48 HOURS
in Saigon

HEAD TO HEAD

Beijing vs Shanghai

HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO!

Exclusive tours for
your special occasion

MOVE OOLONG

A guide to teas in Asia

A MESSAGE FROM WENDY



Welcome to our Winter 2018 issue of Chinese Whispers, filled with intriguing travel tales and the latest news from my team at Wendy Wu Tours.

I am excited to report that our 2019 Early Bird Specials are here! Time to start planning next years' adventures with some huge savings for you as a reward for booking early. You can also secure your spot on some of our special Immerse Yourself tours, many of which are always in hot demand and sell out well in advance.

Do you have an important occasion coming up that's worth celebrating? Perhaps you could celebrate overseas! We have some suggestions for bespoke tours in Asia for special occasions.

As Australia's leading experts in small group touring, we've filled this issue with travel tips and fun facts for your reading and planning pleasure.

I do hope you find your wanderlust in these pages and that we can welcome you on an exciting Wendy Wu Tours adventure soon.

Best wishes,

Wendy Wu,
Owner & Founder, Wendy Wu Tours

Cover image: Temples of Khajuraho, India

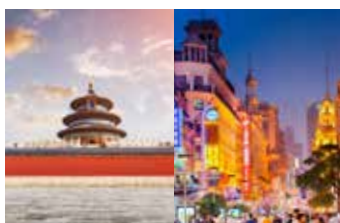
IN THIS ISSUE...



CELEBRATE IN ASIA IN 2019

Pages 4-5

Time your next visit to Asia to coincide with exciting festivals.



HEAD TO HEAD

Page 6

Beijing & Shanghai battle it out to be China's favourite city.



PERFECTLY GUIDED

Page 7

Tour Leader, Jo Taylor shares the must-see's of mystical Central Asia.



TRAVEL TALES

Page 8

Our Assistant Accountant, Roshan, shares his experiences growing up in Nepal.



CELEBRATE YOUR SPECIAL OCCASION ABROAD

Pages 10-11

Do you have a special occasion coming up? Check out our exclusive bespoke tours.



FLAVOURS OF ASIA

Pages 12-13

Are you "oolonging" for a cup of Chinese tea or want to create the perfect Vietnamese Rolls? Flip to find out more!



SEEKING SOUTH AMERICA

Page 16-17

Love Asia but want to travel further? Check out the exciting offerings in our new touring range in South America.



JAPANESE ETIQUETTE

Page 18

We've created a list to help you navigate the intricate culture of Japan.

2019 Early Bird Specials

BOOK NOW AND SAVE UP TO \$1,800PP



LOCK IN A GREAT EARLY BIRD PRICE!

We always aim to provide inspiring travel experiences at the best possible price. By booking now, you will receive a great Early Bird price for travel with Wendy Wu Tours in 2019.



SECURE YOUR SPOT

By booking now, you will enjoy first choice on departure dates and itineraries. Tours that travel during Japan's Cherry Blossoms and many of our Immerse Yourself tours fill up quickly! Avoid disappointment and travel on the departure date that suits you.



SEE ASIA WITH THE EXPERTS

No one knows Asia like Wendy Wu Tours, so you can be secure in the knowledge you're choosing the experts. Our team travels widely throughout Asia and can help you identify which tour is ideal for you.



LOYALTY REWARDS - SAVE EVEN MORE - UP TO AN ADDITIONAL \$300PP!

If you have travelled with us on a group tour before, as a member of the Wendy Wu Tours family, you will receive a special Loyalty Discount on your next group tour including 2019 Early Bird Specials! Save \$100 on your 2nd tour, save \$200 on your 3rd, 4th or 5th tour and save \$300 on your 6th or more tour. Plus, if you refer a friend, we will send you a hamper filled with delicious treats. Conditions apply.



Kinkaku-ji, Kyoto

CELEBRATE IN ASIA IN 2019

Australians love a good festival! From New Year to Sydney's Vivid Festival and the Tamworth Country Music Festival - there's nothing better than diving into all that these festivities entail and relishing in the community spirit and celebrations.

Asia is home to some of the world's most vibrant festivals, most of which have existed for centuries and are rooted in culture and tradition. Here we detail some of the best festivals for you to discover in Asia... not that Asia needed any more reasons for you to visit!

Cherry Blossom Festival



Mt. Fuji

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL
SAVE
\$1,800PP**

TAKE ME THERE

JEWELS OF JAPAN

Encounter first-hand in the unique and fascinating culture of Japan. Encompassing the essentials with natural wonders, imperial heritage and mystical surprises.

CHERRY BLOSSOM DEPARTURES FROM

\$8,130PP | FOR 12 DAYS

To book call **1300 177 506**

**FILLING FAST!
BOOK NOW OR
MISS OUT!**

CHERRY BLOSSOM SEASON, JAPAN

MARCH TO APRIL

Only in Japan can a festival have its own forecast. Forecast I hear you say? This popular annual festival sees Japan in full bloom and celebrates the start of spring through the beautiful pink blossoms. A seasonal event, the Japanese Meteorological Agency carefully forecast when the blossom will appear in the different areas of the country as the trees are only in bloom for a few weeks a year. The 'cherry blossom front' is followed from South to North.

Known locally as 'Hanami' – or 'flower viewing' – this traditional custom involves having a gathering of friends and family below the cherry trees, where they'll feast on bento boxes, traditional dumplings and sake. The festival stems from 1,200 years ago where the appearance of the blossoms signified the start of the rice-planting season, and it's definitely the prettiest time to visit this lovely country.

Naadam Festival



Naadam Festival

TAKE ME THERE

MONGOLIA & THE NAADAM FESTIVAL

This tour is a journey of discovery through the land of Genghis Khan culminating in the hyped Naadam Festival.

PRICES FROM **\$10,880PP** | FOR 23 DAYS

To book call **1300 177 506**

NAADAM FESTIVAL, MONGOLIA

10 JULY - 13 JULY, 2019

The Naadam Festival is the biggest celebration of the year in Mongolia and dates back to the Genghis Khan period of the 13th century. It is held each year from 10-13 July. This is the best time to see Mongolia's proud traditions and unique nomadic culture.

A Mongolian festival akin to the Olympics played by the ancient Greeks, the Naadam Festival begins with a colourful opening ceremony before the games officially start. The events include archery, horse racing and Mongolian wrestling - the three "manly games". The origin of the Naadam Festival is closely related to the history and culture of the country. Before and after major wars and battles, these three sports were practiced so the skills could be taken into battle.

Highly revered within Mongolian culture, as soon as Naadam is over, the locals just want it to start up again!



Holi Celebrations

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL SAVE \$500^{PP}

TAKE ME THERE

INSPIRING INDIA
HOLI FESTIVAL DEPARTURES FROM
\$4,380^{PP}

YEAR-ROUND DEPARTURES FROM
\$4,280^{PP} | FOR 14 DAYS

To book call **1300 177 506**

Esala Perahera Festivities

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL SAVE \$500^{PP}

TAKE ME THERE

HIGHLIGHTS OF SRI LANKA
ESALA PERAHERA FESTIVAL DEPARTURES FROM
\$5,380^{PP}

YEAR-ROUND DEPARTURES FROM
\$5,180^{PP} | FOR 14 DAYS

To book call **1300 177 506**

HOLI FESTIVAL, INDIA

20 MARCH - 21 MARCH, 2019

Colour me happy India! The Hindu spring festival celebrated in India, Holi is a festival of colours... literally! It's the most important festival in the Hindu calendar and lasts for two days, usually in March. The meaning of Holi Festival ranges from the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring and also, for some, the day for new beginnings and a time to forgive past wrongdoings. While it is unknown exactly how long Holi Festival has been around, there is mention of it in poetry from the 4th century AD.

Bonfires are lit the night before it starts and as dawn breaks, crowds gather in the streets to throw coloured powder and water at each other to create a kaleidoscope of hues, before they all retreat into their homes for a family meal and gift giving.

Events around the world have tried to emulate Holi, but we think there is no better place to experience it, than in India itself!

ESALA PERAHERA, SRI LANKA

06 AUGUST - 15 AUGUST, 2019

This annual event held in Kandy, Sri Lanka is one of the oldest and grandest of all Buddhist festivals. It is held to honour the Sacred Tooth Relic and its guardian Gods. The Kandy Esala Perahera dates back to the 4th century AD when the sacred tooth relic of Buddha first arrived in Sri Lanka from India. The tooth was believed to have been saved from the ashes of the Buddha's cremation. Once it arrived in Sri Lanka, the ruling king decreed that once a year the tooth relic would be paraded through the streets for the public to worship.

An impressive procession is held to request blessings from the gods for rain to cultivate crops.

This ritual is performed by carrying the sacred tooth relic of Buddha through the streets of Kandy in a protected gold casket, accompanied by dancers, drummers, musicians, fire-breathers and lavishly decorated elephants.

HEAD TO HEAD

BEIJING SHANGHAI

TWO OF CHINA'S GREAT METROPOLISES GO HEAD TO HEAD
IN A CLASH OF CULTURE & TRADITION



Hutongs

CULTURE

With three millennia's worth of history and streets packed with ancient palaces, temples, parks, gardens and tombs, it isn't a surprise that Beijing is China's cultural capital, as well as its political one. Across the city you can find a wealth of history, from time-worn wooden pagodas and imperial opulence to Mao's stark utilitarianism and a new innovative modernism. Alongside this impressive array of architecture there is still plenty of tradition particularly in the lanes of the hutongs, centuries-old community-centred neighbourhoods where rickshaws are the chosen mode of transport through narrow, lantern-fringed homes and shophouses.

ATTRACTIONS

Where to begin? This city has an incredible number UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the colossal Forbidden City. For a little tranquillity in the city try the symmetrical perfection of the Temple of Heaven, or wander around to the Birds Nest stadium and futuristic CCTV Building. And that's just for starters!

FOOD

As the long-time capital, Beijing's cuisine has both influenced and been influenced by food from all over China, so whatever dish you fancy, you'll be able to find it here, whether its dumplings, noodles or something a little more fiery. Of course Peking Duck is the most famous local dish and a must try – head to the hutongs for the most authentic taste experiences. With all these options it's easy to see why eating out is the social activity for Beijingers!

SHOPPING

With the widest choice of products in China, shopping in Beijing can be of epic proportions. Flit between huge markets selling everything that you could ever dream of to sparkling new high end malls stocking all the designer labels. Backstreet boutiques, the perfect place to pick up something unique, are springing up everywhere so it's always worth keeping an eye out as you go about your sightseeing.



Temple of Heaven

CULTURE

Shanghai is China at its most cosmopolitan and is considered the birthplace of 'modern China.' A boom in the 19th century put it on the world map. Its golden era came with the Art Deco stylings of the 1920's which can be found today, most famously, on The Bund. Shanghai's re-emergence as a city to watch in the 1990's has bought a real investment in culture, with many internationally important museums and galleries making Shanghai home.



The Bund

ATTRACTIONS

Shanghai is perhaps more a city of experiences rather than sights, but that being said there is a range of treasures, both old and new. A Huangpu River cruise gives an excellent overview of the city's architectural eras, with the Art Deco elegance of the Bund on the west bank facing off with the skyscraping modernity of the Pudong on the east bank. The Shanghai Museum offers one of China's best collections of artefacts, while the Yu Gardens are a perfectly harmonious example of traditional Chinese horticulture.

FOOD

From street stalls to Michelin-starred establishments, Shanghai offers a wonderful range of cuisines to try. Shanghai's own cuisine, not particularly well known outside of China, involves lots of oil, sugar and ginger and has several stand out stars – xiaolongbao (soup dumplings) in particular, but the city does food from all over the country to perfection. Ever indulgent all-you-can-eat champagne brunches and luxury cake shops are the places to be seen.

SHOPPING

It's not hard to see why the rest of China calls the Shanghaiese 'xiaozi' (little capitalists) when you see the diversity of shopping options that the city offers. Whilst the locals have a penchant for luxury goods, visitors are far better off delving into the backstreets in search of the plentiful boutique bargains and quirky markets.



Nanjing Road

EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL
SAVE
\$500PP

TAKE ME THERE
A CHINA EXPERIENCE

The quintessential experience, this introductory tour offers a glimpse of China's glorious past, fascinating present and bright future.

PRICES FROM **\$3,180PP** FOR 10 DAYS

To book call **1300 177 506**

Conclusion

These two very different cities offer vastly different experiences for visitors – Beijing culture and heritage plays out on its bustling streets, while Shanghai is all about the future, a glimpse of where China is heading. For the perfect overview of China's varied offerings from city to city, visit them both.

Perfectly Guided

Central Asia stretches from the Caspian Sea in the west to China in the east and Russia in the north. The region consists of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, and is affectionately known as “the Stans”. We sat down with our Central Asia Tour Leader Jo Taylor, for a quick chat about her experiences travelling in this unusual destination.

TAKE ME THERE ANCIENT LANDS OF CENTRAL ASIA

Take a five-country journey along 2,000 plus years of Central Asian Silk Road history.

PRICES FROM **\$12,990^{PP}** FOR 28 DAYS

To book call **1300 177 506**

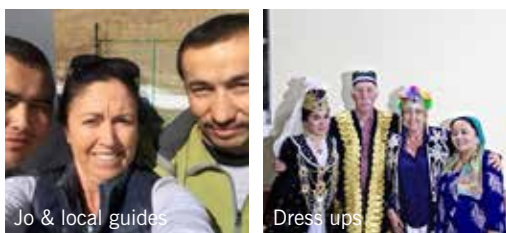
Lake Issyk-Kul



Bukhara, Uzbekistan



Kashgar Bazaar



Jo & local guides

Dress ups

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT BEING A TOUR LEADER IN CENTRAL ASIA?

I get so much enjoyment watching our guests experiencing Central Asia, its cultures and the changing scenery. The people of Central Asia are also something I love about this region – their shifting appearances, friendliness and curiosity with westerners.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS TRAVELLING IN CENTRAL ASIA?

Travelling around Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan never gets old – it's so stunning and pristine. I also love exploring the majestic cities of Uzbekistan such as Samarkand, Khiva and Bukhara – it's like another world.

HAVE YOU STAYED IN ANY UNIQUE ACCOMMODATION IN THE REGION?

Central Asia is the perfect place to enjoy the hospitality of a home stay. I've done a number of these in Kochkor. The accommodation is simple but the hosts are most welcoming and generous. We also stay in a hotel in Khiva, overlooking the ancient city. The silhouettes of the minarets and skyline needs to be seen to be believed.

WHY SHOULD CENTRAL ASIA BE ON EVERYONE'S BUCKET LIST?

The experiences in Central Asia are unique and exotic, unparalleled to anywhere else. There is an authentic mix of modern and ancient sites. Your friends will have to look up the cities and countries on the map to see where you have been – how many people do you know that can say they've been to Urumqi, Kashgar, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan?!

TOP 3 TRAVEL TIPS FOR CENTRAL ASIA



Don't be apprehensive about travelling to Central Asia. It is very safe, welcoming and friendly



Interact with the locals for wonderful heart-felt experiences



Take some Vegemite in case you feel homesick!

SECURE YOUR SPOT FOR 2019!

TRAVEL TALES

IN NEPAL



Roshan at home in Nepal

Roshan Timilsina, Assistant Accountant at Wendy Wu Tours grew up in Nepal and returns home regularly. Who better to learn about this amazing Himalayan nation than someone who has first-hand local knowledge.

What are your fondest memories growing up in Nepal?

I remember the generosity of the people, who treat you like they have known you forever, even though you may have just met for the first time.

I also remember the festivals such as Dashain, where everyone would come together to celebrate, regardless of religious background – a real sense of community.

What do you miss most about Nepal?

I miss the beautiful views of the Himalayas which can be seen from almost everywhere – they are simply amazing. Nepal is considered the world hiking capital so I miss exploring the outskirts of my hometown, Pokhara.

What is your favourite Nepalese food?

Thakali Delights – portions of different delicacies served on a tasting plate with bowl of rice – this is the traditional food of the Nepalese people. Of course, I also love Mo-Mo Nepalese dumplings; meat, chives, onions and other ingredients wrapped up, steamed and dipped in chutney.

Tell us about any cultural traditions travellers should not miss.

Make sure you visit a stupa and get a Lama blessing from a priest. It is a very special experience. Travellers should also consider a home stay with a Newari family or Gurung family to gain insight into the traditional lifestyle.

Boudhanath Stupa

TRAVEL TIPS FOR NEPAL



Inside temples, don't take photos, ensure you remove your shoes and cover your shoulders



Don't point at people or touch their heads. Only elders or priests touch people's heads when giving a blessing



Make sure you have good walking shoes and a wind-proof jacket

EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL
SAVE
\$500^{PP}

TAKE ME THERE

HIGHLIGHTS OF INDIA & NEPAL

Experience India & Nepal's bustling bazaars, sacred sites and Himalayan beauty.

PRICES FROM **\$7,580^{PP}** FOR 23 DAYS

To book call **1300 177 506**

ROSHAN'S TOP NEPAL HIGHLIGHTS



Durbar Square in Bhaktapur



Pokhara and sunrise from Sarankot



Chitwan National Park



Temples of Kathmandu

DID YOU KNOW?

75%
OF CRICKET FANS
IN INDIA **SKIP**
WORK WHEN A
MATCH IS ON



AMRITSAR'S GOLDEN
TEMPLE FEEDS OVER
100,000
VEGETARIAN
MEALS A DAY



INDIA

IS THE LARGEST
PRODUCER OF SPICES
IN THE WORLD



AROUND
80%

OF THE INDIAN
POPULATION ARE HINDU



AROUND **30%** OF **INDIA'S** POPULATION ARE
VEGETARIAN – THE **LARGEST** NON-MEAT-
EATING COUNTRY **IN THE WORLD**

THE BENGAL TIGER
IS INDIA'S NATIONAL ANIMAL,
BUT THERE ARE NOW LESS
THAN 3000 LEFT IN THE WILD



POLICE OFFICERS IN INDIA
GET A *SMALL* PAY INCREASE
FOR HAVING A MOUSTACHE



HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO!



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION ABROAD



Hong Kong

TURNING 40? 50? 60?

TAKE A PRIVATE SHORT BREAK FOODIE TOUR TO HONG KONG!

Grab your favourite friends and hop on a private short break tour to vibrant Hong Kong. It's always party time in this city, so it's the perfect place to celebrate a milestone birthday!

On a private short break tour of Hong Kong, you and your favourite people can take a direct flight from Australia to experience ageless Chinese traditions, numerous attractions, and unrivalled shopping.

Let's not forget about the dining and drinking options! Yum cha (known as dim sum) will be the order of the day. One Dim Sum Chinese Restaurant is regarded as one of the most affordable. Expect a huge menu with nothing over \$5.

You can also take half-day foodie walking tours of Central or Sheung Wan to sample local specialities.

In the evening, head to Shang Palace or Seventh Son for a private dining or chefs table experience. Find a window seat at one of the sky-high bars, such as M Bar on the 25th floor of the Mandarin Oriental, or Ozone in the Ritz-Carlton. There are also many bars in Wan Chai or Lang Kwai Fong.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THIS?

Take a touch of spice, add private dining, world-class bars and your favourite people – and voila! A milestone birthday to remember!

HONG KONG IN FOCUS PRIVATE SHORT BREAK TOUR

4 DAYS LAND ONLY FROM

\$790PP TWIN SHARE*



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Sri Lanka

WHO NEEDS COTTON, PAPER OR STEEL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GIFTS?

TAKE A PRIVATE TOUR OF SRI LANKA FOR SOME SPICE AND ROMANCE

Celebrate hand in hand in all of the romantic locations Sri Lanka has to offer – and head back to a simpler time. Start your trip by walking down the waterfront of Galle Face in Colombo, coming face-to-face with the street vendors selling crabs stuffed with chilli. Your private drivers will transfer you by luxury vehicle into Hill Country, where you'll go back in time, dining by roaring fire at the Hill Club – with jacket and tie mandatory! Staying in a tea plantation bungalow, you'll marvel at the rolling lush green carpet of tea bush, and maybe sample some Orange Pekoe. Going South to National Park country, you'll jeep safari into Yala or Udawalawe National Park, maybe spotting a young elephant calf fitting perfectly under the body of his mother; like your hand in your beloveds. Finally wander through the cobblestones of the UNESCO listed Dutch Fort of Galle, stopping for High Tea at the luxurious Amangalla.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THIS?

Sri Lanka oozes romance at every turn, from the sultry heat, to the snugly Hill Stations. The options are endless and can be tailored to how much touring and how much relaxing you would like to do.

SRI LANKA AT A GLANCE PRIVATE TOUR

9 DAYS LAND ONLY FROM

\$2,210PP TWIN SHARE*



ESCAPE THE GRANDCHILDREN



Kuang Si Falls, Laos

WE ALL LOVE OUR GRANDKIDS, BUT SOMETIMES, WE JUST NEED PEACE... AND QUIET...

RELIEVE YOURSELF OF BABYSITTING DUTIES DURING A PRIVATE TOUR OF LAOS

Laos is just the remedy you need for peace, quiet and tranquility. Start by tailoring your trip to experiencing the old-world charm of Luang Prabang, exploring untouched landscapes, and meet the incredibly friendly people.

Next, picnic and swim under the delightful Kuang Si waterfalls or wander through the Buddhist architecture in Lao's capital, Vientiane.

Laos is one of the true hidden gems of Asia. Round up your time in Laos by immersing yourself in the majestic mountains, traditional villages, tribal artisans culture and the magic of the Mekong River. Many guests to this magnetic country depart with much more - lifelong memories of the welcoming and curious locals, saffron-robed monks receiving their dawn alms and vibrant night markets where you can search for local wares.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THIS?

Laos is the ultimate destination if you're searching for laid-back Asia. The people are warm and the pace slow. Just the break you need from life back home.

LAOS IN FOCUS PRIVATE TOUR

5 DAYS LAND ONLY FROM

\$1,160PP TWIN SHARE*

CELEBRATE YOUR SPECIAL OCCASION ABROAD WITH A TAILORMADE TOUR, A RECIPE FOR MEMORIES!

Like a mouthwatering birthday cake, the thought of celebrating a special occasion with a gallon of your favourite people, a pinch of dreamy flop-and-drop paradise, a dash of your chosen exotic experiences and a VIP dinner, as your cherry on top – a tailormade tour to Asia is the recipe for celebratory success. Personalise every element to your liking, from your dream cities, to your hotel style, to your transport means and your own decadent dining. As rugged or luxurious as you like, a bespoke tour with your chosen companions, is an ideal way to celebrate. *Here's just a few examples of how you could celebrate...*

*Prices based on 2018 travel. Contact reservations for 2019 prices



CELEBRATE YOUR RETIREMENT



Halong Bay, Vietnam

RETIREMENT IS ONE OF LIFE'S ULTIMATE GOALS AND A HUGE MILESTONE

TAKE YOURSELF ON A TAILOR-MADE PRIVATE TOUR OF BUCKET LIST ASIA

You work hard to get to retirement, so why not celebrate when you do?

Start your adventure in China - walk along the Great Wall and visit the active archaeological site of the Terracotta Warriors. Cruise for three or four nights on the Yangtze River and then toast your retirement from a cocktail bar high in Shanghai's Jin Mao Tower.

Next, fly to Hanoi in Vietnam and relax on a junk boat as you cruise amongst magnificent karst peaks on the tranquil green waters of Halong Bay. Journey south through verdant Vietnam, stopping wherever and for however long you like - unwind by the beach in Danang or Nha Trang, wander the cobblestone streets of Hoi An, and soak up the hustle and bustle of Saigon.

Finally, head to Cambodia, in the magical heart of Asia. See Angkor Wat up-close and discover the unique detail and intricacies that make it a must-see in Siem Reap. Sip champagne as you watch the sun set over the temples.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THIS?

Your retirement - your adventure to tailor-make to your heart's desire!



HONEYMOON



Pandaw River Cruise, Mekong

MEANDER INTO MARRIAGE...

BOOK YOUR HONEYMOON ON A BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER

Cruise into married life with a chilled-out honeymoon on the Mekong River aboard a Pandaw River Expedition.

From the glorious temples of Angkor in Cambodia to Vietnam's verdant delta, you'll get a taste of authentic Indochina as you float on by. Stay in boutique comfort and enjoy the wrapping observation decks where you can take in the panoramic views and sip cocktails with your brand new Mr or Mrs.

On this voyage, you'll explore Kratie, Wat Hanchey, and Phnom Penh. Together, you'll travel up the Tonle Sap, and explore the villages of Kampong Trolach and Chong Koh. You'll make memories to last a lifetime as you meet the locals in Chau Doc, a town that's retained its French style charm with many colonial buildings – and you'll excursion through the canals by sampan to Sa Dec via Vinh Long.

Back on board, enjoy a cocktail, relax with a massage, a workout in the gym or even a cooking demonstration.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THIS?

The expeditionary style of Pandaw will get you right into the action, but allow you to return to the comfort of a luxury suite in the evenings – the perfect honeymoon for “grown up adventurers”.



EPIC FAMILY VACATION



Sentosa Island, Singapore

NEED SOME QUALITY FAMILY TIME?

SOAK UP THE FUN OF SINGAPORE ON AN EPIC TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAY!

Need a yay-cay to suit everyone in the family from the youngest to the oldest? Not possible you say? Think again! Just an eight-hour flight from Australia, Singapore is the ultimate multi-generational family holiday destination.

The country itself is clean, easy to get around and incredibly safe, but don't be fooled, into thinking it is just for a stopover. Singapore is packed with culture.

The kids will go crazy for breakfast with the orangutans at Singapore Zoo and Resorts World Sentosa, which includes Universal Studios and S.E.A. Aquarium.

Split your stay between the beach resorts of Sentosa Island, which is one big playground, and the city skyscrapers.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THIS?

Parents and grandparents will love the down time, - excellent choice of restaurants, cultural landmarks and the fact that it is constantly warm! The perfect way to escape the winter blues.

The kids will love the enormous (truly enormous) range of activities on offer!

SPEAK TO OUR RESERVATIONS TEAM TO TAILOR-MAKE YOUR ULTIMATE BUCKET LIST ADVENTURE

CLASSIC MEKONG DOWNSTREAM PRIVATE TOUR

8 DAYS LAND & CRUISE ONLY FROM
\$3,690PP TWIN SHARE*

LET US TAILOR-MAKE YOUR ULTIMATE FAMILY-FUN HOLIDAY IN EXOTIC SINGAPORE!

A TASTE OF ASIA

VIETNAMESE SUMMER ROLLS

VIETNAMESE SUMMER ROLLS

1 pack rice paper wrappers (from your local Asian supermarket)
1 package rice vermicelli, soaked in hot water for 2-3 minutes then drained and rinsed with cold water
2 spring onions, finely sliced
1 pack bean sprouts
3 carrots, peeled and cut into matchstick-size pieces
1 cucumber, cut into matchstick-size pieces
1 handful mint leaves
1 handful fresh basil
1 handful coriander, roughly chopped
20 peeled, deveined and cooked prawns (optional)

Marinade

1 tbsp light soy sauce
1/2 tsp sugar
1 tsp sesame oil

Ginger Lime Dressing

1 chilli, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1/4 thumb piece of ginger, peeled and finely chopped
3 limes, juiced
2 tbsp honey or palm sugar
1 tbsp sesame oil
Light soy sauce, to taste

Preparation

Dress the spring onions, bean sprouts, carrots and cucumber lightly with the marinade mixture in a large bowl.

Dip one rice paper wrapper into a bowl of cold water for 10-15 seconds until soft then lay flat on your work surface or plate. Place a small handful of vermicelli followed by a small handful of the marinated vegetables, 3-4 prawns, if using, and top with mint leaves, basil and coriander into the centre arranged into a small rectangle lengthwise, leaving space at either side of the wrapper.

Fold the bottom of the wrapper over the vegetables and stick down. Roll the wrappers up tightly so it just encloses the filling, fold in the sides and stick, then continue to roll until fully closed. Repeat with the rest until you run out of ingredients.

Mix together ingredients for the lime dressing then serve alongside your stack of summer rolls and tuck in!

EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL
SAVE
\$400^{PP}

TAKE ME THERE
JEWELS OF VIETNAM

Embark on a deluxe adventure of Vietnam's highlights. Uncover poignant history, natural beauty and a charming chaos.

PRICES FROM **\$6,050^{PP}** FOR 13 DAYS

To book call **1300 177 506**

ăn nào!

Vietnamese Summer Rolls

MOVE OOLONG

Tea is the most widely consumed beverage in the world and Aussies love a good “cuppa”. Although tea started in China, have you considered trying tea from further afield (pun intended)?

Read on for our first timer’s guide to the teas of Asia...

Tea plantations in India

THE ORIGINS OF TEA IN CHINA

Emperor Shennong first harvested tea in China in 2737 B.C after a leaf from a nearby shrub fell into some water that he was boiling. The Chinese consider tea one of the seven necessities of life for the many health benefits. There have been over 700 varieties throughout China's tea history, which fall into one of five categories: white, black, green, oolong and post-fermented.



WHITE



BLACK



GREEN



OOLONG



POST-FERMENTED

TEA-RIFFIC TEA GOES GLOBAL

As the love of tea spread across Asia, the flavours and concoctions evolved. How does the rest of Asia have their tea?

SRI LANKA

The British imported tea to Sri Lanka and created the many tea estates, the most popular of which are in Nuwara Eliya. Much of the tea in Sri Lanka comes from the same seed/leaf/crop, but interestingly, when planted in different locations across the country, each tea tastes completely different. In 2012, according to the World Tea Council (yes, there is such a thing!) – Sri Lanka exported 340 million kilograms of tea, the third largest exporter behind Kenya and China. The most popular Sri Lankan tea is **Ceylon Black**.

JAPAN

When first introduced to Japan in 700AD, tea was a luxury, only available to high society and religious classes for medicinal purposes. In the 16th century, tea drinking became a sophisticated ritual in Kyoto with tea ceremonies used by nobles and intellectuals. Kyoto remains the centre of the Japanese tea ceremony world. **Matcha Green tea** is the most famous Japanese green tea, with its signature finely grounded bright green powder.

MYANMAR

Tea is a significant part of social culture in Myanmar. Tea stalls and shops are everywhere and are often a meeting point for locals. **Lahpet** is a tea unique to Myanmar. It is a pickled tea, which you can eat. Served as an entrée, it accompanies other nibbles.

VIETNAM

Traditionally famous for coffee production, Vietnam also has a large tea culture, more popular with the older generations. Green tea from Vietnam has less caffeine than the tea produced in China, but far more than the tea produced in Japan. A famous tea in Vietnam is **Lotus tea**. By leaving green tea leaves in a lotus flower overnight, the flower and leaves infuse with each other, and after 24 hours the flower is brewed.

INDIA

Masala Chai tea is the most popular tea in India, served with milk and sugar and a combination of many spices including cinnamon, cardamom and ginger. Unlike traditional tea techniques of introducing elements separately (brewing the tea, adding milk and sugar later), all the ingredients in chai tea brew together in one pot.

WHAT'S YOUR FLAVOUR?

The teas of Asia are a true fusion of flavour and culture. Which will you be plucking from your next visit to the supermarket or bringing home from abroad?



TAKE ME THERE

KERALA & THE SOUTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

Discover southern India - a verdant melting pot of spices, cultures and climate.

PRICES FROM **\$4,880^{PP}** **FOR 18 DAYS**

To book call **1300 177 506**

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL SAVE \$500^{PP}

THE BEAR FACTS



Placid, roly-poly and incredibly cute as a cub, how could you not love a panda?

Over the last couple of years this beautiful bear's luck has taken a turn for the better, meaning that (fingers crossed!) they are going to be around for a very long time to come.



THE BEAR NECESSITIES

The panda is native to the lowland forests of the western provinces of Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi. A solitary animal, they use their excellent noses to sniff out their fellow bears and avoid them, unless it's breeding season, of course. Pandas spend 12 to 16 hours a day simply sitting and munching through 20 kilograms of bamboo. Surprisingly, they are also excellent tree climbers!

THE BLACK AND WHITE

The Giant Panda has very few predators; the biggest threat to their existence is humans. Habitat and food source destruction and poaching drove down the number of wild pandas, putting them on the rare species list in the 1980s and officially listed as endangered in 1990. Something had to be done. So the Chinese government, with the World Wildlife Foundation, established a network of 67 reserves across the historical panda stomping ground in Sichuan, with more in the pipeline.

PANDA-MONIUM

It was in 2016 that the efforts truly paid off when, thanks to a significant increase in the wild population, the Giant Panda clawed its way from 'endangered' to 'vulnerable'. Things got even better in 2017 when a record number of 42 cubs were born in China's panda conservation centres. Now, with over 300 pandas in captivity, the long-term goal is to begin reintroducing them into the wild.



"Pandas spend 12 to 16 hours a day munching through 20 kilograms of bamboo"

42
cubs

were born
in 2017

67
panda
reserves

are across Sichuan

PAWS FOR THOUGHT

Seeing a wild panda is difficult and unlikely, so the best way to see the bears for yourself is at one of the conservation centres. These two are our favourites:

Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding

Just 40 minutes outside Chengdu, this is one of the easiest places to see pandas. Home to some 70 individuals including cubs, every effort has been made to recreate the panda's natural environment. You can also see beautiful red pandas, and learn more at the Giant Panda Museum.

Dujiangyan Panda Base

An hour and a half from Chengdu, at the foot of the Qingcheng Mountains, about 40 pandas live here in large, natural enclosures. This park offers one-day volunteer programmes that include feeding pandas, planting bamboo and maintaining living areas (subject to current government regulations).

EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL
SAVE
\$800^{PP}

TAKE ME THERE

MAJESTIC YANGTZE

Along with four nights on the Yangtze, delve into the enthralling cities of Shanghai, Xian and Beijing, plus in Chengdu, visit the lovable Giant Pandas.

PRICES FROM **\$4,080^{PP}** FOR **14 DAYS**

To book call **1300 177 506**

48 HOURS IN... SAIGON

Saigon, or Ho Chi Minh City as it's known by many, is a city of contrasts; French colonial architecture, sparkling skyscrapers, incense-infused temples and remnants of war coexist alongside each other. Its frenzied streets – home to an ever-flowing stream of motorbikes, bustling markets and vendors peddling street food might seem a little overwhelming at first, but beyond the chaos this exciting city has a plethora of things for visitors to see and do.



Saigon Flower Markets

HERE'S HOW TO SPEND THE PERFECT 48 HOURS...

Day One

MORNING

Start with a visit to the French-style Central Post Office, built by architect Gustave Eiffel. A short walk away, you'll find Cong Vien Van Hoa Park; cool off under the trees with an iced coffee from one of the street vendors – a popular choice with the locals. Stroll through the park to the 1960's-built Reunification Palace, the former presidential home of South Vietnam.

PIT STOP

Stop at a nearby street stall and try Vietnam's traditional noodle soup, considered by many as the national dish, 'Pho', which is influenced by Chinese and French cuisine. In Saigon, street vendors guard their Pho recipe as a family heirloom, with specialists creating masterpieces for generations. Pho is best taken sitting on a tiny plastic chair, in scorching heat, and filled with your choice of bamboo shoots, chilli, Sri Racha hot sauce and lemons. And remember, its polite to slurp!

AFTERNOON

Make your way to the War Remnants Museum, which depicts the brutality of the Vietnam War. Although very poignant, it's well worth a visit. Take your time viewing the displays, which includes photographs, artillery, jets, tankers, army uniforms and a replica of a prison.

AFTER DARK

The day's not over yet! Grab tickets for the AO acrobatic performance at Saigon Opera House (also known as Ho Chi Minh Municipal Theatre). Vietnam's answer to the Cirque du Soleil, the AO show is infused with Vietnamese culture, with a modern twist.

Day Two

MORNING

This morning head to the Cu Chi Tunnels, about 35 kilometres from the city. This 120-kilometre network of tunnels was dug by the Viet Cong Communist guerrilla troops and were used during the Vietnam War to house troops, transport communications and supplies, lay booby traps and mount surprise attacks. The tunnels, which are several storeys deep in some parts, feature trapdoors, living areas, storage facilities, weapon factories, field hospitals, command centres and kitchens. Spend time looking around the tunnels – and if you're feeling brave, you can crawl through one yourself!

PIT STOP

Head back into the city for a delicious lunch of Banh Mi – traditional Vietnamese sandwiches with chicken, beef or pork with pate, mayo, cucumber spears and pickled vegetables on a fresh bread roll.

AFTERNOON

Time to head to Ben Thanh Market – the city's most central market. Here you'll find almost anything – from local delicacies and clothing, to jewellery and hardware. Make sure you bag a bargain – bartering is key in these markets, unless there's a 'fixed price' sign. An ideal place to buy souvenirs to take home.

AFTER DARK

Enjoy a delicious dinner on buzzing Dong Khoi Street; this bustling street is dotted with Colonial architecture as well as many cafés, restaurants and bars! After, take a look around the Caravelle Hotel followed by a drink in the rooftop bar.



Outdoor Markets in Saigon



Saigon by night

TOP SAIGON EXPERIENCES



Sit down for a steaming hot bowl of Pho



Try local Vietnamese dishes at Ben Thanh Market



Watch an acrobatic performance at Saigon Opera House



Visit the famous Cu Chi Tunnels

EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL
SAVE
\$400PP

TAKE ME THERE ANGKOR TO THE BAY

One of our most popular tours which takes you on a voyage of discovery – from the breathtaking majesty of the temples of Angkor, through to the spectacular natural grandeur of Halong Bay.

PRICES FROM **\$4,680PP** FOR 17 DAYS

To book call **1300 177 506**

SEEKING SOUTH AMERICA

South America is a continent that screams incredible adventure at the top of its lungs.

From the fascinating fusion of indigenous and colonial cultures, the showstopper sights of Machu Picchu, Patagonia and the Amazon Rainforest, and all the rich heritage, beautiful cities and incredible landscapes inbetween, it is a fun, fiery and vibrant place full of wonders. But where do you begin discovering this huge and incredible land? Let us help you with that...



1

PERU

Peru, the land of the Incas, is not only home to the incredible mountain-bound citadel of Machu Picchu, but is the destination to experience the indigenous Andean culture. Capital Lima has become something of a hub of art and culture and you cannot visit without tasting the delicious, traditional food that is coming out of the city these days. Cusco, the old Incan capital and the gateway to Machu Picchu, perfectly showcases Peru's juxtaposition of colonial and indigenous to perfection. It is also the best place, along with the nearby Sacred Valley, to learn about the Andean people and their heritage. Keep an eye out for them in their colourful dress on the streets of Cusco – there could even be a llama in tow!

2

ARGENTINA

For many, Argentina will always just be a land of delicious steak and luscious wine, but we're here to tell you that there is oh so much more! Stretching over 3,500 kilometres from Iguazu Falls and the tropical rainforest of the north to the penguins, peaks and glaciers of Patagonia in the south, this is a land with a whole variety of natural wonders. It's not just the great outdoors either – Argentina boasts a unique character. Whilst the European influence is undeniable, it combines with a proud and defiant passion that is all the country's own. Nowhere showcases it better than Buenos Aires, South America's most chic, atmospheric and glorious city best experienced in the drama of a live Tango show, the dance was born in BA's Barrios after all.



TAKE ME THERE

**ESSENCE OF
ARGENTINA & BRAZIL**

A classic South America itinerary with a tango-worthy twist!

PRICES FROM **\$7,860PP** FOR 14 DAYS

To book call **1300 177 506**

3

CHILE

Caught between the Pacific and the Andes, Chile is the long slither of land that runs down the edge of the South American continent. This separation gives Chile a distinctly different feel to rest of South America. That fiery passion found in the other Latino countries, in Chile it's more an easygoing charm. Encompassing desert, volcanoes, vineyards, glaciers and all sorts of other topographical extremes, Chile's 4,300-kilometre length is all about pristine wilderness and nature on the grandest of scales. The spectacular Torres del Paine and the Atacama Desert, though polar opposites, are prime examples of this – when it comes to nature, Chile is a hard one to beat.



Torres del Paine National Park

4

BRAZIL

Brazil, the largest country in South America, is a vast land of breathtaking scenery and mesmerising culture. Already set apart from the rest of the continent by its Portuguese heritage, the migration here of people from Africa, Europe and the Middle East has shaped Brazil into a captivating and fascinating country. Rio de Janeiro, the 'Cidade Maravilhosa', is Brazil's best known and most vibrant city – driven by an Afro-Brazilian beat, the city really does love a good party! With its incredible setting amongst lush mountains and golden beaches, Rio is a city to be well and truly embraced, preferably with a caipirinha in hand.



Sugarloaf Mountain

5

COLOMBIA

Colombia is one of the world's emerging destinations for travellers. Journey through rainforests, over mountains and chill on tropical beaches. Head underground into the Zipaquirá Salt Cathedral, built 200m below ground in an illuminated salt mine. Learn the trade of coffee growing deep in the heart of the Cocora Valley and take in the exotic coastline and lush rainforests of the Parque Nacional Natural Tayrona.

The 16th-century Caribbean port city of Cartagena charms travellers with its classic colonial beauty and sultry atmosphere. A World Heritage Site, we think Cartagena's colonial walled city is one of Colombia's most enthralling locations.



Salt Cathedral

JAPANESE ETIQUETTE

JAPAN DO'S & DON'TS

DO



Bow politely when you meet someone, thank them, or say goodbye



Wash your hands before entering a shrine, using the ladles, and pour water into your hand to use to rinse your mouth



Remove your shoes at temples, shrines, homes and as requested

DON'T



Blow your nose in public, or eat and drink while walking around



Speak on your mobile phone while on public transport, it is considered rude



Leave a tip – this is considered confusing



When eating sushi, dip the fishy side in soy and put the whole thing in your mouth



Top up the glasses of the people around you and allow someone else to pour yours

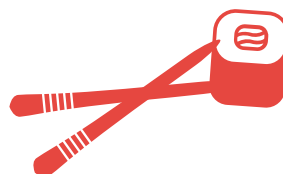


Do drink directly from a soup bowl, no spoons! You may also slurp your soup and noodles

CHOPSTICK TO THE RULES



Do not leave chopsticks standing upright in a bowl of rice



Do not pass food directly to another person's chopsticks

EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL
SAVE
\$1,800PP

TAKE ME THERE
DISCOVER JAPAN

Japan is a country of contrasts, where ancient gods rub shoulders with modern technology and skyscrapers give way to paddy fields.

PRICES FROM **\$8,180PP** FOR 14 DAYS

To book call **1300 177 506**

ASIA'S TOP National Parks

Wherever we venture, we know the importance of embracing the local scenery and landscapes. But when visiting a huge continent like Asia, well, where do we start? Overflowing with National Parks, all individual and diverse, you're certainly spoilt for choice. To help you choose, here's what we believe to be some of the very best...



WULINGYUAN SCENIC AREA, **CHINA**

Wulingyuan Scenic Area includes globally famous Zhangjiajie National Forest Park and is positioned in central China. Zhangjiajie's towering geology inspired parts of the movie Avatar. Also check out Tianmen Mountain with its mountain peak vistas, cliff path walking, and cable car. The Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon Glass Bridge is the world's longest and highest glass-bottomed bridge and also worth a visit.

GO THERE ON...
DREAMS OF NATURE, 23 DAYS FROM \$6,180PP



CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK, **NEPAL**

In Nepal, Chitwan National Park, at the foot of the Himalayas, provides many wildlife encounters. Nepal's oldest national park is home to both the one-horned rhino in addition to Bengal tigers. There are also over 500 species of birds, leopards and elephants. You can visit local villages, take jeep safaris, join jungle safaris or even a canoe ride down the Rapti River.

GO THERE ON...
HIMALAYAN ADVENTURE - TIBET TO NEPAL, 21 DAYS FROM \$7,680PP



YALA NATIONAL PARK, **SRI LANKA**

Sri Lanka is full of national parks, and a hotspot for countless opportunities to see natural wildlife. For a close up of view of the mighty elephant, choose Yala National Park, the ultimate place to view them in large numbers. Keep searching and you may also see crocodiles basking in the sun and water buffalo wallowing in muddy waters.

GO THERE ON...
HIGHLIGHTS OF SRI LANKA, 14 DAYS FROM \$5,180PP



KINABALU NATIONAL PARK, **BORNEO**

Kinabalu National Park, located in the foothills of Mt Kinabalu, Borneo's highest mountain, was Malaysian Borneo's first UNESCO World Heritage Site. Embark on guided walks through the many forest trails to discover unique flora and fauna – you may spot orangutans, gibbons, mouse deer, hornbills and eagles, to name just a few of the park's residents.

GO THERE ON...
BEST OF BORNEO, 16 DAYS FROM \$6,080PP

TOP REASONS TO CHOOSE WENDY WU TOURS

- Over 24 years' experience
- Unrivalled knowledge and expertise
- Innovative and comprehensive range of small group tours, private tours, tailor-made holidays, river cruises and stopovers
- Seamless, end-to-end experience
- Exciting journeys to unique, rarely visited destinations
- 5-star Tripadvisor customer rating
- Industry-leading National Escorts and Local Guides
- Quality hotels and comfortable transportation
- Specialist advice from our experienced consultants



To book and speak to our experts

Call: **1300 177 506**

Email: chinesewhispers@wendywutours.com.au

Visit: wendywutours.com.au/chinese-whispers

or **contact your local travel agent**



FIND US ON FACEBOOK
WENDYWUTOURSAUSTRALIA

Early Bird Terms & Conditions: Valid for sale until 21 September 2018 unless sold out prior. Early Bird sale is available for travel on selected flight inclusive group tours on selected dates to 30 November 2019. It is available from selected Australian cities. Pricing is applicable on twin share basis and single supplements apply. Valid for new bookings only and is not transferrable. Subject to availability of airline, special economy class fare and specific airfare class. Surcharges apply once airfare is sold out. Where advertised prices are shown in conjunction with an Early Bird special, savings are included in advertised price. Pre-flight seat allocation is not available. Blackout dates apply. Names as per passport including middle names must be provided at time of deposit, as well as a current passport copy. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer except loyalty discount or referral discount. Airline fuel surcharge (where applicable) included, and subject to change. Due to airline connections, extra nights' accommodation may be required at additional expense. Visit wendywutours.com.au for full details.

Loyalty Discount & Refer a Friend Conditions: Our loyalty discount does not apply to Private Tours, Tailor-Made Holidays, special groups or the Essential Tour range. To be eligible for the 'refer a friend' offer you must have a previously booked with Wendy Wu Tours. One hamper per new booking will be distributed. The referee must quote your full name and address at the time of their booking. Your hamper will be distributed upon receipt of their deposit. Your friend must be a new customer who has not previously booked with Wendy Wu Tours. Hampers will be delivered at the start of the calendar month. We regret we cannot apply this offer retrospectively.

General terms & conditions: Group Tours, Private Tours and Tailor-Made Holidays that do not have an advertised saving are not included in the Early Bird Specials. Prices listed correct as at 06 June 2018, may be subject to change and are per person twin share. Subject to availability. Visit wendywutours.com.au for full details.

