

SUMMER 2019

ESCAPE

with  Wendy Wu Tours®

**CELEBRATING
25 YEARS OF
WENDY WU
TOURS**

LAND OF FIRE & ICE

Discover the beauty of Chile

INTRODUCING INDONESIA

Go beyond the tourist trail

FLYING SOLO TOGETHER

Expertly created tours to Asia

TRAVEL TALES

Learn about beautiful Borneo

CUSTOMER CORNER

Travelling through Vietnam & Cambodia

WELCOME TO
ESCAPE
with Wendy Wu Tours

Welcome to our Summer 2019 issue of *Escape*, filled with inspiring travel articles and the latest news at Wendy Wu Tours.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of introducing travellers to my favourite places in the world. It seems like only last year that I took my very first group to China. Today, Wendy Wu Tours is Australia's largest tour operator to Asia, visiting 25 different countries and taking over 10,000 people to the region annually.

It's incredible to look back at how far we've come, and I'm delighted to reflect how in 2018 we commenced offering journeys to South & Central America. After visiting personally late last year, these destinations have ignited a love of the region for me – from the heartbeat of Buenos Aires, to the cloud forests of Costa Rica, there's so much waiting to be explored, and I can't wait to visit again.

Whichever destination is in your sights you'll find inspiration on every page, from tips on the perfect 48-hours in Shanghai, how to immerse yourself in the untouched wilds of Chile and inspired accounts from our recent travellers - just to name a few.

I do hope you find inspiration and enjoyment in this issue of *Escape* and we look forward to welcoming you on a Wendy Wu Tours journey very soon.

Lots of cheers,



Wendy Wu,
Owner & Founder, Wendy Wu Tours



Cover image: Torres del Paine National Park, Chile

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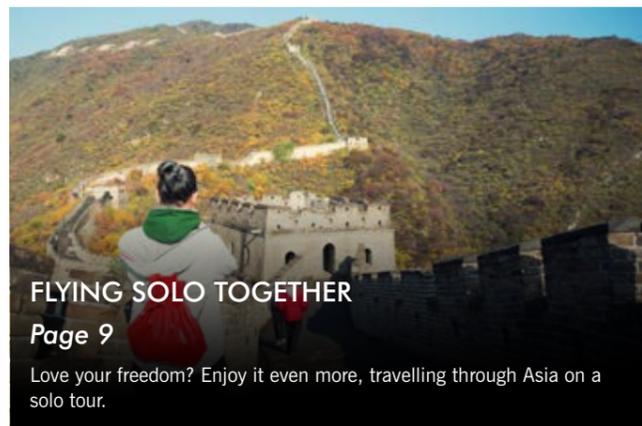
Go beyond the tourist trail to Komodo, Flores and Yogyakarta.



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THE RISE & RISE OF Wendy Wu Tours

It's an inspiring story of how a Chinese expat launched what has become Australia's best and most recognised Asia specialist tour company. Wendy grew up exploring China living in Sichuan, Shanghai and Jiangsu Province, she also travelled extensively with her parents as a child.

“When I was young, travel was frequent to say the least,” says Wendy. “My parents were always travelling, and I went with them. Since I was born, I was travelling all the time. One of my most memorable trips was to cruise down the Yangtze River from Chongqing through the Three Gorges to Shanghai long before it was on the tourist map. It was mostly cargo ships in those days.”

With her unique, intimate knowledge of her home country, coupled with her passion for travel and sharing experiences, it felt almost natural that Wendy would have a career in the travel industry. Though in her blood from a young age, it wasn't until she was living in Australia in the early 1990s, exploring all the different areas of her new home that she really got the travel bug.

“Having seen so much of Australia I decided that I really wanted to go back and explore again China, my country of birth,” Wendy enthuses. “After a lot of research, I put together an itinerary that included all of the essential sights as well as some of the hidden gems. Through my knowledge of China, I could visit many fascinating places that were unknown to the western world.”

While she originally planned to take a friend, as fate would have it they couldn't attend and so Wendy decided to advertise her original China Highlights itinerary in a local newspaper - she was inundated with calls. The success of her first tour, showed her that there was a huge demand for travel to China and a substantial gap in the Australian market. This original China Highlights tour ran for 18 years before being replaced by an updated itinerary. Wendy approached a travel agency in Epping and developed a partnership where she developed and promoted her own tours through the agency. In 1998, Wendy left the travel agency and started her own company and the rest, as they say is history.



SOME HIGHLIGHTS along the way



1994:
Wendy Wu designs and leads her first tour to China.



1996:
Wendy Wu expands her range of touring into Vietnam.



1998:
Wendy Wu Tours Pty Ltd is established.



2000:
Wendy Wu Tours hosts the first escorted group to Lhasa, Tibet.



2001:
Wendy Wu Tours is the first to visit Nine Villages Valley and Zhangjiajie.



2004:
Wendy Wu Tours expands to offer touring in India.



2005:
Wendy Wu Tours expands offices to the UK with global HQ in London.



2008:
Wendy Wu Tours appointed official ticket supplier to the Beijing Olympic Games.



2014:
Wendy Wu Tours wins first TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence.



2015:
The company introduces the Immerse Yourself Tours range, offering more flexible touring.



2017:
Wendy Wu Tours wins Best Specialty Wholesaler at National Travel Industry Awards.



2019:
Wendy Wu Tours celebrates 25 years of extraordinary tours.

INTRODUCING

Indonesia

An archipelago of more than 17,000 islands, Indonesia is an explosion of culture, with over 300 languages and a unique and fascinating blend of people calling it home. Stretching 5,120 kilometres and encompassing miles of incredible scenery, from the dramatic peaks of smouldering volcanoes to the blissful stillness of palm-lined beaches, Indonesia is like 100 countries combined into one.

NEW TOUR
INCREDIBLE INDONESIA.
FROM \$5,690^{PP}
FOR 17 DAYS.

HERITAGE AND CULTURE

With places such as cultural hub Yogyakarta, on the island of Java, fiercely protective of their customs, much of Indonesia is a unique combination of old and new, making it easy to hop from a shiny shopping centre to traditional batik village. Over 300 ethnic communities live in both urban and rural settings, each with their own set of customs; whilst those in the city have modernised their way of life, if you travel out to the more remote villages you'll find that they uphold all aspects of their daily customs to their modes of transport. Home to eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Indonesia has a wide spread of historical treasures too, the most famous of which is the jaw-dropping Borobudur, the world's largest Buddhist temple.



NATIONAL PARKS

Indonesia's national parks protect a diverse and spectacular range of landscapes, from volcanoes to oceans, to rainforest. The most popular of these national parks is Komodo, which encompasses Komodo, Rinca, Padar and many more smaller islands. Established in 1980, the park protects an area of huge biodiversity, with not only a rich marine ecosystem within its boundaries, but many species of animal, including the famous Komodo Dragon, one of the oldest animal species in existence. Java's most well-known national park is Bromo Tengger Semeru. Covering a massive area of 800 square kilometres, it is named after two volcanoes and the Tengger people, an ancient community who have long inhabited the area. Here you can look across one of Indonesia's best-known panoramas, with Mount Bromo and its continuous plume of white smoke nestled at the centre of the Segara Wedi (Sea of Sand).

FOOD

Like many Asian countries, at the heart of Indonesia's cuisine is rice. This staple is served with delicious and vibrant dishes, full of intense flavours and many varieties of vegetables, tropical fruits and spices. Among numerous regional specialities, nasi goreng (fried rice) is the national dish of choice, usually served with sambal, a fiery chilli-based condiment, whilst rendang curry and chicken satay are dishes you have to try! Indonesia is the world's fourth-largest coffee producer; the island of Java has become so closely associated with coffee that the term java is a moniker for this much-loved hot beverage! Introduced by the Dutch, the country has excellent coffee-growing conditions, and produces a wide variety of exports, with its most prominent being the Robusta coffee. What better way to start your day than locally grown coffee whilst exploring this glorious country?



HEAD2HEAD

THE MAJESTIC YANGTZE VS THE MIGHTY MEKONG



THE YANGTZE

THE MEKONG

PHYSICAL FEATURES

More than 6300km in length China's Yangtze River, is the third longest river in the world. Beginning in the Tibetan highlands, the Yangtze River flows through Sichuan, Yichang and Hubei Provinces before hitting the plains of east central China and flowing out into the ocean at Shanghai.

The 7th longest river in Asia and the heart of Southeast Asia civilisation. Like the Yangtze, the Mekong River begins in China and runs through Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. The Mekong is known as a powerful river with many rapids and waterfalls along its course.

CULTURE

Up to one third of China's population lives along the Yangtze River and the basin contributes almost fifty percent of China's crop production. The Yangtze River is a hugely significant physical feature of the Chinese landscape that has influenced China's people and culture. Many ethnic minorities are rooted along the river banks and with ancient and unique cultural quirks that delight visitors.

Approximately sixty million people live in the Mekong River basin and so it has been given many different names. In Vietnam it is named Cuu Dong and translates to 'Nine Dragons', whereas, in Laos and Thailand Mae Kong translates to 'Mother Water'. There is no combination of river life as rich and varied as life-along the Mekong. Fishing, agriculture, irrigation, sanitation, cooking and transportation have long been practiced along the waterways.

HISTORY

Life along the Yangtze dates back thousands of years and like the Nile River in Egypt is considered China's cradle of civilisation. Throughout its rich history it has seen the rise and fall of dynasties, served as political and cultural borders and in more recent times been the focal point of ambitious infrastructure projects like the Three Gorges Dam.

For thousands of years people living around the Mekong basin have depended on the rivers natural wealth to sustain their livelihood. Historically, it has been a major trade route connecting Southeast Asian countries to each other and the rest of the world. The rivers waterways were an important source of power for Empires like the Khmer who built the temples of Angkor Wat.

CONCLUSION

The Yangtze and the Mekong rivers have invaluable relationships with the lands they inhabit. The sheer scale of the Yangtze and the Three Gorges Dam is breathtaking but the Mekong's meandering through Southeast Asia will enchant you! Do you want to visit multiple countries? Whichever you decide you will have a once in a lifetime experience.

FLY FREE

TAKE ME THERE

MAJESTIC YANGTZE.
FROM \$4,580PP
FOR 14 DAYS.

FLY FREE

TAKE ME THERE

GRAND TOUR OF
INDOCHINA.
FROM \$7,490PP
FOR 27 DAYS.

FLYING SOLO TOGETHER!

Travelling the world all by yourself is full of heightened experiences – the thrill of exploring new places on your own terms, mixed with more than a little trepidation if you're thrown out of your depth. We know: that's why we have Solo tours, to bring solo travellers together to experience all the highs of taking on the world by yourself, but with none of the lows that can come from really going it alone. Here's how to get the best of both worlds.

DID YOU KNOW
There are no single supplements to pay on our Solo group tours?
Every traveller has a guaranteed single room as part of the package.

TAKE ME THERE
CHARMING CHINA.
FROM \$4,980
SINGLE
FOR 14 DAYS.



BE WHOEVER YOU WANT TO BE

Whatever responsibilities you're leaving behind at home, once you're on tour, going solo means you have a social 'clean slate'. Wear those fabulous earrings every day, start conversations with the locals, learn something new. Be a photographer, or a storyteller, or an explorer, and bring that energy to your Solo tour; you'll find that a whole group of solo travellers, each living their dream holiday, is energised like no other tour you've ever been on.



SAY GOODBYE TO THE SELFIE

The downside to travelling alone is either an album of empty landscapes, or one selfie after another (complete with half a giant arm in shot depending on your selfie skills). A group of solo travellers are completely engaged in the tour, and that includes being available – and eager – to take turns to snap photos of each other. Of course, as you get to know each other better, you may end up posing for selfies all together anyhow.



NOT A WORRY IN THE WORLD

With a knowledgeable guide taking care of the everyday arrangements, there's no need for any practical concerns getting in the way of your fun. That's a far cry from independent solo travel, when checking in, checking out, figuring out the transport system, entrance fees and currencies can take up a huge amount of time when you'd rather be exploring. This is especially the case when there's only one of you – let us sort all that out so you can fly solo together with us.



ALONE TOGETHER

Talk about the best of both worlds. With your own single room every night, you can stretch out, enjoy quiet time, and strew your toiletries all over the bathroom if you wish! Yet there's company if you'd like it by breakfast time, chats to be had in the coach, and always someone around to swap excited stories with as you discover a new destination together.

Customer CORNER

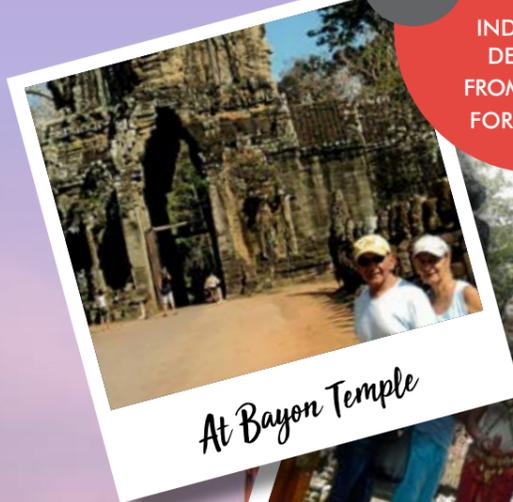
TAKE A JOURNEY THROUGH CAMBODIA & VIETNAM WITH VIC & HELEN

We're always delighted to share our guest's experiences and tips from their Wendy Wu Tours holiday.

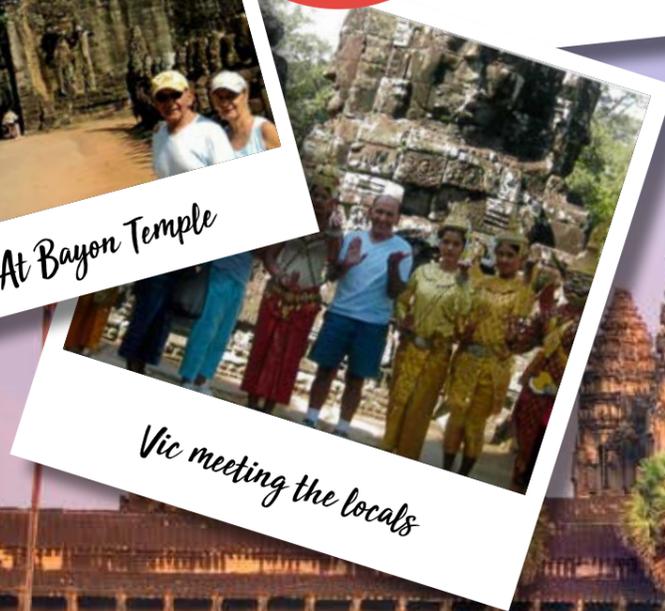
Experienced travellers Vic and Helen took a Wendy Wu Tailor-Made tour to experience magical Cambodia and Vietnam. Upon returning, Vic and Helen couldn't wait to share their experiences travelling to these incredible countries.



Helen and Vic at Angkor Wat



At Bayon Temple



Vic meeting the locals

FLY FREE

TAKE ME THERE

INDOCHINA DELIGHTS. FROM \$5,690pp FOR 16 DAYS.

You recently went on a tour of Vietnam and Cambodia. Tell us what made you choose this tour?

Vietnam and Cambodia have always appealed to us, we were particularly interested in seeing how the local people lived, especially how they have overcome the hardship of the war. We were really drawn to the French influence in Vietnam and were keen to see Halong Bay, as a world heritage location. We also really wanted to see Angkor Wat, we had admired it on TV and it instantly became a bucket list destination for us.

Do you have a favourite country between Vietnam and Cambodia? How do you feel the countries differ?

The food and culture in both countries were very similar – both beautiful people and delicious food. In the areas we visited there was limited English spoken which is why we chose a private tour with local guides. We thought Vietnam was sensational, it was our favourite, it is developing far quicker and was more set up for tourists. In saying this we still loved Cambodia and it was nice to see that the people were moving on from their sad history, to create a beautiful modern country.

You spent time on this tour sailing both Halong Bay and the Mekong Delta. Which did you prefer and why?

Sailing the Mekong was a really authentic experience, we saw how the local people lived on the Delta, Vic fishing from holes in their decking and living in close quarters with their families. Halong Bay was a totally different experience, we stayed on a junk boat overnight - we felt like royalty, drifting in our own private cabin with our own bathroom facilities. We ate fresh seafood and watched the sunset with a glass of champagne, it was magical. We disembarked to explore caves, and there was the option to go swimming or kayaking but we loved just relaxing on deck, limestone karst mountains were definitely our favourite.

Talk to us about the "H" cities in Vietnam: Hanoi, Hue, Hoi An and Ho Chi Minh City. Which was your favourite and why?

Hue was our favourite; the city is well laid out with a noticeable French influence. The Perfume River was great for relaxing on a day cruise, the unique water puppet show and huge markets were also big highlights. We really liked Hoi An too, it was a great example of an old port town. We had great food while a friendly tailor whipped us up some handmade custom clothing – I (Vic) had a pair of trousers and some shorts designed and Helen had a suit made. They were prepared in 24 hours just to our measurements, it was like nothing I had ever experienced at home.

The foods of Vietnam are incredible, what was your favourite thing you ate there?

We love eating Vietnamese food in Australia, which was part of the reason we chose to visit Vietnam! One of our favourites were the steaming hot pho, but we also loved the Ban Xeo pancake, the fresh summer rolls – and the famous Banh Mi pork rolls. We had one in a market in Hoi An and it was filled with BBQ pork and herbs and it was absolutely delicious!

Would you choose to go on a Tailor-Made Tour again?

Certainly, it made it very easy to see and experience all that we wanted. It was nice to just relax and enjoy.

YOUR LOYALTY MATTERS

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

\$100 OFF

SAVE \$100pp when you book your second tour with us. Just quote 'loyalty discount' at the time of booking.

\$200 OFF

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

\$300 OFF

SAVE \$300pp on your 6th and subsequent group tour with us.

Savings are not applicable for tailor-made itineraries, independent travel or special groups. Not available on Fly Free promotion.

For full details of loyalty discounts and terms & conditions, visit wendywutours.com.au/loyalty

RECOMMEND US

If your friends or family book through your recommendation, we'll send you a delicious hamper!

Make sure your friend quotes your name, address and booking reference at the time of their booking. Refer as many friends as you like - there's no limit!

DID YOU KNOW?

South America is home to 12 unique countries, 7 of which you can visit on a Wendy Wu tour. Each of these destinations individually boasts incredible sites, landscapes and culture, waiting to be discovered...

BRAZIL'S AMAZON FOREST IS THE
LARGEST
NATURAL RAINFOREST IN THE WORLD
AT 2.7 MILLION SQUARE MILES



THERE ARE
10 MILLION
ALPACAS IN THE WORLD
& THREE-QUARTERS OF
THEM **LIVE IN PERU**



THE ATACAMA DESERT
IN CHILE IS THE
DRIEST PLACE
IN THE WORLD

THE ANDES MOUNTAINS ARE THE
LONGEST
MOUNTAIN RANGE IN THE WORLD



TANGO ORIGINATED
IN THE 1880'S
IN ARGENTINA'S
CAPITAL CITY,
BUENOS AIRES



IN 1978
UNESCO DESIGNATED
THE GALAPAGOS AS
THE **1ST EVER WORLD**
HERITAGE SITE

YOU CAN FIND
4 DIFFERENT
SPECIES OF PENGUIN
IN CHILE

BREATH-TAKING BORNEO

Wendy Wu Tours' Product Coordinator, Damon Wiechnik shares his experiences on his travels to Borneo.



Damon on tour

TAKE ME THERE
BEST OF BORNEO.
FROM \$6,490^{PP}
FOR 16 DAYS.

Borneo: the image conjures up images of orangutans, and jungles. What was it like arriving, your first impressions?

On first arrival Borneo was very hot and humid and very green. It actually reminded me in some ways of Hawaii and Cairns. It was easier to get around than you might imagine and it was quite clean and relaxed. We also arrived a few days after the election and there was definitely a real positive energy amongst everyone we talked to that it had been a good outcome for Malaysia.

You also went to Sepilok. Tell us what it was like seeing the orangutans?

Orangutans are really amazing. They are quite beautiful and playful animals and we were able to get much closer and interact with them much more than I was expecting. I was amazed at how much some of them seemed to love getting attention, while some of the others were quite shy. I definitely think that they were one of the highlights of Borneo, especially getting to see some of the younger orangutans.

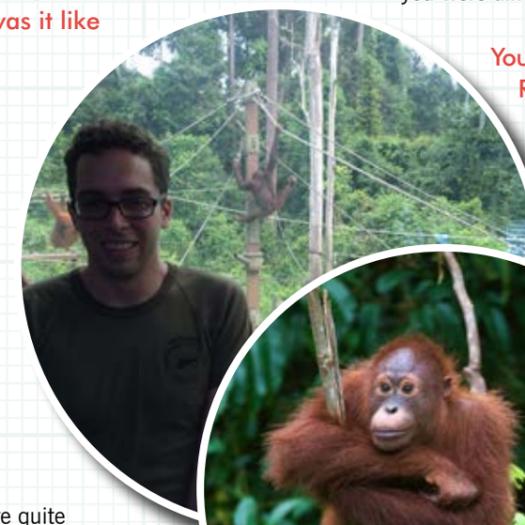
You visited Kota Kinabalu. Tell us about the city?

Kota Kinabalu is an amazing city. The hills and the water split the city up quite a bit so it feels surprisingly open and airy while still feeling like you are in an important centre. It has an amazing mix of mainland Malaysian and local culture, as well as strong Chinese and Indian communities. The city was easy to get around

and I think everyone in our group felt quite at-home there. There was so much good food, especially good Malaysian and Chinese food as well as an amazing amount of fried chicken. The trip to Mt. Kinabalu was very impressive. The mountain is stunningly beautiful and its amazing how much the climate changes between the city and the mountain. It was so much cooler and you felt like you were almost in a different country.

You went to the Sepilok Orangutan Rehab Centre and the Kinabatangan River. What was it like?

The Kinabatangan River is such an inspiring place to be. You really felt like you were in a remote rainforest. The boat trips up the river at dawn and dusk were spectacular. Especially watching the mists clear in the morning and seeing the forests stretch on up the river. We got to see so many animals in the wild, including proboscis monkeys and crocodiles as well as many different birds and smaller monkeys and orangutans. Also the Sepilok Rehab Centre was so amazing. Seeing all the work they were doing to rescue the orangutans, seeing the baby orangutans being cared for and then mixing with the adolescents. We stayed for hours just watching them and it felt like no time had passed at all. There is also this interesting Sun Bear Centre next door and the sun bears are very cute. It was incredible to get to see them from the canopy walks.



Land of Fire and Ice

An isolated sliver of land between the towering Andes and the Pacific Ocean, Chile boasts an incredible amount of sights packed into its length. Come with us on a journey through this extraordinary land, from the fire of the Atacama Desert in the north to the ice of Patagonia in the south - let us tell you, it is quite the adventure!



TAKE ME THERE

CHILE: TOP TO TOE.
FROM \$9,180^{PP}
FOR 15 DAYS.

ATACAMA DESERT

The driest place on earth, the Atacama is exactly what you'd imagine Mars to look like. Its stark beauty is in the simplicity of its shapes and colours - valleys and ridges formed of jagged triangles of rock and perfectly symmetrical volcanos all come in the same hues of red that shift to purples and blacks as the sun sets. These are the views you'll get from simply staying put in vibrant desert hub San Pedro de Atacama but venture deeper and you'll find a more varied palette. Vast rocky plains are broken by azure lakes populated with salmon-pink flamingos, the white geometric-patterns of a salt lake or the yellowish billows of steam produced by the geothermic pools and geysers. Being so dry, the Atacama is also the ideal place to stargaze; the night sky here is beyond compare, with galaxies, planets and constellations easy for the naked eye to feast on, night after night. Trust us when we say that the Atacama Desert is unlike anywhere you've experienced before!



SANTIAGO DE CHILE

Nestled in a bowl created by the Andes mountains, whose peaks are easily visible from all over the city, Santiago is a lively and cosmopolitan place. Each of its vibrant neighbourhoods leaves a unique impression - stately Centro, for example, is full of colonial architecture, Bellavista gives a relaxed and bohemian vibe while Barrios Brasil is a bit more boisterous. On the coast, 100 kilometres from the capital, the port city of Valparaiso has a ramshackle, roguish charm. Perched on the cliffs above the industrial seafront are its UNESCO-listed cerros neighbourhoods. Here, the narrow streets lined with colourful painted clapboard houses, chic cafes and boutiques, and artfully dilapidated mansions with astonishing views of the Pacific. Reached by rickety old funicular lifts, as you wander the maze you'll find some incredible street art and a trendy, laidback vibe.



LAKE DISTRICT

Thanks to a long resistance to the advances of both the Inca and the Spanish, Chile's Lake District was long a region of simple farming settlements and the indigenous Mapuche people. Much of its thick forest remains intact today, dotted with deep lakes and watched over by snow-capped volcanoes. Towns such as Puerto Varas, on the banks of Lake Llanquihue, blend in with surroundings with an Alpine-esque style and offer a gateway in the gorgeous nature that it nestles in. The close by cone of Volcan Osorno offers hikes on its forested slopes in the summer, and skiing in the winter, whilst around it's foot are waterfalls and lush greenery to explore. You can also venture to the Chiloé Island, part of an archipelago just off the coast, home to pastoral landscapes steeped in folklore and, often, an enigmatic fog. Chile is best known for its 150 charming wooden churches and the much photographed 'palafitos', colourful houses perched above the water on stilts.



PATAGONIA

Encompassing the tip of the South American continent, Patagonia is a region of wild grey seas, ice and rock. Its landscapes are pristine and, thanks to its huge scale, incredibly diverse. From the colourful town of Puerto Natales, you can cruise the desolate waters of the Ultima Esperanza fjord to spot sea lions, snow-capped mountains and glaciers, before heading to Chilean Patagonia's headline attraction, the Torres del Paine National Park. Centred around a massif of towering granite columns, the eponymous torres, this national park showcases the very best of Patagonia's dramatic landscapes. Alpine valleys, grass meadows, dramatic peaks, sparkling blue lakes abound, all watched over by the mighty Grey glacier, this is nature at its most magnificent, and totally unmissable.





Experience THE CHILE ECLIPSE

TAKE ME THERE
CHILE ECLIPSE
& ATACAMA.
FROM \$9,980^{PP}
FOR 12 DAYS

On the 2nd July 2019, a small strip of northern Chile and Argentina will witness a rare and incredible phenomenon, a total solar eclipse. Just before sunset, the moon will pass between the sun and the earth, blocking the sun completely for 2 minutes in a breathtaking and unique display. One of the best places to view the eclipse will be in the spectacular Elqui Valley in Le Serena. Thanks to its high altitude and typically clear skies, this area has been identified by astrologers as one of the best spots to star-gaze. It even has a few permanent international observatories - what better place to view a celestial total solar eclipse!

If you weren't already sold, the valley is also home to one of Chile's premier wine region's and famous for the traditional Chilean tippie Pisco. Imagine – sipping and stargazing – your perfect South American experience.

Join our eclipse expert, astrologist Dr Stuart Clark on one of our three specially created itineraries to take in this once in a lifetime phenomenon.



48 HOURS IN SHANGHAI

Shanghai grew in importance in the 19th-century due to its favourable port location at the mouth of the Yangtze River. Today it presents a blend of cultures – the modern and the traditional – along with the European and oriental. Here's how to spend the perfect 48 hours...



TAKE ME THERE
GLORIES OF CHINA.
FROM \$4,380^{PP}
FOR 14 DAYS.

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

Day One

MORNING

Visit the famous historical riverfront known as the Bund and view the Pudong area, including the iconic Oriental Pearl Tower, across the river. The tower is the world's 6th largest TV tower, its photogenic jewel attracts thousands of visitors year-round.

PIT STOP

See the superb antiques and fine arts at the Shanghai Museum, situated on the People's Square in the Huangpu District.

AFTERNOON

Head to the Old Town where cobblestone streets are lined with traditional shops. The old city is the area enclosed by the ancient wall and is undeniably picturesque.

AFTER DARK

Sip cocktails and dine on local delights while taking in the gleaming lights of the city illuminated. Later cruise along the Huangpu River which splits the city into the old and the new.

Day Two

MORNING

Walk off your breakfast by taking a relaxing walk through the Yu Garden, enjoy rockeries, ponds, pavilions, temples and equisetic gardening art, the inspiration for willow pattern china.

PIT STOP

Before lunch, visit a silk museum, a popular pit stop for travelling shopaholics looking to master the art of the local fabric.

AFTERNOON

Prepare your feet and your wallets as you venture to Nanjing Road, stretching for almost 5km with over 600 local businesses every type of souvenir you could ever dream of taking home can be found here. The street also boasts world-class hotels, theatres, historical stores and much more.

AFTER DARK

Shanghai enjoys a lively nightlife, whether you prefer to sit in a peaceful jazz bar, check out underground nightclubs or bust your groove in the nearest karaoke club, there is bound to be an after dark destination to suit your style.

TOP SHANGHAI EXPERIENCES



Visit a silk museum



Explore the Yu Garden



Walk along the Bund



Enjoy a cocktail in a rooftop bar

Tailor-Made TASTEBUD TOURING

There's never been a more exciting time to be a foodie, especially when it comes to travel. So how can you chase the whims of your tastebuds on a Wendy Wu tour? With a Tailor-Made holiday. A nip and a tuck on one of our itineraries might be all it takes to get you into some of the planet's best restaurants... or let us serve up a completely specialised new holiday exactly to your taste!

Dining under the (Michelin) stars in Tokyo

Japan's capital has had the highest number of Michelin-starred establishments for the last decade. Food is one of the finest of arts in Japan, intricately studied by its chefs for years on end, and served with reverence to the seasons, immense pride in local produce and the utmost in hospitality. For a traditional 'kaiseki' meal – the Japanese answer to degustation, with each course decorated with flowers - book way ahead for Ginza Kojyu, or the innovative Azabu Yukimura. For local foodie flair and a much more humble price tag, try ramen soup at Tsuta or Nakiryu, both in the Toshima-ku neighbourhood.

From street to haute cuisine in Hanoi

Hanoi is the perfect combination of Vietnamese culinary tradition and French joie de vivre. Famously fragrant pho soup can be found throughout Hanoi's old town. Eat for breakfast or morning tea like the locals do; by the afternoon, the vibe has changed to bia hoi, the city's renowned cheap and cheerful local draft beer. By dinner, the candles are lit and the locals have changed into their best silks for a gastronomic scene unrivalled for its fusion of east meets west. The outdoor courtyard of Green Tangerine resembles a Parisian scene of curlicued cast iron and stuccoed walls, but the rich spices of the sometimes experimental fusion cuisine here keeps you firmly in the Orient. Nineteen 11 restaurant, offers fine dining in the basement of the continental mustard-hued Hanoi Opera House.

Dine like a maharaja in Rajasthan

India's desert state is known worldwide for its incredible palaces, forts and richly decorated merchant's havelis, yet it's the elegant, generous hospitality received by visitors that makes Rajasthan a must visit. For the most opulent surrounds, service and fine cuisine, a dine atop the famous Amer Fort at the atmospheric 1135AD eatery, surrounded by gold and crystal dining from a silver plate. Even at street level, the Rajasthani people take their cuisine a little further. The wonderful Indian tasting feast named 'thali' – with a little bit of everything, from house specialty curries to a dessert nibbly – reaches the next level of generosity in Rajasthan. Traditionally, as soon as you help yourself to a dish, your host will top it back up again! Don't try to outpace them; just enjoy the indulgence.

A TASTE OF ASIA

THAI GREEN PAPAYA SALAD

PREPARATION

Whisk first 5 ingredients in a medium bowl. Set dressing aside. Cook beans in medium saucepan of boiling salted water until crisp-tender, about 5 minutes. Rinse under cold water. Cut into 2-inch pieces. Using julienne peeler, peel enough papaya to measure 6 cups. Place in large bowl. Add tomatoes, cilantro, green onions, chile, and green beans. Pour dressing over; toss. Sprinkle peanuts over and serve.

INGREDIENT TIPS:

Palm sugar, fish sauce (nam pla or nuoc nam), dried shrimp, Chinese long beans, green papaya, and Thai chiles can all be found at Asian markets.

Recipe from epicurious.com

INGREDIENTS MAKES 6 SERVINGS

- 5 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 3 tablespoons (packed) palm sugar or golden brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons fish sauce
- 2 tablespoons dried shrimp, chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 Chinese long beans, halved crosswise or 15 green beans
- 2 (5kg) green papaya, peeled, halved, seeded
- 10 large cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 green onions, very thinly sliced
- 1 fresh red Thai chile with seeds, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons coarsely chopped salted peanuts

Special Equipment

- Julienne peeler or box grater

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