

# WHISPERS

Travel inspiration from the destination experts

**Explore Egypt and  
Antarctica in 2021**

**Unforgettable  
Japan**

Amazing experiences that  
should be at the top of your list

**Going Solo**

Discover more than 50 dedicated solo  
departures on our most popular tours

**Holiday in your  
own backyard**

New tours to Australia  
and New Zealand

**China's Top 7**

Our team's pick of the best  
attractions in China

**iVamos a  
Latinoamerica!**

Why we love sensational Latin America

**TRAVEL SAFE WITH US IN 2021 AND BEYOND**

Low deposit | Flexible booking guarantee | No risk booking | Travel Safe Protocols

## WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER HOLIDAY EDITION OF WHISPERS MAGAZINE

Within our magazine we are delighted to share our love of travel and adventure with you. 2020 has been a year like no other, but we look to 2021 and beyond with optimism and hope that together we can begin to rediscover our world with you.

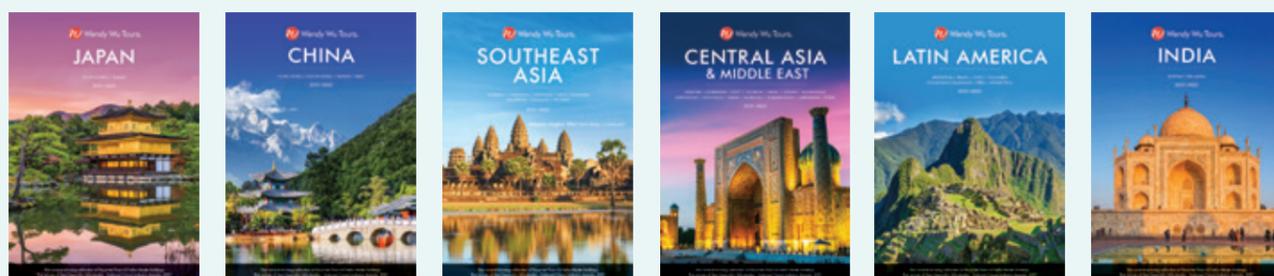
We have launched our new collection of brochures for 2021-22, packed with our most popular tours plus exciting new additions including the Middle East and Antarctica, which are featured for the very first time! We are especially thrilled to introduce our 'holiday in your own backyard collection', thoughtfully handcrafted tours that feature our own dynamic country and our friend 'across the ditch', New Zealand.

As a result of recent events, booking flexibility, plus safety and wellbeing whilst travelling, are more important than ever. We have introduced our Book with Confidence guarantee and pioneering Travel Safe protocols which have been implemented across our tour range to give you peace of mind and confidence in your booking and holiday experience.

Our business has experienced many changes due to COVID, and whilst we haven't had the opportunity to do what we do best – take you to amazing destinations – we are most grateful and humbled by your ongoing support. While Christmas may look different this year, we do hope you are surrounded by loved ones and enjoy this special time.

We look forward to a much brighter 2021 and we hope our magazine continues to inspire and encourage you to fulfill your adventures. From the entire team at Wendy Wu Tours, we wish you a wonderful Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

## NEW BROCHURE COLLECTION OUT NOW



How to order your free copy: call us on **1300 727 998**, visit [wendywutours.com.au/brochures](http://wendywutours.com.au/brochures) or email us at [info@wendywutours.com.au](mailto:info@wendywutours.com.au). You can also download a digital version or [view online](#).

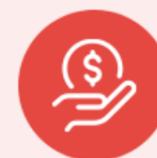
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Cover image: Cherry Blossoms along the Meguro River in Tokyo, Japan

## BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE GUARANTEE

Our Book with Confidence guarantee has been introduced to provide you with peace of mind when booking, allowing you to enjoy every moment of your holiday.



### Low deposit

Once you have selected your desired tour, you can secure your place with a **low deposit of only \$99 per person** for most tours. A second deposit is required for some tours.



### Extended payment terms

This means you won't need to pay your final balance until **75 days** prior to departure. If any tours or special offers require payment sooner, our Reservations team will notify you at the time of booking.



### No risk payment

In the event that your tour is cancelled due to government travel restrictions you can be confident that any payments made are safe: **100%** of deposits paid will be kept as credit towards future travel with us. Final balances paid within 75 days of departure can be refunded in full.



### Free amendment

One **free amendment** 75 days prior to departure should your plans change for any reason.



### Your safety is our priority

Every tour features our pioneering **Travel Safe** protocols. Turn to page 32 for details.



### Price match promise

Our tours are renowned for their comprehensive inclusions and exceptional value for money. We are so confident you won't find the same tours at better prices, that if you do, we'll not only match the lower price, but **reward you** for letting us know! Conditions apply.

Most of our group tours can be taken as **private tours**. Look out for this icon  throughout our magazine. Contact our Reservations team for a quote and further details.

## UPCOMING OFFERS

Keep a look out in your inbox for specials as they are released. You'll also hear about these on our [Facebook page](#) so be sure to follow us to be in the know!

Book with Confidence: Low deposit and extended payment terms may change depending on offers at the time. Second deposit required for tours to the Middle East, Australia, New Zealand, Central Asia and selected tours of China & Southeast Asia. No risk payment: Deposits include initial and any second deposits paid. Price Match Promise: Tours must be the same duration and date, following the same itinerary with the same inclusions and standard of accommodation. Flight inclusive bookings must also be based on the same airline and air routing. Should the same tour be available at a lower price with a competitor we will refund the price difference and offer a \$200 per person credit towards a future booking. Our price match promise applies if you find the same holiday at a lower price within one month of booking your tour with us. Tailor-Made holidays and Special Group holidays excluded.

YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST OF  
**AUSTRALIA**



While we've spent many years trailblazing across the world, 2021 will see the introduction of a very special destination that is close to our hearts. We're thrilled to be able to offer explorations of our very own wonderful land, in a way that only Wendy Wu can.

With an abundance of spectacular scenery, incredible wildlife and tantalizing cuisine, Australia is home to some of the most amazing sights - and best of all, they are right here in our own backyard.

**NEW TO 2021**

**Treasures of the Northern Territory & South Australia**

11 days | **Classic Group Tour**  
From \$7,999pp Twin Share

Includes accommodation, flights from Darwin to Alice Springs and Ayers Rock to Adelaide, all meals, sightseeing with guides and entrance fees



**1 Kakadu National Park**

Covering 20,000 square kms, Kakadu is dual heritage listed for its exceptional natural and cultural values. With over 65,000 years of Indigenous history, you'll be amazed at the intricate rock carvings, and a visit to the Warradjan Cultural Centre to learn about the local Bininj culture. Savour the stunning natural escarpments and abundance of birdlife in the park. Highlights include a cruise on the Yellow Water Billabong, home to saltwater crocodiles.

**2 Katherine Gorge (Nitmiluk)**  
Cruise through Katherine Gorge, a spectacular network of thirteen gorges carved from ancient sandstone. Admire the beautiful colours that reflect off the cliff faces and glow with the changing light. You'll be at its heart among freshwater crocodiles, wonderful birdlife and amazing scenery.



**3 Uluru**

The heart of the 'Red Centre' Uluru is sacred to the history and culture of the Indigenous people. Its spectacular sunrises and sunsets are a magical experience as the rock formations change colour before your very eyes. Experience this natural wonder at the Field of Light, the renowned art installation where Uluru comes to life under a sky awash with stars.



**4 Kings Canyon**

Prepare yourself for amazing scenery with imposing sandstone walls towering at 300 metres tall. Walking along the rim, take in views of the majestic palms below and the vast desert around you.



**5 Barossa Valley**

Experience South Australia's award-winning wine region and immerse yourself in all things food and wine! Here you'll visit renowned Penfolds Estate where you'll try your hand at blending your own wine and experience a cooking demonstration at Maggie Beer's Farm Shop.

THE LAND OF THE LONG WHITE CLOUD

# NEW ZEALAND



The 'land of the long white cloud', New Zealand is a small country with a big heart. Its unique history and vibrant culture provides an incredible amount to see and do – much of it outdoors where you can enjoy its renowned beautiful, natural scenery. This multi-cultural nation paves the way to a vibrant and embracing culture, inspired by ancient traditions and pioneering adventurers.

We're thrilled to offer two brand-new tours to New Zealand in 2021 which can be taken on their own or back to back.

**NEW TO 2021**

### Hidden Gold of the South

11 days | **Classic Group Tour**  
From \$7,480pp Twin Share

Includes international flights, accommodation, domestic transport, all meals, sightseeing with guides and entrance fees

Explore our Hidden Gems of the North tour online.



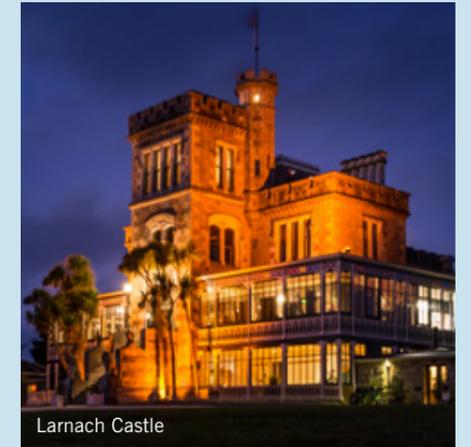
Fiordland

### 1 Overnight on a Fiordland Cruise

This wilderness cruise is perfect for travellers who want to dive into a remote corner of New Zealand and encounter its scenery, wildlife, and nature in utter seclusion away from the tourist circuit. It's a one-night experience that you will never forget.

### 2 Dinner at Larnach Castle

Discover New Zealand's only castle, built in 1871 by William Larnach, merchant baron and politician, for his beloved first wife Eliza. Enjoy a meal in the grand dining rooms of the Castle.



Larnach Castle



Queenstown

### 3 Queenstown

Best known as a winter wonderland with its world class ski fields, this adventure playground caters for all seasons and is home to some of the best culinary experiences in New Zealand.



Mount Cook

### 4 Mount Cook: Glacier Tour

Experience the Glacier Explorers tour to Mount Cook terminal lake. Enjoy an alpine walk through the National Park and take a short boat ride amongst icebergs of all shapes and sizes, to view the glacier ice face.



Yellow eyed penguins

### 5 Visit Otago Peninsula's penguins

The endangered Yellow eyed penguins are among the world's rarest and their name is derived from its yellow iris and distinct yellow headband.



SPOTLIGHT ON SVANETI

# Georgia

Framed to the north by the snow-capped peaks of the Caucasus Mountains and set among sweeping, flower-filled alpine meadows, there are few places more picturesque than the ancient villages of Svaneti, in north-west Georgia. The beauty of this region belies its turbulent history, which has seen invading armies from East and West including the Persians, the Mongols, the Turks and most recently the Russians.

The fiercely independent people who live here with their livestock are the Svans, whose language, customs and ethnicity are different from the rest of Georgia. Through history the Svans have been wary of outsiders and even now only a few visitors make it to this remote and unspoilt region each year. The most visible sign of Svaneti's violent past are its characteristic stone towers, sprinkled through the villages of the region, bearing witness to the defensive mindset of its people in centuries past.



1,000 year old tower houses of Svaneti

Svaneti's tower houses are part of a much wider 'family' of defensive towers built throughout Europe in the Middle Ages, most famously at San Gimignano in Tuscany but also in Scotland, Ireland, England, France, Spain and the Basque region. Historians suggest the tower houses are a feature of regions where the state was weak, and families felt the need to defend themselves and their possessions against attackers.

Of all Europe's tower houses Svaneti's are among the most impressive. Each tower is around 20 to 25 metres high and includes five or six floors. Built for defence, they have few windows, and the walls are more than a metre thick on the ground floor level.

Most were built between the 8th and 12th centuries and the newest as recently as the 18th century. With their impressive defensive architecture and stunning setting among the Caucasus Mountains it isn't hard to see why Svaneti's towers were awarded UNESCO World Heritage protection in 1996.



More tours to  
Central Asia

**Road to Samarkand**  
23 days | [Go Beyond Tour](#)  
From \$13,420pp

Find yourself amongst the beauty of the desert, sailing the vivid waters of Issyk Kul, and wandering the atmospheric streets of Samarkand.

**Journey through Central Asia**  
28 days | [Go Beyond Tour](#)  
From \$16,900pp

This extraordinary tour encompasses the '5 Stans', Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

NEW TO 2021

**Ultimate Uzbekistan**   
13 days | [Classic Group Tour](#)  
From \$8,240pp

Experience the home of a mesmerising collection of ancient cities and timeless architecture, all deeply infused with the history of the Silk Road in Uzbekistan.

## TAKE ME THERE



**Gems of Georgia** NEW TO 2021

12 days | [Classic Group Tour](#)

From \$6,280pp Tour can be booked as a private tour

With one foot in Europe, the other in Asia and years spent behind the Iron Curtain, as well as a history rooted in ancient empires, Georgia offers up a rich and unique heritage to those who explore it.



**Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan**

24 days | [Go Beyond Tour](#)

From \$9,890pp

This tour explores three nations with a rich and complex shared history but numerous charms of their very own. Discover dramatic landscapes, vibrant cultures, traditions rich in history and welcoming friendly locals.

# DREAMS OF EGYPT

A mythical destination on the wishlist of travellers since antiquity, we're delighted to help you discover Egypt the Wendy Wu Tours way from 2021. Here's our guide to the highlights of this astounding country from top to bottom.



The Nile



Spices at market



## Alexandria

Alex, as it's affectionately known, has been a cosmopolitan gateway to Egypt for centuries and today retains a charming air with its old cafes and bustling corniche. Ancient history can still be found in the Roman theatre and renowned Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa, whilst the more recent WWII battlefields of El Alamein are just a short drive away.



## Cairo

Perhaps the greatest Islamic city in the world, Cairo is home to the incredible Pyramids of Giza, the Great Sphinx and the renowned Egyptian Museum, a treasure trove of ancient wonders. Cheek by jowl with the modern city lie grand mosques, historic Coptic churches and bustling souqs full of life and colour.



## Luxor

Luxor boasts such a huge array of historic monuments - it's often referred to as the world's greatest open-air museum. On the east bank of the Nile lies the vast temple complex at Karnak and exquisite Luxor Temple, whilst to the west are the mysterious tombs of the Valley of the Kings and the striking Temple of Hatshepsut.



## The Nile

Egypt is often said to be the gift of the Nile and a cruise from Luxor upriver to Aswan is a supremely relaxing way, not only to discover some awe-inspiring ancient sites, but also to watch the timeless scenes of river life drift by as you sail.



## Aswan

Laidback Aswan occupies an undeniably romantic setting perched between the sparkling waters of the Nile and soaring sand dunes. Home to the famous Philae Temple, relocated stone by stone to avoid the rising waters of the Aswan High Dam, it's a wonderful place to relax and watch traditional feluccas ply the waters of the great river.

## TAKE ME THERE

NEW TO 2021

### Dreams of Egypt

13 days | **Classic Group Tour**  
From \$8,780pp

Egypt has hosted many ancient wonders through its illustrious history and remains a country steeped in mystery and legend, all waiting to be explored. This tour offers famous monuments and temples, a cruise along the world's longest river and many bazaars to perfect your bargaining skills.

**Including:** International flights, accommodation, visa fees, all transportation, 5-star Nile cruise, all meals, touring with Egyptologists and entrance fees.

 Tour can be booked as a private tour

# ANTARCTICA CRUISING

We're absolutely delighted to bring you Antarctic expedition cruising from 2021. This pristine wilderness remains an adventurer's wonderland, remote and untamed, from the stunning ethereal beauty of a gigantic iceberg to the abundance of wildlife and tales of explorers from a bygone era. Antarctica is an awe-inspiring destination unlike any other.

Life on an expedition cruise is a world away from regular cruising. Time on deck is spent admiring icebergs sailing by or whales breaching, whilst exploring is done by Zodiac excursions, on foot, by sea kayaking or even paddle boarding. There's the chance to camp out overnight on some voyages and time at sea can be spent enjoying lectures and workshops from the onboard team of Antarctica experts.

"You are about to have an experience of a lifetime"

David Attenborough



## Antarctic Peninsula

The Antarctic Peninsula is a 1,300 kilometer stretch of land and ice extending northward from the Antarctic continent towards South America. An ice-bound world of towering, sculpted icebergs and shimmering glaciers, this ethereal landscape is home to countless penguins, graceful seals, a host of whale species including minke, humpback, right, blue, sperm and orcas, and vast flocks of sea birds.

## South Georgia

South Georgia is home to astonishingly abundant wildlife including thousands of king penguins, Antarctic fur seals and giant petrels. The stunning landscape of gigantic mountains and dramatic fjords is also home to abandoned whaling stations and is the final resting place of the legendary polar explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton.

## Falkland Islands

The Falklands are renowned for their wildlife and their dramatic recent history. The startling white beaches are home to vast rookeries of penguins and the largest black browed albatross colony in the world, whilst the quirky capital Stanley boasts a quintessentially British character and fascinating reminders of the recent conflict.

## TAKE ME THERE

NEW TO 2021

### Antarctic Explorer

11 days | [Join in Tour](#)

From \$17,200pp\*

Embark on an extraordinary voyage, exploring some of the wildest and most remote places on earth. This is a classic voyage through the wild beauty of the Antarctic Peninsula, featuring abundant wildlife and spectacular scenery.

**Including:** Accommodation, visa fees, all transportation, all meals, expedition leaders and daily tours.

\*Prices based on twin cabin occupancy on the Ocean Diamond

For our full range of voyages to Antarctica, South Georgia & the Falkland Islands visit [wendywutours.com.au/antarctica](https://wendywutours.com.au/antarctica)



# Going solo but never alone

## New Dedicated Departures for Solo Travellers

Travelling solo doesn't have to mean travelling alone and that's certainly the case for anyone embarking on one of our sociable, escorted group tours. Not only do our tours allow you to travel totally carefree without the hassle of organising it yourself, but we've tailored some of our finest itineraries specifically with the solo traveller in mind.

As always, solo travellers are more than welcome on any Wendy Wu group tour but for those who want to travel in a ready-made group of like-minded individuals, we've reserved dedicated departures on

some of our most popular tours especially for you. So if you've ever dreamed of trekking China's Great Wall or seeing the silhouette of Angkor Wat against the golden sunset, you can experience it all and more in the company of solo travellers with a shared passion for exploring.

Brand new for 2021 and 2022, our dedicated solo departures not only let you share your wonderful experiences with other solo travellers, but also include a whole host of exclusive perks to make your trip even more special.

### No Single Supplement

With no single supplement to pay, you can enjoy the privacy of your own room throughout the entire trip without the additional cost.

### Travel in Style

Start and end your adventure in true style with complimentary chauffeur transfers to and from selected Australian airports. ^

### VIP Flyer

Enjoy exclusive airport lounge access where you can indulge and fully unwind before your flight. Available in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

### Small Group Size

Whereas our regular group tours take a maximum of 28 travellers, our new dedicated solo departures escort a maximum of just 18, making it much easier for everyone to get to know each other and enjoy the benefits of a smaller, close-knit group.

### Warm Welcome

On arrival, you'll also enjoy a welcome drinks reception with complimentary cocktails - the perfect opportunity to become acquainted with fellow group members.

### Want to join a regular group tour?

If you're a solo traveller joining one of our regular group tours, you can pay no single supplement by selecting our 'Happy to Share' option. That means we will buddy you up in a twin room with someone of the same gender. If that's not possible, you'll have the room to yourself!

Of course, if you'd prefer to have your own room by paying the single supplement, this amount can be found on all tour pages.

^ Australian transfers on solo departures based on 50km radius in selected states. Airport lounge passes available at selected Australian airports only. Happy to share: When booking more than 80 days prior to departure, single travellers on fully inclusive Classic Tours and Go Beyond Tours may avoid paying the Single Supplements by opting to travel on a 'happy to share' basis. Wendy Wu Tours will endeavour to match 'happy to share' travellers of the same gender booked on the same departure. In the event that we are unable to confirm a share partner, Wendy Wu Tours will confirm a single room at no extra charge. If the booking originated as a twin share booking and one traveller cancels, the remaining traveller will be charged the applicable single supplement. If the cancellation occurs more than 75 days prior to the tour departure date, the option to select 'happy to share' will apply if it is available on the selected tour. Our dedicated solo departures are guaranteed a single room with no additional supplement and do not have a 'happy to share' option.



Nara, Japan

## S Dedicated Solo Departures

### Japan

- A Week in Japan**  
from \$8,680
- Jewels of Japan**  
from \$10,490
- Discover Japan**  
from \$12,140
- Japan Uncovered**  
from \$12,980

### Southeast Asia

- Vietnam at a Glance**  
from \$5,280
- Vietnam Panorama**  
from \$6,040
- Around Cambodia**  
from \$5,580
- Angkor to the Bay**  
from \$7,380
- Classic Mekong**  
from \$8,080

### China

- In Pursuit of Pandas**  
from \$4,030
- A China Experience**  
from \$4,320
- Glories of China**  
from \$5,400
- Majestic Yangtze**  
from \$5,860
- Wonders of China**  
from \$6,850
- Magnificent China**  
from \$7,080

### India

- Golden Triangle**  
from \$5,560
- Inspiring India**  
from \$6,080
- Highlights of Sri Lanka**  
from \$8,180



# DISCOVER THE SUB-CONTINENT

We're shining the spotlight on two of the Indian Sub-continent's most fascinating and beautiful regions.

## Kerala

Known for its peaceful backwaters and stunning tea-covered hills, the serene South Indian state of Kerala feels a world away from the bustle of India's inner cities. Our 9-day tour provides the perfect glimpse into the region's wonderful wilderness, delicately spiced cuisine, and laidback way of life, with a round trip starting and ending in Kochi – the gateway to Kerala.

After a stop at the cascading Athirapally Waterfalls, spend a day journeying through emerald forests and wildlife reserves bursting with vibrant birds and fascinating animals, before reaching the lush tea plantations of Munnar. Explore the delights of Thekkady, one of Kerala's most nature-rich areas, including Periyar Lake where you may even be lucky enough to spot the herd of wild elephants that come to bathe in the waters.

A signature Kerala experience and a highlight of the entire trip is the time spent onboard a kettuvalam, a traditional Kerala houseboat. As you meander through the backwaters, soak up the stunning surroundings passing lush paddy fields, towering palms and pleasant lakeside villages – an experience that's soul-soothing in every way.



Backwaters, Kerala, India

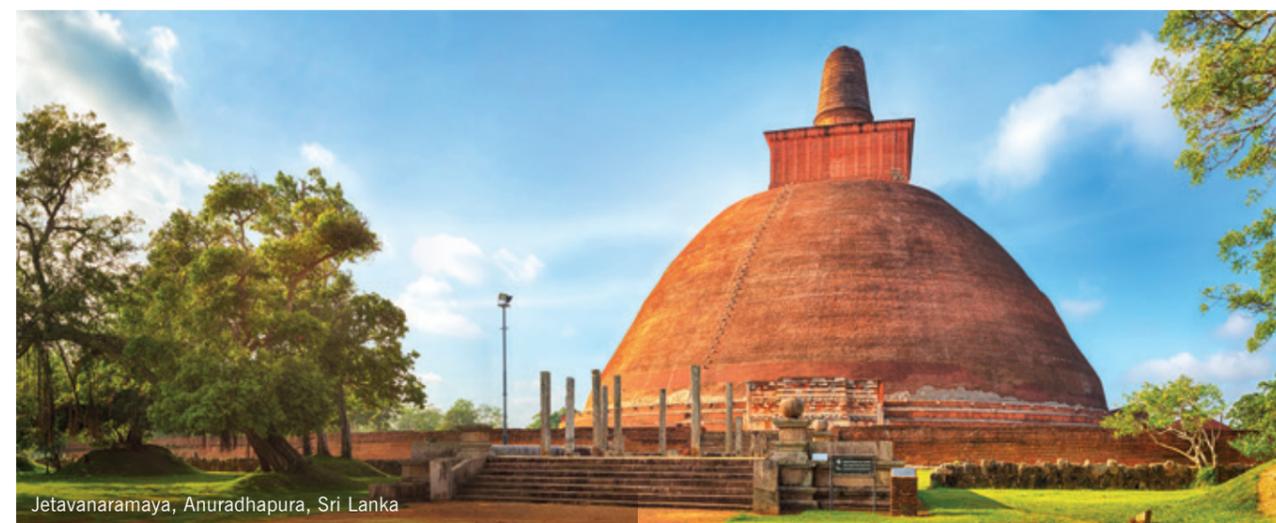
## Northern Sri Lanka

The diversity of Sri Lanka's impressive landscapes is irresistible for travellers. From rainforest-rich peaks to untrodden beaches, and over 2,000 years of culture to explore in between, the allure of the scenery, wildlife and historical offerings is simply too much to ignore, and our 10-day itinerary showcases the very best that the north and east of the island has to offer.

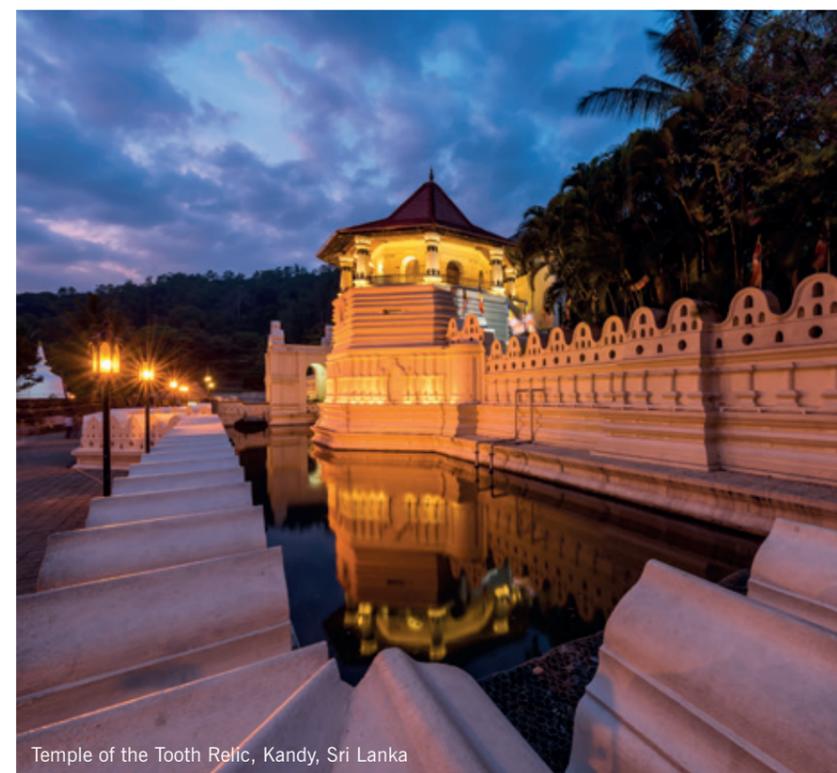
Beginning and ending in the capital, Colombo, the trip starts with a fantastic jeep safari through Wilpattu National Park where you can spot sloth bear, mongoose, leopards and even elephants. Before heading further north, explore the historical

wonders of UNESCO World Heritage-listed Anuradhapura, the first capital of ancient Ceylon and home to the 2,250-year-old sacred Bo Tree.

Time on Sri Lanka's northern tip in the cultural hub of Jaffna is spent visiting Buddhist and Hindu temples, hot springs and vibrant markets. Then, after travelling along the northeastern coast, discover one of the world's finest natural harbours, Trincomalee, where you'll find even more sacred and religious sites, and can soak up the slow-paced lifestyle of this pretty seaside city. And no trip to Sri Lanka would be complete without a visit to the UNESCO-listed Temple of the Tooth Relic – heart of Sri Lanka's cultural capital Kandy and its most sacred Buddhist temple.



Jetavanaramaya, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka



Temple of the Tooth Relic, Kandy, Sri Lanka

NEW TO 2021

### Kerala Experience

9 days | **Classic Group Tour**  
From 4,180pp

Including: International flights, accommodation, visa fees, all transportation, all meals, touring with guides and entrance fees.

Tour can be booked as a private tour

NEW TO 2021

### Northern Sri Lanka Explorer

10 days | **Go Beyond Tour**  
From 5,790pp

Including: International flights, accommodation, visa fees, all transportation, most meals, touring with guides and entrance fees.

Tour can be booked as a private tour



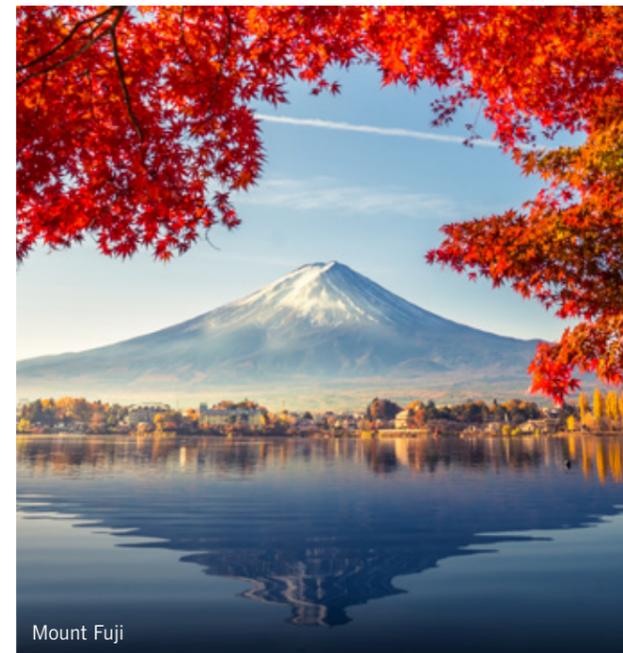
# Japan

## UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES

2020 was a year full of promise and excitement for Japan, a fascinating and unique country, pulsating and bright, mysterious and mythical. As we know, 2020 didn't work out how we, or Japan quite imagined, with the Tokyo Olympics a high-profile fallout from the global pandemic.

Now, the Government in Japan are more determined than ever to get the show back on, with the rescheduled games now taking place next summer. The Government also recently announced its intention to re-open for tourism in early 2021.

Japan is packed with futuristic cities, imperial heritage and unique culture. Add in epic natural beauty and phenomenal cuisine and you have a dream destination just begging to be explored. But to truly 'get under the skin' of Japan, these experiences will turn your holiday from great into truly unforgettable...



Mount Fuji

### Iconic Mount Fuji

Standing proud at 3,776 metres, Mount Fuji or Fuji-san is one of three sacred mountains of Japan, yet the most recognizable without a doubt. Of course, ascending Mount Fuji for spectacular views is an absolute must for any visitor, however, did you know there is so much to see and do around Mount Fuji? Enjoy a relaxing cruise on Lake Ashi, take to the skies on the Komagatake Railway Ropeway or be at one with nature as you hike at the base of the mountain.



You'll also have magnificent views of Mount Fuji from Hakone (weather permitting of course).

### Zip around by bullet train

Japan's rail network is one of the most extensive and efficient in the world making travel by train one of the fastest and most convenient ways to explore the country. The network extends to every corner of Japan and is incredibly punctual with Japan's bullet trains among some of the fastest in the world.



Travelling by bullet train or Shinkansen is the perfect way to view the amazing scenery from your window and is a must when visiting Japan.



Bullet train



Sagano Bamboo Forest

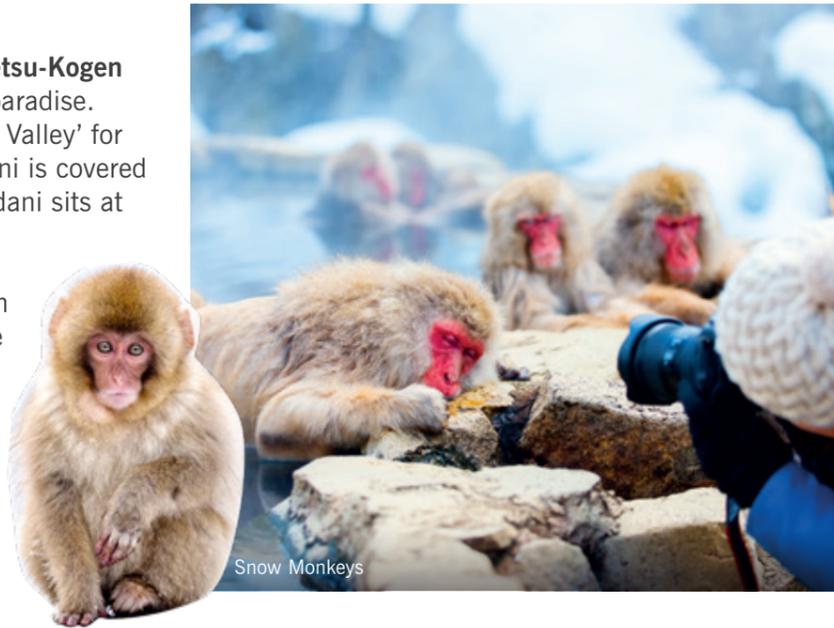
### Sagano Bamboo Forest

Sagano Bamboo Forest is a sight to behold and a photographer's paradise. Located in **Arashiyama** on the outskirts of Kyoto, this sprawling grove comprises of towering green stalks of bamboo.

It has been named one of the "100 Soundscapes of Japan" by the Japanese Ministry of Environment due to the sound of the rustling bamboo, a selection of everyday sounds intended to encourage locals to stop and appreciate nature's music.

## Visit the Snow Monkeys

Located north from Tokyo in **Joshinetsu-Kogen National Park** is a Snow Monkey's paradise. Known by ancient Japanese as 'Hell Valley' for its unforgiving landscapes, Jigokudani is covered in snow for most of the year. Jigokudani sits at 850 metres above sea level, and the snow falls over one metre thick. The valley is one of the few places in the world where visitors can observe these social animals in their natural environment. Walking through a picturesque, forested valley, you will reach the steaming hot pools where the beautiful Japanese Macaques, or Snow Monkeys bathe and play in the water.



Snow Monkeys

## A cup of tea

The 'way of tea' is a tradition steeped in history. **Kyoto** is one of the best destinations to experience this ceremony of preparing and drinking green tea in a traditional tearoom with tatami flooring. The serene and peaceful atmosphere can be enjoyed more with tea in hand, away from the hustle and bustle of daily life.



Onsen

It is said that the hot mineral water of a winter onsen combined with the cold air makes you more relaxed.

## Relax in an onsen

Central to Japanese culture for centuries, an onsen or hot spring can be found all over Japan, in fact there are thousands given Japan is a volcanic country. The water contains minerals which are thought to have physical and health benefits and there are many different onsen including indoor and outdoor, natural and man-made. For a truly magical experience, try an outdoor onsen in spring with the beautiful cherry blossoms or for the brave, a winter onsen.



Nara Park

## Doe a Deer

Founded in 1880 at the base of Mount Wakaksu is the 1,200-hectare **Nara Park**, where more than 1,200 wild Sika deer roam. For the Shinto faith Nara Park has long been an important place of worship and is home to the Todai-ji, Kofuku-ji and Kasuga shrine. Even today, deer have free reign over the city and are very comfortable among humans. Because of this they have an enduring bond with the park and are deeply revered in Japanese culture that they have been officially classified as a national treasure.

## Nature at its best

**Cherry blossoms** have been an inspiration for poetry writing and painting for centuries. Hanami, translates to 'looking at flowers'. Spring is one of the most popular times to experience Japan with the soft pink flowers in bloom, locals enjoying picnics underneath the trees or trees lit up by lanterns at night. In complete contrast the **autumn leaves season** brings a multitude of maple and ginkgo trees ablaze with leaves in rich, vibrant shades of red, yellow and orange. Autumn leaves in the Japanese Alps makes for a spectacular sight.



Cherry Blossoms



Shibuya Crossing

A visit to Tokyo isn't complete until you walk across what is arguably the world's most famous pedestrian crossing, **Shibuya Crossing**.

## Experience Tokyo

A big, bright and brash city, **Japan's capital** perfectly epitomises the clash of modern and traditional, futuristic and era's gone by. As modern as it may appear, behind the neon façade is a traditional soul that can be found in the alleyways, temples and shrines of the Edo era.

Today, Tokyo offers an abundance of museums, temples, shopping, culinary gems and gardens. Be sure to visit Tokyo Skytree, the world's tallest tower for amazing views, Sensoji Temple and enjoy a cruise on Tokyo Bay at night, the perfect vantage point to admire the bright lights of the city.



## Stay in a monastery

Spend the night in a tatami mat room in a monastery at holy mountain **Koyasan**. Rising early to join the monks for their daily morning service to hear the recitation and chanting is an uplifting experience. Koyasan is one of Japan's holiest sites and home to over 100 monasteries nestled in a valley enclosed by peaks said to resemble a lotus flower.



## Food glorious food

One cannot visit Japan and not mention the amazing and fresh culinary delights. From fresh sashimi and sushi to delicate hand-made noodles and steaming ramen, you will be spoilt for choice. Whether you are dining at a Michelin star restaurant, Tokyo's Robot restaurant or a traditional little eatery you are in for a treat. On some of our tours you'll try your hand at **making sushi**, handmade **soba noodles** and **maple leaf buns**.



**Off-Beat Japan**  
14 days  
**Go Beyond Tour**  
From \$10,340pp

Tokyo | Mt Fuji | Snow Monkeys | Japanese Alps | Kyoto | Osaka



**Japan Uncovered**  
14 days  
**Fully Inclusive Tour**  
From \$11,690pp

Osaka | Nara | Kyoto | Hiroshima | Kanazawa | Snow Monkeys | Tokyo



NEW TO 2021

**Japan By Rail**  
22 days  
**Fully Inclusive Tour**  
From \$13,390pp

Nagasaki | Hiroshima | Osaka | Kanazawa | Snow Monkeys | Tokyo | Sendai | Sapporo



**Discover Japan**  
14 days  
**Fully Inclusive Tour**  
From \$10,380pp

Tokyo | Mount Fuji | Takayama | Kyoto | Nara | Koyasan | Osaka

All Tours can be booked as a private tour

# EXPLORING SEOUL

South Korea is an unexplored slice of East Asia. A land of ancient ruins, romantic legends, natural wonders, extraordinary landscapes and packed modern cities, South Korea can trace its history back half a million years.

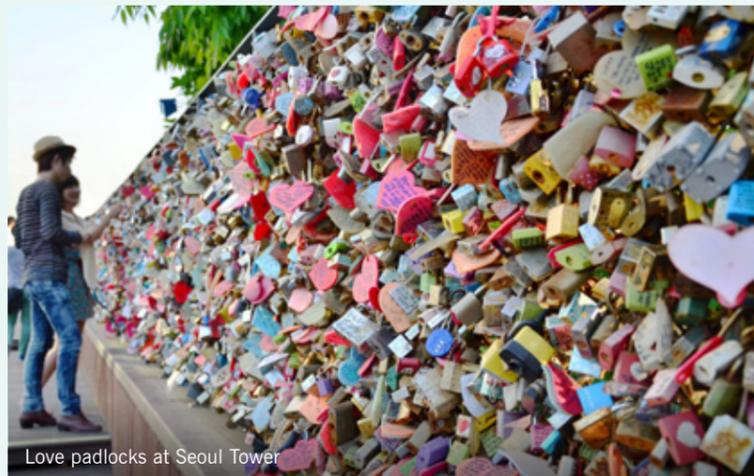
These days most cities consist of a new fashionable area with coffee shops and karaoke bars, but in these same cities you will also find the Korea of old; alleyways and street markets in an intriguing maze where vendors sell everything, just as they have done for hundreds of years.



Our Graphic Designer, Kimi tells us about her favourite spots in the country's capital Seoul. This dynamic metropolis is where modern skyscrapers, shopping malls and pop culture meet Buddhist temples, palaces and street markets. Here are Kimi's top picks.

## Seoul Tower

Standing at 236m with a 360-degree panoramic view of Seoul - this is one view you don't want to miss. Don't forget to also try the Sky Restroom which is located in the observation deck with breathtaking views.



Love padlocks at Seoul Tower



Seoul Tower



Gyeongbok

## Gyeongbok Palace

Gyeongbok Palace was the main royal palace of the Joseon Dynasty, built in 1395. The palace has been rebuilt after destruction several times, and today houses two museums, ornamental gardens and some of Seoul's most outstanding architectural sights.



The Royal Guard-Changing Ceremony



Insadong

## Insadong Antique Alley

Experience traditional Korean culture and art in Insadong Street, stretching over 700m. Stores here specialise in a wide variety of Korean goods including Chima Jeogori (traditional clothing), hanji (traditional paper), teas, pottery and folk crafts.



Myeongdong district

## Did someone say shopping?

Myeongdong Street in Seoul is a shopping mecca with many stores open until 11pm. You can find all sorts of items including cosmetics, clothes, and popular dining options. Not only is Myeongdong a popular retail precinct, it is also Seoul's commerce, banking, and culture hub.



## TIPS

South Korea celebrates its own cherry blossom and autumn leaves.

Cherry blossom season falls in March and April  
Autumn leaves season occurs mid-October to early November



Dakgangjeong

Tteok-bokki

## Street food

Street food is one of the best ways to experience the local culture! Here are a few must try dishes - Gangjeong: Korean fried chicken coated with a sweet soy sauce. Buchimgae: Korean pancake with seafood and kimchi. Gyeran-ppang: a popular street snack consisting of a light, fluffy sweet bread with a whole egg inside. Do you like spicy food? Then definitely try Tteok-bokki! These stir-fried rice cakes are marinated with Korean traditional spices (Gochujang).

## Scenic South Korea

14 days | **Classic Group Tour**  
From 9,350pp

Including: International flights, accommodation, all transportation, all meals, touring with guides and entrance fees.

Tour can be booked as a private tour

# ASIA'S HIDDEN GEM TAIWAN



Sun Moon Lake

When you visit Taiwan, don't be surprised if you're asked 'have you eaten' – a common phrase which is used as a greeting.

Taiwan is a fusion of cuisines – from Chinese, amazing Japanese and local Taiwanese specialties, finding something to eat won't be hard – dine on Taipei beef noodles, barbecued meat, braised pork rice and wash it down with local craft beer, fresh juice or Taiwan's famous drink - bubble tea.

However, Taiwan offers so much more than just delicious cuisine. This small country packs quite a punch and has done an exceptional job in handling

COVID-19, stemming the number of cases from the outset.

Our Treasures of Taiwan tour has been designed to explore the best of this small yet magical destination.

## Treasures of Taiwan

15 days | **Classic Group Tour**  
From \$6,890pp

Including: International flights, accommodation, all transportation, all meals, touring with guides and entrance fees.

 Tour can be booked as a private tour

Our Treasures of Taiwan tour explores this fascinating country in one comprehensive journey.

### Unwind in volcanic waters

Relax and unwind in the warm, mineral-rich volcanic waters of Chihpen. Your hotel has hot spring pools for you to enjoy.



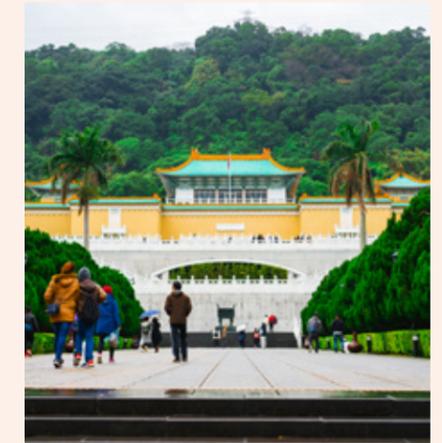
### Try Taiwanese whisky

You'll visit Taiwan's famous Kavalan Whisky Distillery where you'll learn about the process of making Taiwanese whisky.



### See the world's largest collection of Chinese art

Marvel at the world's largest and finest collection of Chinese art and artefacts in the National Palace Museum, Taipei.



### Marvel at a 36-metre Buddha

Explore Taiwan's largest monastery – Fo Guang Shan where you'll enjoy a vegetarian feast before wandering the gardens and seeing the incredible 36-metre Buddha that watches over a garden of smaller Buddhas.



### Stroll or cycle around Sun Moon Lake

Listed as one of the most beautiful places in the world, Sun Moon Lake is the largest body of water in Taiwan. The lake got its name as the east side of the lake is round, like the sun, while the west side is long and narrow, like a crescent moon.



### Explore Taiwan's oldest city

Explore Tainan – Taiwan's oldest city and the capital until 1887. Tainan was established as a port by the Dutch East India Trading Company. Traditional culture is still very much thriving and there are a number of dishes exclusive to the region.

## DID YOU KNOW?

It takes about eight hours to drive around the entire island of Taiwan!

# NEW TOURS AND EXTENSIONS FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA



Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, Thailand

We're thrilled to announce new tours and extensions in Southeast Asia for 2021-22. Discover the natural beauty of our latest destination, the Philippines, combine the very best of Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand on our Thailand & Mekong Experience, or extend your stay in Southeast Asia with short 4 or 5-night cruise extension.

## Thailand & Mekong Experience

Take in the highlights of Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand in one three-week adventure. Begin in historic Saigon, exploring the city's French colonial centre and the intriguing Cu Chi Tunnel network of the Viet Cong. Travel to Can Tho to board the 4\* Victoria Mekong ship, and spend four nights cruising upriver in style. Disembark in Cambodia's charming capital, Phnom Penh, and journey to Siem Reap to explore the jungle-swathed ruins of Angkor. From here, head west for a week exploring the highlights of Thailand. Discover the secrets of New Latitude wines at one of Thailand's only vineyards, go wild elephant-spotting in Kui Buri National Park, and end with a culinary cooking class in the northern city of Chiang Mai.



Angkor Wat, Cambodia

## Thailand & Mekong Experience

21 days | [Go Beyond Tour](#)  
From \$8,990pp

Including: International flights, accommodation, visa fees, all transportation, most meals, touring with guides and entrance fees.



Victoria Mekong Cruise

## CRUISE EXTENSIONS

Looking for a relaxing start or end to an adventure? Our cruise extensions can be added to your group tour or included as part of your own tailor-made package. Extensions are available as upstream or downstream itineraries allowing you to experience the most enchanting part of the Mekong.

On board the newly launched Victoria Mekong, enjoy sumptuous cuisine, relax in the library and cinema or why not indulge in a spa treatment? A highlight is experiencing traditional life on the Mekong with our cultural and immersive shore excursions.

Extra nights and upgrades to upper deck are bookable via our Reservations team.

### Victoria Mekong Downstream Extension

5 days | From \$1,390pp

Including: a 3-night Mekong River cruise, 1 night in Saigon. All meals are included on the ship; breakfast is included at your hotel in Saigon.

### Victoria Mekong Upstream Extension

6 days | From \$1,765pp

Including: 1 night in Saigon, a 4-night Mekong River cruise. All meals are included on the ship; breakfast is included at your hotel in Saigon.

## Philippines Discovery

From crater lakes to ribboning rice terraces, tarsier sanctuaries and picture-perfect hills, this adventure welcomes you into this Pacific archipelago's wild heart. This two-week itinerary encompasses the islands of Luzon, Bohol and Cebu. From Manila, travel north and enjoy relaxed hikes on the UNESCO-listed Hapao Rice Terraces, ascend Mt Pinatubo to view its phenomenal blue crater lake, and explore the Spanish colonial city of Vigan. Fly south to the island paradise of Bohol to discover its stunning Chocolate Hills, relax on a Loboc jungle cruise, and visit the Philippine Tarsier Sanctuary, home and refuge of the second smallest primate in the world. The tour ends in Cebu, with options

for private extensions to the scenic beaches of Boracay or El Nido.



Chocolate Hills, Philippines

## Philippines Discovery

15 days | [Go Beyond Tour](#)  
From \$6,390pp

Including: International flights, accommodation, visa fees, all transportation, all meals, touring with guides and entrance fees.

# CHINA

## TOP 7 ATTRACTIONS

Now we know this is going to be controversial – China is a country full of wonders – ancient, cultural, natural, man-made... how could we possibly choose just seven?



### 1. The Great Wall of China

China's most iconic sight, of course the Great Wall had to be on the list! Stretching from Shanhaiguan on the Bohai Sea to Lop Lake in the Gobi Desert – around 6,437 kilometres, many sections of the wall are easily accessible from Beijing. Whether you want an easy walk on a well-preserved section of the wall, or a slightly wilder, snaking-through-the-barren-hills type experience, the Great Wall can be one of the most exciting, magnificent and unbelievable things you'll ever see.



### 2. Forbidden City

At the very heart of Beijing, the vast complex of the Forbidden City is one of the capital's most extraordinary sights. Home to China's emperors and out of bounds to the public for 500 years, this labyrinth of exquisite traditional architecture, perfectly symmetrical, covers 180 acres and is the world's largest palace complex. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987 there is no better place to imagine the life of an imperial emperor.



### 3. Li River

The magical scenery of the Li River has long been the muse of many an artist and poet; in fact, it is so beloved that it even appears on the 20-yuan bank note! The lush countryside, dotted with towering limestone peaks, is best admired on a river cruise between the city of Guilin and the charming town of Yangshuo. From the water you'll glimpse a different side to China, where the pace of life is slow, conical hatted farmers tend to their paddy fields and water buffalo sit contentedly in the shallows. Explore the area further from Yangshuo on foot, by bike or by raft.



### 4. Giant Pandas

The world's most celebrated bear and at the heart of a huge conservation effort, the giant panda is China's loveable mascot. Around 80% of the world's population of pandas call Sichuan province home so this is the best place to see them. Chengdu Panda Research Base, located just 10 kilometres from the centre of the city, is easily accessible. Here you can see pandas of all ages enjoying life in surroundings that are very similar to their natural habitat in the nearby mountains. For a more rural, less busy encounter, try Dujiangyan Panda Reserve, just over an hour from Chengdu.



### 6. Terracotta Warriors

The discovery of the Terracotta Warriors is a charming tale of pure luck, a group of farmers digging a well and stumbling across the greatest archaeological find of the century. Today, three pits of about 8,000 soldiers, horses and chariots stand in ranks in huge hangers 40 kilometres outside of Xian, wowing visitors with their realistic features and intricate detail. The army surrounds the burial mound of Qin Shi Huang, the emperor who first united China in 221BC and the man the terracotta soldiers were made to protect in the afterlife; although the tomb has never been excavated, it's thought to be full of untold treasures!

### 7. Grand Buddha of Leshan

Around two hours from Chengdu, the magnificent Grand Buddha of Leshan sits peacefully at the confluence of three rivers. At 71 metres tall, he was carved from the rock face 1,200 years ago on the orders of a Buddhist monk, who felt that the presence of the Buddha would calm the river currents and protect the boats plying the waters. It worked, but whether that was down to the will of Buddha or because of the large amount of stone that went into the river is up to you!



### 5. Yangtze River

A Yangtze River cruise is high on the list of many China explorers thanks to the magnificent landscapes of the Three Gorges, but there is so much more to it. One of the world's longest rivers, the Yangtze has played a hugely important role in China's historical, cultural and economic development for millennia; it was on its banks that some of the first Chinese cultures were born. Today, its shoreline is an endless tapestry of rural, agricultural and urban – a fascinating glimpse at a lesser seen side of the nation.

5 Star accommodation

NEW TO 2021

**China in Style**

15 days | **Classic Group Tour**

From 9,590pp

Including: International flights, 5 star accommodation, 5 star cruise on the Yangtze River, Australian airport chauffeur transfers, visa fees, all transportation, all meals, touring with guides and entrance fees.

Tour can be booked as a private tour

# TRAVELLER TALES



## Myanmar Explorer

Wendy Wu Tours customer **David Beadling** gives us the lowdown on our Myanmar Explorer tour – a wonderful journey that takes in all of Myanmar's highlights, showcasing the magical culture, golden temples and magnificent scenery of Yangon, Bagan, Mandalay and Inle Lake.



“ Nothing prepares you for the beauty of Lake Inle, the scale of the temples on the plains of Bagan and the majesty of the Shwedagon Pagoda. ”

Shwedagon Pagoda

### Dreaming of Myanmar

At a relatively early age I had a small encyclopaedia which contained a picture of the Shwedagon Pagoda in what was then Burma. I must have been drawn to it subconsciously because once I had visited China and it piqued my interest in the Far East, my thoughts moved to Myanmar.

Once I had seen video footage of Mount Popa I was sold. On a selfish note, it gave me the opportunity to visit somewhere my well-travelled sister hadn't, but it was a mesmerising destination irrespective of who had visited it previously, unspoiled, unique and absolutely unforgettable Myanmar.



Mount Popa

### Excellent Guides

So, what made it a great tour? Firstly, fantastic local guides. All our guides were supremely knowledgeable, adaptable, customer-centric, and nothing seemed too much trouble. In Yangon this included retrieving a camera left by one of our group at the Shwedagon Pagoda, allowing us time for cocktails in the Strand Hotel, and even changing my remaining Kyats for US\$ at the airport. In Mandalay, in addition to helping me with my longyi, on quite a few occasions, our guide added a chance to see Ava, an ancient capital, which was fantastic and my personal favourite memory from that part of the tour. At Lake Inle our guide also allowed us to set our own pace, and introduced us to the magnificent Inle Lake Pagodas.

However, my personal favourite was William, our guide in Bagan. Clearly his sole aim was to provide us with the best experience possible. In addition to the published itinerary he made several unscheduled stops for photo opportunities, including getting pilgrims to take photos at the top of Mount Popa, impromptu shopping and staying later than anticipated to enable us to finish our evening meal.



Traditional spicy curry soup

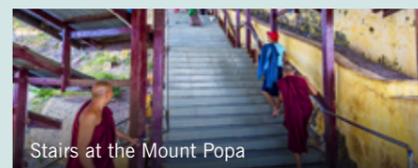
### Delicious Dining

Food is also important and with Wendy Wu you can't go wrong, a cooked breakfast, a several course lunch and the same at dinner. It's not for the faint-hearted or for those wanting to diet! Breakfast consisted of a mix of local and western dishes, most hotels had an egg station where delicious fresh omelettes could be obtained, but this was combined with noodles, rice and many other typically Asian dishes which were interesting to try and made the experience more authentic.

### Unforgettable Memories

Having researched the tour, I had what I thought was a reasonable knowledge of many of the sights we were to visit, however nothing prepares you for the beauty of Lake Inle, the scale of the temples on the plains of Bagan and the majesty of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

However, sometimes it is the things that surprise you that impress the most. Sailing down the Irrawaddy was like a scene from A Passage to India. The views of and from the top of Mount Popa, together with the climb of 777 steps, and barefoot! Great memories we weren't expecting, and ones that we will treasure forever.



Stairs at the Mount Popa



Bagan

### Any regrets?

I would have loved an extra day in Bagan to perhaps take the opportunity to enjoy a dawn balloon ride over the plains and see the walled old city centre. But, as always, we have to balance obtaining a full itinerary with a finite timeframe, which Wendy Wu always manage to do with style! However, no matter how good the itinerary is, a tour can be made by the people you travel with. And we were fortunate enough to travel with a small group who gelled immediately and made the tour complete.



Floating houses, Inle Lake

**Myanmar Explorer**  
11 days  
**Classic Group Tour**  
From 5,090pp

Including: International flights, accommodation, all transportation, all meals, visa fees, touring with guides and entrance fees.

 Tour can be booked as a private tour

# Travel Safe Protocols

Your safety is our priority

We know how important it is, now more than ever, for you to feel completely safe whilst on tour. As always, our customer's wellbeing is our utmost priority, which is why every Wendy Wu tour now features our pioneering Travel Safe protocols featuring stringent COVID health and safety measures so you can travel with ease and enjoy your adventure to the fullest.

As we continue to monitor the situation in each destination, we develop our protocols to ensure our customers and staff are protected at all times whilst following local guidelines. Here is a summary of the steps we have implemented to ensure you will be safe, secure and satisfied when travelling with us.



## Guides and National Escorts

Our National Escorts and local guides will conduct a Health and Safety briefing before the tour begins and will help everyone ensure that they adhere to social distancing, hygiene practises and local regulations.

They will carry a supply of face masks and hand sanitiser for you to use free of charge and will, of course, observe the highest level of personal hygiene at all times. Should anyone on your tour fall ill, your National Escort will ensure the individual receives swift medical attention and can only return to the group once cleared to do so.

## Transport and Sightseeing

Vehicles will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each excursion, overnight and between different groups.

You will always have at least one seat between you and your fellow travellers. Hand sanitiser will be given to the group on each embarkation and vehicles will be thoroughly ventilated prior to passengers boarding.

Drivers will always embark vehicles after clients, disembark the vehicle prior to customers disembarking, and maintain social distancing and a high level of personal hygiene at all times. Only front facing microphones will be used on vehicles and headsets or speaker systems will be used whilst sightseeing. Your guides will assess the situation on the ground to avoid large crowds – where possible, alter timings and potentially split the group into smaller sizes.

## Accommodation

Wendy Wu Tours will only offer hotels and accommodation that have undergone a detailed hygiene assessment, have specific COVID-19 protocols in place and comply with government standards.

We will ensure these protocols include staff adhering to social distancing and wearing appropriate PPI, regular cleaning, and disinfection of high frequency touch points in all areas and food safety.

## Dining

All the restaurants we visit will be researched and inspected regularly to ensure that they follow the strictest health, cleanliness and safety guidelines.

All waiting staff will wear face masks and gloves, and self-service buffets will be avoided in favour of à la carte dining, waiter-served meals or waiter-assisted buffets.

Hand sanitiser will be provided to the group before and after every food and beverage service.



Singapore is a melting pot of cultures, centuries-old traditions combined with futuristic technology and up and coming neighbourhoods. No sooner than when you think you've discovered all there is to know about Singapore, around the corner is another gem waiting to be explored or culinary delight to be

sampled. It's little wonder really that Singapore is a destination visitor's return to time and time again. One of Singapore's must-sees is the impressive Gardens By the Bay. Here we take a closer look at this amazing attraction.

## Welcome to Nature's Garden



### Flower Dome

The Flower Dome replicates the cool and dry Mediterranean climate and features nine different gardens from five continents. It also holds the Guinness World Record as the largest glass greenhouse.



### Cloud Forest

Explore the misty highlands filled with orchids, pitcher plants and ferns from the cool-moist Tropical Montane region. You will also find one of the world's tallest indoor waterfalls. It's 35 metres tall and you can wander behind it to further your explorations. Within Cloud Forest, there are seven discovery zones.



### OCBC Skyway & the Supertrees

Suspended 22 metres above the ground, between the Supertrees, the OCBC Skyway provides stunning views of the gardens, Marina Bay and cityscape. Each night, the Garden Rhapsody – a free light and sound show – brings the Supertrees to life!

## Singapore Short Stay

3 days/2 nights from \$445pp

Contact us for our extensive range of Singapore holidays or create your own with our tailor-made options.

# ¡VAMOS A LATINOAMERICA!

We love Latin America, it's a sensational destination with so much to offer even the most seasoned traveller.

Packed with all the vibrant culture, fascinating history, epic landscapes and delicious food you could ask for, where else could you flit from cosmopolitan cities to dramatic volcanoes to nature-filled rainforest to desert to beaches to archaeological sites? We're sure you get the picture! Our selection of tours showcases a whole lot of the continent, but we felt there were a couple of things needed to make it complete – feast your eyes on our brand-new tours for 2021/2022.



Machu Picchu, Peru

## Treasures of South America

The perfect introduction to this vibrant continent, on Treasures of South America you'll encounter just that, its very best treasures! Starting in Peru, your explorations will include uncovering the secrets of the Inca in Cusco and the incredible Machu Picchu. Travelling through the picturesque Sacred Valley by train, you'll spend a day wandering this enigmatic mountain-top city. Take a cruise on Lake Titicaca before jetting off to country number two, the vivacious Argentina! No visit to charming capital Buenos Aires is complete without a tango class and show.

You'll also venture out into the Pampas grasslands to learn more about Argentina's folkloric hero, the gaucho, and take a day trip into country number three – Uruguay. Head due north for a stop at the colossal Iguazu Falls, which straddles the border with country number four, Brazil. Before flying over to the effervescent Rio de Janeiro. Ending the trip with a bang, you'll have two full days exploring Rio, including all the highlights from Christ the Redeemer to Copacabana Beach, plus an evening of dancing at a samba club.



Iguazu Falls

NEW TO 2021

### Treasures of South America

21 days | **Classic Group Tour**

From \$13,990pp

Including: International flights, accommodation, all transportation, all meals, touring with guides and entrance fees.

 Tour can be booked as a private tour



New Cathedral, Ecuador

NEW TO 2021

### Ecuador Highlights

14 days | **Classic Group Tour**

From \$7,690pp

Including: International flights, accommodation, accommodation, all transportation, all meals, touring with guides and entrance fees.

 Tour can be booked as a private tour

## Ecuador Highlights

Ecuador, thanks to its compact size, is South America's most explorable destination...fortunately it's also one of the most exciting! Straddling the equator it is packed full of fascinating history, indigenous culture and incredible nature – what's not to love? Starting high in the Andes in the capital city Quito, you'll explore its gorgeous UNESCO-listed historic centre, ascending to the dome of La Compania Church for magical views before hopping between the hemispheres at the Equatorial Monument. Travel over to Otavalo, the heart of Ecuador's indigenous culture and famous for its textiles, continuing to the edge of the Amazon Rainforest to relax in the thermal waters of Papallacta. You'll then take the dramatic Avenue of the Volcanoes to the infamous Cotopaxi and its surrounding nature reserve, to spot highland wildlife.

Discover the magnificent Incan ruins of Ingapirca and the beautiful colonial city of Cuenca where you'll step back in time on the cobbled streets of the old town. Last but certainly not least, you'll venture to the tropical coast, stopping at a family-run cacao plantation and the vibrant city of Guayaquil for your final explorations.



Orangutan, Borneo

# HOPE IN THE FOREST

A moment of connection with the rich, deep black eyes of a wild orangutan, red fur glistening in the rainforest's dappled morning light, is a rare and special privilege. It leaves an everlasting, deep-rooted memory in the hearts of the lucky few who travel far to experience it.

Moments like this are getting rarer. Once found throughout Asia, wild orangutans can now only be found in Borneo and Indonesia. Vulnerable to deforestation, unsustainable palm oil corporations, poaching and the illegal pet trade, the Bornean orangutan population has declined by 60% in the past 70 years, leading the IUCN to classify them as 'critically endangered'. It is thought that they may disappear from the wild in as little as 50 years.

Nonetheless, there is hope. Thanks to the ongoing efforts of international wildlife charities, fundraisers, and awareness campaigners, many orangutans whose rainforest homes have been destroyed, or who have been stolen from their families to be illegally kept as pets, have now been offered a second chance at life in the wild.

Here we shine a spotlight on the crucial work of one of our friends in Borneo – the Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre.

“Looking into the calm, unblinking eyes of an orangutan we see, as through a series of mirrors, not only the image of our own creation, but also a reflection of our own souls and an Eden that once was ours.”

Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas, Reflection of Eden

## Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre

Wendy Wu Tours is proud to introduce travellers to Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre in eastern Borneo, one of two orangutan rescues featured on our Best of Borneo itinerary. Many of the red apes in this reserve were rescued as orphaned babies or victims of the illegal pet trade. Over the years, many of them have been brought here to experience a 're-wilding' process in which they are nurtured and protected as they learn to thrive independently.

The aim of this facility is to truly rehabilitate and release these rescued apes, who go on to live in freedom in 43 square kilometres of reserve, mostly foraging for themselves. It is for this reason that sightings, although common, cannot be guaranteed. This makes each experience special and unique. You may spot a mature male orangutan who hasn't visited the sanctuary in a decade; a recently-released adolescent who needs to top up his diet, or a particularly friendly older resident who just enjoys stopping by.

Even on a quiet day, there is plenty to learn at Sepilok. Travellers are often drawn here by the famous outdoor nursery, where visitors can observe young orangutans who are still 'learning the ropes'. Wild orangutans often stay with their mothers until the age of six or even eight years; sadly, the young rescues are typically orphans, and it is therefore up to the staff to fulfil the role of both mother and teacher until the youngsters are ready to go it alone. Where possible, the younger rescues are paired up with more confident orangutans in a 'buddy system', to help them learn the climbing skills and foraging techniques they need to thrive in the wild.



Orangutans, Borneo



Sun bear, Borneo

## How We're Helping

In order to ensure Wendy Wu Tours can better support the rural Sepilok area and community, which has been badly hit by the absence of tourist income in 2020, we're adjusting our accommodation for our Sepilok visits. Rather than overnighing in the coastal city of Sandakan 26 kilometres east, we will be staying in wooden chalets on the jungle's edge itself, at Sepilok Nature Resort. This small eco-resort's lush gardens border the rainforest's edge, and it is not unusual for inquisitive orangutans to swing through the resort's trees out of curiosity (don't be too surprised to find one perched on your chalet terrace)! The lodge also offers quiet guided walks through the reserve in the early morning and the evening, when orangutans, rare birds, flying squirrels and slow loris can sometimes be spotted.

## The Future of Rehabilitation

Along with Sepilok, wildlife rescues all over Asia are suffering without visitors, but two others in Borneo are particularly close to our heart; the Sun Bear Conservation Centre and Semenggoh Nature Reserve, both also featured on our Best of Borneo itinerary. Visitors to these centres remain not just a vital source of funding for these organisations, but also an opportunity for the rescuers to educate the public on conservation and how our personal choices can have an impact from anywhere in the world.

Wendy Wu Tours are truly proud to work with these vital charities in Borneo and hope that we can one day introduce you to their crucial work in person.

## TAKE ME THERE

### Best of Borneo

16 days | [Go Beyond Tour](#)  
From \$6,480pp

Including: International flights, 4-star accommodation and eco lodge, all transportation, all meals, touring with guides and entrance fees.

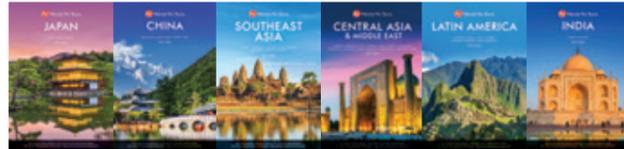
Tour can be booked as a private tour

# What's happening in the Wu Kingdom

## The latest developments from the world of Wendy Wu Tours

Whether it's the latest news on some of our favourite destinations, brand new tours, great news from our friends around the world, there is always something exciting going on in the Wu Kingdom.

Here are just a few of the stories that we have reported in the world of Wendy Wu Tours. To keep up to date with the latest developments, sign up to our e-newsletter, follow us on Facebook or visit - [wendywutours.com.au/about-us/wu-kingdom](http://wendywutours.com.au/about-us/wu-kingdom).



### Brand New 2021/22 brochures out now 14 September 2020

Whilst the world has been in lockdown, we were working hard to bring you a brand new collection of inspiring tours and destinations for 2021-22. For the first time in its 26-year history, Wendy Wu Tours will be leading tours to the Middle East in 2021. Featured in our new Central Asia + Middle East brochure, the product offering includes a range of fully inclusive Classic Tours to Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Oman, plus new tours to Georgia and Uzbekistan. With a host of other destinations as well as brand new solo departures, go to [wendywutours.com.au/brochures](http://wendywutours.com.au/brochures) to order your FREE copy.



### Tokyo Olympics will go ahead 9 September 2020

The Vice President of the International Olympic Committee, John Coates, confirmed that the postponed Tokyo 2020 Olympics will go-ahead next year. A resounding endorsement of the influential committee's confidence that the country will be safe in 2021. He said "These will be the Games that conquered COVID, the light at the end of the tunnel".

### Book with confidence

1 November 2020

Our Book with Confidence guarantee has been introduced to provide you with peace of mind when booking with us so that you can enjoy every moment of your holiday.

1. Low deposit, secure your place with a low deposit of only \$99 per person for most tours.
2. Extended payment terms means you won't need to pay your final balance until 75 days prior to departure on most tours. If any tours or special offers require payment sooner, our Reservations team will notify you at the time of booking.
3. No risk payment, in the event that your tour is cancelled due to government travel restrictions you can be confident that any payments made are safe: 100% of deposits paid will be kept as credit towards future travel with us and final balances paid within 75 days of departure can be refunded in full.
4. Free Amendment to your tour, one free amendment up to 75 days before departure should your plans change for any reason.
5. Your safety is our priority. Every tour features our pioneering Travel Safe protocols.

### Machu Picchu re-opens!

2 November 2020

Encouraging news from Peru. Machu Picchu, the 'Lost City of the Incas' has reopened after nearly eight months of closure.

Numbers will be restricted to just 675 tourists a day, about a third of what you could have expected before the pandemic.

See it on our new Treasures of South America tour. Book for 2021 or 2022 - Explore the tour [here](#).



### Travel Solo but never alone

8 November 2020

We have reserved selected departures on some of our most popular tours exclusively for customers who prefer to share their wonderful holiday experiences with a ready-made group of like-minded solo travellers. Plus you will enjoy these extra features: no single supplement, smaller group sizes, FREE return Australian chauffeur transfers from home to the airport<sup>^</sup>, FREE airport lounge pass (available in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane airports only)<sup>^</sup> and complimentary cocktail on arrival at your destination. Take a look at our dedicated solo departure tours on offer [here](#).

<sup>^</sup>Australian transfers on solo departures based on 50km radius in selected states. Airport lounge passes available at selected Australian airports only.

### Vaccine Update

9 November 2020

Exciting news - First COVID vaccine offers 90% protection!

Reports in this morning are that the first coronavirus vaccine can prevent more than 90% of people from getting COVID-19. The developers - Pfizer and BioNTech - described it as a "great day for science and humanity". Their vaccine has been tested on 43,500 people in six countries and no safety concerns have been raised.

The companies plan to apply for emergency approval to use the vaccine by the end of the month.



### Brand New Australia and New Zealand Tours

16 November 2020

Some exciting news for this year, we have launched three new tours to Australia and NZ kicking off in April 2021. See what is on offer [here](#).



### COVID News

11 December 2020

Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine rollout in United Kingdom sees countries around the world up preparations

Just a week ago, no certified vaccine existed for COVID-19. Now, after a flurry of developments, there are a host of vaccines being rolled out throughout the world.

The UK got the ball rolling, and Russia quickly followed. The United Kingdom jumped ahead in the global race to begin mass inoculation against COVID-19 when it gave emergency use approval for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

The National Health Service gave top priority to vaccinating people aged over 80, as well as frontline healthcare workers and care home staff and residents.

Click [here](#) to read more.



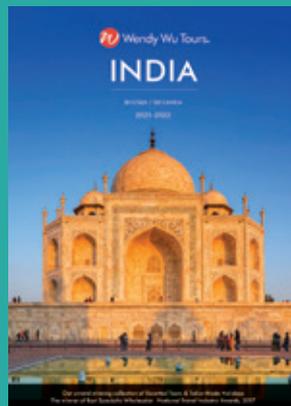
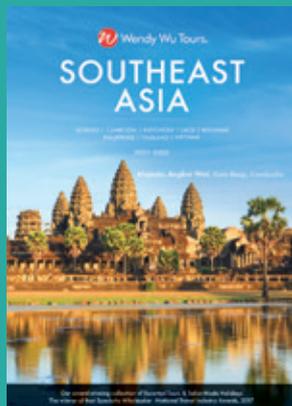
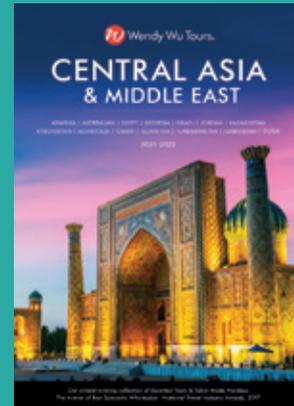
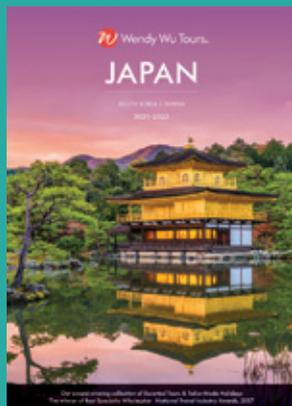
### AU/NZ bubble

14 December 2020

New Zealand's prime minister, Jacinda Arden has confirmed the country's national cabinet has agreed to let Aussies travel quarantine-free to New Zealand early next year.

Australia's Health Minister, Greg Hunt, described Arden's announcement as "second half of the equation", and said the federal government would "absolutely" approve the agreement.

Click [here](#) to read more.



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