

February 2024



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25
YEARS

WHISPERS

TRAVEL INSPIRATION FROM THE AWARD-WINNING TOUR SPECIALIST

JAPAN FOR ALL SEASONS

Discover the colourful delights of Japan year round

SOUTH AFRICA

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MAKING TRACKS

The joy of travelling by train



SAVE BIG WITH OUR SIZZLING SUMMER SALE!

ENDS 29 FEB

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A Message from Wendy

Welcome to the Summer 2024 Edition of Whispers, filled with inspiring travel articles, tour ideas and the latest news from Wendy Wu Tours.

Whilst 2023 felt like the year we got to know old favourites again as they opened up after the pandemic, 2024 already feels like the year we branch out and spread our wings into new destinations. We are so excited to be launching new tours in Saudi Arabia, Colombia, Ecuador and South Africa to name just a few.

We also have a host of magical new Christmas tours launching in 2024 for those of you who yearn to escape to somewhere exotic for the festive period. How does Christmas Day at the Taj Mahal or the Great Wall of China sound?

How we travel is also always evolving. Our new private tours in China, India, Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia are a supremely flexible way to explore and our Rail tours in China, India and Japan are proving so popular we are thrilled to announce that we have expanded our collection. Read more on page 6.

I hope you enjoy reading about many of those inspiring tours in this special issue and we look forward to taking care of your travels very soon.

Wendy Wu

SUMMER SALE

SAVE ^{UP TO} \$1100 ^{PER COUPLE}

OR

GET 50% OFF THE SINGLE SUPPLEMENT OR ENJOY IT FREE

ON SELECTED DEPARTURES



All tours featured in this magazine are subject to availability. Details correct at time of publication and subject to change. Prices are based on twin share, unless specified otherwise. View Summer Sale terms and conditions <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/summer-sale>. View standard booking terms and conditions. <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/booking-conditions/> Our privacy policy can be viewed online <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/privacy-policy/>



WHAT'S NEW IN THE WU KINGDOM

Keep up to date with our latest news, hear fascinating stories from our travelling customers, find inspiration with captivating travel articles and have fun with our well-travelled and passionate staff.



Making a Difference

During our recent 25 Year Anniversary Tour, Wendy announced a new 'Wendy Wu Tours Cambodia Scholarship Fund'. It will fund a program for 25 underprivileged children in Siem Reap, Cambodia. This initiative opens doors for local students to pursue education, paving the way for a brighter future and enhances the well-being and prospects of the entire community. Wendy commented "Education is very close to my heart, a factor that will always continue to guide and steer me in my lifelong journey".

Wendy Honoured

Wendy was honoured as No.1 on the 'Power List' of Women in the Australian Travel Industry' at the 2023 Travel Weekly Women in Travel Awards. Travel Weekly said "In a world where travel is not just a journey but a transformative experience, Wu stands as a pioneer and her influence continues to shape the way we explore, inspiring a new era of travel that is immersive, responsible, and deeply enriching."



Can we tempt you to China?

Brand new for 2024 - our China By Rail tour has only recently gone on sale and we have been blown away by how popular it is already. See page 7 for more details of how to experience this enchanting country on its incredible ultra-modern high speed rail network.

Join us in the Wu Kingdom

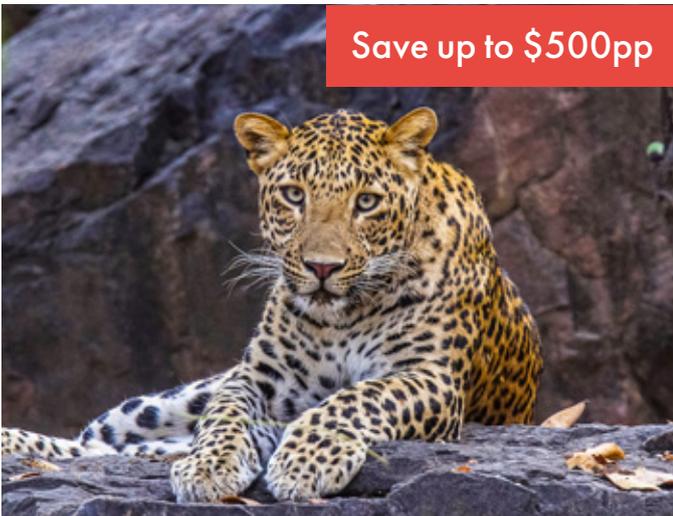
The Wu Kingdom is our online portal where you keep up to date with our latest news, hear fascinating stories from our travelling customers, find inspiration with captivating travel articles and have fun with our well-travelled and passionate staff.

To find us just search - Wendy Wu Kingdom

NEW YEAR, NEW WU!

Forget new year, new you... 2024 is all about new year, new Wu! Our teams have been beavering away over this past year to bring you a whole host of wonderful new tours for 2024 and 2025, and we can't wait to show them off.

Not only have we expanded some of our best-loved destinations, adding exciting new itineraries to farther flung corners, we are delighted to be bringing our award-winning style of fully inclusive touring to a whole host of thrilling new destinations too. Here are just a handful of those shiny new tours to tickle your fancy...



Wildlife of India

14 days Fully inclusive touring from \$8,380pp

Delhi - Kanha - Bandhavgarh - Khajuraho - Agra - Delhi

India is teeming with wonderful wildlife and this tour gives you multiple opportunities to experience it all, from majestic Bengal tigers to sloth bear, crocodiles and even the elusive leopard. As well as visiting three of India's most magical national parks, you'll also get to revel in the romance of the Taj Mahal and soak up the sights and sounds of Delhi.



Grand Mekong Odyssey

25 days Fully Inclusive touring from \$11,130pp

Hanoi - Ninh Binh - Halong Bay Cruise - Hue - Hoi An - Saigon - Victoria Mekong Cruise - Siem Reap

Grand by name and grand by nature, this is our most in-depth tour of Indochina. Featuring a full seven nights on our deluxe Victoria Mekong ship, two nights cruising between the peaks of Halong Bay, a breathtaking coastal rail journey, and even a meeting with a war veteran, this tour showcases Vietnam and Cambodia at their most authentic.

All tours include international flights, accommodation, all transportation, all meals*, all touring with guides and entrance fees. *Unless otherwise stated (refer to website or brochure)



Colours of Costa Rica

16 days Go Beyond touring from \$14,590pp

San Jose - Tortuguero - Arenal - Monteverde - Manuel Antonio

A place of bountiful biodiversity, habitats and incredible wildlife, Costa Rica is a natural and colourful wonderland. On this tour you'll head into the rainforest in search of birds, monkeys and reptiles, gaze upon Arenal Volcano, take a dip in natural hot springs and cross hanging bridges to see the rainforest canopy from an entirely new angle.



Kruger to Cape Explored

15 days Go Beyond touring from \$12,590pp

Johannesburg - Panorama Route - Greater Kruger National Park - Gqeberha - Knysna - Cape Town

This itinerary takes in the very best of South Africa, from the breathtaking scenery of the Panorama Route to the cosmopolitan charm of Cape Town. Of course, what's a trip to South Africa without wildlife? This tour features three nights at Greater Kruger National Park so you can enjoy multiple opportunities to catch a glimpse of the Big Five.



Colombia Discovery

16 days Fully inclusive touring from \$14,690pp

Bogota - Pereira - Medellin - Santa Marta - Cartagena

Hopping between cosmopolitan cities, colonial towns, coffee haciendas and the Caribbean coast, this tour highlights everything there is to love about the enchanting and jaw-droppingly beautiful country of Colombia. Wander around the vibrant comunas of Medellin, sample the delicious street food of Cartagena and dance to the beat of South America with a fun salsa lesson!



Secrets of Saudi Arabia

11 days Fully Inclusive touring from \$12,980pp

Riyadh - Buraidah - Ha'il - Alula - Medina - Jeddah

The winds of change are blowing through Saudi Arabia, which only recently opened to non-pilgrims. Discover fascinating ancient fortresses, lively camel markets and astounding UNESCO World Heritage sites in its vast deserts, all before experiencing the cosmopolitan comforts of its thriving cities and high-speed railway.

PRIVATE TOURING



Ecuador & Galapagos

12 days Private touring from \$17,720pp



Treasures of Sri Lanka

14 days Private touring from \$6,880pp



Vietnam & Cambodia Highlights

16 days Private touring from \$7,090pp



Pandas & Yangtze Cruise

13 days Private touring from \$6,630pp

Private tours are land only and include accommodation, selected meals, domestic transportation, touring with entrance fees and local guides.

MAKING TRACKS

THE JOY OF TRAVELLING BY TRAIN

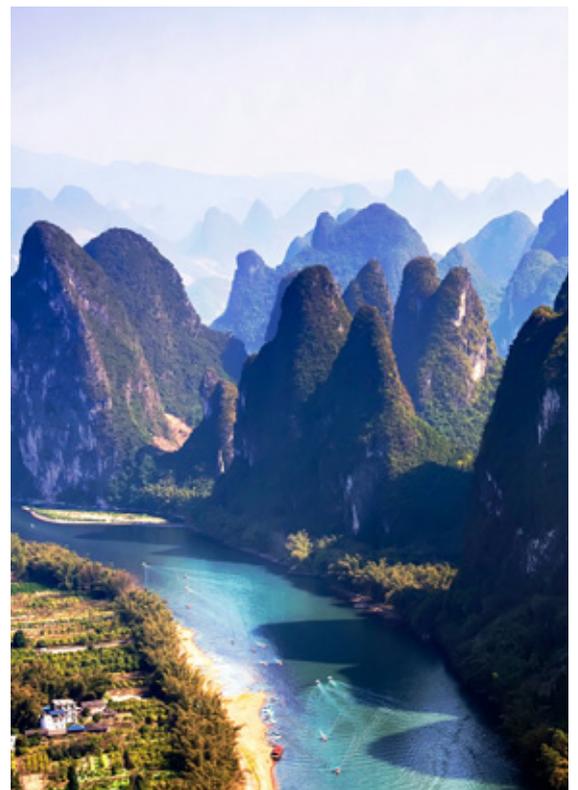
Click here to see our new and expanded range of rail tours



There is an inherent romance to travelling by rail. A hangover from the lauded golden age in the early 20th century? Maybe, or perhaps there is just something about the meditative rhythmic sway and scenery flashing past the windows that taps right into that feeling that there are endless possibilities for adventures to be had.

Feelings aside, there are many advantages to travelling by train when compared to road and air. In logistical terms there is no waiting in long queues at security and, generally, you depart from one city centre and arrive in another. Trains are more comfortable, with space to move around and stretch your legs, which in turn also makes them more social, if you want them to be, with opportunities to chat with your fellow travellers. Train tracks can also traverse landscapes that other vehicles don't or can't, giving you the chance to glimpse countryside you wouldn't normally see, while at the same time, trains are much better for said scenery in terms of environmental impact. Train travel is also, generally, less complicated and more relaxed than other transport - it really does make the journey part of the adventure.

At Wendy Wu Tours, we love the expeditious nature and wonder-filled moments that come with rail travel, and we wanted to share this joy with you. So we've put together a series of journeys, with more in the pipeline, to whet your appetite. Read on to find out more...



ALL ABOARD

Our new rail tours to China, India and Japan are our most ambitious yet, covering vast distances on some of the world's most famous train networks - we'd love you to come along for the ride.



India by Rail

Travelling by train in India doesn't need to be the over-crowded affair that we see on the TV; the trains are comfortable and safe, offering a window into life on the subcontinent that you wouldn't otherwise glimpse. Although not known for their punctuality, India's trains remain the country's life blood, connecting people in the farthest reaches with cities and services and will always offer an element of adventure.

15 days from \$8,890pp

Delhi - Amritsar - Shimla - Delhi - Agra - Jaipur - Delhi - Varanasi - Delhi

The quintessentially Indian experience, use India's epic rail system to journey scenic routes between cities and sights on this memorable adventure, soaking up the culture and history as you go.

Explore the apexes of the Golden Triangle including the Taj Mahal, see the Golden Temple of Amritsar, head into the mountains to ride the toy train in Shimla and wander the banks of the River Ganges in the ancient city of Varanasi.



China by Rail

China is a country made for rail travel, in fact travelling by train here is an experience in itself. With one of the world's biggest and busiest rail networks, and the longest high-speed network, trains can deliver you right into the hidden corners of this vast nation. Modern and comfortable, travelling by train gives more opportunity to see some of the huge variety of landscapes that China boasts and to interact with locals and fellow travellers alike.

22 days from \$9,580pp

Shanghai - Mt. Huang - Tunxi - Changsha - Guilin - Yangshuo - Kunming - Lijiang - Dali - Chengdu - Xian - Beijing

Traversing the country by high-speed train this tour is an all-encompassing exploration of China's show-stopper sights plus a few hidden gems.

Discover the inspirational landscapes of Mt Huang, cruise through the karst peaks of the Li River, find traditional China in Kunming and Yunnan provinces and admire the holy trinity - pandas, Great Wall and Terracotta Warriors!



Japan by Rail

Comfortable, reliable, efficient, punctual and fast, Japan's extensive rail network is world renowned for all the right reasons. This includes the famous bullet train, known as shinkansen locally, on which passengers can travel up to 320 kilometres an hour between major cities. With access to such an excellent transport option, it's only right to make full use of Japan's trains!

22 days from \$14,440pp

Fukuoka - Nagasaki - Hiroshima - Miyajima - Himeji - Osaka - Kyoto - Kanazawa - Takayama - Yudanaka - Matsumoto - Mount Fuji - Tokyo - Matsushima - Sendai - Hakodate - Sapporo

Travelling mostly by shinkansen, this tour traverses three of Japan's islands - Kyushu, Honshu and Hokkaido, and some of their many glorious highlights.

Explore Nagasaki, see the bright lights of Osaka, soak up the timeless charms of Nara and Kyoto, discover rural Japan and gaze on Mt Fuji before revelling in Tokyo and the cooler climes of Sapporo.

All tours include international flights, accommodation, all transportation, all meals, all touring with guides and entrance fees.

JAPAN

FOR ALL SEASONS

Japan is a unique and intriguing destination, a place of rich, timeless culture and age-old tradition fused with a modernity that's fast paced and vibrant. This enchanting archipelago has so much to explore that deciding when to visit can be a tough call. Luckily, Japan is a country for all seasons, so you can simply base your decision on the time of year that suits you and your interests best...



Japan in the Spring

From March to May, spring in Japan is a time of optimism and new beginnings. As the weather starts to warm up (although there is still plenty of snow in Hokkaido), the locals like to get outside to enjoy the beauty of nature reawakening. This is the most popular time to visit Japan due to the cherry blossoms (Sakura) - celebrating the hazy pink blooms adds a buzz to the atmosphere - but there are flowers blooming everywhere that are equally as beautiful to behold, such as wisteria and moss phlox, while temples and gardens have meticulously curated collections of blooms to admire. There are also plenty of seasonal treats to enjoy, like Sakura flavoured drinks and foods, which help to get you into the spring spirit.



Japan in the Summer

The summer months, June to August, bring with them fireworks, centuries-old festivals and revelry galore, all a joy to behold. Hot and humid with a rainy season, called 'Tsuyu', from June to mid-July, it is now that the crowds of the spring disperse. Wherever you happen to be travelling you're likely to stumble across a fascinating regional festival or custom, while in August there are colourful parades for Obon, the festival to honour the dead, a time when many locals will travel home to their families to celebrate. July brings the clear skies that allow Mt Fuji to open to climbers and is the perfect time to tour traditional gardens and explore the countryside.



Japan in the Autumn

Rivalling the spring for the greatest show of natural beauty, the autumn months - September to November - are when temperatures start to cool down but things stay warm and sunny right into November. This is a time to be outside, especially in late October when the leaves begin their gradual change into a spectacular sea of red, yellows and browns, particularly breathtaking in the Japanese Alps. Unlike the cherry blossom the autumn colours are slightly more predictable in terms of timings, and they last longer giving more people the opportunity to enjoy them. Also, as it's harvest season you can expect menus full of fresh produce as well as tasty treats like chestnuts, pumpkin soup and sweet persimmons.



Japan in the Winter

For those who don't mind enduring the cold for something truly magical, the winter would be a fantastic time to explore Japan. The days are usually sunny, the popular sights are quiet, and the countryside is given a dazzling winter makeover thanks to the annual snowfall. Tuck into seasonal comfort foods like hot pots, broths, and ramen before heading straight for a soak in a snow-surrounded onsen. But onsens are not just for humans. In the Japanese Alps, a troop of adorable, fluffy snow monkeys also enjoy a soak in their very own hot springs and witnessing them is an endearing experience. At Buddhist temples, the new year is traditionally rung in by a bell tolling 108 times, representing the cleansing of worldly passions.



Save up to \$550pp

 Our most popular Japan tour

Japan Uncovered

18 days Fully Inclusive touring from \$12,440pp

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

Our most extensive Japan tour includes all the classic sights and key cultural activities. Featuring modern cities, historical sights and beautiful landscapes, Japan Uncovered ensures you get the most out of your trip.



Save up to \$550pp

Off-Beat Japan

14 days Go Beyond touring from \$10,940pp

Tokyo - Mt Fuji - Yudanaka - Nagano - Takayama - Kyoto - Koyasan - Himeji - Osaka

Prepare to immerse yourself in the wacky and wonderful in this fascinating land. Get off the beaten track on our most culturally immersive Japan holiday and trek at the foot of Fuji, meet the snow monkeys of Yudanaka, take a rickshaw ride through a bamboo forest.



Christmas in Japan

12 days Fully Inclusive touring from \$11,290pp

Tokyo - Mt Fuji - Kyoto - Hiroshima - Miyajima - Himeji - Osaka

The most magical tour of the year takes in all the classic sights of Japan, such as the bustling city of Tokyo and iconic Mount Fuji. Christmas Day will be spent exploring Kyoto's temples before taking the bullet train to Hiroshima for a special dinner cruise on Hiroshima Bay.

All tours include international flights, accommodation, all transportation, most meals, touring with guides and entrance fees.

ONLY IN CHINA



Finally open after three years of isolation, the wonders of China are finally back on the traveller's radar. Now is the time to beat the crowds and discover those incredible attractions that can only be found in the magnificent Middle Kingdom.



The Great Wall of China

Prepare to be astounded. Stretching over 13,000 miles, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is an architectural marvel and awe-inspiring monument to the grandeur and ingenuity of China's imperial past. Winding its way through rugged mountains and picturesque valleys, visitors to the Great Wall are immersed in a panorama of breathtaking views, with watchtowers punctuating the horizon like sentinels

of an era long gone. As you traverse this colossal masterpiece, it's impossible not to be astonished by the ambition of its builders and enchanted by their achievement.

Giant Pandas

Revered as China's national treasure, giant pandas captivate hearts worldwide with their playful antics and almost unbearable cuteness. Found only in China, spotting these gentle giants in the wild is nigh on impossible but luckily conservation centres in Chengdu and Chongqing provide the opportunity to meet these adorable animals in environments close to those you might find in the wild. These sanctuaries provide a blissful retreat for panda enthusiasts, offering an up-close encounter with these enchanting creatures in a serene and carefully curated environment.

The Forbidden City

Nestled at the heart of Beijing, this UNESCO World Heritage Site unveils the secrets of dynasties past, offering a window into the opulent lives of emperors

and the mystique of ancient Chinese culture. Encompassing nearly 180 acres, the vast Forbidden City boasts a stunning array of palaces, pavilions, and courtyards, each meticulously designed and adorned with intricate carvings and vibrant colours. The imperial complex, with its iconic red walls and golden rooftops is a living testament to the might and majesty of China's imperial legacy.



The Terracotta Army

Guarding the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, this archaeological wonder unveils a legion of life-sized clay soldiers, horses, and chariots, frozen in time for over two millennia. Each intricately crafted warrior possesses a unique expression, showcasing the remarkable artistry of ancient Chinese craftsmen. Only discovered in 1974, this UNESCO World Heritage Site will wow you with its scale and intricacy. Immerse yourself in the rich history and cultural significance of this archaeological marvel and let the echoes of the past captivate your imagination.

Shanghai

Nestled along the banks of the Huangpu River, Shanghai is a city that seamlessly marries the old and the new, a dazzling mosaic where ancient alleyways adorned with traditional architecture, intertwine with towering skyscrapers that punctuate the skyline. The Bund, with its colonial-era buildings, gazes out at the glittering skyline of Pudong across the river, creating a mesmerizing visual contrast. Offering a diverse culinary landscape, a vibrant arts scene, bustling markets, and lively cultural events, Shanghai is a city that is going places like few cities in the world.



Guilin

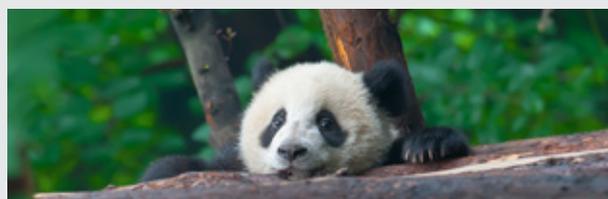
Nestled in the heart of southern China, Guilin's ethereal landscapes are so surreal it seems as if they been pulled from the imagination of a painter. Renowned for its enchanting karst mountains, emerald-green rivers, and picturesque landscapes, this region has been the inspiration of artists and poets for centuries. Cruise down the Li River, where mist-shrouded limestone peaks rise majestically from the water, explore the subterranean marvels of the Reed Flute Cave, adorned with a dazzling display of illuminated stalactites and stalagmites, or wander amongst the vertiginous terraces of the 'Dragon's Backbone' at Longji, where historic villages cling to the hillsides, offering a glimpse into traditional rural life.



Yangtze River

A cruise on the Yangtze River is a captivating odyssey through the heart of China. Drifting along the longest river in Asia, surrounded by dramatic cliffs, lush greenery, and ancient cultural treasures, a Yangtze River cruise is not just a voyage; it's an immersion into the stirring beauty and cultural richness of China. Witness the breathtaking Three Gorges, where sheer cliffs and mist-draped peaks create a natural spectacle, cruise through the enchanting Lesser Three Gorges, where emerald waters wind through narrow, verdant ravines and marvel at the engineering marvel of the Three Gorges Dam, a testament to China's technological prowess.

Couples save \$1,000pp
Solo save 50% on single supplement



Wonders of China

16 days Fully Inclusive touring from \$7,080pp

Beijing - Great Wall - Xian - Yangtze River Cruise -
 Chongqing Panda House - Guilin - Yangshuo - Shanghai

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



THE MARVELLOUS MEKONG

River cruising is a marvellous way to travel. It's immersive, relaxed, and peaceful and gives you access to candid snapshots of local life and culture that those who travel in other ways may miss.

The Mekong is the perfect example of a river that takes you 'behind the scenes' - the lifeblood of much of the Indochina region, it is a bringer of life and income, a means of transport and the anchor of the cultures and civilisations that have flourished along its length for thousands of years. Drifting down it allows you a glimpse of typical life of the population that have made this mighty river their home.

That's why we are so proud of what we offer our travellers with our cruise vessel, The Victoria Mekong. On an exclusive eight-day itinerary, travelling between Siem Reap in Cambodia and Saigon in Vietnam (or vice versa), you get to discover that Mekong magic, pausing at hand-picked ports

along one of the river's most enchanting stretches for captivating cultural experiences and to explore untouched landscapes.

As you drift through the glorious scenery of the river, life onboard the ship is just as pleasurable. Four-star all the way, choose from a spacious stateroom or VIP suite, enjoy delectable dining and breezy afternoon cocktails, relax in the infinity pool, or watch the world go by from the sky deck. In between you'll be savouring culture and natural beauty, with shore excursions to floating markets, cottage industries, temples and quiet river islands plus a tour of Cambodia's charming capital Phnom Penh. While onboard there are talks about local history and heritage and performances of traditional arts.



MAGNIFICENT MEKONG HOLIDAYS

There are so many ways to enjoy a magical Mekong cruise holiday



Cruise & Unwind Angkor to the Beach

A magical adventure combining the ancient wonders of Angkor with a cruise downstream on the Victoria Mekong topped off with four nights of dreamy rest and relaxation on a tropical beach.

Immerse yourself in the awe-inspiring temples and palaces of Angkor before setting off for seven wonderful days cruising from Siem Reap to Saigon. Immerse yourself in the local culture of the delta from cottage industries and floating markets to charming cities and rural life unchanged in centuries.

As your time on the Victoria Mekong ends, there's no time to feel blue as you are whisked off to the shores of your tropical island of choice for four blissful nights on the beach.

Magical Mekong Cruise & Beach 15 days from \$5,680pp

Price includes - International flights, accommodation, all transportation in destination, 1 night in Siem Reap with breakfast, 7 night cruise (with all shore excursions, onboard entertainment, all meals including free-flow beer and wine and touring with guides and entrance fees) 4-star beach accommodation with breakfast.



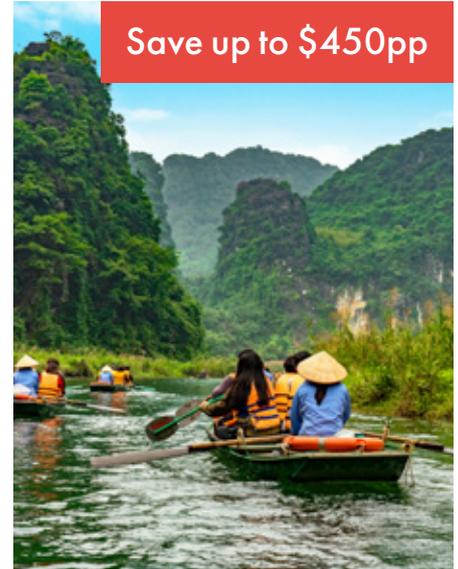
Cruise the Mekong Saigon to Siem Reap

Embark on an unforgettable voyage upstream from Saigon to Siem Reap uncovering hidden treasures in unexplored destinations in supreme style aboard one of the newest ships on the river.

Experience captivating cultures on exclusive shore excursions. Discover the enchanting Long Xuyen Floating Market, untouched riverine islands and the moving history of Phnom Penh. Indulge in breathtaking riverscapes from the luxurious Sundeck or your private balcony, dine in style and enjoy a host of cultural performances on board.

Magnificent Mekong 10 days from \$5,990pp

Price includes - International flights, accommodation, all transportation in destination, 1 night in Saigon with breakfast and 7 night cruise (with all shore excursions, onboard entertainment, all meals including free-flow beer and wine and touring with guides and entrance fees).



Escorted Touring Grand Mekong Odyssey

Our most immersive and in-depth tour of Vietnam and Cambodia, this 25-day odyssey is built around our seven-night Mekong cruise. While in Vietnam you'll visit all the iconic highlights, exploring Hanoi, Hue, Hoi An and Saigon as well as the lesser visited gems such as the the further reaches of Halong Bay, the ethereal beauty of Ninh Binh and a breathtaking rail journey along the coast between Hue and Danang. In Cambodia, you'll explore the magnificent Temples of Angkor and enjoy a Khmer cooking class, picking up produce from the local market before its time to bid farewell to this beautiful part of the world.

Grand Mekong Odyssey 25 days from \$11,130pp

Price includes - International flights, four-star accommodation, transportation in destination, all meals, 7 night cruise (with all shore excursions, onboard entertainment, all meals including free-flow beer and wine) and touring with guides and entrance fees.

CAPTIVATING COMBINATIONS

What could be better than experiencing one of the most exciting countries in the world? Why experiencing two of course! Here's our favourite country combos from the Wendy Wu World.

Vietnam & Cambodia

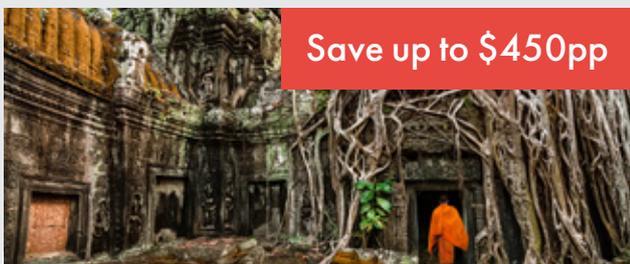
Here's a combination that seamlessly blends rich history, breathtaking landscapes and vibrant cultures. Beginning your adventure in Cambodia, discover the awe-inspiring Angkor Wat, an ancient temple complex that stands as a testament to the Khmer Empire's grandeur. Explore the vast lake of Tonle Sap with its stilted villages and the charming capital of Phnom Penh with its airy boulevards, grand palaces and moving reminders of the country's turbulent past.

Cross into Vietnam, where the bustling streets of Hanoi and the serene beauty of Halong Bay await. Immerse yourself in the historical significance of cities like Ho Chi Minh and savour the flavours of Vietnamese cuisine. Whether cruising the Mekong Delta or wandering the backstreets of historic Hoi An, you'll be utterly charmed by the culture and beauty of Vietnam.

Japan & South Korea

Close neighbours but culturally miles apart, a holiday combining South Korea and Japan offers a window into two of Asia's most fascinating nations. The juxtaposition of Japan's rich natural beauty and South Korea's vibrant urban landscape also creates a truly unforgettable combination. Whether admiring Mount Fuji's majesty or strolling through Seoul's trendy neighbourhoods, combining Japan and South Korea ensures a journey filled with diverse cultural delights and unforgettable memories.

In Japan, the spiritual temples of Kyoto and the bustling energy of Tokyo await. Immerse yourself in ancient shrines, serene tea gardens, and the cutting-edge technology that defines the modern nation. In South Korea, discover the dynamic cityscape of Seoul, where historic palaces stand in harmony with futuristic skyscrapers. Indulge in the tantalising flavours of Korean cuisine, from sizzling barbecue to savoury street food and explore the ancient city of Gyeongju, where centuries-old temples and royal tombs paint a vivid picture of Korea's rich history.



Save up to \$450pp

Angkor to the Bay

18 days Fully Inclusive touring from \$7,130pp

Siem Reap - Phnom Penh - Saigon - Hoi An - Hue - Hanoi - Halong Bay



Save up to \$550pp

Essence of South Korea & Japan

17 days Fully Inclusive touring from \$14,440pp

Seoul - Gyeongju - Busan - Fukuoka - Hiroshima - Miyajima - Kurashiki - Okayama - Osaka - Kyoto - Hakone - Tokyo



Thailand & Laos

Embark on a soul-stirring adventure by combining the cultural riches of Thailand with the tranquil charm of Laos. Begin your journey in Thailand, where the vibrant streets of Bangkok and the lush hills of the Golden Triangle beckon. Explore ornate royal temples, moving elephant sanctuaries and traditional villages before sailing on the mighty Mekong over the border to Laos.

Discover the spirituality of Luang Prabang, where ancient temples and French colonial architecture grace the landscape, marvel at the cascading turquoise waters of the enchanting Kuang Si Waterfalls and wander the sleepy streets of the quaint capital Vientiane.



Egypt & Jordan

The legendary romance of Egypt meets the adventurous spirit of Jordan on this two-country tour. See Egypt from top to toe, taking in the ancient pyramids, historic quarters and world-famous museums of Cairo before journeying north to Alexandria with its Roman catacombs, Islamic castles and WWII battlefields. Be astounded by the archaeological marvels of Luxor and the Valley of the Kings before ending your time in Egypt with a magical cruise up the mighty Nile River to Aswan and Abu Simbel.

Cross into Jordan and marvel at the rose-red city of Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage site carved into vibrant cliffs. Explore the otherworldly landscapes of Wadi Rum, where vast deserts meet towering sandstone mountains, and discover the Dead Sea's therapeutic waters and the historical treasures of Amman.



China & Japan

Here's an unforgettable adventure that combines the timeless allure of Japan with the ancient wonders of China. In China explore the iconic landmarks of Beijing, from the majestic Forbidden City to the awe-inspiring Great Wall, immerse yourself in the serene beauty of Guilin and contrast the awe-inspiring history of Xian with the ultra-modernity of Shanghai.

Osaka's vibrant food scene welcomes you to your Japanese adventure before exploring all of the highlights of the iconic Golden Route; traditional Kyoto, majestic Mount Fuji and the bright lights, temples and traditions of Tokyo. Throw in some time spent amongst the sobering atomic reminders of Hiroshima and the spiritual temples of Miyajima and you have an extraordinary holiday taking in all the best of these two fascinating nations.



Thailand & Laos Adventure

15 days Go Beyond touring from \$6,680pp

Bangkok - Chiang Mai - Hmong Hilltribe - Chiang Rai - Pakbeng - Luang Prabang - Vientiane



Egypt & Jordan Adventure

20 days Fully Inclusive touring from \$14,980pp

Cairo - Alexandria - Luxor - Nile Cruise - Aswan - Abu Simbel - Amman - Petra - Wadi Rum - Dead Sea



Ancient Empires of China & Japan

20 days Fully Inclusive touring from \$12,790pp

Beijing - Xi'an - Guilin - Yangshuo - Shanghai - Osaka - Okayama - Kurashiki - Hiroshima - Miyajima - Kyoto - Hakone - Tokyo

All tours include international flights, accommodation, all transportation, all meals, touring with guides and entrance fees.

SENSATIONAL SOUTH AFRICA

A land of majestic wildlife, dramatic landscapes and captivating culture, South Africa is a place that not only offers adventure on an epic scale but leaves an indelible mark on all who visit. And our brand-new tour will show you it all.





We're delighted to show you South Africa the way only Wendy Wu Tours can with a meticulously designed itinerary packed with iconic sights, hidden gems and immersive cultural experiences. Our brand new 'Kruger to Cape Explored' tour is a 15-day romp through the highlights of South Africa. In typical Wendy Wu style, you will hop from river canyons to iconic national parks to ostrich farms to eclectic cities. You'll spot lions and elephants before breakfast and sip world-class wines with dinner, all while delving deep into the rich culture and complex history of this glorious nation.

It all starts in Johannesburg where there's time to visit the moving Apartheid Museum before heading into the dramatic Drakensberg Mountains to discover the natural wonders of the Panorama Route. One of South Africa's most scenic drives you will experience the area where the plateau comes to an abrupt and dramatic end with incredible views out over the grasslands of the South African Lowveld. You will take a ride on the Graskop Gorge Lift offering astounding views of the forest canopy, before continuing to God's Window, a panoramic viewpoint of the Blyde River Canyon.



Next, it's into the wilds of the Greater Kruger National Park for three nights incredible game viewing. Unlike most other tour operators, we stay in a private game lodge giving you a far more tranquil and exclusive game viewing experience. One of Africa's premier and most renowned game reserves, the vast Kruger is larger than some countries and is home to an astonishing range of habitats and wildlife, including the iconic Big 5.

A quick flight down to the coast brings us to the start of the Garden Route and its magnificent coastal panoramas. A particular highlight is the Featherbed Eco Experience, an enchanting adventure that takes visitors on a scenic boat cruise across the Knysna Lagoon, a scenic guided tractor ride, offering lovely views of the lagoon, ocean, and mountains and a

gentle nature walk through the coastal forest with a delicious lunch in this picturesque setting.

We then head inland to quirky Oudtshoorn, once known as the ostrich capital of the world, and also site of the spectacular Cango Caves, a subterranean marvel with impressive stalactite and stalagmite formations.

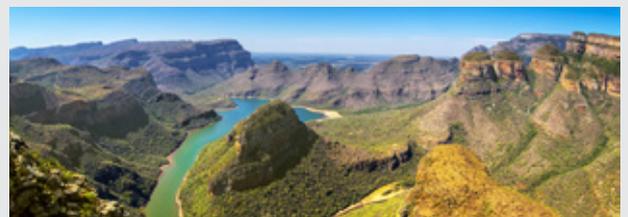
There's then four nights in Cape Town to round off the adventure. We'll explore the colourful district of Bo-Kaap and enjoy a Cape Malay cooking demonstration before ascending Table Mountain via the cableway for epic views of the city and ocean.

You'll spend a full day exploring the rugged beauty of the Cape Peninsula. Witness playful seals on a thrilling sea island cruise, embark on a scenic drive along Chapman's Peak to discover the rugged beauty of Cape Point, where the Indian and Atlantic Oceans meet, and visit the historic Cape Point Lighthouse for panoramic vistas. Finally, enjoy a stop at Boulders Beach, famous for its resident African penguin colony, where you can observe these charming creatures up close.

On a full day in the delightful Winelands just outside of Cape Town, you'll discover the charming Cape Dutch architecture of Stellenbosch before making your way to Franschhoek's Boschendal Wine Estate with its picturesque vineyards and rich history. Here you'll taste exquisite wines and savour a delicious lunch at Haute Cabriere, offering magnificent views of the valley. End this day with an unforgettable dinner at Gold Restaurant.

Your final day is spent relaxing amidst the cafes, restaurants, galleries and attractions of the vibrant Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. Backed by the iconic Table Mountain, the oldest working harbour in the Southern Hemisphere is the beating heart of Cape Town where locals and visitors alike come to work, play, live, shop and dine.

We can't wait to introduce to the wonders of South Africa, the Wendy Wu way!



Kruger to Cape Explored

15 days Go Beyond touring from \$12,590pp

Greater Kruger National Park - Gqeberha - Knysna - Cape Town

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

MY ROAD LESS TRAVELLED



Back in September, Wendy Wu UK customer, Fiona McRitchie, embarked on our epic 23-day Road to Samarkand tour. Travelling through the heart of Central Asia, it explores Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, taking in ancient cities, the stark beauty of the desert, magnificent mountain landscapes all while delving into the legends of the Silk Road. We spoke to Fiona about her experience.

Why did you choose the Road to Samarkand tour?

I was initially inspired to visit Central Asia by Joanna Lumley's Silk Road Adventure – it was a part of the world that is unknown to me. Both Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan were highlights of her show, so I started looking for tours to the region. I've travelled with Wendy Wu Tours before, so I talked to the staff at the travel show at Olympia and they suggested this tour so I took part in a virtual session with their travel experts. This gave me the confidence to take the plunge and go to this part of the world, they made it sound so exciting!



How would you describe your group and your guides?

Our group of 17 travellers, four singles and the rest couples, were a happy bunch. Most of us were well-travelled and a few of us had travelled with Wendy Wu Tours before, so we knew how it all worked. Everyone got on well even on a tour that was quite an intense travelling experience, and the size of the group was perfect -

small enough that there wasn't much waiting around and big enough that you could talk to different people at every meal. From the moment we arrived in Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan, our guide Regina was amazing, she was informative, caring and we learnt so much about the culture, customs, and way of life thanks to her. Our guide in Uzbekistan was equally informative. His historical knowledge was brilliant and his passion for his country really shone through.



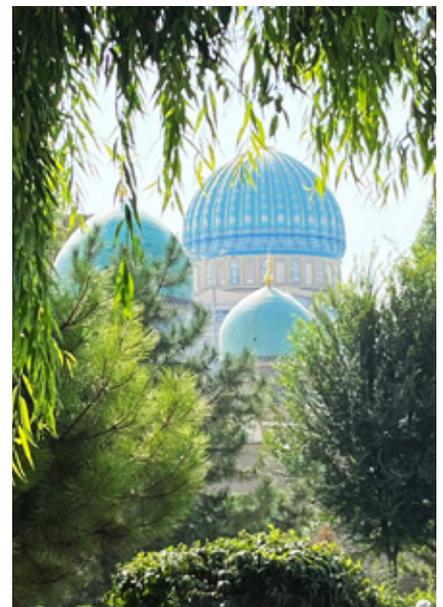
What was the food like?

We totally embraced the local cuisine in all the various regions we travelled through, and our tour guides made sure we had plenty of opportunities to try a variety of local dishes. I loved the breakfast with the local breads honey, eggs and homemade jams. For lunch and dinner, we ate in a lot of different style restaurants, from high end ones in the cities and large barbeques to a meal in a yurt and home cooked feasts with local families. I tried yak for the first time, ate the famous 'polov' in Samarkand and tasted the local delicacy mare's milk while we were in Naryn – let's just say it's an acquired taste! The most memorable evening was in a Russian restaurant toasting each other with vodka and watching the waiters put on a great show making a fruit salad and serving it to everyone.



How did you embrace the local culture?

We were able to embrace the local cultures wherever we were. The contrast between the two countries were so memorable – the beautiful, fresh natural landscapes were particularly striking in Kyrgyzstan, while in Uzbekistan it was the architectural wonders and historical World Heritage Sites that made it so breathtaking. There was also an astounding contrast between the cultures and lifestyles in the mountains, desert, cities, and villages, which we were able to experience by getting off the tourist trail to see the 'real' country. This is one of the main reasons that I book with Wendy Wu Tours time and time again as a single traveller. We were able to visit families in their homes, spent time at a local Sunday animal market and experienced arts and crafts demonstrations such as ceramics, embroidery, and felting.





"The other highlight was the eagle hunting, it felt so authentic, and we also were given the opportunity to hold the eagles too."

What was your 'wow' moment?

There were two really 'wow' moments. When we were at the Caravanserai, already standing in a yurt camp with a herd of yaks close by, we watched in awe and wonder as a herd of wild horses thundered down from the snow-capped mountains. It was an absolute highlight to see such freedom! The other highlight was the eagle hunting, it felt so authentic, and we also were given the opportunity to hold the eagles too.

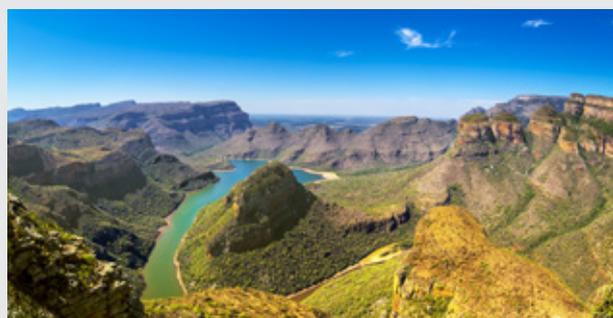
What stories have you shared most since you came home?

I've been mostly telling people about the contrasts between the two countries, as these really stood out to me, as well as the links to the Silk Route, which connected the tour so well. Also, the Karakol Sunday animal market was a real eye opener, a glimpse into a completely different way of life. We watched in awe and trepidation as large 'fat-tailed' sheep, bred especially for their size, were loaded into the back of cars to be taken home.

Why do you enjoy travelling with Wendy Wu Tours?

I have been on seven Wendy Wu Tours now and I love them. You pay for the whole experience, there are no additional or hidden costs to pay for. All my tours have been memorable, all focussed on learning about the country and really experiencing life in another part of the world and I think the key to this is having the local guides who really know their city or area. I would say the tours are travellers not tourists, and as a single traveller I have felt included on every trip.

Thank you, Fiona, for your wonderful account and fabulous pictures.



Road to Samarkand

23 days, Go Beyond touring from \$15,580pp

Bishkek - Cholpon Ata - Karakol - Naryn - Chong Kemin - Tashkent - Samarkand - Bukhara - Khiva - Tashkent

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



WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

There's nothing quite like the thrill of spotting wildlife in its natural habitat; a flash of black and orange on a tiger safari, the tell-tale screech of scarlet macaws in the jungle canopy or coming face to face with an enchanting orangutan.

Here we dive into our most popular wildlife-focussed tours and provide an overview of the incredible and diverse species that you might spot on your trip.

Best of Borneo

Our Best of Borneo tour takes you off the beaten track, visiting Borneo's lesser-explored corners. On this extraordinary adventure, you'll trek through untouched jungles, discover some of the island's most biodiverse regions and meet some of its extraordinary people, including the native Ibans - renowned for their former practice of headhunting.

Where are the wild things?

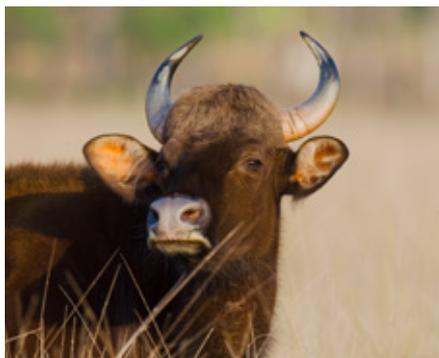
On our Best of Borneo tour, you'll visit Semenggoh Nature Reserve - a research and rehabilitation centre for orphaned, displaced or rescued orangutans where they are taught the skills they'll need to survive in the wild before being released into the nature reserve to continue with their semi-wild existence. You'll also visit the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation

Centre. Malayan sun bears are the smallest bears in the world and are only found in Southeast Asia.

Best of Borneo

16 days Go Beyond touring from \$7,280pp. Save up to \$400pp

Kuching - Sri Aman - Kota Kinabalu - Sepilok - Kinabatangan River



Wildlife of India

New for 2024, our Wildlife of India tour not only incorporates some of India's classic and iconic sites, including the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort but also takes you away from the bustling cities into the country's glorious and wild landscapes - where some of its most enigmatic species live.

Where are the wild things?

The animal on everyone's mind when visiting India is undoubtedly the tiger - and you'll have plenty of opportunities to spot the country's most famous big cat at the three national parks you'll visit on this tour - Kanha National Park, Bandhavgarh National Park and Panna National Park. Although most visitors are drawn to the parks hoping to spot a tiger, spending time in these conservation areas is also an opportunity to learn about India's other key species and incredible biodiversity.

The vast Kanha National Park, located in Madhya Pradesh, is famous for its swamp deer population and has been instrumental in the survival and protection of the species. Covering around 2000 sq km, the undulating landscape consists of plateaus, forests and grassy plains. Kanha became a tiger reserve in 1973 and is currently home to around 100 individuals, as well as leopard, chital and, as mentioned, swamp deer. The park was also the inspiration behind Rudyard Kipling's 'The Jungle Book'.

In the Vindhya Range of Madhya Pradesh, Bandhavgarh National Park is one of India's most renowned tiger reserves and is known for having the highest density of Bengal tigers in the country. You'll also have a good chance of spotting some of its many other residents; numerous deer species, macaques and langurs live alongside rarer animals including sloth bears, Indian foxes, jackals and wolves.

Wildlife of India

14 days Go Beyond touring from \$8,380pp. Save up to \$500pp

Delhi - Kanha - Bandhavgarh - Khajuraho - Agra - Delhi



Colours of Costa Rica

One of the planet's most biodiverse countries and an ecological treasure trove, Costa Rica is a must-visit for wildlife enthusiasts. On our Colours of Costa Rica tour, you'll travel from coast to coast visiting stunning national parks, tropical beaches, steaming volcanoes and lush rainforests. You'll also spend time in the vibrant city of San Jose and meet the friendly locals along the way.

Where are the wild things?

You'll be within close proximity to Costa Rica's diverse wildlife just about everywhere you go on this tour, and visits to national parks and conservation areas more or less guarantee sightings.

A wildlife highlight is sure to be Tortuguero National Park, known for its green sea turtles - it's one of the most important nesting sites in the world for the species. Incorporating beaches, tropical rainforests, mangrove swamps, lagoons and canals, the park is home to a diverse range of wildlife including the endangered green parrot, vultures, howler and spider monkeys. Sailing along the canals, you'll be on the lookout for West Indian manatees, sea cows, crocodiles and bull sharks.

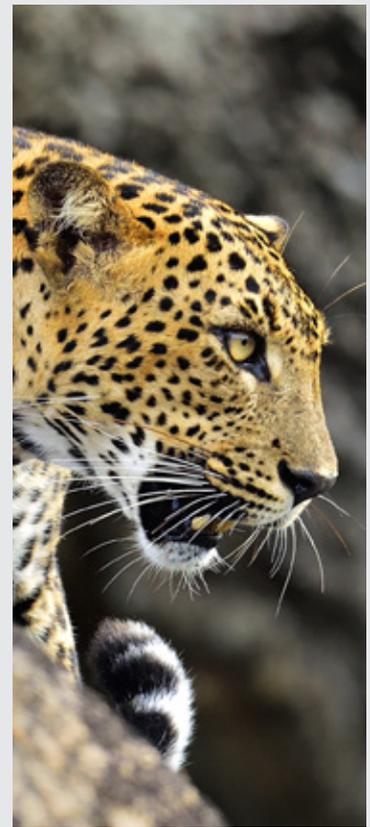
You'll also visit Monteverde, one of the most biodiverse and preserved habitats on Earth. Nestled within in the misty highlands, Monteverde consists of 26,000 acres of cloud forest, 90% of which is virgin old-growth forest (meaning it has never been exploited by humans).

Home to some of the most iconic species in the world, a few of the fascinating creatures that can be found here include sloths, monkeys, snakes, frogs and wild cats. One of the most charismatic residents of the cloud forest is the white-faced capuchin monkey - watch them swing through the treetops as they chatter away to each other. The elusive jaguar is rarely seen but usually present and the resplendent quetzal is often considered the crown jewel of Monteverde's bird population.

Colours of Costa Rica

16 days Go Beyond touring from \$14,590pp

San Jose - Tortuguero - Arenal - Monteverde - Manuel Antonio



Wildlife with Wendy Wu Tours

For wildlife enthusiasts, our wildlife-focused tours are the perfect way to spot many of the species on your bucket list. However, for those who love wildlife viewing as much as other activities, you can also observe some of the world's most incredible fauna on our classic tours.

Visit the adorable pandas at the Chengdu Research Base on a China tour or stop off to watch the snow monkeys bathe at Yudanaka Onsen on a Japan tour. See the Big Five on safari in South Africa or look out for Chile's vibrant flamingos on your South America explorations.

Speak to one of our experts today and find out where the wild things are in your favourite destination.

All tours include international flights, accommodation, all transportation, all or most meals, all touring with guides, entrance fees and visa for Australian passports (where applicable).

TRAVELLING SOLO? LET'S GO!

Whether you're a first-time solo traveller looking for an unforgettable adventure and you're not quite sure where to start, or even a seasoned solo explorer on the look out for exciting new experiences, you've come to the right place.

Explore the Sale

wendywutours.com.au/summer-sale



Incredible Single Supplement Savings on our most popular tours

Years of experience

At Wendy Wu Tours not only have we mastered the art of fully inclusive escorted touring, we've also been guiding solo travellers around the world for over 25 years, especially to those far-flung destinations which may seem daunting to visit on your own.

Stress-free travel

Our group tours offer a totally stress-free way to travel so you can just sit back and enjoy each amazing sight, sound and experience as our guides showcase the wonders of their homeland. Plus, all your flights, accommodation, meals, daily tours, experiences and even visas are taken care of by us so it's easier than ever for solos to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure without the stress of organising it alone.

World-class guides

Whether you're a solo traveller or not, and no matter which Wendy Wu tour you decide to take, every journey is guided by one of our award-winning National Escorts. We will only ever choose the most enthusiastic, passionate, friendly and welcoming guides to lead our tours, so we know you are in the very best hands. Your National Escort will take care of you every step of the way, they simply couldn't do more for you, and it's their dedication and abilities to get a group to bond which will ensure you have the most unforgettable experience with us.

Supremely sociable

Aside from offering the most relaxed and carefree way to travel, our group tours are incredibly sociable, and you're more than likely to make friends for life. On every tour we include a whole host of immersive hands-on experiences, informal local dining and cultural encounters which you will all enjoy together as part of a group – they are the perfect icebreakers and fantastic ways to make memories with new friends.

DEDICATED SOLO DEPARTURES

Of course, solo travellers are more than welcome on all Wendy Wu group tours, however if you prefer to travel only with other solos we have selected departures on some of our most popular tours which are dedicated to solo travellers only, so you can travel in a group of like-minded individuals just like you.

Enjoy the following fabulous benefits

- Smaller group size (max. 18)
- Room of your own throughout trip
- Free Australian airport lounge access (Selected airports)
- Complimentary cocktail reception on arrival

Enjoy dedicated solo departures to: Japan, India, China, Vietnam, Cambodia and Sri Lanka.

SOLO TRAVELLER SALE

Travelling Solo has never been such great value with our Summer Sale offers. Enjoy free or half price single supplements on selected departures in Japan, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Borneo, Egypt, Jordan, the Silk Road, Peru, India, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.



Save \$1,400pp

HALF PRICE SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Japan Uncovered

One of our most extensive Japan tours including all the classic sights and key cultural activities. Featuring modern cities, historical sights and beautiful landscapes, Japan Uncovered ensures you get the most out of your trip to this fascinating land.

18 days Fully Inclusive touring from \$14,390pp

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



Save \$525pp

HALF PRICE SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Angkor to the Bay

One of our most popular tours - take a voyage of discovery from the breathtaking majesty of the temples of Angkor, through to the spectacular natural grandeur of Halong Bay, experiencing all manner of delights en route.

18 days Fully Inclusive touring from \$8,105pp

Angkor - Phnom Penh - Saigon - Hoi An - Hue - Hanoi - Halong Bay



Save \$1,250pp

FREE SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Inspiring India

Be inspired by the classic sights of India's Golden Triangle, discovering delightful Udaipur and searching for majestic Bengal tigers at Ranthambore. Add some of Rajasthan's hidden gems and you have the perfect first-time holiday to India.

14 days Fully Inclusive touring from \$6,280pp

Delhi - Jaipur - Pushkar - Udaipur - Bundi - Ranthambore - Agra - Taj Mahal



Save \$2,180pp

FREE SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Panoramic Peru

On this thrilling journey through Peru, much of which is spent at altitude in the Andes Mountains, you'll discover the heart of the Inca Empire at Machu Picchu, encounter soaring condors and sail on the waters of Lake Titicaca.

15 Days Fully Inclusive touring from \$12,280pp

Lima - Cusco - Sacred Valley - Ollantaytambo - Machu Picchu - Puno - Colca - Arequipa



Save \$760pp

FREE SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

In Pursuit of Pandas

Discover the imperial treasures of historic Beijing, then journey through atmospheric Xian with its Terracotta Warriors to reach the charming city of Chengdu, where you will see the captivating giant pandas, not once, but twice!

9 days Fully Inclusive touring from \$5,480pp

Beijing - Xian - Chengdu



Save up to \$1,110pp

FREE SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Journey Through Jordan

Experience the very best of Jordan on this mesmerising tour. Explore the cosmopolitan capital Amman and tour the ancient Roman city of Jerash and the famous fortress of Qa'lat Al Rabad. Marvel at the ancient wonders of Petra and the stark beauty of Wadi Rum before relaxing at the Dead Sea.

10 Days Fully Inclusive touring from \$8,990pp

Amman - Jerash - Petra - Wadi Rum - Dead Sea

All tours include international flights, accommodation, all transportation, all meals, touring with guides, entrance fees and visa.

TOP SIX MUST DO EXPERIENCES IN VIETNAM

It goes without saying that as a destination, Vietnam is thoroughly enchanting. But seeing all the beautiful sights – Halong Bay, Hoi An, the Mekong Delta, to name just a few – is just one part of the experience. To truly discover the magic you need to wholeheartedly throw yourself into the culture and way of life.

These are our top six must do experiences in Vietnam to help you do just that.



Explore the Mekong Delta by boat

Embarking on a boat trip through the vast waterways of the Mekong Delta opens a fascinating window into the lives of the millions of locals that live, trade and travel on the river. As your boat glides along surrounded by lush greenery, sleepy villages and bustling towns, the vibrant tapestry of life unfolds before your eyes. Farmers toil in their fields, children wave on their way to school, boats laden with produce chug by and the air is infused with the fragrant scent of tropical fruits and street food being prepared on floating kitchens.



Hop in a cyclo

Introduced by the French in the early 20th century, the cyclo was once the transport of choice for colonials and locals alike. While largely replaced by more modern means today, the cyclo is still a fun, relaxing and immersive way to explore the streets of Vietnam's towns and cities. For a real trip down memory lane experience a cyclo ride through Hanoi's Old Quarter, a maze of streets dating back to the 13th century. Wrap up your ride with a strong Vietnamese coffee at a café overlooking Hoan Kiem Lake – an important site in Vietnamese folklore.



Be a farmer for a day

Around 70% of the Vietnamese population live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, so farming is deeply ingrained in the national psyche. Set in the lush green fields just outside of Hoi An, the residents of the small village of Tra Que offer guests the opportunity to experience a day in the life of a hard-working farmer. The village produce around eight tonnes of organic vegetables annually – you’ll learn the traditional farming techniques still very much in use today to help tend the rich soil where it all grows, alongside the locals.



Taste the History

Healthy and simple but so rich in flavour, Vietnam’s cuisine is a map of the influences, relationships, and upheaval that is its history. Look closely and there are influences from neighbouring countries, particularly China, from the French, Malay and Indian spice traders and even former Eastern European communist states to discover. You’ll find every dish is perfectly balanced, constructed around a five-pronged philosophy, that dictates a bringing together of tastes, colours and nutrients. While ingredients vary due to geography, fresh produce, herbs, and spices are always present and the sensational taste is guaranteed.



Cruise Halong Bay

The dramatic landscapes of Halong have been capturing imaginations for centuries. A sparkling bay dotted with thousands of sheer, jaggedly sculpted limestone karst towers and islets, legend tells that the bay was created by dragons, a story that certainly suits its mystical aura. There is no better way to explore this picturesque panorama than by drifting tranquilly through the formations on a cruise, taking in tableaux of junk boats and rock towers, and exploring caves, islands and floating villages as you go.



Hike the rice terraces

Vietnam’s northern highlands are well-known for spectacular rice terraces with places like Sapa, Mai Chou and Hoang Su Phi being prime examples. Carved from the hillsides over the centuries, the terraces are the product of Vietnam’s minority groups, sometimes called hill tribes, communities who, although far from the modern world, have still contributed hugely to the development of the country. Hiking the terraces is the best way to truly appreciate them and the landscapes they occupy – stop for a break in an H’Mong or Red Deo village to get a taste of an alternative way of Vietnamese life.



Vietnam Trails

16 days Go Beyond touring from \$6,280pp

Saigon - Cu Chi - Mekong Delta - Hoi An - Hue - Hanoi - Sapa - Halong Bay

Discover Vietnam's many gems, from buzzing Saigon and quaint Hoi An to stately Hanoi and magnificent Halong Bay. Top this off with an adventure to visit the terraced rice fields and hill tribes of Sapa, a vision of verdant scenery.

Including: international flights, accommodation, all transportation, most meals, touring with guides, entrance fees and visa for Australian passports.

72 Hours in Hong Kong

Hong Kong's tantalising mix of colonial influences, futuristic modernity and distinct Chinese traditions make it the ultimate east-meets-west destination. With so much to see, do and explore, we want to make sure you maximise your time in this incredible city with this handy guide.

Day 1: Arrive in Hong Kong

Transfer from the airport to your hotel amongst the iconic skyline of Hong Kong Island or the bustle of Kowloon. Depending on your time of arrival you can begin to explore this spectacular city.

We recommend heading to Kowloon and while away the afternoon in the shops of Nathan Road, exploring the ground-breaking K11 Musea or admiring the huge collection at the Hong Kong Museum of Art.

Cross into West Kowloon to discover the vibrant new cultural quarter with its plentiful shops, cafes and restaurants. Consider heading up to the Sky100 Observation Deck to catch mesmerising 360-degree views of the city, particularly spectacular as the sun sets. The nightly 'A Symphony of Lights' laser show is a must and can be enjoyed from the Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront.



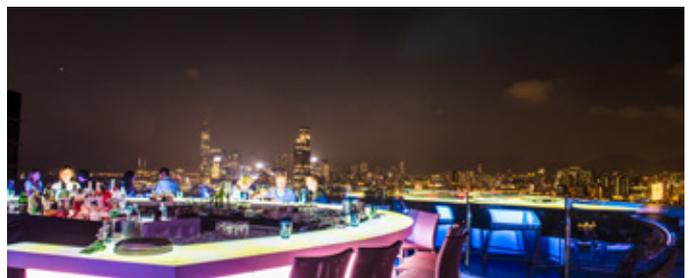
Day 2: Hong Kong Island

Morning: Get ready for a thrilling half day seat in coach adventure in Hong Kong, as you ride the world's longest outdoor escalator, marveling at the city's vibrant streets. Next, visit Tai Kwun, a cultural haven within historic walls, immersing yourself in rich heritage and vibrant contemporary art. Indulging in a dim sum feast at Tim Ho Wan, where each bite is a culinary delight. Next, soar up to the heights of Victoria Peak, the highest point on the island, via the latest 6th generation peak tram. The top offers spectacular views of Hong Kong's iconic skyline and



surrounds, making it the perfect place to get your bearings. Finally, make your way to Lion's Point View Pavilion, and get ready to immortalize this awe-inspiring scene with your camera.

Afternoon: Spend the afternoon at leisure, perhaps relaxing on the beach or exploring the shops and restaurants of Repulse Bay or head back to Central and board one of Hong Kong Island's vintage trams, its distinctive rattle long part of the city's soundtrack, which makes its way from east to west across the north of the island. A relaxed and fun way to see the sights, hop on a westbound tram to reach the trendy Kennedy Town for easy strolls and views across the harbour, or eastbound to the bustling Causeway Bay, the beating heart of Hong Kong's shopping scene.



Evening: Time to sample Hong Kong's excellent and versatile dining scene. Head to one of the towering skyscrapers to find everything you need for your night. Places like The H Code and The Landmark feature both vibrant bars and Michelin star restaurants.



Day 3: Lantau Island

Morning: Head to Tung Chung on Lantau Island and hop onboard the Ngong Ping 360 cable car which will sail you over glorious landscapes to reach the magnificent Tian Tan Buddha. Climb the steps to admire the Buddha up close or find the start of the Wisdom Path which follows 38 wooden steps. Visit the Grand Buddha Exhibiton Hall and Po Lin Monastery, an important Buddhist sanctum and home of one of Hong Kong's best vegetarian restaurants.

Day 4: Depart Hong Kong

Depending on the time of your departing flight, you can continue your explorations – there's always more to do in Hong Kong! For those who want to see a different side of the city, you could board the MTR to Sha Tin, a quiet neighbourhood in the New Territories. From here you can wander the excellent preserved walled village of Tsang Tai Uk, visit the Che Kung Temple, take a tour of the Carbon Brews Brewery, or explore the trails of Ma On Shan Country Park before returning to Kowloon or Hong Kong Island by MTR. Transfer from the city back to the airport.

How to See Hong Kong with Wendy Wu Tours

Hong Kong is perfectly located to break up the journey for those heading to or from tours in China and Japan. The ultimate city break, we offer two fabulous Hong Kong stopovers, a three day introductory option and a slightly more in-depth four day option – just like the 72 hour itinerary you've just been reading about. Here's how to include them on your tour:



Hong Kong + Wonders of China 4 days + 16 days from \$8,220pp

Start the adventure by exploring two aspects of Hong Kong life, touring the best bits of the city and the natural beauty of Lantau Island. Then pop up to Beijing to enjoy the highlights of China, including the Great Wall, Xian, a Yangtze River Cruise, the Li River and Shanghai.



Hong Kong + Japan Uncovered 4 days + 18 days from \$13,680pp

Explore the best of Hong Kong with our Hong Kong in Focus tour featuring all the highlights of this vibrant city. Travel on to Osaka to embark on a journey through Japan, stopping in Osaka, Nara, Himeji, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Shirakawago, Takayama, Matsumoto, Nagano, Yudanaka, Mount Fuji and Tokyo.

Both Hong Kong stopovers include accommodation, some meals and shared touring with guides and entrance fees.

Dear Santa...



For Christmas this year, I'd like a tour with all the trimmings. I'd like to wake up on Christmas morning somewhere new and exciting, maybe a place that's lovely and sunny, or perhaps a destination full of frosty delights. I'm looking to ring in the new year exploring something extraordinary, to escape the dark and cold of home to a location that is merry and bright...

Hang on, hang on, you don't need to ask Santa to fulfil this Christmas wish, you just need to ask Wendy Wu! Our new collection of Christmas tours offers something truly magical and a great, and different, way to celebrate the season.

There are 10 tours in total and each has all the usual inclusions - flights, accommodation, all or most meals with special dinners on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, guiding, entrance fees, transportation and special cultural experiences. You just need to choose which will be the one on your list this year.



Christmas on the Indian Subcontinent

We have three glorious tours that take in the wonders of the Indian Subcontinent - Christmas in India, Christmas in Kerala and Christmas in Sri Lanka. This is a great choice for those who want to bask in balmy weather (we're talking around 22° in Delhi and 30° in both Kerala and Sri Lanka) and really delve into an intoxicating culture. In India, you'll explore the Golden Triangle and Rajasthan, visiting the Taj Mahal on Christmas morning, in Kerala you can attend a traditional Christmas mass in local attire and board a houseboat on Boxing Day, and in Sri Lanka you'll adventure out on two safaris and spend Christmas in the gorgeous tea-growing highlands.



Christmas in China

For those looking for those icy delights, one of our two China tours could be for you. Christmas in China takes you through the highlights, with a walk a Christmas Day walk on the Great Wall, time at the Terracotta Warriors and watching the giant pandas play, possibly in the snow! China: Winter Wonderland, also includes the Great Wall, Warriors and pandas, but you'll spend Christmas Day in Shanghai and spend time at the spectacular Harbin Ice Festival.

Christmas in Southeast Asia

A gorgeous part of the world to enjoy Christmas and see in the New Year, we love both our Southeast Asia Christmas tours equally. Christmas in Vietnam, where December is one of the best times to visit, is a glorious journey from Saigon up to Hanoi and Halong Bay, where you'll enjoy Christmas itself. Alternatively, soak up the beauty of Siam with our Christmas in Thailand tour where, from Bangkok, you'll head up to Chiang Mai and the northern highlands and spend Christmas morning with magnificent elephants.

Christmas in Japan

Although not an official holiday, the Japanese still do the festive season in style, so on our Christmas in

Japan tour, you can expect illuminations in the likes of Tokyo, Hiroshima and Osaka and a snow-covered countryside and Mount Fuji. Christmas Eve and Day will be spent in Kyoto, taking in the city's most iconic sights and experiences.

Christmas South Africa

Who wouldn't want to spend their Christmas among the wilds of Kruger National Park? With our Christmas in South Africa tour, you can! With game drives and a starlit boma dinner on Christmas and Boxing days, you'll also traverse the Garden Route, visit the Cape Winelands, and see in the New Year in the incomparable Cape Town.

For all the details of our new fabulous festive adventures - take a look at our brand new Christmas Digi-brochure or visit wendywutours.com.au/christmas-collection



INTRODUCING SAUDI ARABIA

For years, the many wonders of Saudi Arabia have been hidden away from all but pilgrims, but now everyone is welcome to come and discover this enigmatic destination, and we think you're going to love it...

Considered by many to be the last frontier of travel, before 2019 Saudi Arabia was closed to the world, unless you happened to be travelling there on business or on a pilgrimage. But now it's open to anyone who wants to come, explore and experience the magic of Arabia. We suggest you do it quickly because this is a destination that is bellowing to the discerning traveller to "get over here right now before the whole world discovers me!"

Vast and varied, Saudi Arabia is a kingdom of two faces, one that looks back at a mind-bogglingly long history and one that looks fixedly at the future. Exploring the past, all 10 millennia of it, brings a world of the past back to the present with ancient rock drawings, the desert ruins of long fallen empires, holy cities at the heart of the Islamic faith,

traditional, bustling souks and huge camel markets. The future, however, can be found in the fast-paced, mega-rich cities, particularly capital Riyadh, bustling with the gleaming skyscrapers, world class museums, shopping malls and entertainment districts that are springing up in earnest. It is learning about the interaction of these two faces, the past and the future, that give us a glimpse of what it is that makes Saudi Arabia tick.

A destination with a difference, this is a place for those who are fascinated by the combination of staunch tradition and forward-looking, for those who can dive headlong into rich culture, lose themselves to history and thrive on the enigmatic. Welcome to Saudi Arabia....





Hegra

Built by the Nabataeans, the trading empire also responsible for Petra in Jordan, Hegra was a spice route city that faded into history when it was taken over by the Romans in 106 AD. Overwhelmed by the desert, its 131 tombs, all carved from rock, are beautifully preserved and a wonder to explore.



Jeddah

Jeddah is a pilgrimage centre, thriving city and home to the country's largest market, Souk Al Alawi, an emporium of exotic sounds and scents. The streets of al-Balad are an ancient delight, lined with coral stone buildings with carved teak balconies that have changed little since the 7th century.



Medina

The second holiest city in Islam, Medina was established in the 6th century BC and is steeped in fascinating heritage. Spectacularly set among mountains, plains and oases, it's only recently that non-Muslims have been able to enter the city to admire its many religious and historical attractions.



Ushaiger

The epitome of a living museum, Ushaiger was settled by Bedouins 1,500 years ago and became a popular stopping point for pilgrims en route to Mecca. Wander the maze of narrow alleyways between the mud houses for a glimpse of a quieter, slower Saudi Arabia of times-gone-by.



Jubba

Surrounded by the Nefud Desert on an old caravan trade route, Jubba is best known for the ancient petroglyphs and inscriptions in the sandstone outcrops that surround the city. UNESCO-listed, the rock art depictions include birds, monkeys, archers, chariots, camels and gazelles.



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