



## BANGKOK TO MUMBAI WITH AZAMARA CRUISES

### Classic Cruising Tour | 28 Days | Physical Level 1

Bangkok – Kanchanaburi – Kuala Lumpur – Penang – Phuket – Chennai – Colombo – Cochin – Mumbai  
– Jaipur – Ranthambore – Agra – Delhi

This cruising tour includes all the classic sights and key cultural activities you'd expect to see whilst visiting Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and India. Featuring bustling cities, beautiful beaches, historical sights and wildlife centric regions, this tour ensures you get the most out of your trip to these fascinating regions.

- Be awe inspired by the magnificent Taj Mahal
- Become immersed in the fast paced city life in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, and Mumbai
- Embrace the hustle and bustle in Delhi
- Admire the impressive beaches in Thailand and Sri Lanka
- Soak up the traditional culture in Penang and Chennai
- Search for the native tigers in Ranthambore National Park

## TOUR MAP

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### TOUR INCLUSIONS:

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- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 16 nights Azamara cruise on Azamara Onward
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated (*if dining on board throughout*) – 26 breakfasts (B), 25 lunches (L), 26 dinners (D)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees, transportation and transfers pre and post cruise
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides pre and post cruise
- Visa fees for Australian passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

*Pre and post cruise, the only elements or aspects you may have to pay for are personal expenditures e.g., drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.*

*During the cruise, your meals on board will be included in the main dining areas, however, should you wish to dine in any of the speciality restaurants not included in your cruising package, you will be required to pay for these locally. In addition, if you opt to dine off the ship, these meals will also be paid for locally, and please note you will not be refunded for meals missed on board. Excursions are also available to book with your cruise reservation at your own expense.*

### CLASSIC CRUISING TOURS:

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Our classic cruising tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and India. The combination of cruise and tour is perfect for those who wish to undertake both experiences whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis pre & post cruise, so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements before and after your cruise are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

### JOINING YOUR TOUR:

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The tour is 28 days in duration including international flights. Join the tour on Day 1 in Bangkok and end the tour on Day 27 in Delhi.

For travellers booked on a 'Land and Cruise Only' package, which omits the inclusion of international flights, the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight information to our reservations team.

### ITINERARY CHANGES:

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We intend to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours, or as dictated by local conditions. In these circumstances, we will endeavour to make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip. Similarly, while cruise liners always endeavour to adhere to the published itineraries, they may be changed at the discretion of the captain due to weather advisories, port traffic, and any other unforeseeable circumstances.

### PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

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All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

'Bangkok to Mumbai with Azamara Cruises' is rated as a **physical level 1** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required, and you should expect to be on your feet for much of the day. You will be getting on and off coaches, trains or boats and walking around the sights, often including steps, plus occasional longer walks.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time, often on uneven surfaces
- You will be required to get on and off small boats without assistance
- You will be required to board the cruise ship without assistance and get on and off at ports if you wish to disembark the ship

Of course, our National Escort and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.



**DETAILED ITINERARY****Day 1: Bangkok, Thailand****Meals: D**

Fly to the vibrant city; Bangkok. Upon arrival, you will be met at the airport by your English-speaking representative. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, travel to your hotel and check in.

*Please note: Early check-in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservation's consultant.*

**Destination Information**

**Bangkok** – Bangkok has been Thailand's dominant city since the 18th century. It was established as the capital after the former capital, Ayutthaya, was razed to the ground by the Burmese army. It was the centre point of the modernisation of Siam in the late 19th century, leading the introduction of rail transport, the printing press, healthcare and utilities infrastructure. With a population of over 10 million, the fast pace of the city can be intense; however, beneath the hustle and bustle, there are many hidden gems waiting to be discovered.

**Day 2: Bangkok – Day trip to Kanchanaburi****Meals: B, L, D**

Just a three-hour drive from Bangkok lies the stunningly beautiful province of Kanchanaburi, where today's touring will start at the historic 'Death Railway', a legacy of WWII originally built by Allied Prisoners of War.

The railway, which runs across the famous bridge over the River Kwai, is named for the thousands of prisoners who lost their lives while constructing this link between Thailand and Myanmar (Burma).



Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, and then wrap up your tour with a visit to Hellfire Pass, a dramatic part of the railway that literally cut through a mountain. Walk down into the valley to see the cut in the rock from below, before exploring the Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum.

This evening, enjoy dinner at a riverside restaurant Babble and Grill, soaking up the views of the Chao Phraya River and magnificent Rama VIII Bridge.

## Destination Information

**Kanchanaburi** - Kanchanaburi is a town in west Thailand. It's known for the Death Railway, built during WWII. The line crosses over the River Khwae Yai via the Death Railway Bridge. Displays at the JEATH War Museum honor the prisoners of war who died building the bridge. The Thailand–Burma Railway Centre explores the wider history of the railway. Nearby, thousands of Allied soldiers are buried at the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery.

**Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum** - Museum & gallery memorializing laborers who died building the Burma-Thailand railway during WWII.

### Day 3: Embark Azamara cruise in Bangkok, Thailand

Meals: B, L, D

Today, you will board your Azamara Onward cruise (from Klong Toey port in Bangkok) to begin your voyage tomorrow. Spend the rest of the day in Bangkok at your own leisure or acclimatising to life on board.

*Please note, your National Escort or Local Guide will travel with you to the port, however they will not board the cruise with you. You will be met again by your new National Escort or Local Guide once you disembark in Mumbai.*



### Day 4: Cruising

Meals: B, L, D

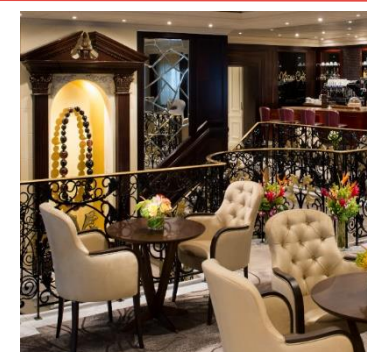
Whilst onboard, enjoy the entertainment and amenities the Azamara Onward cruise ship has to offer. Meals can be enjoyed from 6 different restaurants & cafes, whilst drinks can be consumed at several lounges & bars (including a wine cellar). Entertainment on offer includes nightly theatre shows, a nightclub, and areas onboard with live music. Relaxation can be enjoyed at the spa (with treatments available) or whilst shopping in one of the many boutiques available onboard.



### Day 5: Cruising

Meals: B, L, D

Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship Azamara Onward has to offer.



**Day 6: Cruising – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia****Meals: B, L, D**

This morning, dock in Kuala Lumpur. Enjoy a range of excursions here.

*Please note: Any excursions on this day will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the Azamara Onward cruise ship.*

*Please note: Your meals are included on board the ship. If you disembark the cruise, any meals on this day will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Kuala Lumpur** – Kuala Lumpur is the capital of Malaysia. Its modern skyline is dominated by the 451metre tall Petronas Twin Towers, a pair of glass-and-steel-clad skyscrapers with Islamic motifs. The towers also offer a public skybridge and observation deck. The city is also home to British colonial-era landmarks such as the Kuala Lumpur Railway Station and the Sultan Abdul Samad Building.

**Day 7: Cruising – Penang, Malaysia****Meals: B, L, D**

This morning, dock in Penang. Enjoy a range of excursions here.

*Please note: Any excursions on this day will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the Azamara Onward cruise ship.*

*Please note: Your meals are included on board the ship. If you disembark the cruise, any meals on this day will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Penang** – Penang is a state in northwest Malaysia comprising mainland Seberang Perai and Penang Island. On the island, the state capital of George Town is home to landmarks such as colonial Fort Cornwallis, the ornate Chinese clan house Khoo Kongsi and the Kapitan Keling Mosque, all testaments to centuries of foreign influence. To the west, a funicular ascends Penang Hill, with its trails, flower gardens and panoramic views.

**Day 8: Cruising – Phuket, Thailand****Meals: B, L, D**

This morning, dock in Phuket. Enjoy a range of excursions here.

*Please note: Any excursions on this day will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the Azamara Onward cruise ship.*

*Please note: Your meals are included on board the ship. If you disembark the cruise, any meals on this day will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Phuket** – Phuket City, on Phuket Island, is the capital of Thailand's Phuket Province. In the Old Town, Thalang Road is lined with colorful 19th-century shophouses and Sino-Portuguese buildings. Built in 1903 by a wealthy tin merchant, Baan Chinpracha mansion has Italian floor tiles, shuttered windows and antique furniture. Set in a 1930s manor, the Thai Hua Museum has exhibits on Phuket's culture and history.

**Day 9: Cruising****Meals: B, L, D**

Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship Azamara Onward has to offer.

**Day 10: Cruising****Meals: B, L, D**

Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship Azamara Onward has to offer.





**Day 11: Cruising – Chennai, India****Meals: B, L, D**

This afternoon, dock in Chennai. Enjoy a range of excursions here. Return to the cruise ship and spend the remainder of the evening at leisure.

*Please note: Any excursions on this day will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the Azamara Onward cruise ship.*

*Please note: Your meals are included on board the ship. If you disembark the cruise, any meals on this day will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Chennai** – The capital of Tamil Nadu state. This city is amongst one of the most visited cities in India and is rich in religion and culinary traditions.

**Day 12: Cruising - Chennai, India****Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy spending a second day here, as you wish. The ship will depart this evening.

*Please note: Any excursions on this day will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the Azamara Onward cruise ship.*

*Please note: Your meals are included on board the ship. If you disembark the cruise, any meals on this day will be at your own expense.*

**Day 13: Cruising****Meals: B, L, D**

Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship Azamara Onward has to offer.



**Day 14: Cruising - Colombo, Sri Lanka****Meals: B, L, D**

This morning, dock in Colombo. Enjoy a range of excursions here. Return to the cruise ship and spend the remainder of the evening at leisure.

*Please note: Any excursions on this day will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the Azamara Onward cruise ship.*

*Please note: Your meals are included on board the ship. If you disembark the cruise, any meals on this day will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Colombo** – Cosmopolitan Colombo, gateway to the wonder of Sri Lanka, boasts a rich colonial heritage, featuring a melting pot of races, religions and cultures.

**Day 15: Cruising - Colombo, Sri Lanka****Meals: B, L, D**

This morning, you will depart Colombo. Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship Azamara Onward has to offer.

**Day 16: Cruising – Cochin, India****Meals: B, L, D**

This morning, dock in Cochin. Enjoy a range of excursions here. Return to the cruise ship and spend the remainder of the evening at leisure.

*Please note: Any excursions on this day will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the Azamara Onward cruise ship.*

*Please note: Your meals are included on board the ship. If you disembark the cruise, any meals on this day will be at your own expense.*



## Destination Information

**Cochin** – Kochi (also known as Cochin) is a city in southwest India's coastal Kerala state. It has been a port since 1341, when a flood carved out its harbor and opened it to Arab, Chinese and European merchants. Sites reflecting those influences include Fort Kochi, a settlement with tiled colonial bungalows and diverse houses of worship. Cantilevered Chinese fishing nets, typical of Kochi, have been in use for centuries.

### Day 17: Cruising - Cochin, India

**Meals: B, L, D**

This afternoon, you will depart Cochin. Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship Azamara Onward has to offer.

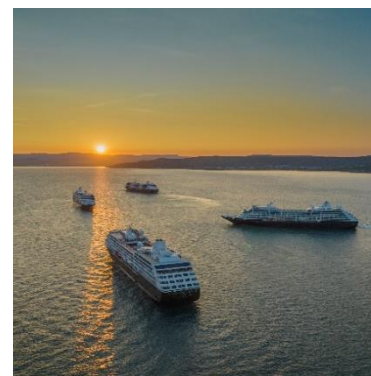


### Day 18: Cruising

**Meals: B, L, D**

Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship Azamara Onward has to offer.

*Please note: You will be requested to leave your bags outside your cabin this evening. This allows the cruise team to collect your luggage in the early morning ahead of your disembarkation, without disturbing you in the early hours.*



### Day 19: Disembark Azamara cruise in Mumbai, India

**Meals: B, L, D**

Upon arrival into Mumbai cruise port this morning, you will be met by your English-speaking guide and new National Escort or Local Guide. Transfer to your hotel for check in and enjoy the rest of your day at leisure.



### Destination Information

**Mumbai** – Home to the world's biggest cinema industry, popularly known as 'Bollywood'. Some 15 million people, from billionaire tycoons to homeless pavement dwellers, live in this teeming megalopolis.

### Day 20: Mumbai – Jaipur

**Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast & check out, take a drive to Mumbai's principle landmark - The Gateway of India. You'll then board a motorboat for about 1 hour to the Elephanta Island. On arrival, take a brief train ride to base of the Elephanta caves before returning back to the Gateway of India.

Continue with a drive to a local restaurant for lunch, before driving past historical buildings such as Mumbai University and the High Court.



Next, enjoy a photo stop at the Victoria Terminus train station. Proceed to Mani Bhawan, where Mahatma Gandhi stayed during his visits to Mumbai. Continue to the Dhobi Ghat, an open laundry, before paying a visit the ISKON Temple. Afterwards continue to the Crawford market and Flora fountain.

This evening, you will be transferred to Mumbai airport to board your flight to Jaipur. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel for check in.

### Destination Information

**The Gateway of India** – The Gateway of India is an arch-monument completed in 1924 on the waterfront of Mumbai, India. It was erected to commemorate the landing of George V for his coronation as the Emperor of India in December 1911 at Strand Road near Wellington Fountain.

**Elephanta Island** - Elephanta Island is one of a number of islands in Mumbai Harbour, east of Mumbai, India.

**Victoria Terminus Train Station** - Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, is a historic railway terminus and UNESCO World Heritage Site in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. The terminus was designed by a British architectural engineer Frederick William Stevens from an initial design by Axel Haig, in an exuberant Italian Gothic style.

**Crawford Market** - Crawford Market is one of South Mumbai's most famous markets. The building was completed in 1869, and donated to the city by Cowasji Jehangir.

**Jaipur** - Jaipur is the capital of India's Rajasthan state. It evokes the royal family that once ruled the region and that, in 1727, founded what is now called the Old City, or "Pink City" for its trademark building color. At the center of its stately street grid (notable in India) stands the opulent, colonnaded City Palace complex. With gardens, courtyards and museums, part of it is still a royal residence.



**Day 21: Jaipur****Meals: B, L, D**

Begin today's tour with a brief photo stop at Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) before continuing to Amber Fort. Inside the fort you will see the Jag Mandir, or Hall of Victory, which houses the famed Sheesh Mahal.

Afterwards, visit Maharaja's City Palace to explore the former Royal residence. Outside the gate to Maharaja's City Palace is Jantar Mantar, the largest stone and marble crafted observatory in the world. Before returning to the hotel, stop for some shopping inside the walled city, where villagers from around Jaipur come to sell and trade their produce.



Sightseeing this morning and afternoon involves 2 to 3 hours on foot and there are several steps within the fort.

**Destination Information**

**Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds)** – A five-story palace erected in 1799 by the Sawai Pratap Singh so that the veiled ladies of his harem could observe, unnoticed, the lively street scenes below.

**Amber Fort** – Built from yellow and pink sandstone and white marble, Amber Fort was constructed in the 16th century by Raja Man Singh. Inside the fort visit the Hall of Victory, which houses the framed Sheesh Mahal.

**Maharaja's City Palace** – A former royal residence located in the heart of the Old City. Part of the building has been converted into a museum, while the royal family of Jaipur still uses the remaining sections of the palace as a private residence.

**Jantar Mantar Observatory** – The largest stone and marble crafted observatory in the world is located just outside the City Palace. The observatory has 17 large instruments, many of them still in working condition.

**Day 22: Jaipur – Ranthambore National Park****Meals: B, L, D**

This morning, take a scenic 3-hour drive to Ranthambore National Park. You will then spend the remainder of the day at leisure.

*Please carry your passport with you for entrance into the park today.*



### Destination Information

**Ranthambore National Park** – Ranthambore National Park is a vast wildlife reserve near the town of Sawai Madhopur in Rajasthan, northern India. It is a former royal hunting ground and home to tigers, leopards and marsh crocodiles. Its landmarks include the imposing 10th-century Ranthambore Fort, on a hilltop, and the Ganesh Mandir temple. Also in the park, Padam Talao Lake is known for its abundance of water lilies.

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**Day 23: Ranthambore National Park****Meals: B, L, D**

Your safari experience begins early as you are taken on your first game drive. Enjoy exploring in a shared vehicle around the National Park.

Afterwards, return to the hotel for breakfast and enjoy some time to relax before heading back out into the National Park for your second safari in the mid-afternoon.

There are around 70 majestic Bengal tigers living amongst Ranthambore's landscapes, as well as leopards, sloths, wild boar, hyena and over 300 species of birds.

*Please carry your passport with you for entrance into the park today.*



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**Day 24: Ranthambore National Park - Agra****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, you will commence the drive to Agra. The journey time is approximately 5 hours.

Upon arrival, check in and enjoy lunch. This afternoon, you will pay a visit to the imposing Agra Fort. Afterwards, return to your hotel and spend the remainder of the evening at leisure.



### Destination Information

**Agra** – Most famous as the home of the Taj Mahal, Agra is set on a bend in the sacred Yamuna River. Both the city fort and Taj Mahal overlook the river, alongside several significant tombs and mausoleums from the Mughal period. The Taj Mahal is undoubtedly the highlight of Agra, with a magnificent structure that easily lives up to its exalted reputation.

**Agra Fort** – Situated on the west bank of the Yamuna River and built by Emperor Akbar between 1565 and 1573. Its imposing red sandstone ramparts form a crescent along the riverfront and encompass an enormous complex of courtly buildings, ranging in style from the early eclecticism of Akbar to the sublime elegance of Shah Jahan. The barracks to the north are British additions from the 19th century. A deep moat, once filled with water from the Yamuna River surrounds the fort.

**Day 25: Agra - Delhi**

**Meals: B, L, D**

Before the sun rises, you will be taken to the Taj Mahal. Be awe struck by the unforgettable experience and beauty of the sunrise over this architectural marvel.

No polluting vehicles are allowed within a 500m radius of the Taj Mahal complex, so at a designated point you will need to board a small electric cart to drive to the entrance gate.

After your memorable visit, return to your hotel for breakfast. This late morning, head to a marble inlay workshop. Here, you will learn more about the intricate skill of laying marble, which you would have seen earlier this morning at the Taj Mahal.

This afternoon, you will proceed to Delhi, a journey of approximately 4 hours. Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure.



### Destination Information

**Taj Mahal** – The Taj Mahal is one of the seven wonders of the world. It stands proud as an ivory-white marble mausoleum on the right bank of the river Yamuna in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India. It was commissioned in 1631 by the fifth Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan to house the tomb of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal; it also houses the tomb of Shah Jahan himself.

**Delhi** – As the capital of India, Delhi is the third largest city with a population of approximately 18 million people. Its strategic location along the north-south, east-west route has given it a focal position in Indian history and many great empires have been ruled from here. The monuments and ruins of these are scattered throughout the city, often side by side with modern structures and high-rise towers.

**Day 26: Delhi****Meals: B, L, D**

Begin today's tour starting in Old Delhi. Stroll through Chandni Chowk, savouring the ambience of the oriental and bustling bazaar.

Afterwards, continue to India's largest mosque, Jama Masjid, for a brief photo stop. After making a stop for lunch, observe the President's Palace and India Gate by coach. Continue onto Humayun's Tomb, followed by the 12th century Qutab Minar and bustling Connaught Markets.



Here, you will find linen clothing, saris, handicrafts, jewellery, books and homewares to name a few. There is also an opportunity to sample some of the local Indian street food such as Samosas, Onion Pakodas, Chai Tea and more.

Finally, return to your hotel and spend the remainder of the evening at leisure.

Sightseeing this morning and afternoon involves 3 to 4 hours on foot.

**Destination Information**

**Jama Masjid** – Jama Masjid is the largest mosque in India, with a courtyard capable of holding 25,000 devotees. Built between 1644 and 1658, the mosque was Shah Jahan's final architectural achievement.

**India Gate** – Located at the end of the Rajpath, India Gate is a moving memorial to the 90,000 Indian servicemen who died in World War 1.

**Humayun's Tomb** – A landmark of Mughal architecture, the tomb was built in 1570 for the Mughal Emperor Humayun. Commissioned by his wife, it was the first garden tomb in India.

**Days 27-28: Depart Delhi, India****Meals: B**

After breakfast and check out, you will be transferred to the airport for your departure flight home, arriving in Australia the following day.

*Please note: Only breakfast is included today. Late check-out is not included. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day in Delhi, please contact our reservations department who can confirm additional pricing and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.*





## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### VISAS:

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Australian citizens do not require a visa to travel to Thailand and Malaysia.

Entry visas are required for Australian passport holders to visit Sri Lanka and India. The Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia. For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/>

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. All information with regards to visas will be updated regularly on our website as we find visas process' are changing on regular basis.

### INSURANCE:

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It is a condition of booking Cruise & Tour that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance. We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

### EATING IN ASIA:

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On this tour you will get to experience a variety of dining options. Pre and post cruise in Thailand and India you will dine as a group, whereas during the cruise, you will dine independently. You will have the option to dine in the main on-board restaurants included as standard in your cruise package. Alternatively, you can opt to dine in the on-board specialty venues or restaurants on land, both of which will be payable locally.

Southeast Asia is home to an incredibly rich food history. The local cuisine is known for its intense flavours, spices and some of the freshest ingredients you can find. In general, meals include either rice or noodles and are packed full of flavour. Lemongrass, ginger, lime leaves, coriander, fish sauce and soy sauce are used in most local dishes. Whilst Southeast Asian food has a reputation for being hot and spicy, each region actually has its own distinct characteristics.

Indian cuisine is one of the most influential, diverse, and flavoursome culinary styles in the world. Indian dishes incorporate many spices and seasoning to create an explosion of flavours. Though Indian cuisine can vary greatly from the Indian food we get in Australia, it is important to keep an open mind and be adventurous. Please be aware that dishes selected for your meals reflect the cooking styles and signature dishes of the local area you are in.

Dishes served in restaurants on our group tours are varied. Some will be vegetable-based with meat mixed in, and a few will be meat-based. Our restaurants are aware of the western palate – there are plenty of non-spiced options.

When eating lunches and dinners, you will usually be seated around a large table with other tour members. Dishes will be served in the traditional ‘family style’; meaning that various dishes will be laid out in the centre of the table. These dishes are intended to be shared amongst the group – there is always more than enough to feed everyone. All beverages will be at your own expense and are readily available.

On some days where lots of sights are covered, dinner times may be early and your tour group may head directly to the restaurant after sightseeing without stopping at your hotel to freshen up.

PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING.

### **PORTERAGE:**

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Please be aware that portorage is not included on this tour. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

Portorage is however, included onboard the Azamara Onward Cruise Ship. Please note, you will be able to leave your luggage outside your cabin door on the last night of your cruise, staff will then be able to make arrangements for your luggage, ready for disembarkation early next morning. Please also note, it is customary to tip for the portorage service.

### **ACCOMMODATION PRE & POST CRUISE:**

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Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort, or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage-type hotel. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between UK and India. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

All hotels have private western bathroom facilities, TV, and a telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide or National Escort.

Please be aware that there are heightened security measures being carried out at all hotels, on guests and vehicles entering the properties.

### TRANSFERS:

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As we offer our customers a variety of airlines to suit your needs, passengers will arrive/depart in Thailand / India at various times during the day. Depending on the number of customers arriving/ departing on the same flight as yourself, the type of transfer to your hotel/ airport will vary.

You will always be met on arrival by English-speaking staff and transferred to your hotel either by:

- Direct shared bus (shared with other passengers, not just Wendy Wu Tours clients)
- Shared bus plus taxi from the nearest bus stop to the hotel (maximum 5-minute walk)
- Chartered coach (if there are more than 8 Wendy Wu Tours passengers arriving at the same time)

On the departure day, all passengers will be met by English-speaking staff at the hotel and transfer by one of the three ways above. For those passengers using a shared bus or shared bus plus taxi to the airport, the guide services end when they drop you off at the bus stop, and you will need to check in at the airport on your own. If you have paid extra for a private transfer, the above does not apply.

You will meet your National Escort at the welcome dinner or, if arriving late, the following morning after breakfast at the welcome meeting.

Please ensure your Wendy Wu Tours luggage tag is visible on your suitcase/hand luggage, as this may also assist your guide in identifying you. If at any stage you are unable to locate your representative, please contact our Thailand / India ground operator on the number included in your final documents.

### CRUISE INFORMATION:

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Your boutique hotel at sea, the Azamara Onward is a mid-sized ship that offers a vast range of amenities, including seven restaurants, cafes, and lounges as well as a refreshing pool, sun-drenched decks and a revitalizing spa.

**Boarding Procedures:** Departure times may vary and be as early as noon, so you are encouraged to allow plenty of time to get to the port on the day of boarding. Please note, all boarding times are noted in your travel documents. Priority boarding is available for guests staying in suites.

Government regulations require Azamara to submit final departure manifests. You must board the ship at least 90 minutes prior to our scheduled departure time. If you fail to check in at least 90 minutes before our scheduled departure, this constitutes a "no-show" and will result in an automatic cancellation of your booking.

**Cruise Schedule:** While we do our best to adhere to our published itineraries, they may be changed at the discretion of the captain due to weather advisories, port traffic, and any other unforeseeable circumstances.

**Dining:** Please note, there are no set menus onboard the cruise ship, instead, you will have the opportunity to dine at your choice of restaurant included in your package and have the option to upgrade your package whilst onboard to dine in the various speciality restaurants.

Your package also includes soft drinks and alcoholic beverages whilst onboard your cruise. There is the option to upgrade your drinks package on your Guest Account or on your cruise.

**Onboard Dress Code:** In keeping with the friendly yet sophisticated onboard environment, guests are encouraged to keep a “resort casual” dress code.

Please note, bare feet, tank tops, caps, bathing suits, casual shorts, and torn jeans are not allowed in the dining room or specialty restaurants. When dining at Windows Café, guests must wear footwear and a cover-up or shirt.

Formal evening wear is not expected nor required in any restaurants. If you prefer to dress more formally, you are welcome to do so.

**Gratuities:** All gratuities are included in your trip cost.

**Downloadable Luggage Tag:** Luggage tags will be available to download through your personal cruise account

## CRUISE ACCOMODATION AND CABINS:

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At the time of booking, subject to availability you may have the choice to book from an outside cabin or balcony cabin. Should you wish to upgrade to a suite or have a special request for cabin location, please speak to our reservations department who will be able to assist.

## TRANSPORT:

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Coaches with air conditioning are used on our tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Main and inner city roads in India have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in India have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.



**Safari's:** Specialized vehicles designed for use in wildlife safaris and are adapted to provide a safe and comfortable experience for tourists and wildlife enthusiasts while allowing for close-up views of animals in their natural habitats.

**Open-Air Safari Jeeps:** These are typically open-roofed, four-wheel-drive vehicles with raised seats in the back for better visibility. Open-air jeeps provide an unobstructed view of wildlife. Please always keep your arms/hands inside the vehicles.

## DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA:

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Although Thailand, Malaysia, India and Sri Lanka are developing quickly, they still lack the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in Australia. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in Australia; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All our suppliers meet local safety standards at a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday, so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your guide.

All countries are extremely safe to visit and takes great pride and responsibility in maintaining high safety standards.

## GROUP SIZE:

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Most of our groups pre & post cruise consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a national escort. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 10 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

## TIPPING POLICY PRE & POST CRUISE:

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Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and India and Southeast Asia are no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort.

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, then tipping is paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour, we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

## APPROPRIATE DRESS

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When visiting temples or mosques, both men and women should dress in conservative, non-revealing clothing. Full-length trousers with a shirt or t-shirt for men; and trousers or skirts well below the knee with a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms for women. Women might also consider carrying a 'modesty shawl' in their daypack – this could be a sarong or light scarf – which they can wear over their shoulders and heads to feel more comfortable while sightseeing at mosques. When visiting Jain temples, you must not wear or take in any leather items such as belts, watches, camera straps, purses and shoes.

Religious sites and homes throughout India, Thailand and Malaysia – for Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Muslims, or Buddhists to name a few – may require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter. Even if you then need to walk outdoors, over hot or rough ground, you will not be allowed to wear shoes. You will often find shoe storage rooms near the entrance of a site where it is customary to leave your shoes near the entrance. Occasionally there are 'shoe minders' who will offer to keep your shoes safe for a 'tip' – this is not compulsory so each customer can choose to tip for this service or not. If you do not want to remove your shoes, you will have to remain outside. We recommend shoes that easily slip on and off, and carry a pair of thick, old socks in your day pack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot surfaces.

## SOUVENIRS:

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We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

## LUGGAGE:

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All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

### PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:

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You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry, and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you.

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling outside the large cities. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be very limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

### CLIMBING STEPS:

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Sightseeing at nearly all the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps. These palaces were built to provide defence against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steps to slow down the advance of enemies once they were inside. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails.

Buddhist temples or pagodas also tend to be built at an elevation, as this is the most auspicious position according to ancient beliefs. This means you sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb some steps inside.

People with knee or hip injuries who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

### VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

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We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au).

### AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

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Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information and more useful predeparture travel information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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