



## CHINA BY RAIL & JAPAN BY SEA NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINES

Classic Cruising Tour | 29 Days | Physical Level 1

BEIJING – PINGYAO – XIAN – CHENGDU – GUILIN – YANGSHUO – HONG KONG – KAOHSIUNG –  
KEELUNG – MIYAKOJIMA – NAGASAKI – KAGOSHIMA – HIROSHIMA – KOCHI – KOBE / OSAKA –  
SHIMIZU - TOKYO

All aboard for this exciting adventure by rail and ship! Travel across China by high-speed train, taking in the must-see sights as you go before cruising from Hong Kong to Japan via Taiwan. Our Cruise & Tour journeys bring together all the joy of a cruise onboard the Norwegian Jade with the exciting exploration of a Wendy Wu Tours land itinerary. On this holiday you'll stand on the Great Wall, come face to face with the Terracotta Army and see the adorable giant pandas up close before setting sail to Taiwan and then Japan, to see Mount Fuji, explore Kyoto and Tokyo and much more.

- Meet the loveable Giant Pandas & stand before the Terracotta Warrior
- Walk the cobbled streets and city walls of ancient Pingyao
- Uncover the ancient treasures of Beijing & the incredible Great Wall of China
- Journey to Japan onboard Norwegian Jade
- Explore the highlights of Tokyo

## TOUR MAP



## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 11 nights NCL cruise on Norwegian Jade
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated (if dining on board throughout)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees, transportation and transfers pre and post cruise
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides pre and post cruise
- 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 as well as a limited number of visits to the speciality restaurants. However, should you wish to dine in any of the speciality restaurants not included in your cruising / "more at sea" 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. Gratuities on board the ship are included in your tour cost.*

### CLASSIC CRUISING TOURS:

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These tours are designed for those who wish to discover the local culture and breath-taking sites of China, Taiwan and Japan on a group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people combined with a cruise. 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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For travellers that have booked a 'Land & Cruise Only' tour with no international flights, please note the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if you are arriving on the start and departing on the conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre/post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Beijing, China and end the tour on Day 28 in Tokyo, Japan. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

### 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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Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique charm of each destination. 'China By Rail & Japan By Sea' 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.

- Sightseeing will often be on foot, sometimes for extended periods, with steps & 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 Escorts 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.

### **NCL'S MORE AT SEA OFFER: WHAT'S INCLUDED**

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We are excited to include NCL's More at Sea offer with this cruise and tour package, enhancing your onboard experience with exceptional perks. Enjoy unlimited drinks throughout your cruise with a package that includes selected beer, wine, soft drinks, fruit juices, and branded spirits. While bottled water is not included, water is available by the glass in restaurants at no extra cost. This package is valid in all venues onboard, ensuring a seamless experience.

Stay connected with complimentary Wi-Fi, where each guest sharing the same stateroom receives 150 minutes of access per guest. Additionally, enhance your journey with shore excursion credits - \$50USD off per cabin, per excursion. These credits are assigned to the lead guest on the reservation and can be applied to excursions booked in advance via the app or website, where discounted rates will be displayed.

Delight in exquisite specialty dining experiences, with included meals for guests 1 and 2 based on stateroom category and cruise duration. For this sailing 3 specialty dining experiences are included for outside (Oceanview) cabins and 5 specialty dining experiences for balcony cabins. Reservations can conveniently be made through the app prior to your cruise. Take advantage of these incredible inclusions and make your cruise vacation even more enjoyable!

## DETAILED ITINERARY

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### Days 1-2: Fly overnight to Beijing

**Meals: D**

On arrival in Beijing, you will be met in the arrival hall by your local guide or National Escort. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will be transferred to your hotel.

*Early check-in is not included. Additional nights before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.*



### Destination Information

**Beijing** – Beijing is the capital of the People’s Republic of China. With its unequalled wealth of history, Beijing served as the centre for the many different empires and cultures that ruled China and has been the heart of politics and society throughout its long history. The ancient monuments, the stories of days gone by as well as the dynamic and modern city Beijing has become today, make it a destination not to be missed.

### Day 3: Beijing

**Meals: B, L, D**

Today you will be met by your guide, then walk through Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificent Forbidden City, the former residence of the Ming and Qing emperors. Entering through the Gate of Supreme Harmony, you will find a complex full of imperial riches.

Later, soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape, before enjoying a traditional Peking duck dinner.



*Sightseeing at Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City will involve approximately 3-4 hours on foot.*

*Please note: The Forbidden City is closed on Mondays. If this day of touring falls on a Monday, your touring in Beijing will be switched round so that the Forbidden City is visited on an alternative day. In an effort to preserve the Forbidden City, the number of entry tickets per day has been significantly reduced. Whilst every effort will be made to obtain the tickets, should this not be possible, then you will instead visit the Forbidden City from the outside and visit the nearby Prince Kung’s Palace Museum.*

### Destination Information

**Tiananmen Square** – Built under the guidance of Chairman Mao Zedong, Tiananmen Square is said to hold a capacity crowd of over one million and is one of the largest public squares in the world. It houses not only the Monument to the People’s Heroes, it is also the final resting place of Chairman Mao himself in the Mausoleum of Mao Zedong.

**Forbidden City** – The sacred centre of the Chinese empire for 500 years and home to the Ming and Qing dynasties, the Forbidden City is a vast complex of over 900 buildings and covers an area of 180 acres. Since 1987, the Forbidden City has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site and its palatial architectural style has been an influence on many imperial buildings throughout Asia.

**Temple of Heaven** – Set in a 267-hectare park surrounded by a long wall and with a gate at each compass point, the Temple of Heaven is absolutely unique. It is one of the most perfect examples of Ming architecture, created as a place of worship for the Emperors, who would ask for prosperity, longevity and good harvest for the people.

**Peking duck** – A favourite of the Emperor's court and the upper-class elite during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), Peking duck quickly spread throughout Chinese society to become a national favourite and a symbol of China.

#### Day 4: Beijing

Meals: B, L, D

Rise early this morning to avoid the crowds and drive approximately 2 hours northwest of the city to the Juyongguan Pass to take a walk on the Great Wall of China, appreciating the wall itself and the dramatic scenery. Your visit involves walking from the bus to the first section. Once your group has been given an introduction to the Great Wall's unique history, you will have free time to explore at your own pace.



Later, visit the Jade Factory where there will be an opportunity to buy your own handcrafted piece, before, heading to the Sacred Way and Ming Tombs, the final resting place of 13 of the Ming emperors. Then drive back to Beijing, where this evening, you will experience a thrilling acrobatic show before returning to your hotel.

#### Destination Information

**Great Wall of China** – Originally built under the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, the Great Wall of China is the country's most iconic sight. Snaking through the northern countryside from the Gobi Desert in the west into the Bohai Sea in the east, the Great Wall of China is the longest wall in the world and was used as a fortification against northern nomadic tribes. The current structure dates back to the Ming Dynasty – over 700 years old.

**Jade Factory** – Learn about one of China's most symbolic and important materials: jade, at this comprehensive factory. Understand how to tell if jade is real or fake and watch artisans at work, carving this emerald Jade into works of art.

**The Sacred Way and Ming Tombs** – The Sacred Way is a long statue lined path leading to the Ming Tombs, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an impressive complex housing the mausoleums of thirteen out of the sixteen Ming Dynasty emperors.

**Chinese Acrobatics** – Chinese acrobatics incorporates many forms of dramatic art, including acrobatics, contortionism, juggling and plate spinning.

**Day 5: Beijing – Pingyao****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, transfer to Beijing train station where you will board your 4-hour bullet train to Pingyao.

On arrival, embark on an ancient city tour with your English-speaking guide around the cobbled streets for spectacular views of the city walls of Pingyao, dating back to the Zhou Dynasty. Next, visit the Rishengchang Financial House Museum. There will also be some time to visit the Yamen, a former government building from the Qing Dynasty, before transferring to your hotel for check-in.

**Destination Information**

**Pingyao** – A UNESCO World Heritage listed town, Pingyao is renowned for its ancient City Wall, which was built in the 11th century and still stands encircling the town. With a 2,000-year history, Pingyao has retained its layout from the Ming and Qing dynasties; the houses, streets, storefronts and temples have all been preserved in their historical appearance.

**Pingyao Ancient City Walls** – One of the best-preserved fortifications in China, the Pingyao Ancient City Wall encloses the old town of Pingyao.

**Rishengchang Financial House** – The Rishengchang Financial House is the home of China's first draft bank, dating back to the 17th century.

**Day 6: Pingyao – Xian****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast transfer to the Pingyao train station to board your 3-hour bullet train to Xian, the former ancient capital. On arrival, transfer to your hotel for check-in.

*Please note you will need to carry your own luggage on and off the trains.*

**Destination Information**

**Xian** – Xian has long played a pivotal role in China's extensive history and has been a thriving hub for cultural exchange, economic trade as well as national politics for centuries. Home to some of China's most ancient sights, diverse architecture and delicious fares, Xian is a must-see destination.

**Day 7: Xian****Meals: B, L, D**

Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of the life size Terracotta Warriors. The Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses is located approximately a 1-hour drive outside of Xian. From the bus park to the museum entrance there is a 15-minute walk. There are electric carts offered by private vendors which can be organised at your own expense. There is no electric cart available for the return from the museum exit to the bus park.



Within the museum area the warriors can be seen in three different 'pits', which are active archaeological digs. The site is large and will take about 2 and a half hours to explore.

After this, visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Workshop to see smaller models of the warriors being made. Later, stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town. The local guide will give you time to explore the ancient city walls at your own pace. There are options here to hire a bicycle or an electric cart to drive along the length of the wall. These are offered by private vendors and can be organised at your own expense.

Tonight, enjoy a dumpling demonstration, followed by a Shui Jiao Dumpling banquet and a Tang Dynasty show.

### Destination Information

**Terracotta Warriors** – One of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 20th century, this unearthed terracotta army is comprised of over 7,000 soldiers, horses and chariots. The army was built in life-sized form by thousands of workers and designed by Emperor Qin Shi Huang to defend himself in the afterlife.

**Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Workshop** – See smaller versions of the enigmatic Terracotta Warriors being created at the captivating Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Workshop; even purchase your own portable soldier.

**Ancient City Walls** – Dating back to the Ming Dynasty in the 14th century, the Xian ancient city wall is one of the best preserved urban fortifications in China. The wall's ideal spot and layout gives visitors a bird's eye view over this fantastic city. Follow the locals' example and take a bike to get an ever more spectacular experience.

**Tang Dynasty Dancing Show** – Xian, previously known as Chang'an, was an important cultural and historical centre in not only China but in the known-world. The Tang Dynasty dancing show is an exciting exponent of this prosperous society and keeps alive the splendour of this period.



**Day 8: Xian – Chengdu****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, enjoy a stroll around the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter, which are lined with Islamic food stalls. Later, transfer with your English-speaking assistant to Xian train station to board your bullet train to Chengdu, a journey of approximately 3-hours and 40-minutes. On arrival, transfer to your hotel, before enjoying an evening of the local specialty Sichuan hot pot accompanied by a face changing show.

**Destination Information**

**Muslim Quarter** – The Muslim Quarter is the hub of Xian’s Islamic community and is home to many stalls selling a myriad of snack foods and delightful oriental knick-knacks.

**Chengdu** – China’s symbolic western capital and the residence of the country’s most lovable black and white bear, Chengdu has an abundance to offer. With a fast-paced economy which is dragging China’s west into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is no wonder that Chengdu’s appeal is growing year on year. As the gateway into Sichuan Province’s large collection of sights, as well as Chengdu being its own trove of historical and cultural treasures, Chengdu is a must-visit on any trip to China.

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

Today, see the Giant Pandas at Dujiangyan Panda Base. Located in the forested Sichuanese countryside around one hour’s drive north of Chengdu, Dujiangyan offers refuge to Giant Pandas with the aim to reintroduce them into the wild.

After lunch, take a stroll around People’s Park and visit a teahouse for a cup of delicious Chinese tea.

*There will be the opportunity to volunteer at the Panda base here before returning to your hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Please note this volunteering opportunity is optional, at your own expense and time permitting.*

**Destination Information**

**Dujiangyan Panda Base** – Offering one of the most authentic, spacious and natural settings in the country, Dujiangyan is home to around 20 Giant Pandas.

**People’s Park** – People’s Park is a pleasant respite from urban Chengdu. Here you can see beautiful golden koi as well as locals dancing and practicing Tai Chi.

**Day 10: Chengdu - Guilin****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, transfer from your hotel to the train station for your onward journey to Guilin by bullet train. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel for check-in and spend the day at leisure.

**Destination Information**

**Guilin** – Guilin is one of China’s most stunning and panoramic cities and was founded during the reign of the first Chinese empire, the Qin Dynasty. It is renowned for the unique beauty of the mountains that fringe it. Guilin developed as a trading town due to the building of the Ling Canal which links the important Pearl and Yangtze River systems.

**Day 11: Guilin - Yangshuo****Meals: B, L, D**

Begin today with a relaxing cruise along the Li River to the charming town of Yangshuo. Around every river bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged karst peaks loom over rural scenes of lush greenery and grazing buffalos.

Next, wander through the cobbled streets and visit the local market. This evening enjoy an Impression of Liu Sanjie Show.

*Please note: this show is an outdoor performance and may be cancelled due to weather conditions.*

**Destination Information**

**Li River** – Pass tranquil farming and fishing scenes and picturesque villages as you cruise down the Li River. The main attraction is the stunning limestone karsts that tower above the river creating a magical landscape of mountains and water. The unique and natural beauty of this region has for centuries been an inspiration to Chinese artists and poets alike.

**Yangshuo** – home to some of the best scenery in the world. This quaint town is renowned for its breathtaking vistas and peaceful country life. Surrounded by stark karst peaks and attractively located on the Li River, Yangshuo, alongside Guilin, prides itself in being the most sought-after beauty spots in China.

**Day 12: Yangshuo - Guilin****Meals: B, L, D**

Today, spend the morning exploring the countryside before returning to Guilin by road.

On route to Guilin, explore the impressive Reed Flute Caves before arriving at your hotel.

**Destination Information**

**Reed Flute Cave** – Named so because of the clumps of slender reed once commonly found at the entrance to the caves which was also used to make flutes, the Reed Flute Caves houses a grotto of multi-coloured stalactites and stalagmites

**Day 13: Guilin – Hong Kong****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, be met by an English-speaking assistant and transfer from your hotel to the train station for your onward journey to Hong Kong.

On arrival into Hong Kong, you will be met by an English-speaking assistant and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day will be yours to enjoy at leisure.

**Destination Information**

**Hong Kong** – A dazzling metropolis nestled in the Pearl River Estuary, Hong Kong embodies a captivating fusion of cultures. With influences from both Chinese and British traditions, it has transformed from a humble fishing village into one of the world's leading financial hubs. The city's deep-water harbour, stunning mountain vistas, and vibrant urban life create a unique backdrop for an exciting mix of energy and mystery.

**Day 14: Hong Kong City Tour****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, be met by your English-speaking guide and journey up the Victoria Peak by the impressive Peak Tram, one of the world's oldest funicular railways offering incredible views of Hong Kong. Here, you will enjoy a guided walking tour before returning to Central, where you will ride the world's longest outdoor covered escalator system, the Central Escalator to Tai Kwun, Hong Kong's latest art hub.



Next you will enjoy a short walking experience of Hollywood Road which is named the second coolest street in the world before visiting Man Mo Temple. Then, visit Blue House Cluster before a dim sum making demonstration, where you will also enjoy dim sum for your lunch today. Afterwards, visit the West Kowloon Cultural District with some free time to explore the area before transferring to a local restaurant for dinner. After dinner, visit The Avenue of Stars to admire Victoria Harbor at night.

**Destination Information**

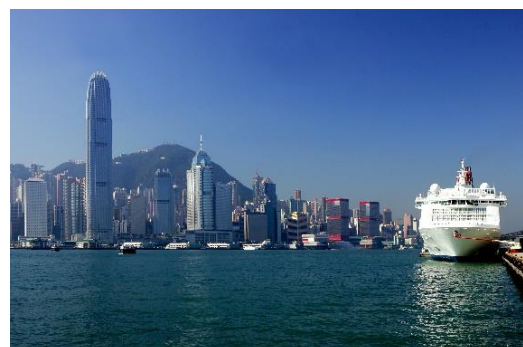
**Victoria Peak** – On the west side of Hong Kong Island, Victoria Peak offers stunning panoramas of the Hong Kong skyline and the Victoria Harbour. With an elevation of 552 metres, it is the tallest hill on Hong Kong Island – truly the best viewing point on the island.

**Avenue of Stars** – The Avenue of Stars, modelled on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, is an avenue located along the Victoria Harbour waterfront in Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong. It honours celebrities of the Hong Kong film industry.

**Day 15: Embark NCL Cruise in Hong Kong****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, transfer from your hotel to the Hong Kong cruise port. Upon arrival, board the Norwegian Jade where your cruise adventure begins! The rest of your day on the cruise ship is at leisure.

*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 Tokyo.*



Whilst onboard, enjoy the amenities the Norwegian Jade cruise ship has to offer. Onboard activities include live music, dance parties, trivia, and fitness classes such as yoga. You can also indulge in Broadway-style shows and captivating live performances for unforgettable entertainment at sea. During your time here, you'll have access to a wide range of dining options, offering flavours from around the world, including specialty restaurants like Cagney's Steakhouse and Teppanyaki.

**Day 16: Cruising – Kaohsiung, Taiwan****Meals: B, L, D**

Dock in the port of Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable and payable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Kaohsiung** - As Taiwan's second-largest city and its largest port, Kaohsiung is a vibrant hub of industry and culture. The city is known for its modern skyline, centred around the towering 85 Sky Tower, and its extensive waterfront areas. Kaohsiung's cultural landmarks include the Dragon and Tiger Pagodas at Lotus Pond and the Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum, a major centre of Buddhist learning. The city's transformation into a cultural hotspot is exemplified by the Pier-2 Art Centre, a repurposed warehouse district showcasing contemporary art and design.

**Day 17: Cruising – Keelung (Taipei), Taiwan****Meals: B, L, D**

Dock in the port of Keelung, Taiwan. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable and payable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Keelung** - Situated on Taiwan's northern coast, Keelung is a bustling port city with a rich maritime history. Known as the "Rainy Port" for its frequent rainfall, it has long been a hub of trade and commerce. Keelung is home to historic sites such as the Ershawan Fort, built during the Qing Dynasty, and the Zhongzheng Park, where a towering white statue of Guanyin overlooks the city. The city's vibrant night market and proximity to scenic attractions like Yehliu Geopark make it a cultural and natural gem.

**Day 18: Cruising – Miyakojima, Japan****Meals: B, L, D**

Dock in the port of Miyakojima, Japan. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable and payable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Miyakojima** - Located in Okinawa Prefecture, Miyakojima is a tropical island known for its pristine white sand beaches and crystal-clear waters. It is a paradise for marine life, offering some of Japan's best diving and snorkelling spots, including the vibrant coral reefs around Yonaha Maehama Beach. The island is also home to unique cultural traditions and iconic landmarks such as the Irabu Ohashi Bridge, one of the longest toll-free bridges in Japan.

**Day 19: Cruising – Sea Day****Meals: B, L, D**

Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship, Norwegian Jade, has to offer.

**Day 20: Cruising – Nagasaki****Meals: B, L, D**

Dock in the port of Nagasaki. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable and payable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*



### Destination Information

**Nagasaki** – Known for being the second target for the US atomic bomb that was dropped during World War II, Nagasaki was once Japan's primary gateway for trading with the West and has since been rebuilt to the charming city it stands as today.

**Day 21: Cruising – Kagoshima**

**Meals: B, L, D**

Port in Kagoshima, where you will be able disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable and payable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*



### Destination Information

**Kagoshima** – Located in the shadows of Mt Sakurajima, an active volcano, Kagoshima is commonly referred to as the “Naples of the East” due to its similarly mild climate and stunning bay. Kagoshima played a pivotal role in the modernisation of Japan, particularly in the Meiji Restoration. The city was once the seat of one of Japan's most powerful feudal clans, the Shimazu, that is currently in its 32nd generation.

**Day 22: Cruising – Hiroshima**

**Meals: B, L, D**

Your cruising adventures continues on to Hiroshima, where the ship will dock today. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable and payable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*



### Destination Information

**Hiroshima** – An atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima on 6th August 1945, and the city's name became famous worldwide for this unenviable distinction. The destructive power obliterated nearly everything within a 2km radius. The city has been rebuilt and has risen phoenix-like from the ashes with destroyed sites of historical heritage reconstructed. The Peace Memorial Park and Museum is one of the most prominent features of the city. Before the bomb, this area was the political and commercial heart of the city which is why it was chosen as the target. The museum focuses on the events of August 6th and the ensuing outcome for the residents.

**Day 23: Cruising – Kochi****Meals: B, L, D**

Dock in the port of Kochi. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable and payable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Kochi** – Surrounded by stunning mountains and the Pacific Ocean, Kochi is home to a wide variety of stunningly unique attractions, including the Chikurinji Temple, over 1300 years old, the Hirome Market, offering a number of Kochi's most renowned dishes as well as Katsurahama Beach, a crescent-shaped beach that has long been a popular destination to view the moon.

**Kochi Castle** – No visit to Kochi would be complete without exploring the Kochi Castle, built over 400 years ago and remains as one of the last 12 castles in Japan to still have its original main keep.

**Day 24: Cruising – Osaka (Kyoto)****Meals: B, L, D**

Dock in the port of Osaka, Japan. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure in Osaka or Kyoto before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable and payable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Osaka** - As Japan's third-largest city, Osaka is a vibrant metropolis known for its modern architecture, bustling nightlife, and hearty street food. The city played a pivotal role in Japan's history as a centre of commerce and culture during the Edo period. Osaka's landmarks include Osaka Castle, a symbol of Japan's unification, and the Dotonbori district, famous for its neon lights and culinary delights like Takoyaki and Okonomiyaki. The city's welcoming atmosphere and reputation as the "Kitchen of Japan" make it a must-visit destination.

**Kyoto** – Kyoto was the ancient capital of Japan for approximately 1,000 years until 1867 when it was moved to Tokyo. Many national treasures can be found in Kyoto and in nearby Nara, including old shrines and temples, screen paintings, beautiful gardens, and statues of Buddha.



**Day 25: Cruising – Shimizu (Mt Fuji)****Meals: B, L, D**

Today you will dock in the port of Shimizu. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable and payable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Shimizu** – Renown for being one of the most scenic ports in Japan, the port of Shimizu provides breath-taking views of Mt Fuji (weather dependent). The port that was once used primarily for exporting tea, is now home to a four storey shopping centre, a number of museums and the Kashino-Ichi fish Market.

**Day 26: Disembark NCL Cruise in Tokyo****Meals: B, L, D**

Your cruise concludes as you reach Tokyo cruise port today, where you will be met by an English-speaking guide and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure before having dinner at a local restaurant.

**Destination Information**

**Tokyo** – One of the world's most cutting-edge capital cities, Tokyo is a city of contrasts, famous for its neon lit landscape, towering skyscrapers, peaceful shrines and lovingly tended gardens. Although long the political and cultural centre of Japan, Tokyo became the official capital when the Meiji Emperor moved it to Tokyo in 1867.

**Day 27: Tokyo****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, embark on a full day tour of Tokyo. Begin with a visit to Sensoji Temple, arguably one of Tokyo's most popular and photographed temples and the oldest Buddhist temple in the capital. Followed by a visit to Nakamise shopping arcade with the chance to taste some local snacks.



Next, visit Tokyo Skytree to admire the panoramic views before participating in a sushi making class where you'll enjoy your own creations for lunch.

This afternoon, stroll around the Imperial Palace followed by a visit to the Meiji Shrine, one of the most famous Shinto shrines in Japan and dedicated to Emperor Meiji. After, visit Takeshita Street for more local treats before a photo stop at Shibuya Crossing.

**Destination Information**

**Sensoji Temple** – Sensoji Temple is an ancient Buddhist Temple and the oldest in Tokyo. The temple was originally founded in the 7th century. The temple adorns an image of the Buddhist Goddess Kannon, who was said to have been rescued by two fishermen from the Sumida River in Tokyo.

**Meiji Shrine** – Meiji Shrine is a Shinto shrine dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife Empress Shoken. The shrine is located in an evergreen forest within in the busy city and consists of 120,000 trees which were donated by people from all over Japan when the shrine was established.

**Imperial Palace** – Imperial Palace Plaza is the main residence of the Emperor of Japan. Built on the original site of Edo Castle, the Plaza is made up of a palace, museum and large park.

**Days 28-29: Depart Tokyo****Meals: B**

This morning is free at leisure before transferring to the airport for your return flight home, arriving home the same or 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 Tokyo, please contact our reservations department who can confirm additional pricing and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.*



**PLEASE INFORM OUR RESERVATIONS TEAM OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING.**

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### VISAS:

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**China:** A visa is not required for Australian passport holders for entry into China for stays up to 30 Days. So far, this information is valid for travel up to 31 December 2025.

**Japan & Taiwan:** Visas are not required for Australian passport holders for entry into Taiwan and Japan for stays up to 90 Days.

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. Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

### 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.

### 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.

### CRUISE – NORWEGIAN JADE:

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The Norwegian Jade is made up of 15 decks and offers a wide range of amenities, including, but not limited to; multiple dining venues, 2 swimming pools, hot tubs, and numerous lounges and bars.

Performances take place each night in the Stardust Theatre, ranging from comedy shows and live music to Broadway-style productions. Guests on the Norwegian Jade can also enjoy engaging activities such as trivia, dance classes, and fitness sessions, as well as culinary experiences like wine and cocktail tastings. Onboard spa facilities, including the Mandara Spa with a thermal suite and saunas, provide the perfect opportunity for relaxation.

### CRUISE EMBARKATION & DISEMBARKATION:

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Embarkation time is when you should arrive at the cruise terminal. Departure time is when your ship sets sail.

We strongly recommend guests complete their Online Check-In at least four days prior to sailing. Guests who have completed their Online Check-In should arrive at the terminal no later than one hour prior to the scheduled embarkation time printed on your cruise documents.

*Please note: guests who have not filled out their Online Check-In must arrive at the port two hours prior.*

**Boarding Time in Ports of Call:** In all ports of call, it is also the guest's responsibility to be back onboard the ship no later than one hour prior to the ship's scheduled departure time. Please be aware that shipboard time may differ from the time in the port of call and it is the guest's responsibility to follow the shipboard time. In the event a guest misses the ship, it will be the guest's responsibility to pay all expenses incurred to rejoin the ship.

### SHORE EXCURSIONS AND CRUISE INCLUSIONS:

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When docked at each port you will have the opportunity to experience shore excursions. Norwegian Cruise Line offer a wide array of authentic shore excursions, making it a great way to explore more of each destination. Please note, not all shore excursions will include a guide and shore excursions may be cancelled due to inclement weather conditions or for any other reason at the discretion of Norwegian Cruise Line. Any shore excursions will be at your own expense and bookable on your cruise reservation.

### ACCOMMODATION PRE AND POST CRUISE:

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Accommodation is selected for its convenience, comfort, or character, ranging from business hotels in cities to family-run guesthouses in smaller towns. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not include all Western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local 3-4 star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels, so standards may differ between Australia and China/Japan.

In Japan, hotel rooms and bathrooms are typically small. Standard single rooms are smaller than double or twin rooms, featuring a small double bed (or single bed) for one person. All group tour hotels have private Western-style bathrooms, air-conditioning, TV, and telephone.

In China, hotel rooms and bathrooms can be smaller compared to Western standards. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic, and in some hotels, the power may be turned off while guests are out of their rooms. Due to environmental regulations, not all hotels in China provide toiletries in the rooms.

Hotels generally do not have porters, so you may be required to carry your own luggage. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort or local guide. Rest assured, all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected to meet our standards and ensure your comfort.

### AIRPORT TRANSFERS:

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As we offer our customers a variety of airlines to suit your needs, passengers will arrive in China and depart in Japan 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 Escorts at the welcome dinner or, if arriving late, the following morning after breakfast at the welcome meeting.

### TRANSPORT:

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**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside, and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in Japan and China are generally well-maintained, though conditions may vary. In Japan, roads are smooth and well-kept, providing a comfortable travel experience. In China, roads have significantly improved over recent years, but traffic and weather conditions may occasionally extend driving times. Road construction can cover large sections of roads, which may result in some delays. Timings in the itinerary are approximate, as there may be sections where the surface is bumpy. Our drivers will make every effort to minimize the impact of any rough roads, and frequent bathroom stops will be made for passengers' comfort. Coaches and minibuses do not have onboard toilet facilities.

**Trains:** On this tour, you will experience China's high-speed train. You will travel in second-class soft seats with air conditioning. For train journeys you must ensure that you pack liquids, aerosols and gels/lotions in your hand luggage as per recent regulations. Passengers are not allowed to carry any aerosols over 100ml. Passengers are also not allowed to carry flammable gases or liquids including styling gel, compressed air or insecticides; any explosives, magnetised material, knives (including Swiss Army knives), scissors or sharp items (medication is fine). Bag checks are conducted randomly and any of these items may be confiscated before boarding the train (in hand luggage or main luggage). The National Escort will inform you of specific details prior to boarding.

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 China or Japan ground operator on the number included in your final documents.

## MEALS AND DIETARY INFORMATION

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On this tour you will get to experience a variety of dining options. Pre and post cruise in China, and Japan you will dine as a group, whereas during the cruise, you will dine independently.

Chinese and Japanese cuisines are known for their vibrant, diverse, and healthy flavours. In China, meals typically consist of rice, vegetables, and meat, with dishes often served 'family style'. In Japan, meals usually feature rice, miso soup, fish, pickled vegetables, and meat, with noodles like Udon and Soba as popular staples.

All meals (excluding drinks) are included in fully inclusive group tours from arrival to departure. Breakfast is usually buffet-style but may occasionally be a set menu. Lunch is often pre-set, as is common in local restaurants, while dinner may be buffet-style or pre-set, offering a variety of Japanese, Chinese, and Western dishes. Meals are pre-booked by your guides, ensuring that you experience a wide range of local dishes and different cooking styles throughout your tour. On days with intensive sightseeing, you may dine directly after the tour without returning to the hotel, so it's best to be prepared for an early dinner.

In China, meals are served in the traditional 'family style' on a lazy susan, allowing everyone to share the dishes. There will be a pair of serving chopsticks for each dish, and guests are encouraged to help themselves to the food, which adds to the sociable nature of the dining experience. If you're unfamiliar with using chopsticks, don't worry; the guides will ensure that everyone is comfortable, and forks or spoons can be provided upon request. Chinese dishes are often served with a variety of sauces or seasonings, and meals are frequently enjoyed with plain rice as an accompaniment. Unlike the western world, Chinese people do not normally pre-heat their plates and food can be presented at a variety of temperatures, which is a typical Chinese way of doing things. We recommend that when it comes to Chinese food, you stay open minded, try to be adventurous and always have a go with the chopsticks!

### **Dietary Requirements**

If you have dietary requirements, please inform us before your tour starts. Our guides will make every effort to accommodate requests such as gluten-free or vegetarian meals. However, it's important to note that some dietary needs may be more challenging to meet, particularly in remote areas or due to differences in food preparation styles. Although many Asian countries are becoming more accustomed to catering to Western dietary needs, the range of options may still be limited compared to what you're used to at home.

For travellers with food intolerances or specific dietary needs, it's highly recommended to bring additional snacks or food items, especially when traveling further from major cities. This ensures that you are well-prepared in case certain dietary requests cannot be met. Your patience and understanding are appreciated, as local suppliers may not always be able to provide exactly what you would expect from Western cuisine. The aim is to provide you with an authentic experience while being mindful of your dietary preferences.

### **DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA AND JAPAN:**

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**China:** Though parts of China match the west in modernity and technological advances, it is important to remember that China is still a developing country and as such, many aspects of tourism in China do not have the solid infrastructure and safety standards as seen here in the west.

**Japan:** Japan is a developed country and as such matches the West in modernity and technological advances. Japan is an extremely safe country and takes great responsibility in maintaining high safety standards.

### **CULTURAL DIFFERENCE:**

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Japanese and Chinese societies are steeped in tradition and intricate social etiquette. As visitors, you are not expected to know every custom, but being respectful will enhance your experience in both countries.

In Japan, it is customary to remove your shoes and hats when entering temples, traditional houses, or certain restaurants. Slippers may be provided, but packing spare socks and wearing shoes that are easy to slip on and off is recommended.

In China, respect for cultural traditions includes polite gestures such as accepting items with both hands and following dining etiquette, like using serving spoons or shared chopsticks for communal dishes. Modest attire is appreciated, particularly at religious or historical sites.

Your National Escort will provide further guidance on local customs to ensure a smooth and enjoyable journey in both countries.

## CHINESE AND JAPANESE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

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If you are travelling within the below Public Holidays, please note that celebrations can last a several days and during these times some businesses will be closed. Coach, air and train travel may also be affected. Tourist attractions will be open; but may be crowded.

### China:

- **Chinese New Year:** 17th–19th February 2026
- **Qingming Festival:** 4th–6th April 2026
- **Labor Day:** 1st–3rd May (annually)
- **Mid-Autumn Festival:** 6th–8th October 2025, 28th–30th September 2026

### Japan:

- **Showa Day:** 29th April (annually)
- **Golden Week public holidays:** End of April to the beginning of May (annually)
- **Constitution Memorial Day:** 3rd May (annually)
- **Emperor's Birthday:** 23rd February (annually)

## WEATHER:

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China and Japan each experience distinct four-season climates, offering a variety of weather conditions throughout the year. In Japan, the climate varies by region but generally includes hot, humid summers from June to September and cold winters, with snowfall in northern areas like Hokkaido. Spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November) are especially popular for their mild temperatures, cherry blossoms, and vibrant fall foliage.

China's climate is equally diverse due to its vast size and geographical range. Summers (June to August) can be hot and humid, particularly in southern and eastern regions, while winters (December to February) are cold, especially in northern areas like Beijing and Harbin, which may experience snow. Spring and autumn offer comfortable temperatures, making them ideal times to visit, with blooming flowers in spring and golden hues in autumn. Weather can vary significantly depending on the region, so layering is recommended to accommodate these changes.

## APPROPRIATE DRESS:

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When traveling to China and Japan, pack for their varied four-season climates. In spring and autumn, lightweight layers such as cotton shirts, cardigans, and jackets are ideal for mild weather. During summer, opt for breathable, moisture-wicking fabrics in light colours, and bring a hat and sunscreen for sun protection. Winters can be cold, particularly in northern China and Japan's Hokkaido region, so pack warm clothing, including coats, thermals, scarves, and gloves.

For city exploration, casual yet neat attire is suitable, especially when visiting cultural or religious sites where modesty is appreciated. Comfortable walking shoes are essential for navigating urban areas like Beijing, Shanghai, or Tokyo. For outdoor activities, such as hiking in China's scenic



landscapes or exploring Japan's national parks, bring sturdy footwear and weather-appropriate outerwear.

An umbrella or lightweight waterproof jacket is recommended for unexpected rain, particularly during the summer rainy season. Don't forget a camera or smartphone with extra storage and chargers to capture highlights such as China's historic landmarks, Japan's cherry blossoms, and both countries' vibrant cities. A small medical kit with basic first aid supplies and personal medications is also recommended. Whether exploring ancient temples, strolling through bustling markets, or enjoying local cuisine, you'll be well-prepared for an unforgettable journey.

**Onboard Dress Code:** On Norwegian, you can pretty much wear what you want to wear, when you want to wear it. Go cruise casual or get all-decked out and look your best - it's totally your call.

### 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.

**On your cruise:** While luggage allowance on your cruise may permit further capacity, we ask you to adhere to the above restrictions due to airline and touring allowances. Suitcases should be tagged, luggage tags can be downloaded and printed from your eDocs. For your convenience, we recommend that your luggage tags be placed on your bags prior to arrival at the port.

It may take a few hours after embarkation for your luggage to be delivered to your stateroom. Likewise, suitcases are collected on the last night of your cruise. To avoid any complications, be sure to bring a small bag such as a backpack for carrying any necessary medication, valuables, important documents and need-to-have items.

### PORTERAGE:

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**Pre & Post Cruise:** Please be aware that portage is not included on our tours in pre & post cruise. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

**Cruise:** Portage is included onboard the Norwegian Jade Cruise Ship. When embarking, your luggage will be delivered to your room from the check-in area at the port. When disembarking you will 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 portage service.

## SOUVENIRS:

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We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs; so, in each city, we will visit a workshop or factory which demonstrates 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; for example, in Xian we will take you to a workshop which creates replicas of the Terracotta Warriors, from tiny little warriors to seven foot behemoths! We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

## TIPPING / GRATUITIES:

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**China:** Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and China is 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.

**Japan:** Tipping is not customary and may even be politely declined. However, if you feel you've received exceptional service, offering a tip discreetly at your discretion is acceptable.

**Cruise:** On board gratuities are included in your tour cost.

## 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 bigger cities. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be very limited. Your National Escorts 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).

### BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

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We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au) as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

### AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

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Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: January 2025