

ICONS OF CHINA & JAPAN

WITH ROYAL CARIBBEAN

Classic Cruising Tour | 27 Days | Physical Level 1

BEIJING – PINGYAO – XIAN – CHENGDU – YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE – SHANGHAI – JEJU (SEOGWIPO) – FUKUOKA – SAKAIMINATO – HAKODATE – MURORAN – TOKYO

Reveal the timeless wonders of China and Japan as you journey by land and sea through the historic cities of Beijing, Pingyao and Xian. Meet the nation's beloved giant panda and soak up the stunning scenery along the Yangtze River, before experiencing the vibrant fast-paced cities of Shanghai and Tokyo.

- Uncover the ancient treasures of Beijing
- Explore the incredible Great Wall of China
- Walk the cobbled streets and city walls of ancient Pingyao
- Face the vast Terracotta Army
- Meet the lovable Giant Pandas and cruise the scenic Yangtze River
- Journey to Japan onboard Royal Caribbean's mighty Spectrum of the Seas
- Experience vibrant Tokyo

TOUR MAP:



TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 10 nights Royal Caribbean cruise on Spectrum of the Seas
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated *(if dining on board throughout)* – 25 breakfasts (B), 24 lunches (L), 25 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
- 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:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of China and Japan on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people combined with a cruise. The tours are on a fully inclusive basis pre and 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:

The tour is 27 days in duration including international flights. Join the tour on Day 1 in Beijing and end the tour on Day 26 in Tokyo.

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:

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.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by both a National Escort in each country, and local guides (pre and post cruise). 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). 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. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

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.

'Icons of China & Japan with Royal Caribbean' 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 and 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 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.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Fly to Beijing **Meals: D**



On arrival in Beijing Daxing or Beijing Capital Airport, you will be met in the arrival hall by a local guide and/or your National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer approximately one hour to your hotel.

Please note: You may be transferred by shared coach with other passengers who are not part of a Wendy Wu Tour. If you are on a shared bus transfer, you may have to walk for a few minutes to get to your hotel.

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

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 2: Beijing **Meals: B, L, D**



Rise early this morning to avoid the crowds and drive approximately two 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 pieces. Next, drive approximately one and a half hours to wander around the Summer Palace. This evening, experience a thrilling acrobatic show followed by dinner at a local restaurant before returning to your hotel.

You will be on your feet for approximately 3-4 hours today.

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.

Summer Palace – The former holiday retreat of the Qing emperors, the Summer Palace is a stunning example of Chinese garden style. The Summer Palace incorporates the Fengshui notion of 'Mountain' and 'Water', seen here with tranquil Kunming Lake and magnificent Longevity Hill. A favourite resort of the Empress Dowager Cixi, the Summer Palace is home to a stunning Marble Boat and the Long Corridor, one of the longest outdoor passageways in the world.

Day 3: Beijing **Meals: B, L, D**



Today you will be met by your guide, where you will walk through Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the 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 5-6 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 – 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 local 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.

Sightseeing today will involve around 2-3 hours on foot.

Please note: you will need to carry your own luggage off the train in Pingyao.

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 5: Pingyao – Xian **Meals: B, L, D**



After breakfast, you will have the chance to enjoy a hands-on Chinese noodle making experience (optional & payable locally) or enjoy some free time before transferring to Pingyao train station. The bullet train journey to the former ancient capital, Xian, will take approximately three hours.

On arrival, transfer to your hotel for check-in. This evening, after dinner at a local restaurant, there will be an optional Tang Everbright City Night Tour (optional & payable locally).

Please note: you will need to carry your own luggage on to the train in Pingyao.

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 fare, Xian is a must-see destination.

Day 6: 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 one 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 travel 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 dancing show.

Sightseeing today will involve around 4-5 hours on foot.

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 – Xi'an, 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 7: 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 to Xian train station to board the bullet train to Chengdu, a journey of approximately three hours and 45 minutes.

On arrival, transfer to your hotel before enjoying an evening of the local specialty, Sichuan hot pot, and 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 21st 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 8: 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, return to the city to take a stroll around People's Park and visit a teahouse for a cup of delicious Chinese tea.

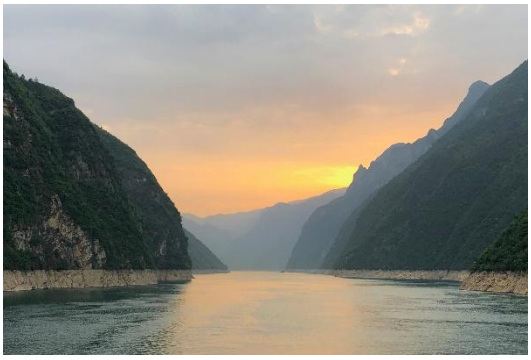
There will be the opportunity to volunteer at the Panda base before returning to your hotel and spending the remainder of the day at leisure. Please note this volunteering opportunity is optional, at your own expense and time permitting.

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, locals dancing and practicing Tai Chi and most interesting of all, Matchmaker's Corner, where parents search for suitable boyfriends or girlfriends for their children.

Day 9: Chengdu – Yangtze River Cruise **Meals: B, L, D**



Check-out after breakfast, and transfer to Chongqing, a vibrant city known as the gateway to the Yangtze River. Upon arrival, board your Yangtze River cruise for a three-night journey. As you sail along the iconic river, take in breathtaking scenery while enjoying the ship's facilities and onboard experiences.

The cruise includes one daily shore excursion along with various onboard activities and entertainment. Additional shore excursions (approx. RMB350 per person) are available, payable onboard, subject to local conditions. Please consult your guide about physical requirements, as some ports may involve many steps.

The Yangtze River cruise section of your itinerary will not be confirmed by the cruise operators until after you commence as it is subject to local river conditions and water levels. Your local guide will do their utmost to keep you informed of any changes but cannot guarantee against delays or – in rare cases – cancellations of sections of your itinerary. A detailed itinerary will be handed out on the vessel each day.

If you don't take part in a shore excursion but wish to disembark, a port tax (approx. RMB250 per person) applies, though disembarkation may not always be possible due to security reasons.

Please be aware that embarking and disembarking the cruise ship may involve several steps, especially at low tide. Notify us in advance if this may be an issue.

There are amenities packages (starting from Day 2), as well as deck and cabin upgrades available to pre-book. Please enquire with our Reservations team.

Destination Information

Yangtze River – One of the world's great and legendary waterways, this 6,300 kilometre river has its origins high up in the snow-covered mountains of Tanggula, in the southwestern Qinghai Tibet Plateau, and runs into the ocean in Shanghai. It is estimated that the banks of this river are home to almost a third of China's population.

Day 10: Yangtze River Cruise **Meals: B, L, D**



Cruise along the mighty Yangtze River. Relax onboard or disembark to explore the elegant pavilions of Mount Shuanggui and view the impressive cliff brush writings by Song Dynasty calligraphers.

Depending on local conditions, you may visit Shibaozhai Temple or Xiaoguanshan Folk Culture Park instead. Additional shore excursions may include Fengdu's "Ghost City" and Fengyan Sanguo "Romance of the Three Kingdoms" evening show (river conditions permitting).

Destination Information

Mt. Shuanggui – A national forest park known for its picturesque scenery, Mount Shuanggui has for centuries been a favourite destination for literati and artists. There are cliff brush writings of calligraphists here from the Song Dynasty to the present day, and pavilions are named for notable historic figures.

Day 11: Yangtze River Cruise **Meals: B, L, D**



Prepare for breathtaking vistas as you enter the Three Gorges and pass through Wu and Qutang gorges. Wu gorge is known for its quiet beauty, forest-covered mountains, and sheer cliffs, while Qutang Gorge is the shortest, narrowest, and most dramatic gorge. Transfer to smaller vessels for a relaxing excursion through the Goddess Stream, which are narrower than the Three Gorges, but very impressive. There is no walking involved on this excursion; however you will need to get on and off the boat without assistance. Return to the ship and continue cruising through the gorges.

Depending on local river conditions, you may visit Shennong Stream instead of Goddess Stream. Additional shore excursions may include White Emperor City.

Destination Information

Goddess Stream – Goddess Stream, also known as 'Shennü Xi' in Chinese, flows from the southern bank of the Yangtze opposite Goddess Peak. Once just a stream, the Three Gorges Dam raised the water level to 70-100 metres in depth, depending on the season.

Day 12: Yangtze River Cruise - Shanghai **Meals: B, L, D**



This morning, visit the Three Gorges Dam, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world.

Next, disembark your Yangtze River cruise and transfer to Yichang Railway Station, with a stop for lunch at a local restaurant. Board a high-speed bullet train heading to the vibrant, cosmopolitan city of Shanghai, the journey will take approximately six and a half hours. On arrival transfer to your hotel for check-in.

Destination Information

Three Gorges Dam – Commenced in 1994 and completed in 2009, the Three Gorges Dam is the largest water conservancy project ever undertaken. The Dam is located near Sandouping, which is in the middle of the Xiling Gorge, the longest of the Three Gorges. The dam is 2,335m long, 185m high, 18m wide on the top and 130m wide at the bottom. The dam has raised the river to a level of 175m above sea level, creating a 600km long reservoir. The purpose of building the dam was flood control, electricity, navigation, and irrigation.

Shanghai – Once known as the 'Paris of the East', Shanghai is now one of Asia's most influential cities. Prior to communist arrival in 1949, Shanghai was a city with European-style mansions and was the most important trading port in Asia. Today it presents a blend of cultures; the modern and the traditional, along with the European and oriental. Modern skyscrapers intermingle with 1920s 'shikumen' buildings. This combination is what attracts millions of visitors each year.

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



Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Garden and the atmospheric alleys of the old town. You will also visit a silk factory where you will follow the age-old silk production process from the cultivation of silkworms up to creating the final piece. Next, admire the magnificent colonial architecture along the Huangpu River with a stroll along the Bund. Finish with a cruise on the mighty Huangpu River for stunning views of the Shanghai skyline before enjoying a traditional Shanghainese meal.

Sightseeing today involves a full day of touring around the centre of the city with 3-4 hours on foot.

Destination Information

Yu Garden – The Yu Garden is seen as one of the most perfect examples of Chinese garden style. Built by the Ming-era governor, Pan Yunduan, as a retirement gift for his father, the Yu Garden is home to exquisite jade rock, koi-filled ponds and stunning, tranquil pavilions.

Old Town – The old town of Shanghai, where cobbled streets are lined with traditional shops selling herbal medicines, handicrafts, Chinese tea and a variety of tantalising snacks, is the original centre of Shanghai and for decades was the seat of Chinese authority in Shanghai.

Silk Factory – The Silk Factory is an educational journey through the production of silk, one of China's most famous and luxurious materials. Learn about the use of silkworms and silk moths in its production; the manufacturing process; as well as silk's journey along the Silk Road which brought this product across Asia and Europe.

The Bund – Recognised as Shanghai's former 'Wall Street', the Bund is home to an impressive collection of buildings from the early trade houses of the 1850s to the glamorous Art Deco modernism of the 1920s. Originally the home of the foreign population of Shanghai, the Bund's architecture has inherited much western influence and is a stark contrast to the Pudong skyline, sitting across the Huangpu River.

Huangpu River Cruise – There is no better way to see the juxtaposition of eras in Shanghai's history than by taking a cruise on the Huangpu River. At night, the dazzling colours and lights from Pudong shine bright onto the more modest twilight of the Bund.

Day 14: Embark Royal Caribbean Cruise in Shanghai **Meals: B, L, D**



After breakfast, be met by an English-speaking assistant and transfer from your hotel to the Baoshan cruise port and board your Royal Caribbean cruise ship - Spectrum of the Seas, ready to embark on your journey through Japan.

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.

Day 15: Cruising – At Sea **Meals: B, L, D**



Spend today at sea and take the time to recharge before the next adventure.

Day 16: Cruising – Jeju (Seogwipo) **Meals: B, L, D**



Arrive in Jeju (Seogwipo), a beautiful island off the southern coast of South Korea. Spend the day discovering its dramatic volcanic landscapes, scenic coastline and distinctive island culture before returning to the ship for your onward journey.

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

Destination Information

Jeju – South Korea's largest island, Jeju is renowned for its volcanic landscapes, rugged coastline and natural beauty. The island is dominated by Hallasan, South Korea's highest mountain, and is home to picturesque waterfalls, beaches and distinctive lava formations. Jeju also has its own unique culture and traditions, offering a very different experience from mainland South Korea.

Day 17: Cruising – Fukuoka **Meals: B, L, D**

Arrive in Fukuoka on the northern coast of Kyushu. Spend the day exploring this lively waterfront city, known for its historic temples, bustling districts and excellent food scene, before returning to the ship for your onward journey.



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

Destination Information

Fukuoka – Located on the northern shore of Kyushu, Fukuoka combines a long history with a modern and relaxed atmosphere. Explore the historic Hakata district, discover traditional temples and shrines or experience the city's famous food scene. Fukuoka is particularly well known for its tonkotsu ramen and lively yatai street-food stalls.

Day 18: Cruising – Sakaiminato **Meals: B, L, D**

Back in Japan, port in Sakaiminato. 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 at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.

Destination Information

Sakaiminato – An active fishing port and the childhood home of renowned manga artist Shigeru Mizuki, Sakaiminato provides an off the beaten track view of Japan. Statues, murals and shops dedicated to the late manga artist are in abundance throughout the city. Here you will also find the Sakaiminato fish market, with the city being Japan's largest producer of crab.

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

Spend today at sea and take the time to recharge before the next adventure.



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

Dock in the port of Hakodate. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later for an overnight stay in port.



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

Destination Information

Hakodate – One of Japan's first ports to open to international trade in the 19th century, Hakodate is a historic city on the southern tip of Hokkaido. It is known for its well-preserved Western-style architecture in the Motomachi district and the star-shaped Goryokaku Fort, a former Edo-period stronghold. The city's most famous attraction is the panoramic night view from Mount Hakodate, often ranked among Japan's best. Hakodate's thriving seafood industry is also a highlight, with its morning market offering some of Hokkaido's freshest catches.

Day 21: Cruising – Muroran **Meals: B, L, D**

Dock in the port of Muroran. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later for an overnight stay in port.

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



Destination Information

Muroran – A scenic port city on Hokkaido's southern coast, Muroran is known for its striking blend of natural beauty and industrial heritage. Look out for the spectacular cliffs and ocean views of Cape Chikyu, one of Hokkaido's most celebrated viewpoints, as well as the graceful Hakucho Bridge that spans the harbour. Muroran is also famous for its local speciality, Muroran yakitori, a much-loved dish of pork skewers served with mustard.

Day 22: Cruising – At Sea **Meals: B, L, D**

Spend today at sea and take the time to recharge before the next adventure.



Day 23: Cruising – Tokyo (Yokohama) Meals: B, L, D

Today you will be docked Yokohama cruise port, the gateway to the greater Tokyo area. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later for an overnight stay in port.



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

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 24: Disembark Royal Caribbean cruise in Tokyo Meals: B, L, D

Disembark in Tokyo, where you will be met by your new National Escort or Local Guide. From here, transfer to your hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure to soak up the local culture of Tokyo and its vibrant atmosphere.



Day 25: Tokyo **Meals: B, L, D**



Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and embark on a full day tour of Tokyo. Begin with a visit to Senso-ji Temple, arguably one of Tokyo's most popular and photographed temples and the oldest Buddhist temple in the capital.

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.

After, visit the Imperial Palace, Meiji Jingu shrine and then Takeshita Street for local treats tasting. Finally, make a brief photo stop at Shibuya Crossing. Then return to your hotel and later this evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

You will be on your feet for approximately 5-6 hours during your touring in Tokyo.

Destination Information

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

Tokyo Skytree – The tallest structure in Japan, Tokyo Skytree is predominantly a television and radio broadcast tower and is earthquake resistant.

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

Shibuya Crossing – The iconic Shibuya Scramble Crossing, inaugurated in 1973, is the busiest pedestrian interchange in the world, with as many as 3,000 people crossing at one time. Billboards and bright lights abound, and it is often compared to New York's Times Square. The crossing regularly features in films and other media, and is one of Tokyo's most recognisable sites.

Days 26-27: 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, please contact our reservations department who can confirm additional pricing and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.

Transfers: In the event that your flight departs outside of the majority group departure time, you will be transferred to the airport by a shared coach (not with other Wendy Wu Tours passengers). If you are on a shared coach transfer, you may have to walk for a few minutes to get to the coach.

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

TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

A visa is not required for Australian passport holders for entry into Japan for stays up to 90 days.

A visa is not required for Australian passport holders for entry into China for stays up to 30 days.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in 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. Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items. All information with regards to visas will be updated regularly on our website as we find visa processes are changing on regular basis.

INSURANCE:

It is a condition of your booking that you are insured for the duration of your trip. We recommend comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, medical requirements, luggage, repatriations and additional expenses. At a minimum, the policy is required to cover medical requirements including medical evacuations / repatriations. The choice of insurer is yours. We strongly suggest you purchase insurance at the time you pay your deposit. This is because cancellation fees and charges are payable from that time.

We may request you to provide evidence that you have taken out and paid for a policy to comply with this condition. If you fail to provide a certificate of currency of insurance within a reasonable time after our request, then this will be deemed a cancellation by you and standard cancellation fees will apply.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

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.

ACCOMMODATION PRE & POST CRUISE:

Your accommodation is 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. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the Australia and China.

In China all group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning and 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. Due to environmental regulations, not all hotels in China provide toiletries in the rooms.

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 some areas of Japan, hotels are traditional in style. You may be asked to remove your shoes at the door and store them in a secure locker – this is a typical Japanese custom.

If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES PRE & POST CRUISE:

Our Classic Cruise & Tours feature full days of sightseeing to ensure you experience all the must-see sights and unforgettable moments. Occasionally, when time allows, we offer optional extras such as evening shows for those seeking extra excitement. These excursions will be advised and payable locally.

TRANSPORT:

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 China have generally 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 1-2 kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only. There may be sections of road where the surface is bumpy, but our drivers will do their utmost to lessen the impact.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. Lithium-Ion batteries, usually used in laptops, cell phones and digital cameras, must be carried in your hand luggage (not in your checked luggage). Portable chargers with a case that does not state the capacity or with a capacity of 160wh and more are not allowed on internal flights at all.

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.

Yangtze River Cruise Vessel: If travelling on a Yangtze River cruise, a standard cabin is included equipped with Wi-Fi access, an ensuite bathroom, and a private balcony.

DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA AND JAPAN:

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 DIFFERENCES:

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.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

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:** 6th–12th February 2027
- **Qingming Festival:** 3rd–5th April 2027
- **Labor Day:** 1st–5th May (annually)
- **Mid-Autumn Festival:** 15th–17th September 2027

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)

MEALS AND DIETARY INFORMATION:

On this tour you will get to experience a variety of dining options. Pre and post cruise in China 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.

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 Cruise & Tour group tours from arrival to departure. On our land touring in China 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 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.

Please read your travel guide which you will receive with your final documents for more information about eating in Asia.

CRUISE: RCCL – SPECTRUM OF THE SEAS:

As one of Royal Caribbean's Quantum Ultra-Class ships, the impressive Spectrum of the Seas is among the largest of their fleet. On board you will find a wide variety of restaurants featuring many flavours of the far east, as well as innovative dining concepts and the Bionic Bar®, where your mixologists are two robotic bartenders. There are a host of cafes and decks for your relaxation and an expansive array of on board entertainment.

Royal Caribbean App: The app can be used to pre-book restaurants on board. Alternatively, on board cruise planners will be able to assist with reservations.

Boarding Procedures: Guests are asked to arrive at the terminal within the arrival time slot you select during Royal App check-in. Your arrival time is listed on your mobile boarding pass. Those who arrive early will not be able to begin boarding, and those who arrive late will need to wait until you can be worked into another group.

Due to government regulations requiring cruise lines to submit final departure manifests at least 60 minutes prior to sailing, guests are requested to complete Check-in no later than 3 days prior to their cruise. If you do not complete Check-in 3 days prior, you will be required to complete this process at the pier at least two hours prior to the published sailing time.

Please note: All guests must be checked-in and onboard the ship no later than 90 minutes prior to the published sailing time or you will not be permitted to sail.

Cruise Schedule: While they 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.

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.

Drinks Inclusions: Tap water, ice water, flavored waters, brewed coffee, assorted teas, iced tea, hot chocolate, milk, lemonade, and fruit juices are offered free of charge. Other drinks, or drinks packages can be purchased on board the ship or on your cruise account before your departure.

On Board Credit: You will receive USD$200 on board credit as part of your booking which can be used towards shore excursions, alcoholic drinks and specialty dining venues.

Porterage: If you check your luggage with a porter, your checked baggage should be delivered to your stateroom within a few hours of setting sail if tagged properly. 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 porterage service and this is tipping is not included in your tour.

Tipping: Standard gratuities are included onboard your cruise. Any additional services you may choose to partake in, such as spas or speciality dining, will incur additional tipping charges that are not included and to be paid for on cruise.

Dress Code: The dress code on board varies depending on the venue. We recommend packing a mix of casual, smart casual, and formal attire to suit different dining and entertainment experiences.

- **Casual**: Suitable for daytime activities and includes items such as shorts, T-shirts, and sundresses. Even in the dining room, tasteful casual wear is acceptable during the day.
- **Smart Casual**: A step up from casual wear, smart casual attire includes collared shirts, dresses, skirts and blouses, or pantsuits. Jackets, sports coats, and blazers are welcome.
- **Formal**: On formal nights, the dress code suggests a black-tie look, including suits and ties, tuxedos, cocktail dresses, or evening gowns. There will be up to 2 formal nights on your cruise.
- **Main Dining Room & Specialty Dining**: Bare feet and tank tops are not permitted for dinner.
- **Casino**: Shirts and shoes are required at all times, and cover-ups must be worn over bathing attire.

Please note: Dress codes are enforced at the discretion of the ship's staff. It's advisable to adhere to these guidelines to ensure a comfortable experience for all guests.

CRUISE ACCOMODATION AND CABINS:

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.

SHORE EXCURSIONS:

When docked at each port you will have the opportunity to experience shore excursions. With Royal Caribbean offering shore excursions in every port of call, it is 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 Royal Caribbean. Any shore excursions will be at your own expense and bookable on your cruise reservation.

WEATHER:

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.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two pieces of luggage: one suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage not exceeding 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is securely lockable.

On your cruise: While your cruise may allow for additional luggage, we ask you to adhere to the above restrictions due to airline and touring allowances. Luggage tags can be accessed electronically via your Guest Account (under "View Your Documents") and can be printed in advance. We recommend attaching luggage tags to your bags before arriving at the port. If printing is not possible, tags will be available at the cruise terminal. Ensure your stateroom number is clearly marked on each tag.

It may take a few hours after embarkation for your luggage to be delivered to your stateroom. Similarly, suitcases will be collected on the final night of your cruise. To ensure you have

everything you need, we advise carrying a small bag or backpack for essential items such as medications, valuables, important documents, and any immediate necessities.

APPROPRIATE DRESS PRE & POST CRUISE:

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.

PORTERAGE PRE & POST CRUISE:

Please be aware that porterage 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.

SOUVENIRS:

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 POLICY PRE & POST CRUISE:

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.

Yangtze cruise companies operate a service charge policy and this is paid separately when boarding the vessel.

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.

CLIMBING STEPS:

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.

MONEY & PERSONAL EXPENSES:

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

We recommend having access to multiple sources of money while travelling. A combination of payment methods, including mobile payment apps, cash, and cards, will offer the most security and flexibility. Mobile payment apps like WeChat and Alipay are often more widely accepted than international cards or cash in China. You will need an internet connection when in China to use the apps. For more information, please refer to our Paying in China guide.
https://help.wendywutours.com.au/knowledge/china-travel-information

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to outside of the main cities. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be very limited.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with 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:

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 other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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