

WORLDWIDE EARLYBIRD SALE

Traveller Tales

Wendy Wu Tours travellers
share their experiences with us

Introducing the Middle East

Fabulous sites, astounding landscapes
and wonderfully hospitable people

2021: The Year of Japan

Our Japan expert's top tips on
discovering next year's hot destination

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Book by 30 June 2020 | Flexible Booking Guarantee & low £99 deposit | Enjoy a year's free Amazon Prime, Netflix or Audible



Welcome from the team at Wendy Wu Tours!

Within our magazine we are delighted to be able to share our love of travel and adventure with you, our customers!

2020 has been a year like no other, but we look to the autumn and beyond with optimism and hope that together we can start putting the world back together, enjoying the diverse cultures and authentic experiences to be had across the globe.

Inside you will find lots of ideas for future travel adventures, including our new touring programme to the Middle East (see pages 10 & 11), a look at Central Asia and our Traveller Tales, tour stories from you our valued customers!

Our Product Manager, Reema Shah, shares her knowledge and insight of Japan with three great tour recommendations for 2021, a year where we anticipate very strong demand to travel to the country.

Featured on the facing page are details of how you can take advantage of our Earlybird Savings, as well as our Free Business Class Upgrade offer, when you make a new booking with us by 30 June 2020. As ever our friendly team are only a phone call away, or you can find out more by visiting wendywutours.co.uk or following us on Facebook at [@wendywutours](https://www.facebook.com/wendywutours).



All holidays featured in this magazine are fully ABTA and ATOL protected and you will be provided with certification of this when you book. You'll find further information about financial protections on our website. All prices listed are per person and based on two adults sharing standard accommodation and return flights from London Heathrow on selected departure dates. Prices correct as of 20 May 2020 and are subject to change. Booking conditions apply, please see our website for details – www.wendywutours.co.uk/help-and-advice/booking-conditions

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We asked you to share your top travel tips with us, here's what you said.

Cover Image: Fushimi Inari Shrine, Japan.



FREE Business Class Upgrade 2021 Special Offers – Saving up to £800pp*

*Book by 30 June on selected tours. Visit wendywutours.co.uk for details (terms and conditions apply).

SAVE UP TO £500 IN OUR WORLDWIDE EARLYBIRD SALE

We're delighted to bring you our Earlybird sale offering exceptional discounts for tours departing throughout 2021.

Every single tour is discounted with savings up to £500 per person on some of our most popular holidays. You could be following in the footsteps of Silk Road adventurers, discovering the lost cities of the Incas or drifting down the Mekong River in supreme style.

Enjoy peace of mind with our Flexible Booking Guarantee

To help you book with confidence we're happy to offer some of the most flexible booking conditions around. Secure your tour with a deposit of just £99 per person, enjoy one free amendment anytime up to final payment* and only pay your final balance 6 weeks before departure.

Enjoy a year's free Amazon Prime, Netflix or Audible with every booking

We can't go travelling just yet but there is a world of entertainment out there to inspire your travels. So to help ease your lockdown we're delighted to offer you the choice of three 12 month subscriptions free of charge.

*Visit wendywutours.co.uk/special-savings for further details.

The Wendy Wu Tours Price Promise

If you find any of our tours cheaper elsewhere, we'll match the price!

PRICE MATCH PROMISE

Our tours are renowned for their comprehensive inclusions and exceptional value for money. We're so confident you won't find a comparable tour at a better price that if you do, we'll not only match it, but we'll also offer you a discount of £200 per person on a future booking.

100% NO SURCHARGE PROMISE

Once you've paid, you've paid! As soon as we confirm your booking you can relax knowing the holiday price won't increase and you'll never have to pay extra for currency fluctuations and surcharges, etc.

NEVER KNOWINGLY UNDERSOLD

If you find a Wendy Wu tour being sold elsewhere for less than our published price, let us know and we'll match the price you've been quoted.



INTRODUCING CENTRAL ASIA

Enigmatic and mysterious, each country enjoys its own unique appeal.

Holidays to Central Asia are entwined with legends of the Silk Road, the ancient trading route along which goods, ideas, philosophies and religions moved between the east and the west. This is a land where mountains and deserts dominate the landscapes, beautiful blue domes and towering minarets watch over ancient cities and legendary names litter a rich history – Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan and Tamerlane, to name just a few.

Armenia boasts fabulous mountain views and some of the earliest Christian heritage in the world, whilst Kyrgyzstan's magnificent peaks and valleys are home to a centuries old nomadic culture. In fact if mountains are your thing, be sure not to miss Tajikistan, over 90% of the country is mountainous!

Uzbekistan is world-renowned for its glorious historic Silk Route cities: Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva, whilst Kazakhstan shows a far more modern face to the world. Georgia's popularity is booming with visitors drawn by its hip café culture, mountain hikes and beautiful beaches, whilst curious Turkmenistan still feels decidedly off the beaten track.



Uzbekistan

A cradle of culture for more than two millennia and the proud home to a mesmerising collection of Silk Road cities.



Tajikistan

An enigmatic mountainous destination boasting Buddhist stupas, Silk Road relics and nomadic herders.



Armenia

Amidst snow-capped mountains and dramatic gorges find spectacular medieval churches and monasteries.



Kazakhstan

The most developed of the "Stans" where the ancient and modern, traditions and innovation intertwine.



Georgia

A country of fascinating heritage and scenic beauty, that stretches from the snowy Caucasus to the beaches of the Black Sea.



Azerbaijan

Home to one of the great Silk Road cities, Baku, stark deserts, quaint fishing towns and plentiful historical sites.



Kyrgyzstan

A nation tucked into the heart of Central Asia, defined by its natural beauty and proud nomadic traditions.



Turkmenistan

Be seduced by the ruins of ancient cities, boundless steppes, the Karakum Desert and incredible Darvaza Crater.

Meet some of our National Escorts in Central Asia



Kamol, National Escort in Kazakhstan

"I'm convinced that sharing knowledge about this part of the world with our guests is my mission, it's certainly my passion! When a journey comes to an end and our guests look happy and their eyes are shining, I feel that all efforts were worth it. So, my friends, welcome to Central Asia!"



Maia, National Escort in Azerbaijan

"I have 21 years of experience as a guide and have had the chance to meet hundreds of tourists from many countries which has been extremely interesting. I am keen to learn more but also share my knowledge of my spectacular country!"



Lasha, National Escort in Georgia

"I am always up for a challenge to turn into an adventure. I look forward to sharing my knowledge with you and creating memories in one of the most beautiful regions in the world!"



Nutsa, National Escort in Armenia

"As a National Escort, I am very passionate about nature, trekking and food. I have led many expeditions which have given me a huge amount of experience, and I know almost all there is to know about the wine and wine culture! I look forward to sharing this with you on your tour."

Our tours of Central Asia



Save up to £500pp

Journey through Central Asia

27 days | [Go Beyond Group Tour](#) from £6,390pp

Travel from Bishkek to Ashgabat on this 27 day 'Five Stan' cultural experience. This in depth tour will see you visiting the Silk Road gems of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva, the quirky Turkmenistan, colourful markets, fascinating villages and alpine scenery.

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



Save up to £400pp

Road to Samarkand

22 days | [Go Beyond Group Tour](#) from £4,290pp

Journey through the heart of Central Asia crossing starkly beautiful deserts and magnificent mountain landscapes. Discover ancient cities full of intricate Islamic architecture, thriving bazaars and a mystical old-world atmosphere, all inextricably linked with the legends of the Silk Road.

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



Save up to £100pp

Eurasia Explorer

23 days | [Go Beyond Group Tour](#) from £4,160pp

An adventure through the Caucasus at the point where east meets west, this tour highlights a real contrast of cultures. See beautiful mountain scenery, enjoy delicious food and wine, and wonder at ancient fortresses, cathedrals, mosques and temples.

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

To find out about any of these tours call our reservations team 0808 239 2573

Chile Top to Toe



No one can bring our tours to life better than those who have seen, done and experienced it all first-hand, our valued customers John and Margaret share their amazing Wendy Wu adventures, Chile Top to Toe.

We were full of anticipation and excitement for our journey from London Heathrow to South America for our Chile Top to Toe tour. We had decided beforehand to use British Airways for two main reasons, one for the non-stop flight, and secondly for the chance to fly on the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner which did not disappoint.

Great First Impressions

As we came into land in Chile's capital, Santiago, we had our first glimpse of this fascinating country that we had heard so much about. Santiago looked wonderful in the morning sunlight as we touched down. Surrounded almost completely by mountains, it was quite glowing and magical.

We were greeted by our local guide, Sergio. He was very courteous and professional in taking an interest in where we had come from and how our journey was. Sergio then proceeded to escort us to our selected hotel in the Merced 84 Barrio Lastarria district, right by the beautiful Parque Forestal making it an ideal location for our stay.

As we were the first of our small group to arrive, we had plenty of time to relax before we all met in the afternoon for a tour of the city on a pre-arranged bus. On viewing the old and modern buildings in the city squares, the sports park, and taking a cable car ride up to see the famous statue of the Virgin Mary on San Cristobal Hill, we were given a great insight into what was to come during the rest of our trip.

In the area of our hotel, many of the buildings were adorned with amazing street art making it a pleasure to explore on foot. The nearby Barrio Bellavista area had plenty of bars, restaurants and nightlife for the young and old alike and we felt perfectly safe at all times.

The next day we headed to the coast to the stunning city of Valparaiso stopping at a world-famous vineyard on the way. Valparaiso is built on hilly ground so there are excellent views of the Pacific Ocean

from many spots across the city. There are cable cars to help visitors get around and there was even an updated one to transport us to the hotel in the restricted traffic area. This town is extremely famous for its vibrant street art and nearby is the resort town of Vina del Mar and Castro Island with its colourful stilt houses and charming wooden churches.

The group said goodbye to Sergio and we started our journey to Calama. On this journey we were joined by many miners going to Calama for work in the copper mine so it gave us a great opportunity to speak to the locals.



Memorable Moments

Calama is the gateway to the Atacama Desert so we left here for our next stop, San Pedro de Atacama. Here we were met by Aneka, our local guide. Our hotel was constructed mainly from adobe mud like many other traditional buildings in this area. This would be our base for the amazing Salt Flats – our next treat with a promise of seeing flamingos and geysers at El Tatio. Remember to look out for the famous observatory on the plateau on top of a far distant mountain and the extinct volcanos.

Nearby Moon Valley and Rainbow Valley were true highlights of our trip, both with amazing mineral deposits which were constantly changing colour throughout our visit. Our next stop was Puerto Varas, the Lake District of Chile. Here we headed to Lake Llanquihue to see the impressive, snow-capped Osorno Volcano which reminded us of Mount Fuji in Japan.

We were guided in this area by George who was a member of the Civil Defence Volunteer Team and had plenty of fascinating stories to share with us. He was extremely knowledgeable of his hometown as well as the surrounding park areas. All of the hotels on this trip were excellent but in many different ways. For example, some were chosen for their stunning location whilst others offered fantastic facilities. But the hotel in Puerto Varas had it all – stunning views across Lake Llanquihue, the main town and the old fishing wharf, plus great amenities, everything we needed for a comfortable stay. George took us to the local National Parks to see the many species of birds and animals which reside in the area, and often stopped at llama farms whilst we were on the road.

We were recommended to take in the views of the snow-capped mountains surrounding the whole area and it was spectacular. The early settlers of Puerto Varas were mainly German and you can see the German influence throughout the town through the different styles of housing, it's so pretty.

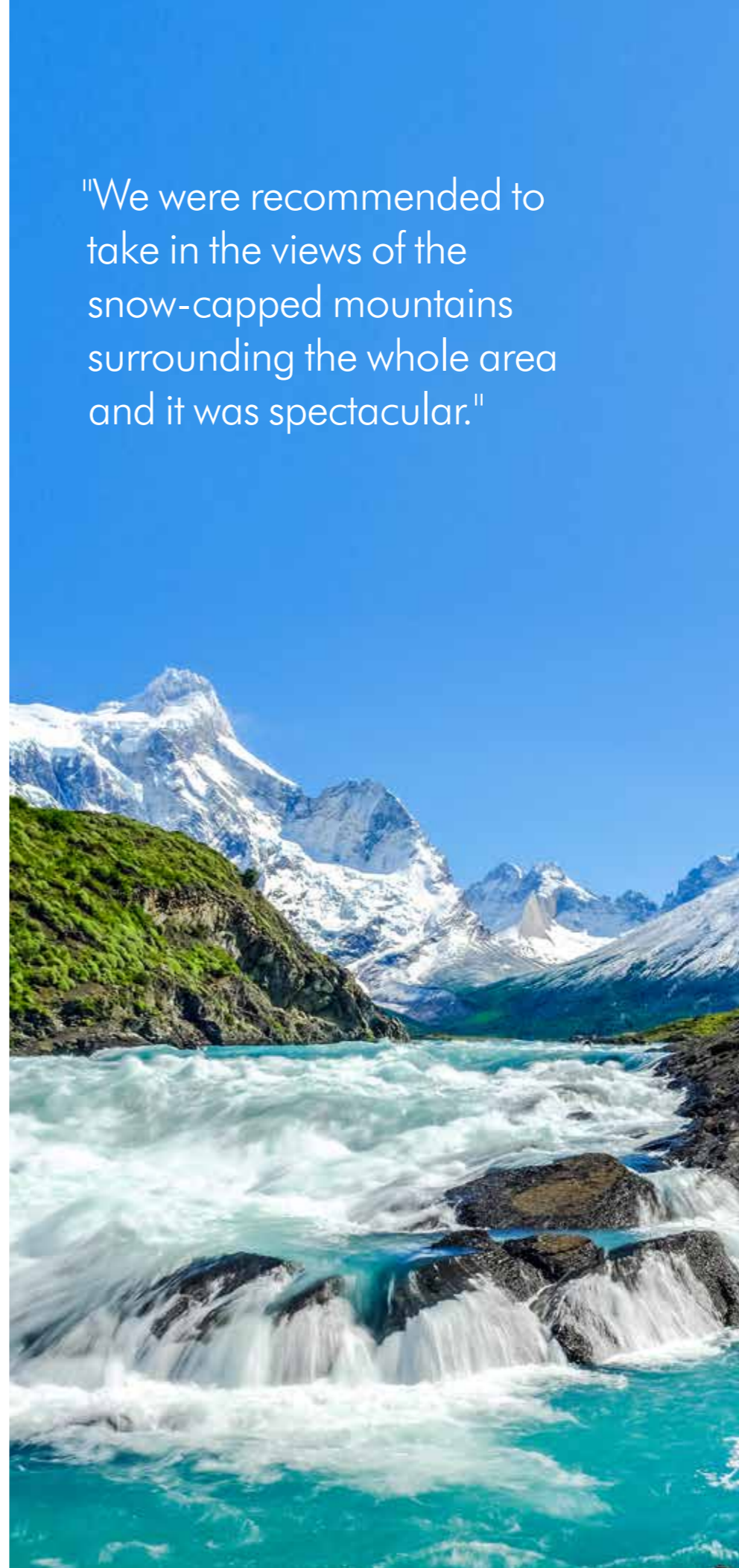
On reaching further south to Puerto Natales you will definitely notice a distinct chill in the air, especially after the 35°C heat of the Atacama Desert. We dug out our warm clothing which we last wore when visiting the El Tatio geysers at dawn – remembering at this point how extremely cold it was!

Insider Knowledge is Key

Our next guide, Wendy, lived just outside the town and, lucky for us, she knew everything about the area!

This was another interesting town with a lovely waterfront, and also the base for our boat trip on the Last Hope Fjord to see the sealions and the glaciers of Mount Balmaceda. The trip on the fjord was followed by a wonderful lunch at a restaurant on the return journey where we had barbequed lamb and it was honestly the best we have ever tasted!

"We were recommended to take in the views of the snow-capped mountains surrounding the whole area and it was spectacular."



The Torres del Paine National Park was the next treat with wildlife everywhere, numerous lakes, and mountains which made you feel like you were on the edge of the world. The weather here is constantly changing, snowing one minute and sunny the next with winds also blowing in at times, but always truly magical.

The lunch today was truly exceptional with picture windows providing the perfect views whilst we ate. We were recommended the southern Hake fish dish from the menu, it was nothing like our Hake back home, it was delicious. After a short walk around the restaurant to stretch our legs we visited the Grey Glacier which we viewed from a shingle bar stretched right across the lake, taking in mini icebergs with a glacier in the distance between the towering mountains.

One of our last stops was the Milodon Caves where a Mylodon (an extinct type of ground sloth) was once found along with ancient human remains and rock drawings. We all had great fun trying to identify the animals from the rock drawings. After the caves we even managed to squeeze in a trip to the ski centre on a nearby mountain where you can ride the chairlift if you wish to venture to the top – another spot for fantastic views.

On returning to Santiago, Sergio met us again to take us to our hotel and was eager to hear about our trip. We had decided to stay in Santiago a little longer and we're so pleased we got to explore the city for an extra couple of days, it was definitely worth it. With Sergio on hand to escort us back to the airport, our whole trip was so enjoyable and completely hassle-free.

Save up to £500pp

Chile: Top to Toe

14 days | Flexible Group Tour from £4,490pp

Travel the entire length of Chile, from the barren beauty of the Atacama Desert and Altiplano of the north, via the lakes and volcanoes of the Lake District, to the spectacular mountains and glaciers of Patagonia in the south.

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



LATIN AMERICA

A continent that conjures up images of conquistadors, ancient civilisations and deep dark jungle, a holiday to South America is certainly a trip that will be full of adventure.

From the colossal peaks of the Andes to the vibrant sands of Rio's world renowned beaches, South America runs on a rhythm of its very own, full of passion, colour and fun. Throughout the continent you'll find reminders of civilisations of time gone by – including the world famous Machu Picchu – and a wealth of incredible landscapes, from sky-scraping peaks to endlessly tumbling waterfalls.

Our South America holidays cover everything from vibrant Peru to stunning Patagonia and the deserts of Chile to the natural wonders of The Galapagos. Destinations you can experience with our Latin America Tours...



Peru
Discover enchanting lost cities, starkly beautiful landscapes, romantic colonial towns and a plethora of woolly llamas!



Brazil
Follow the samba beat along golden beaches to thundering waterfalls and thrilling effervescent cities.



Chile
A country of pristine wilderness from lunar deserts and turquoise lakes to soaring volcanoes and vast glaciers.



Colombia
An equatorial gold mine of spectacular landscapes, mysterious ancient civilisations and charming pueblos.



Argentina
The land of beef, wine, football and tango. Come for the stunning scenery but fall in love with the way of life.



Bolivia
A destination for the adventure-lover that soars high into the Andes and drops low into the steamy Amazon.



Uruguay
A laid back and sophisticated nation that is the place to experience the genuine life and connect with friendly locals.



Ecuador
A pocket gem replete with lofty volcanoes, misty forests, colonial history and incredible wildlife encounters.

Have fun with our Latin America Tour Guides!



Our top tours of Latin America



Save up to £200pp

Ultimate South America
28 days | **Go Beyond Group Tour**
from £7,690pp

The ultimate tour of South America, this all-encompassing journey will take you through the landscapes of Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil on an epic adventure.

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



Save up to £200pp

Panoramic Peru
15 days | **Flexible Group Tour**
from £3,990pp

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

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



Save up to £200pp

Colombia Discovery
17 days | **Flexible Group Tour**
from £4,290pp

Colombia is Latin America's rising star, a charismatic country full of passion! Explore its treasures, from the world-famous coffee region and the colonial splendour of Guatapé and Cartagena to the Caribbean beaches of Tayrona and Rosario.

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

To find out about any of these tours call our reservations team 0808 239 2573

Explore the Middle East

"I am so excited to be introducing the Middle East into Wendy Wu Tours, one of my favourite regions of the world. With layer upon layer of history to uncover and such a vibrant mix of cultures to explore, the Middle East offers an array of fabulous sites, astounding landscapes and wonderfully hospitable people." *Peter, Global Product Director at Wendy Wu Tours.*

The countries are uniquely interconnected and yet all quite different: Lebanon with its dramatic mountains and coastline, sophisticated cuisine and astonishing history; Jordan with its breath-taking desert landscapes and majestic Petra, the 'rose-red city half as old as time', a site that defies all expectations; Israel and Palestine with their evocative Biblical sites, complex politics and of course Jerusalem – one of the most extraordinary cities anywhere in the world; plus Oman with its soaring mountains, rolling desert dunes and rich Arabian heritage. And finally, new for 2021, we are looking forward to introducing a destination with one of the most staggering collections of ancient sites and natural wonders anywhere in the world: Egypt.

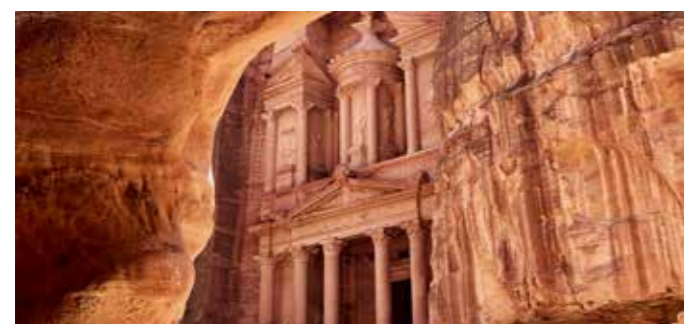
Our new Middle East tours

Jordan

For many, Jordan is synonymous with the spectacular UNESCO-listed Petra but this proudly welcoming land is home to so much more.

Crossed back and forth by traders, invaders and camel caravans for thousands of years, the country is littered with an astounding array of ancient treasures, from crusader castles and Roman amphitheatres to exquisite Christian mosaics.

Exploring here is to follow in the footsteps of legendary adventurers like T.E Lawrence; you can discover the romance of the red-hued Wadi Rum, float in the waters of the Dead Sea, explore the cosmopolitan streets of capital Amman and of course, wander through Petra, the long ago home of the Nabataean people, an exquisite city hewn into valleys of pink-hued rocks.



Save up to £200pp

Journey through Jordan

8 days | **Classic Group Tour** from £2,390pp

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

Israel

Israel, the Holy Land to many, is a country of astounding antiquity, deep spirituality and striking contrast.

Its heart and soul is ancient Jerusalem, a city that has played a pivotal role in thousands of years worth of history. Below a skyline sculpted by the architecture of the Muslims, Christians and Jews that revere it as a holy place, you'll discover bustling streets where cultures converge, something that is particularly well demonstrated by the city's fantastic food scene.

Outside the city, Israel has plenty of astounding sights and relics – there's the cosmopolitan seaside resort of Tel Aviv, sacred Bethlehem and the ancient port of Jaffa, to name a few, as well as famous natural wonders such as the Dead Sea.

Whatever you look for in a holiday, from culture to cuisine and adventure to relaxation, Israel is a magical destination to explore.



Save up to £200pp

Ancient Israel

8 days | **Classic Group Tour** from £2,490pp

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

Lebanon

Considered the point where the West and the Middle East converge, Lebanon, with its golden Mediterranean beaches, World Heritage sites and fantastic foodie scene, is a destination to truly savour.

With an illustrious history rooted in the Phoenician Empire and built on by the Romans, Lebanon's ancient sites are simply astounding – Tyre's Hippodrome and the Temple of Jupiter at Baalbek to name just two iconic examples.

The port city of Byblos offers a step back in time as you explore its ancient streets, whilst wandering the maze-like old town of Sidon makes for an atmospheric afternoon. The capital Beirut is the perfect place to get an authentic taste of this charming destination – sampling glorious local cuisine and wines produced in the fertile Bekaa Valley whilst discovering the sights and sounds of this sophisticated city is a must!



Save up to £200pp

Lands of Lebanon

8 days | **Classic Group Tour** from £2,090pp

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

Oman

The Sultanate of Oman sits on the edge of the Middle East region, with a long and glorious coastline on the Arabian Sea. A progressive and future-facing nation, it is often overlooked for its flashier neighbours – all the better for the travellers starting to catch on to Oman's many wonders, there are less people to share them with!

Here, a modern face thinly veils a thoroughly ancient soul, and many traditional values remain ingrained in the national psyche: the locals pride themselves on their hospitality, so a very warm welcome is guaranteed.

After soaking up the relaxed and friendly vibes of capital Muscat, it's time to explore Oman's greatest boon, its nature. From quaint fishing villages perched on dramatic sweeps of coastline from which you can watch old wooden fishing dhows plying turquoise waters, to the rolling sand dunes and towering red cliffs that you pass as you travel between lush oases, there is so much to explore in this undiscovered gem.



Save up to £200pp

Deserts & Dunes of Oman

7 days | **Classic Group Tour** from £2,390pp

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



Trails of Japan: Photo Journal



Japan is a photographer's dream. With intricate temples, exquisite traditional clothing and of course, the cherry blossom, it's the perfect place to capture some truly spectacular photos. And here is the proof, many thanks to Ray Hughes for sharing some of his beautiful shots taken on our Trails of Japan tour last spring.



Days 1-4: Fly to Tokyo and explore the city

Take part in a traditional Japanese drumming (Taiko) class. Visit the Meiji Shrine. Explore the Shibuya district, home to Harajuku. Watch the fascinating show at the Robot Restaurant.



Wander the Imperial Palace East Garden. See the city from the Tokyo Skytree. Discover the ancient Sensoji Temple. Learn about the city's history at the Edo Tokyo Museum.



"I took this photo of Fuji from my room at sunrise. We arrived the night before, it was snowing and murky and we couldn't see a thing so when I woke up and saw Fuji in the morning sun it was a real wow moment."

Day 5: Fuji Five Lakes

Explore the Fuji Five Lakes and soak up the views of Mount Fuji.



Day 6: Snow Monkeys

Stop at the magnificent Matsumoto Castle. See snow monkeys bathing in the hot springs of Jigokudani Yaen-Koen.



Day 7: Nagano to Takayama

Witness stunning views of the Japanese Alps from the Shin-Hotaka Ropeway. Stroll through the traditional, historic streets of Takayama.



"I have so many wonderful memories from this trip, the cherry blossom and Himeji Castle were real highlights. I got to tick off a few items on my bucket list which is great."



Days 8-9: Kyoto

Ride the bullet train to Kyoto. Visit the famous Fushimi Inari Shrine. Explore the Kiyomizu Temple. See the beautiful Golden Pavilion. Discover the Ryoanji Temple and zen garden. Wander through the Bamboo Forest.

Day 10: Kyoto to Koya-san
Discover the craft of Kimono creation at Nishijin Textile Centre. Learn the art of origami. Stay overnight in a 13th century temple in a traditional tatami room.



Day 11: Koya-san to Osaka

Join the monks in their daily morning prayers. Enjoy a walking tour and visit the Kongobuji Temple. Explore the Okunoin Cemetery.



Days 12-13: Osaka

See the beautiful Himeji Castle. Enjoy sake tasting in a sake brewery. Explore Osaka's vibrant entertainment area, Dotonbori district.

FREE Business Class Upgrade available – see page 3

Save up to £300pp

Trails of Japan

13 days | **Go Beyond Group Tour** from £5,390pp

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

2021: THE YEAR OF JAPAN

The land of pastel pink cherry blossom, high-tech cities and kimono-clad geisha, discover all this and more in captivating Japan.

Japan's historic isolation from the rest of the world has produced a truly unique culture. Over 214 years, Japan flourished without the influence of any other nation leaving a fascinating country steeped in history where distinctive traditions are still honoured today. Between futuristic skyscrapers stand tranquil temples, and amongst the spectacular landscapes lie picturesque old towns. And then there's the food, one-of-a-kind dishes adorned with the flavours of each specific region, it's no wonder even Michelin starred chefs head here in search of culinary inspiration.

With the Olympics postponed and many travellers still keen to experience the beautiful cherry blossom season, Japan is one of the most sought-after destinations for 2021. Our Japan Product & Commercial Manager, Reema, tells us the best ways to see and experience Japan with her top three tours. Each packed with a whole host of authentic experiences, from traditional tea ceremonies to adventures in the Alps in search of snow monkeys, each itinerary is designed to give you a taste of true Japan, after all, there's nowhere else in the world quite like it.

Reema Recommends

Japan Uncovered

This is the ultimate, all-in-one trip covering Japan's many classic sights and key cultural activities. Starting in the fast-paced city of Osaka, enjoy a morning in history-filled Nara (Japan's first capital) to admire the traditional Isui-en Garden and see the resident Sika deer, then head to Hiroshima stopping at the 17th century Himeji Castle on the way. Take a ferry across to the holy island of Miyajima where you'll see the Itsukushima Shrine, then head to Kyoto via Japan's most famous mode of transport, a bullet train.

Kyoto holds many enchanting sights, including the Golden Pavilion and famous Fushimi Inari Shrine, and here you'll also take part in the age-old ritual of a traditional tea ceremony. Learn the art of washi paper making in Gokayama, explore the 300-year-old Gassho style Wada House in Shirakawago and discover more of Japan's local handicrafts amongst the old streets of Takayama. A highlight of this tour is a trip into the Japanese Alps to see the snow monkeys bathe and play in the hot springs before heading to the Fuji Five Lakes for the magnificent views of Mount Fuji and ending in the high-tech metropolis that is Tokyo.



FREE Business Class Upgrade available – see page 3
Save up to £500pp

Japan Uncovered
17 days | **Classic Group Tour**
from £6,490pp

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

Discover Japan

Arriving in dazzling Tokyo, this tour travels in the opposite direction to Japan Uncovered but covers many of the same fantastic sights. From the old temples and tranquil gardens amongst Tokyo's skyscrapers, ride a bullet train to Mount Fuji to see the panoramic views from the Komogatake Ropeway.

Explore the impressive Matsumoto Castle and enjoy a miso tasting experience before heading to the beautifully preserved town of Takayama nestled high in the mountainous Hida region. Get a glimpse of rural Japan in Shirakawago and Kanazawa where you'll learn about the fascinating process of making gold leaf, then head to Kyoto to try origami and see the Golden Pavilion and Fushimi Inari Shrine. Explore the charming town of Nara before travelling to Koya-San where you'll visit the Kongobuji Temple, and end in Osaka sampling the culinary delights of the Dotonbori district.



FREE Business Class Upgrade available – see page 3
Save up to £500pp

Discover Japan
13 days | **Classic Group Tour**
from £5,390pp

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

Jewels of Japan

Perfect for those who want to tick off the main highlights but have limited time, Jewels of Japan takes you to some of the must-see sights and offers a number of unmissable experiences. Explore the lively city of Tokyo, including the Sensoji Temple, Hamarikyu Garden and famous Shibuya Crossing, before travelling to the scenic Fuji Five Lakes in the foothills of Mount Fuji.

Ride the bullet train to Kyoto where you'll learn to make traditional Japanese soba noodles which you'll enjoy for lunch, see the Fushimi Inari Shrine, learn the art of origami and take part in an authentic tea ceremony. Sample Hiroshima's classic okonomiyaki dish and visit the Peace Memorial Park, then soak up the serene sights of the holy island of Miyajima where you'll see the famous floating torii gates. This tour ends with a trip to Himeji's famous castle before departing from Osaka.



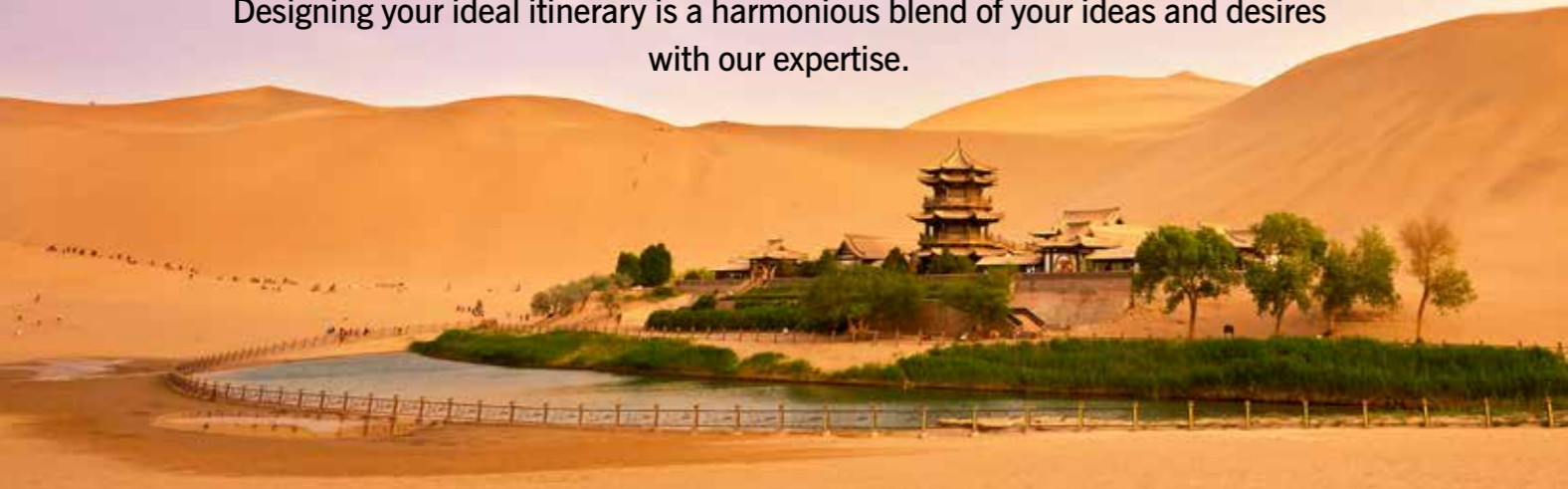
FREE Business Class Upgrade available – see page 3
Save up to £300pp

Jewels of Japan
11 days | **Classic Group Tour**
from £4,990pp

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

Discover the world your way

Designing your ideal itinerary is a harmonious blend of your ideas and desires with our expertise.



A tailor-made trip lets you discover the world exactly how you like. Whether that's in five-star comfort or with adventures that take you off the beaten track, we can put together an impressive itinerary that's entirely unique to you and fulfils every one of your holiday wishes.

Immerse yourself in the local culture by adding any authentic experience to your trip, perhaps a cooking class in Vietnam or weaving workshop in the villages of Laos. No matter what it is, we'll take your ideas and add our expertise removing all the hassle of organising it yourself.

Our team of experienced consultants have all travelled extensively and love putting together dream holidays for others. You'll be assigned your very own travel consultant who specialises in your chosen destination and, through our excellent contacts from across the world, will provide a service that's second to none in giving you a truly unforgettable experience. And, of course, we'll pair you with our very best local guides so you can learn more about the history, sights, culture and daily life along the way, wherever you decide to go.

Perhaps one of these destinations is next on your bucket list. As well as the main sights why not include some of these lesser-known, but equally as good, options in your itinerary...

CHINA – add these sights

Chengde Mountain Resort

This large complex of stunning imperial palaces was built over a period spanning most of the 18th century and is easily reached from Beijing by a scenic train journey. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it's home to forests, lakes, temples and gardens all set against gorgeous mountainous landscapes.

The Nine Villages Valley

The perfect opportunity to soak up China's great outdoors, this UNESCO-listed national park boasts azure lakes, rushing waterfalls and thick forest encircled by snow-capped peaks. Although visually impressive all year-round, it's particularly spectacular in Autumn when the rainbow coloured leaves are reflected in the crystalline waters.

Dunhuang

If exploring China from Central Asia or Mongolia, stop at Dunhuang – an oasis town on the edge of the Taklamam Desert. Surrounded by some of the world's highest sand dunes this was once a refuge for those traversing the Silk Road and today is best known for the Mogao Caves where you can see excellent Chinese cave art.

Unique stays

Commune by the Great Wall

This contemporary hotel is a must if you're eager to explore a lesser-known slice of China's most iconic attraction. Designed to highlight the beauty of the surrounding nature, this contemporary hotel is wonderfully secluded and features a private path that leads directly to an untouched section of the Great Wall.

Li-An Lodge Longji Terraces

Overlooking the spectacular rice terraces of Longji and housed in a traditional wooden structure, the Li-An Lodge offers modern luxury with an authentic Chinese ambience. Alongside the exceptional views, this is the perfect place for art lovers to appreciate local Chinese arts and crafts which adorn every room.



Make it a multi-stop and add South Korea

A fascinating combination of Asia old and new, South Korea will have you exploring cities of skyscrapers, tranquil temples and beautiful nature scenery.



INDIA – add these sights

Jodhpur Village Safari

With your own private driver, explore the rural villages of Rajasthan by jeep for the chance to get a more authentic taste of traditional customs and cultures in this part of India. See the local women in their vibrant saris against the stark desert, pass traditional Rajasthani stepwells and look out for wildlife.

Sarnath

Rediscovered and excavated in 1835, Sarnath was the site of Buddha's first ever sermon after enlightenment in 530BC and was once India's most important Buddhism centre. After disappearing in the 12th century, Sarnath is once again thriving with temples, stupas and ruins to explore, including the Archaeological Museum which holds many ancient treasures.

Pushkar's Camel Fair

Held across five days every November, the camel fair is one of Pushkar's most popular and beautifully vibrant events. Trading is carried out in the days leading up to the official start leaving the event itself to be dedicated to festivities including dance performances, colourful camel fashion and even a fun fair.

Unique stays

Glenburn Tea Estate

Set in a 150-year-old colonial plantation house, this estate is considered one of India's best luxury boutique hotels. Exuding old world charm and a homely atmosphere, you can sit on the veranda with a cup of tea admiring the rolling tea fields and magnificent views of Mount Kanchenjunga.

Manvar Desert Camp

Located in the heart of Rajasthan's sand dunes, this camp consists of 30 colourful safari-style tents providing guests with a truly unique experience. Each tent has electricity and attached washrooms with hot and cold water, and the central campfire is the perfect spot to watch the sunset or stargaze at night.

Tailormade itineraries – your tour, your way



Continue your adventure with a trip to Nepal

With little influence from the outside world, a trip to Nepal offers a delightfully authentic experience that you simply won't find anywhere else – all encompassed by the presence of the mighty Himalayas.

Going Solo in Vietnam and Cambodia



As the Coronavirus crisis unfolded, solo traveller Louise Dowsett journeyed through Vietnam and Cambodia with Wendy Wu Tours. Here's her account of travelling to an extraordinary place in extraordinary times.

A solo tour – shall I, shall I not, those were the thoughts running through my head before I booked this trip to Vietnam & Cambodia. They are both two places I've always wanted to visit...ah go on then I'll book it!

This was in June 2019, before the start of the year where covid-19 would hit all four corners of the world. I decided, with the advice of my travel agent and Wendy Wu that all travel was safe to do so, which was all I needed to hear! I love to travel, it's a great passion of mine and couldn't wait to start this little adventure.

Off to the Airport

So off I depart from Newcastle via Dubai before I reach Hanoi. On arrival I was welcomed by my Wendy Wu tour guide at the airport, there was only me to collect as all the other members of my party were coming in from different destinations. After two long flights and chats about food and Hanoi me and my guide go off for a spot of lunch and a quick look around where I'm staying. He recommends a great authentic place to try the famous Pho Bo which was very tasty and a great start to my trip!

After check-in at the hotel I receive a call from our guide who will be looking after us in Vietnam advising me of our meet up time and plan for the next day. So with that in mind I take this time to chill, get an early night and look forward to meeting my fellow travellers and take Vietnam by storm.

Early start, good night's sleep, good breakfast and everyone meet in the lobby...it takes minutes for us all to start talking and here we are, a group of 12, aged from me at 39 to 77. One man versus 11 women from Britain, New Zealand and Australia you can tell straight away that we're all going to get on and enjoy each other's company!

From Ho Chi Minh to Halong Bay

The itinerary was jam packed, lots to see do and explore in Vietnam starting with a tour of the Ho Chi Minh Quarter ending in the old quarter with the bustling streets filled with mopeds – life in this place is definitely 100 mile an hour!

Following on from city life we take our trip to the one thing I've been looking forward to, Halong Bay! As we arrive at the dock we are all temperature checked before we board our ship...wow we practically have this to ourselves it's amazing, totally blew me and all of us away!

The food, the scenery, the whole experience and Tai Chi on the top deck after sunrise....yep they have it all here! Sailing down this waterway is by far one of the best experiences so far. If things were good, then Hoi An just took it up a level, wow what a place, during the day stunning but by night it just got better, the winding streets and the lanterns are something that blow you away!

On to Saigon

We now head to Saigon, again the busyness of city life, the Mekong Delta where we participate in a number of activities like a cycle ride, various trips on the river which were a great joy for all of us and the different types of boat we experienced. The traffic is busy, the mopeds, the people amazing and we head straight to the Cu Chi Tunnels which I had to experiment and see if I could fit down and get back out which I can safely say I did!

The streets, the history, the food and the people – Vietnam has gripped me beyond belief although it's been non-stop, I can't fault the itinerary and everything we've seen and done, I now can't wait for Cambodia!

Goodbye Vietnam, Good Morning Cambodia

Another airport and another guide as we all check in and reflect the first part of our trip. We are all sad to say bye to Thang and thank him for everything but as we land we are welcomed by the beaming smile of Sokly, our Cambodian guide, and taken safely to our hotel before we see what Phnom Penh is like on a night!

We are staying in a great hotel Sun & Moon, with a rooftop bar and the city lights are shining after a good night's sleep we're off on a Cyclo ride to The Royal Palace, what a great experience going through the streets in and out of the traffic – the palace is stunning the sun is shining and the crowds are smaller than normal so we can leisurely make our way through the grounds.

After lunch we make our way to the Killing Fields, a very sombre and emotional experience for everyone. We had 2 great nights here in Phnom Penh, the people are amazing the hospitality we've received has been first class! We land safely in Siem Reap, to me this was one of my main reasons to take this trip – we take Tuk Tuks to visit the temples each one has its own distinctive beauty and history.

They really have to be seen to be believed, we spend an evening on a dragon boat where we watch the sun go down, have a sing along and just take in the beautiful surroundings! To say though we saved the best until last is by far an understatement, Angkor Wat – practically to ourselves! As our trip was coming to a close you could tell more and more that the tourism had been impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak.

We arrive at Angkor Wat in the early afternoon, the sun is starting to fade and we enter the temple and just wander up and down the steps, through the alley ways and just stand, take a breath and take in as much as we possibly can – it's truly beautiful at every light and every angle, a place I'm so lucky to have

had the pleasure of visiting and seeing it in its full glory was a great ending to a marvellous trip!

Would I do it again – 100% yes.

I feel totally blessed and totally lucky that our trip went without a hitch! I met the most amazing people who I'll keep in touch with. I can't thank Wendy Wu enough, firstly for putting this trip and itinerary together so well, the hotels, flights, organisation is by far the best I have ever experienced no stone was left unturned.

I'm not just staying this but this was my first trip, it will not be my last and I will only travel with Wendy Wu in the future on organised trips – you get what you pay for and I can't thank everyone enough for allowing me to experience Vietnam and Cambodia at its finest!

From the booking to the arrival to the accommodation and guides everything was perfect! Roll on the next adventure.

Louise travelled with us on the Vietnam and Cambodia Experience in March 2020.

Save up to £200pp

Vietnam and Cambodia Discovery

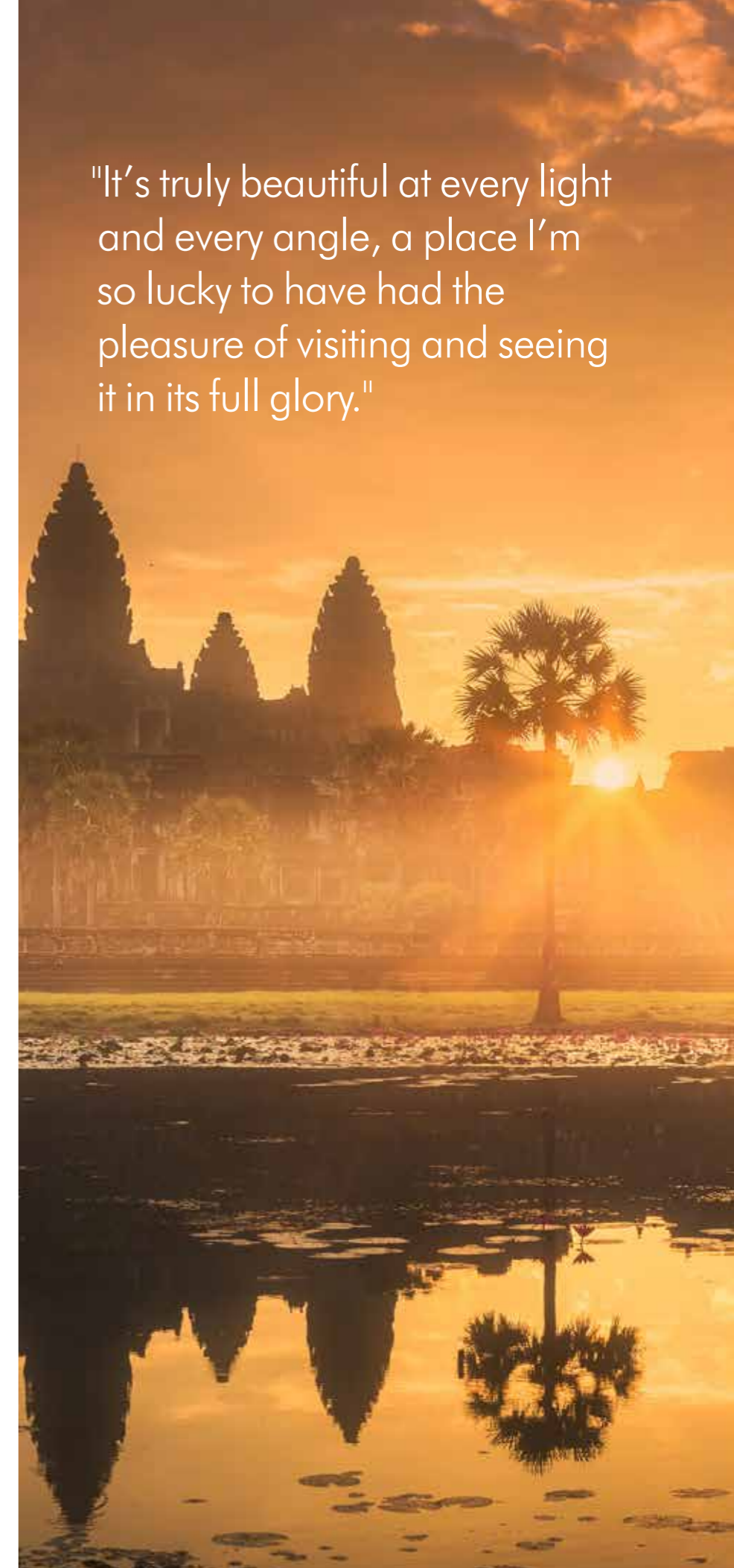
21 days | **Active Group Tour** from £3,290pp

Discover two fascinating countries. Hike through the verdant rice terraces of Hoang Su phi and taste the street food in Hanoi. Your journey ends with an unforgettable exploration of the Angkor complex by tuk tuk.

Pay a visit to the extraordinary Angkor Wat, the most iconic structure within the Angkor Complex, as seen on BBC One's Sacred Wonders.

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

"It's truly beautiful at every light and every angle, a place I'm so lucky to have had the pleasure of visiting and seeing it in its full glory."





Floating Far Away, from Houseboats to Riverboats

Taking to the waters of a brand-new destination can make it feel like you're really experiencing the heart of that country. Be it on the open sea, the balmy waters of a bay or the weaving route of a slow-moving river, cruising often takes a spot near the top of many travellers' wish lists.

Our beautifully diverse planet is unsurprisingly teeming with a whole host of incredible waterways waiting to be explored. It's not an easy choice to make if your next passport stamp is to be determined by the cruising options of that destination. So, we thought we'd make it a little easier by showing you our favourite ways to discover some of the world's most wonderous waters.

Gorge-ous Gateways

China's phenomenal Yangtze River needs no introduction, it has been the lifeline of the nation for millennia and along its riverbanks were where some of the earliest Chinese cultures flourished. A cruise along the Yangtze lets you see China from a whole new angle, one that's significantly slower in pace and adorned with a backdrop of impressive gorges and glorious forest-covered mountains.

Each bend of the river offers a new breathtaking panorama, from the sight of the magnificent, man-made Three Gorges Dam to the serenity of the Shennong Stream and Jade Emperor Scenic Area. It takes



more than a day to get to grips with the expanse of the Yangtze and truly appreciate its vast beauty, and the Wonders of China tour provides visitors with a four-night cruise in which to do so. The Yangtze cruise ships are a haven on the waters, offering each guest a comfortable cabin with a private balcony and plenty to do on board, from learning Tai Chi to watching a cabaret show, that's if you can tear yourself away from the incredible views.

As well as the highlights of the mighty Yangtze, on this tour guests also embark

on a trip along another of China's magnificent, and some say even more mesmerising, waterways – the Li River. The unique scenery along the Li River has inspired artists and poets for centuries and it is easy to see why. Famous for its towering limestone peaks which loom over the lush greenery of China's farmlands, the river meanders around the verdant fields of grazing buffalo and past the picturesque fishing villages which nestle between Guilin and Yangshuo. This is the kind of scenery that is best admired on a smaller scale than that of the Yangtze. Boats on

the Li River hold just 100 passengers and have an open viewing area on the upper deck – ideal for soaking up the ambience of China's tranquil rural pastures.

Cruising in Comfort

Spanning six countries from the highlands of Tibet to the very tip of Vietnam, the Mekong River holds irreplaceable riches that nourish the earth it passes through. In fact, some of the most fertile lands in Southeast Asia are nurtured by the offerings of the Mekong making it the region's most important waterway and earning its namesake, the 'rice bowl' of Asia.



The most iconic stretch of the Mekong lies between Cambodia and Vietnam. It is here visitors can enjoy cruises taking in the many sights and sounds of life along the river as they wind their way through the patchwork of paddy fields, sugar cane plantations and orchards. The lush landscapes and rustic country living feel a world away from the hustle and bustle of the major cities, the Mekong is somewhat a retreat.

The Victoria Mekong provides the perfect 'small ship' experience when it comes to exploring the river between Cambodia and Vietnam. Owned by us here at Wendy Wu Tours, she has been meticulously built to deliver the very best cruising experience on the Mekong and is the only vessel to cruise through the specially selected part of the delta our tours visit. Four and five-day cruises take a more considered course along the Mekong,



aimed at showing guests a less commercial and more authentic slice of river life, with stops at floating markets, sights of local fisherman and the chance to see the daily commuters paddling their wooden boats from village to village. All this is to be enjoyed amongst the four-star comfort of the Victoria Mekong herself, with exquisite dining, exceptional entertainment and world-class service all at the passenger's disposal.

Boating the Backwaters

Cruising isn't usually the first thing that comes to mind when we think of India, but the southwestern region of Kerala is home to a colossal web of lakes, lagoons, canals and rivers which are a delight to explore. The backwaters are a unique waterborne world lined with gorgeous, towering palms and lush foliage, it's easy to feel like you're drifting through paradise on these peaceful waterways.

The finest and most authentic way to explore Kerala's backwaters is a trip on one of the region's traditional houseboats. Known as Kettuvallam, these thatched-roof barges were once used for transporting rice but now provide an idyllic escape for anyone wanting to experience India's more laid-back luxuries. A cruise along Kerala's backwaters offers a glimpse into the daily life of those who live in the remote villages along the banks. It is a chance to see the untouched and otherwise inaccessible parts of rural

Kerala, and the breathtaking natural scenery that surrounds it.

The 18-day Kerala and Southern Highlights tour takes in the lower region's greatest sights, including the temple town of Mamallapuram and the magnificent palaces of Mysore, and is one of the best for cruising Kerala's backwaters with a night spent on a Kettuvallam feasting on traditional cuisine and winding your way unhurriedly through the waters.

Sunset on the Bay

Visions of Vietnam's famous Halong Bay are often in the forefront of any avid explorer's mind. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is where you'll find those dramatic karst peaks jutting from the calm, emerald waters of the Gulf of Tonkin – a picture-perfect sight that's regularly the poster child for the entirety of Southeast Asia and, of course, one best experienced by boat.

With an overnight cruise to the far-most corners of Halong Bay, the Vietnam at a Glance tour provides the perfect opportunity to discover the best of the bay and enjoy a truly unforgettable moment – the stark silhouette of those iconic sentinel peaks bathed in the glow of sunset. There's even an entire afternoon dedicated to more in-depth discovery of the bay with visits to some of the underground caves and quiet grottos found across the many islands, and what better way to top-off the day than a freshly cooked dinner enjoyed on board.



Save up to £200pp

Classic Mekong

17 days | **Classic Group Tour**
from £3,890pp

As well as seeing Southeast Asia's best bits, enjoy a 3-night cruise on the Victoria Mekong with shore excursions designed to give you an authentic glimpse at life along the river.

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

Ancient China

Having waited 30 years to fulfill his dreams of exploring China, Wendy Wu customer David Beadling shares his amazing experience on our Ancient China tour.

From an early age I have been fascinated by China, particularly its history and architecture. I had booked to visit in 1990 but the events of 1989 in Tiananmen Square put paid to that plan. However my fascination and ambition remained. I was worried after 30 years of anticipation that China wouldn't live up to my expectations; did it? Absolutely exceeded expectations!



Tour Managers and Guides

So what made it a great tour? Firstly fantastic Tour Managers and Guides. To paraphrase from the TV show Friends 'out of 8 billion Chinese we got Mark', who, as our Tour Manager was worth his weight in gold. Let's face it in Beijing we were frightened to cross the road without him, he sorted a myriad of queries and took clients to pharmacies, beyond what we would have expected. Ahead of our first transfer, from Beijing to Datong, Mark asked us to provide our 'hold luggage' the morning before as it would be transported separately. Normally we would have been wary, but having got to know him, in particular his integrity and organisational skills, I had so much confidence in him. My attitude was, if anything goes wrong Mark will sort it out. No need to worry, everything did run smoothly of course.

The guides were equally competent, their knowledge of the sights we visited was immense, and for us non-mandarin speakers the standard of English was great. All had their own personality; from the orthodox style of LiLee in Beijing (stopping short of waving her little red book but only just at times) to the approachable and relaxed style of Michael in Shanxi province and the remarkably modest style of Mark

in Xian who was justifiably proud of his home city. However, what they all did was to give us the best experience possible and show us the best of what there was to see.

Places to Rest your Head

Accommodation is key to enjoying a tour, and this did not disappoint. In Taiyuan we had what could only be described as a suite with separate living and sleeping areas. Similarly in Luoyang we had a living area and even two bathrooms! However, our favourite hotel was the charming De ju Yuan Guesthouse in Pingyao. Situated in the historic centre of the city, all rooms radiated off a central courtyard which served as a bar. Evocative and atmospheric, it really was like being in ancient China, even the price of beer was from a time long ago! It was a world away from the international chain hotels, a real tonic.

Authentic Dining

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

Unlike many tours we didn't eat exclusively in hotels, we ate in local restaurants to obtain a more authentic feel and meant we saw the real China and mixed with the Chinese rather than the other tourists. To be honest if we had been on our own I don't think we would have eaten in them, and in many instances may well have walked past them, but with dishes like authentic Peking Duck and wonderful dim sum in Xian we were glad we didn't.

At the beginning of the tour our Tour Manager ensured he knew our allergies and preferences so he could tailor accordingly, and this improved the experience for all of us and saved any awkward moments. Lunches and dinners consisted of a variety of starters and main courses with rice.

Dishes were placed on a lazy Susan and shared between the guests, however our fellow travellers were polite and, in the main, food was shared equally. The food was always Chinese, adapted to suit the western palates but with more natural flavours and without the MSG we would have got at home. Thankfully there was no chicken's feet or snake but also no British staples like sweet and sour or chicken with cashew nuts either, it was the real deal.

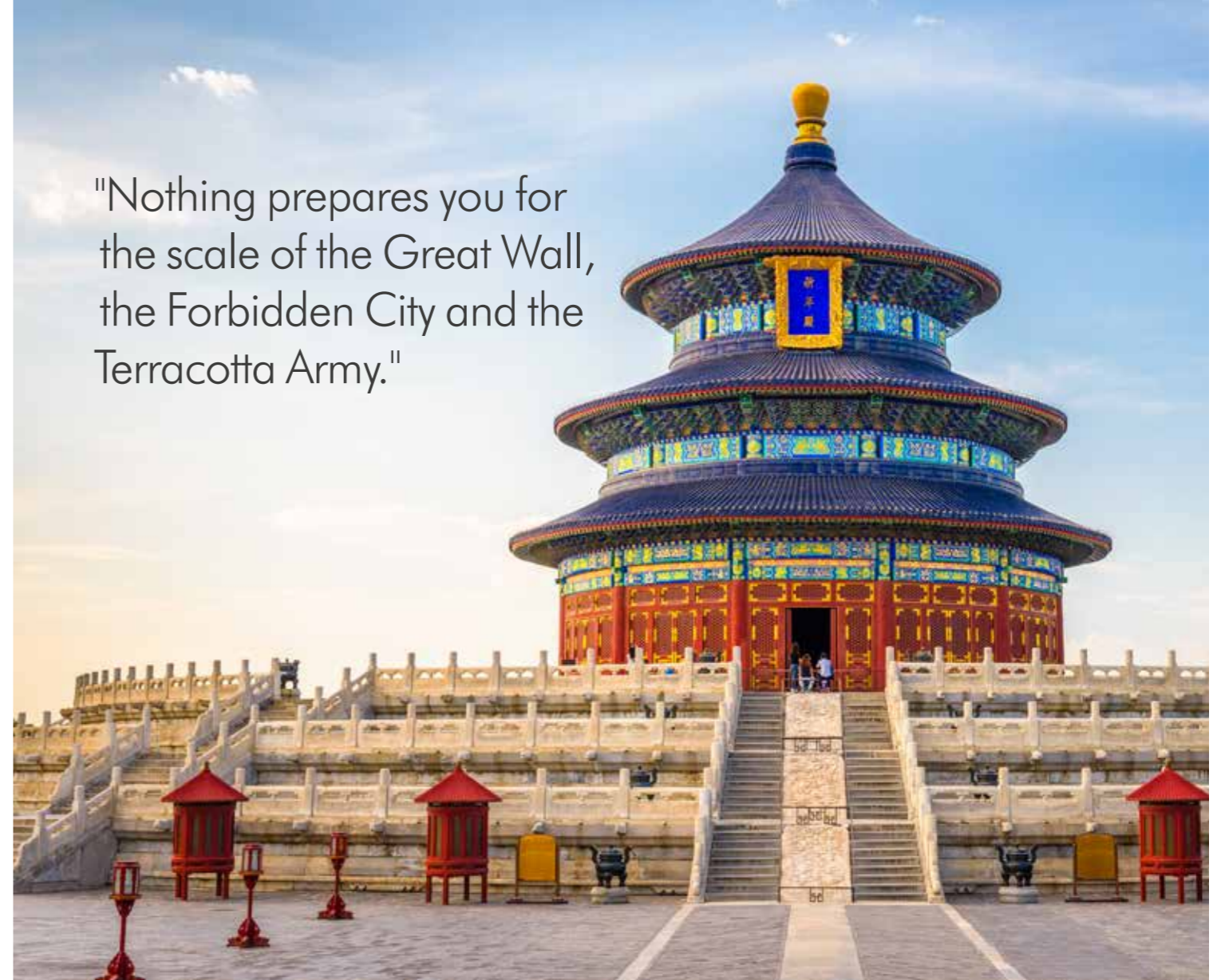
Tour Highlights

I've not gone into the itinerary as that is in detail on the Wendy Wu website, but what isn't detailed is the optional tours that I would encourage everyone to do. In Shanghai we ascended the Jin Mao tower, the city's third tallest, to admire the view. When Wendy Wu introduced this tour it was the tallest building in Shanghai, which shows how quickly Shanghai is growing, literally. Whether it's the tallest or the third tallest the views are immense. We also rode on the Maglev Train between the city centre and the airport, again a unique experience at 431kmph, and even won a beer for getting a photo of the train coming in the opposite direction at the same speed, no mean feat even if it was a little blurred.



In Xian we saw the evening sound and light show and the light display, which were spectacular and added a new dimension to the city. However the best optional excursion we went to was the Kung Fu Show in Beijing. I was expecting a bit of a Bruce Lee martial arts display and we didn't really want to go, but we took a view that we had travelled all this way we might as well join the others. The show

"Nothing prepares you for the scale of the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and the Terracotta Army."



was nothing like what I expected, with feats of great dexterity and speed, men balancing on knives, talk about 'don't try this at home', and in one word it was spectacular. I would have been gutted to have missed it, it was the chance of a lifetime.

Having researched the tour, I had what I thought was a reasonable knowledge of many of the sights we were to visit, however nothing prepares you for the scale of the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and the Terracotta Army.

Hidden Gems

However sometimes it is just the things that surprise you that impress the most. Xian is a beautiful city in its own right, with lots to offer the visitor, in particular the city walls, the Bell Tower and the Drum Tower. Pingyao is like a set straight out of Disney, but 2000 years old. And the Yungang Caves and Hanging Temple outside Datong were a wonderful addition to the itinerary. Great memories, we weren't expecting, that we will treasure forever.

When we got to Luoyang the guide asked us which do you prefer, Longmen Grottoes

in Luoyang or the Yungang Caves near Datong? This sparked a great deal of debate between us as each could justifiably be the better. The scale of the Longmen Grottoes was awe inspiring, with humans dwarfed as they approach the sculptures in an exquisite setting. However my choice would go to the Yungang Caves outside Datong. As well as the large sculptures, there were in many of the caves numerous smaller Buddhas which were just magnificent.

Making Friends for Life

However, no matter how good the itinerary is, a tour can be made by the people you travel with. And we were fortunate enough to make some enduring friendships from the UK and Australia. Subsequently we have enjoyed holidays to the UK, Lanzarote and even Adelaide in Australia, and we have welcomed some of our fellow travellers to Valencia. So we owe you thanks, Wendy Wu, not only for a holiday of a lifetime but also introducing us to some of the most wonderful friends we could meet.

David travelled with us on the Ancient China Tour in 2017.

FREE Business Class Upgrade available – see page 3

Save up to £200pp

Ancient China
18 days | **Classic Group Tour**
from £2,990pp

With thousands of years of fascinatingly diverse history, China is one of the world's oldest and most monumental civilisations. Encounter millennia-old culture and religion with visits to some of China's greatest and most intriguing ancient sights.

Visit the beautiful Shaolin Temple, a 5th century building, home to Buddhist teachings, as seen on BBC One's Sacred Wonders.

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

Live the Experience

Travel should be so much more than just sightseeing, as fabulous as that is! To make sure you truly immerse yourself in the culture of each place you visit, every Wendy Wu tour is packed full of authentic cultural experiences.

Here are some of our favourites from around the world and how to enjoy them with us.



Hunting with Golden Eagles – Kyrgyzstan

The Kyrgyz nomads have practised falconry for over 2,000 years and to watch a display of their artistry, with magnificent golden eagles, amidst the spectacular highland scenery of Kyrgyzstan is one of Central Asia's most iconic experiences.

Experience it on our Road to Samarkand tour.

This three week extravaganza follows in the footsteps of explorers and traders along the ancient Silk Road. Discover alpine scenery and hardy nomads, explore the mysterious and exotic cities of Samarkand, Bhukara and Khiva and lose yourself in ancient bazaars and atmospheric caravanserai.

22 days from £4,290pp

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

Book by 30 June and save up to £400pp.



Experience a candlelit Puja – India

Situated on the banks of the River Ganges, Varanasi is one of India's oldest and holiest cities. Experience the electric atmosphere created by the flickering candles and tinkling bells of a puja held on the banks of the river, a ceremony dedicated to the river goddess.

Experience it on our Highlights of India tour.

This magnificent tour covers many of India's iconic highlights from the desert forts of Rajasthan, past the magnificent Taj Mahal and on to holy Varanasi. Discover the colourful bazaars of Delhi, cruise the river Ganges, marvel at the magnificent Taj Mahal and soak up the romance of the lakeside city of Udaipur.

18 days from £3,490pp

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

Book by 30 June and save up to £200pp.



FREE Business Class Upgrade available – see page 3

Learn the ancient art of the tea ceremony – Japan

Practised and refined for hundreds of years, the Japanese tea ceremony is a carefully choreographed 'dance' of hospitality replete with symbolism. Experience the age-old rituals accompanied by a Tea Master and witness the preparation and performance involved in the 'Way of Tea'.

Experience it on our Japan Uncovered tour.

Our most extensive tour of Japan includes all the classic sights and key cultural activities. Discover delightful Kyoto & Nara, reflect at Hiroshima's peace park and the iconic torii gate of Miyajima and admire beautiful Mount Fuji. Discover snow monkeys and bullet trains, castles and skyscrapers on this incredible tour.

17 days from £6,490pp

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

Book by 30 June and save up to £500pp.



FREE Business Class Upgrade available – see page 3

Discover Beijing's traditional hutongs – China

Venture into Beijing's atmospheric old neighbourhoods, the hutongs, exploring the narrow alleyways, passing traditional courtyard houses and getting a glimpse into daily life. Following ancient principles of Feng Shui, the hutongs are a fascinating glimpse into a fast disappearing way of life.

Experience it on our Wonders of China tour.

This itinerary encompasses the best of China's natural and man-made wonders. Discover the imperial treasures of Beijing, explore the Great Wall of China and see the spectacular Terracotta Warriors. Cruise down the Yangtze, explore rural Yangshuo and experience vibrant Shanghai.

16 days from £3,190pp

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

Book by 30 June and save up to 200pp.



Cruise to a floating village – Cambodia

The huge freshwater lake of Tonle Sap rises and falls over 10 metres throughout the year and the village of Kampong Khleang has adapted remarkably, rising above the lake on lofty stilts during the dry season or seeming to float on the surface in the wet. A cruise to the village allows an authentic look at unique local life.

Experience it on our Angkor to the Bay tour.

Embark on a journey of discovery through Cambodia and Vietnam, travelling from majestic Angkor to the natural grandeur of Halong Bay. Explore spectacular temples and visit captivating Phnom Penh, marvel at Hue's Imperial Citadel, stroll through Hanoi's alleyways and cruise the waters of the Mekong Delta.

17 days from £3,290pp

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

Book by 30 June and save up to £200pp.



NEW

Camp out under the stars – Jordan

Wadi Rum is like a magical moonscape of towering weathered sandstone mountains rising out of white and pink coloured sands. Home to the Bedouin for thousands of years, this arid stretch of desert also boasts the most incredible starry skies and camping out in comfort under them is a magical experience.

Experience it on our Journey through Jordan tour.

Start this mesmerizing north-to-south tour in the thriving commercial hub of Amman. Visit As-Salt, tour Jerash and explore the famous fortress of Qal'at Al Rabad. Stop at Mount Nebo and Madaba en route to Petra with ample time to explore the lost city. Camp in the deserts of Wadi Rum before rounding off an unforgettable tour with a night at the mineral rich Dead Sea.

8 days from £2,390pp

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

Book by 30 June and save up to £200pp.

Our 7 Wonders of the Wild

For many customers on our tours, experiencing the local wildlife up close is a real highlight.

Treasured memories of elephants and tigers, giant pandas, komodo dragons and Japanese snow monkeys that will stay with you for life. We've put together a round-up of some of these magical wildlife encounters and on which tours you can experience them.

All our featured tours include International flights, accommodation, visa fees, all transportation, most meals, touring with guides and entrance fees.

China – giant pandas

Since 25 March, the Chengdu Giant Panda Research Centre has been open to a restricted number of visitors all desperate to see China's most loveable animals. As one of Chengdu's most popular attractions, the centre would usually see approximately 35,000 guests a day, but for now just 5,000 lucky visitors are permitted to enter daily.

Even more exciting is that this Chengdu centre is now home to the world's first panda twins not born in the wild.



FREE Business Class Upgrade available – see page 3

Save up to £200pp

In Pursuit of Pandas

9 days | **Classic Group Tour**
from £2,090pp

Journey from the imperial treasures of Beijing through atmospheric Xian with its enigmatic legions of Terracotta Warriors to reach the charming city of Chengdu, where you will meet its most famous residents – the captivating Giant Pandas.

Japan – snow monkeys

Journey into the Japanese Alps to the forests of the Jigokudani valley where the native Japanese macaques live. Also known as snow monkeys, no other non-human primate lives in a climate colder, and here you can watch these fascinating monkeys bathe and play in the hot spring pool at the Jigokudani Monkey Park.



FREE Business Class Upgrade available – see page 3

Save up to £500pp

Japan Uncovered

17 days | **Classic Group Tour**
from £6,490pp

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

India – tigers

Find yourself in the rolling landscapes of Ranthambore National Park, discovering Bengal tigers, sloth bears and leopards, amongst a backdrop of ancient temples, forts and pavilions nestled in lush greenery. Don't forget to look up too, to spot the fluttering of brightly feathered birds and the russet red fur of a Giant Malabar squirrel as it leaps from tree to tree! A safari through this beautiful park is a wildlife enthusiast's dream.



Save up to £200pp

Inspiring India

14 days | **Classic Group Tour**
from £2,290pp

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

Thailand – elephants

Spend the day with Asian elephants at Chiang Mai's Thai Elephant Care Centre, a home for elderly pachyderms, where you'll meet, feed and bathe the gorgeous residents.

Chiang Mai Elephant Home are part of an ethical and sustainable eco-tourism project, located in a village close to Chiang Mai surrounded by mountains and a national park nearby.



Save up to 200pp

Thailand Highlights

13 days | **Classic Group Tour**
from £2,490pp

A two-week journey from south to north, this perfect first-timer tour of Thailand encompasses all the top sights as well as venturing into less-explored areas to explore pristine nature and local culture with a stay at a beautiful eco-lodge.

Sri Lanka – leopards

Forests, lush plains and lagoons make up Yala National Park, which is home to sloth bears, macaques, spotted deer and elephants. The park also has one of the highest densities of leopards in the world. While just two of the five park zones are open to the public, leaving much of the land to remain a natural habitat for the wildlife without intrusion, your chance of spotting these beautiful creatures is high, with animal sightings happening all year round.



Save up to £200pp

Highlights of Sri Lanka

15 days | **Classic Group Tour**
from £3,090pp

Discover the wonders of Sri Lanka on this laid-back journey through this tropical paradise. From stunning scenery to amazing architecture, spend a day at the Yala National Park where you can spot leopards and meet baby elephants at The Elephant Transit Home. You'll even get to visit the Turtle Hatchery in Kosgoda.

Borneo – orangutans

Home to some of the world's richest ecosystems, Borneo is paradise for wildlife particularly as the island remains wonderfully off-the-beaten track. Filled with dense jungle, gorgeous beaches and national parks, you can spot a variety of fascinating animals like proboscis monkeys, monitor lizards and Bornean Sun Bears, and of course Borneo is the only place in the world where you can see orangutans in the wild.



Save up to £200pp

Best of Borneo

16 days | **Go Beyond Group Tour**
from £3,990pp

An island of uncharted jungles and tribal culture, Borneo is a destination that exudes adventure! Discover 'headhunter' heritage, see a wealth of wildlife, delve deep into nature and meet the beautiful orangutans of Sabah and Sarawak on this incredible itinerary.

Indonesia – komodo dragons

With white sand beaches, striking landscapes and colourful coastlines, Indonesia is bursting with brilliant wildlife and magnificent natural wonders. Head to the beautiful islands that make up the world-renowned Komodo National Park where you can come face to face with the legendary Komodo Dragons! These ancient creatures share their land with wild horses, deer and monkeys.



Save up to £100pp

Incredible Indonesia

16 days | **Go Beyond Group Tour**
from £3,790pp

An incredible introduction to the wonders of Indonesia, this tour will immerse you in fascinating cultures, and showcase magnificent nature. There's also plenty of options to extend your adventure and feel like a true explorer again!

What's happening in the Wu Kingdom?

The latest developments from the world of Wendy Wu Tours



Whether it's the latest facts on developing stories in travel, expert insight into new destinations, or tales from our travelling customers and staff – there's always something fascinating going on in the Wu Kingdom.

Here's just a flavour of the stories that have been making news recently. To keep up to date with all the latest developments, sign up for our Enewsletter, follow us on facebook or visit wendywutours.co.uk

Positive news in the fight against Coronavirus 26 May 2020

While many parts of the world are still struggling with the virus, there are many places in the world that are winning the fight.

In the world of Wendy Wu Tours, the countries below are currently the safest with very low rates of new infections which makes us optimistic that we will return to life as normal and be able to enjoy our dream holidays soon.

Country	New cases
China	0
Japan	31
Mongolia	0
Taiwan	0
South Korea	2
Vietnam	1
Cambodia	0
Bhutan	0
Georgia	0
Uzbekistan	1

Figures correct as of 26 May 2020 – for the latest figures visit wendywutours.co.uk/about-us/press



Baby Panda Alert 15 May 2020

Great news...The UK's lockdown is easing. As China has beaten the virus it emerged from its own lockdown some weeks ago and many wonderful attractions are now reopening.

Our China guide, Alex, takes you on a tour of Chengdu's recently reopened Panda Centre that is so quiet it feels like travelling over 30 years ago. Once we are free to travel this will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore a pristine China without the usual crowds.

(You can meet these cute baby pandas and more with, not one, but two unforgettable encounters on our In Pursuit of Pandas tour! See page 26)



The Daily Telegraph – Your first holiday after Coronavirus? Make it China 12 May 2020

The Telegraph's Mark Stratton talked to founder Wendy Wu and writes why, for all sorts of reasons, China should be your first holiday after the Coronavirus lockdown is lifted.

"When China unlocks its doors, I think travellers will be rushing back to China because it will be the safest country in the world to visit, free of Covid-19."

"The jewels of their tourism offering have already reopened as the Chinese government deems Covid-19 sufficiently under control. The Great Wall reopened on March 24 and Xian's terracotta warriors a day later."

"International travellers who head to China when it opens will experience its most famous sights without the crowds."



Traveller Tales 14 May 2020

If you really want to know what it's like to travel on a Wendy Wu tour, who better to talk to than the people who have done it? Here's John & Margaret who joined us on the Chile Top to Toe tour. Read about their trip to this fascinating and diverse destination, and check out their incredible photos at www.wendywutours.co.uk/blog

Would you like to write for Wendy Wu Tours about your experiences travelling with us? Drop us a line at marketing@wendywutours.co.uk



China Attractions Reopen 13 May 2020

The recent reopening of the Forbidden City is just one high profile example that China's attractions are opening their doors once again following the country's defeat of the Coronavirus.



Here's just a small snapshot of some of most famous attractions that have recently reopened:

Beijing: Forbidden City, Ming Tomb, Great Wall, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace.

Shanghai: Shanghai Museum, Yu Garden, Jade Buddha Temple, Oriental Pearl Tower.

Xian: Terracotta Warriors, Xian Beilin Museum, City Wall, Muslim Quarter.

Chengdu: Panda Base, Grand Buddha in Leshan.

Yunnan: Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, Lijiang Black Dragon Pool Park.



Wendy Wu Staff take on the 2.6 challenge 26 April 2020

We are so proud of the wonderful Wendy Wu Tours team who together with friends and family, embarked on a whole host of challenges to raise money for the NHS, MIND and Alzheimer's over the weekend.

They raised over £2,500 smashing an eclectic variety of activities including, cycling, running, walking, karaoke marathons, marathon relay, wheel barrow runs around the garden, skipping, planks, sit ups, press ups, keep it uppie etc.



Journey Round the World from your Armchair April, May & June 2020

Join us every weekday at 3pm for some very special online events where you can take a virtual trip to some of our best-loved destinations in Asia, Latin America, Central Asia and the Middle East, without ever leaving your living room!

Our Wendy Wu travel experts will take you on a journey to the must-see attractions, showcase our newest and most popular tours, and will even be there to answer your questions with a live Q&A session! Just click on the link at 3pm to join.

Find the schedule at www.wendywutours.co.uk or on our facebook page.

Face Masks for the Wendy Wu Tours Family 28 April 2020

With the Coronavirus almost defeated in China our colleagues there, who are worried about their friends in the UK, have very kindly sent us their supply of brand new face masks. As they are not surgical grade, and therefore not suitable for front-line NHS workers, we would like to share this generous gift with the Wendy Wu community – our wonderful customers.



Travelling with WWT during the Coronavirus outbreak 23 April 2020

Thanks Emily for the insight on your travelling experience with Wendy Wu during the recent Covid disruption.

"Having returned from Vietnam & Cambodia my first tour with Wendy Wu I could not have imagined being away during the outbreak of Covid-19! The tour was amazing, the guides Thang & Sokly were fantastic while we were away and I have never been so well looked after by a company during a very uncertain time! The places we visited, the things we saw and witnessed will stay with me hopefully for a very long time - I would only now tour with Wendy Wu as I feel their service throughout this whole experience was truly professional....I've already booked another tour going to Peru and can't wait to experience more with a company that I trust!"

Wendy at the BBC 19 Feb 2020

Wendy is invited by the BBC to speak on BBC1 News, BBC World News and BBC News Channel for her expert opinion on the impact of coronavirus on the tourism industry.

Hear how Wendy Wu Tours are responding to this, the measures China are taking to beat the virus and reopen its doors again for tourism.

Tips to Help You Travel Better

It can take a few attempts to truly master the art of travelling. With each new destination comes a host of new discoveries and first-time experiences, so it is always best to be prepared no matter what.

We asked our friends and customers on Facebook to give us their top travel tips so we could share them with you, and they've come up trumps with some excellent suggestions. So here they are, top travel tips to help you get the most out of your adventure...



I always Google local food and then do further research on where exactly to find it. In Japan I went one step further and saved it all as a map on Google maps so I could tick it off as I tried it too! *Clemma Tagg*

If travelling at altitude drink more water than normal and little alcohol. Take small mouthfuls of water every quarter of an hour. Don't rush things and walk slowly. *Sue Cook*

Make sure if there is anything you really want to do, that you've either pre-booked it or it's included in your tour. *Kirsten Tancred*

Take a short 4 port extension lead and leave the adapter on it, you can use several chargers at the same time – phone, camera, GPS, etc. *Adrian Elward*

Packing cubes are a must. Especially handy if you are travelling from hotel to hotel and want easy access to your belongings without having to fully unpack every time. You can have all your tops in one and bottoms in another, so they help to keep things organised. Also great for keeping a backpack compact if you're using one! *Natalie Gale*

Download some books from Audible! You can just sit back, relax and listen as you fly. *Caroline Rennie*

Did you know?

You can enjoy a free 12-month subscription to Audible when you book by 30 June, or choose between Amazon Prime and Netflix.

Take an empty reusable water bottle with you. You can take this in your hand luggage and fill it at the airport water fountain once you've gone through security. You also then have a bottle to use when you are out for the day during your trip. It is better for the environment with less plastic waste. *Helen Lancashire*

Did you know?

Every passenger cruising on the Victoria Mekong is given a reusable water flask to use during their trip and take home with them...handy!

Two things I never leave without are my headphones (ideal for flights) and hand sanitiser. *Glen Thomas*

If travelling long-haul east, I advise going the day before your tour so you're not exhausted when the tour starts! *Sandra Haddon*

If you are interested in animals or birds, it is worth investing in some books or even mobile apps for the particular area you are visiting. *Debbie Plumridge*

Take a spare phone charger, the early starts sometimes mean I forget things and you need to make sure your phone is always charged for all the photos and videos you'll want to take! Be open-minded, try to relax no matter what and finally, immerse yourself in everything you do and experience while you travel. *Wayne Russell*

Earplugs! Nothing helps you enjoy the day more than a good night's sleep. *Lee Holden*



Don't sweat the small stuff. If you're travelling on a Wendy Wu tour we'll take care of everything for you. If there's anything you need or want to know, just ask your National Escort and they'll sort it for you so you can just relax and make the most of your incredible adventure! *Wendy Wu*

Got something you want to share?

Find us on Facebook and let us know your travel tip, send us your holiday photos or even write a review of your tour – we'd love to see it!

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