

CHINESE *WHISPERS*

THE LATEST TRAVEL NEWS AND INSPIRATION FROM WENDY WU TOURS

NEW FRONTIERS

Explore South America
& South Africa

THE BIG INTERVIEW

With Classic FM's
John Suchet

48

HOURS IN
...TOKYO

HEAD TO HEAD

Laos vs Cambodia

SIZZLING SICHUAN

Discover China's
most dramatic region



A MESSAGE FROM WENDY



Welcome to our latest issue of Chinese Whispers, where we not only aim to provide you with inspiration for your next holiday to Asia and beyond, but also keep you up to date with our latest travel news.

The last few months has been a very busy and exciting time at Wu Towers – and we've got a lot to share with you! I'm sure that many of you will know (or may have even booked to go) that earlier this year, we launched two new tours to two new destinations outside of Asia for the first time – South America and South Africa. We're thrilled with their popularity so far and have even added extra dates to make sure you all get the opportunity to visit these incredible destinations with us. Places are filling up fast so call us today to secure your spot.

In addition to our new Worldwide tours, we've been busy creating a new Asia River Cruising brochure, giving you the opportunity to explore Asia's quirky cultures and stunning scenery from your authentic cruise boat. To find out more, see page 24 or order your free brochure from our website.

This is our biggest and best issue yet. The next 36 pages are packed full of brand new articles which we hope you enjoy reading, plus all of our regular features. In particular, it's worth looking out for our Big Interview feature on pages 20-21 where we had the pleasure of interviewing well-known Classic FM Radio Presenter, John Suchet about his travel experiences.

I do hope you enjoy reading this issue and we look forward to welcoming you on a Wendy Wu holiday very soon.



Wendy Wu,
Owner & Founder, Wendy Wu Tours

Cover image: Black Dragon Pool, Lijiang

IN THIS ISSUE...



NEW FRONTIERS

Pages 6-7

Find out more about our brand new tours beyond Asia!



SIZZLING SICHUAN

Page 14

Learn more about China's Sichuan Province, the home of the Giant Panda.



SCRATCHING BENEATH THE SURFACE

Pages 16-17

Delve deeper into Asia's rich culture with our Discovery tours.



THE BIG INTERVIEW

Pages 20-21

We interview Classic FM Radio presenter, John Suchet about his travel experiences.



HEAD TO HEAD

Page 23

Laos vs Cambodia. Find out why both of these Southeast Asian countries should be on your hot list.

WHAT'S NEW?

OUR EXPERTS BRING YOU THE LATEST NEWS FROM WENDY WU TOURS

NEW RIVER CRUISING BROCHURE

In addition to our China, Southeast Asia, Tailormade, Discovery and Exclusive Collection brochures, we've been adding the finishing touches to our brand new River Cruising brochure, launched this month! Packed with new tours that travel through Burma's Chindwin, India's Brahmaputra and the Mekong in Laos and China's Yunnan Province, these trips showcase a more authentic and unusual way to experience Asia's landscapes and cultures.

To find out more and to order your brochure, visit wendywutours.co.uk



NEW TOURS BEYOND ASIA!

After listening to your feedback and finding out where you wanted to visit next with Wendy Wu Tours, we launched two brand new tours to two brand new destinations – South America and South Africa! These trips offer the same incredible value as our Asia tours - and due to popular demand, we're delighted to have added extra departure dates for 2016 and 2017.

Be one of the first to discover a new destination with Wendy Wu Tours.

Find out more at wendywutours.co.uk/worldwide



FREE RETURN UPGRADE WITH BRITISH AIRWAYS!



We're always striving to provide you with the best value possible, so we've extended our incredible upgrade offer with British Airways! Available on most of our China tours, you'll enjoy more comfort on-board with wider seats, extra legroom, smaller cabins with attentive service, delicious meals and a full bar service, allowing you to relax and feel refreshed from the moment you leave the plane.

Must book by 31 March!

For full terms & conditions and to book, visit wendywutours.co.uk/baupgrade



NEW TAILORMADE BROCHURE & WEBSITE

At Wendy Wu Tours, we're not only specialists in group touring to Asia, but we can also create tailormade holidays to suit you with our Asia Inspirations team. Recently, we revamped our Asia Inspirations website and brochure to provide you with as much valuable information for your travels to Asia; from suggested itineraries, inspiring content and a brand new blog, our aim is to make it even easier for you to decide where you'd like to travel to next.

Find out more at asiainspirations.co.uk or call our expert team on **0800 988 8202**.

HAVE YOUR "SAY"

We always enjoy hearing about your adventures from your trips with us, plus any tips you may have picked up along the way.

There are so many ways in which you can tell us about your experiences, so get in touch via Facebook, Tweet us, email us, write a review on feefo or even send us a traditional letter!

STAR LETTER

We recently returned from your Irrawaddy Voyager tour in Burma and I must say, the service on-board both ships were world class. Everyone from the captain down to the deck crew went out of their way to make the holiday a wonderful experience. We visited places that could only be reached by river and every day was a new experience. Again, the holiday was made by the crew and people we met along the way; both passengers and locals. The people of Burma are the friendliest I've ever met on our travels.

Sharon Isaac,
travelled on our
Irrawaddy Voyager tour, via feefo

Our star letter wins a gourmet hamper!



Thank you so much for all of your assistance in booking what was one of the best and most memorable holidays we had ever had. You listened so carefully to what we wanted and your choices were excellent. Every location presented something new and fascinating and the hotels were all wonderful. We enjoyed Vietnam so much, we are considering revisiting – and we will certainly book with Wendy Wu!

Kevin Beach,
travelled on a tailor-made tour to Vietnam, via email



What a great holiday! The tour was very informative and busy, but there was so much to see and do in the 9 days we had so I wouldn't complain. The tour covered everything we wanted to see, plus more and our guide Ajay was excellent, we couldn't fault a thing. India is a truly fascinating country and I'm glad I've had the opportunity to visit.

Alison Wilson,
travelled on our
Golden Triangle Tour,
via feefo

RECOMMEND US

If you recommend Wendy Wu Tours to your friends and family and they go on to book, we will send you a delicious hamper for the first booking we receive.

Plus, for every subsequent booking we'll send you **£50 worth of vouchers**.

YOUR LOYALTY MATTERS

As a thank you for your loyalty, there are a series of rewards for your valued custom with Wendy Wu Tours:



SAVE £100pp when you book your second tour with us. Just quote 'loyalty discount' at the time of booking.



SAVE £200pp If you book another tour with us within 4 weeks of returning home. Just quote 'welcome home' at the time of booking.



SAVE £250pp Become a Wendy Wu Tours VIP when you book three or more tours. Just quote 'VIP' at the time of booking.

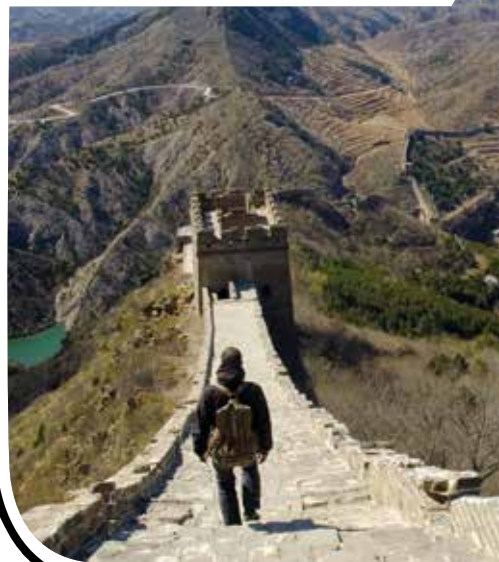
Yet again, the service we received from Wendy Wu was excellent and I can't wait to book my next trip! Cambodia was amazing and it was such a privilege to visit the temples. I had been to Vietnam previously, however the sights and meals on this trip were outstanding. It felt like my first visit as I learnt so much. I recommend this trip to anyone!

Deirdre Killian,
travelled on our
Angkor to the Bay tour, via feefo



Everything on tour was excellent and as a solo traveller, I was well looked after and integrated well into the group. It was an excellent itinerary for a 2 week holiday and am now deciding where in Asia to travel to next!

Julia Mitchell,
travelled on our
Majestic Yangtze tour,
via feefo



We were both thrilled by our holiday to China and there were many reasons why. The places we visited played a large part naturally, and the people we travelled with were great but it would be wrong to underestimate the massive part played by our National Escort, Mark. Words cannot express the wonderful, professional job Mark performed. Throughout the whole holiday absolutely everything went to plan and we could see why this would be the case when we saw the way Mark carried out his duties each day.

Mr & Mrs Robert Young,
travelled on our Grand Tour of China,
via letter

facebook



If you could teleport yourself to Asia for one day, where would that be and why?

Diane Hambleton

16 February at 10:43

India. Best holiday ever! Cannot wait to go back.

Like Comment Share

Katie Marie

16 February at 12:01

Kyoto! I loved all of Japan but I fell in love with this city.

Like Comment Share

Janet Kemp

16 February at 12:17

Wow that's a hard one. So many places to pick but right now I'd like to go back to Luang Prabang as we didn't have enough time to really do it justice.

Like Comment Share

Mario Durica

16 February at 12:45

Chengdu so that I can see the pandas!

Like Comment Share

Vivienne Marshall

17 February at 06:31

The Li River on a warm sunny day. I've been before, during the winter which was great; I managed to get some great atmospheric photos, but would love to see it with the sun shining on the hills.

Like Comment Share

Keep a look out for more questions like this from us on Facebook – we love hearing your views!

How to get in touch with us

@ customercare@wendywutours.co.uk

f [facebook.com/wendywuoofficial](https://www.facebook.com/wendywuoofficial)

0800 977 4888

@WendyWuToursUK

Wendy Wu Tours, Cottons Centre,
Cottons Lane, 47-49 Tooley Street,
London SE1 2QG

[wendywutours.co.uk/blog](https://www.wendywutours.co.uk/blog)

feefo ^{98%}
Service rating:

What is feefo?

Feefo is working hard to be the world's most trusted supplier of ratings and reviews, generating genuine feedback that our customers can rely on. Once returning home from one of our tours or tailor-made holidays, you will receive an email from feefo asking you to rate our service and our product. Any feedback at all from you will be most welcomed.

NEW FRONTIERS...

What's China, South Africa and South America got in common? They all have an abundance of iconic, world famous sights, distinct culture and jaw dropping scenery. That's why we decided to launch our first ever tours beyond Asia earlier this year. But what makes these two countries worthy of your attention. Let's take a closer look.

FIRST UP... SOUTH AMERICA

A continent that conjures up images of conquistadors, ancient civilisations and deep dark jungle, South America is certainly a land 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.



MACHU PICCHU

You've all seen the classic images of this UNESCO World Heritage listed site, but nothing beats seeing the sunrise over the Incan ruins for yourself. Stumbled upon by Hiram Bingham in 1911 after it had been long abandoned, it is considered by many to be a wonder of the world. It is located where the Peruvian Andes and the Amazon Basin meet and no trip to South America would be complete without a visit.

IGUAÇU FALLS

Iguaçu Falls, on the border of Argentina and Brazil, is one of the largest waterfalls in the world spanning 2.7 kilometres, and can be viewed from both the Brazilian and Argentinian sides of the border. The falls feature hundreds of rushing cascades, set in a lush rainforest scene. First you'll be visiting the Brazilian side of the falls, walking along the paths and catwalks that will get you up close to the waters before hopping back into Argentina to see the falls from a different perspective.



LAKE TITICACA

Straddling the border between Peru and Bolivia, Lake Titicaca is one of South America's largest lakes and is said to be the birthplace of the Incas. Not only that, according to Incan belief, it was also the birthplace of the sun. You'll be blown away by its shimmering blue waters against a dramatic backdrop of glistening mountains.

NEXT UP... SOUTH AFRICA

The tip of an incredible continent, South Africa brings together all the things that make Africa great. A cultural meeting point, as well as scenically and naturally abundant, the diversity of this one country could fill a whole planet! Hop from beautiful beaches to exciting safari, from dramatic highlands to lush winelands, in a land that just oozes adventure.



KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

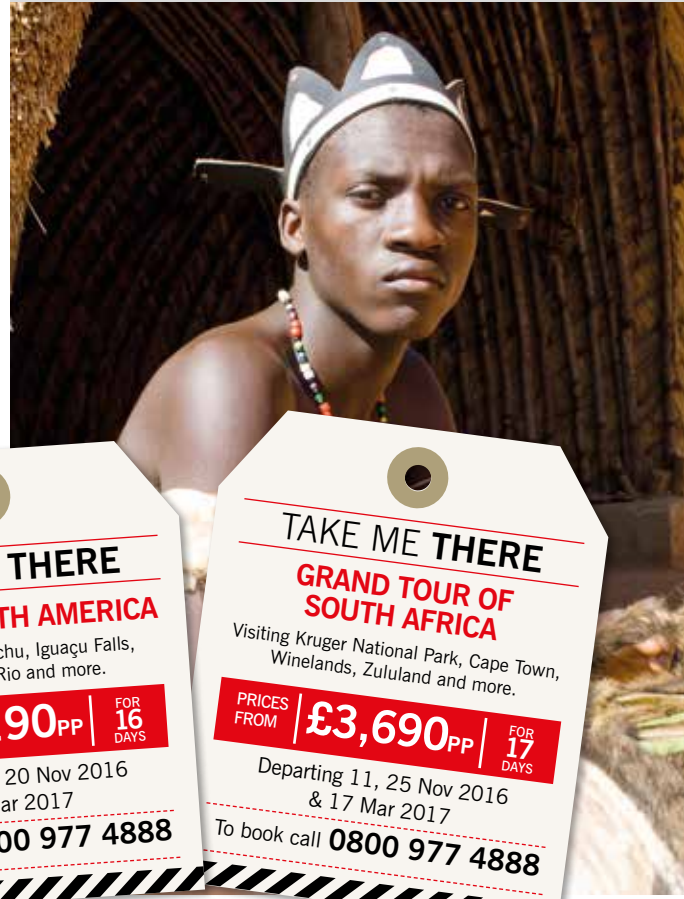
One of the main reasons that most people visit South Africa is for the fantastic best-in-the-world game viewing. Kruger National Park alone is about the same size as Wales and packed with everything from the fabled Big Five down to small creatures like mongooses and pangolins. It's high density of animals makes it one of the most accessible safari experiences.

CAPE TOWN & THE WINELANDS

Thanks to its naturally spectacular setting, Cape Town is one of Africa's most beautiful cities. Backed by Table Mountain and flanked by the Twelve Apostles, Cape Town has much to offer. Plus if you like your wine then a day spent amongst some of the country's most picturesque vineyards will be one of the highlights of your trip.

SWAZILAND

You'll feel the pace slow down and bygone traditions return to the fore as you visit the Kingdom of Swaziland. Despite being the smallest country in the Southern hemisphere, Swaziland more than makes up for its lack of size with a hugely diverse range of attractions. Visitors can get a much better feel of traditional African culture here than in many other countries.



TAKE ME THERE
BEST OF SOUTH AMERICA
 Visiting Machu Picchu, Iguazu Falls, Buenos Aires, Rio and more.
 PRICES FROM **£5,190pp** FOR 16 DAYS
 Departing 13, 20 Nov 2016 & 19 Mar 2017
 To book call **0800 977 4888**

TAKE ME THERE
GRAND TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA
 Visiting Kruger National Park, Cape Town, Winelands, Zululand and more.
 PRICES FROM **£3,690pp** FOR 17 DAYS
 Departing 11, 25 Nov 2016 & 17 Mar 2017
 To book call **0800 977 4888**

CUSTOMER CORNER

Tell us about your Wendy Wu holiday

Here at Wendy Wu Tours, we can't wait to hear about your holiday experiences. We receive hundreds of complimentary letters and emails telling us about your favourite sights and sounds.

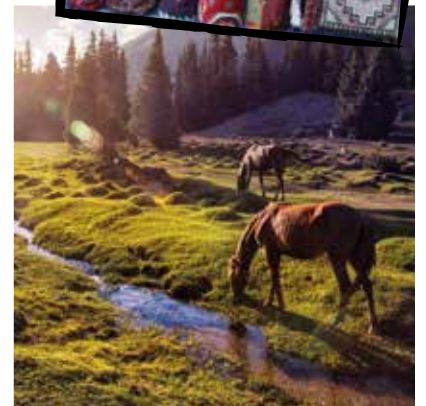
Wendy Wu VIP's Pauline and Brian Morris recently joined our Road to Samarkand tour, their fifth Wendy Wu trip, here they tell us about their experiences on this enchanting tour, travelling to the undiscovered regions of China, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.



The Registan Square



Khiva



Brian & Pauline



Kyrgyzstan



Local markets

“ It's an experience of a lifetime that we're never going to forget ”

We recently returned from your Road to Samarkand tour, our fifth Wendy Wu tour and it lived up to our expectations and far more. We'd been considering booking this trip for some time and when we finally decided to press book, the tour was sold out, just our luck! However, we went to India and Bhutan instead which was fantastic – where a fellow tour member had previously been on the Road to Samarkand tour and raved about it, so gave us even more reason to go! So that was it, we returned and booked up for the following year – we weren't going to miss out again and it was certainly worth the wait! This tour gives you a real insight into the local history of many local villages and we saw some absolutely stunning scenery in deserted areas.

Kashgar in particular was a wonderful place to visit; we were able to get up close to the local people and their way of life. It's now more of a modern city, but there are still many ancient features including tombs, beautiful mosques and interesting little alleyways that we wandered through. The guides did a great job of educating us too, especially Fahad and Christine – any question we had, they were able to answer.

We also had the opportunity to visit the homes of local people and were cooked dinner which was a fantastic experience; the food was so fresh and simple, but absolutely delicious. There were many highlights from this trip, but one memory was us all having a picnic outside the Tash Rabat Caravanserai, (which is a historical monument located in the most stunning surroundings) in Kyrgyzstan, as we were able to watch the world go by and see the local people living their lives – sheep herders rode by on horseback and it felt so romantic. It's the simple things that get you sometimes! Another was whilst in Khiva, Uzbekistan we were really able to see the changing lights of the city walls, and were lucky enough to have a room that looked upon it – it was truly breathtaking to view.

If you've visited China or other parts of Asia before, then I would really recommend booking this tour – you get right into the heart of it all, see local people, visit stunning scenery and learn about the culture. It's an experience of a lifetime that we're never going to forget. We are now hoping to book another tour with Wendy Wu, but just need to decide where to next!

“ I would really recommend booking this tour – you get right into the heart of it all, see local people, visit stunning scenery and learn about the culture ”



Kashgar Market



“ We saw some absolutely stunning scenery in deserted areas ”



Tash Rabat Caravanserai

TAKE ME THERE

ROAD TO SAMARKAND

Journey through the heart of central Asia, just like Pauline and Brian did, crossing beautiful deserts, mountain landscapes and ancient cities.

PRICES FROM

£4,345 PP

FOR 24 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**





TAKE ME THERE

YUNNAN ADVENTURE

The spectacular mirrored rice terraces of Yuanyang will be just one of the highlights from this off-the-beaten-track tour of Yunnan.

PRICES FROM **£3,045^{PP}** FOR 16 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**

TRAVEL TALES



Laurence on tour

Our Managing Director, Laurence Hicks, recently led a group of well-travelled friends and colleagues around Cambodia and Vietnam. Here he tells us why he and every member of the group were bowled over by these extraordinary destinations.

So how did the trip come about?

Following a previous personal visit to Cambodia and Vietnam from which I was waxing lyrical about my experiences via social media, I was pestered by many of my travel industry friends and colleagues to organise a return trip that they could join in. So using the power of Facebook, I posted the trip details and within a week or so the group had reached 25 people!

The plan was to start in Siem Reap to explore Angkor Wat for a few days, then head down to Saigon taking in the Mekong Delta, nip up to Hoi An for some chill time, then on to Hanoi for a night and finish with a night on a Junk cruise in Halong Bay. Half of the group also wanted to stop-over in Hong Kong on the outward journey.

What were you looking forward to the most?

I was personally very excited to showcase this beautiful part of Southeast Asia to a group of seasoned travel professionals many of whom were stepping into the region for the very first time. What's more, the opportunity to re-visit and re-trace my footsteps only made me fall much more deeply in love with the destination than I could have ever imagined.

Thankfully, the tour ran like clockwork with every element of the arrangements organised to perfection and, more importantly, the guiding



Angkor Wat

was excellent throughout. This is precisely why travelling in an escorted group such as ours contributed hugely to everyone's enjoyment with all the fun, banter and sharing of wonderful experiences together not to mention the new friendships that were formed.

What sights stood out for you?

On a tour so diverse in culture, climate and scenery it is difficult to favour one particular aspect of the experience. The stunning 15th Century temples at Angkor Wat and their complete contrast with the modern buzzing night life of Pub Street and the Night Markets of Siem Reap is something worth experiencing!

The vibrant city of Saigon is fascinating and the hustle and bustle of this city are a huge contrast to one's day out to the Mekong Delta where your visit becomes an immersion into local life in the "rice basket of Vietnam" and where pedal power replaces 100cc motor engines and hand paddled wooden long boats replace buses. I never thought watching rice noodles being made from scratch or coconut farming would be so fascinating.

It all sounds incredible, do you have a favourite place?

When one speaks about the magical riverside city of Hoi An to people who have visited it, you can visibly watch them melt in their memories of time spent there and how they yearn to return to it. No other place in Vietnam receives such affection as this extremely well preserved ancient town which was once a bustling thriving port but now hosts one of Vietnams' most wealthy towns, a culinary mecca and one of the nation's most important tourism spots with some beautiful and unspoiled scenery and beaches nearby.

After a couple of days in Vietnam's buzzing capitol, Hanoi, we embarked upon our final leg



The group on tour

“ Marks out of ten from the travel professionals... A resounding 10! ”

of the tour in Halong Bay. This World Heritage site has to be amongst the most stunning sights on earth and there is no better way of savouring the experience than a voyage on a Junk ship meandering in and out of this fascinating geological phenomena - a perfect end to a magnificent tour!

Marks out of ten from the travel professionals... A resounding ten!

TAKE ME THERE

ANGKOR TO THE BAY

A tour including the iconic sights of Cambodia and Vietnam including Angkor Wat and Halong Bay.

PRICES FROM **£2,690pp** FOR 17 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**

Get 40% off Footprint Travel Guides!



Footprint are the experts on Asia. Our guides have a fabulous new look, & we're offering customers of Wendy Wu Tours an exclusive 40% discount on our titles.

Footprint has a range of over 200 travel guides, and as a Wendy Wu Tours customer you qualify for a 40% discount on all purchases made up until 15th June 2016. Go to www.footprinttravelguides.com and quote code WW40 at checkout. Discount excludes postage costs.



SIZZLING SICHUAN

Jiuzhaigou

Home to towering peaks, fertile plains and swathes of verdant forest, the Sichuan Province in China's southwest is known for its fiery cuisine and awe-inspiring beauty as well as being the natural home of the lackadaisical Giant Panda. Being China's second largest province, there is so much to see and do, so if you've been to China once before, Sichuan is the perfect choice for a second visit.

THE BEAR NECESSITIES

The Giant Panda has taken its place in the hearts of both the Chinese and people around the world as everyone's favourite bear. Native to a few of the mountain ranges of central China, particularly Sichuan, due to development and deforestation, pandas have become a conservation reliant endangered species. There are now several panda conservation centres available to visit both in Chengdu and the surrounds, offering more in-depth interactions. You will also have the opportunity to see another of China's native species, the Red Panda. Whilst they do share a name the Giant Panda and the Red Panda aren't closely related but both are equally fun to watch.

NINE VILLAGES VALLEY

Any visit to Sichuan would not be the same without a few days spent exploring the incredible World Heritage listed Jiuzhaigou National Park (or sometimes known as the Nine Villages Valley).

The park is named for the nine Tibetan villages that call it home. Encircled by snow-capped peaks, this unique region of blue-toned lakes, rushing waterfalls and thick forest is not only visually spectacular but also filled with diverse flora and fauna.

HOT POT

In a recent tourism survey, a staggering 70 per cent of respondents revealed that the main reason they travelled to the city was to taste Chengdu's renowned gourmet food. Sichuan cuisine is probably the most well known in China and is famous for its hot spicy taste and the flavour of the Sichuan pepper. The Hot Pot is its most famous dish. It consists of a simmering metal pot with broth at the centre of a table, and all raw ingredients placed beside the metal pot, so people can add and cook whatever they like in the broth. It's a great way to socialise as well as clearing the head with the mix of herbs and spices.



DID YOU KNOW...

British Airways now flies four times per week direct to Chengdu, making a visit to Sichuan even easier!

BRITISH AIRWAYS

FREE RETURN UPGRADE to premium economy

Book your China tour by 31 March and you could be arriving in style in World Traveller Plus. With wider seats and more legroom, it's the perfect way to travel.

For full terms and conditions visit wendywutours.co.uk/baupgrade

SICHUAN'S TOP 5



The Giant Panda



Fiery cuisine



Jaw dropping scenery



Jiuzhaigou



Unique culture

TAKE ME THERE

SICHUAN EXPLORER

Including Giant Pandas, Jiuzhaigou, Mount Emei and the Leshan Grand Buddha

PRICES FROM **£2,545^{PP}** FOR 15 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**



Kowloon Shangri-La

HONG KONG

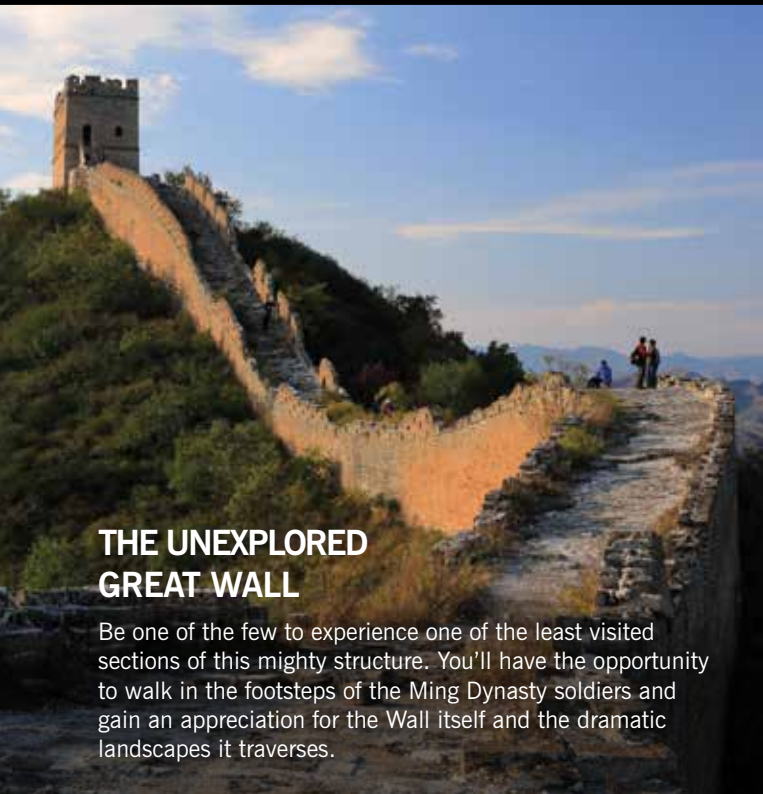
Superb location • Legendary hospitality
Luxurious comfort • Unrivalled view





SCRATCHING BENEATH THE SURFACE

Everyone looks for different things when visiting places for the first time. Some people treat it as a box-ticking exercise but others are looking for a far more intimate experience with the local people, culture and cuisine. Our new Discovery Tours aim to give you a deeper understanding of the places you visit by experiencing them just as the locals do.



THE UNEXPLORED GREAT WALL

Be one of the few to experience one of the least visited sections of this mighty structure. You'll have the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the Ming Dynasty soldiers and gain an appreciation for the Wall itself and the dramatic landscapes it traverses.



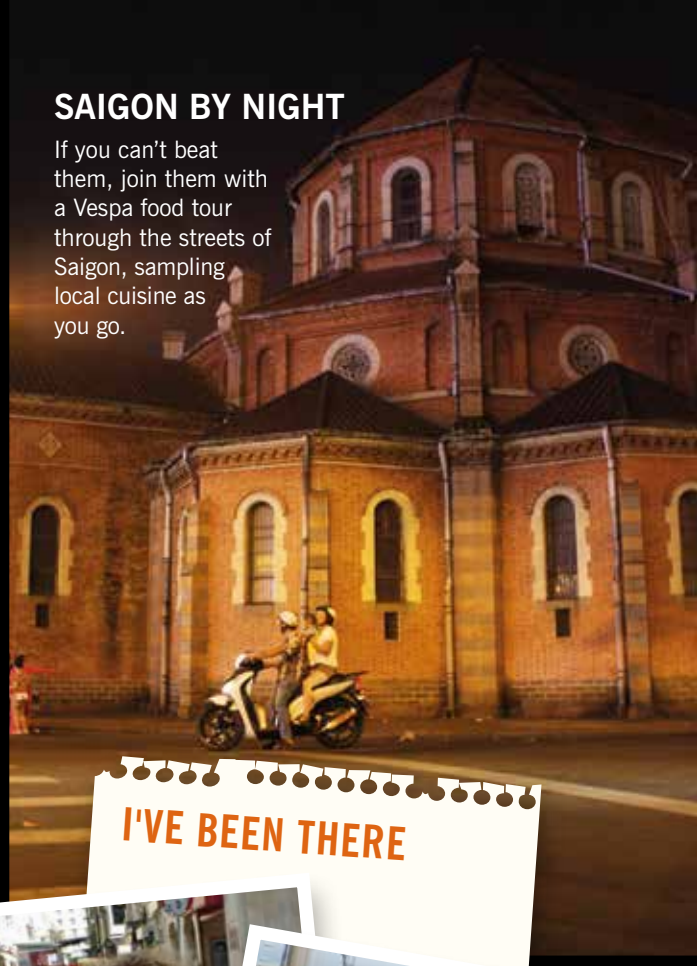
THE ANCIENT ARTS

Start your day with an invigorating session of tai chi, trying to master this ancient martial art.



CYCLE WITH THE LOCALS

In the pristine surroundings of China's countryside, amidst the paddy fields and towering limestone cliffs, spend time soaking up the atmosphere with a bike ride...just as the locals do.



SAIGON BY NIGHT

If you can't beat them, join them with a Vespa food tour through the streets of Saigon, sampling local cuisine as you go.

I'VE BEEN THERE



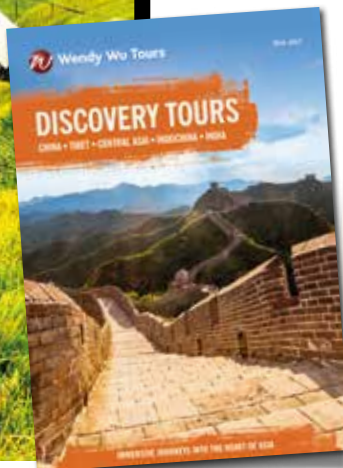
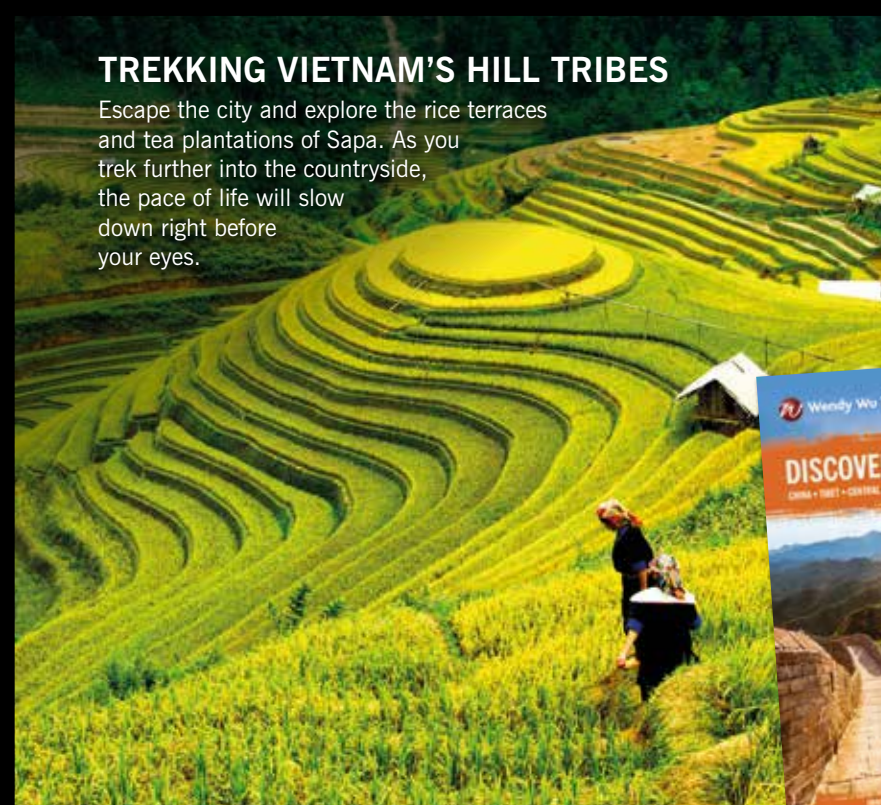
Hilary



Mike

TREKKING VIETNAM'S HILL TRIBES

Escape the city and explore the rice terraces and tea plantations of Sapa. As you trek further into the countryside, the pace of life will slow down right before your eyes.



“ Having come across these Discovery Tours, they seemed the perfect way for us to experience China. With a trip like this, we were immersed in the local culture, the environment and nature and enjoyed activities such as cycling and walking through the epic sights.”

TAKE ME THERE

CHINA: THE BIG ONE

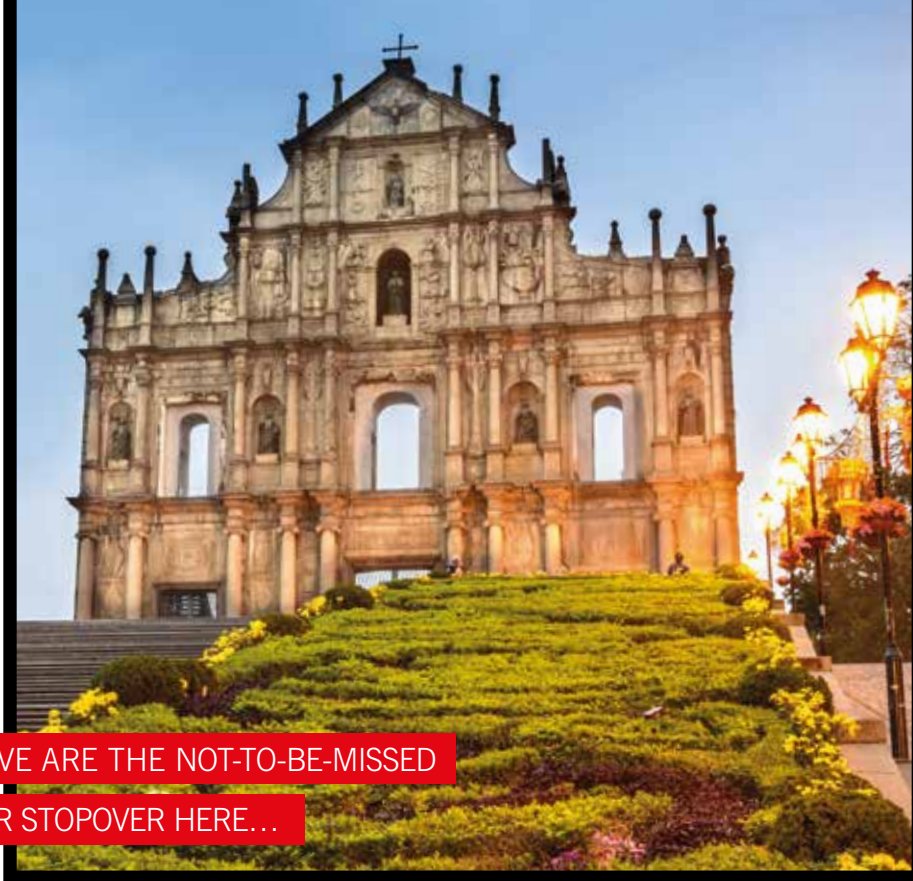
The complete Chinese adventure giving you a new take on this intoxicating country.

PRICES FROM **£3,745pp** FOR 28 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**
Go online to order our Discovery brochure

DISCOVER MACAO

Just 40 miles from Hong Kong and easily accessible from the airport, Macao is a perfect two or three night stopover addition to your Far East holiday. With a unique Portuguese-Chinese Heritage, unrivalled cuisine, World-Heritage listed architecture, spectacular world-class shows and stunning scenery, Macao offers a rich culture that's so very different to its neighbours.



WE'VE HIGHLIGHTED WHAT WE BELIEVE ARE THE NOT-TO-BE-MISSED
ACTIVITIES AND EXPERIENCES FOR YOUR STOPOVER HERE...



Walk around the historic centre

No visit to Macao would be complete without visiting the UNESCO World Heritage listed Historic Centre. Whilst here, you'll stumble across Baroque churches, and an array of beautiful monuments and temples that all sit amongst its maze of cobbled streets, windy alleys and piazzas.

Try the legendary cuisine

Whether you're looking for a quick bite or to enjoy a Michelin star dining experience, Macao has it all! As well as the local Macanese fusion cuisine, which combines influences from South America, Africa, India and Malaysia as well as China and Portugal, there's also plenty of Chinese options and some of the best Portuguese food outside of Portugal.

WENDY WU RECOMMENDS

We love their local delicacy, Pastel da Nata (better known as egg custard tart) - it's a must try when in Macao and truly delicious!



Climb the Macao tower

From the top of this 1,109ft tower, you'll see all of Macao from above and its surrounding islands. Take in the breathtaking, panoramic skyline and if you're feeling brave (if getting to the top wasn't enough), choose one of the adrenaline activities on offer.

Explore the beautiful countryside

But Macao isn't just a buzzing city. For those seeking picturesque views, a slower pace and a different insight to this unique destination, southern Macao is filled with picturesque hills and rural villages, valleys and beaches.

TAKE ME THERE

TASTE OF MACAO

Soak up the sights of Macao on a 2 night stopover at the beginning or end of your holiday.

PRICES FROM

£290^{PP}

FOR 3 DAYS

To book call 0800 977 4888

But this is only the start. Although only small, there's so much to see and do in this fascinatingly different destination.

A LIFE IN THE DAY

Tony Li...



We've been lucky enough to catch up with one of our favourite National Escorts in China, Tony Li, who has shared with us his favourite experiences, places to visit and some useful tips for those of you who haven't yet visited this vast and intriguing country.

What do you enjoy the most about being a National Escort?

There are many plus points to being a National Escort. Not only is it great to share my country with so many people and see them enjoy the trip of a lifetime, but I also love learning and understanding about my clients' and their way of life. It's often a lesson for us both – they learn about my homeland and I learn about theirs while I spend time with them on tour. I'm always meeting different people and it's taught me a lot about other cultures to my own.

Where do you like visiting in China the most?

The list could go on and on, but nothing beats the classic sights. In particular I love Xian, Guilin and relaxing on the Yangtze River – this is always enjoyable as it breaks up what can be a jam-packed tour and re-energises you for the next part of the adventure. I also find that many people in the group really bond whilst on the boat which is lovely to see.

What's your favourite local Chinese dish?

Anything with aubergine in. Many people don't realise that in China, we have a huge variety of tasty vegetable dishes – and they're so fresh! I'd recommend trying as many of these when in China. But my all-time favourite has to be my Mum's prawn dumplings!

What tips would give to anyone who's thinking about visiting China?

Have a positive attitude and just go with it; China will be nothing like what you're used to, but just soak it all up and enjoy the madness, the culture, the interesting history and the beautiful scenery we have here – then you'll really enjoy it and appreciate what a wonderful thing it is to travel. Take everything as a different and new experience, smile and enjoy the company of your group.



Yangtze River



Guilin



Prawn dumplings

TAKE ME THERE

CLASSIC CHINA

Join this popular tour and experience many of Tony's favourite sights, including the relaxing Yangtze River, beautiful Guilin and historic Xian, plus lesser-visited Yunnan Province.

PRICES FROM **£3,645^{PP}** FOR 20 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**

THE Big INTERVIEW



with John Suchet

Before joining Classic FM, John was best known as one of the country's most popular television newscasters, working for ITN for more than 30 years until 2004, then again for Channel Five in 2006. Before becoming a newscaster, John was a reporter for ITN, covering major events around the world. He has been honoured for both roles: Television Journalist of the Year 1986, and Television Newscaster of the Year 1996. As well as classical music, he has always had a passion for travel. We recently caught up with him to chat about his own travel memories.



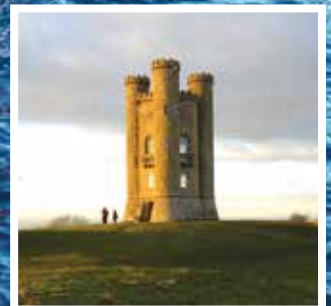
Local life in the Philippines



Sydney Opera House



Prague



Worcestershire

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL PLACE, SOUTH AFRICA. ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL.

First holiday memory?

Well it goes back a very long way. My dad was born in South Africa and when I was three and my brother David was one, he decided to take the whole family back there for a holiday and we went on a ship of the Union Castle Line and I can remember it. I can remember it for two reasons. I remember being on the deck in swimming trunks, treading on a lit cigarette. I can still feel it! And also when we crossed the equator, there were great celebrations. There was a competition – a fancy dress competition – and my mum put me in for it, at the age of three, as a boxer. To make me look like a boxer, she stuck false hair all over my chest with glue and I can still remember what it felt like when she was taking the hair off! But we got there. It was my first holiday. I can still see Table Mountain. I've seen it many times since, but I first saw it as a three-year-old and it's a beautiful place, South Africa. Absolutely beautiful.

Which parts of Asia have you visited and what are your highlights?

Well now, I have to confess my experience of Asia is solely as an ITN Reporter. I spent weeks in the Philippines covering the revolution there which saw the nasty dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his wife with her two thousand pairs of shoes being evicted and Cory Aquino, simply a housewife, as she called herself and widow of the opposition leader who had been assassinated, became President. But do you know, I fell in love with the Philippines. They say that in the Philippines, if you smile at someone, they always smile back and I put that to the test. I had a thousand smiles, a million smiles! I kept saying to myself, I must come back and have a holiday here one day because it's the most beautiful place in the world. I haven't been back but I promise you, it's on my list. Then I went to Hong Kong to relax after the Philippines, which was quite stressful because I was working for News at Ten, filing reports every night. Hong Kong was just amazing. Amazing! I mean, I shopped until I dropped! I bought boys' toy after boys' toy after boys' toy. Oh and then Japan! I flew back through Japan and indulged in something I've always wanted to see – sumo wrestling! I watched sumo wrestling, not live regrettably. I started to watch it on television. I nearly missed my flight home. I was glued. Wonderful!

“Hong Kong was just amazing. Amazing! I mean, I shopped until I dropped! I bought boys' toy after boys' toy after boys' toy. Oh and then Japan! I flew back through Japan and indulged in something I've always wanted to see – sumo wrestling!”

During more than 30 years working for ITN, you travelled all over the world.

What are some of your stand out experiences?

Well the thing is, as an ITN Reporter, you tend to go to parts of the world that most people wouldn't choose to go for a holiday. One of my stand out experiences first of all was in Iran. I covered the Iran Revolution when Ayatollah Khomeini went back and we had the first Islamic Revolution. I flew back on the same plane as him, I covered the Revolution and it's still a somewhat unstable country. I then covered the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan. I actually went into Afghanistan in disguise several times to report on the Soviet Invasion. It's not a country you would probably want to go on holiday to, which is such a shame because honestly, it is the most beautiful place on earth. Kabul,

the capital, is lovely and in the distance you see the Hindu Kush Mountains and I'm telling you, if it was only peaceful there, it would be very much on people's holiday destinations.

I also spent two and a half years in America. I went to almost every state. What a country that is! You've got mountains, you've got sea – absolutely wonderful. Where else did I go? All over Europe! I actually reported from every country in Europe and believe me, I'm a European through and through. I love Europe. So thanks to my career as an ITN Reporter, I did travel over most of the world. One big gap in my experience is Australia. I never got down there. It is firmly on my bucket list. I will go to an opera at the Sydney Opera House before I die!

What's your favourite destination or region of the world?

Europe. Do you know, the more I learn about the world, the more I see that there is to learn about Europe. I am a European through and through. I have got the blood of something like five or six European countries running through me – Russia, Lithuania, Germany, England. I could go on and I could spend the rest of my life travelling around Europe and merely scratch the surface. There is so much culture and so much to learn. I love Europe first and foremost.

What have you learnt from your travels?

The more countries I go to, the more different people are, but actually the more similar they are. They'll speak a different language, they'll have different customs, but scratch a human being and the values are always the same. By and large, everyone wants to be nice. By and large, everyone wants to be kind. By and large, everyone wants to help you and it doesn't matter whether you're in London or Timbuktu.

Where are you off to next?

Well for my next holiday, there will be no aeroplanes, no airports and no train stations! I'm going to do the Elgar Trail in Worcestershire in a two-seater Morgan sports car with my partner Nula and do you know, I'm rather relishing the thought! Not just all the culture and the music and the beautiful countryside, but no security at airports. Imagine what bliss that's going to be!

Table Mountain, Cape Town



Miami



Rome



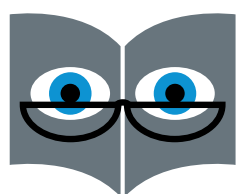
John Suchet presents weekdays mornings from 9am to 1pm on Classic FM, available across the UK on 100-102 FM, digital radio, at classicfm.com and on the Classic FM app.

Travel & Holiday advice you can trust

If you're paddling upstream and need a helping hand with a few holiday tips, visit silvertraveladvisor.com. You'll find travel information, advice and reviews you can trust, written by 'silver travellers' who love to explore and share their experiences.

There's a friendly and experienced team of advisors (most of whom are retired travel professionals) who can help answer your travel questions or offer suggestions for your next holiday.

With a monthly holiday prize draw, free tickets, special invitations to ship visits and much more, visit silvertraveladvisor.com today!



silvertraveladvisor[®]

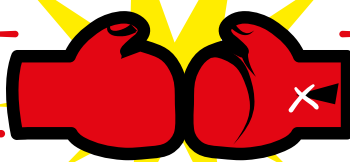
The Voice of Mature Travellers



www.silvertraveladvisor.com

HEAD TO HEAD

CAMBODIA



LAOS

TWO OF SOUTHEAST ASIA'S LESS-TRAVELLED NATIONS COME TO BLOWS
IN A CLASH OF TEMPLES VERSUS TRANQUILLITY...



CULTURE

Cambodia's culture is built on the magnificent Khmer civilisation of old – their creations, the temples of Angkor, have become a symbol of national identity. Despite the horrors brought by the Khmer Rouge, the Cambodian people remain welcoming and optimistic, with an unsurpassed warmth and hospitality, whilst cities exude both colonial charisma and modern sophistication.

ATTRACTIONS

You'd have had to have been asleep in a cave for the past decade to have missed the rise to fame of the temples of Angkor. Exuding a majesty and mystery that few places can match, the temples are unmissable but Cambodia has so much more to offer. In Phnom Penh admire the gleaming Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda and uncover tragic history at Tuol Sleng and the Killing Fields, whilst Sihanoukville (and

its islands) is Southeast Asia's up-and-coming beach destination.

FOOD

Sandwiched between two great foodie nations, Thailand and Vietnam, it isn't a surprise that Khmer cuisine is similar to both. Less spicy and flavoured with lemongrass and coriander, popular dishes include *amok*, a fish mousse steamed in a banana leaf, and Cambodian crab with Kampot pepper. You may see some unusual snacks when you are out and about (fried tarantulas for example!) and baguettes and pâté, a legacy of the French. Dinner should be washed down with an Angkor beer.

SHOPPING

Most shopping in Cambodia is done in the atmospheric markets, where stalls groan under the weight of cottons, silks, silver and trinkets. The Russian Market in Phnom Penh is particularly good. In recent years, thanks to the intervention of NGOs, local handicrafts are becoming better and more prominent, plus buying them contributes money to good causes.



CULTURE

A long isolation from the world has meant that Laos has retained the quaint, old-fashioned charm and slow pace of life lost in many of its neighbours. The culture here is very much ruled by Buddhism, with many beautiful and elaborate temples to explore, but up amongst the colourful tribes of the Laos' hill country, traditional beliefs and rituals reign supreme.



ATTRACTIONS

Laos' laidback vibe makes it a pleasure to explore. Luang Prabang is one of Asia's most captivating destinations, with a rich heritage, beautiful temples and an enduring French legacy. Visiting the hilltribes of the beautiful north offers a glimpse into a different lifestyle or you can contemplate the mysteries of the Plain of Jars. For a thoroughly Laos experience head to Si Phan Don (10,000 Islands), islands sprawled across the Mekong where life doesn't get much faster than snail's pace.

FOOD

Laos food is fiery, fragrant, spicy, bitter and relatively unknown to the rest of the world; some Laos foods are even wrongly credited to Thailand. Most dishes feature

sticky rice and this is eaten by hand - you use a lump of it to mop up the other dishes. Prominent flavours include lemongrass, chilli, galangal and *padek* (a fermented fish paste) which feature in the most popular dishes like *laap*, a salad of minced meat, and *mok pa*, fish steamed in banana leaf. Beer Laos is the perfect companion for any meal but for those looking for a stronger tippie, give *lao-lao*, a native rice whiskey, a taste.

SHOPPING

Laos is a land full of handicraft goods, many made by the ethnic minority hill tribes. The best place to buy is directly from the maker in their village, but plenty find their way down to the markets of the more touristy destinations. Luang Prabang's night market is excellent (for food too!) – here you can pick up handmade baskets, utensils, and textiles.



TAKE ME THERE LAOS & CAMBODIA UNVEILED

Embark on an epic adventure through Laos and Cambodia, experiencing their pristine heritage, undiscovered beauty and magnificent temples.

PRICES FROM **£2,890PP** FOR 17 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**

Conclusion

It is so hard to choose between these two beautiful countries – Cambodia has headlining temples, beaches and both a fascinating and haunting past, whilst Laos offers a glimpse of the Southeast Asia of times gone by, with a wonderful sense of peace and great diversity of people.



PANDAW



GO WITH THE FLOW...

Drift back to a golden age of river cruising to see and experience the landscapes, history and culture of Southeast Asia's most beautiful destinations in a whole new way.

River cruising slows down the pace of your holiday and gives you an easy and effortless way to see some incredible countries and delves deeper than you ever could by road, glimpsing the everyday lives of the locals living and working close the river. Pandaw cruises on some of Asia's greatest rivers – the Mekong and Irrawaddy to name just two, on lovingly-crafted boats infused with colonial charm and an experience that's second to none.

The Pandaw Experience

Pandaw River Cruises is the reincarnation of the colonial Irrawaddy Flotilla Company and, with its elegant vessels modelled on the original river steamers, captures the romance of days gone by. Each Pandaw vessel is hand-finished in brass and teak and lovingly worked on by traditional craftsmen, and are all built for river cruising with shallow drafts. The experience on board can only be described as classic. With one member of staff to every two passengers, the service is as attentive as you could ask for, whilst organic, local produce is whipped into delicious food by chefs knowledgeable in local cuisine. River guides effortlessly introduce you to the art, history and culture of the country you're cruising through as well as the present day to day life taking place on the river bank. You can be safe in the knowledge, though, that the atmosphere is only ever relaxed, friendly and informal – there may be a cocktail hour but there's no formal dress for dinner or a captain's table.

On the Mekong

Cruising on the Mekong with Pandaw is full of cultural encounters and authentic experiences. Flowing 2,703 miles from China through Laos, Burma, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, the Mekong is a unique and pivotal waterway, providing water and fertile soil that has sustained communities for millennia. Whether you want to drift from the lush waterways of the Mekong Delta up to Phnom Penh and Siem Reap in Cambodia on our 'Mekong Odyssey' tour or, for more adventurous souls,

voyage the upper Mekong from Laos to China's Yunnan province on our 'Mekong: From Laos to China' adventure, the river offers an unequivocal tapestry of life.

On the Irrawaddy

Flowing 1,350 miles through the very heart of the country, the Irrawaddy is an essential element of Burma's history, culture and economy. A Pandaw cruise on the Irrawaddy offers unsurpassed encounters as you cruise through rich culture, old traditions and pristine landscapes. A lifeline for millennia, much of Burma's most important heritage is close to the water and can be easily explored on our 'Irrawaddy Voyager' tour but voyage further north and you'll find a wholly wilder country, where the river passes through dramatic gorges and tiny remote villages perch over the water – see 'Upper Irrawaddy Explorer' for this itinerary.

On the Chindwin

The Chindwin is a tributary of the Irrawaddy and remains wonderfully unexplored. Thanks to its specifically constructed shallow draft ships, Pandaw is one of the few operators who explore this beautiful waterway – this is a cruise for those of adventurous spirit! Stop at remote tribal communities reachable only by river, pass golden temples and sacred mountains and see sights that will take your breath away. See it all for yourself on our 'Magical Chindwin' tour.

Order our new 'Asia River Cruising' brochure online today!





TAKE ME THERE

IRRAWADDY VOYAGER

One of many tours we operate with our cruise partner Pandaw, sit back on your elegant cruise vessel and watch the beauty of Burma drift by.

PRICES FROM **£3,290^{PP}** FOR **12 DAYS**

To book call **0800 977 4888**



GONG XI FA CAI

(THAT'S HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO YOU AND ME)



The Chinese New Year period sees the largest annual human migration in the world. Known locally as 'Chunyun' or the Spring Festival travel rush, more than a billion people will travel, making 3.2 billion individual trips by road. The numbers are mind boggling. But as we welcome in the year of the Monkey, what exactly happens during this festival and why is it so important for the local people?

Chinese New Year is celebrated all over the world, but no one can beat the celebrations in China and Hong Kong. For the local people, the new year is a time for families to gather. For some, this may be the only time in the year that they see their parents or even their children.



A TIME FOR SUPERSTITION

The Chinese culture is hugely superstitious and tradition dictates that they follow various customs at this time of year. Tradition still lies at the heart of China, making it one of the most fascinating cultures to discover. Here are a few superstitions at this time of year:

- Avoiding using sharp objects; any accident could lead to the loss of wealth over the coming year.
- Not washing your hair, as it symbolises washing good fortune away (the pronunciation of the symbol for 'hair' and 'to become wealthy' are the same).
- No crying children – parents should do their best to keep their children happy as the cry of a child is bad luck!

A TIME TO INDULGE

Food lies at the heart of the new year celebrations for every Chinese family. But there are certain dishes that have symbolic meaning within the Chinese culture.

DUMPLINGS

Dumplings are the classic Chinese food. Legend has it that the more you eat during the new year celebrations, the wealthier you may become in the coming year. They will be eaten all over China, especially in the North. Fillings include minced pork, vegetables and chicken and they may be boiled, steamed or fried. They certainly get our thumbs up!

FISH

A whole fish is also a key dish during the new year banquet. In Chinese, the pronunciation for fish sounds like 'surplus', so they always try and leave some leftover at the end. The most popular fish to eat is steamed Weever fish in a spicy broth. The head of the fish should always point in the direction of the head of the family as a sign of respect.

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

But above all, the New Year period is a time to enjoy yourself with your family. Festivities include; giving red envelopes to family

members with money in, making paper cut-outs, putting up lanterns plus setting off firecrackers and fireworks. Don't forget to pack your earplugs!

ARE YOU A MONKEY?

Born in the year; 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004 & 2016.

Monkeys are witty and intelligent but can be mischievous and a little bit naughty.

Lucky things include the numbers 4 and 9 plus the colours white and gold.

Famous monkeys include Leonardo Da Vinci, Charles Dickens and Mick Jagger.



There really is no better place to celebrate Chinese New Year than in China itself, so we've created a special tour where you can do just that.

TAKE ME THERE

CHINESE NEW YEAR 2017

Experience the Hong Kong New Year Parade, Lantern Festival in Xian, Great Wall and New Year festivities.

PRICES FROM **£2,645 PP** FOR 10 DAYS

Departs 26 Jan 2017.

To book call **0800 977 4888**

48 HOURS IN... TOKYO



Senso-ji Temple

Tokyo doesn't do things by halves – it is one of the world's biggest cities, it has the world's tallest tower, it has the most Michelin-starred restaurants... For all its bright lights, au fait trends and glass towers, Tokyo is not as modern as it appears, with a layer of rich culture and unexpected tradition just under the surface. Visitors can get a taste of both of these sides of the city, with traditional temples and high end shopping malls, interspersed with plenty of delicious food!

HERE'S HOW TO SPEND THE PERFECT 48 HOURS...

Day One

MORNING

Hop on the metro and head to the Asakusa district and head up to the dizzy heights of the Tokyo Skytree. At 634 metres tall, this is the world's tallest tower and offers amazing views over the city and, if you're lucky, to Mount Fuji beyond. Once you've had your fill of the views, head back down and wander over to Senso-ji, Tokyo's oldest and most venerated temple. Always bustling with worshipping locals and tourists alike, there is a wonderfully vibrant atmosphere. Browse the stalls of the street market, grab some of the cooked-to-order snacks or have a wander through the narrow alleys nearby to find a more substantial lunch.

AFTERNOON

Ueno Park is packed full of fascinating museums and galleries – take your pick from the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Museum of Nature and Science or, our recommendation, the Tokyo National Museum. Here you can wander through an impressive collection of art and artefacts, from Edo paintings to kimonos.

AFTER DARK

The buzzing district of Shibuya with its neon billboards and plentiful bars and restaurants is the perfect place to spend an evening. Disembark the train at Shibuya Station to see and experience the famous road crossing, before browsing through some of the many boutique shops and grabbing a bite to eat. Whilst here, why not partake in the ultimate Japanese pastime and belt out a bit of karaoke?

Day Two

MORNING

Whilst it is possible to catch the 5am tuna auctions at Tsukiji Fish Market, rolling up at 9am when the market properly opens still gives you plenty to see and experience. Restauranters and ordinary people alike shop here for fish and you can grab a sushi breakfast at one of the many tiny shops.

Take a little time out of the hustle and bustle of the city in Yoyogi Park. The perfect place to people watch, you'll also find the Shinto Meiji Jingu Shrine at its heart, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken, for some quiet reflection.

LUNCH

Pop on the metro to the huge Tokyo Central terminal where you can stop for lunch on the station's 'Ramen Street'. Pick your food from the vending machine outside the shop and hand your ticket over to the staff to get a steaming hot bowl of delicious noodle soup.

AFTERNOON

Right next door to Tokyo Station is Chiyoda, the district at the very heart of old Edo Tokyo, and is called by many the centre of Japan. Of particular interest in the area is the Imperial Palace, home to the royal family – you can see the buildings and walk in some of its gardens. The area also houses Hibiya Park, the National Museum of Modern Art and Yasukuni Shrine. From here wander into Ginza, Tokyo's luxury shopping and entertainment district. There is interesting architecture, luxury brands and twinkling neon lights to admire, and tea houses to visit for a traditional hot beverage.



TOP TOKYO EXPERIENCES



Ascend to the dizzy heights of the Skytree.



Take in the lights, sights and sounds of Shibuya district.



Find a moment of tranquillity at the Meiji Jingu Shrine.



Watch the locals worship and browse the markets of Senso-ji.

TAKE ME THERE

JEWELS OF JAPAN

The marvellous sights of Tokyo can be enjoyed on all of our Japan tours and tailor-made itineraries. One of our most popular Japan tours, Jewels of Japan includes a 3 night stay in Tokyo, giving you time to soak up all of its best sights.

PRICES FROM **£3,890pp** FOR 11 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**

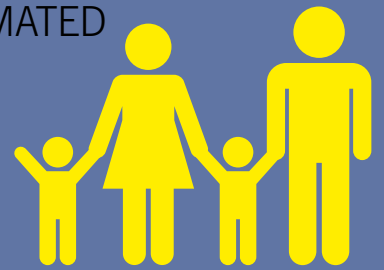
DID YOU KNOW?

We all know that Japan's famous for fresh sushi, incredibly modern technology and unique culture, but we've been racking our brains to bring you some facts that may not know about this enchanting country...

JAPAN HAS OVER **50,000** PEOPLE WHO ARE OVER **100** YEARS' OLD



JAPAN HAS THE WORLD'S **10TH LARGEST** POPULATION IN THE WORLD, WITH AN ESTIMATED **127** MILLION PEOPLE



THERE'S A WHOPPING **6,800** ISLANDS IN JAPAN



OVER **70%** OF JAPAN IS MOUNTAINOUS



JAPAN IS HOME TO SOME OF THE WORLD'S **FASTEST BULLET TRAINS**, INCLUDING ONE THAT REACHES **500KM PER HOUR**



JAPAN HAS THE HIGHEST LITERACY RATE IN THE WORLD AT NEARLY **100%**



AROUND **24** BILLION CHOPSTICKS ARE USED IN JAPAN EVERY YEAR



THERE ARE MORE THAN **1,600** TEMPLES IN KYOTO







TAKE ME THERE

HIDDEN TREASURES OF BURMA

View this incredible scene for yourself by joining our once-in-a-lifetime Burma tour.

PRICES FROM **£3,790^{PP}** FOR **17 DAYS**

To book call **0800 977 4888**

BEST OF THE BLOG

At Wendy Wu Tours, we're always striving to provide you with the latest travel tips, news and fun facts on all things Asia – and that's why we've created our very own blog that does just that.

We're often asked for advice on travelling to Vietnam, so in this issue we're sharing one of our most recent blogs on what we believe are must-sees in this beautiful country...

THINGS NOT TO MISS IN VIETNAM

Vietnam is full of jaw-dropping landscapes, fascinating cultures and vibrant cities; and this is why more and more people are travelling to this incredible country every year.

There's so much to see and do, but here we take you through our very favourite Vietnamese destinations and why they deserve a visit.



HALONG BAY

In the north east corner of Vietnam lies one of Vietnam's most popular and naturally beautiful UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Halong Bay, which to many will need no introduction. And we can certainly understand why, with its 1,600 limestone islands and crystal clear waters that attract and astound visitors from all over the world.

We recommend spending the evening on-board your boat viewing the sunset over the cliffs, whilst eating an incredibly fresh seafood dinner. Heaven!



HOI AN

Many of you will have heard of wonderfully charming Hoi An (another UNESCO World Heritage Site) or even had the pleasure of visiting – and for those of you who have, we have no doubt that you'll agree when we describe it as a wonderfully laid back, charming seaside destination. Lined with lantern shops and tailors, bustling markets, a rich history and of course the beach to relax at, it's no surprise why it's a popular retreat for many.



SAIGON

The largest city in Vietnam, but not the capital is Saigon, otherwise known as Ho Chi Minh City. A city that rarely sleeps, Saigon welcomes travellers of all kinds with its bustling bars, wonderfully weird street markets and classy restaurants. And for the day time, take a look at the colonial architecture with visits to the Notre Dame Cathedral and the neoclassical Central Post Office. But watch out for those mopeds coming from every angle!



MEKONG DELTA

Easily accessible from Saigon is Vietnam's water wonderland, the Mekong Delta. It's natural beauty of green and lush scenery produces over a third of the country's agricultural output – which is quite incredible! As you weave your way through the calm river, you'll get a glimpse of where the locals live, pass by markets and see how water buffaloes and farmers live side by side in this spectacular part of the world.

But the list goes on! This is just the beginning of the many must-visit destinations to discover in Vietnam, so if you've been inspired [visit our blog to read the full post.](#)

ONLINE NOW

SHANGHAI TIPPED TO BECOME MOST POPULAR HOLIDAY HOTSPOT

15 Dec 2015



Shanghai is already a popular stop-off destination, but it's now estimated that by 2035 it will be one of the most popular holiday destinations in the world...

THE BEST VIETNAMESE DISHES TO TRY

04 Jan 2016



As a country that loves its food, it is unsurprising that there's such a variety of delicious dishes that you can taste, so here we have asked some Vietnamese restaurants what dishes they would recommend...

THE TRANQUIL BEAUTY OF JAPAN'S GARDEN'S ARE CALLING

12 Feb 2016



There are many iconic images of Japan's natural beauty. From the peak of Mount Fuji to the delicate pink cherry blossoms, Japanese culture is interwoven with nature...

Keep up to date with our blog by visiting wendywutours.co.uk/blog

TRAVEL SURGERY

At Wendy Wu Tours, all our staff have travelled extensively throughout Asia. So we thought we'd put them to the test with some of your most frequently asked questions.

Question from Mark Nolan,
via email

Q: We're looking to travel to Asia this summer but are unsure of where the best places are for the summer months. What would you recommend?

Answered by Nicci Hawkins,
Content Manager

A: The majority of Asia can be very hot in the summer months, however there are usually less visitors so you'll have more space to enjoy the incredible sights and attractions. But if you're looking for comfortable temperatures, there are a couple of destinations that I would recommend.

Firstly, Mongolia is perfect for visiting in the summer not only because of the weather, but also because their Naadam Festival that takes place over this time which will give you a real taste of their very different culture. Another destination that's really worth a visit is Borneo. I was lucky enough to visit this incredible destination in the summer months and its full of wild jungle, a wonderful range of activities and of course, the adorable Orangutans!



Question from Susan Evans,
via facebook

Q: I really want to travel to Japan and have heard that the bullet train seems like an amazing way to travel around the country. My only concern is heaving my luggage around. Is this an issue?

Answered by Flora Sweeting,
Tailormade Travel Consultant

A: You're right. Japan's railways are some of the best in the world and are certainly the best way to travel around. As tourists we are very lucky to be able to use a JR Pass, which is really reasonable and not available to locals. On most of our tours and tailormade holidays, we like to use a service called "takuhaibin", this sends your luggage to your next hotel the following day, so all you'll need

is a small backpack to keep your essentials in whilst it's enroute. As with everything in Japan, we've found this service very reliable and have only had positive feedback for it.

Question from Christine Davis,
via twitter

Q: We really want to travel to China, but we're fussy eaters and are a little concerned about the food. Can you put our minds at ease?

Answered by Daniela Albano,
Online Marketing Executive

A: The local food in China is so very different to what you may recognise as 'Chinese' food in the UK. Plus it's a lot tastier! There is always a wide variety of dishes to cater for all tastes, including lots of freshly cooked vegetable dishes. And one thing I can guarantee is you'll never go hungry! On our group tours lunch and dinner is served on a

'lazy Susan', so you can simply choose the dishes that you want to try.

Question from Jane Greig, via email

Q: Is there a dress code on a Wendy Wu Tour?

Answered by Emily Andrews,
Marketing Executive

A: The dress code on tour is relaxed – whilst you're out touring for the day I would recommend comfortable clothing and some good shoes for walking around. Layers are also key, as temperatures in each place can really vary, especially in China. You may want to bring a few smarter items for the evenings, however it isn't compulsory. It's also worth checking whether your tour visits any religious buildings – if it does then just make sure you have something that covers your arms and legs.

If there's a burning question that you're dying to be answered, we'd love to hear it. Simply email us at whispers@wendywutours.co.uk or send us a message via facebook or twitter and you could be featured in the next issue.

IT'S A DEAL

OFFERS EXCLUSIVELY FOR YOU

We've put together a series of savings across many of our group tours to China, Japan, Southeast Asia and India. Simply quote 'Chinese Whispers' to take advantage of these great deals.

1 WONDERS OF CHINA



16 days from **£3,045pp**

SAVING £300pp

A hugely popular tour visiting China's most iconic sights including the Great wall and the Yangtze River.

Departing 22 Sep 2016

2 GRAND TOUR OF CHINA



26 days from **£3,645pp**

SAVING £300pp

Our most comprehensive tour of China which covers the country's top attractions, beautiful scenery and areas off the tourist trail.

Departing 08 Sep 2016

3 CHINA TRAILBLAZER



20 days from **£3,345pp**

SAVING £300pp

An adventurous tour that explores China's iconic sights and beautiful scenery, whether it be from the back of a bicycle, on a hike through serene countryside or walking through the buzzing streets.

Departing 24 Sep 2016

4 EXQUISITE CHINA



14 days from **£3,945pp**

SAVING £300pp

A luxury tour encompassing all of China most renowned sights with added exclusive experiences.

Departing 09 Sep 2016

5 A CHINA EXPERIENCE



10 days from **£2,145pp**

SAVING £300pp

A great value introduction to China visiting Shanghai, Xian and Beijing in just over a week.

Departing 10 Sep 2016

6 CLASSIC CHINA



20 days from **£3,445pp**

SAVING £300pp

Discover the Great Wall, Terracotta Warriors and Shanghai as well as China's hidden gems in Yunnan on this in-depth tour.

Departing 07 Sep 2016



7 DISCOVER JAPAN



13 days from **£4,090pp**

SAVING £200pp

A popular tour that immerses you into Japan's fascinating culture, wonderful scenery and modern cities.

Departing 21 Sep 2016



8 ANGKOR TO THE BAY

17 days from **£2,690pp** **SAVING £200pp**

Take a voyage of discovery from the breathtaking majesty of the temples of Angkor through to the spectacular Halong Bay.

Departing 02 Sep 2016



9 HIDDEN TREASURES OF BURMA

17 days from **£3,490pp** **SAVING £300pp**

Discover a destination bursting with magnificent monuments, glittering golden stupas and enigmatic ruins on this unforgettable 17 day tour.

Departing 27 Oct 2016

10 GRAND TOUR OF INDOCHINA



28 days from **£3,590pp**

SAVING £300pp

Experience the tradition, scenery and astonishing sights of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia on this wide ranging tour.

Departing 03 Sep 2016

11 VIETNAM IMPRESSIONS



10 days from **£1,890pp**

SAVING £200pp

The perfect snapshot of this unique and captivating country. See the big cities and savour the breathtaking scenery of Halong Bay and the Mekong Delta.

Departing 28 Oct 2016



12 KERALA AND THE SOUTHERN HIGHLIGHTS



17 days from **£2,690pp**

SAVING £300pp

Discover southern India's beauty and intensely, tropical climate. A land filled with coconut groves, rice paddies and a rich heritage.

Departing 05 Oct 2016

Discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or promotion.

TOP REASONS TO CHOOSE WENDY WU TOURS

- Over 18 years' experience
- Unrivalled knowledge and expertise
- Comprehensive range of group, private and tailor-made holidays
- Depart from many regional UK airports
- Fully inclusive prices with no hidden extras
- 98% independent customer rating
- Award winning guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced consultants
- Authentic dining and delicious local cuisine
- Hassle-free visa service included
- Safe and secure with ABTA, ATOL & IATA



To book and speak to our experts

Call: **0800 977 4888**

Email: whispers@wendywutours.co.uk

Visit: wendywutours.co.uk

FIND US ONLINE



facebook.com/wendywuofficial



[@WendyWuToursUK](https://twitter.com/WendyWuToursUK)



wendywutours.co.uk/blog

