

February 2025



Trusted for over

25
YEARS

WHISPERS

TRAVEL INSPIRATION FROM THE AWARD-WINNING TOUR SPECIALIST

CRUISE & TOUR

Set sail with our brand new Ocean & River Cruise touring collections

LEGENDS OF THE SILK ROAD

All aboard the Silk Road Express!
Where luxury meets adventure

AUTHENTIC JAPAN

The best immersive experiences in the Land of the Rising Sun

CHINA'S NATURAL WONDERS

Discover China's most spectacular landscapes



SAVE UP TO \$4,000 PER COUPLE IN OUR NEW YEAR SALE

CONTENTS

- 3 Latest News
- 4 Legends of the Silk Road - New Tour
- 6 Luxury Silk Road Explorer
- 8 Experience Authentic Japan
- 10 Sail Away
- 12 Unearthing China's Ancient Natural Beauty
- 14 Team Tales – South Africa
- 16 Top Must Do's in Vietnam
- 18 Solo Touring
- 20 Mad about Morocco
- 22 Japan Through the Seasons
- 24 Journey to the Roof of the World
- 26 Ocean Cruise & Tour Holidays
- 28 Traveller Tales – In Pursuit of Pandas
- 30 The Grand Tour



A Message from Wendy

Welcome to the first edition of Whispers for 2025, filled with inspiring travel articles, tour ideas and the latest news from Wendy Wu Tours.

Well, wasn't 2024 full of adventure? Over the past 12 months we have launched new destinations, new ways of travelling and even festive fun filled Christmas tours.

As for 2025, all we can say is watch this space! The year promises to bring even more excitement, as we send more customers than ever to Japan to admire the beauty of cherry blossom, introduce a Wendy Wu first with our first luxury group tour 'Legends of the Silk Road' aboard the Silk Road Express, see the first departures of our Cruise & Tour Holidays and add more exciting itineraries to the portfolio. But there is so much more innovation to come, and we cannot wait to share it with you soon.

Until then I hope you enjoy reading all about some of our most inspiring tours in this special issue, and we look forward to seeing you on tour very soon.

Best wishes,
Wendy



READY. SET. TRAVEL SALE!

OFFER
ENDS
28 FEB



SAVE UP TO \$4,000 PER COUPLE
OR SOLOS ENJOY FREE OR HALF PRICE SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Offer valid to 28 Feb 2025. Selected 2025 or 2026 group departures. New bookings only. Subject to availability. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Advertised prices include savings. Visit wendywutours.com.au for full terms and conditions.

What's New in the Wu Kingdom

What a spectacular year of adventure! While our guests explored every corner of the world, our team has been busy crafting fresh journeys and dreaming up new experiences. From luxury rail adventures to hidden cultural gems, we're thrilled to share what's new in the Wu Kingdom.



Wendy in Australia

Join our founder Wendy for an exclusive series of online and in-person events this February and early March! Be the first to hear about our luxurious new Legends of the Silk Road group tour adventure, receive insider travel tips, and discover 2025's hottest destinations.

[Click here to register](#)

Legends of the Silk Road: A Journey Like No Other

All aboard our most luxurious adventure yet! Introducing a Wendy Wu Tour first as you spend three nights on the exclusive Silk Road Express in your private Gold Class cabin, weaving through China's legendary landscapes. This 15-day journey blends five-star comfort with extraordinary cultural encounters.

[Full story on page 6.](#)

Breaking News: China Made Easy

Australians can now explore China visa-free for up to 30 days! There's never been a better time to explore China - where ancient traditions and rich history blend seamlessly with iconic sights, vibrant cities and breathtaking scenery.

[Full details on page 12.](#)

Brand New Destinations & Tours for 2025

We are absolutely delighted to showcase some incredible tours in exciting new countries this year.

We are really branching out in Africa with new tours in Morocco, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe and in South America we have launched exciting new group tours of Peru, Chile, Argentina & Brazil and a host of exciting new private tours.

In Asia you can now explore even further with a host of new rail tours, set sail on Ocean and River Cruise tours and enjoy Christmas in even more new countries.

What an exciting year we have ahead of us.



Setting Sail in Style

We couldn't get enough of being on the water in 2024, and that's set to continue in 2025 with our Cruise & Tour collection which kicked off with a splash! These wonderful packages combine our award-winning immersive touring and a relaxing ocean cruise to some of the world's most exciting destinations.

As if that wasn't enough, we've also just launched our brand-new River Cruising collection brochure. Take the tempo down a notch and enjoy meandering along some of the world's most legendary waterways. From the Nile in Egypt and China's serene Yangtze to the lesser explored but equally spectacular Brahmaputra in India or Vietnam's fascinating Red River.

[Turn to page 10 for more.](#)

BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE



Flexi-deposit



7- day change of mind guarantee

Join us in the Wu Kingdom

The Wu Kingdom is our online hub to your insider's guide to all things Wendy Wu Tours. Dive into travel tales, discover our latest adventures, and meet the passionate team behind your favourite journeys.

[Click here or search Wu Kingdom](#)

A Pathway to the Past: Unveiling the Silk Road Wonders

An abundance of wonder, intrigue, history, and culture await as you journey along the legendary Silk Road, uncovering the tales of the merchants and explorers who once travelled this historic route.



Named after the luxurious silk that travelled from China to Persia and Europe, the Silk Road has long captivated explorers worldwide. This iconic route, once alive with camel caravans, ochre sand dunes and bustling spice markets, wasn't just a trade highway – it was a conduit for ideas, philosophies, and technologies that shaped the modern world.

Today, the ancient cities, awe-inspiring desert and mountain landscapes continue to tell the story of its power and intrigue. Join us as we uncover the must-see sights of the Silk Road, a journey through one of history's most fascinating legacies.



Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Under the rule of Timur the Great, Samarkand rose to prominence as one of the most important cities along the ancient Silk Road. Rich in history and immortalised by poets and historians, it has connections to legendary figures like Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan. This vibrant city was a melting pot where traders from the east and west met in bustling bazaars. The wealth generated by the Silk Road enabled the construction of stunning architectural masterpieces, with the grand Registan Square and its three intricately mosaic-covered medressas standing as the most magnificent example.



Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Situated along the Golden Road, where the northern and southern branches of the Silk Route intersect, Bukhara was once a thriving hub of commerce, culture, religion, and learning. Over the centuries, it endured numerous invasions and sieges, but today it boasts a rich tapestry of architecture unlike anywhere in the world. The city's centre is home to over 140 protected monuments, with a striking skyline of domes and minarets from its 350 mosques and 100 religious colleges, offering a window into its storied past.



Merv, Turkmenistan

Merv, once a key Silk Road metropolis, was thought to be the world's largest city before it was destroyed by Genghis Khan's forces in 1221. Although it never fully recovered, Merv today stands as one of the best-preserved ruins of the ancient Silk Road oasis cities. Once a lush hub of canals, gardens, and orchards, it offered weary travellers a welcome respite from the desert. Exploring Merv's atmospheric ruins provides an incredible insight into this once-vibrant trade centre.



Dunhuang, China

Located at the edge of the vast Taklamakan Desert, Dunhuang once served as a vital oasis for Silk Road caravans navigating through harsh terrain. Today, this laid-back city offers easy access to nearby landscapes dotted with ancient temples, forts, and towers. A highlight is the nearby Mogao Caves, renowned for their stunning Buddhist murals, as well as Crescent Moon Lake, hidden among the towering sand dunes—both must-see sites for travellers.



Kizil Caves, China

The UNESCO-listed Kizil Caves are located on the banks of the Muzart River in China's Xinjiang region. This complex of 236 Buddhist rock-cut caves, dating from the 3rd to the 8th centuries, is adorned with exquisite murals that showcase the development of Central Asian art and the transmission of Buddhism along the Silk Road. As one of the earliest major Buddhist cave sites in China, Kizil holds immense historical significance.



Silk Road Explorer

28 days Go Beyond Group Tour

Now from **\$9,880pp** twin share

(Includes \$600pp saving. Ends 28 February)

SAVE \$1,200 PER COUPLE

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





Introducing

Journey Through China's Silk Road in Ultimate Luxury

Step into a world where opulence meets ancient wonder along China's legendary Silk Road.



Evoking the golden age of travel, this is more than just a tour; it's an experience that effortlessly combines five-star luxury with exciting adventure.

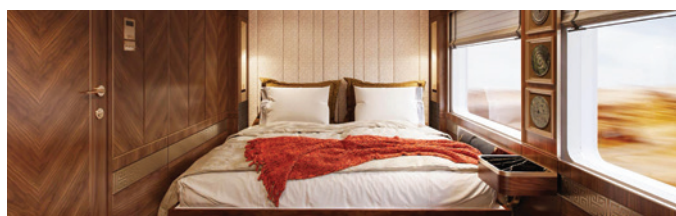
Travel through some of the world's most spectacular landscapes, all while enjoying the pleasures of a 3-night, 5-star rail experience with exceptional service. Aboard the Silk Road Express, you'll immerse yourself in the history, culture, and natural beauty of this truly fascinating region.

From the moment you step aboard the luxurious Silk Road Express, you'll be transported into a world of elegance and relaxation. Travel in style with a Gold Class cabin that includes a private en-suite, offering both comfort and privacy.

Throughout your journey, indulge in fine dining prepared by a Michelin-starred chef and served in the restaurant cars, offering a delightful mix of local and international flavours. Whether you're sipping a glass of champagne in the bar lounge or enjoying panoramic views from the observation deck, there

are plenty of ways to unwind while taking in sights of the Silk Road.

As for the itinerary, the tour's highlights are just as extraordinary as the destinations themselves.



Spend a day exploring the breathtaking Tian Shan mountains, with a scenic cruise on Heavenly Lake, before visiting a local family in their yurt. In Kashgar, be captivated by the minaret-studded skyline and the bustling Old Town, where local artisans create their masterpieces. You'll also have the chance to bring home a traditional, personalised keepsake in the form of a Tibetan Thangka.

A visit to the ancient city of Yotkan, rich with a thousand years of history, will take you back in time. In Ruoqiang, explore the Loulan Museum, home to priceless artefacts unearthed from the desert cities of the region.

You'll also have the opportunity to witness the sacred Kumbum Monastery in Xining, a Tibetan Buddhist site that sits spectacularly in a narrow valley outside



Hanyuefu Poetry multi-function observation car

the city. Discover the westernmost point of the Great Wall at Jiayu Fortress, then wander through the vibrant night markets of Dunhuang, also known as the 'City of the Sands.'

The expedition continues with a visit to Crescent Moon Spring, nestled among rolling sand dunes, followed by an exploration of the Mogao Grottoes, a UNESCO World Heritage site filled with Buddhist paintings and statues.

The final stop on your tour takes you to the ancient city of Xi'an, where you'll walk along the historic city walls and marvel at the incredible Terracotta Warriors with an expert guide.

This extraordinary adventure offers a unique combination of luxury and exploration, allowing you to discover the Silk Road's rich history and diverse cultures while enjoying the grandeur of the Silk Road Express.

Whether you're seeking authentic immersion, breathtaking landscapes, or simply a chance to relax in style, this all-inclusive tour offers it all.



Legends of the Silk Road

15 days Luxury Group Tour

Now from **\$25,880pp** twin share

Departing 15 September 2025

**BOOK BY
28 FEB
2025**

EXCLUSIVE LAUNCH OFFER
Includes **\$2,000pp** saving

Including: Return flights, most meals, 3 nights aboard the Silk Road Express, 5-star and boutique hotel stays, Michelin-starred dining, curated cultural experiences including wine tastings and night markets, sightseeing and entrance fees, transportation in China.



Discover Authentic Japan: 6 Unforgettable Experiences

Daily life in Japan seamlessly blends ancient traditions with cutting-edge modernity, creating a culture that's truly unique. This fusion of old and new makes Japan an extraordinary destination, where vibrant cities, natural landscapes, and fascinating customs captivate every traveller. But how much can you really grasp just by sightseeing?

To truly experience Japan, it's the hands-on activities that unveil what makes this country so special. Our Japan tours are filled with immersive experiences that provide a deeper understanding of this incredible nation.

Here are six truly inspiring, authentic experiences you can have on a Wendy Wu tour.

In partnership with



Learn to Roll Sushi

Sushi is not just a dish; it's an art form tied to Japan's cultural values of craftsmanship, respect for nature, and community. Sushi chefs train for years to master techniques that balance flavour, texture, and presentation. Often served on special occasions, sushi symbolises prosperity and happiness.

Experience it on:

Japan by Rail

22 days Fully Inclusive Group Tour

Now from **\$15,990^{pp}** twin share

(Includes \$600^{pp} saving. Ends 28 February)



Under the guidance of a sushi chef, learn the essentials of sushi making in Tokyo. Afterward, enjoy your creations with fellow travellers during a shared meal.



Soba Noodle Making

Soba noodles, made from buckwheat, are an essential part of Japanese cuisine. Known for their health benefits, soba dates to the Edo period (1603-1898) and is traditionally eaten on New Year's Eve for good luck and longevity.

Experience it on:

Jewels of Japan

12 days Fully Inclusive Group Tour

Now from **\$10,180^{pp}** twin share

(Includes \$800^{pp} saving. Ends 28 February)



Learn the process of making soba noodles from scratch. Mix, knead, and slice the buckwheat dough before enjoying your noodles for lunch.



Craft a Traditional Sake Cup

Sake, Japan's iconic rice wine, is not only a popular beverage but also an integral part of the country's celebrations and social customs. From casual tastings to formal ceremonies, sake plays a central role in bringing people together.

Experience it on:

Japan by Rail

22 days Fully Inclusive Group Tour

Now from **\$15,990^{pp}** twin share

(Includes \$600^{pp} saving. Ends 28 February)



Join a Zen meditation master in Kyoto for a peaceful session in a traditional wooden townhouse and begin your journey towards tranquility.



Craft Your Own Washi Paper

Washi, traditional Japanese paper, is handcrafted from the fibres of three plants. Dating back to the 9th century, washi has been used for everything from ancient banknotes to origami and room dividers. Recognised by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage, this craft has been practised for over a millennium.

Experience it on:

Japan Uncovered

18 days Fully Inclusive Group Tour

Now from **\$12,880^{pp}** twin share

(Includes \$800^{pp} saving. Ends 28 February)



Visit a washi workshop to craft your own piece of handmade paper, which you can decorate and take home as a unique souvenir.



Practice Zen Meditation

Zen Buddhism is a cornerstone of Japanese culture, influencing everything from tea ceremonies to martial arts. Meditation, a key practice of Zen, helps clear the mind, reduce stress, and foster inner peace.

Experience it on:

Japan by Rail

22 days Fully Inclusive Group Tour

Now from **\$15,990^{pp}** twin share

(Includes \$600^{pp} saving. Ends 28 February)



Join a Zen meditation master in Kyoto for a peaceful session in a traditional wooden townhouse and begin your journey towards tranquility.



Stay in a Ryokan

Stay in a ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn, where you'll be transported to a simpler, more serene time. Sleep on tatami (straw mat) flooring and cosy futon bedding, immersing yourself in the comfort of authentic Japanese hospitality.

Experience it on:

Off-Beat Japan

14 days Go Beyond Group Tour

Now from **\$11,140^{pp}** twin share

(Includes \$550^{pp} saving. Ends 28 February)



During your one-night stay here, you'll have the chance to unwind in a tranquil onsen hot spring bath, perfect for relaxation and rejuvenation. Just note, for a truly authentic experience, onsen baths are typically segregated, and most don't allow bathing suits.

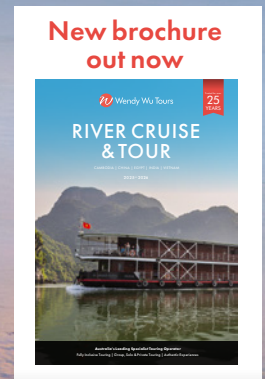


Sail Away:

Adventure, Culture, and Relaxation Await



Antara Cruises, Ganges Voyager

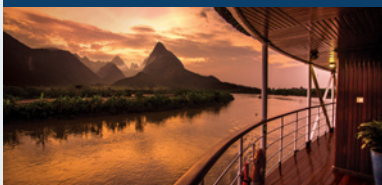


Let the tranquil flow of the river set the pace as you embark on a journey that unveils captivating destinations, all in one seamless experience.

River cruising offers a unique perspective of historic rivers, taking you through vibrant cities, peaceful countryside, and hidden gems often overlooked by traditional tourists. Whether you're exploring lively riverbanks or enjoying authentic rural experiences, you'll discover places few others get to see. Onboard a comfortable, all-inclusive vessel, you'll enjoy the journey and the camaraderie of fellow travellers.

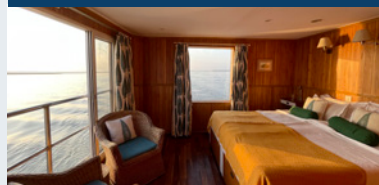
At Wendy Wu Tours, we've expanded our river cruise collection to include some of Southeast Asia and India's most iconic waterways. With so many incredible options, choosing which river to explore first will be the hardest part!

VIETNAM RED RIVER



The Red River and its delta cover a vast swathe of northern Vietnam. It is on its banks and fertile flood plain that communities and cultures have flourished for centuries and where beloved traditions, like water puppetry, were born of its life-giving waters. Connecting magical sights like Halong Bay, Ninh Binh and the rural idyll and cottage industries of the northern delta with Hanoi, cruising the Red River is to explore a wholly different side of Vietnam.

INDIA BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER



Once the domain of colonial trade steamers, today the broad and mighty Brahmaputra is a much more tranquil affair as it sweeps across the plains of the Indian state of Assam. As your cruise vessel navigates shifting shoals of the sometimes miles wide river, look to the shore for the wealth of wildlife that resides in Kaziranga National Park, traditional villages and temples where age old heritage still resides, and the vast tea plantations for which the state is known.

INDIA GANGES RIVER



The Ganges is seen by Hindus as the embodiment of the goddess Ganga who can heal and purify the body and soul of those who bathe in her waters. This sacred status means the banks are crowded with communities full of timeless heritage to explore – our river cruise focuses on the lower reaches of the river and the state of Bengal where former European colonies and thriving traditional crafts give an alternative view on river life.



NEW

Vietnam & Red River Uncovered

20 days Fully Inclusive Group Tour

Now from **\$13,480pp** twin share

(Includes \$500pp saving. Ends 28 February)

Embark on a 20-day fully inclusive Classic Group Tour and discover the beauty and rich history of Vietnam. Begin your journey along the shores of the iconic Red River and explore the lush landscapes of this fascinating country. Experience the green, palm-lined waterways of the Mekong Delta, where you'll immerse yourself in local culture and traditions. Gain unique insights into Vietnam's past as you meet a Vietnamese War Veteran at the historic Cu Chi Tunnels, a poignant reminder of the country's turbulent history. Your adventure also takes you to the breathtaking Halong Bay, where you'll board a vessel and sail through the UNESCO-listed waters, surrounded by dramatic limestone karsts. In the evening, unwind with a refreshing welcome cocktail on deck as the breathtaking scenery unfolds.



NEW

Beyond the Brahmaputra

18 days Fully Inclusive Group Tour

Now from **\$12,880pp** twin share

(Includes \$500pp saving. Ends 28 February)

Explore the vibrant landscapes of India's Assam state on this 18-day fully inclusive Classic Group tour. Enjoy a scenic ride on the famous Toy Train, offering breathtaking views of the Nilgiri Hills. Explore iconic landmarks like the grand Victoria Memorial in Kolkata, a tribute to India's colonial past. Your adventure culminates with a luxurious river cruise along the Brahmaputra River. Relax aboard a vessel that features a spa, a spacious sun deck, and comfortable cabins with floor-to-ceiling sliding windows, providing you with stunning views as you cruise through the heart of Assam.



NEW

India & the Sacred Ganges

17 days Fully Inclusive Group Tour

Now from **\$13,080pp** twin share

(Includes \$500pp saving. Ends 28 February)

This exciting 17-day fully inclusive Classic Group Tour, exploring the wonders of India along the sacred Ganges River. Start your journey by witnessing the breathtaking beauty of the Taj Mahal at sunrise, one of the world's most iconic landmarks. Explore Varanasi, one of the oldest living cities, rich with spiritual and cultural significance. Set sail on the Hooghly River, relaxing in your spacious cabin as you cruise through the heart of Kolkata. Head to the sun deck for gorgeous views as you pass under the Howrah Bridge, one of the city's most iconic structures, before mooring near Bally Bridge on the city's outskirts. Join us for an unforgettable river cruise experience on the Sacred Ganges.



Mekong River Cruise

Experience the beauty of Vietnam and Cambodia aboard our very own deluxe Victoria Mekong. Relax in spacious, modern staterooms designed for ultimate comfort while cruising along the Mekong River. Whether you're seeking a standalone getaway, a relaxing cruise and beach holiday, or an extended tour to Vietnam and Cambodia, our cruises offer a memorable experience. Decide between tours featuring a seven-night upstream or downstream itinerary and immerse yourself in life along the Mekong River, where timeless landscapes of impressive riverscapes and rustic countryside await.





The Mountains of Zhangjiajie

Located in Hunan province, Zhangjiajie National Forest Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its striking sandstone peaks, some of which rise over 1,000 metres. The landscape features thousands of narrow quartzite columns, formed by millions of years of erosion, creating a dramatic, vertical world that seems to belong to another planet. Along with its towering cliffs, Zhangjiajie is rich in biodiversity, home to rare plants and endangered species like the Chinese giant salamander. The park is also home to the world's longest and highest glass bridge, which spans a deep canyon, offering a truly unique perspective of the landscape.

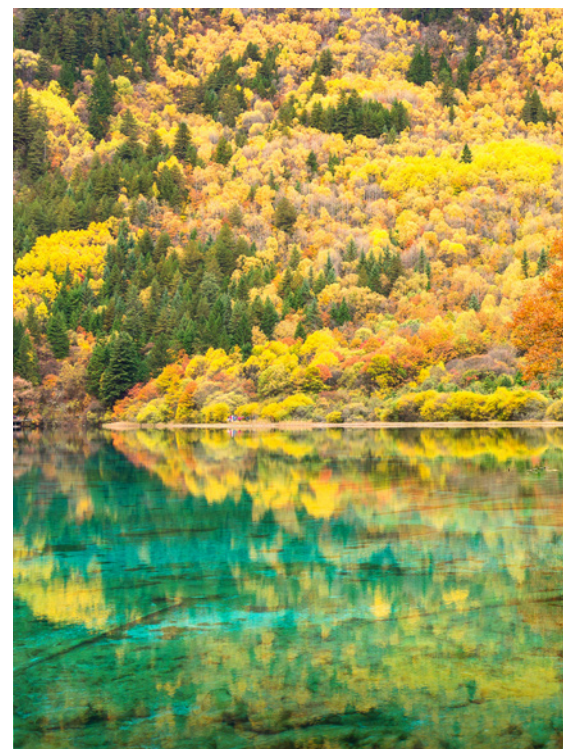
Experience it on:

Gems of China Tour

16 days Fully Inclusive Tour

Unearthing China's Ancient Natural Beauty

China is a land of remarkable natural beauty, where its long history and rich culture are reflected in its diverse and awe-inspiring landscapes. While the bustling megacities and architectural wonders are captivating, the country's natural attractions offer a unique and enriching experience. From the towering peaks of the Himalayas to the otherworldly forests of Zhangjiajie, China's geography is as diverse as it is breathtaking.





The Karst Peaks of Guilin and Yangshuo

The karst mountains of Guilin are one of China's most iconic landscapes. Rising dramatically from the plains, the limestone peaks along the Li River have inspired poets, artists, and adventurers for centuries. A boat cruise between Guilin and the picturesque town of Yangshuo offers some of the most breathtaking views in the country. The mist-wreathed peaks and tranquil riverbanks, dotted with villages, bamboo groves, and rice paddies, provide an authentic glimpse into rural China. Yangshuo has grown into a popular spot for nature lovers, offering opportunities for hiking, rock climbing, and cycling amidst stunning natural scenery.

Experience it on:

Wonders of China
16 days Fully Inclusive Tour



Jiuzhaigou Valley: China's Colourful Wonderland

In the northern part of Sichuan province lies Jiuzhaigou Valley; also known as Nine Villages Valley, often regarded as one of China's most beautiful natural spots. Known for its turquoise lakes, cascading waterfalls, and lush forests, this UNESCO World Heritage site is a vibrant palette of colours. The valley's clear waters reflect shades of emerald, sapphire, and turquoise, while in autumn, the forests explode into hues of red, orange, and gold. Jiuzhaigou is also home to rare species like the giant panda and the golden snub-nosed monkey, though sightings are rare due to the region's protected status.

Experience it on:

Natural Treasures of China
16 days Go Beyond Tour



Tiger Leaping Gorge and the Yangtze River

Tiger Leaping Gorge, one of the deepest gorges in the world, is a truly awe-inspiring natural wonder. Located in Yunnan province, the gorge is carved by the Yangtze River as it flows between the Jade Dragon and Haba mountains, with cliffs rising more than 3,000 metres above the river. According to local legend, a tiger once leapt across the narrowest part of the river to escape a hunter, giving the gorge its name. Whether or not the tale is true, the landscape is nothing short of spectacular. The Yangtze River, China's most iconic waterway, flows through this remarkable landscape. A cruise along the Yangtze, particularly through the Three Gorges region, offers unparalleled views of towering cliffs, mist-covered hills, and ancient temples perched along the riverbanks.

Experience it on:

Classic China
21 days Fully Inclusive Tour



Jiuzhaigou National Park



30 Days Visa Free Travel

Australian citizens can now enjoy extended **visa-free travel to China!** Since November 30, 2024, Australian passport holders are eligible to visit China for up to 30 consecutive days without the need for a visa. This new policy marks a significant step in making international travel easier and more accessible, perfectly aligning with our mission to provide seamless travel experiences for all our customers. As Australia's No.1 China specialist, we're here to help you make the most of this exciting opportunity.

**TRAVEL
VISA
FREE***



Kruger to Cape Explored



Last September, our UK Marketing Manager Natalie joined one of our **Kruger to Cape Explored** tours and had the most wonderful time. Natalie tells us about her adventure.

South Africa had always been high on my travel list, so when the opportunity arose to visit, I had my passport out in seconds. **Kruger to Cape Explored** was a tour that offered it all. We travelled from big cities to charming coastal towns, from forested mountains to vast bush plains, and feasted on delicious food and drink along the way. It was a wonderful introduction to a country I am already longing to return to.

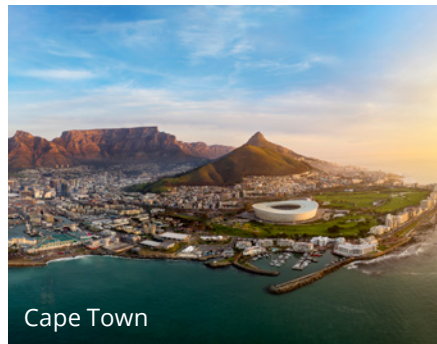


Apartheid Museum

History & Culture

There's no better place to get to grips with South Africa's history than Johannesburg. It's here you'll find the Apartheid Museum, perhaps one of the most memorable museums I have ever been to, with intensely thought-provoking exhibits illustrating the country's history of racial segregation, the resilience of its people, and the efforts of those who fought for equality. Even the way you enter the museum itself leaves its mark, with visitors divided at random and led through separate entrances.

Of course, South Africa's history stretches back millions of years, with hundreds of cultural influences shaping it into what it is today. An evening spent at GOLD Restaurant in Cape Town gave us a taste of some of those influences. As we tucked into a 14-dish taste safari of classic South African flavours, we were enthralled by the accompanying entertainment of Mali puppetry, dancing, marimba percussion, and even got to test our own rhythm with a group djembe drumming session!



Cape Town

Sensational Scenery

South Africa is undoubtedly one of the most scenically spectacular countries I have had the pleasure of exploring, and the diversity of its landscapes makes it all the more enchanting.

The aptly named Panorama Route provides showstopper after showstopper of scenic gems. The drive alone through the valleys of the Drakensberg Mountains is a



delight, and we stopped at various points to experience the area's wonderful natural beauty up close. We witnessed the immensity of the Graskop Gorge with a trip down to its base via a glass lift, enjoying a walk through a forested wonderland where we were introduced to some of South Africa's unique plant life.

Then there was a sight unlike anything I've seen before, the Bourke's Luck Potholes, formed over millions of years by erosion caused by whirlpools created at the point where two rivers meet. This geological site is truly impressive; with bridges crossing over the canyons, you can admire these mighty potholes from every angle. The Blyde River Canyon is the star of the Panorama Route and the views here of the cerulean river snaking between the peaks are utterly breathtaking.

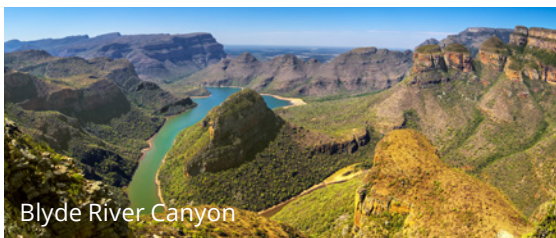
Food & Drink

Although I hadn't considered this a 'foodie' tour, if you're into your food, you will love it! Countless times throughout the trip we said things like "that was the best steak I've ever had" or "that was the best



“ On each of our game drives we set off in search of elephants, buffalos, lions, rhinos, and the elusive leopard. Did we tick off the full Big Five? We most certainly did! ”

fish I've ever eaten”, and quite frequently, “isn't this wine lovely?”. The food throughout South Africa is superb, whether you're eating in the café of a small coastal town or a big-city restaurant. I particularly enjoyed tasting the local delicacies. On our final night in the safari lodge, we feasted on authentic South African 'braai' with lots of meat grilled over an open flame, including impala, which was incredibly tasty. And if given the choice of chicken or ostrich when dining at the ostrich farm in Oudtshoorn, I would highly recommend choosing the ostrich steak—some of the leanest and tastiest meat in the world. There's no better way to get to grips with the local cuisine than a hands-on cooking class, and we enjoyed exactly that in Cape Town's colourful Bo-Kaap District, where we were taught how to make traditional Cape Malay samosas. Let's not forget the Cape Winelands. Our day spent in Stellenbosch and Franschhoek was the perfect way to end the tour. As well as sampling a whole host of South Africa's delicious wines (which are incredibly cheap, so be sure to leave space in your suitcase!), the scenery here is the epitome of picture-perfect.



Blyde River Canyon



Wonderful Wildlife

South Africa is renowned for its wildlife and, having grown up watching Disney's The Lion King on a weekly basis (not an entirely accurate representation, but enough to have me destined for a safari), I was extremely excited for this part of the tour.

We stayed on the outskirts of the more 'touristy' parts of Kruger National Park, meaning we weren't competing with other jeeps to get closer to the animal sightings. In fact, we could drive for miles without even passing another vehicle, so it felt like a truly authentic safari experience.

When it comes to safari bingo, the Big Five gets you a full house, so on each of our game drives we set off in search of elephants, buffalo, lions, rhinos, and the elusive leopard. Did we tick off the full Big Five? We most certainly did! We managed to spot all five on our first four safaris, so our fifth and final safari was a bonus! We saw so much more than the Big Five though, and who else can say they've stood at the side of a watering hole sipping on a hot chocolate as a bloat of hippos bathe in the waters? We even ventured into the bush on foot at one point to meet a trio of beautiful cheetahs who were snoozing after a feast of impala.

When you're not out on safari, there's the delights of your private game lodge to enjoy. You can unwind with a book picked up in the lodge library, take a dip in the pool and enjoy the sunshine, or even indulge in a massage. And keep your eyes peeled for wildlife while you're relaxing - you'll often spot an unphased nyala or troop of baboons making themselves at home.



Kruger to Cape Explored

13 days Go Beyond Group Tour
 Now from **\$13,690pp** twin share
 (Includes \$600pp saving. Ends 28 February)





The Best of Vietnam

Vietnam is a country overflowing with captivating wonders, so many that it's hard to choose where to begin. In fact, if you had to make a list, it would simply say one thing... everything! In situations like this, it's easy to just visit a couple of big-name places – in Vietnam's case, probably Hanoi, Halong Bay, and Saigon – and bypass all the great stuff in-between. So, we're here to guide you, to tell you about those other sights so you don't miss out on something magical. Whether it's culture you crave, natural wonders, spectacular nature, history that gets your heart racing, or food that you're most fond of – we've got you covered!

Best of Nature



Mekong Delta

Travel two hours west of Saigon and you'll find yourself in the heart of the Mekong Delta, a particularly bountiful area of Vietnam where rice, fruits, and vegetables are grown. On arrival, you'll hop into a small boat and cast off into the maze of palm-lined canals that criss-cross a landscape of paddy fields, orchards, flower farms, and lush meadows. Life in this riverine world is dictated by the rhythms of the Mekong, and everything takes place on the water – markets feature boats piled high with fresh fruits like dragon fruits and mangoes, houses stand high on stilts or bob gently at the river's edge, farmers work along the bountiful banks with teams of buffalo, and small crafts flit across the water carrying locals to and fro – a truly fascinating sight.

Best of Food



Tra Que Village

At Tra Que, an organic farming village just outside of the utterly charming town of Hoi An, you have to 'work' for your supper. And by work, we mean try your hand at a series of traditional farming techniques like watering, tilling, trenching, and tending herb gardens with the locals as your guides. Once you've worked up an appetite among the vegetables, you can head to the kitchen where the produce you just saw in the ground is ready and waiting to become something delicious. There are opportunities to get involved in the cooking process or to sit back and watch your chef teacher in action, picking up tips on one of the world's healthiest and most flavourful cuisines. Tucking into that meal of just-out-of-the-ground vegetables and herbs will be an absolute game changer.

Best of History



Tomb of Minh Mang

The city of Hue was the seat of Vietnam's emperors from 1802 until 1945. The place to discover the country's imperial history is full of treasures, albeit scarred by war, like the Imperial City and the Forbidden Purple City. The tombs of bygone rulers scatter the banks of the Perfume River outside the city, and Minh Mang's, in its forest setting, is the most impressive of the lot. The second ruler of the Nguyen Dynasty, Minh Mang's mausoleum is a complex complete with courtyards, pavilions, lakes, staircases, and stone bridges, featuring bright colours and elaborate ornamentation. Although significantly damaged in the Vietnam War, a series of conservation and rebuilding projects have returned the tomb to its former glory.

Best of Culture



Quintessence of Tonkin

Vietnam's culture can be easily experienced throughout your time exploring the country, but nothing showcases it in quite such a spectacular fashion as Hanoi's Quintessence of Tonkin. The show invites the audience to look at northern Vietnam's past from a contemporary perspective while focusing on different aspects of the region's culture, including poetry, music, art, and festivals. On a huge set at the foot of Tay Pagoda Mountain, everything about the staging is magnificent, from its setting to the huge number of performers to the folktales, music, and cultural essence highlighted. It is a must-see!

Halong Bay

Halong Bay is Vietnam's showstopper sight, a seascape unlike any other, with a fascinating mythology to match its beauty. Formed over centuries from easily erodible limestone karst rock, the turquoise waters of this secluded corner of the Bay of Tonkin are strewn with sheer, jaggedly sculpted towers and islets, many perfectly crowned with a scattering of green foliage. Legend says that the bay was created by ancient dragons who descended from the heavens to help the Vietnamese people protect their homeland from foreign invaders, a story that suits its mystical aura. Naturally, the best way to explore this picturesque panorama is by boat-drifting tranquilly through the formations, watching the comings and goings of junk boats, exploring caves, and observing life on the islands and floating villages.

Best of Landscapes



Best of River Cruising



Victoria Mekong

Discover the beauty of Vietnam's waterways aboard our very own vessel, the stylish Victoria Mekong. Unwind in spacious, modern staterooms designed for ultimate comfort while cruising along the Mekong River. Whether you're after a relaxing getaway, a cruise and beach holiday, or a longer tour through Vietnam, our cruises offer a truly memorable experience. Choose between a seven-night upstream or downstream itinerary and immerse yourself in the serene life along the Mekong, where timeless riverscapes and rustic countryside await.

**SAVE
\$900**
PER COUPLE



Vietnam Panorama

18 days Fully Inclusive Classic Group Tour

Now from **\$5,640pp** twin share

(Includes \$450pp saving. Ends 28 February)

Embark on an unforgettable adventure through southern Vietnam, from the vibrant Mekong Delta to the serene beauty of Dalat, then along the breathtaking coastline to the ancient charm of Hue. Conclude your journey in colonial Hanoi, before drifting through the tranquil waters of Halong Bay.

Price includes – flights, all meals, four-star accommodation, transport, touring with guides and entrance fees.



TRAVELLING SOLO? LET'S GO!

Whether you're a first-time solo traveller looking for an unforgettable adventure and not sure where to start, or a seasoned solo explorer seeking exciting new experiences, you've come to the right place.



Incredible Single Supplement Savings on our most popular tours for 2025 & 2026

Years of Experience

At Wendy Wu Tours, we've not only mastered the art of fully inclusive escorted touring, but we've also been guiding solo travellers around the world for over 25 years – especially to far-flung destinations that may seem daunting to visit on your own.

Stress-Free Travel

Our group tours offer a completely stress-free way to travel, allowing you to sit back and enjoy every amazing sight, sound, and experience as our expert guides showcase the wonders of their homeland. Plus, we take care of all your flights, accommodation, meals, daily tours, experiences, and even visas, making it easier than ever for solo travellers to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure without the stress of organising everything alone.

World-Class Guides

Whether you're travelling solo or with others, every Wendy Wu tour is guided by one of our award-winning National Escorts. We handpick only the most enthusiastic, passionate, friendly, and welcoming guides to lead our tours, ensuring you're in the very best hands. Your National Escort will take care of you every step of the way, going above and beyond to make sure you have an unforgettable experience, while their dedication helps the group bond and connect.

Supremely Sociable

Our group tours aren't just about sightseeing – they're incredibly sociable too. You're sure to make friends for life. Each tour includes a range of immersive, hands-on experiences, informal local dining, and cultural encounters that you'll share with fellow travellers. These are perfect icebreakers and fantastic ways to make lasting memories with new friends.

DEDICATED SOLO DEPARTURES

While solo travellers are always welcome on all Wendy Wu group tours, we also offer dedicated solo departures on some of our most popular tours. These departures are exclusively for solo travellers, allowing you to travel with a group of like-minded individuals.

Enjoy these fantastic benefits:



Smaller group size (max. 18)



A room of your own throughout the trip



Airport lounge access



Complimentary cocktail reception on arrival

SOLO TRAVELLER SALE

Travelling solo has never been better value with our Ready, Set, Travel sale. **Enjoy FREE or half price single supplement** for solo travellers on select departures to Japan, China, Southeast Asia, India, South Korea, Latin America and more. Don't delay as this offer ends on 28 February.



HALF PRICE
SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

Japan Uncovered

18 days Fully Inclusive Tour from \$15,980_{pp}

(Includes half price single supplement)

One of our most extensive Japan tours, featuring all the classic sights and key cultural activities. From modern cities and historical landmarks to beautiful landscapes, Japan Uncovered ensures you get the most out of your trip to this fascinating destination.



FREE
SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

Angkor to the Bay

18 days Fully Inclusive Tour from \$7,980_{pp}

(Includes FREE single supplement)

A popular tour that takes you from the breathtaking majesty of Angkor's temples to the spectacular natural grandeur of Halong Bay, with plenty of delights in between.



FREE
SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

Inspiring India

14 days Fully Inclusive Tour from \$6,380_{pp}

(Includes FREE single supplement)

Be inspired by the classic sights of India's Golden Triangle, discover delightful Udaipur, and search for Bengal tigers at Ranthambore. With hidden gems of Rajasthan, this is the perfect first-time holiday to India.



FREE
SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

Panoramic Peru

15 days Fully Inclusive Tour from \$13,980_{pp}

(Includes FREE single supplement)

On this thrilling journey through Peru, 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 Lake Titicaca.



FREE
SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

Majestic Yangtze

14 days Fully Inclusive Tour from \$6,680_{pp}

(Includes FREE single supplement)

Savour the natural grandeur of the Three Gorges on a relaxing Yangtze River Cruise, part of a wonderful tour that also includes China's enthralling cities of Shanghai, Xian, Beijing, and of course, the unforgettable giant pandas of Chengdu.



FREE
SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

Journey Through Jordan

10 days Fully Inclusive Tour from \$9,935_{pp}

(Includes FREE single supplement)

Experience the best of Jordan on this mesmerising tour. Explore the cosmopolitan capital Amman, the ancient Roman city of Jerash, and the famous fortress of Qa'lat Al Rabad. Marvel at the ancient wonders of Petra and the stark beauty of Wadi Rum before relaxing at the Dead Sea.

All tours include international flights, accommodation, transportation, meals, touring with guides, entrance fees, and visas.

Order your copy of our Solo Travel brochure at wendywutours.com.au



Mad About Morocco



Ok, we know describing a destination as a 'kaleidoscope of colours' is a bit of a cliché, but when it comes to Morocco, we'd like you to hear us out. There are the earthy tones of the traditional architecture, the shifting yellows and oranges of the desert sands and blues of the sea and sky, the jewel bright colours of the mosaics that decorate mosques, madrasas and medinas, and the rainbow hues of mounds of spices, powders, and dyes in the markets... we rest our case! And it's not just the colours that are out to get you, the whole place conspires to take all five of your senses on an adventure, to imprint itself on your memory, to be the subject of shared stories in years to come.

There are so many reasons that you are going to fall madly in love with Morocco; read on to discover our favourites.

Fez

Sat among low hills that are blanketed in olive groves and orchards, Fez is considered Morocco's spiritual and cultural capital and, as it was founded in the 6th century, is its oldest city too. At Fez's heart is its 9th-century UNESCO World Heritage-listed medina, its narrow streets lined with madrasas, mosques, palaces and private homes that boast beautifully ornate and intricate embellishment.

Volubilis

The ruins of Volubilis, sitting on an open plain, are so wonderfully atmospheric that it's easy to imagine what life was like in this once prosperous Roman city. The site's highlight is its mosaics, preserved in situ in the floors of the once splendid houses of wealthy merchants, public baths, and temples, which you'll stumble across as you wander the thousand-year-old streets.

Marrakech

Set in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains, Marrakech is Morocco's best known and most visited city. Founded in 1070, this is a place where, for centuries, the Middle East, Africa and Europe have mingled beneath the red clay walls of the old medina, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site – today, you can still catch a hint of the past as you explore those labyrinthine streets.

Ait Ben Haddou

A magnificent example of traditional Moroccan earth clay architecture, the ksar (fortified village) of Ait Ben Haddou has had many reincarnations in its illustrious career. Lawrence of Arabia (1962), and The Living Daylights (1987) and many, many more movies were filmed here, so visiting is like stepping into a film set, spotting backdrops that you might recognise from the big screen.

Chefchaouen

Up in the peaks of The Rif, Chefchaouen is the Moroccan town that you didn't know you knew. Here, whole streets are painted blue, making it both a very picturesque and much pictured destination. The coolness, both of the air and the vibe, make it a place for wandering, with enticing narrow alleyways that lead to lovely hidden corners in multiple shades of blue.

Essaouira

Small fishing village turned major port, Essaouira's old city is another UNESCO World Heritage Site, the streets full of traditional culture and character. Its 16th-century French-built ramparts are idyllic, while the sheltered harbour offers picturesque views of a crowd of blue fishing boats bobbing in the water.



Chefchaouen, Morocco

Erg Chebbi Desert

Riding camels, an evening under the clear desert skies and sleeping in tents, an overnight adventure in the Erg Chebbi Desert is one of Morocco's most memorable experiences. These camps, which emulate the way of life of the nomadic Berber people of the Sahara and sub-Sahara, also give the opportunity to see the desert at its most beautiful, at sunrise and sunset.



SAVE \$500 PER COUPLE



Moroccan Odyssey

19 days Fully Inclusive Classic Group Tour

Now from **\$10,230pp** twin share

(Includes \$250pp saving. Ends 28 February)

Venture into the mountains, through desert and lose yourself in the alleyways of age-old medinas and souks on this evocative adventure.

Price includes – flights, all meals, four-star accommodation, transport, touring with guides and entrance fees.



Experiencing Japan's Seasonal Wonders

Japan's seasons offer something truly special and unique at every turn, and visiting during autumn and summer promises a captivating blend of vibrant scenery and rich, cultural experiences. In autumn, the country transforms into a stunning tapestry of fiery red, orange, and gold as the leaves change, creating a picturesque backdrop for traditional festivals and serene temple visits.

Summer in Japan brings a buzz of excitement with dazzling fireworks, lively festivals, and warm days perfect for exploring its iconic gardens, hot springs, and tranquil countryside. While cherry blossom season may be the most famous, Japan's other seasons are equally enchanting and offer their own timeless beauty. Whether you're marvelling at the colourful autumn foliage or immersing yourself in the energy of summer celebrations, Japan's seasonal wonders will leave you with memories that last a lifetime.

Summer in Japan

From **June to August**, Japan's summer months burst into life with a vibrant array of cultural events and stunning sights. The season is marked by dazzling fireworks displays, centuries-old festivals like the Kyoto Matsuri, which dates back to the 9th century, and a variety of celebrations that give you an authentic glimpse into Japan's rich cultural heritage.

The humid yet refreshing rainy season, known as tsuyu, lasts from June to mid-July. During this time, the usual crowds thin out, making it the ideal period to explore the cities and attractions without the hustle and bustle. It's a wonderful opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture and beauty of Japan without the usual rush.

No matter when you visit, Japan's regional festivals offer unforgettable experiences. One of the most captivating is Obon, or the Festival of Souls, celebrated in August. This colourful event sees parades of musicians and dancers filling the streets as locals return to their hometowns to reunite with their families. The festival is a moving reflection of the strong familial bonds that shape Japanese culture.



► Discover our upcoming 2025/2026 autumn dep

As the summer progresses, it's also the perfect time to explore Japan's serene traditional gardens. Lose yourself in the lush, vibrant greenery of these beautifully designed spaces, where nature and tradition blend seamlessly. The countryside, with its rolling hills and rice paddies, offers a peaceful escape from the urban energy, allowing you to unwind and connect with nature.

And of course, no summer in Japan would be complete without a refreshing kakigori—Japan's iconic shaved ice dessert. Topped with a variety of syrups, fruits, and condensed milk, it's the perfect way to cool off during those warm summer days. Whether you're exploring the bustling streets of Tokyo or relaxing in the tranquility of Kyoto, a cold, sweet treat is always a welcome way to beat the heat.

In Japan, summer isn't just a season—it's a celebration of culture, nature, and traditions, making it one of the most magical times to visit.





Departures


Look out for this icon
in our brochures and
website for autumn
leave dates

Autumn Leaves

Not to be outdone by its springtime rival, the cherry blossom, but Japan's autumn foliage is fast becoming a 'must-see' attraction in its own right. As the warmth of summer fades and Aki (autumn) settles in, the cooler temperatures bring about a breathtaking display of colour. The vivid reds, oranges, and yellows of the autumn leaves create an iridescent glow across the country, transforming landscapes into vibrant works of art.

Autumn leaves in Japan are classified as either Koyo (foliage with red and yellow hues) or Momiji (intensely red maple leaves). The tradition of Momijigari, or autumn leaf viewing, has inspired artists and poets for centuries.

This cultural practice is deeply embedded in Japanese life, with families and friends gathering to celebrate the season with maple-flavoured foods, drinks, and decorations. Parks and temples become popular gathering spots, where people stroll through the breathtaking scenery, taking time to reflect and appreciate the fleeting beauty of the season.

For Buddhists, the autumn season holds special significance, as it serves as a poignant reminder of life's transience. This period is often associated with spiritual reflection, inspiring intentions and wishes for the future. The changing of the leaves is seen as a metaphor for the cycles of life, encouraging mindfulness and gratitude.

The best way to experience this captivating natural wonder is by joining us on a tour. Typically, the prime leaf-viewing period falls between **early October and early December**, with the northern regions experiencing it as early as **mid-September**, depending on local conditions. From the iconic maple trees of Kyoto to the serene temples of Nikko, you'll be surrounded by stunning landscapes that showcase the incredible range of autumn hues.

Don't miss the chance to witness one of Japan's most magnificent seasonal spectacles! Autumn in Japan is truly a time of awe and reflection, and one that will leave you with memories to cherish forever.



▶ Discover our upcoming 2025/2026 summer departures



New brochure
out now



Nyenchen Tanglha Mountains, Tibet

Travel to the Roof of the World

Bucket list destinations and travelling by train make the perfect partnership. It's really two adventures in one – exploring a place that is epic in every sense of the word and travelling to it in a way that is both relaxed and thrilling. So, when the destination in question is as special as Tibet, and the railway journey is on the highest train line in the world, you know you're in for something remarkable. Read on to discover just a handful of the experiences that await on our once-in-a-lifetime Tibetan Railroad tour.



Qinghai-Tibet Railway

The line once deemed impossible to build opened in 2006, running 1,215 miles from the city of Xining (also connected to Beijing and Xi'an) up onto the Tibetan plateau, terminating at Tibet's capital, Lhasa. It's the world's highest railway, nicknamed the 'Sky Road' in China, and is an incredible feat of engineering, much of it built on permafrost. You'll pass towering peaks, cross numerous rivers and gorges, and journey across the barren plateau, 5,000-metre-plus Himalayan mountains, high-altitude desert, grasslands, massive lakes, glaciers, and herds of woolly yaks. The highlight is the Tanggula Pass, the highest point of any railway in the world, at 5,231 metres above sea level. Though the journey takes 21 hours, with views like those outside the window, and air-conditioned carriages, soft bunk beds, and a restaurant car to keep you comfortable, fed, and refreshed, the time will fly by.

Tibet

Sat high on a stark plateau, Tibet is known as the 'roof of the world'. Nestled within the colossal peaks of the Himalayas, Tibet is a kingdom shrouded in mystery. Still every bit as mystical as the stories tell, you'll be swept up in the huge, endless landscapes of mountains, turquoise lakes, yak-strewn plains, the warmth of the locals, and a potent spirituality that is uniquely Tibetan.

Lhasa

Lhasa, Tibet's capital, is its heart and soul. Even with the rapid expansion of recent years, the city has managed to retain its almost magical air. While new buildings rise around its edges, at its core, you'll enter a world that feels a million miles from the modern one. Join the traditionally dressed pilgrims on their circuit of the Barkhor, feel the devotion in the sacred Jokhang, explore some of the major monasteries, and admire the former residences of the Dalai Lama – the Potala Palace watching over the city from its hilltop perch, and the Norbulingka, with its beautiful, landscaped park.

Everest Base Camp

At 5,150 metres, you certainly feel on top of the world at Everest Base Camp. A little tent town set in a valley with uninterrupted views of the mighty mountain, Everest Base Camp is like nowhere else on earth. Basic facilities include a Tea House, a few tent hotels, and the world's highest post office. But with views like these, what else would you need? Spending the night nearby, in a tent camp or guest house, lets you rise early and witness arguably the world's greatest sunrise, as the first rays of the day kiss Everest's snow-capped peak, lighting it in shades of pink and orange.



Shigatse

Shigatse, the traditional seat of the Panchen Lama, second only to the Dalai Lama in Tibetan Buddhism, is Tibet's second-largest city and an easy train journey from Lhasa. It's home to the Tashilhunpo Monastery, a miniature walled city sprawled down a hillside, and Tibet's largest religious institution. With a vibrant population of monks, wandering the cobbled streets offers a fascinating step back in time.

Gyantse

A charming, laid-back city, Gyantse was once a key stop on the trade route between India and Tibet. Its must-see sight is the Kumbum (meaning 100,000 images), a monastery renowned for its art and home to the largest chörten in Tibet. Join the line of pilgrims as they make their way through the series of chapels, beautifully decorated with 14th-century murals.



Tibetan Railroad

18 days Go Beyond Group Tour
 Now from **\$8,980pp** twin share
 (Includes \$600pp saving. Ends 28 February)

SAVE \$1,200 PER COUPLE



Introducing

Ocean Cruise & Tour Holidays



Last year, we launched our brand-new Cruise & Tour holiday collection, and we've been blown away by the incredible demand for these exciting itineraries. Offering the best of both worlds, these holidays combine an immersive land-based Wendy Wu tour with a fabulous ocean cruise – the perfect recipe for an unforgettable adventure!

With four fantastic cruise line partners to choose from - **Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises, Azamara Cruises and Norwegian Cruise Lines** – alongside a fantastic range of destinations, there's a Cruise & Tour holiday out there that's perfect for you.

Royal Caribbean



Celebrity Cruises



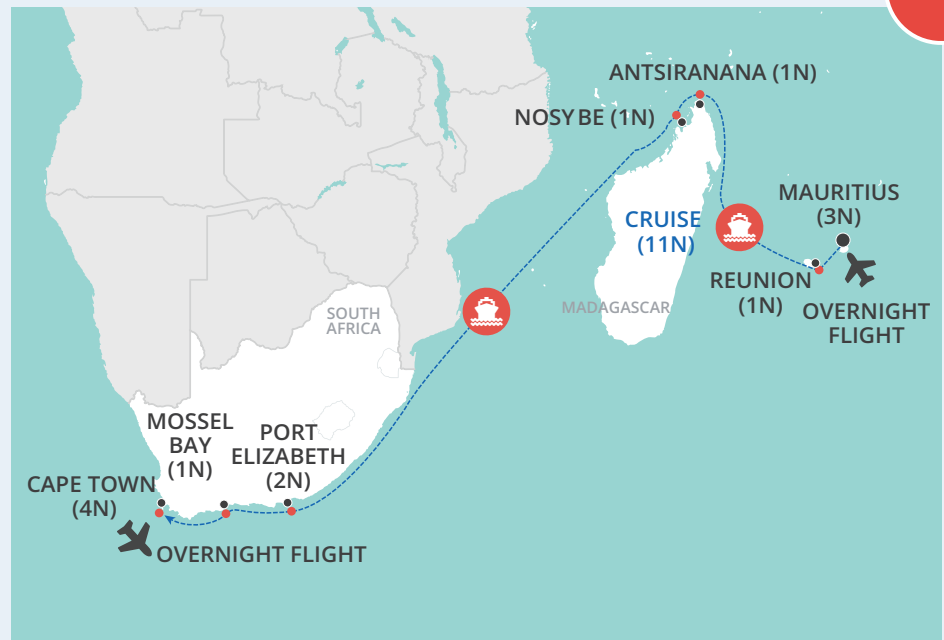
Azamara Cruises



Norwegian Cruise Lines



NEW



Mauritius, Madagascar & The Western Cape

21 days Cruise & Tour, from \$15,680_{pp} twin share

Embark on a spectacular journey from the Indian Ocean islands of Mauritius, Réunion, and Madagascar, around the southern tip of Africa, to the vibrant city of Cape Town. This unforgettable voyage blends breathtaking natural beauty, diverse wildlife, and rich cultural experiences.

Sail aboard the Norwegian Sun and enjoy the best of both worlds - relaxing at sea and exploring on land with Wendy Wu Tours. Discover the powder-white beaches, crystal-clear waters, and lush landscapes of three idyllic islands before heading west along South Africa's stunning coastline. Conclude your adventure in Cape Town, where you'll explore the Cape Winelands, a region that is an absolute feast for the senses. Enjoy a wine blending experience and a delicious wine and chocolate pairing. Next head to the Cape Peninsula and a visit to Boulders Beach, renowned for its resident African penguin colony.

From natural wonders to iconic sites, this cruise & tour holiday will see you delving into deep-rooted culture and dining on delicious cuisine, all the while enjoying once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

What's Included

The Mauritius, Madagascar & The Western Cape tour is designed to ensure that you make the most of your time in these exciting destinations. The package includes international flights, all transportation, 11-night cruise onboard the Norwegian Sun and four star accommodation. You'll enjoy all meals on the tour as well as expert local guides before and after the cruise, enhance your experience with fascinating insights.

In Pursuit of Pandas



UK VIP customer Wendy Harriss recently travelled to China on her fifth Wendy Wu Tours holiday. Joining our nine day 'In Pursuit of Pandas' tour, Wendy was able to tick off some items from her bucket list, including a visit to the Far East's most adorable resident, the giant panda. Here is the report she sent us about her adventure...



Forbidden City

After a seemingly short and excellent flight on board Air China's new A350-900 from Heathrow, we arrived at Beijing's bustling airport.

Directions were in Chinese and English, so we had no problem navigating our way to meet our local guide who accompanied us to the hotel. Later that evening, we met the rest of our group for the first time for dinner at a local restaurant. It was a lovely meal in great company, with plenty of laughter as we learned to use chopsticks. Then, it was off to bed at our very nice hotel for a welcome sleep before setting off the next morning to see bucket list sight number one, Tiananmen Square.

I thought I'd be amazed and a little sad knowing the square's history, but what I didn't expect was how huge the square was. Our local guide, Stephen, told us that it can hold over one million people! On the day we visited, the square was busy with people visiting from all over China, and many were wearing their colourful costumes; they found us fascinating and asked to pose for photos many times as we explored.

After an extensive tour of the square and the Forbidden City, our evening visit was to the Chinese State Circus, where we were treated to a show of death-defying, daring and eye-popping contortionism. Our excellent national guide, Summer, had secured front row seats for us, and I spent the next hour on the edge of mine as acts, each more impossible than the last, appeared before us on the stage. Bucket list item number two was a walk on the Great Wall of China.

It was an early start to avoid the crowds, but worth it to set foot on this truly mammoth feat of engineering that stretched out as far as the eye could see in both directions. We proudly managed to make it halfway to the top as the steps were all set at differing heights to stop invading enemies from running up them.



Terracotta Warriors

Then, it was straight onto bucket list item number three: a bullet train ride from Beijing to Xi'an, home of the Terracotta Warriors. For train enthusiasts, we reached a top speed of 350 kilometres per hour as the countryside whizzed by, enjoying a Subway picnic lunch that was delivered to the train at one of our stops – a very efficient service! We passed through the massive station and transferred to our hotel to drop off our bags before a walk along the top of Xi'an's beautifully preserved city walls.

The next morning was another early start to see bucket list sight number four: the awesome 2,271-year-old Terracotta Warriors. Having recently seen the Dan Snow documentary, we thought that we had an idea of what to expect, but the view that awaited us as we entered the first and largest pit more than exceeded our expectations. Not only do you see the army of warriors stretching out into the distance, but your nose is also greeted by the smell of them – a strange odour of slightly damp clay as you walk in the door.

So much restoration is still ongoing, as many of the warriors were destroyed during the peasant uprising. Every head, arm, and foot has to be matched to its corresponding body after being expertly repaired. Another fun fact: every single warrior has a different face – quite a feat, as there are thousands of them! We also saw pits with beautifully crafted horses and chariots.

Another bullet train ride took us through the mountains and many tunnels to bring us to beautiful Chengdu, the home of the Giant Panda Conservation and Breeding Centre. The next morning brought with it bucket list item number five – the pandas themselves. I have a vague recollection of seeing Chi Chi and An An at London Zoo as a child, and remembered them as being cute and cuddly, but I was unprepared for how unbearably cute they are, and how huge. Teddy bears with big teeth and claws!

There weren't only the black and white versions but also many red pandas, some curled up like cats with their tails tucked around them, and others playing among the bushes. The weather while we were in

Chengdu was warm and rainy, but this worked in our favour. Having big fur coats, pandas don't like hot days, so they were happily sitting munching bamboo shoots and posing for photos right in front of us.

Our trip was drawing to a close, but one last visit took us to Matchmaker's Corner, where anxious parents place adverts listing all the qualities of their unmarried children in the hope of finding a partner for them. Life is so fast-paced in China today, and young people work so hard that they do not have the time to meet anyone themselves. A walk through a local craft market was the ideal place to pick up some last-minute gifts before a final sleep and another excellent Air China flight home.

Pack your sense of adventure, sense of humour and an open mind, and leave any preconceptions behind, and China will surprise and delight you. It definitely did us.



Chengdu



In Pursuit of Pandas

9 days Fully Inclusive Group Tour
 Now from **\$4,380pp** twin share
 (Includes \$800pp saving. Ends 28 February)



The Grand Tour

For those who yearn to see more, explore further, and truly connect with the places they visit, Wendy Wu Tours' 'Grand Tours' offer the perfect option. Designed for curious adventurers who want to immerse themselves fully in their destination, and those with a little extra time to travel, these tours go well beyond ticking off the main sites. With durations of 26 days or more, our Grand Tours promise variety, in-depth experiences, and a holiday you'll remember fondly for a very long time!



Angkor Wat, Cambodia



Machu Picchu, Peru

Grand Tour of China

26 days Fully Inclusive Classic Group Tour
Now from \$8,280pp, twin share

(Includes \$600pp saving. Ends 28 February)



Our all-encompassing China tour offers the perfect mix of must-see sites and off-the-beaten-track locations. Begin in Beijing with China's most iconic sites: Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, and, of course, the Great Wall. Indulge in Peking duck before heading to Xi'an to meet the legendary Terracotta Warriors.

From here, unwind on a four-night Yangtze River cruise, visiting the Three Gorges Dam, Shennong Stream, and Snow Jade Cave. Then, in Chengdu, learn about China's beloved giant pandas at the Panda Conservation Centre while observing these gentle giants in action.

Next, it's time to leave the city behind and explore some of China's stunning countryside. Begin in Dali, visiting local Bai villages, the Three Pagodas, and the scenic Erhai Lake. In Kunming, wander through the striking Stone Forest and tuck into a local specialty – Three Bridge Noodles, before boarding a bullet train to Guilin. Here, a Li River cruise will take you to one of China's most scenic spots, Yangshuo, known for its spectacular landscapes and ancient cormorant fishing. Back in Guilin, visit the enchanting Reed Flute Caves before flying to peaceful Hangzhou. Discover the Temple of Inspired Seclusion, sip local tea, and relax on West Lake – absolute bliss!

It's back to city life in Suzhou, where China's Grand Canal runs through the historic centre, before concluding in cosmopolitan Shanghai. A scenic dinner cruise on the Huangpu River marks the end of this incredible adventure.

Grand Tour of Indochina

27 days Fully Inclusive Classic Group Tour
Now from \$10,530pp, twin share

(Includes \$450pp saving. Ends 28 February)



Experience the best of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, leaving no stone unturned as you take in the region's compelling history, magnificent splendour and must-see sites including the tranquil Halong Bay and the glorious Angkor complex.

Begin your journey in vibrant Saigon, exploring the poignant Cu Chi Tunnels and iconic sites like the Notre Dame Cathedral and Reunification Palace. Venture to Ben Tre for a scenic cruise through the Mekong Delta's lush waterways, then continue to Hoi An, where a lantern-lit Old Town and bustling markets await. Discover traditional techniques at Tra Que's community farm before enjoying a full day at leisure for your own explorations or some beach relaxation time.

Next, head north via the famously scenic Hai Van Pass to Hue and its Imperial Citadel and serene Perfume River, before flying to Hanoi for an exhilarating cyclo ride

through its Old Quarter. After exploring Hanoi's cultural gems, journey into the mountains to Mai Chau, visiting remote Thai and H'mong hilltribe villages.

Transfer to Halong where you'll board your overnight Halong Bay cruise ship, exploring its hidden caves and beaches. Back in Hanoi, take in a spectacular water show before flying to tranquil Luang Prabang in Laos. Witness the dawn ceremony of Takbat and cruise to the sacred Pak Ou Caves. Continue to Vang Vieng, famed for its stunning karst landscape, then on to Vientiane for a tour of That Luang Stupa and the Patuxai Monument.

Arrive in Phnom Penh, reflecting on Cambodia's harrowing history at the Tuol Sleng Museum and Killing Fields, before visiting Siem Reap. Discover the exquisite pink temple of Banteay Srei and marvel at Angkor Wat's grandeur. Your Southeast Asian adventure ends with a Tonle Sap Lake cruise and farewell dinner – a fitting end to this unforgettable adventure.

Grand Tour of India

29 days Fully Inclusive Classic Group Tour
Now from \$13,530pp, twin share

(Includes \$450pp saving. Ends 28 February)



There's no better way to experience this land of extraordinary contrasts than to explore all of its corners! This tour incorporates the famous Golden Triangle, the ancient city of Varanasi, tiger spotting in Ranthambore, the historical hill forts and palaces of Rajasthan and south India's laid back vibes.

Begin in India's vibrant capital, Delhi. Discover the contrasting worlds of Old and New Delhi, from the bustling spice markets to historic landmarks like the Jama Masjid and India Gate. Next, experience Varanasi, the spiritual heart of India, with a serene sunrise boat ride along the sacred Ganges.

In Agra, marvel at the ethereal beauty of the Taj Mahal at dawn and explore the Agra Fort before heading to Ranthambore for thrilling safaris in search of Bengal tigers. Continue to Jaipur, the Pink City, with its opulent City Palace and Amber Fort, and experience a unique camel ride in the desert oasis of Pushkar.

Journey through Rajasthan, visiting the golden sands of Jaisalmer, the imposing Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur, and the romantic lake city of Udaipur, where you'll cruise on Lake Pichola and explore the intricate City Palace. Discover the ancient rock-cut wonders of the Ajanta and Ellora Caves in Aurangabad before heading to Mumbai, India's bustling metropolis, for an immersive city tour.

Fly south to Kerala, where a peaceful overnight cruise through the backwaters offers a glimpse of local life. Conclude your journey with relaxation on the sun-kissed beaches of Kovalam and cultural exploration in Trivandrum.

Ultimate South America

29 days Go Beyond Tour

Now from \$24,580pp, twin share

(Includes \$2,000pp saving. Ends 28 February)



Discover South America's most breathtaking wonders on this epic journey. Begin in Peru's vibrant capital, Lima, rich in heritage and colonial architecture. Fly to Cusco and transfer to the Sacred Valley, where you'll experience local Quechua culture before taking a scenic train to the iconic Machu Picchu. Explore Cusco's Incan legacy before traversing the Andean highlands to Lake Titicaca, where you'll sail to Sun Island, birthplace of the Inca.

Cross into Bolivia to marvel at the vast Salar de Uyuni salt flats, then journey through Chile's stunning Atacama Desert to experience the surreal landscapes of Moon Valley and the sunrise spectacle of El Tatio Geysers. In Santiago, become immersed in Chile's vibrant culture, followed by a visit to the artistic, colourful port city of Valparaíso.

Head over the Andes to Argentina's Mendoza, renowned for its Malbec wines, and discover the European charm of Buenos Aires, where you'll witness the passion of tango. Enjoy a day on the Pampas for an authentic gaucho experience, then fly to Iguazu Falls, marvelling at this natural wonder from both the Argentine and Brazilian sides. Conclude your adventure in Rio de Janeiro, taking in panoramic views from Christ the Redeemer and Sugarloaf Mountain. Celebrate the journey with a traditional Brazilian feast, a perfect farewell to an extraordinary South American odyssey.

Combine Our Tours to Create Your Own Grand Tour

If you've got more than one destination or region of the world in mind but still want that fully immersive experience, you can combine two or more Wendy Wu tours to create a Grand Tour of your own!

Simply choose the individual Wendy Wu tours you'd like to combine and speak to our expert team. They'll help you select matching dates and flights, ensuring that your Wendy Wu Tours experience is as seamless as ever.

Perhaps you'd like to combine one of our China tours with a tour of Japan, or experience both India and Sri Lanka in one trip, maybe even pair South Africa and Morocco? Whatever combination you're after; our experts will take care of it for you.



Order your FREE copy of our travel brochures

Call us on: **1300 727 998**

Visit: wendywutours.com.au/brochures

you can also download a digital version or view online



WE OFFER TOURS THROUGHOUT ASIA, LATIN AMERICA, EUROPE & BEYOND

- Argentina • Armenia • Azerbaijan • Bhutan • Bolivia • Borneo • Botswana • Brazil • Cambodia • Chile • China • Colombia
- Costa Rica • Ecuador & Galapagos • Egypt • Georgia • Hong Kong • India • Japan • Jordan • Kazakhstan • Kyrgyzstan
- Laos • Mongolia • Morocco • Nepal • Peru • Philippines • Portugal • Saudi Arabia • Singapore • South Africa
- South Korea • Sri Lanka • Taiwan • Tajikistan • Tibet • Thailand • Turkey • Turkmenistan • Uzbekistan • Vietnam • Zimbabwe

To book call **1300 727 998** or see your travel agent

To see our full range of holidays visit wendywutours.com.au

STAY CONNECTED



wendywutoursaustralia