



JAPAN & SOUTH KOREA BY LAND & SEA CELEBRITY CRUISES

Classic Cruising Tour | 25 Days | Physical Level 1

SEOUL - JEJU ISLAND - KUMAMOTO - KAGOSHIMA - HIROSHIMA - KYOTO - MT FUJI - TOKYO -
YUDANAKA - TAKAYAMA - KYOTO

Join one of our most extensive tours of South Korea and Japan that combines land and cruise touring into one and discover classic sights and key cultural activities. Featuring modern cities, historical sights and beautiful landscapes, Japan & South Korea by Land & Sea ensures you get the most out of your trip.

- Discover Scenic Seoul
- Cruise on Celebrity Millennium
- Reflect in Hiroshima
- Be charmed by Kyoto
- Admire beautiful Mount Fuji
- Feel the rush of Tokyo

To book call **1300 727 998** or visit your local travel agent

Visit wendywutours.com.au

TOUR MAP

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 12 nights cruise on Celebrity Millennium
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated (*if dining on board throughout*) – 22 breakfasts (B), 21 lunches (L), 22 dinners (D)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees, transportation and transfers pre and post cruise
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides pre and post cruise
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

Pre and post cruise, the only elements or aspects you may have to pay for are personal expenditures e.g., drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.

During the cruise, your meals on board will be included in the main dining areas, however, should you wish to dine in any of the speciality restaurants not included in your cruising package, you will be required to pay for these locally. In addition, if you opt to dine off the ship, these meals will also be paid for locally, and please note you will not be refunded for meals missed on board. Excursions are also available to book with your cruise reservation at your own expense. Gratuities on board the ship are included in your tour cost.

CLASSIC CRUISING TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Japan and South Korea on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people combined with a cruise. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis pre & post cruise, so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements before and after your cruise are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

For travellers that have booked a 'Land & Cruise Only' tour with no international flights, please note the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if you are arriving on the start and departing on the conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre/post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours. Join the tour on Day 2 in Seoul and end the tour on Day 24 in Kyoto (depart from Osaka KIX airport). Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

We intend to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours, or as dictated by local conditions. In these circumstances, we will endeavour to make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip. Similarly, while cruise liners always endeavour to adhere to the published itineraries, they may be changed at the discretion of the captain due to weather advisories, port traffic, and any other unforeseeable circumstances.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

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

'Japan & South Korea by Land & Sea' falls under a Physical Level 1 category. A reasonable level of fitness is required, and you should expect to be on your feet for much of the day. You will be getting on and off coaches, trains or boats and walking around the sights, often including steps, plus occasional longer walks.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time, often on uneven surfaces
- You will be required to get on and off small boats without assistance
- You will be required to board the cruise ship without assistance and get on and off at ports if you wish to disembark the ship

Of course, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

DETAILED ITINERARY**Days 1-2 Seoul****Meals: D**

Fly overnight to the lively, fast-paced city of Seoul. On arrival you will be met by an English-speaking representative and transfer to your hotel in Seoul.

Please note: Early check-in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservation's consultant. You will be transferred by shared coach with other passengers who are not part of a Wendy Wu Tour. If you are on a shared bus transfer, you may have to walk for a few minutes to get to your hotel. Transfers will differ depending on group size.

**Destination Information**

Seoul – Capital of South Korea, Seoul is a dynamic metropolis where modern skyscrapers, shopping malls and pop culture meet Buddhist temples, palaces and street markets. Seoul was the capital of Korea from 1394 until the formal division of the country in 1948. However, its history stretches back over two thousand years. The name itself has come to mean “capital” in the Korean language.

Day 3 Explore Seoul**Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before being met by an English-speaking guide to embark a full day tour of Seoul.

Begin with a visit to Gwanghwamun Plaza, where you will encounter the statues of King Sejong and Admiral Yi Sun-Sin. Continue through Gwanghwamun gate to visit Gyeongbokgung (Gyeongbok) Palace, where you will witness the ceremonial changing of the guard. Next, change into some traditional clothes and visit Bukchon Hanok Village. Next, head to a local restaurant for lunch.



After, enjoy a Traditional Korean Kimchi cooking demonstration before taking a guided walk along the picturesque Cheonggyecheon Stream. Next, visit the Myeongdong area renowned for its trendy fashion boutiques, cosmetics shops, street food stalls, and more. You'll also have a chance to visit Myeongdong Underground where you will find all sorts of latest fashion trends and memorabilia.

Day 4 Embark Celebrity Cruise in Seoul**Meals: B, L, D**

You will be met by your English-speaking assistant and transferred to the Seoul cruise port. Upon arrival, board the Celebrity Millennium, where your cruise adventure begins! The rest of your day on the cruise ship is at leisure.

Please note, your National Escorts will not be accompanying you for the duration of your cruise.



Whilst onboard, enjoy the amenities the Celebrity Millennium cruise ship has to offer. Onboard activities available include silent discos, yoga, archery, as well as award-winning shows that offer amazing entertainment at sea. During your time here, you will also be able to benefit from the wide range of eateries, serving flavours from around the world.

Day 5 Cruising - Sea day**Meals: B, L, D**

Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship Celebrity Millennium has to offer.

**Day 6 Cruising - Jeju Island****Meals: B, L, D**

Your first stop on your cruise is Jeju Island. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

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

**Destination Information**

Jeju Island - Often referred to as the "Hawaii of South Korea," Jeju Island is a volcanic island renowned for its stunning landscapes, unique culture, and mild climate. The island is home to Hallasan, South Korea's highest mountain, which is a dormant volcano surrounded by lush national parklands. Jeju's dramatic coastline features lava tubes, cliffs, and pristine beaches. The island is also famous for its Haenyeo, or "sea women," who free dive to harvest seafood, a tradition recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage. Jeju's natural beauty and distinct cultural offerings make it one of South Korea's top destinations.

Day 7 Cruising – Kumamoto (Yatsushiro)**Meals: B, L, D**

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

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

**Destination Information**

Kumamoto (Yatsushiro) – Situated on the west coast of Kyushu Island, Kumamoto is a city steeped in history and natural beauty. Known as the "Land of Fire," it is home to Mount Aso, one of the largest active volcanoes in the world. Kumamoto also boasts a rich cultural heritage, exemplified by its iconic Kumamoto Castle, one of Japan's most impressive and historically significant castles. Despite suffering damage from a series of earthquakes in 2016, the city has shown remarkable resilience and is steadily restoring its landmarks.

Day 8 Cruising – Kagoshima**Meals: B, L, D**

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

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

**Destination Information**

Kagoshima – Located in the shadows of Mt Sakurajima, an active volcano, Kagoshima is commonly referred to as the "Naples of the East" due to its similarly mild climate and stunning bay. Kagoshima played a pivotal role in the modernisation of Japan, particularly in the Meiji Restoration, which saw Emperor Meiji move from Kyoto to Tokyo which then became the new capital. The city was once the seat of one of Japan's most powerful feudal clans, the Shimazu, that is currently in its 32nd generation.

Day 9 Cruising - Hiroshima**Meals: B, L, D**

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

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

**Destination Information**

Hiroshima – An atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima on 6th August 1945, and the city's name became famous worldwide for this unenviable distinction. The destructive power obliterated nearly everything within a 2km radius. The city has been rebuilt and has risen phoenix-like from the ashes with destroyed sites of historical heritage reconstructed.

Peace Memorial Park and Museum – The Peace Memorial Park and Museum is one of the most prominent features of the city. The trees, lawns and walking paths are in stark contrast to the surrounding downtown area. Before the bomb, this area was the political and commercial heart of the city which is why it was chosen as the target. The museum focuses on the events of August 6th and the ensuing outcome for the residents.

Day 10 Cruising – Sea day**Meals: B, L, D**

Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship, Celebrity Millennium has to offer.



Day 11 Cruising – Kyoto**Meals: B, L, D**

Today, arrive in Osaka, the closest port to the city of Kyoto. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later for an overnight stay in port.

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

**Destination Information**

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

Day 12 Cruising – Kyoto**Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy your second day at port in Osaka, making the most of the excellent range of facilities onboard your cruise ship or continuing your explorations of Kyoto.

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

**Day 13 Cruising – Sea day****Meals: B, L, D**

Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship, Celebrity Millennium has to offer.



Day 14 Cruising – Shimizu (Mt Fuji)**Meals: B, L, D**

Your cruising journey continues today as you dock in the port of Shimizu. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

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

**Destination Information**

Shimizu – Renown for being one of the most scenic ports in Japan, the port of Shimizu provides breathe-taking views of Mt Fuji (weather dependent). The port that was once used primarily for exporting tea, is now home to a four storey shopping centre, a number of museums and the Kashi-no-Ichi fish Market.

Day 15 Cruising – Tokyo**Meals: B, L, D**

Today you will dock in Tokyo (Yokohama). Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later for an overnight stay in port.

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

**Destination Information**

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

Day 16 Disembark ship in Tokyo**Meals: B, L, D**

Your cruise concludes today as you disembark the ship in Yokohama cruise port, here you will be met by an English-speaking guide.

Transfer to your Tokyo hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure. There will be a welcome dinner this evening.

**Day 17 Tokyo****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, embark on a full day tour of Tokyo. Begin with a visit to Sensoji Temple, arguably one of Tokyo's most popular and photographed temples and the oldest Buddhist temple in the capital. Go on to wander down Nakamise Shopping Street, a centuries-old souvenir street, where you will be able to enjoy some shopping opportunities for that perfect souvenir or pick up a local delicacy as there's plenty of scrumptious snacks too.



Next, participate in a sushi making class where you'll enjoy your own creations for lunch. This afternoon, stroll around the Imperial Palace followed by a visit to the Meiji Shrine, one of the most famous Shinto shrines in Japan and dedicated to Emperor Meiji. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before returning to your hotel.

Destination Information

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

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

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

Day 18 Snow Monkeys**Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and transfer to the station to take the Bullet train to Nagano. On arrival, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting Zenkoji Temple.

Next, transfer to Jigokudani Monkey Park, home to the famous hot spring bathing Japanese macaques, also known as snow monkeys. Accustomed to humans, the monkeys can be observed from very close, and almost completely ignore their human guests, although sightings cannot be guaranteed. After, you will transfer to your traditional Ryokan accommodation complete with kaiseki dinner.



Please note, from the bus park, you will walk approximately 30-minutes along potentially snowy paths on an incline, to the main pool where the monkeys bathe.

Destination Information

Jigokudani Yaen-Koen – Home to Japanese Macaques, also known as Snow Monkeys, Jigokudani literally means ‘hell’s valley’. It is named this because of the steam and boiling water that bubbles out of small crevices in the ground. It is in the baths of this hot water that the resident Japanese Macaques like to soak. The monkeys live in large social groups, and it can be quite entertaining to watch their interactions.

Day 19 Nagano to Takayama**Meals: B, L, D**

Check out of your Ryokan this morning and embark on a full day tour, beginning with a Soba Noodle making experience at Takagi.

Next continue onto visit Matsumoto castle before transferring to Takayama. On arrival, visit Festival Floats Exhibition Hall before checking in to your hotel. This evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

**Destination Information**

Takayama - Nestled in the heart of the Japanese Alps, Takayama is a beautifully preserved town that offers a glimpse into Japan’s Edo-period history. Known for its charming old town and traditional wooden buildings, Takayama flourished as a hub for craftsmen, particularly in woodworking. Takayama’s Hida beef is another highlight, reflecting the region’s agricultural heritage and culinary traditions.

Day 20 Takayama, Shirakawago, Kanazawa**Meals: B, L, D**

Today, enjoy a full day tour beginning with a morning visit to Takayama Market, Takayama Jinya and a stroll around the old town. Next, a visit to Hida Folk Village, an open-air museum that showcases traditional houses of the region and then Kanda House, one of the largest and best-preserved examples of gassho-zukuri architecture, to learn about the village's history and lifestyle.



After take a stroll through the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Shirakawa Village, taking in the picturesque scenery of the centuries-old houses set against the backdrop of mountains. Afterwards, depart and transfer to Kanazawa for check-in and dinner at your hotel.

Destination Information

Kanazawa - Known as the “City of Gold,” Kanazawa prospered during Japan’s Edo period as the seat of the powerful Maeda Clan. The city is renowned for its cultural heritage and its historic districts such as Nagamachi, the samurai quarter, and Higashi Chaya, the geisha district. Kanazawa is a leading centre for gold leaf production, a tradition that dates back to the 16th century. The city also boasts a thriving arts scene, with a history of exquisite craftsmanship in ceramics, lacquerware, and textiles.

Day 21 Kanazawa**Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, begin a full day of sightseeing with a visit to Kenrokuen botanical gardens and then the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art.

Next, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before strolling in Higashi Chaya district. Next, enjoy a Gold Leaf Experience and visit Nomura Samurai Residence, a beautifully restored home that once belonged to a high-ranking samurai family. Explore its elegant rooms, admire the exquisite garden, and gain insights into the lifestyle of the warrior class during the Edo period.

**Destination Information**

Kenroku-en Garden – One of Japan’s ‘Three Great Gardens’, Kenroku-en dates back to the early 17th century and is noticeable for its stunning beauty in all seasons.

Nomura Samurai Family House – Nomura Samurai Family House is a restored Samurai residence with a beautiful garden. Nomura was a high-ranked samurai of the Meiji Period.

Day 22 Kanazawa to Kyoto**Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, take the bullet train to Kyoto. On arrival embark on a guided tour of Kyoto. Begin with a visit to the Kiyomizu Temple. Next, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Then before visiting Gion, Kyoto's famous geisha district, renowned for its traditional wooden machiya houses and vibrant cultural scene. Then on to the Fushimi Inari Taisha Shrine. Afterwards, transfer to your hotel in Kyoto for check-in.

**Destination Information**

Kiyomizu Temple - Founded in 778 and dedicated to Kannon, Kiyomizu Temple is one of Kyoto's most iconic landmarks. Its name, meaning "Pure Water" comes from the Otowa Waterfall within its grounds. A highlight is the Hondo's veranda which is perched over the hillside, offering spectacular woodland vistas.

Fushimi Inari Shrine (Taisha) – An important Shinto shrine in southern Kyoto, Fushimi Inari is most famous for its thousands of vermilion torii gates which form a network of tunnels around the main shrine buildings. The shrine itself is dedicated to Inari, the Shinto god of rice. There are many fox statues in the grounds of the shrine as foxes are thought to be Inari's messengers.

Day 23 Kyoto**Meals: B, L, D**

This morning, first visit Nijo Castle, built in 1603, Nijo Castle was the Kyoto residence of Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first shogun of the Tokugawa Shogunate. Then on to Kinkaku-ji, Temple, before taking a break for some lunch. Afterwards, watch a Tea Ceremony before visiting Arashiyama Bamboo Grove. Next, return to your hotel. This evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

**Destination Information**

Arashiyama Bamboo Grove - Nestled in Kyoto's Arashiyama district, the Bamboo Grove is a tranquil forest of towering bamboo stalks, creating a serene and ethereal atmosphere. A popular destination for its natural beauty, the grove offers a peaceful escape with a unique, calming sound as the bamboo sways in the wind.

Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) – Kinkakuji Temple is a Buddhist temple and is an excellent example of Japanese garden design. The structure is a brilliant golden hue colour and is very minimalistic.

Days 24-25 Depart Kyoto**Meals: B**

This morning is free at leisure before transferring to Osaka airport for your return flight home, arriving home the same or the following day.

Please note: Only breakfast is included today. Late check-out is not included. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day in Kyoto, please contact our reservations department who can confirm additional pricing and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.



Transfers: In the event that your flight departs outside of the majority group departure time, you will be transferred to the airport by a shared coach (with other non-Wendy Wu Tours passengers). If you are on a shared coach transfer, you may have to walk for a few minutes to get to the coach.

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

TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

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

For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/>

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items.

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

INSURANCE:

It is a condition of booking Cruise & Tour that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance. We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS:

As we offer our customers a variety of airlines to suit your needs, passengers will arrive to South Korea and depart in Japan at various times during the day. Depending on the number of customers arriving/ departing on the same flight as yourself, the type of transfer to your hotel/ airport will vary.

You will always be met on arrival by English-speaking staff and transferred to your hotel either by:

- Direct shared bus (shared with other passengers, not just Wendy Wu Tours clients)
- Shared bus plus taxi from the nearest bus stop to the hotel (maximum 5-minute walk)
- Chartered coach (if there are more than 8 Wendy Wu Tours passengers arriving at the same time)

On the departure day, all passengers will be met by English-speaking staff at the hotel and transfer by one of the three ways above. For those passengers using a shared bus or shared bus plus taxi to the airport, the guide services end when they drop you off at the bus stop, and you will need to check in at the airport on your own. If you have paid extra for a private transfer, the above does not apply.

You will meet your National Escorts at the welcome dinner or, if arriving late, the following morning after breakfast at the welcome meeting.

Please ensure your Wendy Wu Tours luggage tag is visible on your suitcase/hand luggage, as this may also assist your guide in identifying you. If at any stage you are unable to locate your representative, please contact our Japan ground operator on the number included in your final documents.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside, and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in South Korea and Japan are extremely well-maintained and are comparatively smooth compared with the rest of Asia. Coaches and minibuses do not have onboard toilet facilities; however, frequent bathroom stops are made for passengers' comfort.

Bullet trains: Second-class reserved seats are booked for our groups on bullet trains in Japan. There are toilet facilities on board these trains. Due to the limited space on bullet trains in Japan, a separate luggage transfer service will be arranged for all suitcases (1 case per person). You will need to pack a separate overnight bag to carry on the train, as your suitcase will not arrive until the following day after a bullet train journey. Your guide will indicate when you need to prepare for this throughout your tour. Luggage transfer is generally not required for high-speed trains in South Korea, as trains have more generous storage space for suitcases.

ACCOMMODATION:

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

In Japan, hotel rooms and bathrooms are typically small. Standard single rooms are smaller than double or twin rooms, featuring a small double bed (or single bed) for one person. All group tour hotels have private Western-style bathrooms, air-conditioning, TV, and telephone. In the Fuji area of Japan, hotels are often traditional in style. You may be asked to remove your shoes at the door and store them in a secure locker - this is a typical Japanese custom.

In South Korea, some hotels have hot water restrictions, usually available only in the morning and evening. Hotels often do not have porters, so you will be expected to carry your luggage. If you need assistance, please speak with your National Escort or local guide. Rest assured, all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected to meet our standards and ensure your comfort.

MEALS AND DIETARY INFORMATION

Korean and Japanese cuisines are renowned for their delicious, healthy, and vibrant flavours. In South Korea, meals typically include rice, soup, and banchan (side dishes) such as kimchi, fish, and meat. Korean food tends to be spicier than Japanese or Chinese dishes. In Japan, meals are centred around rice, miso soup, fish, pickled vegetables, and meat, with noodles like udon and soba being staples. Most meals are eaten with chopsticks, as cutlery is not always provided.

All meals (excluding drinks) are included in fully inclusive group tours from arrival to departure. Breakfast is usually buffet style but may occasionally be a set menu. Lunch is often pre-set as is common in local restaurants, while dinner may be buffet-style or pre-set, featuring a variety of Japanese, Korean, and Western dishes. Your guides pre-book meals to ensure you experience a range of local cuisines and cooking styles. On busy sightseeing days, your group may dine directly after tours without returning to the hotel.

In South Korea, restaurants specialise in specific items, so desserts or coffee require separate venues, such as dessert or coffee shops.

Dietary Requirements

If you have dietary restrictions, please inform us before the tour begins. Our guides will do their best to accommodate requests (e.g., gluten-free or vegetarian meals), but challenges may arise due to differences in food preparation and availability, especially in rural areas. Travelers with food intolerances are advised to bring snacks or supplementary items, as options may be limited outside major cities. Although efforts are made to cater to diverse needs, dietary accommodations may not always meet Western expectations. Your understanding and patience are appreciated.

CRUISE ACCOMODATION AND CABINS

At the time of booking, subject to availability you may have the choice to book from an outside cabin or balcony cabin. Should you wish to upgrade to a suite or have a special request for cabin location, please speak to our reservations department who will be able to assist.

CRUISE – CELEBRITY MILLENNIUM:

The Celebrity Millennium is made up of 12 decks, and offers a wide range of amenities, including; 9 restaurants, 2 swimming pools as well as lounges and bars. Performances will take place each night on the main stage of the ship's theatre, from comedy shows, circus performers to Broadway-style shows. Guests on the Celebrity Millennium will also be able to enjoy cooking, dance and language classes as well as wine tasting opportunities and sporting events. Onboard spa (with saunas) facilities are also available.

CRUISE EMBARKATION & DISEMBARKATION:

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

We strongly recommend guests complete their Online Check-In before departing Australia. Online Check-in is available 45 days before your cruise and remains available up to 3 days before you cruise. App check-in is available 45 days before your cruise and remains available until the morning of your sailing.

Once you have completed the Check-In process online or in the app, you will receive an Xpress Boarding Pass. This indicates that you successfully completed the check-in process for yourself and those guests listed on your Xpress Pass.

During check-in, you're required to select an arrival time. The time you will need to select will be provided in your final documentation. One of the benefits of app check-in is that your arrival time is listed on your mobile Xpress Pass.

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

SHORE EXCURSIONS AND CRUISE INCLUSIONS:

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

DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN:

South Korea and Japan are developed countries and as such matches the West in modernity and technological advances. South Korea and Japan are extremely safe countries and take great responsibility in maintaining high safety standards.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCE:

Korean and Japanese society and culture are built on intricate social etiquette and customs. As foreigners, we are not expected to be knowledgeable about all etiquette, but it will make your time in South Korea and Japan more enjoyable if you are respectful of local customs. Some examples of scenarios you may encounter include removing your shoes and hats when entering a temple or house (some restaurants as well). You may be supplied with slippers at some places, but please come prepared with plenty of spare socks, and shoes that are easy to take off for the fairly regular occasions when they must be removed. Your National Escorts will advise you of some of these other customs at the beginning of your tour in each country.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

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

South Korea:

- **Seollal (Lunar New Year):** 17th–19th February 2026
- **Buddha's Birthday:** 8th May 2026, 24th May 2026
- **Children's Day:** 5th May annually
- **Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving):** 5th–7th October 2025, 24th–26th September 2026

Japan:

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

WEATHER:

Japan and South Korea each experience distinct four-season climates, offering a wide range of weather conditions throughout the year. Japan's climate varies by region, but generally includes hot, humid summers from June to September and cold winters with snowfall in northern areas like Hokkaido. Spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November) are particularly popular for their mild temperatures, cherry blossoms, and vibrant fall foliage. South Korea has similar seasonal variations, with hot, humid summers and cold, dry winters, often accompanied by snow in mountainous regions. Spring and autumn provide pleasant weather with clear skies and colourful landscapes.

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

When traveling to Japan and South Korea, pack for their varied four-season climates. In spring and autumn, bring lightweight layers like cotton shirts, cardigans, and jackets. For summer, choose breathable, moisture-wicking fabrics in light colours, and pack a hat and sunscreen for sun protection. Winters can be cold, especially in northern Japan and South Korea's mountainous regions, so pack warm clothing, including coats, thermals, scarves, and gloves. For city exploration, casual yet neat attire is ideal, particularly when visiting cultural or religious sites where modesty is appreciated. Comfortable walking shoes are essential for urban areas like Tokyo and Seoul. For outdoor activities, bring sturdy footwear and weather-appropriate outerwear.

An umbrella or lightweight waterproof jacket is advisable during the summer rainy season. Don't forget a camera or smartphone with extra storage and chargers to capture Japan's cherry blossoms, South Korea's autumn foliage, and the vibrant cities. Include a small medical kit with basic first aid supplies and any personal medications. Whether visiting temples, soaking in an onsen, or enjoying local cuisine, you'll be prepared for an unforgettable experience.

Onboard Dress Code: Smart casual attire is required for the main dining, specialty dining, and Celebrity Theatre. Shorts and flip-flops are not permitted. Each itinerary features one to two "formal" nights, known as Evening Chic. This is your opportunity to dress to impress—glamorous and sophisticated in your own way. Examples include a cocktail dress, skirt, slacks, designer jeans, or an elegant top or blazer. Some guests even opt for a tuxedo or gown for onboard photos. A daily program, delivered to your stateroom and available at the Guest Relations Desk, will outline the attire for each evening. If you prefer not to participate in Evening Chic, Smart Casual attire is acceptable for dining and the theatre.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

On your cruise: While luggage allowance on your cruise may permit further capacity, we ask you to adhere to the above restrictions due to airline and touring allowances. Suitcases should be tagged, luggage tags can be accessed electronically through the Guest Account (click "View Your Documents", multiple tags can be printed). For your convenience, we recommend that your luggage tags be placed on your bags prior to arrival at the port but if printing is not possible, luggage tags are available at the cruise terminal. Ensure the stateroom number and room location, as reflected on the XpressPass, are noted for reference.

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

PORTERAGE:

Pre & Post Cruise:

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

Cruise:

If you check your luggage with a porter, your checked baggage should be delivered to your stateroom within a few hours of setting sail if tagged properly.

When disembarking you will leave your luggage outside your cabin door on the last night of your cruise. Staff will then be able to make arrangements for your luggage, ready for disembarkation early next morning. Please also note, it is customary to tip for the portorage service.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:

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

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to cities outside of Tokyo. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be very limited. Your National Escorts will remind you to do this before departure.

TIPPING / GRATUITIES:

South Korea: Tipping is not a common practice but is generally appreciated. If you wish to show gratitude to your guide or driver, it's recommended to avoid offering a small token amount, as this may cause discomfort. Presenting your tip in a small envelope and in local currency is considered polite.

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

Cruise: On board gratuities are included in your tour cost (Based on standard cruise inclusions).

Please note: a 20% gratuity will be automatically added to all additional pre-cruise and onboard purchases of spa and salon services, beverages and beverage packages, specialty dining and specialty dining packages, room service and mini bar purchases.

CLIMBING STEPS:

Sightseeing at nearly all the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps. These palaces were built to provide defence against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steps to slow down the advance of enemies once they were inside. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails.

Buddhist temples or pagodas also tend to be built at an elevation, as this is the most auspicious position according to ancient beliefs. This means you sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb some steps inside.

People with knee or hip injuries who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

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

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

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

Updated: January 2025