



# SINGAPORE TO TOKYO WITH AZAMARA CRUISES

Classic Cruising Tour | 24 Days | Physical Level 1

SINGAPORE - HO CHI MINH - DANANG - HONG KONG - TAIPEI - MIYAKO ISLAND - OKINAWA  
- KYOTO - NAGANO - TOKYO

This cruising tour includes all the classic sights and key cultural activities you would expect to see whilst visiting Japan, with the bonus of experiencing Singapore, Southern Vietnam, Hong Kong and Taipei as well. Featuring modern cities, historical sights and beautiful landscapes, Azamara: Singapore to Tokyo ensures you get the most out of your trip to these fascinating regions.

- Visit the vibrant capital, and ancient capital of Japan: Tokyo and Kyoto
- Become immersed in the fast-paced life of Hong Kong
- Embrace the hustle and bustle in Taipei
- Admire the impressive Garden's by the Bay in Singapore
- Soak up the excitement of Vietnamese culture
- Search for the native snow monkeys

TOUR MAP

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### TOUR INCLUSIONS:

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- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 14 nights Azamara cruise on Azamara Pursuit
- Vietnam travel visa for Australian passport holders
- 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 Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides pre and post cruise only. (no national escort or guide while on board cruise)
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

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

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

### CLASSIC CRUISING TOURS:

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Our classic cruising tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Singapore, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan. The combination of cruise and tour is perfect for those who wish to undertake both experiences whilst travelling with like-minded people. 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 or Local guide pre & post cruise only, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

### JOINING YOUR TOUR:

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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 1 in Singapore and end the tour on Day 23 in Tokyo (departures from either Tokyo Haneda or Tokyo Narita Airports). Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

### ITINERARY CHANGES:

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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:

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All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

'Singapore to Tokyo with Azamara Cruises' is rated as a **physical level 1** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required, and you should expect to be on your feet for much of the day. You will be getting on and off coaches, trains 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 Escort and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.



**DETAILED ITINERARY****Day 1: Singapore****Meals: D**

Fly overnight to the vibrant city of Singapore. Upon arrival, you will be met at the airport by your English-speaking representative. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will be transferred to your hotel.

*Please note: Early check-in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservation's consultant. 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**

**Singapore** – This tiny republic sits just above the equator at the tip of the Malay peninsula. The trading port was put on the global map by Stamford Raffles, who negotiated the 1819 Treaty of Singapore, when the British East India Company opened up a trading port. Singapore passed through the hands of Britain, Japan and Malaysia before gaining full independence in 1965. Today, it has a highly developed economy and is ranked as a world leader in healthcare and education.

**Day 2: Singapore****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast this morning, begin your full day city tour with a visit to Singapore's historic Chinatown, a bustling mix of old and new, filled with traditional shops and markets as well as a selection of stores and cafes.

Enjoy a stop at the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Museum, located in Chinatown before visiting the Kampong Glam, a historically rich and vibrant neighbourhood dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Here, you will also get to learn about the art of teh tarik or "pulling tea". Continue your tour with a visit to the Civic District, passing by the historic Parliament House and the National Gallery Singapore before arriving at the Merlion Park. Enjoy views of the Marina Bay before taking a stroll through the hidden underground walkway, once a vital tunnel used for transporting mail, now serving as a corridor for The Fullerton Hotel where you will enjoy an afternoon 'high' tea for lunch.



This evening, embark on a sunset river cruise up Singapore River before enjoying dinner at a local seafood restaurant. To conclude your evening, you will visit the colourful Gardens by the Bay. Explore the unique architecture before enjoying the impressive Gardens by the Bay Light Show.

### Destination Information

**Gardens by the Bay:** This large public garden is famous for its Supertree Grove – vertical gardens built on tree-like sculptures up to 50 metres tall. Atop them sits the Sky Garden, accessible by elevated walkway.

**Chinatown:** Chinatown's maze of narrow roads includes Chinatown Food Street, with its restaurants serving traditional fare like Hainanese chicken rice, noodles and satay. Souvenir shops and indie boutiques dot the area, offering clothes, crafts and antiques, while Club Street is full of trendy wine bars.

**Civic District** – This area has a rich history dating back to the colonial era, serving as the administrative and political heart of the city-state. It was here the Singapore declared its independence in 1965.

### Day 3: Embark Azamara cruise in Singapore

Meals: B, L, D

Today, you will board your Azamara Pursuit cruise ship to begin your voyage tonight. Spend the day acclimatizing to life on board.

*Please note, your Guide will travel with you to the port, however they will not board the cruise with you. You will be met again by your new Guide once you disembark in Kobe.*



### Day 4: Cruising

Meals: B, L, D

Whilst onboard, enjoy the entertainment and amenities the Azamara Pursuit cruise ship has to offer. Meals can be enjoyed from 6 different restaurants & cafes, whilst drinks can be consumed at several lounges & bars (including a wine cellar). The entertainment on offer includes nightly theatre shows, a nightclub, and areas onboard with live music. Relaxation can be enjoyed at the spa (with treatments available) or whilst shopping in one of the many boutiques available onboard.



**Day 5: Cruising – Ho Chi Minh City / Saigon****Meals: B, L, D**

This afternoon, dock in Ho Chi Minh City. Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise.

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Ho Chi Minh City** - Ho Chi Minh City, commonly known as Saigon, is the most populous city in Vietnam, with a population of around 10 million in 2023. The city's geography is defined by rivers and canals, of which the eponymously named Saigon River is the largest.

**Day 6: Cruising - Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam****Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy your second day in Saigon soaking up what this vibrant city has to offer. Return to the cruise ship to depart Ho Chi Minh this evening.

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Day 7: Cruising****Meals: B, L, D**

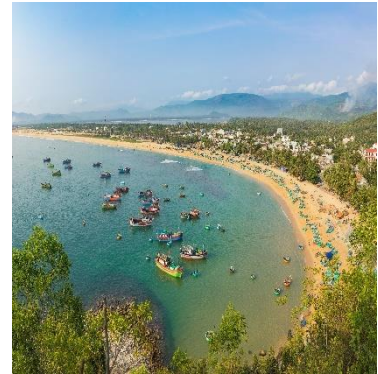
Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship Azamara Pursuit has to offer.



**Day 8: Cruising – Hue / Danang, Vietnam****Meals: B, L, D**

This morning, dock in Hue / Danang. Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Return to the cruise ship to disembark Hue / Danang this evening.

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Hue** – Hue is a city in central Vietnam that was the seat of Nguyen Dynasty emperors and the national capital from 1802 to 1945. A major attraction is its vast, 19th-century Dai Noi Citadel, surrounded by a moat and thick stone walls. It encompasses the Imperial City, with palaces and shrines; the Forbidden Purple City (Tử cấm thành), once the emperor's home; and a replica of the Royal Theater.

**Danang** – Da Nang is a coastal city in central Vietnam known for its sandy beaches and history as a French colonial port. It's a popular base for visiting the inland Bà Nà hills to the west of the city. Here the hillside Hải Vân Pass has views of Da Nang Bay and the Marble Mountains. These 5 limestone outcrops are topped with pagodas and hide caves containing Buddhist shrines.

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

Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship Azamara Pursuit has to offer.





**Day 10: Cruising – Hong Kong****Meals: B, L, D**

This morning, dock in Hong Kong. Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise. Return to the cruise ship and spend the remainder of the evening at leisure.

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Hong Kong** - Nestled in the Pearl River Estuary, Hong Kong is the personification of culture blend. Influenced by Chinese and British traditions, ways of life and habits, Hong Kong has emerged from being a small fishing community to one of the leading financial districts and richest cities in the world. With its deep-water harbour, stunning mountain vistas and urban glamour, Hong Kong is a buzzing blend of excitement and mystery.

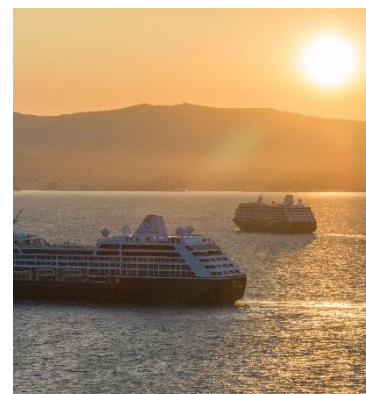
**Day 11: Cruising - Hong Kong****Meals: B, L, D**

Spend a second day in Hong Kong with a range of excursions to choose from, at your own expense and bookable on your cruise. Return to the cruise ship to depart Hong Kong this evening.

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

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

Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship Azamara Pursuit has to offer.



**Day 13: Cruising – Taipei, Taiwan****Meals: B, L, D**

This morning, dock in Taipei. Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise.

Return to the cruise ship to disembark Taipei this evening.

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Taipei** - Taipei, the capital of Taiwan, is a modern metropolis with Japanese colonial lanes, busy shopping streets and contemporary buildings. The skyline is crowned by the 509m-tall, bamboo-shaped Taipei 101 skyscraper, with upscale shops at the base and a rapid elevator to an observatory near the top. Taipei is also known for its lively street-food scene and many night markets, including the expansive Shilin market.

**Day 14: Cruising – Hirara, Miyako Island, Japan****Meals: B, L, D**

This morning, dock in Hirara. Enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable on your cruise.

Return to the cruise ship to depart Hirara this evening.

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

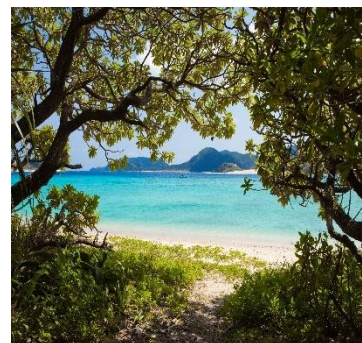
**Miyako Island** - Miyako Island is the largest and the most populous island among the Miyako Islands of Okinawa Prefecture, Japan. Miyako Island is administered as part of the City of Miyakojima, which includes not only Miyako Island, but also five other populated islands.

**Day 15: Cruising – Naha Okinawa, Japan****Meals: B, L, D**

This morning, dock in Naha Okinawa. Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise.

Return to the cruise ship to depart Naha this afternoon.

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Naha Okinawa** – Naha is the capital of Okinawa Prefecture, the tropical island group south of mainland Japan. It's known for Shuri Castle, the restored royal palace of the Ryukyu Kingdom, which flourished from the 1400s–1800s and invented the martial art karate.

**Day 16: Cruising****Meals: B, L, D**

Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship Azamara Pursuit has to offer.

*Please note: You will be requested to leave your bags outside your cabin this evening. This allows the cruise team to collect your luggage in the early morning ahead of your disembarkation, without disturbing you in the early hours.*

**Day 17: Disembark Azamara Cruise in Kobe – Kyoto, Japan****Meals: B, L, D**

Upon arrival into Kobe cruise port this morning, you will be met by an English-speaking guide. Transfer to your hotel for check in and enjoy the rest of your day at leisure.



### Destination Information

**Kobe** - Kobe is a city on Osaka Bay in central Japan. It is known for its signature marbled beef and scenic setting of mountains framing the harbor. The Ikuta Shrine, dating to the 3rd century, is among Japan's oldest Shinto shrines.

**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 nearby Nara, including old shrines and temples, screen paintings, beautiful gardens, and statues of Buddha.

**Day 18: Kyoto**

**Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy your full day tour of Kyoto today. Your first stop begins with a visit to the beautiful Kinkaku-ji Temple, also known as the “Golden Pavilion”.

Next, head to Ryoanji Temple and Kiyomizu Temple before lunch. After, enjoy a visit to the Arashiyama Bamboo Forest and the Tagetsukyo bridge. Tonight’s meal will be at a local restaurant, serving a traditional Kaiseki dinner.



### Destination Information

**Ryoanji Temple** - Ryoanji Temple is a Zen temple renowned for its garden, which features a dry, sand landscape with large rocks and smooth pebbles.

**Golden Pavillion** - Kinkakuji Temple is a Buddhist temple and an excellent example of Japanese garden design. The structure is a brilliant golden hue colour and is very minimalistic.

**Day 19: Kyoto**

**Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy your second full day tour of Kyoto. We will begin with a visit to the Fushimi Inari Shrine, famous for its corridors of torii gates, followed by a trip to the Gekkeikan Okura Sake Museum (or local beer factory). Due to the limited space at Fushimi Inari Shrine coach parking, you may need to walk from coach parking for 15 minutes.

Afterwards, enjoy a Sukiyaki lunch at a local restaurant, and then spend some time visiting the Kiyomizu Temple, founded in the 8th century and situated halfway up the Otowayama Hill allowing for stunning views of Kyoto. You will walk up part of the mountain on an incline at a steady-pace for approximately 15 minutes, there will also be steps involved. You will then spend 1 and a half hours on foot exploring the temple.

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





### Destination Information

**Fushimi Inari Shrine** - 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 on the grounds of the shrine, as foxes are thought to be Inari's messengers.

**Sukiyaki** - A Japanese dish that is prepared and served in the nabemono style. It consists of meat which is slowly cooked or simmered at the table, alongside vegetables and other ingredients, in a shallow iron pot in a mixture of soy sauce, sugar, and mirin.

**Gion Corner** - Gion is Kyoto's geisha district, with hostesses in colourful kimonos often sighted on the wooden Tatsumi Bridge, or amid upscale Japanese restaurants and boutiques on Hanamikoji Street. Gion Corner hosts traditional Kyomai dances, while Kennin-ji Temple is known for its Zen garden and Yasaka Shrine has seasonal festivals in a lantern-lit courtyard.

*Please note: You will need to prepare a small bag for your overnight stay in Nagano. Your main luggage will be transferred separately to your hotel in Tokyo.*

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### Day 20: Kyoto - Nagano

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast this morning, you will experience travelling by bullet train! Travel rapidly to Mt Fuji via your first stop - Oishi Park. Here experience great views of Mt Fuji (weather dependent).

*In case of bad weather, you will visit the Mt Fuji World Heritage Centre instead.*

Visit a local restaurant for lunch before heading to Hakone to board a mini cruise on Lake Ashi. Take the cable car up to the viewpoint on Mt Komagatake where you will have the chance to admire the unforgettable views of Mt Fuji and Lake Ashi below (weather dependent).

You'll then be transferred to Nagano. Enjoy using the onsen facilities on-site, followed by a traditional Kaiseki dinner at your ryokan.



### Destination Information

**Mount Fuji** – At 3,776m, Mount Fuji is the highest of Japan's mountains and an iconic symbol of the country. Mount Fuji is notoriously shy and is often enveloped by clouds.

**Lake Ashi** – Formed after Mount Hakone's last eruption 3000 years ago, Lake Ashi is the symbol of Hakone and on a clear day offers spectacular views of Mount Fuji in the distance.

**Komagatake Ropeway** – Komagatake Ropeway goes from the shore of Lake Ashi to near the Komagatake peak of Mount Hakone. When the weather and visibility is good, panoramic views of Lake Ashi and Mount Fuji can be enjoyed.

**Ryokan** - Ryokan are Japanese-style inns found throughout the country, especially in hot spring resorts. More than just a place to sleep, ryokan are an opportunity to experience the traditional Japanese lifestyle and hospitality, incorporating elements such as tatami rooms, futon beds, Japanese-style baths and local cuisine, making them popular with both Japanese and foreign tourists alike.

**Day 21: Nagano – Tokyo**

**Meals: B, L, D**

Following on from breakfast, travel to Jigokudani Monkey Park - home of the famous Japanese Snow Monkeys.

*From the bus park, you will walk approximately 30 minutes along sometimes snowy paths on an incline, to the main pool where the monkeys bathe.*

Accustomed to humans, the monkeys can be observed from very close, and almost completely ignore their human guests.



Afterwards, pay a visit to Zenkoji temple, a 7th Century Temple before transferring back to Tokyo. Enjoy this evening at leisure.

### Destination Information

**Jigokudani Monkey Park** - Jigokudani Monkey Park is located in Yamanouchi, Nagano Prefecture, Japan. It is part of the Joshinetsu Kogen National Park, and is located in the valley of the Yokoyu-River, in the northern part of the prefecture.

**Zenkoji Temple** - Zenkō-ji is a Buddhist temple located in the city of Nagano, Japan. The temple was built in the 7th century. The modern city of Nagano began as a town built around the temple.

**Day 22: Tokyo****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, you will embark on your full day tour of Tokyo. Begin with a visit to Sensoji Temple, Tokyo's oldest temple, followed by a wander down Nakamise Shopping Street. This street has been providing temple visitors with a variety of traditional local snacks and tourist souvenirs for centuries.

Next, head to Tokyo Sky Tree to admire the panoramic views before participating in sushi making class where you'll enjoy your own creations for lunch.

This afternoon, pay a visit to the Shibuya Crossing for a quick photo stop followed by the Meiji Jingu Shrine, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and wander through Ginza before returning to your hotel.



### Destination Information

**Tokyo** - Tokyo, Japan's busy capital, mixes the ultramodern and the traditional, from neon-lit skyscrapers to historic temples. The opulent Meiji Shinto Shrine is known for its towering gate and surrounding woods. The Imperial Palace sits amid large public gardens. The city's many museums offer exhibits ranging from classical art (in the Tokyo National Museum) to a reconstructed kabuki theater (in the Edo-Tokyo Museum).

**Nakamise Shopping Street** - Bustling shopping street connecting the main gate of Sensoji Temple & the main hall.

**Days 23-24: Depart Tokyo, Japan****Meals: B**

After breakfast and check out, you will be transferred to the airport for your overnight flight home (according to your flight time to ensure your arrival is 3hrs prior to).

*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 Tokyo, please contact our reservations department who can confirm additional pricing and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.*



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

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

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### VISAS:

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Australian citizens do not require a visa to travel to Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan.

Entry visas are required for Australian passport holders to visit Vietnam and Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia. For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/>

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. All information with regards to visas will be updated regularly on our website as we find visas process' are changing on regular basis.

### INSURANCE:

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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.

### EATING IN ASIA:

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Southeast Asia is home to an incredibly rich food history. The local cuisine is known for its intense flavours, spices and some of the freshest ingredients you can find. In general, meals include either rice or noodles and are packed full of flavour. Lemongrass, ginger, lime leaves, coriander, fish sauce and soy sauce are used in most local dishes. Whilst Southeast Asian food has a reputation for being hot and spicy, each region actually has its own distinct characteristics.

Vietnamese food is perhaps best known for its fresh and aromatic dishes – influences heavily on flavours from fresh herbs such as mint, basil and dill.

Japanese cuisine is delicious, colourful and healthy. Meals are usually served with a bowl of rice and a bowl of miso soup and consist usually of fish, pickled vegetables and meat. Japan's other main staple is noodles, the most famous being Udon and Soba. All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from the groups' arrival until the day of departure.



Taiwanese cuisine is a blend of the ingredients commonly used in Chinese and Taiwanese cooking. Meals are usually served with a bowl of rice and several dishes of vegetables, seafood (normally fish and/or shrimps), and meats (pork, beef or chicken). Taiwan's other main staple is noodles, most famous being beef noodle. You'll often find that different variety dumplings are widely eaten too.

Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes; their individual flavours as well as different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout the region. Food is an important element of Asian culture. It is a time for families and friends to come together and much of family life revolves around the dinner table. Most food is eaten with chopsticks – Western cutlery is not always available at restaurants.

Breakfast will mostly be buffet-style but may be a set menu. Lunches are mostly pre-set options as is custom in many local restaurants. Dinner is usually buffet-style, featuring a wide selection of high-quality Asian and Western dishes, but may occasionally be a set menu. We usually find this style of dining suits the wide and varied tastes of our customers on tour. These are also pre-booked in advance by your guides. This will provide greater flexibility and allow you to sample a broad range of local cuisines and dishes. All beverages will be at your own expense and are readily available.

Please know, on some days where lots of sights are covered, dinner times may be early, and your tour group may head directly to the restaurant after sightseeing without stopping at your hotel to freshen up.

It is imperative that you clearly communicate any and all dietary needs when booking, and don't forget to reaffirm them during your welcome briefing with your tour guide. However, it is crucial to understand that local restaurants might face limitations in accommodating specific dietary requests, particularly in the cases of gluten-free, celiac, or vegan requirements. Please bear in mind that finding gluten-free options may not be as effortless as it is in Australia. Regrettably, we cannot assure that the food served will be entirely free from allergens.

Although most Asian countries are now quite developed, only quite recently have they started to widely accept Western guests. Western food requirements are quite far removed from Asian food requirements, and even medical reasons can be quite difficult to explain. While our ground partners will do everything they can to cater for a wide range of dietary requirements on tour, we ask kindly for your patience and understanding that they cannot always be delivered to the standard you will be used to at home.

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

### ACCOMMODATION:

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Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities.

Japan: In the Fuji area, hotels tend to be more traditional in style and culture. In this area, you may be asked to take your shoes off at the door and store them in a secure locker – this is very traditional Japanese culture. Please note, double bed requests can be made at time of booking but cannot be guaranteed.

Hotels in Singapore & Japan generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels. Differences in facilities and quality will exist between your home country and both Singapore, and Japan.

Please note that in Japan, hotel rooms and bathrooms are renowned for being small. Standard single rooms are usually smaller than a standard double or twin room, contain one small double bed (or one single bed), and are designed for one person to use. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and a telephone. Hotels in Japan often do not have porters and you will be required to carry your own luggage. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide.

Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

### PORTERAGE:

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Please be aware that portage is not included on this tour. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

Porterage is however, included onboard the Azamara Pursuit Cruise Ship. Please note, you will be able to 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 portage service.

## TRANSFERS:

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As we offer our customers a variety of airlines to suit your needs, passengers will arrive/depart in Singapore / 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 Escort 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.

## CRUISE – AZAMARA PURSUIT:

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Your boutique hotel at sea, the Azamara Pursuit is a mid-sized ship that offers a vast range of amenities, including seven restaurants, cafes, and lounges as well as a refreshing pool, sun-drenched decks and a revitalizing spa.

**Boarding Procedures:** Departure times may vary and be as early as noon, so you are encouraged to allow plenty of time to get to the port on the day of boarding. Please note, all boarding times are noted in your travel documents. Priority boarding is available for guests staying in suites.

Government regulations require Azamara to submit final departure manifests. You must board the ship at least 90 minutes prior to our scheduled departure time. If you fail to check in at least 90 minutes before our scheduled departure, this constitutes a "no-show" and will result in an automatic cancellation of your booking.

**Cruise Schedule:** While we do our best to adhere to our published itineraries, they may be changed at the discretion of the captain due to weather advisories, port traffic, and any other unforeseeable circumstances.

**Dining:** Please note, there are no set menus onboard the cruise ship, instead, you will have the opportunity to dine at your choice of restaurant included in your package and have the option to upgrade your package whilst onboard to dine in the various speciality restaurants.

Your package also includes soft drinks and alcoholic beverages whilst onboard your cruise. There is the option to upgrade your drinks package on your Guest Account or on your cruise.

**Onboard Dress Code:** In keeping with the friendly yet sophisticated onboard environment, guests are encouraged to keep a “resort casual” dress code.

Please note, bare feet, tank tops, caps, bathing suits, casual shorts, and torn jeans are not allowed in the dining room or specialty restaurants. When dining at Windows Café, guests must wear footwear and a cover-up or shirt.

Formal evening wear is not expected nor required in any restaurants. If you prefer to dress more formally, you are welcome to do so.

**Tipping:** On board gratuities are included in your trip cost.

**Downloadable Luggage Tag:** Luggage tags will be available to download through your personal cruise account.

## TRANSPORT:

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**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 Japan are extremely well maintained and are comparatively smooth compared with the rest of Asia. Coaches and mini buses 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; there will be toilet facilities on board. Due to the limited space on bullet trains, 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 will need to prepare for this throughout your tour.



### DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA:

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Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan are developed destinations and as such matches the West in modernity and technological advances.

Although Southeast Asia is developing quickly, Vietnam and Taiwan still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in Australia. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in Australia; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All our suppliers meet local safety standards at a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday, so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your guide.

All countries are extremely safe to visit and take great responsibility and pride in maintaining high safety standards.

### GROUP SIZE:

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Most of our groups pre & post cruise consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a national escort. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 10 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

### TIPPING POLICY PRE & POST CRUISE:

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Singapore, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Taiwan: Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Southeast Asia is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. To avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort.

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, then tipping is paid at each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone

follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

Although tipping in Japan is not customary, if you feel you have received an excellent service, please feel free to tip your guide at your discretion.

### **CULTURAL DIFFERENCE:**

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As foreigners, we are not expected to be knowledgeable about all etiquette, but it will make your time in Asia more enjoyable if you are respectful of local customs. Your guide will advise you of some of these other customs at the beginning of your tour. Some examples of scenarios you may encounter include removing your shoes and hats when entering a temple or house (some restaurants as well). Even if you then need to walk outdoors, over hot or rough ground, you will not be allowed to wear shoes. You will often find shoe storage rooms near the entrance of a site where it is customary to leave your shoes near the entrance. Occasionally there are 'shoe minders' who will offer to keep your shoes safe for a 'tip' – this is not compulsory, so each customer can choose to tip for this service or not.

If you do not want to remove your shoes, you will have to remain outside. We recommend shoes that easily slip on and off and carry a pair of thick socks in your daypack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot surfaces. Your guide will indicate when you need to consider this.

### **PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:**

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If you are travelling within local public holidays, please note that celebrations can last a couple of 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.

### **SOUVENIRS:**

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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.

### **LUGGAGE:**

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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 five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

### PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:

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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 Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

### CLIMBING STEPS:

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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:

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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](http://www.travelvax.com.au).

### AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

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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 and more useful predeparture travel information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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