

January 2022



WHISPERS

TRAVEL INSPIRATION FROM THE AWARD-WINNING TOUR SPECIALIST

EXPERIENCE JAPAN

Get under the skin of this unique country with our Japan Must Dos

Going solo?

Enjoy FREE Single Supplements in our Solo Traveller Sale

Bucket list alert!

Planning the trip of a lifetime? We've got just the thing.

INTRODUCING EUROPE

The award-winning Wendy Wu Tours style comes to Europe

SAVE UP TO £1,940 IN OUR JANUARY SALE

Flexible Booking Guarantee | Low Deposits of just £99pp | Travel Safe Protocols

CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|--|
| 4-5 | Welcome to the Wu Kingdom
What's happening in the world of Wendy Wu Tours. | 19 | China's Best Undiscovered National Parks
Our pick of China's most beautiful, spectacular and dramatic landscapes. |
| 6-7 | Late Getaways
The perfect journeys if you are looking for an exotic adventure and just can't wait to escape. | 20-21 | La Bella Vita: our Top Italian Experiences
Our guide to discovering the Good Life in incomparable Italy. |
| 8 | Cherry Blossom vs Autumn Leaves
Which of these beautiful times of the year are the best time to visit Japan? | 22-23 | Bucket List Alert!
Planning the trip of a lifetime? We've got just the thing. |
| 9 | Sensational Scotland
From brushes with royalty to spectacular train journeys, Scotland offers terrific experiences that should be on every traveller's wish list. | 24-25 | The Magic of the Mekong
Discover the beguiling land of the Delta and experience a way of life unlike anything you've ever encountered. |
| 10-11 | Portugal & the Golden Age of Discovery
Discover the rich seafaring heritage of this small nation that shook the world. | 26-27 | Travel Solo but never alone
Enjoy the sociability of our award-winning group tours and our sensational Free Single Supplement offer. |
| 12-13 | Japan's Unforgettable Experiences
Get under the skin of this unique country with our Japan Must Dos. | 28-29 | Traveller's Tales – A holiday at the start of world lockdown
Wendy Wu customers Lisa and Nick travelled through Cambodia and Vietnam just as the full impact of the Coronavirus hit. |
| 14-15 | Let the Games Begin
Discover the only city to ever host both a Summer and Winter Olympics. | 30 | Only in Vietnam
Our pick of the incredible adventures and experiences that you can only have in Vietnam. |
| 16-17 | Wendy's Seven Wonders
Wendy's pick of the world's most spectacular natural wonders and man-made delights. | 31 | Travelling safe – our pioneering protocols to keep you safe
Our commitment to keeping you safe on tour. |
| 18 | Classical Greece
Brand new for 2022. Discover the classical highlights and hidden gems of the Peloponnese and mainland Greece. | | |



Cover Image: xx

All holidays featured in this magazine are fully ABTA and ATOL protected and you will be provided with certification of this when you book. You'll find further information about financial protections on our website. All prices listed are per person and based on two adults sharing standard accommodation and return flights from London Heathrow on selected departure dates. Prices correct as of 30th Dec 2021 and are subject to change. Booking conditions apply, please see our website for details – www.wendywutours.co.uk/help-and-advice/booking-conditions



Welcome to the Winter 2022 edition of Whispers magazine

As we wave goodbye to another turbulent year where just a handful of us managed to get away, I am filled with hope that the year ahead will be full of adventures for us all! With many international borders now open again, I am delighted for the return of long-haul travel and I know that our wonderful guides are so looking forward to welcoming visitors back to their homeland.

With this in mind, you'll find a whole host of fantastic articles, travel updates and more in our newest edition of Whispers magazine to help inspire that trip you've been patiently waiting for. For those of you whose travel bug just can't wait a minute longer, on pages 6-7 you'll find a selection of sensational 'last minute' tours that are due to depart within the next few months to incredible destinations such as Sri Lanka, Egypt and Jordan.

Keep an eye out for our brand new, fully inclusive Europe tours also featured within this edition of Whispers. With departures as early as Spring 2022, you can enjoy the magic of a classic Wendy Wu Tour closer to home, soaking up the incredible sights of Italy, Greece, Portugal and Scotland, with plenty of authentic experiences to immerse you in the local culture.

And of course, a Wendy Wu Tours' Whispers magazine wouldn't be complete without a homage to our star destination Japan. As one of the hottest travel destinations in the world, it's no surprise our 2022 cherry blossom departures are almost completely sold out, with 2023 dates also filling fast! If you're torn between the beauty of Japan's cherry blossom or the riotous colours of the autumn leaves, flick to page 8 for our seasonal showdown.

I sincerely hope you enjoy reading our Winter 2022 edition of Whispers magazine. Now, sit back, grab a drink and let your next amazing escape take flight in your imagination. Travel is officially back and it's time to turn those dreams into reality once again.

Warmest wishes

Wendy Wu

BOOK & TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE



To help you book with confidence and travel with complete peace of mind, we are happy to offer some of the most flexible booking conditions around coupled with our Travel Safe protocols.

- Pay a deposit of just £99pp to secure your place on tour
- One free travel date change should you need it
- 100% cash refund if your tour doesn't operate
- Travel with confidence thanks to our pioneering protocols to keep you safe whilst on tour

OUR BIGGEST EVER JANUARY SALE! SAVE UP TO £1,940pp

Choose from these exceptional offers for your 2022 or 2023 adventure

FREE RETURN FLIGHTS TO JAPAN
Saving up to £800pp

PARTNER FLIES FREE OR 50% OFF SOLO AIRFARES
Across all destinations worldwide, saving up to £565pp

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FOR SOLO TRAVELLERS
To Japan, China, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand & Chile, saving up to £1,940pp

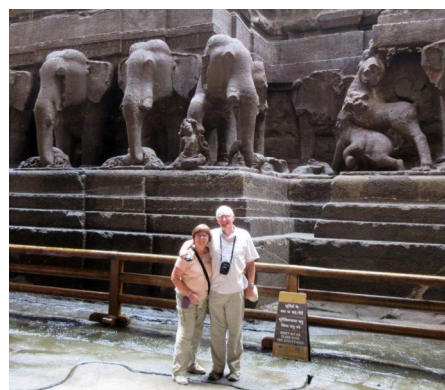


Welcome to the Wu Kingdom

The Wu Kingdom is our online portal where you can keep your finger on the pulse of the most exciting and innovative tour company in the UK, Wendy Wu Tours.

To find us just search – Wendy Wu Kingdom

Keep up to date with our latest news, hear fascinating stories from our travelling customers, find inspiration with captivating travel articles and have fun with our well-travelled and passionate staff.



Customer stories

No one can bring our tours to life better than those who have seen, done and experienced it all first-hand. Read first-hand accounts from our wonderful customers as they share their amazing Wendy Wu adventures!



Travel inspiration

Want to find out about the top things to do in Scotland, the best time to visit Vietnam or how to follow in Joanna Lumley's footsteps in Japan? With over 400 inspirational travel articles to choose from we've got you covered.



Wu TV

Give those tired reading eyes a rest, sit back, grab a cuppa and enjoy the best of WU TV from online travel shows and customer interviews to in depth destination and tour guides. Nothing can compare to actually being there but this is the next best thing.



Travel news

Get the latest updates from our team of experts in the UK and all over the globe. Be the first to hear about the hot stories from travel that are making the news, learn valuable insights to inform your travels and get the inside track on the latest exciting developments at Wendy Wu Tours.



Japan



Europe & Middle East



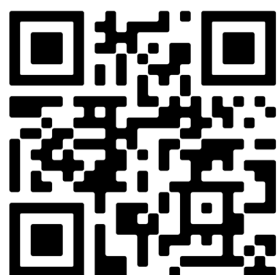
Southeast Asia & New Zealand



China

Interactive brochures & magazines

Enjoy our paper brochures and magazines? You'll love our interactive online versions even more. Watch interactive videos of tours, experiences and sensational online events, learn more about tours to whet your appetite and even book online with just a click of your mouse.



Subscribe and stay up to date

Join the Wendy Wu Tours' online community and get the latest news, hottest offers and tons of travel inspiration straight to your inbox with our weekly e-newsletter. You'll be amongst the first to hear about any brand new tours and the most recent travel updates, plus you will receive exclusive invitations to our popular online events which are not to be missed!



Wendy Wu Tours wins

9 Dec 2021

We were delighted to win Best Specialist Tour Operator at last night's SPAA Centenary Awards.

The Scottish Passenger Association are celebrating their centenary this year and we were honoured to celebrate with such a prestigious organisation. Thank you to everyone who voted for us.



Christmas in Scotland

19 Dec 2021

The weather outside is frightful...but the tour is quite delightful!

Our brand new Christmas in Scotland tour departed on 19 December and it's been wonderful to hear what fabulous festive fun everyone had. Our lucky customers were so excited to put two years of Christmas lockdowns behind them and embark on a fun-filled yuletide journey in bonny Scotland.

The group were even joined on Christmas Eve by Wendy herself and her son Alexander for a sparkling drinks reception with party games and even a Secret Santa!

Wendy Wu New Zealand Tours make The Times Ultimate Trips Shortlist

26 Dec 2021

We're delighted to reveal that all three of our incredible New Zealand tours were selected for The Times '100 Ultimate Trips for 2022' announced today. Picked by the expert travel editors at The Times and Sunday Times, they were particular fans of the all encompassing 23 day Hidden Treasures of New Zealand.

Join us for our FREE Virtual Travel Shows 1-5 Feb 2022

3 Jan 2021

Over five thrilling days our destination experts will give you the inside track on where to go, what to see and what to do in some of the most exciting destinations for 2022 and beyond. Discover the iconic must see destinations and the hidden gems, the cultural highlights and the unmissable experiences.

Sign up at wendywutours.co.uk/virtual-travel-show/

Say "konichiwa", "xin chao" and "hola" to our brand new brochures

30 Dec 2021

We are delighted to announce the arrival of not one but three inspirational new brochures: Japan, Southeast Asia & New Zealand, and Europe & the Middle East – the indispensable guides to travel in 2022 and beyond.

We know our clients love to flick through the actual pages of our brochures as they dream about their next adventure so, unlike most other holiday companies, we'll continue to keep printing them!

Spirit of Scotland sets the standard

1 Dec 2021

It was wonderful to hear from the customers travelling on our inaugural Spirit of Scotland tour.

They're not just the first people to travel on this brand new tour but also the first to travel anywhere with Wendy Wu Tours in over 18 months. Here's just a few quotes from the group:

"It was absolutely perfect...the whole tour has been really well thought out."

"Jenny the guide was absolutely fantastic, top class...and the food was delicious."

"My friend has always called Scotland 'God's Country' and now I can see why."

In our constant desire to keep on improving the tour, the group were joined by Wendy Wu herself to get their thoughts on what they loved and what they thought we could do better.

Final call for last minute adventures

If you're feeling anything like us, you really need a holiday. Yes? Then let us tempt you with a few very good ideas!

If you just can't wait to get exploring again – take a look at these fabulous adventures departing in the next few months that are all on the Wendy Wu Tours Green List.

Each country is open for quarantine free travel and is on the UK government FCDO's good to go list. So, which do you fancy?

March



Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka in March has lots of sunshine and temperatures of 30 degrees in the lowlands and 23 degrees in the hill country. This beautiful island has such a perfect combination of beach, culture, history and wildlife, you're bound to be enchanted.

Highlights of Sri Lanka, departing 4th March, 15 days from £3,490pp
Negombo – Sigiriya – Kandy – Nuwara Eliya – Yala National Park – Galle – Colombo

April



Portugal

Spring is a wonderful time to visit Portugal, when the country is in bloom and the temperatures perfect for exploring. With its rich history, extravagant architecture and spectacular landscapes, it is one of Europe's most rewarding destinations.

Portugal Uncovered, departing 2nd April, 12 days from £2,350pp
Porto – Viana do Castelo – Geres National Park – Douro Valley – Coimbra – Caldas da Rainha – Evora – Lisbon



Uzbekistan

April is a lovely, lush and green time to explore Uzbekistan, with temperatures in the early 20s and a chance of showers. Here, you're in for an unforgettable journey to what was the heart of the ancient Silk Road replete with exquisite architecture and timeless culture.

Ultimate Uzbekistan, departing 15th April, 12 days from £3,290pp
Tashkent – Nukus – Khiva – Bukhara – Samarkand



Scotland

In April, Scotland's mountain peaks remain gloriously snowy though temperatures are warming up and the rain at a minimum, ideal for exploring the rich history, vibrant culture and breath-taking landscapes of this bonnie land.

Spirit of Scotland, departing 25th April, 11 days from £2,615pp (Please note, flights are not included on this tour.) Edinburgh – Stirling – Inverness – Oban – Glasgow



Egypt

Pleasantly warm with temperatures in the mid to late 20s, April is one of the best months to explore Egypt. With its epic history full of pyramids, temples and mummies, all set on the banks of the River Nile, this has long been a dream destination.

Dreams of Egypt, departing 27th April, 11 days from £3,390pp
Cairo – Alexandria – Luxor – Aswan

May



Peru

In May, the rains have ceased and the temperatures across the country are ideal for exploring. Truly capturing the imagination, Peru is a place of enchantment, full of long lost cities, romantic colonial towns, epic landscapes and woolly llamas.

Panoramic Peru, departing 4th May, 15 days from £4,590pp
Lima – Arequipa – Colca – Puno – Sacred Valley – Machu Picchu – Cusco



Jordan

Warm, with temperatures in the mid to late 20s and wonderfully lush thanks to winter's rain, Jordan in May is a delight. Wonderfully welcoming and full of treasures, there is so much more to discover than the spectacular ancient city of Petra.

Journey through Jordan, departing 7th May, 8 days from £2,690pp
Amman – Jerash – Ajloun – Mount Nebo – Madaba – Petra – Wadi Rum – Dead Sea



Italy

Beautifully warm, gardens at the peak of their beauty, the summer crowds yet to have amassed, May in Italy is idyllic. Discover the dolce vita on golden sun-kissed days full of delicious food, gorgeous sights and a wonderful, welcoming locals.

Secrets of Southern Italy, departing 9th May, 14 days from £3,990pp
Rome – Naples – Amalfi Coast – Matera – Alberobello – Palermo – Catania



Greece

The perfect month for discovering Greece, expect sparkling blue seas and lush greenery to supplement the rugged beauty, ancient history and timeless culture. Delve deep into must-see sights, culture and delicious food.

Classical Greece, departing 13th May, 10 days from £2,590pp
Athens – Nafplio – Amelionia – Katakolo – Delphi – Meteora – Athens



Borneo

May sees good weather across Borneo, making this an excellent time for anything from jungle trekking to beach flopping. With its wealth of wonderful wildlife and fascinating indigenous heritage, Borneo is an incredible destination that exudes adventure.

Best of Borneo, departing 21st May, 16 days from £4,390pp
Kuching – Sri Aman – Kota Kinabalu – Sandakan – Kinabatangan RiverPark – Galle – Colombo



Central Asia

With temperatures in the mid to high 20s, May in Central Asia is made for exploring. Soak up the mystical old-world atmosphere, explore thriving bazaars and admire intricate architecture in a land full of the timeless wonders of the Silk Road.

Road to Samarkand, departing 24th May, 22 days from £5,590pp
Bishkek – Cholpon Ata – Karakol – Naryn – Chong Kemin – Tashkent – Samarkand – Bukhara – Khiva – Tashkent

Partner Flies FREE or 50% flight discount for solos – Save up to £565pp

All tours include international flights, all accommodation, all meals, all touring and entrance fees, a guide throughout and visa fees for UK passport holders (where applicable).



CHERRY BLOSSOM

VS

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Cherry blossom, or sakura, fever takes hold of Japan at the start of spring every year. It's so highly anticipated, that the Japanese Meteorological Agency even forecasts its arrival.

From late March to mid-April Japan's millions of cherry trees spectacularly bloom, beautiful shades of white and pink carpeting the country. This fleeting and sought after event has captured the world's imagination.

HOW DOES IT FEEL?

The art of watching the cherry blossoms is known as hanami. As the season approaches there is great fervour in Japan as locals prepare for large picnic parties beneath the blossoms with their friends and family. The Japanese will then drink sake and feast on bento boxes and pink themed sweets such as sakura flavoured KitKat chocolate bars!

HISTORY

The furore around cherry blossom stretches back 1,200 years where its appearance signified the start of the rice-planting season. As time passed, its popularity grew alongside the philosophical beliefs of the Japanese, where appreciation of nature and the natural order is rife.

Today, the few weeks where cherry blossoms bloom are the most popular time to visit Japan, and perhaps the most stunning.

Choose FREE Flights or FREE Single Supplement –
Save up to £1,790

Japan Uncovered

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

17 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £7,090pp

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

AUTUMN LEAVES

WHAT'S THE STORY?

About 70% of Japan is covered in forests of deciduous trees and as the autumn sweeps south through the nation, the country explodes into a fiery tapestry of red and gold. The season lasts longer than the cherry blossom does – around two months – starting in September in Hokkaido and reaching Tokyo and Kyoto in November.

HOW DOES IT FEEL?

The art of following the autumn leaves is known as momijigari. It's a celebration of the start of autumn, and one which is now ingrained into Japanese culture; many wearing kimonos with maple leaf patterns while enjoying Momiji tempura – delicious deep-fried maple leaves. It may not be anticipated as frenziedly as the famous cherry blossoms, but don't underestimate the beautiful array of leaves – they've been the subject on many Japanese poems and novels.

HISTORY

The tradition of momijigari has its roots in the Heian Period (794-1185AD) where noble families and scholars would enjoy nature's shift from green to gold. It only became more widely popular much later, in the Edo Period (1603-1868AD) when avid leaf spotters would travel vast distances to see a particularly spectacular display. A tradition that continues today!

CONCLUSION

Japan in either cherry blossom or autumn leaves season is vibrant, colourful and unforgettable. If you love your pink and want to experience the country abuzz with excitement we say plump for Cherry Blossom. If the fiery oranges call to you and a more tranquil visit – then Autumn Leaves might be just the thing.



Sensational Scotland

From brushes with royalty to spectacular train journeys, Scotland offers terrific experiences that should be on every traveller's bucket list. Here's our pick of the best, all of which can be enjoyed on our Spirit of Scotland tour.

Ride one of the most scenic train journeys in the world

Described as one of the greatest railway journeys in the world, the Jacobite steam train's 84 mile round trip takes in an impressive list of magnificent sights.

The journey begins a stone's throw from Britain's highest mountain, passes close by its deepest freshwater loch and shortest river before finally arriving at Europe's deepest seawater loch, Loch Nevis! The train also pauses to take in the views from the iconic 21-arch Glenfinnan Viaduct, familiar to anyone who is a Harry Potter fan.

Explore a Floating Palace

The Royal Yacht Britannia has carried Her Majesty, the Queen and the royal family for over 40 years, sailing over one million miles around the world.

Now berthed in Edinburgh, you can follow in the footsteps of royalty to discover the heart and soul of this incredible ship. A ship of real contrasts, it's fascinating to compare the homely royal living rooms with the pomp of the 32-seat state dining room where the Queen entertained powerful figures from Winston Churchill to Ronald Reagan.

Experience an Engineering Marvel

Reputed to be inspired by a Celtic double headed spear, a vast turning propeller or the spine of a fish, what can't be denied is that the Falkirk Wheel is a real wonder of modern design. Built to link the Forth & Clyde and Union Canals, a journey that used to take 11 locks and nearly a day to transit now takes amazed visitors just minutes!

Search for the Loch Ness Monster

With so many beautiful lochs to choose from who could pick a favourite? The most famous of them all is Loch Ness. 23 miles long and deeper than the North Sea this vast loch is reputedly home, of course, to Scotland's shyest monster! Whether Nessie appears or not, a cruise of the loch is the perfect way to enjoy incredible views of the dramatic castle ruins on its banks, and hear stories about the history of its shores.

Meet a Ghillie on the Isle of Skye

Skye, Scotland's second largest island, boasts an eye catching tapestry of rolling moors, jagged mountains, tranquil lochs and towering cliffs. Your most memorable moments though may be your encounter with local legend Mitch, a professional ghillie (or guide), who will regale you with stories of his life on Skye.

Live out your Braveheart Fantasies

Stirling Castle was built in the 15th century and until the Union of the Crowns in 1603, almost every Scottish monarch had either lived, been crowned or died here. The castle is perched on top of an extinct volcano providing fabulous views of the surrounding city and some famous battlefield sites, including that of William Wallace's great victory over English forces at Stirling Bridge in 1297.



Spirit of Scotland

Encompassing Scotland's dramatic highlands, great glens and idyllic islands, the 11-day Spirit of Scotland itinerary is packed with incredible experiences and led entirely by a Blue Badge National Escort.

Edinburgh - Stirling - Inverness – Skye - Oban – Mull - Glasgow

11 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £2,690pp

Including: Accommodation, all transportation, all meals, touring with guides and entrance fees.



Portugal and the Golden Age of Discovery

We're delighted to bring our Wendy Wu style of fully inclusive touring from Asia to Portugal in 2022. Of course, this is not the first time these two destinations, on opposite sides of the world, have been linked.

In the 15th and 16th centuries, this small kingdom launched a golden age of discovery that would transform, not just its own fortunes, but that of the world too.

As early as 1341 Portuguese navigators had begun to explore the exotic shores of west Africa. In the following decades Portuguese fleets, financed by Prince Henry the Navigator, forged further and further south in search of gold, spices and slaves, finally rounding the Cape of Good Hope in 1487. At last the fabled sea route to the riches of the east was open.

India & the East Indies

Just 10 years later Vasco da Gama rounded the Cape, sailed up the eastern coast of Africa and reached Calicut becoming the first man to sail directly from Europe to India. So began a long association between the two countries that didn't end until 1961 with the return of the Portuguese colony of Goa to India. The Portuguese continued to push further and further eastward; Malacca was conquered in 1511 and Duarte Fernandes became the first European to visit Siam, modern day Thailand.

China

The south coast of China was reached just two years later, the beginning of what was to be an extremely lucrative trade relationship with the port of Macau at its hub. The first European settlement in east Asia, Macau was also the last, not handed back to China until 1999, and colonial remnants can still be found all over the former colony today.

Japan

The impact of Portuguese exploration on Japan was even more cataclysmic. Portuguese traders introduced firearms to the country in the 16th century which were enthusiastically adopted by Daimyo lord Ōmura Sumitada who went on to conquer much of the country. Establishing a Portuguese settlement at Nagasaki, this was the only point of western access to Japan for over 300 years and is still one of the few places in the country where you can encounter colonial era cathedrals and trading houses.

The Riches of the East

Of course the impact of this exploration wasn't only felt in Asia. By the end of the 16th century Portugal had trading bases in India, China, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Japan and Malaysia, leading to a torrent of wealth flowing west. In fact Portugal became one of the richest countries in the world with opulent palaces, cathedrals and churches springing up all over the country.

So whether you are admiring the fruits of those enterprising traders in Portugal, or the remnants of their labours in far flung corners of Asia, spare a thought for the intrepid explorers who made it all possible.

PORTUGAL UNCOVERED

Discover the rich heritage of Portugal's golden past and savour mouth-watering cuisine, world-class wines and a rich musical tradition along the way on this brand-new tour for 2022.

Join us on this exhilarating journey from colourful Porto, rising theatrically up the banks of the Douro River, to the ornately cobbled streets of the capital Lisbon. Along the way sample Vinho Verde in Quinta do Ameal, succulent seafood in Viana do Castelo and the fine vintages of the Douro Valley. Witness sweeping Atlantic vistas, arid mountain sierras and immaculately manicured vineyards, while discovering castles, cathedrals and monasteries and so many other legacies of Portugal's age of exploration.

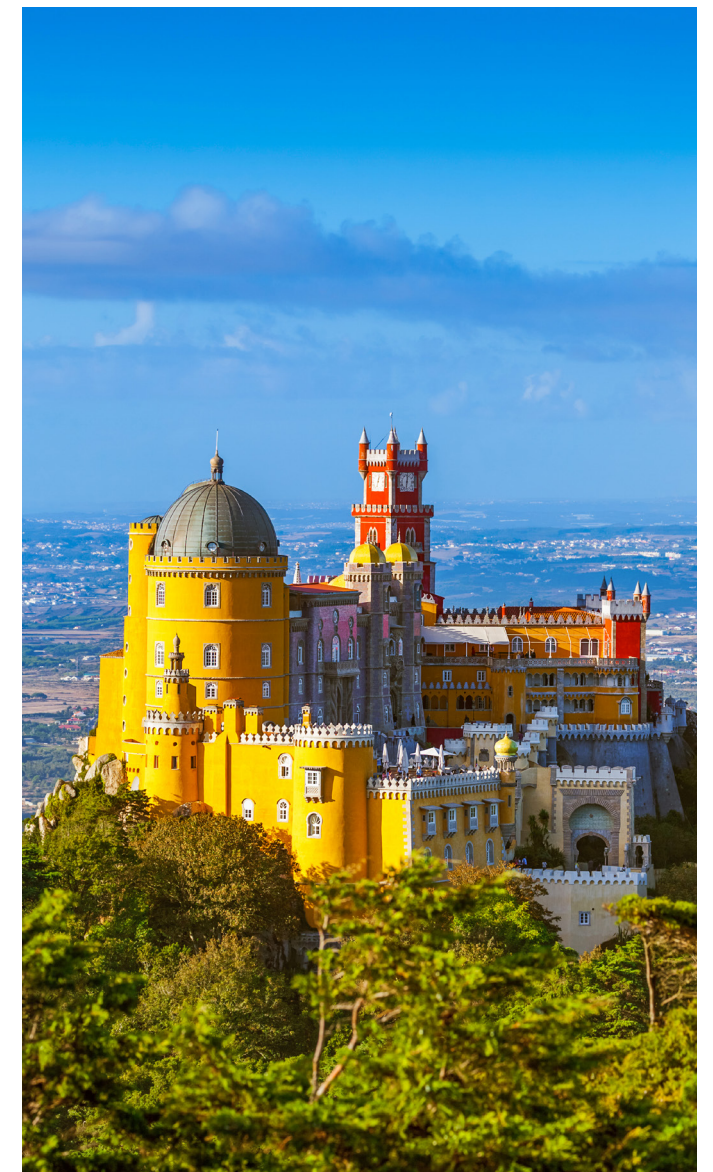
Expect a host of immersive experiences, from a wine tasting in an 18th century winery to a walking tour with a Fado singer and a privately chartered tram through Lisbon's most characterful districts.

In Porto you'll discover colourful backstreets and hidden squares on a fascinating walking tour past merchants' houses and historic churches, finishing at one of the city's oldest port wine cellars to learn about and sample different port wines.

In the Douro Valley you'll soak up the natural beauty by historic Rabelo boat, then experience a scenic train ride along the river and visit a local family-run Quinta to enjoy a vineyard tour and tasting.

Amidst the natural splendour of Alentejo, you'll visit a centuries-old farm nestled in the rolling landscape of cork forests, olive groves and vineyards, whilst in Lisbon you'll discover the man-made delights by tram, tuk-tuk and a sunset boat cruise up the Tagus River.

This all-encompassing tour also showcases Portugal's lesser-known natural delights. You will experience the wild natural beauty of Gerês National Park, the wildlife-rich hills of the Serra da Lous and the rugged Atlantic coast, famous for its big wave surfing.



Partner Flies FREE or 50% Flight Discount for Solos



NEW for 2022

Portugal Uncovered

Porto – Viana do Castelo – Geres National Park – Douro Valley – Coimbra – Caldas da Rainha – Évora – Lisbon

12 days Fully inclusive Touring from £2,350pp

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

Departs: April, May, September & October



Japan's unforgettable experiences

2022 is set to be the year of Japan. The country's vaccination programme has been a great success and the Government are more determined than ever to open up the borders in time for spring.

Packed with futuristic cities, imperial heritage and epic natural beauty, Japan is certainly a treat for the senses. To truly 'get under the skin', we pack every one of our tours with immersive cultural experiences that will turn your holiday from great into truly unforgettable.

Scale Mount Fuji

Standing proud at 3,776 metres, Mount Fuji, or Fuji-san, is the most iconic of Japan's three sacred mountains. Ascending Mount Fuji for spectacular views is an absolute must for any visitor, and there is plenty to see and do around Mount Fuji too. Enjoy a relaxing cruise on Lake Ashi, take to the skies on the Komagatake Ropeway or be at one with nature as you hike at the base of the mountain.

Zip Around by Bullet Train

Japan's rail network is one of the most extensive and efficient in the world making travel by train one of the most convenient ways to explore the country. The network extends to every corner of Japan and is known for its incredible punctuality and reaches speeds of up to 199 miles per hour, making it one of the world's fastest railways.

Try Forest Bathing in Sagano Bamboo Forest

Sagano Bamboo Forest is a remarkable sight and a photographer's paradise. Located in Arashiyama on the outskirts of Kyoto, this vast grove comprises of towering green stalks of bamboo. Named one of the '100 Soundscapes of Japan' due to the sound of the rustling bamboo, it's the perfect place to try 'shinrin-yoku', or forest bathing, taking in the sounds of nature's music.



Relax in an Onsen

Central to Japanese culture for centuries, onsen (hot springs) can be found all over Japan. The spring waters contain minerals which are thought to have physical and health benefits and there are many different onsen including indoor and outdoor, natural and man-made.

Visit the Snow Monkeys

The Joshinetsu-Kogen National Park, north of Tokyo, is home to the famous Japanese macaques, who are also known as snow monkeys. The best place to see them is in Jigokudani, Hell Valley, named by the ancient Japanese for its unforgiving landscapes and steamy hot water springs. After a walk through a picturesque, forested valley, particularly striking when snow is on the ground, you will reach steaming hot pools where these beautiful creatures spend time bathing and playing in the water.

Follow the Way of Tea

The 'way of tea' is a tradition steeped in history. Kyoto is one of the best places to experience this ceremony of preparing and drinking green tea in a traditional tearoom with tatami flooring. The serene and peaceful atmosphere can be best enjoyed with tea in hand, away from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

Experience one of Nature's Greatest Spectacles

Spring is one of the most popular times to experience Japan when the cherry trees bloom, locals enjoy picnics beneath pink blossom laden boughs and trees are lit up by lanterns at night. In autumn, a multitude of maple and ginkgo trees bring a blaze of rich, vibrant shades of red, yellow and orange, as their leaves turn and begin to drop in preparation for the winter.



Stay in a Monastery

Spend the night in a tatami mat room in a monastery at the holy mountain of Koyasan. Rise early to join the monks for their daily morning service - to hear the recitation and chanting is an uplifting experience. Koyasan is one of Japan's holiest sites and home to over 100 monasteries nestled in a valley enclosed by peaks said to resemble a lotus flower.

Get a true taste of Japan

You can't visit Japan and not mention the amazing culinary delights. From fresh sashimi and sushi to delicate hand-made noodles and steaming ramen, you will be spoilt for choice on a Wendy Wu tour. Whether you are dining at a robot restaurant or a traditional little eatery you are in for a treat. On some of our tours you'll even try your hand at making sushi, soba noodles and maple leaf buns.

Experience Japan with Wendy Wu Tours

Wendy Wu Tours is the UK's number one tour operator to Japan. With group and private touring from 8 to 21 days. Here's a snapshot of our most popular tours.

Choose FREE Flights or FREE Single Supplement on all Japan Tours – saving up to £1,940pp

Japan Uncovered

18 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £7,090pp

Osaka – Nara – Kyoto – Hiroshima – Kanazawa – Snow Monkeys – Tokyo

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

Choose FREE Flights or FREE Single Supplement on all Japan Tours – saving up to £1,940pp

Japan By Rail

22 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £9,490pp

Nagasaki – Hiroshima – Osaka – Kanazawa – Snow Monkeys – Tokyo – Sendai – Sapporo

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

Choose FREE Flights or FREE Single Supplement on all Japan Tours – saving up to £1,940pp

Discover Japan

14 days Fully Inclusive Touring from 5,790pp

Tokyo – Mount Fuji – Takayama – Kyoto – Nara – Koyasan – Osaka

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



Let the Games Begin

On February 4, the Olympic cauldron will be lit once again, signalling the start of the Winter Olympic Games in Beijing.

Beijing is the first city in history to host both a Summer and Winter Olympics and several of the iconic venues from the 2008 Summer Olympics will be reused for the 2022 Winter games. New venues have also risen from the ashes of some truly unique locations. Recycling at its best!



National Aquatics Centre

The National Stadium

The famous 'Bird's Nest' stadium hosted the opening and closing ceremonies in 2008 and will reprise that role in 2022. The 2008 opening ceremony was widely lauded as the most spectacular in history so look forward to fireworks...literally.

National Aquatics Centre

The innovative blue box-shaped design of the aquatics centre quickly earned it the nickname of 'The Water Cube'. Now it has been transformed into the 'Ice Cube' in preparation for the curling competition.

National Indoor Stadium

A much loved venue 'The Fan', so called for its resemblance to that famous ancient Chinese cooling technology, was home to rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline, and handball in 2008. In 2022 things will get a little less genteel as it hosts the ice hockey competition.



Big Air Shougang

Big Air Shougang

Arguably the most striking venue this winter will be Big Air Shougang. The freestyle skiing and snowboard competitions, where competitors perform death-defying high jumps, will be played out against an equally astounding backdrop. The jumps have been built on the site of a former steel works and boasts four huge cooling towers.

Yanqing

Although not a familiar name, you may actually have visited Yanqing as it is home to one of the most popular sections of the Great Wall of China, Badaling. The area is also home to ski resorts and will stage the alpine skiing and sliding events including the bobsled, luge, and skeleton. Again no surprise to those of you who have used the toboggan to descend from another section of the Great Wall at Mutianyu.



Wendy Wu Tours is the UK's No.1 tour operator to China. We offer over 20 escorted group tours of this incredible country from 9 to 27 days. But which one is best for you?

Choose FREE Flights or FREE Single Supplement
– Save up to £660



Best for first timers – Wonders of China

Our best-selling tour of China and our number one recommendation for first timers. This itinerary encompasses the best of China's natural and man-made wonders, from the magnificent Great Wall to the mighty Yangtze River. You will take a comprehensive journey through China's most iconic sights, both ancient and modern, experiencing everything that the fast-paced bustling cities and the relaxing rural countryside have to offer.

Stroll through the Forbidden City and watch the locals practice Tai Chi in Beijing's parks, and enjoy a dumpling feast and Tang Dynasty dance show in Xian. Cruise the mighty Yangtze and the scenic Li River and admire the gleaming skyscrapers of Shanghai.

Beijing – Xian – Yangtze River Cruise – Guilin – Yangshuo – Shanghai

16 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,690pp

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

Choose FREE Flights or FREE Single Supplement
– Save up to £370



Short on time? – A China Experience

If you are short on time but want the true China experience, this is the tour for you. This introductory tour offers a glimpse of China's glorious past, fascinating present and bright future with visits to the exceptional and contrasting cities of Xian, Beijing and Shanghai.

Experience Shanghai's collision of cultures on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th-century temples and walk through the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter in Xian. Ride the bullet train to Beijing where you will stroll through the traditional hutongs, climb the Great Wall and meet a local family.

Shanghai – Xian – Beijing

10 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £2,690pp

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

Choose FREE Flights or FREE Single Supplement
– Save up to £920



Want the ultimate tour? – Magnificent China

If you've never been to China and want to see as much of it as you can, this is the tour for you. This all-encompassing journey takes in the very best of this marvellous destination, from the ancient treasures of Xian to the rural splendour of Guilin.

Soak up the sublime scenery which surrounds China's legendary Great Wall, uncover the story behind the famous Terracotta Warriors and meet the nation's most loveable mascot – the giant panda! Topped off with a three night cruise on the mighty Yangtze and the bright lights of Shanghai, this is the ultimate trip to China.

Beijing – Xian – Yangtze River Cruise – Guilin – Yangshuo – Shanghai

22 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,990pp

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



WENDY'S SEVEN WONDERS

For someone as well-travelled as Wendy, we can rightfully say she has seen her fair share of incredible sights, but when it comes to choosing the very best, only the most awe-inspiring and truly memorable make the cut. So, after much deliberation, here are Wendy's very own Seven Wonders.



1. MACHU PICCHU – PERU

South America's shining star, Machu Picchu, is one of the world's most iconic archaeological sites. Shrouded by mountaintop mist and the legends of the Inca Empire, this impressive sprawling citadel is home to more than 200 stone structures, all of which were ingeniously built without the use of mortar but constructed well enough to still be standing today.

Unusually, you won't find any information plaques about the ruins when exploring the site, so a guided tour really is the best way to delve into and appreciate the history of this fascinating and mysterious treasure.

Visit Machu Picchu on our [Panoramic Peru tour](#).

Lima - Cusco - Sacred Valley - Ollantaytambo - Machu Picchu - Puno - Colca Canyon - Arequipa

15 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £4,590pp



2. PETRA – JORDAN

Once a long-lost city and now one of the most recognisable places on Earth, the moody-red hues of Petra conjure images of age-old traders with their camel caravans. Petra's iconic Treasury is what most people travel far and wide to see, but there's so much more to this captivating UNESCO World Heritage Site – caves, royal tombs, and temples, just to name a few. Even the walk into Petra itself is spectacular. As you traverse the Siq, a slither in the rock with 200-metre-tall sandstone formations towering on either side, you'll find plenty of ancient relics to discover en route for a taste of what lies ahead.

Explore iconic Petra by day and night on our [Journey through Jordan tour](#).

Amman - Petra - Wadi Rum - Dead Sea

8 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £2,690pp



3. THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA

Of course I had to include the Great Wall in my Seven Wonders. No matter how many photographs you have seen, nothing can prepare you for the magnitude of this astounding sight as it coils its way through China's breathtaking landscapes. The spectacular Juyongguan Pass is my favourite section. Flanked on either side by soaring mountains, it's a real gem for scenic beauty, and you'll find plenty to see along your journey - historic watchtowers, the exquisite stone carvings of the Cloud Platform and even Buddhist temples.

Walk the Juyongguan Pass on our [Wonders of China tour](#).

Beijing – Xian – Yangtze River Cruise – Guilin – Yangshuo – Shanghai

16 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,690pp



4. DELPHI – GREECE

One of Greece's most important archaeological sites and once considered to be the very centre of the world, nowhere else on Earth makes you feel closer to the ancient gods than Delphi. Spectacularly located on the slopes of Mount Parnassus, it was here that pilgrims would travel from all over the Mediterranean to receive the prophecies of Apollo. As you explore the ruins you'll feel the unique energy which still lingers in Delphi today. Whether it's a divine presence or simply the breath-taking views as you cast your eyes across a valley of olive groves and cypress trees, no one knows, but it's guaranteed to leave a lasting impression.

Marvel at the ruins of Delphi on our [Classical Greece tour](#).

Athens – Nafplio – Ambeliona – Katakolo – Delphi – Meteora

10 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £2,550pp



5. ANGKOR WAT – CAMBODIA

Stretching across 400 square kilometres, the Angkor Archaeological Park contains the remains of over 1,000 buildings and is home to the largest religious monument in the world, Angkor Wat. Built in the 12th century, the sheer scale of Angkor Wat is impressive enough, but up close you can admire over 800 metres of intricate stone carvings depicting historical events and over 3,000 apsaras (Hindu and Buddhist spirits) carved into the walls. With no two alike, you can truly appreciate the craftsmanship that went into creating each unique figure.

Discover Angkor's temples on our [Angkor to the Bay tour](#).

Siem Reap - Phnom Penh - Saigon - Hoi An - Hue - Hanoi - Halong Bay

17 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,690pp



6. GOLDEN TEMPLE – INDIA

The jewel of north India and an astounding sight to behold, Amritsar's exquisite Golden Temple is the holiest temple and most important pilgrimage site in the Sikh faith. From afar the reflection of the glimmering gold is beguiling but as the spiritual power of the Golden Temple itself draws you closer, you'll see that the building is just as impressive up close. An exceptional example of Hindu and Islamic architecture, the lower marble level is adorned with mosaic animal and flower motifs much like the Taj Mahal, and its elegantly carved upper level is gilded with gold and precious stones.

Admire the Golden Temple on our [Northern India Discovery tour](#).

Delhi - Agra - Jaipur - Amritsar - Dharamsala - Shimla - Delhi

16 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,490pp



7. REGISTAN SQUARE – UZBEKISTAN

Known as the 'Pearl of Central Asia' Registan Square sits proudly at the heart of the old Silk Road. What was once medieval Samarkand's commercial centre and meeting point for traders travelling from the East and West, Registan Square has the moniker of the most beautiful square in the world. The three grand edifices are amongst the oldest preserved madrasahs in the world and whether visiting at dawn, dusk or under the midday sun, prepare to be amazed by the sight of the intricate filigree patterns, impressive stone carvings and shimmering tiles of azure, indigo and gold.

Wander Registan Square on our [Road to Samarkand tour](#).

Bishkek - Cholpon Ata - Karakol - Naryn - Chong Kemin - Tashkent - Samarkand - Bukhara - Khiva - Tashkent

22 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £5,590pp

Choose Partner Flies FREE or FREE Single Supplement – save up to £760pp

All tours include international flights, all accommodation, all meals, all touring and entrance fees, a guide throughout and visa fees for UK passport holders (where applicable).



Classical Greece

Brand new for 2022. Immerse yourself in the very place western civilisation was born as you discover the classical highlights and hidden gems of the Peloponnese and mainland Greece.

Be enthralled by Greece's dazzling array of ancient sites and be captivated by their timeless stories, myths and legends. The foundations of western art, architecture, literature, philosophy and politics are all uncovered on this tour, along with the vibrant culture of Greece today, where love of music, dancing, food and wine play such an important role in everyday life.

Discover the astonishing collection of ancient Greek sites on the Acropolis while enjoying the unique energy of Athens with hilltop sunsets, rooftop restaurants, live Rebetiko music and even a Greek dancing masterclass!



Stunning rock formations and jaw-dropping medieval engineering combine at Meteora's precipitously built complexes of Eastern Orthodox monasteries, set in mountain-top locations that defy belief even today.

In the mountains of Arcadia, you'll enjoy a cookery demonstration in the beautiful village of Karytaina and the hospitality of a rural guesthouse in the traditional mountain village of Ambeliona. Greece is a country of awe-inspiring vistas from dramatic rocky headlands, fringed by azure seas, to craggy mountains cloaked in fragrant forests, and this tour will show you them all.

Greeks love their food and, on this tour, you'll see why, every day bringing a new delicious local speciality. Enjoy mezeds



Few places in the world combine ancient history and glorious nature as harmoniously as Delphi. Marvel at the Temple of Apollo, home to a legendary oracle, in its stunning mountain setting on the flanks of Mount Parnassus.

in a traditional bistro in Athens, saganaki in the old town of Nafplio and souvlaki on the road to Olympia. You'll get hands on with a cookery class, wine tastings, and even a truffle hunt where you'll get to taste your finds!



Classical Greece 10 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £2,550pp

Athens – Epidaurus – Nafplio – Mycenae – Ambeliona – Katakolo – Delphi – Meteora

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

Departs: May, September & October



China's Best Undiscovered National Parks

China may be most famous for its ancient man-made wonders, but nature is more than a match for man's efforts. Here's our pick of China's most beautiful, spectacular and dramatic landscapes.

Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area

Located in Hunan Province, in south-central China, Wulingyuan has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1992. Its 690 square kilometres are full of towering quartzite sandstones pillars, ravines, gorges, waterfalls, lakes and streams. There are also 40 caves and 2 naturally-formed bridges. Wulingyuan incorporates 4 protected areas, The best known is Zhangjiajie, whose unique, foliage-cloaked pillar formations are said to have inspired the look of Pandora in the film Avatar.



Zhangye National Geopark

Also known as the 'Rainbow Mountains', the Zhangye National Geopark, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, encompasses 322 square kilometres of undulating, rainbow-esque ridges in the green foothills of the Qilian Mountains. These unique ridges, considered by many as a geological wonder of the world, are made up of layers of different coloured rocks which, over millions of years, have eroded to look like waves. The area, in Gansu province, northwest China, also has a variety of unusual rock formations and there have even been discoveries of dinosaur fossils.

Lushan National Park

Set just south of the Yangtze River, Mt Lu (Lushan) is one of China's original spiritual centres for followers of both Taoism and Buddhism. Surrounding Mt Lu is 500 square kilometres of spectacular landscapes made up of towering peaks grooved with dramatic ravines and grottoes alongside lakes and waterfalls. The landscape is dotted with beautiful old temples which, along with the swirling cloud cover that descends on the area 200 days a year, perfectly adds to the spiritual atmosphere.

Qomolangma National Park

The must-see sight of the Qomolangma National Park is Qomolangma itself – better known as Mt Everest. This is the world's highest altitude park and, as well as Everest, encompasses many of the Central Himalaya's sky-scraping peaks, valleys, hot springs and forests. Standing at Tibet's Everest Base Camp staring up at Everest's north face is an experience that will stay with you forever – it's an intrepid journey to reach it but well worth it!



Wulong Karst National Geology Park

In the southwest of China Wulong is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world; a wonderland of stone bridges, narrow gorges and limestone formations. With lush moss underfoot, waterfalls cascading down the gorges' sheer sides and an atmospheric mist regularly lingering, this is a magical and otherworldly region.



Dreams of Nature

The perfect choice if you are looking to experience China's incredible natural beauty, embark on an epic journey that encompasses some of China's most impressive UNESCO World Heritage Sites and most incredible landscapes.

22 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,690pp

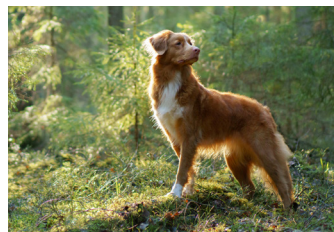
Guilin – Yangshuo – Zhangjiajie – Yangtze River Cruise – Wulong – Emeishan – Chengdu

Including: International flights, 3+ star to 4 star accommodation, visa fees, all transportation, all meals, touring with guides and entrance fees.



Our top Italian experiences

Italy is a land of endless appeal, packed with cultural riches, epic history, breath-taking architecture and gastronomic delights. So, when you're exploring it, you can't be blamed for losing yourself to its richness and beauty, for succumbing to its whims and charms, for finding your very own 'bella vita'. In fact, we encourage it! With that in mind, here are our top unmissable Italian experiences.



Go Hunting for Truffles

Among the hills of Piedmont, a rare and delicious morsel hides in the rich soils of the woodlands – the fabled Alba white truffle. From the town of Alba, you can head out into the countryside with a truffle hunter, a trifulau, and his truffle-sniffing dog for a fun few hours searching for them yourself.



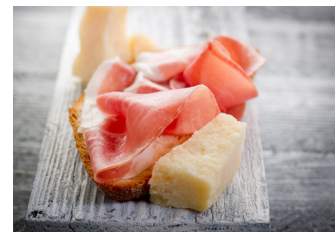
Celebrate Capri & the Amalfi Coast

Many an ode has been written to the blue of Amalfi's sea and the beauty of Capri; there is no better place to embrace the dolce vita than here. With the sun on your skin, a sea breeze on your face and a panorama of the precipitous cliffs plunging into the sparkling azure waters, life feels bellissima.



Sleep in a Trulli Roundhouse

The trulli of Puglia are the traditional dry-stone dwellings of the Valle d'Itria, their white, round walls and conical roofs fairy-tale-like in appearance. Staying in one is a fun and rustic experience plus you'll get to spend an evening exploring Alberobello's atmospheric streets without the crowds.



Eat Emilia-Romagna

In a country of culinary hotspots, to be considered the hottest is really saying something. Among the unmissable culinary delights of Emilia-Romagna are Bologna's Majani Chocolate Boutique founded in 1796 and Moderna's balsamic vinegar while Parma lends its name to two greats, Parma ham and Parmesan cheese. Luckily there are plentiful opportunities to taste them all.



Uncover Ancient History

Italy has wonderfully preserved and protected its ancient history. Wander the Roman Forum in Rome to admire the powerful aesthetic of the centre of a vast empire, in Pompeii and Herculaneum glimpse day-to-day Roman life while over in Sicily, see the Valley of the Temples, majestic artefacts of ancient Greece.



Fly high on the Monte Bianco Skyway

Soar up, up, up on this impressive cable car, gliding over dramatic Alpine valleys up to Italy's highest point, Punta Helbronner. Encompassing the snowy mountain peaks and green valleys of the Mont Blanc massif, the views are breath-taking.



Explore cultural Milan

While Milan is Italy's industrial powerhouse, it is also high fashion, high design and high art with a rich cultural legacy. The iconic sights should not be missed – the extravagant Gothic Duomo, constructed in pink marble in true Milanese style, and the world-famous Teatro Alla Scala, where the world first heard the music of Verdi and Puccini.



Discover the treasures of Sicily

Sicily, with its roguish charms, has long been the crossroad of the Mediterranean and has soaked up influences from both east and west. Here you can stumble on ancient Byzantium, Greece and the Roman Empire all in one day, and eat food with a Sicilian twist on flavours from all three.

Flavours of Northern Italy

Join us for two unforgettable weeks exploring Italy's northern regions, from the lofty peak of mighty Mont Blanc to the glittering canals of Venice.

Savour the delights of truffle hunting and wine tasting in the glorious landscapes of Piedmont and Tuscany, take a private cruise on the elegant waters of Lake Como, and come face to face with Italy's immense, many-layered history in the great cities of the north.

From the charms of medieval Siena and Bologna to the remnants of the Venetian Empire and the unmissable legacy of Florence's Medici family, join us in Italy to learn why this inspirational country is known as "the school and playground of the world".

Highlights:

- Discover Milan's magnificent history with visits to the Duomo and La Scala Opera House
- Experience truffle hunting and tasting with a trifulau in Piedmont
- Ascend Mont Blanc by cable car
- Sample the culinary delights of Emilia-Romagna
- Enjoy a glassmaking demonstration in Venice

Departs: April, September & October



Choose partner flies FREE or 50% flight discount for solos



NEW for 2022

Flavours of Northern Italy

13 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,990pp

Milan – Turin – Mont Blanc – Lake Como – Verona – Venice – Bologna – Florence

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

Secrets of Southern Italy

Spend an unforgettable two weeks exploring the highlights of Southern Italy, from the majesty of ancient Rome to the shores of Sicily.

Along the way, enjoy glorious gems such as Capri and Sorrento, and uncover hidden treasures like the cave town of Matera and the trulli houses of Alberobello. Combine it all with a culinary adventure encompassing Neapolitan pizza, Pugliese orrechiette and Sicilian street treats, and even try your hand at making gelato on the Amalfi coast.

Highlights:

- Discover the stories of the majestic ancient ruins of Rome, Pompeii, Herculaneum and Sicily
- Delight in the paradise landscapes of Capri and the Amalfi Coast
- Enjoy a unique hotel stay in the whitewashed trulli roundhouses of Alberobello
- Learn about Puglia's winemaking history
- Uncover the wonders of historic Sicily

Departs: May, September & October



Choose partner flies FREE or 50% flight discount for solos



NEW for 2022

Secrets of Southern Italy

14 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,990 pp

Rome – Naples – Sorrento – Matera – Alberobello – Palermo – Catania

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

Bucket list alert!

With borders closed for nearly two years now and travel plans put on hold, so many of you have told us that when you finally go travelling again you are going to go BIG. So if you are planning a trip of a lifetime here's the Wendy Wu Tours Bucket List breakers.

Partner Flies FREE or 50% flight discount for solos – Save up to £565pp



Grand Tour of Indochina

28 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £4990pp

This tour not only covers the highlights but helps you explore further into the region's magnificent beauty, fascinating culture and local communities. Spend two unforgettable weeks travelling through Vietnam, followed by a week in untouched Laos and a further week in Cambodia, where you'll discover historic Phnom Penh and the incomparable Angkor Wat.

- Glide along the Mekong Delta
- Marvel at Hue's Imperial Citadel
- Walk Mai Chau's rice terraces
- Practice Tai Chi on Halong Bay
- Be captivated by Angkor



Treasures of South America

21 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £7,890pp

This tour of South America will take you on an unforgettable adventure through the highlights of this fantastic continent. Embark on the journey of a lifetime, visiting Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley, Buenos Aires, Iguazu Falls, Rio de Janeiro and more.

- Marvel at Machu Picchu
- Cruise across Lake Titicaca
- Watch a master tango show
- Meet the gauchos of the pampas
- Explore the majestic Iguazu Falls
- Ascend Sugarloaf Mountain in Rio



Road to Samarkand

22 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £5,590pp

Take a journey along 2,000-plus-years of Central Asian Silk Road history. Discover the colourful markets and alpine scenery of Kyrgyzstan, the ancient cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva and travel through stunning scenery in the footsteps of great explorers and conquerors.

- Explore the mysteries of exotic Samarkand
- Discover holy Bukhara and Khiva
- Mingle with nomads in Kyrgyzstan
- Lose yourself in vibrant bazaars
- Watch nomads hunting with golden eagles
- Learn about ancient silk production



Grand Tour of India

29 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £6,890pp

Become acquainted with one of the most vibrant countries in the world, India! Embark on an exotic odyssey from the deserts of Rajasthan in the north, to the backwaters of Kerala in the south, to experience this land of extraordinary contrasts.

- Discover the colourful bazaars of Delhi
- Witness a holy puja ceremony on the Ganges
- Visit the magnificent Taj Mahal
- Meet the local Bishnoi Tribe
- Marvel at the impressive Mehrangarh Fort
- Cruise Kerala's backwaters on a houseboat



Egypt, Jordan and Israel Explored

25 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £7,590pp

Journey through three incredible countries taking in world-renowned ancient sites, magnificent temples and sailing Earth's longest river, the Nile. This history-filled tour uncovers the intrigue of the Middle East in one bucket list trip!

- Explore the pyramids & Valley of the Kings
- Cruise the Nile in luxury for four nights
- Stay in a lavish Bedouin camp in Wadi Rum
- See Petra by day – and by candlelight
- Visit holy sites in Bethlehem and Galilee
- Learn about Jerusalem's complex history



Ancient Empires of China & Japan

20 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £6,890pp

The ultimate tour for those wishing to combine the very best of two ancient nations. Join us on an incredible journey from Beijing to Tokyo by road, boat, rail and air on this epic three-week tour!

- Walk on the Great Wall of China
- Face the spectacular Terracotta Warriors
- Take a cruise down the tranquil Li River
- Reflect in Hiroshima
- Explore Japan's history in Kyoto
- Admire breathtaking Mount Fuji

All tours include international flights, all accommodation, all meals, all touring and entrance fees, a guide throughout and visa fees for UK passport holders (where applicable).



The Magic of the Mekong

As the Mekong reaches the end of its 2,700-mile journey to the South China Sea, it splits into the multitude of canals and waterways that meander through the Mekong Delta. An area of huge abundance it is a lush, green patchwork of paddy fields, vegetable patches, sugar cane, orchards and grassy meadows, its waters a hive of activity with floating markets, fishermen, commuters and water buffalo all part of the idyllic tableau.

Here, you are removed from the bustle of the cities and sights and immersed in a rural way of life that showcases a different side of Southeast Asia, where a fascinating mix of cultures – Vietnamese, Chinese, Khmer and Cham – all live in harmony with the river and each other.

The very best way to discover this extraordinary destination is by taking to the waters yourself on a Mekong River cruise. Those that explore the delta sail between the Vietnamese city of Can Tho and Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh, winding their way along the maze of waterways for you to admire the beautiful river scenery. To truly immerse yourself in this picturesque world however, there are certain places you should explore while you're there...



Tiger Island

A tranquil island amid Mekong tributaries, Tiger Island is the perfect place to discover some of the host of cottage industries that flourish in the area. See skilful fingers weave light but strong fishing nets, watch the creation of the fragrant incense that is always burning in local temples and homes, or learn the process of making traditional banh in (rice cakes).

Tan Chau

A town close to the border with Cambodia, Tan Chau is particularly known for its silk industry. A visit to a silk village is a fascinating experience as you'll get to see the entire process, from the silkworms bred on mulberry trees to traditional dying techniques and weaving on traditional looms.

Tra Su Forest

A unique and magical place, Tra Su is a submerged forest, home to a vast array of flora, bird, animal and marine life. Take to small boats and paddle slowly through this beautiful watery wonderland, passing through moss-shrouded trees and giant lily pads to the tranquil sounds of bird calls and rippling water.

Tan Loc Island

This large island is home to lovely old colonial-era houses where, in their verdant gardens and orchards, you can experience Mekong hospitality with a cup of local tea and delicious fruit picked from just metres away. The island also has distilleries where they make local fruit wines, all available to taste.



Floating Markets

A quintessential Mekong Delta experience, there are many floating markets daily out on the rivers. They are a great place to get an idea of the amount and diversity of fruit and vegetables that are grown here, each merchant's boat piled high with a different, colourful variety, and to get up close to watch locals shopping and bartering.



The Victoria Mekong

Launched in December 2019, the Victoria Mekong is our sleek, modern four-star river cruising vessel. She sails on three- and four-night itineraries (dependent on downstream or upstream travel) between the vibrant port of Can Tho and Cambodia's charming capital Phnom Penh, taking in the best sights and experiences of the Mekong Delta.

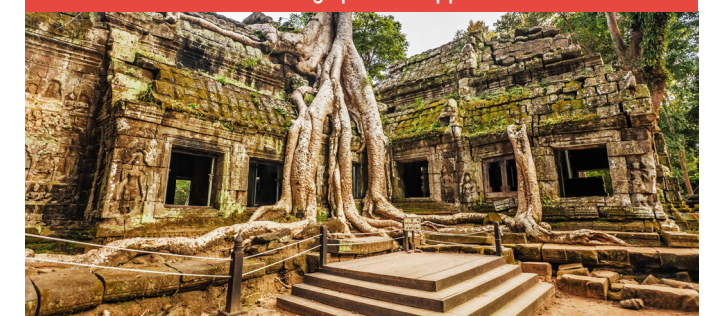
Accommodation onboard consists of 33 cabins and two VIP suites, each a space of contemporary tranquillity in calm, neutral tones, the large windows and private balcony perfectly framing the beauty of the passing scenery. Facilities include a swimming pool, spa, library and cinema room, a sky deck for soaking up your surroundings and a cocktail bar and restaurant for convivial evenings with your fellow passengers.

As well as shore excursions to floating markets, river islands and silk villages, there is plenty of cultural immersion to be had on board too, with traditional music and dance shows, lectures and cooking classes.

Hand-in-hand with this excellent cruising experience are impeccable eco-credentials. From water recycling and solar panels to low energy cruising speeds and a commitment to become 100% plastic free, the greatest possible care has been taken to make sure your cruise is as green as possible.



Choose Partner Flies **FREE** or **FREE** Single Supplement – saving up to £990pp



Classic Mekong

Embark on a glorious adventure, starting at the temples of Angkor and travelling on to the highlights of Vietnam via a three-night deluxe river cruise on the Victoria Mekong.

Siem Reap – Phnom Penh – Victoria Mekong Cruise – Saigon – Hoi An – Danang – Halong Bay – Hanoi

17 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,990pp

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

Departs: February, March, April, September, October & November

Going Solo but never alone

Travelling solo doesn't have to mean travelling alone and that's certainly the case for anyone embarking on one of our sociable, escorted group tours.

Not only do our tours allow you to travel totally carefree without the hassle of organising it yourself, but we've tailored some of our finest itineraries specifically with the solo traveller in mind.



Ready-made friends

Our tours are full of immersive hands-on experiences that are great fun ways to get to know your fellow travellers. Authentic dining in local restaurants also allows you to mingle in a relaxed and informal setting. Many of our customers tell us they've made friends for life on their Wendy Wu Tour.

Looked after all the way

You are accompanied throughout your tour by one of our award-winning National Escorts – their unparalleled knowledge, enthusiasm and attention to the tiniest details will make your holiday become something truly memorable. Passionate, great fun and always on hand, you may be travelling solo but you'll never be lonely on a Wendy Wu Tour.

Carefree travel

We know that when you are travelling alone the responsibility of organising where to go, what to see, how to travel and where to stay can seem overwhelming. Leave all of that to us. With over 25 years' experience, we know our destinations like no other. On our expertly designed tours you'll see all the best sights, immerse yourself in cultural experiences, eat authentic local cuisine and stay in the best located hotels. You'll never have to worry about a thing.

DEDICATED SOLO DEPARTURES

We have reserved selected departures of some of our most popular tours exclusively for customers who prefer to share their wonderful holiday experiences with a readymade group of like-minded solos travellers.

Enjoy the following fabulous benefits

- No single supplement
- Smaller group sizes
- FREE return UK Chauffeur transfers within 50 miles of the airport
- FREE airport Lounge pass
- Complimentary cocktails on arrival



SOLO TRAVELLER SALE

Free Single Supplement on our most popular tours for 2022 & 2023

For a limited time only we're delighted to bring you this exclusive Solo Traveller offer of a room of your own at no extra cost saving up to £1,940 per person.

Here's a selection of our most popular destinations and tours in the offer. Call our expert reservations team for the full list.

Japan

Japan boasts a unique and dynamic culture that effortlessly combines ultra-modern with deep tradition. On the streets of innovative, futuristic cities glass towers and tranquil temples stand side by side, whilst picturesque old towns, and gorgeous landscapes are an easy bullet train ride away. Mix these spectacular sights with a welcoming people, delicious cuisine and rich culture and you've got yourself a holiday to remember.

Our most popular tour: Japan Uncovered
17 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £7,090pp – Saving £1,790

Free Single Supplement on all 2022 & 2023 Japan group tours



China

China holidays bring together a world of experiences like no other destination. A place where incredibly old and state-of-the-art rub shoulders, China is home to magnificent sights from the Great Wall and Terracotta Warriors to roly-poly pandas, vibrant mega-metropolises and serene landscapes.

Our most popular tour: Wonders of China
16 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,690pp – Saving £660

Free Single Supplement on all 2022 & 2023 China and South Korea group tours

India

India holidays immerse you in a depth of experience like no other, with the diversity, cultural riches and variety of landscapes of an entire continent! Between the towering Himalayas and Kerala's beach fringed tip, there's millennia's worth of history to discover and whether you are gazing in awe at the Taj Mahal or bathing with the faithful on the ghats of Varanasi you'll feel the shadow of history with you at every moment.

Our most popular tour: Inspiring India
14 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £2,690pp – Saving £400

Free Single Supplement on all 2022 & 2023 India group tours



Vietnam & Cambodia

Two countries filled to the brim with sensational food, tranquil temples, bustling cities and outstandingly beautiful landscapes, it's no wonder Vietnam & Cambodia are at the top of many people's wish lists. With the mighty Mekong river running through the heart of both countries they each have much in common, but maintain their very own unique character, history and charm. So whether you're tempted by floating along the emerald waters of Vietnam's Halong Bay or exploring Angkor Wat's crumbling ruins, we can assure you incredible adventures await.

Our most popular tour: Classic Mekong
17 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,990pp – Saving £990

*Free Single Supplement on all 2022 & 2023 Mekong Cruise Tours**

Chile

Chile is a sliver of a country wedged between the Andes and the Pacific Ocean and a place of extreme and pristine wilderness. From the volcanoes and salt lakes of the Atacama to the majestic glaciers and snowy peaks of Patagonia, Chile will introduce you to a whole new definition of the 'great outdoors'.

Our most popular tour: Chile Top to Toe
14 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £6,090pp – Saving £940

Free Single Supplement on all 2022 & 2023 Chile and Peru group tours



*A Mekong Experience, Classic Mekong, Mekong Explorer, Thailand & Mekong Experience

A holiday at the start of the world lockdown



Lisa & Nick travelled with Wendy Wu Tours through Cambodia and Vietnam just as the full impact of the Coronavirus hit and still had a wonderful time on our Classic Mekong Tour. Here's their account of travelling in extraordinary times.

Marvellous Mekong – Cambodia to Vietnam

There were many highlights to this holiday, in particular the three nights on the Victoria Mekong. The Victoria Mekong is a recently launched ship and a great addition to Wendy Wu holidays.

As an incredible birthday treat Nick surprised me by upgrading our cabin to a VIP Suite. I can only describe the suite as perfect. It was like walking into a brand new penthouse flat (not that I have done so). Everything about it had that inviting clean modern feel. It smelt fresh and new with great attention to detail. The furnishings and decoration had been carefully chosen including the beautiful grey painting of a floating market above the bed. I have unsuccessfully tried to paint a version of it myself during lockdown in the UK.

It has a full sized bathroom and with the blind open, you can sit in the bath and look out to the river whilst sailing. The bedroom itself has the most wonderful panoramic views from a great expanse of windows leading to our own balcony at the back of the ship.

Another strong memory is seeing the sun rise on the deck whilst doing yoga. I had also never tried yoga before, but was excited to join in. Not expecting many participants Shabir had got out four mats but had to keep going down to the gym to get more. Once we started we had 11 out of the 22, which was the most that Shabir had had for any of his sessions even when at full capacity.

Starting out

However, I'm getting ahead of myself. We went on our first Wendy Wu holiday in November 2016 to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary – a once in a lifetime treat to China. In March 2019 we enjoyed another Wendy Wu trip this time to India.

On our return we planned our next trip – Classic Mekong for March 2020.

This holiday felt very different from the start. At the beginning of 2020 reports were emerging of the virus that had hit Wuhan and as the weeks went on I became more doubtful that the trip would take place. I phoned the Wendy Wu office to check and each time was patiently advised that the holiday was still going ahead.



Full of Unexpected Positives

Our holiday was full of unexpected positives brought about by the gradual shutting down of borders. The approach to Heathrow was oddly quiet with no problems parking. The flight from Bangkok to Cambodia was where we first noticed the major effect on tourism. There were only 12 passengers on the whole flight! This felt very strange. On arrival in Cambodia, we were met by our Wendy Wu tour guides and found that other travellers had cancelled their bookings. This meant that there were now 22 people on our trip, split into two groups of 11. This was a good number and the group got on very well.

Our first major attraction was in Siem Reap. We had been dazzled by the early morning splendour of the Taj Mahal in India last year and had not expected to find anything to match this. We had not realised how vast Angkor Wat and the walled city of Angkor



Thom would be. There was so much to see and large areas still being excavated.

Like Travelling 30 years ago

Again an advantage for us was the reduction in tourist numbers. Borders had been closed with China and with the absence of Chinese tourists we were informed that the tourist numbers at the temple complex were reminiscent of around 30 years ago. This meant that we had a clearer view of the temples and areas where we would have had to queue for half an hour, we were able to just walk up the steps and admire the stunning views.

Our knowledgeable tour guide, Jackie was also able to spend more time explaining the vast displays of carvings, representing life when the complex was built.

As the holiday went on we appreciated more the fact that we had been able to get away and explore without the crowds.

So Many Highlights

Having the Victoria Mekong was only three nights out of a packed agenda with so many highlights.

- A policeman shouting "welcome to Cambodia" on our cyclo trip in Phnom Penh.
- EON51 sky deck bar where we drank a cocktail whilst seeing the sun set over Saigon with live music playing. This was an early replacement for a cancelled Hanoi theatre trip.
- Walking around Hoi An with its Japanese Bridge, market and tourist shops. Two nights here didn't seem long enough.
- Visiting a farm on my birthday and cooking our own lunch in the open air, after a demonstration.
- Our last day in Hanoi when, with attractions closing, our guide Tim took us on a personalised tour to see local life in the city.



There were of course some negative aspects to travelling as the Covid-19 pandemic was unfolding throughout the world. However, for us the positives of travelling at this time far outweighed these negatives.

Looking back, we were so lucky to go on this holiday; to be able to visit major tourist attractions with very few people, and to be privileged to spend four days on an amazing new ship with only 22 people was something that can never be matched.

Lisa & Nick travelled with us on our hugely popular Classic Mekong Tour, a glorious adventure, including the magnificent temples of Angkor, a three-night deluxe river cruise down the Mekong. And the many treasures of Vietnam.



Choose FREE Flights or FREE Single Supplement – Save up to £990

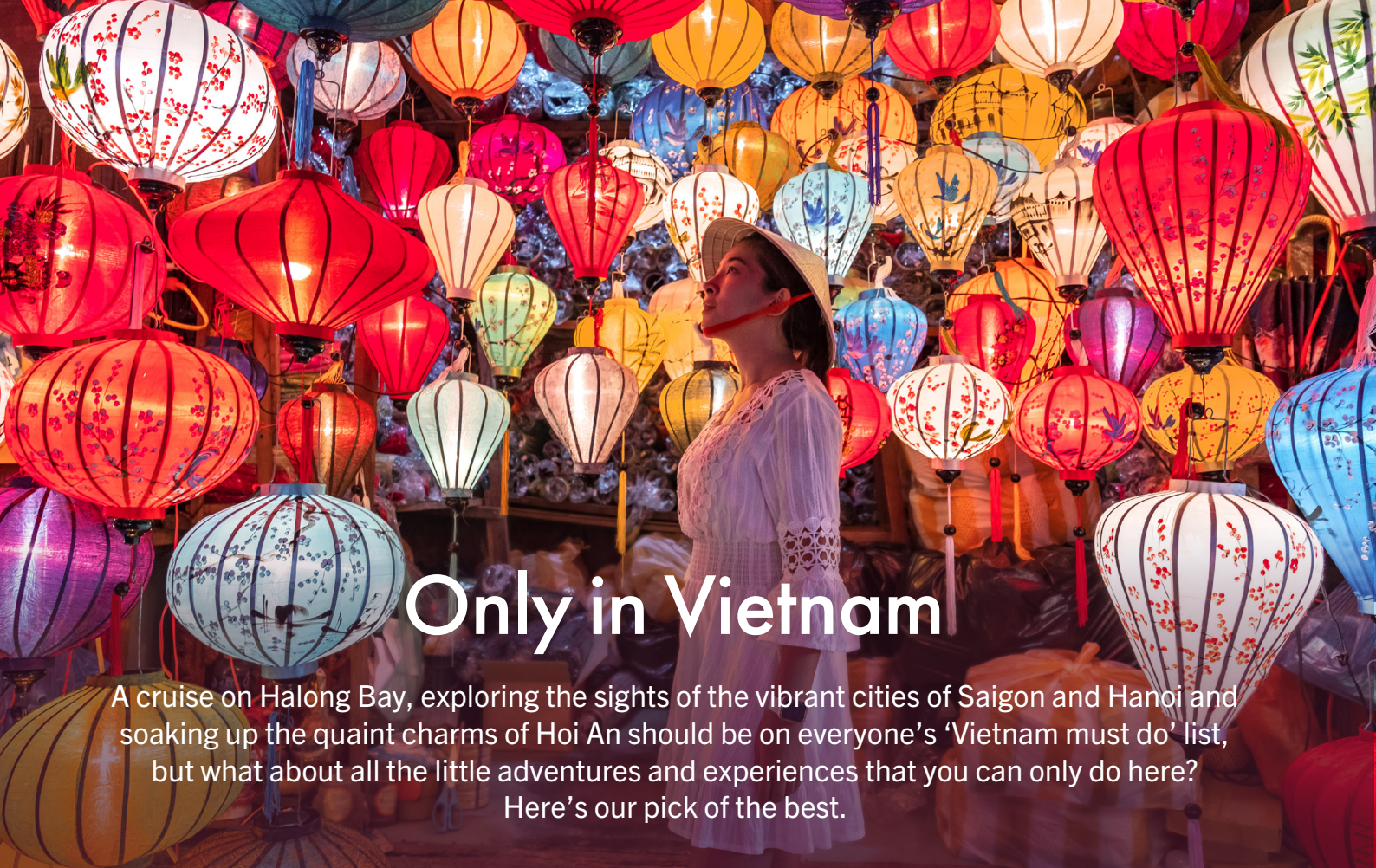
Classic Mekong

17 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,990pp

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

"Our holiday was full of unexpected positives brought about by the gradual shutting down of borders."





Only in Vietnam

A cruise on Halong Bay, exploring the sights of the vibrant cities of Saigon and Hanoi and soaking up the quaint charms of Hoi An should be on everyone's 'Vietnam must do' list, but what about all the little adventures and experiences that you can only do here? Here's our pick of the best.

1. Crawl through the Cu Chi Tunnels

During the war with the USA, Viet Cong resistance fighters created a huge complex of tunnels and bunkers; at Cu Chi you can visit a small section of it. As well as innovative and lethal looking booby traps and recreations of what underground hospitals and kitchens would have looked like, you can actually crawl through a section of tunnel like those used by the Viet Cong.

2. Taste your perfect pho in Hanoi

Vietnam's most famous and tasty dish, pho is a delicious broth full of noodles, herbs and sometimes meat. Consumed in vast quantities across the country, it originated in Hanoi and the city has made a reputation for itself as the pho capital, so there's really no better place to search for the perfect bowl. We highly recommend starting your culinary adventure with the street stalls in the Old Quarter, where you can perch on a little stool and watch the world go by as you slurp.

3. Haggle with H'Mong in Sapa

Every Sunday Sapa sees an influx of people from the surrounding hill tribe villages coming to the traditional market to sell their crafts and produce. Dressed in colourful, traditional attire these villagers bring with them a fun, friendly atmosphere as the market is just as much a chance to socialise as it is to do business. Haggling with the H'Mong and Red Dao market traders is a great way to interact and dive into local life.

4. Hike to hill tribes in Mai Chau

An idyllic place to see the rural side of Vietnam, Mai Chau is a spectacular area of green hills and water buffalo-spotted paddy fields. A gentle hike in Mai Chau enables you to visit the traditional stilt houses of the White Thai people. You are even able to stay in one of these stilted dwellings if a homestay appeals.

5. Explore Phong Nha Caves

Considered one of the last truly untouched stretches of jungle in Southeast Asia, Phong Nha-Ke Bang, a national park and UNESCO World Heritage Site, also shelters a huge secret. In the park's karst mountains are networks of underground rivers and caves, some of which are among the largest in the world! The journey into the most famous, Phong Nha, is astonishing; drifting through cavern after cavern, passing amongst immense stalagmites, stalactites and natural sculptures.

Partner Flies FREE or 50% Flight Discount for Solos – Save up to £300pp



Vietnam Trails

The perfect length for a more in-depth exploration of Vietnam, start in the very south in Saigon, venturing north through Hoi An, Hanoi and Halong Bay before heading up into the highlands to spectacular Sapa.

16 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,190pp

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

Travel Safe Protocols

Keeping you safe on tour

We know how important it is, now more than ever, for you to feel completely safe whilst on tour. As always, our customer's wellbeing is our utmost priority, which is why every Wendy Wu tour now features our pioneering Travel Safe protocols featuring stringent COVID health and safety measures so you can travel with ease and enjoy your adventure to the fullest.

As we continue to monitor the situation in each destination, we develop our protocols to ensure our customers and staff are protected at all times whilst following local guidelines. Here is a summary of the steps we have implemented to ensure you will be safe, secure and satisfied when travelling with us.



Guides and National Escorts

Our National Escorts and local guides will conduct a Health and Safety briefing before the tour begins and will help everyone ensure that they adhere to social distancing, hygiene practises and local regulations.

They will carry a supply of face masks and hand sanitiser for you to use free of charge and will, of course, observe the highest level of personal hygiene at all times. Should anyone on your tour fall ill, your National Escort will ensure the individual receives swift medical attention and can only return to the group once cleared to do so.

Transport and Sightseeing

Vehicles will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each excursion, overnight and between different groups.

You will always have at least one seat between you and your fellow travellers. Hand sanitiser will be given to the group on each embarkation and vehicles will be thoroughly ventilated prior to passengers boarding.

Drivers will always embark vehicles after clients, disembark the vehicle prior to customers disembarking, and maintain social distancing and a high level of personal hygiene at all times. Only front facing microphones will be used on vehicles and headsets or speaker systems will be used whilst sightseeing. Your guides will assess the situation on the ground to avoid large crowds – where possible, alter timings and potentially split the group into smaller sizes.

Accommodation

Wendy Wu Tours will only offer hotels and accommodation that have undergone a detailed hygiene assessment, have specific COVID-19 protocols in place and comply with government standards.

We will ensure these protocols include staff adhering to social distancing and wearing appropriate PPI, regular cleaning, and disinfection of high frequency touch points in all areas and food safety.

Dining

All the restaurants we visit will be researched and inspected regularly to ensure that they follow the strictest health, cleanliness and safety guidelines.

All waiting staff will wear face masks and gloves, and self-service buffets will be avoided in favour of à la carte dining, waiter-served meals or waiter-assisted buffets.

Hand sanitiser will be provided to the group before and after every food and beverage service.



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