

May 2022



WHISPERS

TRAVEL INSPIRATION FROM THE AWARD-WINNING TOUR SPECIALIST

VIETNAM REOPENS!

2022's reopening offers a window of opportunity like no other

JAPAN FOR FIRST TIMERS

Discover the classic icons and hidden gems with our ultimate itinerary

Travelling solo?

Lets go! Find out why our solo tours are so rewarding

Late Getaways

The perfect journeys if you are looking for an exotic adventure and just can't wait to escape

TRAVEL IS OFFICIALLY BACK!

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

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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 20 Apr 2022 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 Spring 2022 edition of Whispers magazine

Wow, what a fantastic start to the year, travel is officially back and not only am I delighted to see more and more borders re-open across the world, but I am absolutely thrilled to see that the desire to travel is stronger now than ever before.

After two long years of pent-up travel dreams, I can honestly say that I will never take travel for granted again. We must embrace these amazing opportunities while we have them, to celebrate our freedom, to explore and appreciate the diversity and wonder of our incredible world.

It appears many of you feel the same. I'd like to share with you a quote from one of our recent bookers who has decided to travel solo for the first time; 'If I wait for someone to travel with me, I may never get the chance to see and experience such amazing things' - I couldn't agree more! For anyone thinking of embarking on their first solo adventure, find out how you can travel solo but never alone on our supremely sociable group tours on pages 26-27.

If, like me, you can't wait any longer for an adventure, we have an exceptional array of fully inclusive Late Getaways with guaranteed departures over the next few months. Head to pages 6 and 7 to find out which amazing destinations are ready and waiting to welcome you, including Vietnam, Borneo and Uzbekistan.

Did you know Wendy Wu Tours are heading to Europe? In fact, we've already been! Our very first Portugal Uncovered tour took off in early April and it was a tremendous success. On pages 8-9 you'll find our Portugal Top 10, all of which can be enjoyed on this sensational itinerary.

Of course, not forgetting Japan – our star destination. With news that Japan will be set to re-open from this summer, we know there are thousands of travellers out there eager to return to this fascinating country, but if you are thinking of visiting Japan for the first time, flick to pages 12-13 where you'll find our ultimate guide for first timers, including the best places to experience the stunning cherry blossom.

So, sit back and make yourself comfortable. It's time to let your imagination run wild with the amazing travel experiences that are waiting for you.

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



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.



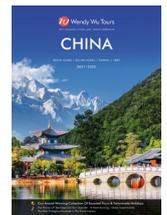
Japan



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

8 Apr 2022

We are thrilled to share that Wendy Wu Tours won not one, but two fantastic awards at the Globe Travel Awards. Considered the Oscars of the travel industry we are proud to have won the highly coveted 'Best Long-Haul Specialists' award for the 12th consecutive year, as well as scooping the award for the 'Best Premium Touring Company'.



Vietnam Reopens

15 Mar 2022

Vietnam reopened to international visitors on 15 March 2022. Untouched and untravelled for over two years, now's the time to discover this extraordinary country.

This is just the latest country to reopen its borders and make it on to the Wendy Wu Tours Green list as open for quarantine free travel.

- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Philippines
- Malaysia
- India
- Sri Lanka
- Peru
- Chile
- Ecuador
- Portugal
- Greece
- Italy
- Scotland
- Jordan
- Egypt
- Georgia
- Uzbekistan



Japan Online Travel Show Blossoms

27 April 2022

As Japan burst into bloom with the world famous Cherry Blossom Season, we were delighted to see so many of you at our Japan's Seasonal Wonders travel show online. Attendees enjoyed a virtual tour through Japan during spring and autumn, chatted with our experts and enjoyed an incredible exclusive travel show offer.

Sign up to our eNewsletter for details of future events.



Portugal – Wanderlust Hot Tip for 2022

10 Feb 2022

Our fabulous Portugal Uncovered tour made it onto Wanderlust magazine's 2022 Hot List. Full of culture, magnificent architecture, mouth-watering food and drink and picturesque scenery, it's no surprise that this journey has caught the respected travel magazine's attention.



Traveller Tales – Highlights of Sri Lanka

8 Apr 2022

Wendy Wu Tours VIP Wendy Harris recently returned from an epic adventure to Sri Lanka where she delved into the history, soaked up the culture and ticked off one of her bucket list experiences – seeing elephants in the wild. Read her fascinating account at wendywutours.co.uk/blog

Portugal Uncovered

20 Apr 2022

Catching the eyes of the travel press before it had even departed, our eagerly awaited inaugural Portugal Uncovered tour has just returned. Customers loved exploring the hidden gems of this fascinating nation as well as getting under the skin of the iconic sights. Exploring Lisbon with a Fado singer was a particular highlight.



The wait is over!

Travel in just weeks on our Late Getaways

Travel is officially back and the world is waiting to welcome you once again! We know you love to travel and are probably just as eager as we are to get away and explore, so we are thrilled to bring you our fantastic collection of Late Getaways, all guaranteed to depart in a matter of weeks.

Every destination featured is on the Wendy Wu Tours Green List, meaning it's open for quarantine-free travel and on the UK Government FCDO's good to go list. All you have to do is choose your favourite, pack your bags and let us take care of the rest.

May Getaways



Portugal Uncovered – Departing 14 May 12 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £2,450pp

Voted one of the top holiday destinations by Condé Nast Traveller for 2022, Portugal's extravagant architecture, mouth-watering cuisine and rich history makes for a culture-packed escape. Encounter dramatic cathedrals and sweeping vineyards, colourful cities and the legacy of Portugal's golden past on this all-encompassing tour.

Top Tour Experience

Immerse yourself in the beauty of the Douro Valley, cruising the languid river by 'Rabelo' boat and winding your way through the rolling hills by train before finishing at a family-run vineyard.



Road to Samarkand – Departing 24 May 22 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £5,590pp

Follow in the footsteps of ancient traders as you uncover the legends of the old Silk Road. With pleasant, dry temperatures throughout Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan in May, there's no better time to see the intricate mosaic-clad mosques and mausoleums of historic Samarkand and Bukhara illuminated in the sunlight.

Top Tour Experience

One of Central Asia's most iconic experiences, witness the skill and majesty of hunting with golden eagles – an age-old Kyrgyz practice – in the spectacular setting of Kyrgyzstan's highlands.

June Getaways



Spirit of Scotland – Departing 6 June **11 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £2,790pp**

Make the most of the UK's long summer days and extended twilight on our hugely popular Spirit of Scotland tour. Showcasing dramatic Highlands, great glens and the idyllic islands of Mull and Skye, ride the iconic Jacobite Steam Train, tour the Royal Yacht Britannia and discover the very best of Scottish heritage, culture and scenery.

Top Tour Experience

Meet Mitch, one of Scotland's last ghillies, as he shares stories of his life as a wilderness guide, learn foraging and survival techniques, and hear tales of the wilds of the Highlands.



Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan – Departing 8 June **23 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £4,890pp**

With summer in full swing around the Caucasus Mountains, exploring this region is an absolute delight at this time of year. This tour highlights three contrasting countries in one unforgettable trip. See everything from Bohemian cities and medieval monasteries to ancient cave towns and picturesque wine villages

Top Tour Experience

Join a master craftsman in the ancient city of Mtskheta to learn about the art of icon painting and the secrets of the traditional craft of 'teka' (felt) making.

July Getaways



Best of Borneo – Departing 30 July **16 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £4,390pp**

Borneo is a wonderland of uncharted jungle, spectacular natural beauty and one-of-a-kind wildlife encounters. This tour takes you to some of Borneo's most scenic spots, including the majestic Mount Kinabalu and the Kinabatangan River. Meet the native Iban people and visit, not one, but two reserves dedicated to the protection of orangutans.

Top Tour Experience

Be guests at a traditional Iban longhouse, where the tribespeople will perform a traditional war dance in full regalia and host a traditionally prepared lunch.

August Getaways



Vietnam at a Glance – Departing 16 August **12 Days Fully Inclusive touring from £2,290**

Have limited time but still want to experience Vietnam's top sights? With this tour you can tick off the highlights with visits to charming Hoi An, historical Hue and spectacular Halong Bay. Discover the contrasting sides to cosmopolitan Hanoi and Saigon plus the traditional side to life in rural Vietnam.

Top Tour Experience

Take your seats for the Quintessence of Tonkin show, an outdoor spectacle of puppetry and lights, performed entirely on water, showcasing the rich culture of Vietnam's northern river delta.

Exceptional Value Fully Inclusive Touring

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).

PORTUGAL UNCOVERED

Our top 10 highlights

The readers of *Condé Nast Traveller* have recently voted Portugal the best travel destination of 2022.

“Portugal is a country that just keeps getting better,” *Condé Nast* said, “with a growing appreciation, not only for its beaches, but its food and wine, and with lesser-known corners alongside the obvious hotspots.”

We couldn't agree more, so here are a few of our favourite Portugal highlights to get you excited to explore this magical destination:

1. Historic Porto

Spread along the banks of the River Douro, Porto is Portugal's colourful hub, renowned for its vibrant setting and charming ambiance. A Unesco World Heritage Site, listed for its astonishing array of landmarks, the history of which stretches back over 2,000 years, Porto's buildings are painted every colour of the spectrum, making it one of the most picturesque cities in Europe. While here, exploring on foot, we discover the icons and hidden gems as your guide fills you in on politics, religion, traditions, gastronomy and local customs. Naturally there will be chances to sample the fortified wine for which this city is so famous – port.

2. Douro Valley

One of the most picturesque, and oldest, wine regions in the world, the Douro River flows gently through a remarkable landscape of steep terrace vineyards, rocky bluffs, white-washed wine estates (quintas) and picture-perfect villages. As well as a delight for the eyes, the Douro Valley is also a delight for the tastebuds, thanks to the plentiful wine cellars that also occupy the area. We spend a wonderfully relaxing day making the most of the valley, cruising the river on a historic Rabelo boat, taking a scenic rail trip and visiting a family-run winery for a leisurely tour and tasting.

3. Sintra

Sintra is a fairy-tale come to life, with its ornate palaces and pastel-hued villas nestled among the luxuriant forests, parks and gardens that occupy dramatic hills that roll down to the sparkling blue waters of the Atlantic. Sintra-Vila, the Unesco World Heritage-listed historic centre, is a unique and fascinating glimpse of how architecture can work in harmony with nature. Rising above it all is the striking Pena Palace; built as a summer residence for the royal family, it is an eclectic mix of architectural styles, exuding an undeniable romance. Head up to the very top for unbeatable views over the surrounding landscapes.

4. Alentejo

The Alentejo region might be best known for the beautiful beaches of the Algarve but travel inland away from those purely seeking the sun and you'll discover a rural paradise of rolling hills, cork forests, olive groves and vineyards. There's also the occasional medieval fortress or abandoned chapel dotted among the landscapes, giving a wonderfully timeless appeal. Here, we visit a centuries-old cork farm to learn from the owners about cork farming along with their other crops, followed by a chance to enjoy a taste of the delicious wines and organic produce from the farm.





5. Geres National Park

Peneda-Gerês is Portugal's only national park and is a world away from the hustle and bustle of the cities and popular beach resorts. Hundreds of square miles of oak and pine forests envelop a rugged landscape of granite cliffs, waterfalls, rushing rivers and tranquil lagoons. Prepare to be captivated by the wild natural beauty of the park as you spend the day in the heart of this spectacular wilderness walking, picnicking and even taking a refreshing swim if you feel so inclined.

6. Fado music

The soundtrack to enchanting streets, fado music can be heard drifting out of the bars, cafes and restaurants of whichever city in Portugal you happen to be wandering. Famous for its expressive and melancholic tone, songs tend to express the struggles, battles and experiences of the musicians or tell the folk stories and history of the local area. We include a fascinating evening walking tour on our Portugal adventure that allows you to discover the roots and the emotion of fado. Led by your fado singer guide, you'll discover some of the traditional fado haunts of Old Lisbon, and visit a Fado House, where you will enjoy an incredible live performance.

7. Culinary delights

From port wines to sweet desserts, Portugal is a foodie heaven. Renowned for sweet pastries such as pastel de nata (egg custard tart), Portuguese cuisine is heavily influenced by the country's seafaring history, when merchants criss-crossed the globe trading everything from spices to seafood. There is nothing more Portuguese than biting into the local pastry 'talasnico', made from honey chestnuts and almonds, alongside an array of cheeses and a glass of port wine, something you'll do, touring with us!

8. Old Lisbon

A maze of winding, narrow streets, charming hidden alleyways and orange roofs as far as the eye can see, Old Lisbon offers a unique experience of Portugal. With castles, museums and cathedrals galore, the beautiful historic centre is brimming with incredible history, vibrant culture and bustling city life. On the final day of the tour, you'll explore this incredible area with a guided walking tour, a ride on a private tram through the most picturesque districts and enjoy a relaxing journey along the Tagus River by sailing boat. It all ends perfectly with dinner at a rooftop restaurant with magical views across the city.

9. Tomar

Rich in art, culture and charm, Tomar is a city that has kept one foot in the past. At its heart is the Unesco World Heritage Convento de Cristo, built in the 12th century as the headquarters of the Knights Templar, a building that plays an integral role in Portugal's history, and it's from here that the delightful streets of convents, chapels and museums meander. The intriguing town is a photographer's dream, with architecture unlike anywhere else in the country but, with its rustic and raw character, it's also as Portuguese as they come.

10. Guimaraes

Sitting in the north of Portugal, the city of Guimaraes is famous for its well-preserved medieval architecture combined with its modern and forward-thinking personality. The historic town centre is a Unesco World Heritage Site due to the fact it showcases the old with the new while retaining plenty of Portuguese character. Another colourful glimpse into historic Portugal, this is a place very close to the heart of the country; often called the 'birthplace of Portugal', it was here that Portugal's first king, Alfonso Henriques, was born and where the Battle of São Mamede, a decisive moment in the foundation of Portugal, was fought.



Wanderlust Magazine Hot Tip for 2022

Portugal Uncovered

12 days Fully Inclusive Touring
from £2,350pp

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

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.

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



You gotta have Seoul

South Korea's dynamic capital is a melting pot of the old – Buddhist temples, palaces and street markets, and the new – shining skyscrapers, shopping malls and pop culture. Here are our top picks of sensational Seoul's highlights.

Seoul Tower

Standing at 236m with a 360-degree panoramic view of Seoul – this is one view you don't want to miss. Don't forget to also try the Sky Restroom which is located in the observation deck with breathtaking views.

Gyeongbok Palace

Gyeongbok Palace was the main royal palace of the Joseon Dynasty, built in 1395. The palace has been rebuilt after destruction several times and today houses two museums, ornamental gardens and some of Seoul's most outstanding architectural sights.

Did someone say shopping?

Myeongdong Street is a shopping mecca with many stores open until 11pm. You can find all sorts of items including cosmetics, clothes, and popular dining options. Not only is Myeongdong a popular retail precinct, it is also Seoul's commercial, banking, and culture hub.

Insadong Antique Alley

Experience traditional Korean culture and art in Insadong Street. Stretching over 700m, stores here specialise in a wide variety of Korean goods including Chima Jeogori (traditional clothing), hanji (traditional paper), teas, pottery and folk crafts.

Street food

Street food is one of the best ways to experience the local culture and Seoul is no exception. Try Gangjeong, Korean fried chicken coated with a sweet soy sauce or Buchimgae, a delicious pancake with seafood and kimchi. Gyeran-ppang is a popular street snack consisting of a light, fluffy sweet bread with a whole egg inside or if you love spicy food you should definitely try Tteokbokki, stir-fried rice cakes marinated with Korean traditional spices.



Scenic South Korea

14 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £5,290pp

Seoul – Gwangju – Suncheon – Busan – Gyeongju – Mt Seorak – Gagneung

With its complex history, soaring skyscrapers and centuries-old temples, this tour has something for everyone. From bustling cities to stunning countryside and UNESCO world heritage-listed national forests. It is a tour full of contrast.

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



JAPAN'S ENCHANTED GARDENS

Japanese culture is interwoven with nature and perhaps nowhere better is this connection evident than in their beautiful gardens.

The Garden as a Work of Art

In popular culture, the Japanese garden is an embodiment of nature for its creators and carers. The seasonal changes that are featured in the images are said to mirror the transitions we all go through over the course of our lives. Through the plants, trees, sand and stones, each element has a spiritual and natural significance.

In a tradition that goes back over 1,400 years, gardens were made to create the perfect environment in order to entice the gods down from the heavens to interact with the humans on Earth. Spirituality plays a key role in the design and enjoyment of Japanese gardens – with altars, religious icons and small memorials in many.

History, natural beauty and tranquillity all blend to create a Japanese garden and they are the perfect way to enjoy your travels to the Far East.



Discover Japan

13 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £5,790pp

Tokyo – Mt Fuji – Takayama – Kanazawa – Kyoto – Nara – Koyasan – Osaka

Most of our Japan tours include visits to beautiful Japanese gardens. Our Discover Japan tour takes in the iconic highlights of the country as well as many exquisite gardens including Hamarikyu Gardens in Tokyo, the Zen masterpiece of Ryoanji in Kyoto and Kenrokuen, in Kanazawa, one of Japan's 'Three Great Gardens'.

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

The Ultimate Japan Tour for First Timers

Incredible food, unique culture, rich history and futuristic thinking; no wonder a Japan holiday is high up the bucket list of many. But where are the best places to go? Where can you experience that wonderful culture, admire the natural beauty and get a taste of that rich history? Look no further than 'Japan Uncovered' our ultimate Japan itinerary for first time visitors...

OSAKA

Rebellious, vibrant and quirky, Osaka is all about the big, the brash, and the bright lights. Long an affluent trading hub, its residents have always had the funds to have fun. This is reflected in the plentiful entertainment options that are easily found amongst its shimmering skyscrapers, including the buzzing Dotonburi district, and for those after a bit of Osaka's rich history, the magnificent Osaka Castle. Nicknamed 'Japan's Kitchen', Osaka is also the place to eat well. Be it in restaurants or from street food stalls, whatever your taste is bound to be delicious!

NARA

Nara is a charming city full of historical treasures. Japan's first capital, founded in the year 710, it is home to a centuries old legacy and some of Japan's oldest Buddhist temples. Wander through the peaceful Nara Park to meet tame Sika deer (some will bow in exchange for a tasty treat) and visit Todai-ji, one of Japan's most sacred temples. Nara is so wonderfully compact we have time to pop over to Isuien Garden, to contemplate the Zen landscaping of a traditional Japanese garden.

HIROSHIMA

Despite its dark legacy, Hiroshima is a city with a sunny disposition. Friendly and picturesque, it sits on the shores of the Seto Inland Sea and basks in its bright future. Hiroshima's centre is dedicated to the Peace Memorial Park, a tranquil green space full of moving monuments to those who died after the atomic bombing of 1945; the corresponding museum is a tough but necessary visit. We also take a short ferry across the water to the holy island of Miyajima, an atmospheric spot centred around the Itsukushima Shrine.

KYOTO

In need of little introduction, Kyoto is a modern city with an ancient heart. Capital from 794 to 1868, it is home to countless temples, shrines and age-old traditions that have survived centuries of feuding, war and more

recently, modernisation. The golden temple Kinkaku-ji is a must see, along with the Zen garden at Ryoan-ji and a stroll through the torii gates at Fushimi Inari Taisha. Wandering the alleyways of Gion, the old geisha district, you may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of an elegant kimono or structured up-do flitting around a corner and we'll experience the age-old rituals of a traditional tea ceremony accompanied by a Tea Master.

KANAZAWA

Set in the heart of the scenic Hokuriku region, Kanazawa may be small, but it packs a big punch in terms of culture and charisma! It has wonderfully preserved traditional neighbourhoods, making it the perfect place to get an authentic idea of what it would have been like to stroll through the samurai and geisha districts during their golden ages. As well as visiting 17th century Kenrokuen, one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan, you'll also get to try your hand at the ancient art of making washi paper and sleep overnight in a traditional Ryoken Inn.

TAKAYAMA

Watched over by the Japanese Alps, Takayama offers a glimpse of a rural, more quaint side of Japan. Its pretty riverside setting and traditional houses are perfect for slow strolls, whilst the Miyagawa morning market is one of the largest in the country and showcases the varied produce of the region alongside fun souvenirs.

NAGANO

A small and friendly city, Nagano is also nestled amongst the foothills of the Japanese Alps and surrounded by orchards and farms. The area is also particularly good for growing wasabi, thanks to the pure melt water from the mountains and you'll visit a wasabi farm to learn about the production of a typically Japanese ingredient. Close by is the onsen town of Yudanaka, known for a hot spring in particular. A walk through the woods of Jigokudani Monkey Park will bring you to a pool exclusively for the use of Japanese macaques, or Snow Monkeys, who come down from the mountains to bathe and play in the hot mineral waters.





MOUNT FUJI

Japan has had a long love affair with the perfect symmetry of Mount Fuji, its essence captured in plentiful drawings, paintings and poems over the centuries. None, though, can do its majesty justice, you really have to go and see it for yourself! We give you plenty of opportunities to enjoy it from every angle; a cruise on Lake Ashi, the reflections in the waters of the lakes of Fuji Five Lakes, ascending the volcano's slopes to the 5th Station or boarding the Hakone ropeway to soar over the hilltops to the volcanic Owakudani Valley.

TOKYO

Japan's capital, a mega-metropolis, Tokyo is one of the world's most incredible cities. It's here that you can soak up everything that is quintessentially Japanese – from the age-old traditions still performed at Shinto shrines, to the ultra-modern neon lights and pop culture of some of the city's unique districts. Areas such as Asakusa are the perfect example of how modern and traditional rub along so well together, with Tokyo's oldest Buddhist Temple in the literal shadow of the 634 metre Skytree tower! Sumo wrestling is arguably the best-known traditional thing about Japan – the rituals involved in its performance are as fascinating to watch as the wrestling itself. If you happen to be in the Tokyo at the time of one of the tournaments, tickets to the sumo tournaments are included!



Japan Uncovered

18 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £7,290pp

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

Don't Miss Japan Cherry Blossom 2023

With international travellers unable to experience the magnificent Cherry Blossom season for three years, demand for 2023 is huge and departures are already selling out.

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



CHINA – 10 FABULOUS FACTS

As the fourth largest country in the world, China's sweeping landscapes harbour some truly inspiring wonders. Prepare to be astounded...

1 Avatar is real!

Well perhaps not quite but the soaring sandstone peaks of Zhangjiajie National Forest Park were the inspiration for the Hallelujah Mountains in 2009 blockbuster *Avatar*. This otherworldly landscape was declared China's first ever national forest park in 1982. With some 3,000 towering pillars, each hundreds of feet tall and covered in a lush green foliage, Zhangjiajie National Forest Park was also recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992.



2 China boasts beautiful tropical beaches

China may be famous for its dramatic landscapes but it's also home to some balmy stretches of sand. Less than 30 minutes from the bustling metropolis of Hong Kong pristine white sand beaches, lush forest-lined mountains and beautifully blue water can be found on the largest of Hong Kong's islands – Lantau.

3 It is home to the world's fifth largest desert

Covering huge swathes of northern and north-western China, the Gobi Desert measures more than 1,000 miles from east to west and 500 miles from north to south. Unusually, the Gobi is a very cold desert, seeing frost and occasionally a dusting of snow on its soaring dunes. Its harsh climate sees the temperature change by up to 35 degrees, not within a season, but within 24 hours!

4 It is home to the world's third-longest river

Spanning 3,950 miles, the Yangtze River is the longest in Asia, and the third longest in the world. This impressive waterway, cutting through towering gorges and dense forests, is also the longest in the world to flow entirely within one country. For thousands of years, the Yangtze has played a pivotal role in China's history, culture and economy. It contributes greatly to the country's wealth and is home to many endemic species.



5 Giant pandas can only be found in the mountains of Central China

Giant pandas are native to south central China and this remains the only natural habitat for this adorable creature on the planet. Many giant pandas still live in a few mountain ranges of central China, mainly in Sichuan, but the march of progress in China has put pressure on populations. Fortunately, organisations such as Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding Center have stepped in to help. Home to roughly 50 pandas including an adorable baby panda house, the centre is also home to huge groves of bamboo planted to sate the fussy appetites of the residents.

6 40% of the country is natural grassland

Alpine pastures, lush meadows and vast emerald green rolling plains cover over a third of the country. As China is so huge that 40% makes them the second largest grasslands in the world. The Hulunbuir Grassland in the Inner Mongolian is the same size as the UK.



7 Over 100 of China's cities are home to over 1 million people

Home to roughly 1.3 billion people, China has the largest population in the world and boasts an astonishing number of huge cities, 102 with over 1 million at last count. By comparison the USA has just 10 and the UK two. The futuristic city of Shanghai is one of the biggest cities in the world by population, at roughly 24 million.

8 China has the greatest altitude difference on Earth

Home to the world's highest peak, Mount Everest at 8,848 metres and the peaceful Ayding Lake, which sits 154 metres below sea level, no country on the planet can boast such a huge range in altitude. In fact, the country is full of fascinating highs and lows. Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon has the world's highest and longest glass bridge running across the canyon for 430 metres and Yarlung Tsangpo Canyon in Tibet is the deepest canyon in the world, stretching 300 miles between the Himalayan summits and reaching an incredible 5,800 metres at its deepest point.



Discover China with Wendy Wu Tours

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?



9 One third of the country is made up of mountains

The towering peak of Mount Everest isn't the only star of the show in China. With more than 35 mountain ranges found in all corners of the land, China has almost too many famous peaks to mention. Top of your bucket list could be Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, a small but dramatic peak in the Yunnan Province of southwest China that is home to lush forests and meadows blooming with wild peonies and orchids. Or perhaps we can tempt you with Mount Emei, a UNESCO World Heritage Site soaring over 3,000 metres high dotted with Buddhist monasteries and temples?



10 China shares a border with 14 nations

Here's one for the dinner party trivia. China has the highest number of neighbours touching its border of any nation. India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Bhutan and Nepal all border this great country. Sharing a border with so many nations has its quirks. Trains crossing between Mongolia and China need to have their wheels changed because railway tracks in China are narrower than in Mongolia.

Best for first timers – Wonders of China



Taking in China's most iconic sights, this comprehensive journey showcases both the country's ancient roots and modern outlook. Travel from Beijing to Shanghai, the Great Wall to giant pandas, the mighty Yangtze to the tranquil Li, on one incredible adventure.

16 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,690pp

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

Short on time? – A China Experience



The contrasting cities of Beijing, Xian and Shanghai perfectly encapsulate China's glorious past, fascinating present and bright future. On this introductory tour you'll explore them and their treasures on the quintessential China experience which includes the iconic Great Wall, Forbidden City and Terracotta Warriors.

10 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £2,590pp

Shanghai – Xian – Beijing

Want the ultimate tour? – Magnificent China



China is home to a great number of world-renowned sights. This tour incorporates them all – cruise along the mighty Yangtze and languid Li Rivers, visit the adorable pandas and admire the astonishing Great Wall and Terracotta Army.

16 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,990pp

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

All Tours include International flights, accommodation, all transportation, all meals, touring with guides, entrance fees and visa.

Journey Through the Wonders of Jordan

We're delighted to bring our fully inclusive style of touring to Jordan, a country where, as an explorer, you are richly rewarded with mystical desert landscapes, ancient monuments, cosmopolitan towns and cities, and a culture of hospitality that stretches back to antiquity.

A timeless land, in Jordan you can flit between the present day and a time when camel caravans carried frankincense and spices back and forth along the King's Highway. To a time when the region was criss-crossed by Nabataean traders, Roman legions, Crusaders and Muslim armies, each contributing to the sights and culture that is so enthralling today.

On our tour you'll discover all these jewels and so much more, on one epic Journey Through Jordan.

Petra

Petra is one of those places that, no matter how times you see it in pictures, you'll never be fully prepared for seeing it in person. Tucked away in a sandstone escarpment, the city is hewn into pink-hued sandstone, the facades still bearing the echoes of their once ornate carvings after centuries of desert winds. A wealthy Nabataean city in the 3rd century CE, it was lost to the world for 500 years; it's those years of abandonment that have lent Petra the air of mystery and adventure that makes it so alluring to explore and the 'bucket list' sight that it is today.



Jerash

Jerash was a Roman city, and another of Jordan's jewels to be lost to the sands of time – quite literally in this case, as the ruins were hidden for centuries by the shifting dunes of the desert. Here, you can walk in the footsteps of Alexander the Great, Hadrian and Trajan wandering the colonnaded avenues of what is considered the best-preserved Roman city in the Middle East. Explore the

enormous Forum and hippodrome, which still hosts chariot races, and admire ceremonial gates, temples, elaborate mosaics and carvings.

Amman

A relatively youthful city, Amman is a friendly and vibrant metropolis that offers its fair share to Jordan's rich culture and epic history. Only selected as capital as a small town in 1921, it grew quickly and



energetically, keeping hold of the easy-going, accessible vibe that gives it so much charm. As it grew Amman's downtown encompassed what is known as the Citadel, a hilltop site that features Roman ruins, a world-class museum and atmospheric streets crammed with souks, coffee houses and mosques – it's here you need to stroll to catch a glimpse of a more traditional Jordanian life.

The Dead Sea

A spa destination for millennia, the Dead Sea (a misnomer, it's a lake) has long been famous for the therapeutic properties of its water. Nestled in the Great Rift Valley, it is fed by the river Jordan whose waters then evaporate at a rate of millions of litres per day leaving behind concentrated levels of salt and minerals. Wallowing in its waters and slathering yourself in its rich muds will exfoliate and heal and, apparently, leave you restored and beautified – whether that's true or not, floating in the super saline water is extremely relaxing.

Wadi Rum

Around 80% of Jordan's landscapes are variations of desert; Wadi Rum offers a particularly picturesque and accessible section to explore. Also known as the 'Valley of the Moon', the region has hosted humanity from the very beginning – there is ancient rock art and graffiti to discover among the geological formations – and is still home to nomadic Bedouins today. The plentiful siqs, arches and towering dunes change moods throughout the day, so it's good to spend enough time here to see them shift through hues of reds and purples; a luxurious desert camp is the best way.



Journey Through Jordan

8 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £2,690pp

Amman – Petra – Wadi Rum – Dead Sea

Experience the very best of Jordan on this mesmerising north-to-south tour, visiting Amman, Petra, Wadi Rum and the Dead Sea.

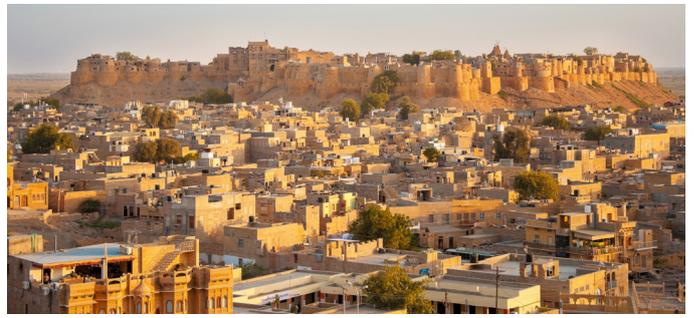
Including: International flights, accommodation, all transportation, all meals, touring with guides, entrance fees and visa.

Rajasthan – The Jewel in India's Crown

If you dream of an India of regal maharajas, grand palaces and mystical temples... then it's Rajasthan you've been dreaming of. Let us show you the wonders of this most regal of Indian states.

Jaipur

Forming one corner of India's Golden Triangle (Delhi and Agra making up the other two), the 'Pink City' of Jaipur is home to a treasure trove of historic buildings and sites dating back to the 18th century. Built to the specification of the ruling royal family, the city is home to an astonishing array of palaces, temples and architectural extravagance. Don't miss the opportunity to visit the impressive Amber Fort outside of the city, towering over the surrounding countryside.



Jaisalmer

Jaisalmer Fort rises like a fabulous mirage out of the sands of the Thar Desert. The impressive contours of its 99 bastions are softened by the amber hue of the stone that much of Jaisalmer is built from, earning it the moniker the 'Golden City'. In medieval times, Jaisalmer's entire population lived within the fort and to this day thousands of people still reside here, making it India's only living fort. Royal palaces, ancient Jain temples and merchant haveli mansions can all be found cheek by jowl within its walls.



Thar Desert

A vast stretch of wilderness stretching for over 200,000 km² on India's western border, the Thar Desert is a mesmerising landscape of huge shifting sand dunes and glimmering salt pans, boasting stunning sunrises, mesmerizing sunsets and dazzling night skies. A stay in a luxurious desert camp here is truly memorable. Meals are provided in the dining tent, which offers breath-taking views of the surrounding countryside, whilst evenings are livened up by campfires and local musicians and dancers.



Jodhpur

With its painted buildings scattered below the hilltop and huddled beneath ancient city walls, Jodhpur exudes a beautiful blue glow. Wandering through the city's jumbled streets will be a highlight of your India tour, as medieval lanes, bazaars and street food stalls entice your senses. Rising 120m above the city's skyline, Mehrangarh Fort is one of the most magnificent and best preserved forts in India, home to opulent palaces with meticulously carved stonework and latticed windows.



Ranthambore National Park

India's most famous and the most conveniently located tiger reserve, Ranthambore was once the hunting grounds of Maharajas and is now considered to be one of the country's most successful conservation programmes. Dotted with old ruins, including a grand fort, which the animals use for shelter, this is *The Jungle Book* brought to life. The park is renowned for its tiger population but you may be just as enthralled by the other wild animals you come across including leopard, nilgai, wild boar, sambar, hyena and sloth bear.



Delhi

This rambunctious capital city acts as the perfect introduction to the country as a whole, showcasing all the things that make India such a great destination: colour, cuisine, culture and chaos. Washed over by successive empires, the Mughals and the British have left the biggest mark. The Mughals contributed some of Old Delhi's biggest attractions – the Red Fort and Jama Masjid, with their mix of Islamic and Persian styles, whilst the British built New Delhi, in an extravagantly grand European style, as a show of power.



Taj Mahal, Agra

One of the most recognizable monuments in the world, the Taj Mahal is a glittering vision in white marble that is a worthy inclusion in the new Seven Wonders of the World. Built in the 17th century by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his most beloved wife, the Taj Mahal rests resplendently at the centre of beautiful gardens perfectly framed by a clear sky. In the changing light of the rising and setting sun, the blaze of colour from the shimmering stone is simply breath-taking.

Lake Pichola, Udaipur

The tranquil waters of the 4km long Lake Pichola are framed by rolling hills, grand palaces and historic havelis, ghats and temples. Seeming to float on the surface of the lake itself, the elegant Lake Palace is now a luxury hotel and will be familiar to anyone of a certain vintage who has seen the James Bond movie *Octopussy*. Although the royal rulers have now moved out – they still reside in the grand City Palace that rises resplendently from the shores of the lake.



Rajasthan Panorama

22 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,390pp

Delhi – Alsisar – Gajner – Jaisalmer – Manvar – Jodhpur – Udaipur – Deogarh – Pushkar – Jaipur – Ranthambore National Park – Agra

Rajasthan conjures up images of maharajas and palaces and is regarded as one of the most colourful and exciting states in all of India. Marvel at the beauty of this region's diverse landscapes, as you travel across deserts, lakes and national parks.

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

MEET THE EXPERTS

Panoramic Peru

In our 'Meet the Experts' articles, we ask the destinations specialists in our Product Team to talk to us about some of their favourite places in the world and how we've built the perfect tours to show you them.



This week we talk to our Latin America specialist Carolina about Peru and our hugely popular tour, Panoramic Peru; a 15 day extravaganza full of fascinating Inca history, dazzling colonial towns and beautiful scenery.

Q. So what is the appeal of Peru for you?

Lee. For me Peru is one of South America's most enthralling destinations with magnificent Incan and Spanish colonial treasures and a natural beauty that ranges from vast canyons and mountains to steamy jungles and serene high plains. The people are incredibly hospitable, there's a rich mix of cultures and the food is delicious too!

Q. What would be the must see highlights?

Lee. Well we have to start with Machu Picchu, one of the most iconic sites in South America if not the world. It absolutely will not disappoint, it's an incredible place. Perched hundreds of metres above the surrounding valley, enveloped by lush jungle and mountains – the setting is simply breath-taking.

We stay overnight close to the ruins so you'll have plenty of time to explore and even access the site in the early morning before the crowds arrive on the first train. If you can manage the early start and the steps, I thoroughly recommend hiking up to the Sun Gate to see the sun rise over the ruins – magnificent!

Cusco and the Sacred Valley: Home to an incredible Incan legacy, Cusco has some of the richest heritage in Latin America. The whole city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and it's a fascinating mix of Inca temples and Spanish cathedrals sometimes quite literally right on top of each other. We see a local folk performance here which is a fascinating insight into the local culture. The city is also full of charming squares ringed by cafes and restaurants and there is a real buzz about the place. The Sacred Valley surrounding the city is home to some huge Incan ruins, often perched up in spectacular

lofty positions, and the market town of Pisac is also a great place to pick up some souvenirs.

Arequipa: I just love Arequipa. Surrounded by towering volcanoes that always seem to be framed by the most perfect blue sky, it enjoys a sensational location. Built out of a smooth volcanic white stone, the whole city gleams in the high altitude sunshine earning it the nickname 'The White City'. There's some lovely baroque colonial architecture to admire and the city is renowned for its dining scene. We shop in the San Camilo market here for ingredients to cook with a local family which is a really lovely experience.

The Colca Canyon: Twice as deep as the Grand Canyon and over a hundred kilometres long, the Colca Canyon is awesome in the true sense of the word. Sitting on the edge of the canyon gazing out over ancient Inca terraces and watching huge condors soaring on the thermals above you is just wonderful. To top things off, once you've finished drinking in the views you can go and hop into the relaxing waters of the local hot springs.

Lake Titicaca: The first thing that strikes you about Lake Titicaca is the colour, the water is the most incredible cobalt blue. The main draw here is the Floating Islands of Uros – what a name eh? – where communities have woven floating homes out of reeds that drift along on the lake. But actually what stuck with me more was spending time on the island of Taquile and meeting the local villagers. It was so peaceful and the beauty of the setting really struck me.

Q. How about the lesser known gems?

Lee. People often rush right through Lima on their way to the Inca heartlands and this is a real mistake in my opinion. The riches of Latin America flowed through Lima in colonial times and it shows. The city has a beautiful historic centre with some stupendous baroque cathedrals, monasteries and mansions. It's also got the best dining scene in the country, we enjoy a great meal here with a pisco tasting, the national drink and my new favourite tippie!



The day spent in the remote village of Huilloc, in the Sacred Valley, was also really memorable. I got a real insight into the Quechua culture, met and chatted with the villagers and even sat down to a lovely lunch with them after a cooking demonstration. At the other end of the scale, riding the luxury Andean Explorer train from Cusco to Puno and tucking into delicious food whilst the scenery of the altiplano rolled by was a luxurious treat.

Q. What about the hotels on the tour?

Lee. I'm really proud of the hotels we feature on this tour, they really are first class. For example, the hotel we use in Cusco (Palacio del Inka) is a beautiful 500 year old mansion and located in front of the Temple of the Sun, whilst the hotel in Puno is located right on Lake Titicaca with beautiful views of the highest navigable lake in the world. The property in the Sacred Valley is a 17th century hacienda!

Q. What do our customers think?

"The tour was superb from start to finish. Peru is such a beautiful country and we now fully appreciate why the tour is called 'Panoramic'.

All the hotels were first class, and all the restaurants used were very good. Every day was packed full of activities that were extremely well organised and immersed you fully in the history, culture, geography and wildlife of Peru. The day long train journey from Cusco to Puno on the shore of Lake Titicaca was total luxury and passed through miles and miles of endless scenery.

The national escort was Wilbert. He was excellent in every respect and had so much knowledge of the country. Such a pleasant and talented man. It was an absolute pleasure to travel with him. He was clearly very keen to ensure everyone had a safe, fantastic and very memorable holiday. Which we all did."

Jane G – Newcastle .



Panoramic Peru

15 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £4,590pp

Lima – Cusco – Sacred Valley – Machu Picchu – Lake Titicaca – Colca Canyon – Arequipa

On this thrilling journey through Peru, much of which is spent at altitude in the Andes Mountains, you'll discover the heart of the Inca Empire at Machu Picchu, encounter soaring condors and sail on the waters of Lake Titicaca.

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



New Zealand's Sensational South

After two long years, New Zealand has finally opened its borders and we can't wait to take you there to experience all that this utterly magical destination has to offer.

Discover the spectacular natural wonders and quirky culture on our 14-day Hidden Gold of the South Island tour, recently voted one of the The Times Travel 100 Ultimate Trips for 2022.

Fiordland National Park

By far one of New Zealand's most awe-inspiring spots, this World Heritage Site is a breath-taking wonderland of cascading waterfalls, forest cloaked mountains, soaring granite peaks and shimmering lakes. The best way to soak up the magnificence of the surroundings is with a gentle overnight cruise which you'll enjoy on your Wendy Wu Tour.

Lake Wanaka

Located in the spectacular alps of the South Island, Lake Wanaka is a place of outstanding natural beauty. The lake itself is huge, covering 193 square kilometres, and home to five tiny islands. Pick of the bunch is Mou Waho - a tiny eco-sanctuary that hosts the rare flightless Buff Weka and Mountain Stone Weka and is the perfect place to capture incredible photographs of surrounding Lake Wanaka.

Mount Cook

New Zealand's tallest mountain, and where mountaineer Sir Edmund Hilary prepared for his assault of Everest, Mount Cook is a treasure trove of lofty peaks, glittering glaciers and vast snow fields. You don't have to be a mountaineer to enjoy the best of Mount Cook with plenty of short and manageable alpine walks offering spectacular views in every direction.

Lanarch Castle

New Zealand's only castle was built in 1871 and wows visitors with its grand architecture, pristine Victorian-style gardens and sweeping views of the Otago Peninsula. You'll tour the castle hearing tales of scandals and tragedies before enjoying lunch in the Ballroom.

Akaroa

The only French settlement in the country and full of charm, Akaroa is unlike anywhere else in New Zealand. Wander lovely streets on foot to admire the historic cottages and dip in and out of restaurants serving authentic French cuisine. We even include a cruise from the harbour in search of the world's smallest and friendliest dolphins – Hector's dolphins.



Hidden Gold of the South Island

14 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £5,590pp

Dunedin – Otago Peninsula – Fiordland National Park – Queenstown – Arrowtown – Wanaka – Mount Cook – Lake Tekapo – Christchurch – Akaroa

Explore the wonders of New Zealand's wild South Island, experiencing spectacular nature and discovering the hidden treasures selected by the Wendy Wu Tours New Zealand team. From the beauty of Aoraki Mt Cook National Park to Lake Wanaka, to the charms of Arrowtown and Akaroa, you're in for one glorious adventure.

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



Cruise the Mighty Mekong in Style

Experience the magic of the Mekong in 4-star comfort on board Wendy Wu Tours' new deluxe Victoria Mekong, the greenest ship with the most spacious cabins on the Mekong. Sit back, relax and soak up the sights and sounds of this mighty river.

As the only vessel to cruise this part of the river, discover lesser-known hidden gems and step ashore to discover the authentic life of the Delta.

Unique Shore Excursions

To ensure that you are able to fully appreciate the magic of the Mekong Delta, we've included some wonderfully authentic shore excursions that will get you out experiencing what daily life is like here. These include a Taoist temple, an ancient tea house, a plum wine distillery, floating markets and a silk farm village.

The Greenest Ship on the Mekong

The Victoria Mekong's eco-credentials are impeccable, with cutting edge water recycling, solar power, low energy cruising speeds and a commitment to becoming 100% plastic free.



Classic Mekong

17 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,990pp

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

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.

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

Why you should visit Vietnam in 2022

Vietnam will always be one of the world's most beautiful and intriguing destinations; 2022's reopening offers a window of opportunity like no other. Right now, world-famous destinations like Halong Bay, Sapa and Hoi An are quiet and peaceful, in a state not seen for a decade or more.

This gives us the chance to see the country at its most authentic, to enjoy Hoi An's fluttering lanterns without the crowds, to admire the breath-taking karst islands of Halong Bay in a state of tranquillity, and so much more.

So, what are you waiting for?

Big name destinations, without the crowds...

If your dreams include big-name destinations like Sapa or Hue - and who could blame you? - then 2022 is a wonderful time to join us for a tour, beating other international tourists to the punch. You'll see Sapa's world-famous rice terraces at the quietest they've ever been and walk trails that have hardly been disturbed for two years.

2022 will also be a particularly wonderful time to visit the scholarly city of Hue. The seat of emperors from 1802 to 1945, at Hue's heart is its Forbidden Purple City – atmospheric, beautiful and extraordinarily photogenic, and quieter now than we can ever remember.

Of course, some major cities like Hanoi and Saigon will always be full of life, with or without the tourists – and we love them for it. Vintage Vespas still whoosh through Saigon's streets and locals throng at pavement cafés to exchange news while sipping Hanoi's famous 'egg coffee'. But how wonderful would it be to experience these cities now? To explore the monuments of Hanoi's Ho Chi Minh Quarter in peace, or to see Saigon's French Colonial architecture without a queue in sight?

Off the beaten track...

We always endeavour to take you off the beaten track – consider our cruise ship, the Victoria Mekong, which takes you to parts of the Mekong Delta overlooked by others, or the wonderful region of Mai Chau – a paradisiacal valley of stepped rice terraces, carefully cultivated by villagers from the local hilltribes - it's far less known to tourists than its visually similar cousin Sapa.

If you thought these lesser-known spots were quiet before, now they're so peaceful as to feel almost zen.

Experience Vietnamese hospitality

Whichever part of the country you visit, Vietnam has a wonderful reputation for hospitality – but never more so than now, when its people are hungry to reconnect with the wider world. Visitors have been sorely missed by the guides, restaurants, and hotel workers who work hard to showcase the wonders of their beautiful country so you can be sure that you'll be welcomed with open arms.

Ideal autumn weather

Truth be told, there is no truly bad time to visit Vietnam: the country has something to offer at any time of year. That said, many consider Vietnam to be at its most charming from October to December, when the monsoon rains have abated, leaving behind lush fields and full rivers.

October is one of the best times to see northern highlands like Sapa and Mai Chau, when dry weather and stable temperature make ideal conditions for trekking and photography; you'll also spot the locals working the fields during the

rice harvest at this time. Down south, in the Mekong Delta, the river is at its best, filled by the rains. The riverbanks are at their greenest, and the stilt houses at their most impressive, perched over the gently rolling waters.

2022 offers the perfect opportunity to visit this beloved and magical destination, to experience Vietnam at its most peaceful and authentic – this is a window not to be missed!

Beyond Vietnam: Cambodia, Borneo and more...

Across Asia, doors are open or in the process of being unlocked. Borneo is reopening its doors, while the Philippines and Cambodia have been open to tourists for some months now. It's a well-kept secret, it seems, as iconic world wonders like the glorious Temples of Angkor remain surprisingly peaceful at present.

Momentum is building, however, with many travellers already booked for 2023 and 2024. Of course, Angkor will be no less beautiful in the years to come, nor its sunsets less spectacular – but how wonderful to behold that sunset in the exceptional peace it has now.

Visitors have been greatly missed in Vietnam, Cambodia and beyond. Why wait? Come now and experience Southeast Asia's boundless hospitality in this extraordinary period of renewal and regrowth, with the region at its most authentic.



Classic Mekong

17 days Fully Inclusive Touring
from £3,990pp

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

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.

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



Travelling Solo? Let's Go!

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



Years of experience

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

Stress-free travel

Our group tours offer a totally stress-free way to travel so you can just sit back and enjoy each amazing sight, sound and experience as our guides showcase the wonders of their homeland. Plus, all your flights, accommodation, meals, daily tours, experiences and even visas are taken care of by us so it's easier than ever for solos to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure without the stress of organising it alone.

World-class guides

Whether you're a solo traveller or not, and no matter which Wendy Wu tour you decide to take, every journey is guided by one of our award-winning National Escorts. We will only ever choose the most enthusiastic, passionate, friendly and welcoming guides to lead our tours, so we know you are in the very best hands. Your National Escort will take care of you every step of the way, they simply couldn't do more for you, and it's their dedication and abilities to get a group to bond which will ensure you have the most unforgettable experience with us.

Supremely sociable

Aside from offering the most relaxed and carefree way to travel, our group tours are incredibly sociable, and you're more than likely to make friends for life. On every tour we include a whole host of immersive hands-on experiences, informal local dining and cultural encounters which you will all enjoy together as part of a group – they are the perfect icebreakers and fantastic ways to make memories with new friends.

DEDICATED SOLO DEPARTURES

Of course, solo travellers are more than welcome on all Wendy Wu group tours, however if you prefer to travel only with other solos we have selected departures on some of our most popular tours which are dedicated to solo travellers only, so you can travel in a group of like-minded individuals just like you.

Enjoy the following fabulous benefits

- Smaller group size (max. 18)
- Room of your own throughout trip
- Free chauffeur transfers to and from UK airport
- Free UK airport lounge access
- Complimentary cocktail reception on arrival

Enjoy dedicated solo departures to: Japan, India, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Sri Lanka

Sensational Solo Adventures



Dedicated Solo Departures

Japan Uncovered

One of our most extensive Japan tours including 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.

18 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £7,090pp

Dedicated Solo Departures from £9,090pp

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



Dedicated Solo Departures

Angkor to the Bay

One of our most popular tours – take a voyage of discovery from the breathtaking majesty of the temples of Angkor, through to the spectacular natural grandeur of Halong Bay, experiencing all manner of delights en route.

17 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,690pp

Dedicated Solo Departures from £3,990pp

Angkor – Phnom Penh – Saigon – Hoi An – Hue – Hanoi – Halong Bay



Dedicated Solo Departures

Inspiring India

Be inspired by the classic sights of India's Golden Triangle, discovering delightful Udaipur and searching for majestic Bengal tigers at Ranthambore. Add some of Rajasthan's hidden gems and you have the perfect first-time holiday to India.

14 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £2,690pp

Dedicated Solo Departures from £2,990pp

Delhi – Agra – Taj Mahal – Ranthambore – Bundi – Udaipur – Pushkar – Jaipur



Ultimate South America

A real once-in-a-lifetime experience, this all-encompassing journey will take you through the many diverse landscapes of Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil on an epic adventure.

29 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £9,790pp

Lima – Sacred Valley – Machu Picchu – Cusco – Lake Titicaca – Salar de Uyuni – Atacama Desert – Santiago – Mendoza – Buenos Aires – Iguazu Falls – Rio de Janeiro



Dedicated Solo Departures

Majestic Yangtze

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

14 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,190pp

Dedicated Solo Departures from £3,890pp

Shanghai – Yangtze River Cruise – Chongqing – Chengdu – Xian – Beijing – Great Wall



Egypt & Jordan Adventure

The legendary romance of Egypt meets the adventurous spirit of Jordan. See Egypt from top to toe, taking in ancient pyramids, hidden catacombs and the glorious Nile, then head east to Jordan exploring Petra by day and by candlelight, learning the secrets of Levantine cooking, and experiencing Bedouin hospitality at a 5-star luxury camp in Wadi Rum.

18 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £5,490pp

Cairo – Alexandria – Luxor – Nile Cruise – Aswan – Abu Simbel – Amman – Petra – Wadi Rum – Dead Sea

All Tours include International flights, accommodation, all transportation, all meals, touring with guides, entrance fees and visa.

Laos and Cambodia Unveiled



No one can bring our tours to life better than those who have seen, done and experienced it all first-hand. Maureen and Alan travelled with us on our Laos and Cambodia Unveiled Tour.



Our compact group of eleven travellers enjoyed the Laos and Cambodia Unveiled itinerary with Wendy Wu Tours. It was a fascinating trip packed with many insights into the day to day lives of these very friendly people. We always received a very warm welcome despite the fact that many of them lived with very little. It was a very humbling experience.

A Real Insight into Local Life

We visited schools, were welcomed into local villagers' homes, enjoyed temples, stupas, pagodas, caves, waterfalls and museums. We learnt about rice paper making, weaving, making fishing nets by hand, paper making, pottery work, jewellery making, wood and stone carving. We dived into local market shopping for food, flowers and handicrafts and even met the local wildlife at a bear rescue centre and elephant sanctuary.

The architecture is absolutely stunning with an overwhelming amount of gold leaf symbolising the light of the sun, ornate stencils and tiles, vivid mirror mosaics, wood and stone carvings and many, many buddhas, of course.

Giving something back

We were particularly impressed that a number of the restaurants we dined in were either vocational training restaurants, a training restaurant for marginalised youth, or helping sick children. The restaurants are part of the Tree Alliance whose profits are used to give students a helping hand into the hospitality industry.

We were also honoured to participate in an early morning alms giving ceremony known as a Tak Bat ritual in Laos. It is a living Buddhist tradition for the people of Luang Prabang where we helped serve hot sticky rice to the local saffron-robed monks. There were over a hundred monks and we made sure they all received a fair share!



Exhilarating Experiences

We enjoyed some fascinating boat trips on the Angkor moat and Tonle Sap Lake. On our last night in Phnom Penh we even experienced a beautiful sunset cruise on the Mekong, but the best fun was on the crazy Bamboo Train in Battambang and the exhilarating cyclo tour in Phnom Penh. Of course, Angkor Wat was the highlight – it is the largest religious monument in the world. The view from the Central Sanctuary at the top was well worth the steep climb.

A Treat for the Taste Buds

On several occasions we watched traditional dancers and musicians whilst dining. In fact, we enjoyed plenty of excellent fresh

food in some stunning locations. It was a very well thought out and varied itinerary.

In the markets, and even some restaurants, we saw some extraordinary food which was not for the faint hearted – such as fried crickets, barbecued rats and deep-fried tarantulas!

As always, this Wendy Wu tour offered the unexpected plus lots of wonderful experiences whilst still caring about the local people and helping to contribute to their wellbeing.

Thank you to Maureen for your wonderful write up and photos.



"Of course, Angkor Wat was the highlight – it is the largest religious monument in the world. The view from the Central Sanctuary at the top was well worth the steep climb."



Laos and Cambodia Unveiled

17 days Fully Inclusive Touring from £3,390pp

Vientiane – Vang Vieng – Luang Prabang – Siem Reap – Battambang – Phnom Penh

This epic adventure takes you from the UNESCO-listed city of Luang Prabang in untouched Laos to venture through Cambodia to explore the magnificent temples of Angkor, the rural beauty of Battambang and lovely Phnom Penh.

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



A Holiday fit for the Gods

Greece is home to a dazzling array of ancient sites, timeless tales, myths and legends but that's only half the story. Travel with us along ancient highways and discover the vibrant culture of Greece today, where a love of music, dancing, food and wine play such an important role in everyday life.

Explore Athens Ancient & Modern

Discover the astonishing collection of ancient sites at the Acropolis, including the Parthenon, the Propylaea, the Erechtheion and the Temple of Athena. You'll also be able to throw yourself into the unique energy of Athens today, with hilltop sunsets, rooftop restaurants, live Rebetiko music and even a Greek dancing masterclass.

Discover the Temple of Apollo at Delphi

Few places in the world combine ancient history and glorious nature as harmoniously as Delphi. Perched dramatically on the flanks of Mount Parnassos and home to the famous oracle of Pythia, Delphi was for many centuries regarded as the cultural and religious centre of ancient Greece. Today, as you wander amongst the monumental remains, it requires no imagination at all to picture yourself visiting during the site's glory days thousands of years ago.

Marvellous Meteora

Stunning rock formations and jaw-dropping medieval engineering combine at Meteora's precipitously built complexes of Eastern Orthodox monasteries. Set in mountain-top locations amongst the dramatic scenery of central Greece, they are as astonishing today as when they were built in the 13th century.

Food for the Gods

Greeks love their food and we'll show you why. On our Classical Greece tour everyday is an epicurean delight. Enjoy traditional mezedes in an historic Athens bistro, delicious souvlaki in the Gulf of Corinth and flaming fried cheese in Nafplio to name just a few. You'll even 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 – Nafplio – Ambeliona – Katakolo – Delphi – Meteora – Athens

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 a dazzling array of ancient sites along with the vibrant culture of Greece today.

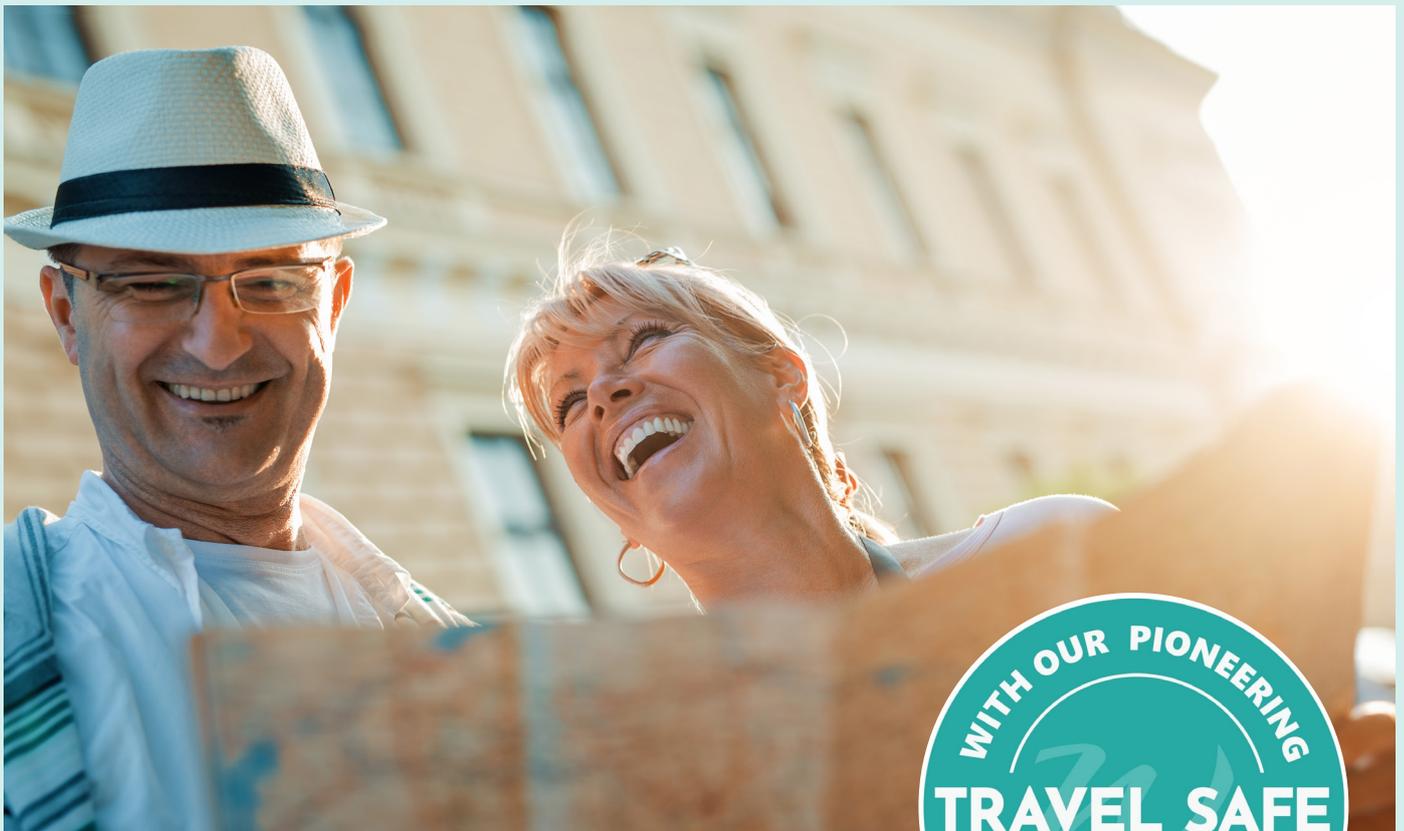
Including: International flights, accommodation, all transportation, all meals, touring with guides, entrance fees and visa.

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 guides will conduct a Health and Safety briefing with you before the tour begins and will help everyone ensure they take care of themselves and adhere to local regulations. It is a requirement that our key staff on tour must be either fully vaccinated or can provide a negative test result before meeting our passengers.

Should anyone on the group 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 overnight and between different groups.

Our policy to allow at least 1.5 seats per passenger ensures the coach never feels crowded. Hand sanitiser will be given to the group on each embarkation and vehicles will be ventilated prior to passengers boarding.

Accommodation

You will only stay at hotels that fully comply with national or local Covid laws or guidelines. These hotels have also been audited by our overseas partners to ensure they are safe to use.

Dining

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

Fully Vaccinated Guests Only

As part of our commitment to providing a safe and healthy environment for everyone, all passengers travelling with Wendy Wu Tours are required to be fully vaccinated at the time of travel.

Wendy Wu Tours

THE AWARD-WINNING TOUR SPECIALIST



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