

TOP REASONS TO CHOOSE WENDY WU TOURS

- Over 18 years' experience
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Wendy Wu Tours

AUGUST 2016

CHINESE WHISPERS

THE LATEST TRAVEL NEWS AND INSPIRATION FROM WENDY WU TOURS

HEAD TO HEAD
Kerala VS Rajasthan

2017 HOTLIST!
Our top picks for 2017

**INTO THE HEART
OF BORNEO**

See the adorable orangutans
on our new river cruise tour

TRAVEL TALES

Find out why South Africa
is a must-visit

THE BIG INTERVIEW

With Good Morning Britain's,
Kate Garraway

UNDISCOVERED CHINA

Learn more about the
picturesque Yunnan Province



A MESSAGE FROM WENDY



Welcome to our summer 2016 issue of Chinese Whispers, where we aim to inspire you with new tour ideas and destinations as well as keeping you up to date with the latest Wendy Wu news.

Following the EU referendum result, we have received some calls from customers concerned that the price of their holiday may increase. You can rest assured that this will not be the case at Wendy Wu, plus with so much included in your tour there's very little additional spending money required once you get there.

We're excited to soon be releasing our new 2017/18 brochures, so keep your eyes peeled in September for what's in store. As well as brand new tours to Asia, we'll also be introducing even more destinations beyond Asia which will offer the same great value and expertise that we pride ourselves on. To whet your holiday taste buds, flick to pages 10-11 where we highlight our top must-do experiences for 2017.

You'll find all your favourite features within this issue, including; Customer Corner, Head to Head and A Life in the Day plus an exclusive interview with TV's Kate Garraway.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue and we look forward to welcoming you on a Wendy Wu holiday very soon.

Best wishes,

Wendy Wu,
Owner & Founder, Wendy Wu Tours

Cover image: Orangutan in Borneo

IN THIS ISSUE...



HOT LIST 2017

Pages 10-11

Our top picks for 2017.



THE BIG INTERVIEW

Pages 12-13

We interview Good Morning Britain and Smooth Radio Presenter, Kate Garraway about her favourite travel experiences.



INTO THE TRUE HEART OF BORNEO

Page 21

See the adorable orangutans of Borneo on our brand new river cruise tour.



UNDISCOVERED CHINA

Pages 22-23

Learn more about one of China's most picturesque and diverse provinces, Yunnan.



THE BEST ASIAN FESTIVALS

Pages 24-25

Find out which Asian festival you should experience next.

WHAT'S NEW?

OUR EXPERTS BRING YOU THE LATEST NEWS FROM WENDY WU TOURS

WENDY WU TOURS ARE COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU!

If you're still deciding where to travel to next or you simply want to learn more about Asia, join us this October for a free and informative evening filled with canapes, wine and exclusive travel offers with the Wendy Wu experts.

We'll be visiting Portsmouth, Newcastle, Chester and Leeds – so if these towns are near you, go to wendywutours.co.uk/events or email events@wendywutours.co.uk to find out more and to sign up. Places are strictly limited so make sure you register early to secure your place!



VOTE FOR US!

We're thrilled to have been shortlisted in the prestigious Times Travel Awards and the British Travel Awards this year – and winning would mean a lot to us. So if you've previously enjoyed a holiday with us, we would really appreciate you taking the time to vote for us in these awards (which will enter you into a prize draw to win an incredible holiday!)

Vote by 06 Aug!

To vote and find out more visit wendywutours.co.uk/vote



NEW DISNEYLAND OPENS IN SHANGHAI

If you've got grandchildren, then we're pretty sure they'll be mad about Disney! So why not be one of the first to experience the magic of Disney in Shanghai with the whole family as part of your China holiday?

Call **ASIA Inspirations** on **0800 988 8202** to start planning your trip.



COMING SOON...

We're excited to announce that we're soon to be adding even more destinations beyond Asia to the Wendy Wu Tours portfolio. In September, keep your eyes peeled and visit our website to find out where they could be!

HAVE YOUR "SAY"

We always enjoy hearing about your adventures from your trips with us, plus any tips you may have picked up along the way.

We always appreciate hearing your feedback – and there are many ways in which you can tell us about your experiences. So why not get in touch via Facebook, Trip Advisor, Twitter, email, write a review on feefo or even send us a traditional letter!

STAR LETTER

Thank you so very much for the wonderful holiday you arranged for us to Vietnam and Cambodia. It was everything we wanted and then more. Everything ran like clockwork and the guides were superb; they were knowledgeable, so helpful, had excellent time keeping and couldn't do enough for us. Our experiences were fantastic and every day was so very different. We would like to say a big thank you to Melanie, who made our holiday so memorable for the four of us. We'll be recommending Wendy Wu Tours to all of our family and friends without any hesitation and look forward to another holiday with you.

Mr & Mrs Savery and Mr & Mrs Jones, travelled on a tailor-made tour to Vietnam & Cambodia, via email

Our star letter wins a gourmet hamper!



RECOMMEND US

If you recommend Wendy Wu Tours to your friends and family and they go on to book, we will send you a delicious hamper for the first booking we receive.

Plus, for every subsequent booking we'll send you **£50 worth of vouchers**.



We recently travelled on your 26 day Grand Tour of China. It was an amazing experience and very well organised throughout with good hotels, transport and a fantastic National Escort, Element Ning. The attractions we visited exceeded our expectations, from the Great Wall, Terracotta Warriors, panda reserve, ancient towns and rural countryside. We were looked after throughout and nothing was too much trouble for our National Escort and local guides. We're already planning further trips to learn more about China's history and culture with Wendy Wu Tours. 10/10 from us!

John and Madeleine Church travelled on Grand Tour of China, via feefo

YOUR LOYALTY MATTERS

As a thank you for your loyalty, there are a series of rewards for your valued custom with Wendy Wu Tours:



SAVE £100pp when you book your second tour with us. Just quote 'loyalty discount' at the time of booking.



SAVE £200pp if you book another tour with us within 4 weeks of returning home. Just quote 'welcome home' at the time of booking.



SAVE £250pp become a Wendy Wu Tours VIP when you book three or more tours. Just quote 'VIP' at the time of booking.



SAVE A FURTHER £155pp if you return to China within 2 years of your visa issue date.

For full details of loyalty discounts and terms & conditions, visit wendywutours.co.uk/loyalty

We had a wonderful time on our China holiday and were very impressed by the tour itself. The locations were excellent and the cities visited memorable. We were very fortunate to have Jacky as our National Escort who really took care of every aspect of the trip. We learnt a great deal about both the ancient and modern China which was fascinating. It was a great experience and we shall certainly be telling family and friends about the professionalism of your company and its employees.

Mr & Mrs Flower, travelled on our Magnificent China tour, via email



Everything ran smoothly from the start to finish and the attention to detail was exceptional, we were really impressed. I would thoroughly recommend this holiday and often rave about it to friends. The crew on the boat went to so much trouble to make sure we enjoyed the trip and also made sure we were never short of anything.

Douglas and Rosemary Hawkins, travelled on our Irrawaddy Voyager tour in Burma, via feefo



We've just returned from your Jewels of Japan tour and wanted to let you know what a great time we had. It was a wonderful introduction to Japan and the guides on tour were all fantastic and really made it for us, plus all of the guests on tour were like-minded and easy going. I would like to thank everyone at Wendy Wu for making our trip a success and a fabulous experience. Here's to the next trip!

Susan & Steven Payne, travelled on our Jewels of Japan tour, via email

facebook

Which do you prefer: the Terracotta Warriors or The Great Wall?

Kevin Friend
12 July at 12:27

It's too difficult to choose. I've not yet been to either and they're both at the top of my list.

1 Like Comment Share

Leanne J Barrie
12 July 13:04

I loved them both, but for such very different reasons. The Wall had such wonderful views and the warriors were so fascinating.

2 Likes Comment Share

Graham Lupson
12 July 22:33

Both are awesome, but given the size and length of the wall, that has to win. So they say it's the only man-made structure you can see from space!

2 Likes Comment Share

Keep a look out for more questions like this from us on Facebook – we love hearing your views!



How to get in touch with us!

@ customercare@wendywutours.co.uk

facebook.com/
wendywuofficial

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@WendyWuToursUK

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Cottons Lane, 47-49 Tooley Street,
London SE1 2QG

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feefo  **97%**
Service rating:

What is feefo?

We have partnered with independent review platform, feefo to provide you with reviews that you can trust. Once you return home from one of our tours or tailor-made holidays, you will receive an email from feefo asking you to rate our service and our tour experience.

Any feedback at all from you will be most welcomed.

CUSTOMER CORNER

Tell us about your Wendy Wu holiday

At Wendy Wu Tours, we're always encouraging our customers to let us know about their tour experiences with us and always enjoy reading about your travels. We receive hundreds of complimentary letters, emails and online reviews telling us about your favourite sights and sounds.

In this issue, Steve and Patricia Bartley tell us about their experiences on one of our new active and adventurous Discovery Tours, 'A China Adventure' and why their visit will leave long lasting memories.



“There were so many highlights from this trip, but in particular trekking on the Great Wall was an amazing experience”

We'd been looking for a holiday with a difference; one with a significant amount of touring, the opportunity to explore somewhere on foot and learn about local cultures - and all of these factors made us think of China. Friends of ours had previously travelled with Wendy Wu and raved about it, so we'd started researching into their tours when we quite conveniently received an invite to their customer event in Bristol last February, so we took up the opportunity to go along and find out more. We had a really enjoyable evening; there was no pressure to book on the night, it was purely an informative event which we found refreshing. After speaking to one of their representatives, we left convinced that one of their more adventurous and active tours 'A China Adventure' would fit us perfectly.

There were so many highlights from this trip, but in particular trekking on the Great Wall was an amazing experience. The section we visited was remote, very quiet and crumbled away in parts. It felt authentic and more 'real' than other crowded parts of the Wall that we'd heard about. We hiked along for hours and the views were out of this world, nothing like we'd ever seen before - and what topped it off was watching the sun set at the end of the long trek. It's something everyone should experience once in their lives! This wasn't for the faint hearted though - it was certainly a challenge, but oh so very rewarding.

Another highlight was trekking through the Longji Rice Terraces, which equalled the sense of fulfilment as the Wall. The terrain was demanding but our excellent National Escort Kevin ensured that we maintained a comfortable pace throughout. Whilst walking we met many local villagers - and with the help of Kevin, stopped and had a conversation with them. Each of them were only more than happy to stop, say hello and welcome us openly and generously.

Of course, we also visited all of the iconic sights, including the Terracotta Warriors, the pandas in Chengdu and the city of Shanghai, which all hold great memories for us. Every part of the trip was truly fascinating and different from the next.

We would wholeheartedly recommend this tour to others and it certainly fulfilled our requirements as a holiday with a difference! We'd never travelled with a group before and must admit, did have our anxieties, but this quickly disappeared. Getting to know the group members was a real positive and we enjoyed discussing our experiences together. Our China experience will remain long in our memories, which varied from simple meetings with locals to some of the main featured highlights, some incredible shows, the like-minded people we shared it with and our National Escort Kevin.

For those wanting to see China's iconic sights, but also gain a brilliant understanding of the local cultures and enjoy active adventures - A China Adventure is the perfect tour!

“Our China experience will remain long in our memories”



“Every part of the trip was truly fascinating and different from the next”



TAKE ME THERE

A CHINA ADVENTURE

Experience all of China's most iconic sights with a twist. Hike on the Great Wall, visit local villages and take a deeper look into the dramatic scenery.

PRICES FROM **£3,245PP** FOR 16 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**

48 HOURS IN... KYOTO

Kyoto is Japan's most enchanting city. Here, the legacy of old Japan lingers amongst the new, modern developments. Imperial capital for over 1,000 years, when the emperor moved to Tokyo in 1869, he left behind a treasure trove of arts and culture. Delve into a city of thousands of temples and numerous World Heritage Sites; investigate the roots of geisha culture wandering streets of atmospheric old teahouses; before celebrating modern cosmopolitanism with some of Japan's best nightlife.



HERE'S HOW TO SPEND THE PERFECT 48 HOURS...

Day One

MORNING

Hop on the Keihan line two stops out of the city to Fushimi-Inari station and cross the road to the breathtaking Fushimi Inari-tashi. Spread across a forested mountain slope, follow the tunnel of vivid red torii gates that wind their way between the temple's five main shrines. It is about four kilometres to reach the top. Take your time exploring keeping an eye out for the foxes, the messenger of Inari. Grab a treat from the delicious range of snacks for elevenses around the temple entrance.

AFTERNOON

Head back into Kyoto's centre to explore some of the city's best sights. Nijo Castle was built in the 17th century by the Tokugawa Shogun, as a great show of opulence and power to the overthrown emperor. Within you'll see the work of Japan's best artists on carvings and screens, whilst there are also plenty of tricks and traps, such as the nightingale floors, to temper the shogun's paranoia of treachery. Stroll around the corner to the Imperial Palace, the residence of the former Emperor of Japan until 1849, when the capital moved to Tokyo. Tours of the palace are available, but just wandering the grounds gives a taste of the imperial life.

AFTER DARK

Wander the atmospheric streets of Gion, formerly one of Kyoto's most famous entertainment and geisha quarters in the 18th century. The backstreets offer an enclave of the past, dotted with old wooden teahouses which are still used exclusively for geisha entertainment, making them the best place to try and catch a glimpse of a fabled geisha, scurrying to her next appointment.

Day Two

MORNING

On the edge of the city centre, nestled in leafy suburbs that are easily reached by train, you'll find some of Kyoto's most impressive temples. Start at Ginkaku-ji, the Temple of the Silver Pavilion. Built as a mountain retreat, it was converted to a Zen temple in 1490. Although not silver, the temple's landscaped gardens are suitably sumptuous. Continue to Kinkaku-ji, the Golden Pavilion, a shimmering gold temple set in a reflecting pool – this is one of Kyoto's most celebrated sights. Next, contemplate the perfect harmony and simplicity of the famous 15th-century Zen garden at Ryoan-ji.

LUNCH

Pop on the tram and ride to the end of the line – Arashiyama. Before beginning your explorations of this district, sit down to a lunch of 'yudofu', a great Arashiyama Buddhist speciality – tofu cooked in hot broth.

AFTERNOON

A relaxed and atmospheric place, backed by forest cloaked hills, Arashiyama is the place to be for an afternoon of relaxed discovery. Browse through the shops lining its main thoroughfare before wandering the paths through the Sagano Bamboo Forest. Then visit Tenryu-ji, one of Kyoto's five great zen temples, and its Sogenchi Garden, from the 14th century, before grabbing a coffee and snack at one of Arashiyama's many cafes. Return to Kyoto's centre for a tasty digestif before dinner.



TAKE ME THERE

DISCOVER JAPAN

The perfect introduction to this captivating and contrasting nation, including 3 nights in Kyoto.

PRICES FROM **£4,590pp** FOR 13 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**

TOP KYOTO EXPERIENCES



Visit historical Nijo Castle



Wander through the streets of Gion



Relax and unwind at Arashiyama



Explore the Imperial Palace



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Bob Books are the most well-loved and trusted platform for making and printing photo books. Creating a photo book couldn't be simpler. All you need is a moment of inspiration.

So once you've returned from your Wendy Wu holiday, all of your memories can be preserved in a carefully crafted, bespoke photo album for you to look back at and cherish. All you have to do is choose your favourite photos.

Making a book is the perfect way to treasure your holiday memories forever

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- UK based customer service team

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www.bobbooks.co.uk



HOT LIST 2017!

We know that travellers are always looking for the next hidden gem, that ultimate experience and those special moments that make a holiday an adventure. Here at Wendy Wu Tours, we are no different. Take a look at our top 10 picks for 2017.

1. Walk along the world's longest teakwood bridge in Burma

At 1.2 kilometres long, U Bein Bridge in Mandalay really is a sight to behold. Make sure you visit at sunset to capture the best photos.

TAKE ME THERE:

17 day **Hidden Treasures of Burma tour** from £3,790pp



2. Take a bullock cart in Rajasthan, India

Travel just like the locals do in rural India. It certainly beats the commute to work back home!

TAKE ME THERE:

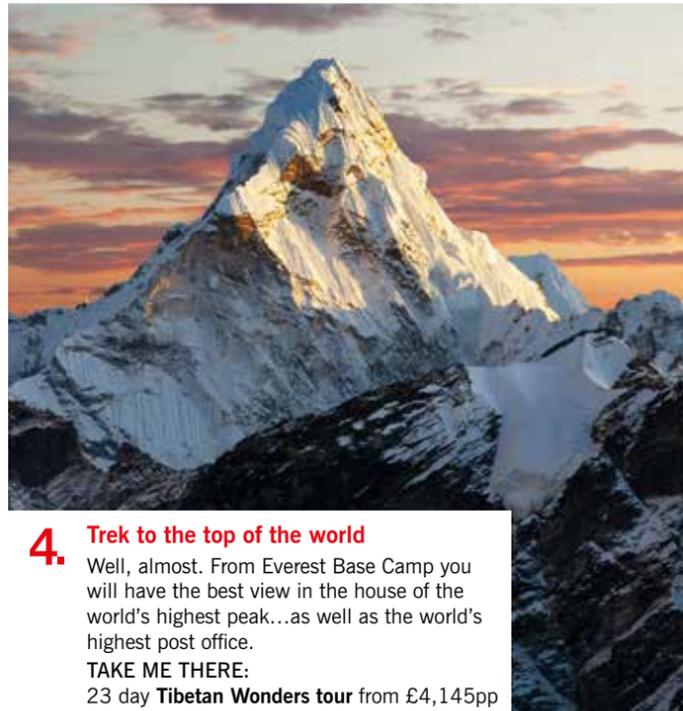
16 day **Vibrant India tour** from £2,790pp

3. Hike through the rice terraces in Sapa, northern Vietnam

Have your camera at the ready to capture lush green mountains and traditional hill tribes.

TAKE ME THERE:

17 day **Reflections of Vietnam tour** from £2,590pp



4. Trek to the top of the world

Well, almost. From Everest Base Camp you will have the best view in the house of the world's highest peak...as well as the world's highest post office.

TAKE ME THERE:

23 day **Tibetan Wonders tour** from £4,145pp



5. Ride the world's tallest outdoor elevator

Not for the faint hearted, this towering structure (taller than The Shard) is the showpiece in Zhangjiajie National Park, in China's Hunan Province.

TAKE ME THERE:

22 day **Dreams of Nature tour** from £3,545pp



7. Explore the mysterious Plain of Jars, Laos

These strange clusters of giant stone jars have baffled archaeologists for years, see if you can come up with your own theory.

TAKE ME THERE:

15 day **Highlights of Laos tour** from £2,690pp



9. Spend the night in a Mongolian yurt

Travel through the wide landscapes of the Gobi Desert, ending with a traditional stay in a camp. Truly unforgettable.

TAKE ME THERE:

23 day **Mongolia & Nadaam Festival tour** from £5,690pp

6. Experience Central Asia's largest bazaar

Kashgar feels like a million miles from anywhere but you'll love this riot of traditional dress, bizarre sights and colourful stalls selling everything under the sun.

TAKE ME THERE:

26 day **Silk Road Explorer tour** from £3,745pp



8. Discover Angkor Wat by Tuk Tuk

What better way to see this famous temple complex. Wave at the local monks as you ride by.

TAKE ME THERE:

20 day **Vietnam & Cambodia Discovery tour** from £2,990pp



10. Walk through Jiuzhaigou National Park, Sichuan, China

Also known as Nine Villages Valley (as well as being Wendy's favourite place), this is China's answer to the Alps and Canadian Rockies. Think gin clear pools and snow-capped mountains.

TAKE ME THERE:

15 day **Yunnan & Sichuan tour** from £3,235pp

So where are you heading in 2017?

THE Big INTERVIEW



with Kate Garraway

Kate Garraway is one of the UK's best-known TV presenters and broadcasters. She is currently a lead presenter on ITV's popular Good Morning Britain and has a daily show on Smooth Radio. You will also remember her from the fifth series of the flagship BBC show Strictly Come Dancing, where she was partnered with professional dancer Anton du Beke.

Travel has always been a passion for her and two years ago, she interviewed Michael Palin for a special programme on The Travel Channel.

We recently caught up with her to chat about her own travel memories.



I'D LOVE TO WALK ALONG THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA

Tell us about your first holiday memory?

My earliest holiday memory is camping in Dyfed, St David's; we went there every summer for a fortnight for most of my childhood. It was a lovely campsite which was essentially a field and was run by a lovely man, Henry Griffiths, who I think is still there. I remember the fun of waking up in the morning picking blackberries to put on our cereal and going to the farm to get milk. I was in the Brownies at that time and in those days they taught you outdoorsy camping skills, so one year I made a washstand out of twigs and a shoe rack too which my mum and dad were very proud of, but thinking back it must have looked a bit eccentric!

Which parts of Asia have you visited and what are your highlights?

I visited Hong Kong before the handover and it was amazing. I thought it was an extraordinary place and I haven't been back since but I'd love to. It's incredible. I've been to Bangkok and various islands in Thailand and they're just absolutely beautiful. One of my favourite places in Asia though was Malaysia. We went diving there on a tiny, tiny island that had virtually nothing on it. There were no bars, no hotels, in fact not even any hot water. We dived all day and I have memories of absolutely crystal clear water, white sands, swimming with turtles and swimming with all sorts of amazing fish and marine life. It was just breath taking.

One of my favourite places in Asia though was Malaysia. We went diving there on a tiny, tiny island that had virtually nothing on it.

Have you ever visited China, if so, what are your memories of it?

I would love to visit China. I've been to a little sliver of China in the Hong Kong territory, but I don't feel I've been to China properly and I would really love to go. Like everybody, I'd love to walk along the Great Wall of China. I think we've all seen it in picture books and on TV and I'd just like to go and see it for real. Also some of the more rural parts of China look incredibly beautiful, plus Beijing and Shanghai, being those thriving modern incredible cities. My friend is an architect and worked in Shanghai for a while and said it's just like nowhere else on the planet, so I'd love to go to.



The Great Wall of China



Hawksbill Sea Turtle



Wat Arun, Bangkok, Thailand

Have you a favourite destination or region of the world?

I don't really have a favourite destination. I can't imagine living anywhere other than Britain but there isn't anywhere in the world that I don't enjoy visiting and travelling around. There are always places you love to go back to and we all have favourite spots that we love to visit again and again, but I also think it's wonderful to go to new and different places.

What have you learnt from your travels?

Well, I think the wonderful thing about travelling is you see just how extraordinarily different and varied and beautiful the geography of the world is. Also, and this depends on where you go, you can count your blessings a little bit about the luck and the fortune that you may have had and how others, through no fault of their own, aren't so lucky. It always strikes me that wherever I go, despite all the differences, just how similar people are and how a smile and a wave, how curiosity and respect and a bit of good manners can transcend language and country barriers remarkably well. Generally, when you give people a chance, we're all similar in the things that we love and want in life. Practically, I've also learnt to always pack a cagoule or a waterproof mac because I find that wherever I go, even to hot and dry countries, it does seem to rain at some point. You can get away without a coat and you can sometimes get away without a jumper, but if you've got a waterproof mac, that'll see you through most things.

Where are you off to next?

I've never been to China so I think my ambition is to travel there next!

Kate Garraway currently presents her daily, mid-week show on Smooth Radio between 10am-1pm as well as co-hosting ITV's Good Morning Britain.



TAKE ME THERE

BEST OF SOUTH AMERICA

Experience all of South America's best bits on this incredible adventure, encompassing mountainous Machu Picchu, buzzing Rio, the incredible Iguazu Falls and all that's in between.

PRICES FROM **£5,190pp** FOR 16 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**

TRAVEL TALES

Product Manager, Tom Cranshaw recently travelled through one of our newest destinations, South Africa. Here, he shares with us his experiences and tells us why this popular destination should be added to your travel list.



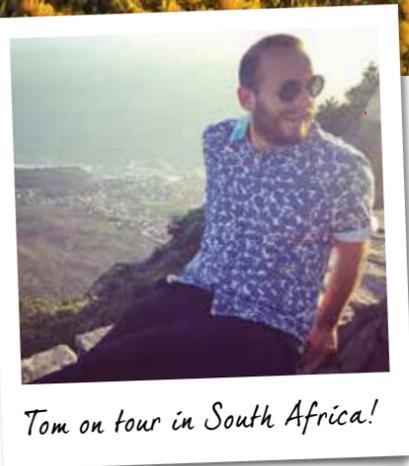
Cape Town and Table Mountain

So, tell us about your trip? Where in South Africa did you visit?

Earlier this year, Wendy Wu Tours introduced two new countries beyond Asia to their list of destinations – South Africa and South America. We're thrilled with the interest we've received from these tours – and as a result, I was lucky enough to spend 2 weeks travelling through South Africa in May, to learn more about the destination. Whilst there, I visited Johannesburg, Cape Town and Shamwari Game Reserve in the Eastern Cape of South Africa.

Was South Africa what you expected it to be?

Absolutely. South Africa's always been at the top of my travel list; but you always wonder if it will live up to your expectations don't you? Well you'll be pleased to hear it didn't disappoint! And actually, Johannesburg exceeded my expectations. I'd always considered the city as a gateway to other destinations within South Africa, but don't underestimate it. There's so much to see and do; plus, the people are so friendly it creates a real buzz throughout the city.



Tom on tour in South Africa!

Did you have a favourite place?

I agree with my friends on this one – Cape Town all the way. Everywhere I visited was incredible in different ways, but Cape Town was so varied and had so much to offer. There are so many reasons why, including the scenery which is out of this world, the mix of cultures and the variety of food. I'd recommend trying as many local dishes as you can in Cape Town. They're all wonderfully cooked and the blend of different cultures really show through in their food – a particular favourite of mine was their local speciality, Indian Malay apricot curry.

Is there a particular memory that really stands out?

Something that I'll always remember is our safari in Shamwari Game Reserve. We had three lion cubs eating a warthog in front of us – and on the other side of the road there was their mother, with one eye on her cubs and the other on us (slightly daunting)! We were sitting right in the middle of them and at that moment I realised, we really are in the wild! We also watched a herd of elephants smash through the jungle – one of the youngest in the herd roared like a lion, I didn't know elephants were capable of making such noises, amazing!

“Cape Town was so varied and had so much to offer”



TOM'S TOP SOUTH AFRICA EXPERIENCES



Seeing lions and elephants in the wild



Trying Cape Town's local delicacies



Visiting Johannesburg's Apartheid Museum



Exploring Cape Town's beautiful beaches

TAKE ME THERE

GRAND TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA

Visit South Africa's many delights including Cape Town, game reserves, Johannesburg and more.

PRICES FROM **£3,890 PP** FOR **17 DAYS**

To book call **0800 977 4888**

DID YOU KNOW?

New to the Wendy Wu Tours portfolio, South Africa has been a hot topic in 2016. There are many reasons to visit this beautiful and distinct country, but if you need a few more excuses, this should certainly help...

THERE ARE **11** OFFICIAL LANGUAGES IN **SOUTH AFRICA** INCLUDING ENGLISH, ISIZULU & AFRICAANS

"hello"

"sawubona"

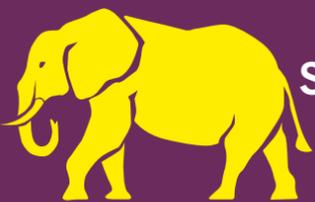
"hallo"

SOUTH AFRICA IS ONE OF THE MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND HAS A POPULATION OF

53 MILLION

SOUTH AFRICA'S COASTLINE STRETCHES OVER A WHOPPING **1553** MILES IN LENGTH

SOUTH AFRICA IS HOME TO **8** UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES



THE LARGEST GAME RESERVE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND FAMOUS FOR ITS BIG FIVE, KRUGER NATIONAL COVERS A **HUGE... 19,485** SQUARE KILOMETRES (ALMOST THE SIZE OF WALES!)

THERE ARE **2,000** FISH & **22,000** PLANT SPECIES IN SOUTH AFRICA OF WHICH 2,200 ARE HOME TO TABLE MOUNTAIN ALONE!

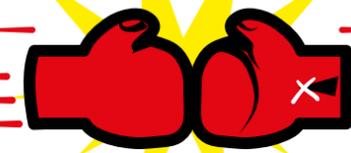


THERE ARE **560** WINERIES IN SOUTH AFRICA. INCLUDED IN THIS IS ROUTE 62, CONSIDERED THE LONGEST WINE ROUTE IN THE WORLD!



HEAD TO HEAD

RAJASTHAN vs KERALA



TWO OF INDIA'S MOST ENTICING STATES COMPETE IN A CLASH OF COLOURFUL CULTURE...



CULTURE
The 'Land of Kings', a state born out of conflict, Rajasthan was once 22 feudal states, a place where many a Raj (king) went to war and then built a gorgeous architectural masterpiece to establish their new kingdom. That's why Rajasthan has such a wealth of spectacular palaces and forts. It has also remained thoroughly traditional, a mixture of different peoples and cultures - the locals still wear traditional dress - beautifully coloured saris and turbans. This is unquestionably India's most exotic state.

ATTRACTIONS
India's largest state, Rajasthan packs a punch in the 'things to do and see' stakes; from the UNESCO World Heritage-listed forts that watch over their surrounding towns and cities from their hilltop perches; to the vast stretches of starkly beautiful desert that you can survey from atop a camel; to the majestic tigers that stalk Ranthambore National Park.

FOOD
Rajasthan's culinary heritage was dictated by the aridity of its landscapes. Many dishes are made with milk rather than water, contain lots of ghee and plenty of sugar and spices - the curries here can be dangerously hot! Due to the high population of Marawaris in the state, vegetarian food is also prominent, featuring plenty of lentils and grains, though meat dishes, particularly mutton and chicken are common. The local people have also developed a penchant for sugary treats - sweets are served throughout a meal, not just after!

SHOPPING
The markets and bazaars of Rajasthan are a riot of colour. The state is particularly well-known for its gem stones and jewellery, and there is always a full rainbow of colourful fabrics available on stalls stocking textiles. This is also a great place to pick up traditional crafts - in fact many items we take for granted today are still made by hand here, from leather bags to jewellery. Jaipur is a particularly good place for shopping - just head into the maze of stalls and spend to your heart's content.



CULTURE
Kerala makes a strong claim to being 'God's own country', it's bright, lush vegetation, peaceful backwaters and paradisiacal beaches providing a strong argument. At the very tip of India and a coastal state, Kerala's culture is an amalgamation of many ethnicities and religions - its classical culture best expressed in its unique and colourful performing arts, the best known of which is kathakali, a riotous dance-drama. A cosmopolitan and laidback place, Kerala is India's most enchanting state.



ATTRACTIONS
Kerala is more about visceral experiences than attractions - here, the pace slows down, leaving you time to relax on warm sands of beautiful beaches, listen to the sounds of nature as you cruise the unique backwaters, and feel the aches melt away with an Ayurveda treatment. Kerala's cities offer a fascinating day of exploration, with elements drawn from the diversity of the region - colonial architecture, Chinese fishing nets and colourful temples to name a few.

FOOD
Exotic is the perfect word to describe Kerala's cuisine. With such an abundance of pungent spices that it is nicknamed the 'land of spices', Kerala's food is full of tropical flavour. Coconut appears in various forms in most dishes, alongside the deep flavour of tamarind whilst, unsurprisingly for its coastal location, fish features very heavily in many traditional dishes. For a truly authentic dining experience, make sure you dine off banana leaves rather than ceramics.

SHOPPING
Kerala once sent heaps and heaps of spices to Europe, but trust us when we say make any excuse to go there and buy them for yourself! Tea and coffee are also both excellent purchases, both grown in Kerala's fertile highlands. You'll also find a wealth of wonderful handicrafts, made by skilled local artisans that will bring a taste of Kerala's exoticism to your living room back home - particularly if you choose something made out of coconut.



TAKE ME THERE
RAJASTHAN PANORAMA
Journey through India's most colourful state on this comprehensive tour.
PRICES FROM **£2,790 PP** FOR 22 DAYS
To book call **0800 977 4888**

Conclusion
It's impossible to choose between these two captivating states. Each offers a unique and colourful culture that you can really sink your teeth into. However, both share the ambience of their wider region - northern India being busy and bustling, and southern India relaxed and easy going. Whilst we would suggest you do both, if you do have to choose, base it on the vibe that you prefer.

TAKE ME THERE
KERALA & SOUTHERN HIGHLIGHTS
Enjoy this laid back journey through India's most enchanting state.
PRICES FROM **£2,990 PP** FOR 17 DAYS
To book call **0800 977 4888**

A LIFE IN THE DAY

With Nguyen Thuy Thuy May.

Vietnam's slowly becoming Southeast Asia's most popular holiday destination (and we can see why), so we recently caught up with one of our expert National Escorts, Nguyen Thuy Thuy May who's given us tips, advice and insights for your visit here...



Halong Bay

What's the best thing about being a National Escort?

A friend of mine became a National Escort years ago - and hearing about her experiences really inspired me to also become one. Vietnam is such a wonderful country, with lots of varied landscapes, busy cities and a friendly culture - who could ask for a better job than to show people around?

What do you enjoy most about being a National Escort?

Meeting so many different people from so many walks of life! Every group is so very different to the next - and I really enjoy getting to know every different personality and character of those on tour with me. It's always a pleasure to show my country and my knowledge of Vietnam and to simply sit back and watch the group enjoying themselves.

Where in particular do Wendy Wu customers enjoy visiting the most?

I can honestly say everywhere, as each place is so very different from the next! However, there are two places in particular that spring to mind. Firstly, Hoi An. Everyone falls in love with this charming and laid back town - it's a must-visit. It's a place to wind down, wander and reflect, pop into local shops, relax at the nearby beaches or simply grab a drink and watch the world go by.

Secondly, Halong Bay. The scenery is out of this world (even for me, who's seen it many, many times!) and it never fails to impress my clients. Our tours spend a night on board a Junk Boat on the bay - and watching the sunset in particular is a truly magical experience.

What's your favourite Vietnamese dish?

I absolutely love Vietnamese spring rolls. They're hugely popular here - and so I hear, also popular amongst you all in the UK. Fresh fish is also something we regularly eat here in Vietnam, it's so readily available, so incredibly fresh and such a huge variety of dishes can be created from it. We have a huge variety of dishes for you to try on our Vietnam tours and as a National Escort I always do my best to give you something different each day so you can try as much as possible.

Are there any local tips you can give to those thinking of visiting Vietnam?

Crossing the road in the big cities is always a hot topic of conversation! It can be daunting, but just go with it. Watch a local and do exactly as they do (it's not as scary as it looks, honest). Secondly, try as much local food as you can. It's all so fresh, healthy and tasty. In particular I would recommend trying a rice pancake which are popular in Hanoi and a 'café sua da', Vietnamese iced coffee.

Vietnam has something for everyone. Whether you simply want to relax on a white sandy beach, explore the crazy, vibrant cities or visit the beautiful scenery on offer here - it's all possible. It's a wonderful place to tour around, as there's so much variation from one place to the next; so soak it all up and see as much as you can on your visit!



Hoi An



Making Vietnamese spring rolls

TAKE ME THERE

VIETNAM PANORAMA

A popular and comprehensive journey through Vietnam: travel from the verdant south up the beautiful coastline, before reaching the awe-inspiring Halong Bay.

PRICES FROM **£2,490pp** FOR **18 DAYS**

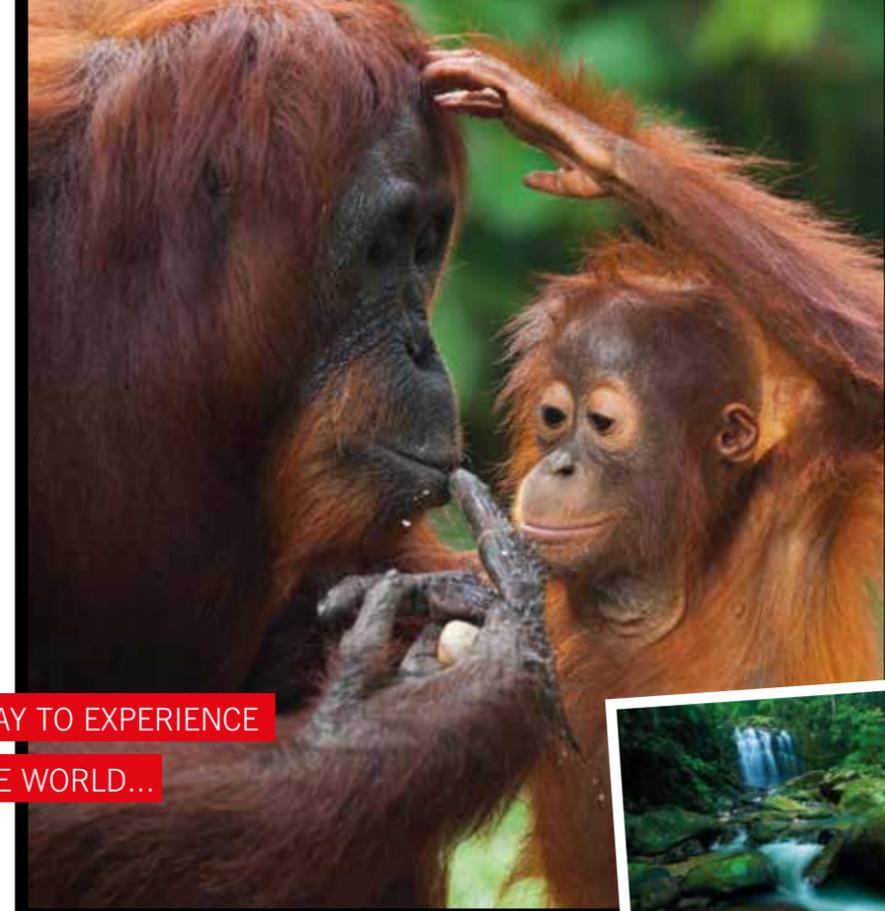
To book call **0800 977 4888**

INTO THE TRUE HEART OF BORNEO

There aren't many places that we visit that you could be confident in saying that none of your friends or family has ever been. Well, we think we've found one. Located on the Indonesian side of Borneo lies the remote region of Kalimantan. Home to one of the oldest rainforests in the world, endangered animals such as the Bornean orangutan and the largest river system in Borneo.

THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE WAY TO EXPERIENCE

THIS INCREDIBLE PART OF THE WORLD...



A river cruise like no other

This will be a truly pioneering river expedition into a rarely visited area. As well as the scenery and wildlife, you might find yourself being one of the main attractions when you meet the local tribes. As well as the orangutans, you may come across the Bornean elephant, the eastern Sumatran rhino and the Dayak fruit bat to name just a few. If you're really lucky, the easily recognisable proboscis monkeys may also join the show.

Handcrafted luxury travel

With such luxurious natural surroundings, it's only right you'll want similar luxury on the water. Your beautifully crafted Pandaw ship offers colonial style with attentive, friendly service. You certainly won't want to leave your home away from home when the time comes to disembark.

Watch the world sail by

As comfortable as the ships are, it's the awe-inspiring panoramas and local life you have come to see. Sitting on the teak-floored deck, you'll find yourself becoming hypnotised by the flow of Asian life along the riverbank.

This is a journey like no other. You'll return with memories to cherish for the rest of your life.

ORANGUTAN FACTS

1. In Malay, orang means 'person' and utan 'forest'. So literally 'person of the forest'.
2. They can live to 60 years of age.
3. They live on only 2 islands; Borneo & northern Sumatra.
4. They are not that social, they like their own company.



TAKE ME THERE

INTO THE TRUE HEART OF BORNEO

A breath taking new river cruise, sailing into the heart of one of the oldest rainforests in the world.

PRICES FROM **£3,490pp** FOR **11 DAYS**

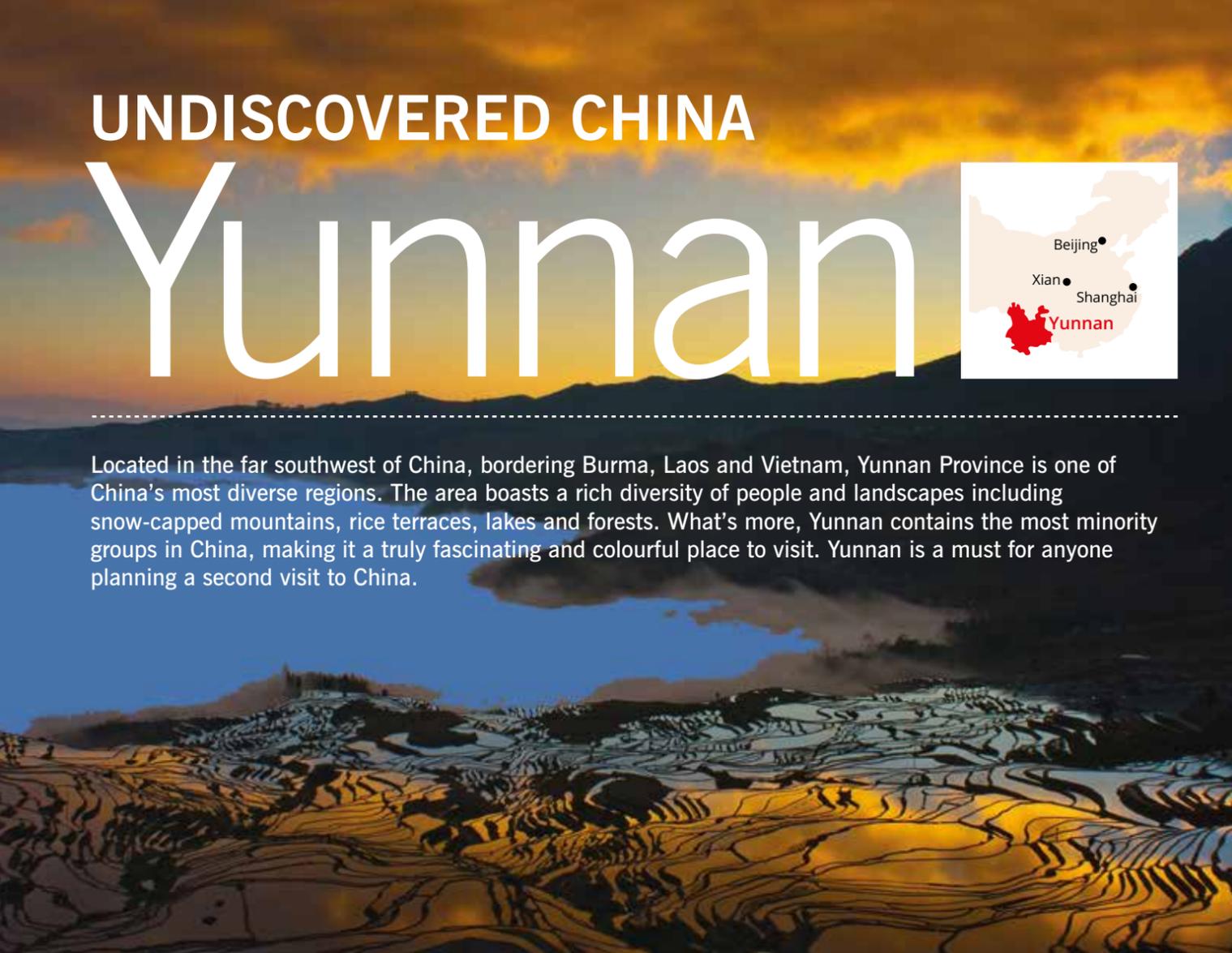
To book call **0800 977 4888**

UNDISCOVERED CHINA

Yunnan



Located in the far southwest of China, bordering Burma, Laos and Vietnam, Yunnan Province is one of China's most diverse regions. The area boasts a rich diversity of people and landscapes including snow-capped mountains, rice terraces, lakes and forests. What's more, Yunnan contains the most minority groups in China, making it a truly fascinating and colourful place to visit. Yunnan is a must for anyone planning a second visit to China.



Culture Vulture

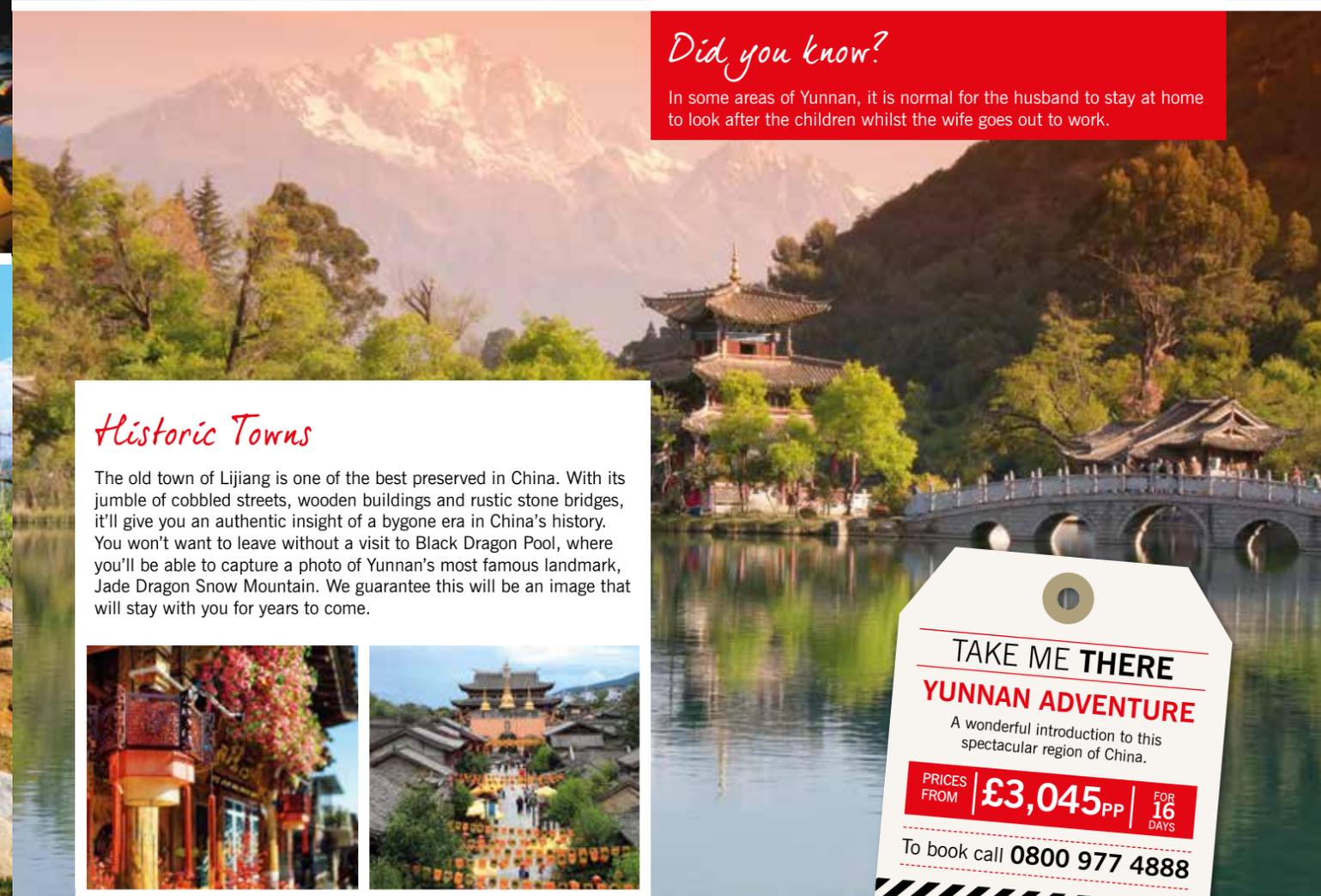
With 25 different ethnic minorities represented in the province, some of which being recognised by UNESCO, you'll never be far from a local festival or cultural experience. As you travel through Yunnan you will notice their colourful and distinctive dress. Although you may find that they will be just as curious about you as you are of them.

There are plenty of local handicrafts including wax printing and jade carvings. Plus the cuisine of Yunnan, whilst not as famous as neighbouring Sichuan, offers real delicacies including cross the bridge rice noodles, pot-steamed chicken and Yunnan Ham.



Did you know?

In some areas of Yunnan, it is normal for the husband to stay at home to look after the children whilst the wife goes out to work.



Natural Wonders

Even their names evoke feelings of wonder and intrigue, Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and Tiger Leaping Gorge are two of the highlights of any trip to Yunnan. This range of alpine-like mountains with picture postcard views will stop you in your tracks. On a recent trip, one of our product experts encountered wild Yaks sauntering across lush meadows without a care in the world. Tucked within these mountains lies one of the deepest gorges in the world, Tiger Leaping Gorge, at over 3,000 metres deep. Prepare to have your breath taken away.

The spectacular sights come thick and fast in Yunnan, and the Yuanyang Rice Terraces are no exception. Now recognised by UNESCO as a World Cultural and Natural Heritage Site, this watery expanse is a sight to behold as the setting sun turns the terraces into kaleidoscope of colours.



Historic Towns

The old town of Lijiang is one of the best preserved in China. With its jumble of cobbled streets, wooden buildings and rustic stone bridges, it'll give you an authentic insight of a bygone era in China's history. You won't want to leave without a visit to Black Dragon Pool, where you'll be able to capture a photo of Yunnan's most famous landmark, Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. We guarantee this will be an image that will stay with you for years to come.



TAKE ME THERE
YUNNAN ADVENTURE
A wonderful introduction to this spectacular region of China.
PRICES FROM **£3,045pp** FOR 16 DAYS
To book call **0800 977 4888**



CELEBRATE... ASIAN STYLE

Everyone loves a good festival. From Pancake Day to Bonfire Night, there's nothing better than diving into all that these festivities entail with frying pan in one hand and sparkler in the other.

Have you thought about experiencing a festival in Asia? The continent has some of the most incredible festivals, most of which have existed for centuries and are rooted in culture and community spirit.

Here we detail some of the best Asian festivals for you to discover... not that Asia needed any more reasons to visit!



CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL, JAPAN

NEW 2017 DATES JUST RELEASED!

Only in Japan can a festival have its own forecast. Forecast I hear you say? This popular, annual festival sees Japan in full bloom and celebrates the start of spring through the beautiful pink blossoms.

A seasonal event, the Japanese Meteorological Agency carefully forecast when the blossom will appear in the different areas of the country as the trees are only in bloom for a few weeks a year. The 'cherry blossom front' is followed from South to North.

Known locally as 'Hanami' – or 'flower viewing' – this traditional custom involves having a gathering of friends and family below the cherry trees, where they'll feast on bento boxes, traditional dumplings and sake. The festival stems from 1200 years ago where the appearance of the blossoms signified the start of the rice-planting season, and it's definitely the prettiest time to visit this lovely country.



TAKE ME THERE

JEWELS OF JAPAN

PRICES FROM **£4,390PP** FOR 11 DAYS

Selected dates Mar-Apr 2017

HARBIN ICE AND SNOW FESTIVAL, CHINA

Taking place annually in January and February, the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival is one of the largest of its type. Located north of Beijing, the festival boasts some of the world's largest ice sculptures, including the epic Canadian-themed sculpture from 2007, which impressively received a Guinness World Record for the world's largest snow sculpture, using an enormous 13,000 cubic metres of snow!

Attracting almost 1 million visitors a year during its opening from mid-January to mid-February, it's a brilliant festival to experience. It's also perfectly paired with the celebration of Chinese New Year, making for an excellent winter holiday.



NAADAM FESTIVAL, MONGOLIA

A Mongolian traditional festival akin to the Olympics played by the Ancient Greeks, the Naadam Festival is held annually in July for three days. It begins with a colourful opening ceremony before the games officially start with archery, horse racing and traditional Mongolian wrestling. Highly revered within Mongolian culture, as soon as Naadam is over the locals just want it to start up again!



TAKE ME THERE

MONGOLIA & THE NAADAM FESTIVAL

PRICES FROM **£5,690PP** FOR 23 DAYS

Tour departs 08 Jul 2017

HOLI FESTIVAL, INDIA

A Hindu spring festival celebrated in India and Nepal, Holi is a festival of colours... literally! It's the most important festival in the Hindu calendar and lasts for two days, usually in March. It celebrates the beginning of the Hindu New Year, as well as love and the triumph of good over evil. Bonfires are lit the night before it starts and as dawn breaks, crowds gather in the streets to throw coloured powder and water at each other to create a kaleidoscope of hues, before they all retreat into their homes for a family meal and gift giving.



TAKE ME THERE

HIGHLIGHTS OF INDIA & NEPAL

PRICES FROM **£3,890PP** FOR 22 DAYS

Selected dates Mar 2017



TAKE ME THERE
HIGHLIGHTS OF LAOS
The pristine Kuangsi Waterfalls is just one of Laos' most beautiful sights. Travel from top to toe on this 15 day tour and find out why Laos is Southeast Asia's most charming and untouched treasure.

PRICES FROM **£2,590pp** FOR 15 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**

WHAT'S YOUR TRAVEL STYLE?

WE CAN ALL AGREE ON SOMETHING - ASIA IS FASCINATINGLY DIVERSE
AND THERE'S ENOUGH TO DISCOVER FOR A LIFETIME...

But how each individual imagines exploring this bright, bustling and beguiling continent can be so very different, which is why we have developed a range of different touring styles. So whether you simply want to visit the highlights of a destination, get under the skin of it or experience it in pure luxury, we're confident there's a touring style suited just for you.

Classic Tours

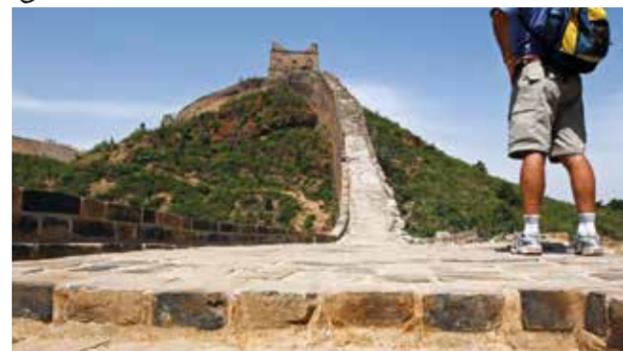
Fully-inclusive tours for those bucket list moments

Our popular Classic tours give you the opportunity to tick all Asia's most iconic sights off your list, with the assurance you'll be looked after by a tour guide throughout. With everything included from flights, 4* accommodation, meals, touring and entrance fees, you can simply concentrate on soaking up all of what Asia has to offer!



Discovery Tours

Designed for those with an adventurous side



Got an adventurous side? Or if you've dreamed of not only visiting Asia's eminent sights, but delving deeper into the local culture and traditions, look no further than our Discovery tours. Hike on a remote section of the Great Wall, cycle through idyllic scenery and meet local people; these exciting, active tours give you the chance to get under the skin of the real Asia.

Exclusive Collection

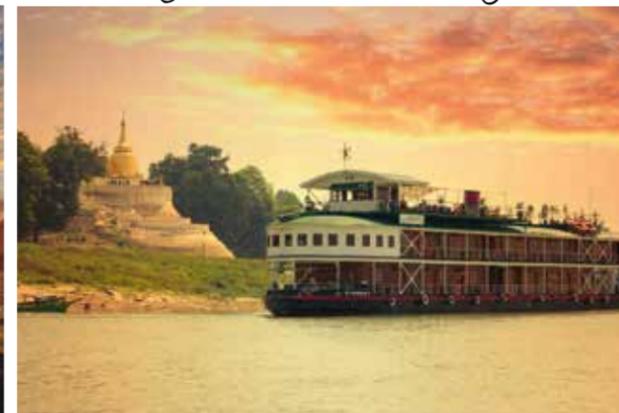
Unique experiences by day, luxury by night

If you enjoy the finer things in life or perhaps you're craving something extra special, then our Exclusive Collection is the perfect choice. As well as visiting the renowned sights, Champagne moments, unique, cultural experiences and handpicked 5* hotels await, meaning you'll be no less than raring to go the following day!



River Cruising

Tours through Asia's iconic waterways



Wherever in Asia is next on your travel list, we're sure that it'll be home to one of the world's top rivers. Our new range of Asia River Cruise tours allow you to slow down the pace of your holiday and float past the beautiful landscapes and gain a closer glimpse to the culture of these wonderful destinations – which are not often accessible by foot.

Private Tours

Independent touring with greater flexibility

If a more intimate experience is for you, then don't despair. Perfect for friends, couples and families; all group tours can be turned into a private itinerary. Exactly the same levels of service will remain and our dedicated local guides will wholeheartedly ensure that you're having nothing but the best time!



Tailormade

Bespoke touring with ultimate flexibility



Like what you see, but prefer the flexibility of your own, unique trip? If the answer is yes, then a tailormade holiday is right up your street. The choices are endless – and you can simply visit the sights that you want, on the day that you want, before staying in the hotel that you want; all with the help of our expert tailormade travel team, Asia Inspirations.

Whichever travel style's for you, we're certain you'll have memories to cherish for a lifetime!

Order your preferred brochure at wendywutours.co.uk

BEST OF THE BLOG

At Wendy Wu Tours, we're always striving to provide you with the latest travel tips and advice, plus new and fun facts on all things Asia – which is why we've created our very own travel blog that does just that.

In this issue, we're focussing on Cambodia's incredible National Parks. You may already know Cambodia for its friendly locals and the incredible Angkor Wat, but perhaps not many know that it's home to seven national parks, of which you can enjoy its beautiful scenery, nature and culture in different ways. Let us tell you about our top 3...

BEAUTIFUL NATIONAL PARKS IN CAMBODIA

Although Southeast Asia is evolving with modern times, the natural charm and beauty of the parks stand out as being one of the greatest attractions of the region and a great reason to visit Cambodia in particular. Take a look at our guide to the beautiful national parks of Cambodia and let your adventure begin!

REAM NATIONAL PARK

Ream National Park is a pure delight, offering remarkable mini adventures from coastal locations and natural wonders to misty jungles and coastal mangroves, plus snorkelling, dolphin watching and safari opportunities – the list is endless and we're sure there's something appealing for all types of travellers. For those with a keen interest in birds of prey, you'll have the chance to seek the white-bellied sea eagle and grey-headed fish eagle amongst many other exotic mammals and native creatures!

Or if it's a relaxed and laid back experience that you'd prefer, pristine beaches and coral reefs are calling in the nearby Prey Nob district of Sihanoukville. So whichever way you choose to spend your time here, it'll be an absolute treat.



PHNOM KULEN NATIONAL PARK

Located 48 kilometres from Siem Reap, historical Phnom Kulen National Park is popular for its magnificent waterfalls and religious values.

You'll find ancient sculptures, temples and ruins dating back centuries, rivers and waterfalls, plus some of the most cultured parts of Cambodia. Untouched parts of the park allow for a truly unique experience in one of the most cultured regions of Cambodia. And the rivers and waterfalls that run through it add a sense of tranquillity and awe.

For something spectacular, head over to the archaeological site of Kbal Spean, translated as

To read more about what Cambodia has to offer, visit our online blog to read the full post.

Keep up to date with our blog by visiting wendywutours.co.uk/blog

ONLINE NOW

COLOURFUL PLACES IN JAPAN

15 Jun 2016



Known for its spectacular cherry blossom displays and the wide variety of native orchids, Japan isn't restricted to plants and flowers when it comes to boasting magnificent colour...

10 AMAZING THINGS TO DO IN CHINA

23 May 2016



You all know about the famous attractions in China, such as the Terracotta Warriors and the Forbidden City. But what about its hidden treasures...?

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO GROUP TOURING

28 Mar 2016



Whether you're hoping to tour China, Vietnam or just about anywhere in Asia, sharing your far-flung journey with a group can be a fantastic travel experience...

TRAVEL SURGERY

At Wendy Wu Tours, all our staff have travelled extensively throughout Asia. So we thought we'd put them to the test with some of your most frequently asked questions.

Question from George Goodman via email.

Q: I travelled to China 3 years ago, but mainly visited the big cities. I'm hoping to return next year, but this time visit some of the rural areas and learn more about the different cultures. What would you recommend?

Answered by Rowan Goldthorp, Product & Commercial Manager

A: Great idea! There's so much more to China than the cities. I would recommend taking a look at our Discovery Tours, as these tours visit many of the off the beaten track regions in China and include some incredible cultural experiences too. In particular, the Sichuan and Yunnan provinces are a popular choice for 2nd time visitors. You'll see beautiful scenery, visit rural villages, meet locals and try their local dishes, which will be quite different from what you've tried already.

Visit wendywutours.co.uk/discovery-tours to see our full range of Discovery Tours.

Question from Janet Coleman via Facebook.

Q: My family and I (myself, my husband and 2 kids aged 9 and 11) would like to travel to Vietnam next summer for about 2 weeks and thought your tours looked great. Are they suitable for families?

Answered by Mel Cox, Reservations Supervisor and Tailormade Travel Consultant

A: Vietnam is a fantastic family destination! Our group tours to Vietnam are available to those who are 12 years and above, so this wouldn't be an option for you, however any of our group tours can be made into a private tour, meaning that you can choose the travel dates that you like and go at the pace that suits you and your family the best. Another option would be to create your very own



Zhangjiajie National Park, China

tour for your family – we have a tailormade team, Asia Inspirations who can piece together your preferred destinations for you. This is a hugely popular option for families and gives you the opportunity to combine touring with a few days of relaxation on the beach.

Take a look at asiainspirations.co.uk to find out more.

Question from Patricia Stevens via email.

Q: I have a keen interest for natural landscapes and the great outdoors. I can see that a number of your China tours visit the countryside, but there's so much choice, I'm finding it difficult to decide which one would be the best for me?

Answered by Lisa Ward, Personal Travel Consultant

A: Yes, you're correct, we do have a wide selection of tours that visit regions of China's countryside. If you have an interest in natural landscapes, then the region of China that jumps into my mind is the Hunan Province. This is home to Zhangjiajie National Park (if you've seen the film Avatar, you'll know the place), it's filled with over 3,000 sandstone

pillars which rise up from a subtropical forest. There's nowhere else in China like this, or in fact the world!

Learn more about Zhangjiajie National Park by taking a look at our Dreams of Nature tour.

Question from Michael Anderson via Twitter.

Q: I really enjoy group touring and have been on many over the years, but something that I'm not a big fan of is coach journeys. Is there an alternative to this at all?

Answered by Tom Cranshaw, Product Manager

A: Yes, there is – our River Cruising tours would be perfect for you as they have very little coach travel. We have a wide selection of tours that travel through Burma, Vietnam, Laos, India and China – all mostly by river boat. These tours offer a great way of travelling through these destinations and see parts that you often wouldn't see by coach. Plus, you can just sit back, relax and enjoy the view as you pass by. I hope that's useful!

Order your Asia River Cruising brochure online to find out more.

If there's a burning question that you're dying to be answered, we'd love to hear it. Simply email us at whispers@wendywutours.co.uk or send us a message via facebook or twitter and you could be featured in the next issue.