

# CHINESE WHISPERS

THE LATEST TRAVEL NEWS AND INSPIRATION FROM WENDY WU TOURS

## WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

On our new  
Worldwide tours

## UNDISCOVERED CHINA

Learn about China's  
most ancient province

## HEAD TO HEAD

Group touring VS  
tailormade travel

## A TASTE OF ASIA

With top Asian chef,  
Jeremy Pang

## INTRODUCING INDIA

A first timer's guide

## THE BIG INTERVIEW

With TV's Andrew Castle



# A MESSAGE FROM WENDY



Welcome to our latest issue of Chinese Whispers, filled with inspiring travel articles, tour ideas and the latest news at Wendy Wu Tours.

With the nights drawing in and Christmas decorations already in the shops, next year will be here before we know it! And looking to the year ahead, we've been working hard to give you even more choice for your 2017 holiday – with even more destinations and tours to choose from, we're certain there's a tour to spark your interest. If you're still considering 'when to go' to your destination of choice, take a look at pages 28-29 and you'll find our recommendations.

To give you a taster of what's in store, we've branched out to even more corners of the world, including Namibia, Costa Rica, the Galápagos Islands, Russia, Australia, and New Zealand – all destinations that you, our valued customers have told us are on your travel lists. Plus, now with dedicated brochures for Japan and India too, you'll be spoilt for choice. Turnover and you'll find out even more!

You'll also come across many of our favourite features, including The Big Interview with broadcaster, Andrew Castle, Customer Corner, Undiscovered China and Head to Head, plus don't miss out on our exclusive 2 for 1 offer.

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

Best wishes,

Wendy Wu,  
Owner & Founder, Wendy Wu Tours

Cover image: Indian sadhu, Rajasthan

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### THE BIG INTERVIEW

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We interview former UK Number One tennis player and broadcaster, Andrew Castle about his travel experiences.



### WHAT, WHERE, WHEN?

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Find out the best times to travel to your destination of choice.



### A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

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Find out more about our new destinations – Costa Rica, Galápagos Islands, Namibia and South Africa.



### A TASTE OF ASIA

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With expert Asian chef, Jeremy Pang.



### INTRODUCING INDIA

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A first timer's guide to India.



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We share first-hand experiences of two of our more active China Discovery tours.

# WHAT'S NEW?

OUR EXPERTS BRING YOU THE LATEST NEWS FROM WENDY WU TOURS

## EVEN MORE DESTINATIONS BEYOND ASIA

After 20 years of leading thousands of people through the wonders of Asia, it's time to start exploring the rest of the world Wendy's way! After the success of Grand Tour of South Africa and Best of South America, we've introduced a host of new worldwide destinations. Now you can explore the Galápagos Islands, Patagonia, Costa Rica, Namibia, Russia, Australia and New Zealand in true Wendy Wu style. So that's all of our expertise, incredible value, authentic, pioneering touring and world-class guiding.

To find out more visit [wendywutours.co.uk/worldwide](http://wendywutours.co.uk/worldwide)



## A WIDER CHOICE OF BROCHURES

Alongside our usual exciting offerings, this year three new brochures have joined the Wendy Wu portfolio. Japan has become so popular that we decided only a dedicated brochure would do, whilst our India tours have got us so excited that it only seemed right to let them have their own brochure as well. Last but certainly not least is our brand new Worldwide offering with a selection of wonderful tours to Latin America, Africa, Russia and Australasia. Wendy Wu is taking over the world!

Order your free brochures at [wendywutours.co.uk](http://wendywutours.co.uk)



## MORE TOURS TO CHOOSE FROM!

For 2017-2018 we've introduced some really exciting new products which we hope you will love as much as we do!

### Firstly, Japan...

With our brand new Japan brochure comes two new Japan tours – one active Discovery tour and one Exclusive Collection tour for those looking for a bit of added luxury. 'Trails of Japan', the Discovery tour, features a hike around the base of Mt Fuji, the chance to chant with Buddhist monks and visit a Robot Restaurant. The Exclusive Collection tour, 'The Golden Route', includes a sushi making experience, the art of Zen meditation and a Maiko performance. Certain departures on both tours also include tickets to see sumo wrestling!



### Secondly, India...

Bringing back a dedicated India brochure means there's now a wider range of India and Sri Lanka tours. Two of which are 'Himalayan Heritage Trail' which traverses the northern foothills of the mighty Himalaya, whilst 'Enticing India' journeys through northern India, delving deep into Rajasthan plus incomparable Varanasi.



And not forgetting that we have even more China and Southeast Asia tours and of course all of our brand new Worldwide Tours!

To find out about our full range of tours, visit [wendywutours.co.uk](http://wendywutours.co.uk)

## MEET THE WENDY WU EXPERTS

Early next year, the Wendy Wu Tours team will be attending three travel shows to provide you with expert travel advice and inspiration for your upcoming adventures!

Come and see us at any of the following shows:

- The Telegraph Travel Show: 13 to 15 Jan
- The Adventure Travel Show: 21 to 22 Jan
- Destinations Travel Show: 2 to 5 Feb

We're providing discounted tickets especially for our customers, so do drop by and say hello.

Claim your tickets and find out more at [wendywutours.co.uk/shows](http://wendywutours.co.uk/shows)



## A NEW EXCLUSIVE OFFER:

# STOPOVER IN CAMBODIA OR HONG KONG FOR FREE!

Due to popular demand, our 2 for 1 offers have returned!

Why visit just one iconic destination when you can visit two in one trip? If Vietnam is next on your travel list, we're currently offering you the chance to add on a 3 day stopover in Cambodia, visiting the breathtaking Temples of Angkor. Or perhaps it's China or Burma that you want to visit next? If so, we'll fly you to Hong Kong for 3 days for no extra cost! Both free stopovers include accommodation, breakfast, touring and flights with award-winning Cathay Pacific.



This offer is only available until 30 Nov, so make sure you don't miss out!

See [wendywutours.co.uk/2for1](http://wendywutours.co.uk/2for1) for more details and full terms & conditions.

# HAVE YOUR "SAY"

Recommendations and reviews are really important to us here at Wendy Wu Tours – and we always enjoy hearing about your stories from your trips with us.

There are many ways in which you can tell us about your experiences. So why not get in touch via social media, Trip Advisor, email, feefo or even by sending us a traditional letter!

## STAR LETTER

Every aspect of the service from booking the trip, to the flights, hotels and touring was excellent. The hotels were far better than we anticipated as was the transport. We particularly enjoyed eating at different restaurants for lunch and dinner – some great meals were had. We gained a wonderful understanding of Vietnamese culture and were able to see some beautiful sights, including Halong Bay which was a highlight. All in all a 5★ experience.

John Rhodes, travelled on our Vietnam Panorama tour, via feefo

Our star letter wins a gourmet hamper!

We couldn't fault our holiday at all. Jason in particular made the holiday for us; he was a truly exceptional guide who couldn't do any more for us. The sights too were incredible. We saw it all from the Great Wall, the Yangtze, pandas and the city of Lhasa. We enjoyed every minute and the organisation was excellent. We'll be booking another holiday with Wendy Wu.

Christine and William Yates, travelled on our China & Tibet Discovery tour, via feefo

I had a wonderful time on the Dreams of Nature tour. It was my second Wendy Wu tour to China and was equally as good as the first. Eileen, our local guide looked after us brilliantly and everyone in the group got on like a house on fire. The walks were one of the highlights, even if the humidity was a challenge at times, it was worth every drop of sweat as the scenery was just incredible!

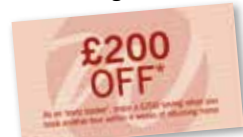
Audrey Dickinson, travelled on our Dreams of Nature tour, via feefo

## 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](http://wendywutours.co.uk/loyalty)

## RECOMMEND US

If your friends or family book through your recommendation, we'll send you a delicious hamper!

feefo Service rating: **97%**

### What is feefo?

Independent review platform, feefo provide you with reviews you can trust. Once you return home, you will receive an email from feefo asking you to rate your experience. Any feedback from you will be most welcomed.



# FALL FOR VIETNAM

Vietnam has all the things needed to make one fantastic travel destination. Turning its back on a turbulent past, it is a country very much on the up, attracting traveller after traveller with a combination of unique heritage, enchanting natural scenery and a seriously delicious cuisine.

What more could you ask for?

## CULTURE

Vietnam's culture is a bit of a mishmash of influences, but all the more fascinating for it. Under the influence of China for a millennium and part of French Indochina for 70 years, this is a country where about half of the population earn their living from agriculture. As you can imagine, the Vietnamese people's way of life, beliefs and values are very different from our own – ancestor veneration is a part of everyday life and plenty of people still wear traditional dress. To get a taste of the country through the ages try Hanoi – a compelling mix of traditional, crumbling French grandeur and the contemporary, whilst Saigon is the powerhouse city driving the country forward with a big nod to its colonial past.

## NATURAL BEAUTY

Vietnam's landscapes are wonderfully diverse, stretching from the mountains and rice terraces of the northern highlands,

to the magnificence of Halong Bay's karst towers, to the rich, lush greenery of the Mekong Delta. One of the most wonderful things about all this beauty is how easy it is to access – an overnight train from Hanoi up to the spectacular views of Sapa, a couple of hours by road from Saigon into the heart of the Mekong Delta. In Vietnam you are never far from some exotic landscape or another.

## FOOD

Vietnam's cuisine is not only one of the world's healthiest, but also one of the most delicious! Full of distinctive flavours, created by perfectly balancing salty, sweet, sour and hot, it is the use of plentiful fresh ingredients, herbs and spices that make it so good. Whether you are eating in a high end restaurant, or find a mouth-watering snack on one of the plentiful street stalls, your food will be prepared and cooked to order – be it summer rolls, pho or a banh mi. Speaking of, the banh mi perfectly encapsulates Vietnam's

colonial past in several tasty mouthfuls – a French-style baguette filled with delights such as pork belly, Vietnamese sausage, pate, egg or tofu with pickled carrots, coriander and cucumber.

Book by 30 Nov and add on Cambodia for FREE!

## TAKE ME THERE

VIETNAM HIGHLIGHTS  
Appreciate the best of Vietnam's culture, natural beauty and culinary delights as you journey from the south to the north.

PRICES FROM **£2,590pp** FOR 18 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**

## How to get in touch with us!

@ [customer@wendywutours.co.uk](mailto:customer@wendywutours.co.uk)

facebook.com/  
[wendywutours](https://www.facebook.com/wendywutours)

0800 977 4888

@WendyWuToursUK

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[wendywutours.co.uk/blog](http://wendywutours.co.uk/blog)

# CUSTOMER CORNER

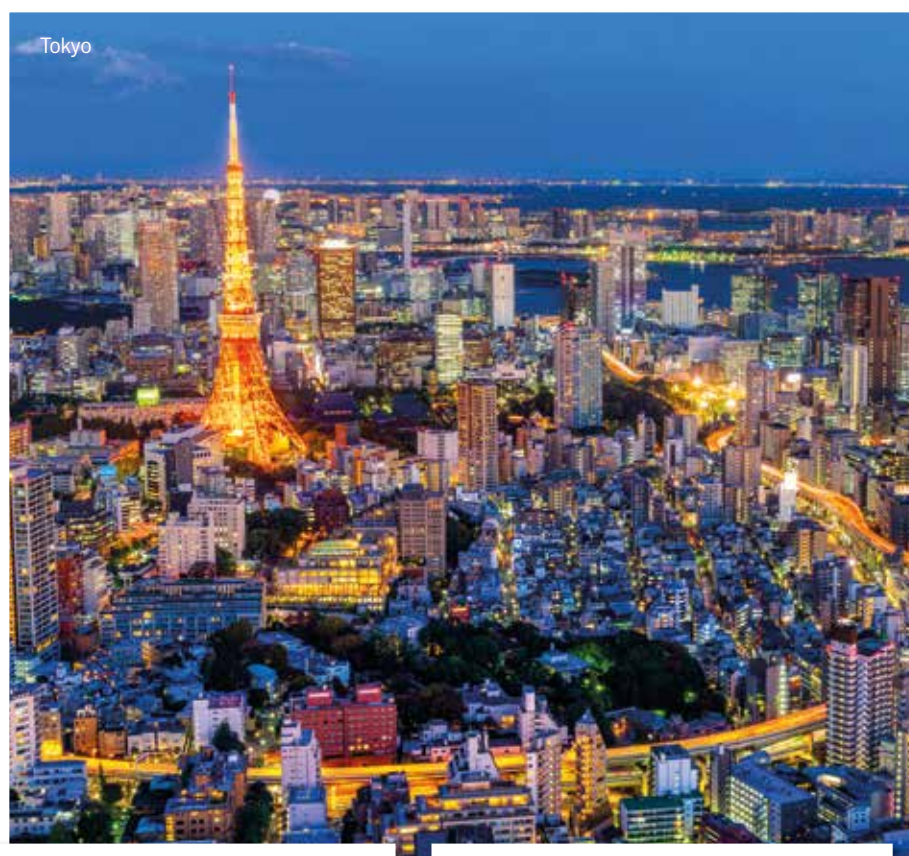
Tell us about your Wendy Wu holiday

At Wendy Wu Tours, we're always encouraging our customers to let us know about their tour experience 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.

Maureen and Bruce Huntley are just one example of this – and have shared with us their best bits and top tips from their very first Wendy Wu holiday, 'Discover Japan'.



Sushi



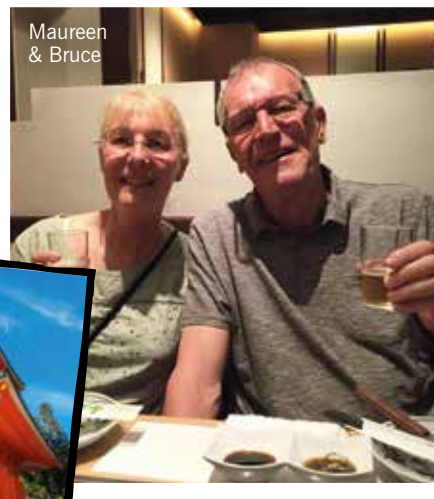
Tokyo



Osaka Castle



Koya-san



Maureen & Bruce

“ We would certainly travel on another tour with Wendy Wu, it fulfilled everything we were looking for – and Japan without a doubt is a must-see destination ”

*Myself and my husband, Bruce had been looking for a cultural holiday for quite some time – and having heard so much about Japan recently, it seemed to be the 'top' destination to visit, so we started researching and Wendy Wu Tours had the best offering for us.*

*The whole trip was fantastic, there was nothing we didn't like; the food was interesting and very different to British cuisine, a lot of fresh fish – it was great to try it all, we thoroughly enjoyed it. Every place was rich in culture, in particular Tokyo; it was such a vibrant city, with something wacky on one corner and then something historical on the next. In fact, each and every place visited was different to the next, from the stunning, serene gardens at Kenrokuen, the Golden Pavilion in Kyoto which was particularly beautiful in the sunshine, Buddhist temples in Koya-san and Osaka – Osaka Castle is a splendid sight and the city had brash lights, busy shops and restaurants which we enjoyed exploring. But for me, my absolute highlight was getting to the 5th Station at Mount Fuji, the views were out of this world and we could see the Fuji Five Lakes below us. Japan is full of beautiful scenery wherever you go, but this was something else!*

*Something that surprised us about Japan is how clean everything is, there was no graffiti or litter anywhere, you could see that the Japanese really took pride of their country. The people were so charming and polite too, the school children especially, who were interested in us tourists and were eager to practice their English.*

*It was a pleasure sharing our holiday with others, the group all gelled and it added to our whole trip. In our opinion an escorted tour was the best way of seeing Japan, as we were taken to places we wouldn't have gone to otherwise. Plus, our guide, Miya was able to give us insider knowledge. She was a great addition to our group, she had a wonderful sense of humour and made the trip special for us.*

*We would certainly travel on another tour with Wendy Wu, it fulfilled everything we were looking for – and Japan without a doubt is a must-see destination. If you haven't been, you must! We loved every moment. Our advice would be to try everything and don't be afraid to sample the culture and the food to its fullest extent – that way you will enjoy it as much as we did!*

“ In our opinion, an escorted tour was the best way of seeing Japan ”

“ My absolute highlight was getting to the 5th Station at Mount Fuji, the views were out of this world ”



Golden Pavilion



Mount Fuji



**TAKE ME THERE**

**DISCOVER JAPAN**  
See lush paddy fields, ancient temples and modern cities on this comprehensive tour of Japan.

PRICES FROM **£4,590pp** FOR 13 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**

**THE LANGHAM**  
HONG KONG



THE LANGHAM, HONG KONG IS A FORBES TRAVEL GUIDE FIVE-STAR HOTEL THAT REPRESENTS THE EPITOME OF LUXURY WITH ITS TIMELESS EUROPEAN ELEGANCE. TRANSFORM YOUR HONG KONG STAY INTO SOMETHING TRULY MEMORABLE.

**SUPREME LUXURY**

Indulging in the high life, guests will reside in supreme comfort and convenience. From luxury furnishings, blissful beds, Italian marble bathrooms with separate shower and deep soaking bathtub, they've thought of everything to ensure that your stay is a perfect one.

**LEGENDARY HOSPITALITY**

Crafting the art of the stay, the hotel captivates the senses with its signature amenities. Guests are welcomed with the aroma of the Langham Ginger Flower scent, one-of-a-kind visual works of art that's decorated throughout the lobby and public areas, as well as a display of breathtaking bouquets created by the in-house florist. Committed to curating unique experiences, every floor has dedicated Guest Experience Managers, while Shopping Butlers are on hand to fulfil fashion and lifestyle needs, and pretty in pink Service Stylists to assist with every request.

**FINE DINING**

The hotel is home to six award-winning restaurants and a bar, all offering unique dining experiences. Including the three Michelin-starred T'ang Court serving authentic Cantonese cuisine, known for not only its first-class dishes, but also for the lavish décor inspired by China's Golden Age and its stellar service. The Bostonian Seafood and Grill introduces a shipyard chic scene and shows off a spectacular selection of the freshest seafood and imported steaks, while Main St. Deli delivers classic New York deli favourites. For all-day dining, The Food Gallery restaurant is fueled by culinary creativity showcasing generous helpings of both Asian and Western fare in its dramatic open kitchen. Guests can also try "The Langham Afternoon Tea with Wedgwood" experience with signature sweet and savoury delicacies.



**PERFECT LOCATION**

As the residence of choice in the sought-after address of Tsim Sha Tsui on Kowloon, the hotel is perfectly placed for exploring Hong Kong's wealth of attractions. Within walking distance, guests can take a scenic Star Ferry ride across glittering Victoria Harbour to Hong Kong Island, or head to the ferry terminal for a day trip visit to China or Macao. Surrounded by couture boutiques and over 700 shops within the fashion quarters of Canton Road, the hotel is right across the street from the Harbour City shopping mall, the largest in the city for serious shoppers.



**Get a complimentary Footprint Travel Guide!**



**Footprint are the experts on Latin America, Asia and Africa. To celebrate Wendy Wu Tours' new trips to all corners of the globe, we're offering you a free travel guide to the destination of your choice!**

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The first 25 applicants will receive a complimentary Footprint Travel Guide. To apply for your guide, please email [online@footprinttravelguides.com](mailto:online@footprinttravelguides.com) with your Wendy Wu Tours booking reference, name, postal address and choice of guide. Our full list of publications can be found at [www.footprinttravelguides.com](http://www.footprinttravelguides.com)



**TAKE ME THERE**  
**HONG KONG STOPOVER**  
Discover all of Hong Kong's iconic sights including a stay at the luxurious 5-star Langham Hotel.

PRICES FROM **£390PP** FOR 3 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**

# CHOW, AUSTRALASIA!

Think the Aussies are just chucking another shrimp on the barbie? Convinced the Kiwis are munching through lamb and pavlova every night? Then you've missed the Australasian foodie revolution!

Both Australia and New Zealand have gone all out with artisanal producers, fresh, seasonal foods and fusion cuisines, and that's before we've even mentioned the wines. It's time to go Down Under and indulge!



Chefs in both Australia and New Zealand are fusing the old colonial dishes, the traditional foods of the indigenous people and the flavours of immigrants who have travelled to Australasia from all over the world, with their wealth of seasonal produce to create bold and innovative foods. Paired with wines that are highly-regarded, locally-produced and designed to perfectly complement the native fare and you're onto a winner. "Where can I taste these delights?" you cry.

Let us tell you...

## AUSTRALIA

### Hobart, Tasmania

Hobart's recently emerged foodie scene celebrates the produce of this beautiful isle. A wander through the markets highlight what a bountiful place it is, with everything from locally made cheese to locally caught oysters and locally picked apples. 'The Great Australian Adventure' includes a stop at an oyster farm for a tour and tasty lunch, plus a free evening where you can head out to find your own thoroughly Tassie flavours.



### Melbourne, Victoria

As well as being Australia's cultural capital, Melbourne has forged itself a reputation as a foodie destination thanks to plenty of ethnic eateries, inventive cooking and eclectic flavours. On 'The Great Australian Adventure', you can dine on sensational, seasonal Melbourne flavours

and sip on locally-produced wine onboard a colonial-era tramcar that trundles through the streets – just one of the city's exciting dining experiences.

### Yarra Valley, Victoria

The place for indulgent food and wine experiences, the Yarra Valley is first and foremost a wine producing region. With award-winning vineyards you can taste the wares in their well-stocked cellars – something that you'll get to do on 'The Great Australian Adventure'! The fertile soils also yield acres of fruit and vegetables which are used to create a wealth of artisanal goods, such as bread, preserves and chocolate.



## NEW ZEALAND

### Wellington, North Island

Both New Zealand's official and culinary capital, Wellington is the place to indulge in New Zealand's vast diversity of foods and taste the innovative flavours of those cooking here. Luckily on 'Grand Tour of New Zealand' you have a free evening in Wellington for culinary



explorations of your own. Good luck deciding though, the city is said to have more eateries per person than New York!

### Queenstown, South Island

Adventure-centre Queenstown sits at the midst of a region that is chockfull of vegetable fields, orchards and most importantly, vineyards – there's over 80 in the area! On 'Grand Tour of New Zealand', you'll get to visit a local winery for a tasting and wine cave tour, as well as sampling the divine cuisine served up in the town – there's a free night to find your own delicious dinner plus a meal atop Bob's Peak, full of local produce.



### Rotorua, North Island

Rotorua is the place to sink your teeth into traditional Maori cuisine. In fact, on 'Grand Tour of New Zealand' you can, as you'll attend an evening of Maori culture and partake in a traditional 'hangi'. This cooking technique involves taking baskets of meat and a range of local veggies including kumara, and placing them in a pit with hot stones and buried for several hours to slowly cook. The result is rich, succulent and quintessentially Kiwi.



Wendy Wu Tours now offers tours to both Australia and New Zealand, and whilst the focus isn't just food and wine, they do visit all of the above foodie destinations, and give you plenty of free time which you can use for your own culinary explorations. What better way to get a taste of this fantastic countries?

TAKE ME THERE  
THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE  
PRICES FROM **£6,590pp** FOR 21 DAYS  
To book call **0800 977 4888**

TAKE ME THERE  
GRAND TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND  
PRICES FROM **£5,990pp** FOR 22 DAYS  
To book call **0800 977 4888**

# A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

A number of Wendy Wu Tours' new Worldwide destinations offer some of the world's best wildlife experiences. Whether it is out on a safari, gazing up into the lush rainforest canopy or bobbing about in a boat out at sea, we're here to help you truly embrace your inner Attenborough! Here are the top wildlife destinations you can visit with us:



## 1. Costa Rica

When it comes to biodiversity, Costa Rica is incomparable. And the best thing about it? The wildlife is easy to see. An astonishing 500,000 species call it home (that's 4% of all the species in the world), thanks to the fact that Costa Rica is part of the bridge that connects South and North America – the perfect place for the species of what were once two separate continents millennia ago to mingle.

### What might you get to see in this biodiverse paradise?

Ocelots, sloths, toucans, tree frogs, anteaters, four species of monkey, jaguars, bats, hummingbirds, scarlet macaws and snakes.



## 2. Galápagos Islands

Holding a special place in the heart of anyone with the slightest interest in naturalism, the Galápagos Islands are one of the most fascinating natural habitats on the planet. Whilst not many species live on the islands due to their isolated location 600 miles off of Ecuador's coast, those that do are utterly unique – evolved cousins of mainland species who made the treacherous crossing centuries ago.

### What can you expect to experience on these incomparable islands?

Giant tortoises, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, penguins, fur seals, blue-footed boobies and finches.

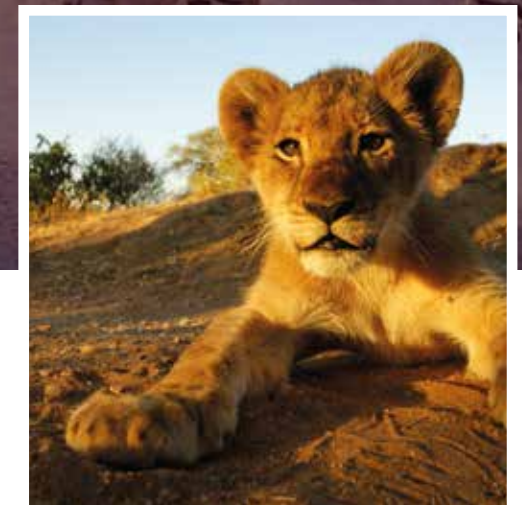


## 3. Namibia

For a land that at first glance often appears barren and lifeless, Namibia is actually wonderfully rich in animals. Due to the country's huge expanse of desert landscapes, you'll be able to spot incredible creatures in different environments, such as lions, rhinos and elephants specially adapted to their desert surroundings. Namibia is also working incredibly hard to conserve the native wildlife – it's even in the country's constitution!

### What might you spot amongst these magical landscapes?

Wild dogs, black rhinos, white rhinos, lions, zebra, cheetahs, elephants, pangolins, giraffes, springbok, hyenas, geckos and toads.



## 4. South Africa

South Africa is a place where animals like to be. In fact, it is so abundant in both flora and fauna that it is ranked 4th out of 17 of the world's megadiverse countries! With a range of habitats, including savannah, grassland and forest to support all of this wildlife, South Africa has almost 20 national parks, the most famous of which is Kruger, which is home to about 10,000 elephants and 20,000 buffalo. The numbers say it all!

### What could you spy amongst these lush habitats?

The Big Five (elephant, lion, rhino, leopard, buffalo), cheetahs, hippos, giraffe, baboons, bushbabies, meerkats, aardvarks and wild dogs.





# THE Big INTERVIEW



with Andrew Castle

Andrew Castle is a former British Number One tennis player and a double Olympian, having been a member of Great Britain's Olympic teams in Seoul in 1988 and Barcelona in 1992.

He is also one of the most experienced live presenters in British broadcasting, having occupied the GMTV sofa as an anchor for ten years and currently as the BBC's lead commentator during the Wimbledon Tennis Championships. You can now hear Andrew every week on both LBC and Smooth Radio.

We recently caught up with Andrew to uncover his own travel memories.



Table Mountain



Barbados



Seoul



Phuket



Vietnam

## TRAVELLING BROADENS THE MIND...YOU END UP KNOWING WHAT'S IMPORTANT BACK HOME.

### Tell us about your first holiday memory?

My first holiday memory was going down to Swanage and to Corfe Castle. We had a couple of dogs, Tessa and Kipper. I was always worried that they were going to fall off Corfe Castle and my dreams reflected that. I don't know what that says about me but I loved the holiday.

### What about your first foreign holiday?

This is interesting because in the old days and this is what this is, the old days, nobody used to go on foreign holidays or if you did, you were quite exotic. Now it has become open to absolutely everybody, hasn't it? At 13 years of age, I went on an aeroplane for the first time, to Barcelona, but that was a working holiday. I was playing in the European Tennis Championship under 14s. Asking about my first foreign holiday is actually a very difficult question because I was always going abroad for tennis. Tennis aside, I would say Barbados was the first one. We left the kids at home. They were both quite young. The mother-in-law promised us as a wedding gift that while she was able and healthy and well, she would look after our children for two weeks so we could get away together. So we did that when the children were quite young and, of course, we cried and missed them. But anyway it was Barbados and we stayed in a not very expensive place and we had a brilliant time.

**"I think the place that moved me the most with its power when I first went there was South Africa, Cape Town."**

### Have you ever visited Asia at all, and if so, what were your highlights?

I've visited Asia so many times. I was at the Seoul Olympics in '88, but I had been there in '86 and '87 as well because they had some big tennis tournaments there. So obviously that was a professional calling to begin with, but I've been there on holiday as well. I've been to a lot of places in Asia, I have to say. Seoul in Korea certainly, obviously Tokyo, but in terms of a holiday, the one that I remember the most is our honeymoon in Phuket, where we met two other lovely couples and had a brilliant holiday.

### What is your favourite destination or region of the world?

Home. That's my favourite region of the world, I have to be honest. I used to spend 40 to 45 weeks of the year on the road, so when I came home, it was special. I think the place that moved me the most with its power when I first went there was South Africa, Cape Town and within a couple of hundred kilometres of it. I was amazed by Africa and the combination of sights, sounds and cultures and everything else that South Africa brings.

### If you had to put together a two-week tour, what regions of the world would you visit and what would you do?

The first thing I would do, because I haven't done it yet, is to go on a safari, but I would like freshly turned out cotton sheets and a chocolate on my pillow. Is that possible at all or do I have to rough it? I really want to feel being out there. People tell me it's a very moving experience. Then I'm going to take a week on a beach in Southeast Asia. I might even go to Vietnam because I hear great things about that country and I've not been to Vietnam before. Whilst I've been to Malaysia and I've been to Thailand and lots of other places in the region, I understand that Vietnam is absolutely the coming place and Burma as well.

### During your tennis and commentary career, you must have been to some incredible locations. Which ones stick out?

Well when it comes to the most amazing locations, again I have been blessed. I have played in 50 countries as a professional tennis player, lost in every one of them but had a great time just about everywhere that I went. I would say if I had to pick one, I can't answer the question. I've just been to New York City for the US Open though. I had forgotten how amazing it was. I was last there in the '90s. It has completely changed now. It feels much more safe. I found when walking the streets, people were extremely polite and very, very courteous, unlike many European cities. Just the sheer size and the scale of it and the pace of it. Also, the fact that they treat just about all their politicians with total contempt. The Lower East Side and the Upper East Side are just full of neighbourhood bars. The service is quick. It's just a fantastic place. People are friendly and the sidewalks are wide enough to actually have a bit of a meander home afterwards, which was glorious as you potter back to Manhattan. What a city!

### What have you learnt from your travels?

Travelling broadens the mind. You end up making lists in your head. You end up knowing what's important back home. It puts everything into perspective. So I would recommend that everybody travels. At some point, I recommend travelling alone as well, because then your mind is entirely your own and it can wonder unlike anything that it can do at home, because you're surrounded by things that are from home and you have associations with everything. Somehow to go out, to travel, to be vulnerable really, to throw yourself upon the world and say, "Here I am." It changed my life utterly and completely and shocked me to the core when I was young.

### Where are you off to next?

We're probably going to pop back to Spain because it's easy. It's two-and-a-quarter hours away and I've only got five days. But the next big holiday we take might well be going around Croatia on a boat. I hope I don't get seasick. I don't know anybody that has done that kind of 'on a boat' holiday and not come back and said it was brilliant.

Andrew Castle presents weekend breakfast every Saturday and Sunday morning from 7am to 10am on Britain's biggest commercial news talk radio station LBC (digital radio, lbc.co.uk, the LBC app) and also The Great American Songbook every Sunday night from 6pm to 10pm on Smooth Radio (97-108 FM, digital radio, smoothradio.com, the Smooth app).



**TAKE ME THERE**  
**HIGHLIGHTS OF SRI LANKA**

See colonial Galle's resident fishermen amongst many other cultural delights, as you travel through the tropical paradise that is Sri Lanka.

PRICES FROM **£2,990pp** FOR **15 DAYS**

To book call **0800 977 4888**

# DID YOU KNOW?

As a global Asia specialist, let us share a few fun and interesting facts about Wendy Wu Tours that make us proud of who we are and what we do!

IN TOTAL A WHOPPING **85** COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN VISITED BY THE UK WENDY WU TOURS TEAM



**6.4** MILLION CHOPSTICKS HAVE BEEN USED ON TOUR



**150,000** PASSENGERS TRAVELLED SINCE THE VERY FIRST TOUR DEPARTED 18 YEARS AGO

**ZERO** PASSENGERS LOST ON TOUR

ALL GUIDES HAVE A MINIMUM **OF 5 YEARS** TOURING EXPERIENCE



OF ALL CUSTOMERS TRAVELLED **97%** WOULD TRAVEL WITH WENDY WU TOURS AGAIN



THERE ARE OVER **100 TOURS** TO CHOOSE FROM, PLUS AN UNLIMITED CHOICE OF TAILORMADE HOLIDAYS



## HEAD TO HEAD

GROUP TOURS  TAILORMADE TRAVEL

TO JOIN A GROUP TOUR OR CREATE YOUR OWN?  
OUR TWO TOP TOURING OPTIONS TAKE TO THE RING TO FIGHT IT OUT.

### EVERYTHING IS TAKEN CARE OF

There's no worries on a group tour. Travelling through Asia is sometimes seen as a daunting experience, but our escorted group tours make things easy. Absolutely everything is taken care of by your National Escorts and Local Guides, plus your flights, meals, accommodation, touring, entrance fees, local transport – and even your visas are included in the price!



### SEE ALL OF THE ICONIC SIGHTS

As the experts in group travel, we know the very best things to see; and we can guarantee that those 'bucket list' and authentic sights will be visited. Not only will they be visited though – your National Escort will take you and your group at the very best times so you'll have more space for yourself to soak it all up.



### LIKE-MINDED TRAVELLERS

What's special about group travel is the like-minded people you travel with. Ranging from 6 to 29

people in each group from different corners of the world, you're bound to form friendships that often last a lifetime – you may even choose to travel on future tours together. Whether you're travelling as a couple or solo, it's a great experience for all, so embrace it and let your travel companions enrich your experience over a drink or two and discussion of the day's adventures.



### A VARIETY OF TOURING STYLES

We understand that every traveller is different. Which is why we have a number of different group touring styles. As well as our 'Classic' range – comprehensive tours visiting the most iconic sights, you can also choose from 'Discovery' tours, aimed at those with an adventurous side and our 'Exclusive Collection' – luxury tours with little added extras. Each style has its own personality to bring your holiday alive.

### Conclusion

Group and tailormade travel both offer the ultimate touring experience; but it's down to you as to which one suits you the best. If you're looking for a flexible approach with just your loved ones, we recommend opting for a tailormade holiday. However, if sharing your experiences with fellow travellers is more for you, a group tour may be more your style.

Whilst both touring styles differ; each and every tour has the same unrivalled service and once-in-a-lifetime experiences.



### ULTIMATE FLEXIBILITY

Travelling on a tailormade itinerary means that you are in control. From what time you wake up in the morning, where you go for lunch, to what hotel you stay in – it's all your choice. And of course, the sights that you visit are entirely down to you too; each itinerary is truly unique. For those moments of inspiration, our tailormade team are on hand to give you all of the advice you need. Fulfil your dreams – where you want, for as long as you want, on the dates that you want.

### GET OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Tailormade touring gives you the opportunity to delve that little bit deeper into your destination of choice and spend as much time there as you wish, without the worry of keeping to a schedule. This could be anything from joining a local family for lunch, walking through remote countryside, finding secret streets within bustling cities or even concentrating entirely on a special interest that you may want to explore further – the options are endless.



### PRIVATE TRAVEL

Sometimes life just gets in the way, so holidays are the ultimate opportunity to spend quality time with your friends or loved ones. So whether it be a special trip for two, a group of 20 members of your extended family or a special interest holiday for your local walking club – no matter what the size or requirements, it'll just be you and your party on any tailormade holiday, accompanied by your dedicated expert guide.

### ADD THE ELEMENTS YOU WANT

Any group tour can be adapted and made into a tailormade holiday. So if you like what you see or want to combine elements of several group tours together, no problem – the options are endless. Or perhaps you'd prefer to piece together your trip from scratch? It's all possible.

Visit [wendywutours.co.uk](http://wendywutours.co.uk) to find out more about our different touring styles

# LONG LASTING FRIENDSHIPS

Group travel is special in so many ways – and in particular for bringing like-minded people together and giving them the opportunity to share incredible experiences on tour. We get emails, letters and calls every week from our customers telling us about the long-lasting friendships they've developed on tour.

Solo travellers and Wendy Wu Tours ambassadors, Kay Fackrell and Lynne Borland are just one wonderful example of how long-lasting friendships can be made on tour. They both travelled on our 'Discover Japan' tour in June and became friends almost straight away. So much so that they have now even booked their next Wendy Wu tour together to South America.

*Here they share their story...*

**LYNNE:** On all of the 7 trips I've been on with Wendy Wu (all of which were solo except the first), the group have integrated well. And that's partly down to the exceptional level of organisation of the tours. On a couple of the early trips, I was the only Brit – and being a Scot the Australians I was on tour with found it difficult to understand me at first, but we had a good laugh about it and by the end they were fluent in Scots!

**KAY:** I absolutely agree with Lynne. I've travelled with Wendy Wu twice and both times made wonderful friendships with other solo travellers and couples, one of whom I go to photography events with all around the UK.

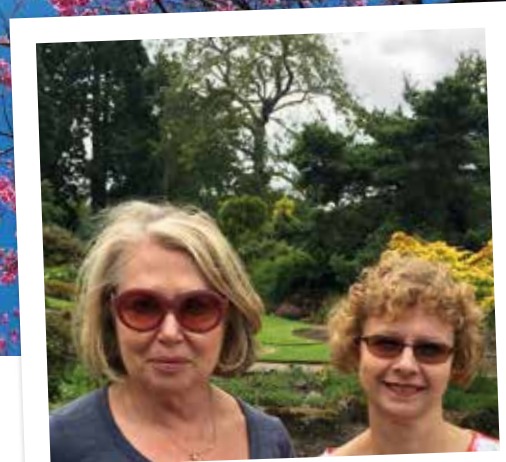
Lynne and I met on my second tour, 'Discover Japan' and we got on well from the start. We had the same, dry sense of humour! We even explored together in our leisure time, which I may not have had the confidence to do by myself.

“ On all of the 7 trips I've been on with Wendy Wu, the group have integrated well. And that's partly down to the exceptional level of organisation of the tours. ”

We had an excellent time, particularly shopping in Kyoto. What helped is that there was an introductory 'meet and greet' on the first morning of the holiday which gave us the chance to meet everyone before the tour began, which helped break the ice.

**LYNNE:** It really did. Since our trip, Kay came up from Kent to visit me in Fife and I have plans to visit her neck of the woods in late November to see the Christmas lights in London. We're also planning to come in and see some of the Wendy Wu team to discuss the 'Best of South America' tour that we've booked together for 2018.

We cannot wait, it's something to look forward to over the next 17 months – not that I'm counting!



*Kay & Lynne in Fife*



“ ...we got on well from the start. ”

If you would like to share your story, email us at [whispers@wendywutours.co.uk](mailto:whispers@wendywutours.co.uk) We would love to hear it!

# FUN WITH THE FAMILY

Whilst it may have been hard to imagine taking your children or grandchildren on a holiday where you would explore the mountain passes of Tibet or the Rajasthan desert by jeep ten years ago, it's now easier than ever.

Travel helps to broaden one's horizons, and none so more than children. Their introduction to new environments and different cultures as they travel can lead to a unique experience not found on our national curriculum, where adventure and education blends into one epic holiday.

With a wide array of fun things to do and wonderful places to see, the options are endless – but here are just a few ideas from our specialist tailormade team, Asia Inspirations.



## Panda Volunteering

A visit to China isn't complete without a visit to see the Giant Pandas. Better still, we can offer you intimate volunteering experiences where you can help to feed the Pandas and get up close to their furry selves.



## Disney Magic

With Disney parks in Tokyo and Hong Kong, as well as a brand new park in Shanghai, it's easier than ever to add a fun side trip and experience both the magic of Asia and your children's favourite characters.



## Club Med Guilin

Located in one of China's most picturesque regions, Club Med Guilin is bursting with activities. Including tennis, cycling, rock climbing and yoga, it makes for the perfect add-on to any China holiday.



## Family Cooking Class

What better way to have fun than in the kitchen? Get stuck in and have a try at creating traditional Chinese dumplings or Dim Sum, Vietnamese soup noodles or traditional Indian curries under the watchful eyes of a culinary expert before feasting on all your creations.



## Borneo Wildlife

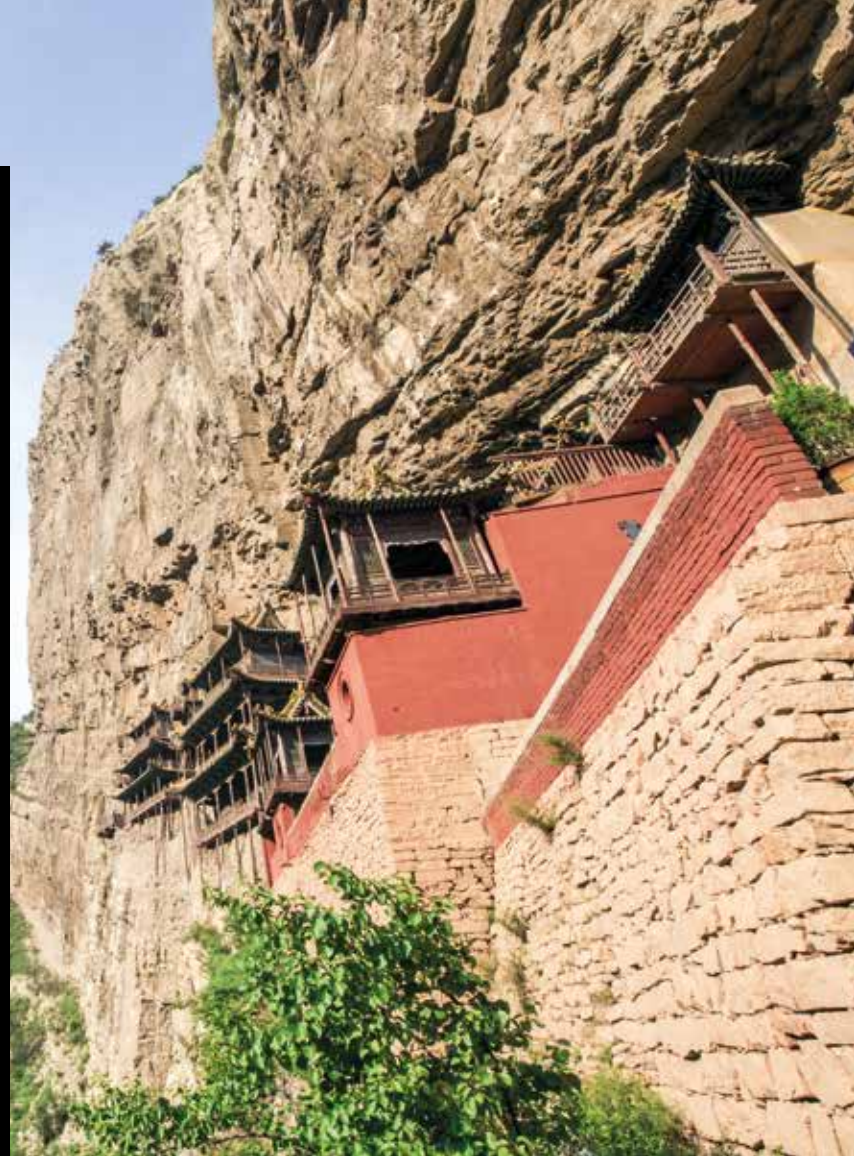
Discover Borneo's unique wildlife on an Asian 'safari'. Full of scenic National Parks, you can go in search of Borneo's Orangutans, Proboscis Monkeys and Sun Bears by river or on foot.

Call **0800 977 4888** or visit [asiainspirations.co.uk](http://asiainspirations.co.uk) and start planning your family adventure

## UNDISCOVERED CHINA

# Shanxi Province

With thousands of years of fascinatingly diverse history, China is one of the world's oldest civilisations. Much of this ancient history can be found in the Shanxi Province, a region in north eastern China that shares a border with Inner Mongolia. If you've already ticked off China's main sights, then a tour of this intriguing region is a must for a second visit.



### Did you know?

There are still almost 40 million people living in caves all over China, many of them in the Shanxi Province.

### Ancient Relics

One of the standout sights are the Yungang Caves. This series of grottoes carved from the sandstone cliffs in the 5th century, are filled with intricate Buddhist imagery and statues. Close by is the 1,400-year-old, gravity defying Hanging Monastery, which seems to float 50 metres up the cliff face. Amazingly you can climb up to the temple which will test anyone's fear of heights to the limit.

### Noodle heaven

The noodle is king in Shanxi. There are almost 1,000 types of noodle and you'll get a chance to try a fair few of them. The ancient city of Datong in particular is famous for its knife cut noodles. But as well as noodles there are lots of delicious dishes including well flavoured broths, flatbreads, sweet potatoes, spicy aubergine stews and several pork combinations. You certainly won't go hungry in Shanxi. Plus, being only an hour from Mongolia, there are lots of food influences using lamb as the main ingredient.



### Go back in time

A trip to China's Shanxi Province will take you back in time about 5,000 years with its ancient history and rich culture. Not to be confused with its neighbour, the Shaanxi Province, famous for the Terracotta Warriors, this northern region contains some of the most significant ancient relics in China. One of the highlights is the ancient walled town of Pingyao. It is probably the most famous city in Shanxi and considered the best preserved in the whole of China. The wall surrounding the city stretches about 6 kms, enveloping the 50,000 people still living inside. Spending the night in a restored guesthouse, within a traditional courtyard setting is one experience not to be missed. Walking along the cobbled streets, dating back to the Zhou Dynasty (827-728BC), will give you a real flavour of what life may have been like centuries ago.



### The Great Wall

Travelling around the north of the province, you will pass by ancient sections of the Great Wall. Many of these sections are even older than the parts you can see around Beijing. Interestingly, they are made of mud instead of brick and were built to defend the region from marauding hordes from Mongolia and beyond.



### TOP ANCIENT SIGHTS



The walled town of Pingyao



5th century Yungang Grottoes



1,400 year old Hanging Monastery



11th century Wooden Pagoda

### TAKE ME THERE ANCIENT CHINA

A fascinating tour of the Shanxi Province to see China's ancient sights and civilisations.

PRICES FROM **£2,890pp** FOR 18 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**



## A TASTE OF ASIA...WITH JEREMY PANG



ASIAN CUISINE SITS AT THE VERY TOP OF OUR FAVOURITE FOODS LIST. BUT WITH SO MUCH INCREDIBLE VARIETY, IT'S OFTEN DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHERE TO START. WE'VE TEAMED UP WITH THE YOUNG AND TALENTED ASIAN CHEF, JEREMY PANG, TO GIVE US A DELICIOUS INSIGHT INTO THE MOST VARIED CUISINE ON THE PLANET.

After several career changes, Jeremy decided to follow his heart and bring the world of Chinese cuisine to fellow food enthusiasts. In autumn 2009 he established School of Wok in London, a mobile cookery school specialising in teaching Eastern cuisine to students in the comfort of their own homes. Following the success of his mobile kitchen, School of Wok opened its first permanent professional kitchen in May 2012 in Covent Garden.

**Jeremy, you come from a long line of cooks, was it inevitable that you would follow in their footsteps?**

Not inevitable, the true 'golden triangle' for a Chinese family with three kids (I have two sisters) is for the children to become a lawyer, a doctor and an accountant.... So my oldest sister is a lawyer, my middle sister a doctor, and I eventually became a chef! But in my heart, it was always clear that I had a passion for the food industry and wanted to explore it at least.

**Is there a particular style of Asian cuisine that you prefer to cook? If so, why?**

Given my background, my go to is Cantonese cuisine as my parents were originally from Hong Kong. But I also crave hawker centre food from Singapore and Malaysia quite often: Nasi Lemak, Hainanese Chicken Rice, Prawn Laksa and Char Kway Teow all reminds me of my childhood, living in Singapore and travelling to Southeast Asia... so I cook from all around Asia really!

**Do you think there are any common misconceptions about Chinese food in the UK?**

Yes, plenty of misconceptions that are hard to get past. Here is a list of some of them:

1. Chinese food is terrible (due to bad experiences, and not necessarily knowing how to order a variety of dishes for a balanced meal)
2. Chinese food should be eaten on only one plate, meaning only eating one particular dish, maybe with some rice on the side
3. The best Chinese dishes are either stir fried or deep-fried only

4. If there aren't over 100 dishes on a menu, the restaurant isn't authentic

These misconceptions are what fuel my passion to teach people. In my view, Chinese food is one of the most adaptable cuisines in the world, which is why it is so popular internationally. The cooking techniques allow it to change and mould itself into different environments, using new ingredients and experimenting with food. It's a very versatile type of cooking, which is what people love to learn once they have gotten past these types of misconceptions.



**I'm sure many of us eat stir-fries at home, what's the secret of successful Wok cooking?**

Chinese cooking, especially wok cooking is 90% preparation, 10% actual cooking, which means you need to be organised before you heat up your wok! I teach and use what I call a 'wok clock'. Using a large dinner plate, prep and then place your ingredients in the order in which you'll use them around the dinner plate, starting at 12 o'clock and working your way round. It saves you from having to go back and consult a recipe, leaving whatever ingredient to burn in your wok, or under cooking your meat or over cooking your veg.

The other tip I would give to start someone off would be to add oil in little bits, rather than all at once. Add a little bit at a time, let it heat up, then add your ingredient and fry. You can repeat this process over and over with each new ingredient you add in if necessary. By adding it a bit at a time you won't be left with oil-soaked food at the end, but a crisp, fresh-tasting stir fry instead.

**What inspired you to set up your cookery school, 'School of Wok'?**

I was always looking for an excuse for a fun business concept in food. In 2009, simultaneously, my father passed away in Hong Kong, and I lost my job, so I decided it was time to do something positive for myself to help get through the tough time. I wanted to create

a cookery school service whereby customers were the ones who did all the chopping, preparation and cooking under my guidance. I started teaching people in their own homes how to cook Chinese food. I would turn up with a bag of knives, wok and the ingredients for their three requested dishes and teach them how to cook seriously good Chinese food. A lot of my customers from those days actually stopped going to the local takeaway on a Friday night and would cook for their families instead – result!

It signalled to me that I had something unique to offer, and it was time to expand and create something permanent. School of Wok Covent Garden opened in May 2012, where I began to offer classes in all types of Oriental & Asian cuisine. And that's how it still runs now, over four years later. Anything from wok cooking, to dim sum, to Thai, Malaysian, Vietnamese, Korean and Japanese can be yours to try, learn, master and enjoy!

“ Chinese food is one of the most adaptable cuisines in the world... ”

**READER OFFER**  
**Save 15%**  
 on cooking classes  
 Valid on any 3hr and full day classes  
 Visit [schoolofwok.co.uk](http://schoolofwok.co.uk) and enter code **SOWWT15**  
 Book by 25 Dec 2016



# WHAT, WHERE, WHEN?

We've reached that time of year where next year's holiday is constantly in our thoughts. Deciding where to go might be easy, but do you know the best time of year to explore your destination of choice? We often get asked 'when is the best time to go', so here is a little helping hand...



## JANUARY: VIETNAM

A friendly bunch, the Vietnamese celebrate the start of the new year in January with the famous Tet Festival. With temperatures reaching 22 degrees, perfect for walking and exploring in the daytime, you'll be geared up to join in with the local celebrations come the evening.

### TAKE ME THERE:

18 day **Vietnam Panorama** tour from **£2,790pp**, departing 15 Jan 2017



## FEBRUARY: LAOS

Vietnam and Cambodia's laid-back cousin, Laos has so much to offer in February, the peak of the dry season. Experience all it has to offer from its unspoilt, pristine heritage and vivid colours to its haunting history and enduring French legacy – there's so much to explore.

### TAKE ME THERE:

17 day **Laos & Cambodia Unveiled** tour from **£2,990pp**, departing 10 Feb 2017



## MARCH: INDIA

Filled with bright colours, music and a buzzing atmosphere, March sees the celebrations of India's most important and not-to-be-missed festival of the year, Holi. So get into the party spirit and get to know India's vibrant and colourful character.

### TAKE ME THERE:

18 day **Highlights of India** tour from **£3,490pp**, departing 03 & 10 Mar 2017



## APRIL: CHINA

There are so many good times to visit China. However, we would consider April to be a great time. Although the weather varies from place to place, enjoy the most comfortable temperatures in April, with comfy, spring-like days following you wherever you go.

### TAKE ME THERE:

18 day **China Delights** tour from **£3,190pp**, departing 10 Apr 2017



## MAY: TIBET

May brings clear, azure skies to Tibet, giving you the ultimate views of Everest, the 'roof of the world' and its stunning surroundings, including mystical Lhasa, where temperatures reach a pleasant 20 degrees.

### TAKE ME THERE:

23 day **Tibetan Wonders** tour from **£3,990pp**, departing 06 & 20 May 2017



## JUNE: RUSSIA

June is the peak month for 'white nights' in Russia. The sun never quite sets and dusk continues on through the whole night, but beware of the rain and wind – always carry a light jacket just in case!

### TAKE ME THERE:

15 day **Russian Dreams** tour from **£5,890pp**, departing 18 Jun 2017



## JULY: MONGOLIA

Contrary to many destinations in Asia, Mongolia is best in the summer months. Days are long and you'll get to experience all manner of Mongolian traditions, including the Nadaam Festival where you'll witness wrestling, horse racing and archery.

### TAKE ME THERE:

23 day **Mongolia & The Naadam Festival** tour from **£4,990pp**, departing 08 Jul 2017



## AUGUST: BORNEO

The lushest, greenest of jungles awaits you in the month of August – our recommended month of travel to Borneo. The activities will be a-plenty too – and of course, the adorable orangutans will be waiting to meet you!

### TAKE ME THERE:

11 day **Into the True Heart of Borneo** private tour from **£3,640pp**, departing 10 Aug 2017



## SEPTEMBER: BURMA

More and more mentioned by our customers, Burma is fast becoming a 'hot' destination to visit. For keen botanists, the beautiful, remote countryside will be at its freshest and greenest in September, the end of the rainy season.

### TAKE ME THERE:

12 day **Irrawaddy Voyager** private tour from **£3,440pp**, departing 06, 20 & 27 Sep 2017



## OCTOBER: JAPAN

Don't just think cherry blossoms when you think Japan. Autumn is just as special. See a plethora of red, yellow and golden leaves on the trees across the countryside and cities, plus you'll have more space for yourself to soak up the scenery and culture!

### TAKE ME THERE:

11 day **Jewels of Japan** tour from **£4,190pp**, departing 02 & 23 Oct 2017



## NOVEMBER: AUSTRALIA

November sees the start of the long, warm summer days in Australia, no matter where in the country you are. So get your shorts and t-shirts at the ready and start exploring the monumental landscapes, bustling cities and wild waters of the Great Barrier Reef.

### TAKE ME THERE:

21 day **The Great Australian Adventure** tour from **£6,690pp**, departing 13 Nov 2017



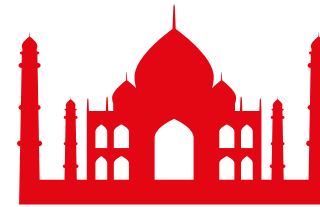
## DECEMBER: CAMBODIA

December is prime time to visit the incredible temple that we know as Angkor Wat. With an average of eight hours' sunshine and temperatures reaching a gorgeous 30 degrees, you'll enjoy less humid days, meaning you can focus on what's standing right in front of you.

### TAKE ME THERE:

17 day **Angkor to the Bay** tour from **£3,390pp** departing 01 & 08 Dec 2017





# INTRODUCING INDIA

India. Home to 1.3 billion people, land of the world's highest cricket ground and the place that The Beatles found enlightenment. High on many a travel bucket list due to its incomparable history, colourful culture and incredible sights, India can also be a daunting prospect if you've never been before.

**So, for those thinking about embarking on that first India adventure, here are our top tips:**



India is huge, busy and absolutely heaving with things to see, do and experience. No wonder people who are considering a trip here have no idea where to start when it comes to deciding the what, the where and the when.

**And so that is our first tip – don't try and see it all at once.**

India isn't going anywhere and to really get a feel for a destination you need to spend a bit of time in one place. That's why many people begin their love affair with India by travelling around the Golden Triangle of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. With this route you get a capital city that combines both traditional and colonial history, you get to see one of the most beautiful buildings on earth, the Taj Mahal and to experience the grandeur and exoticism of Rajasthan. Another great option for a first-timer is to explore the lush and beautiful Kerala. At the very tip of the country, the days are sunny, the daily life laidback and the beaches a delight. You get all the colourful culture here too, it's just a whole lot more relaxed, slower-paced and less in your face.

**Which leads nicely into our second tip – you will get a big culture shock.**

A lot of superlatives get flung around about India – chaotic, intoxicating, exasperating, wonderful and rewarding are just a few. These are all true. India is such a huge blend of cultures, religions, philosophies and just loads of people, that it is easy to feel overwhelmed. You will see and experience things that you've never seen before. You will have the locals showing a great interest in you and wanting to know all about you and you will run into a sacred cow in the middle of a city – that's just India. Experience it and then you can choose superlatives of your own.

**And experiencing it is all part of our final tip – open your mind, heart and soul and embrace it!**

It's true of any country that if you open your mind to it you will have a much better and more fulfilling time there. India is a challenging place for us shy and retiring Brits, but be safe in the knowledge that your National Escort will be there to take care of anything that would stop you wholeheartedly enjoying yourself and soaking it all in. Once you've tasted the history, culture, spirituality and cuisine of this great nation there will be nothing to stop you falling head-over-heels. And who knows, you might even end up finding enlightenment just like John, Paul, George and Ringo once did.

“...you will run into a sacred cow in the middle of a city...”

**Been to India before? Here are our top destinations for a second visit:**

### Varanasi:

A sacred city on the banks of the River Ganges, Varanasi exposes stark humanity in a big, messy and magical experience.

**Try our Highlights of India tour.**

### Darjeeling:

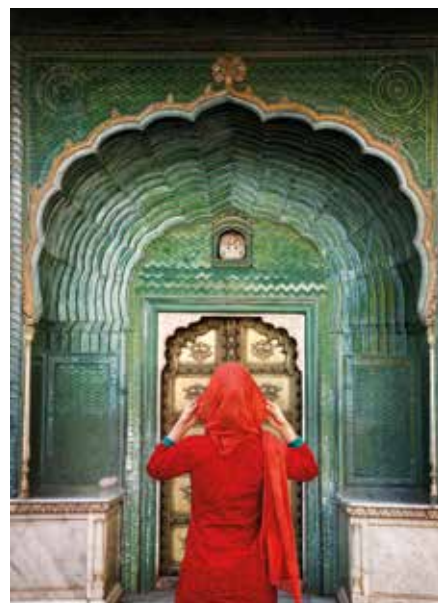
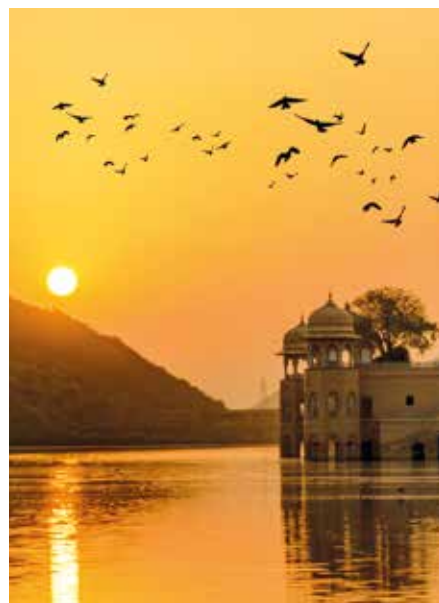
India's archetypal hill station, Darjeeling nestles amongst lush tea plantations, watched over by the many faces of the Himalaya.

**Try our Himalayan Kingdoms tour.**

### Leh:

An adventure to reach, but so worth it when you do, Leh sits amongst mountains in some of the world's most enchanting scenes.

**Try our Trans Himalayan Journey tour.**





# EXPERIENCE MACAO

THE PERFECT ASIA STOPOVER

With a unique Portuguese-Chinese heritage, enchanting cultural experiences and a dazzling night scene, there's never a dull moment in Macao. And just a one hour ferry ride from Hong Kong, it makes the perfect stopover destination. So let us give you a flavour of our 3 day Macao stopover...



## THE HISTORIC CENTRE OF MACAO

The UNESCO World Heritage Site includes 30 beautiful buildings, all with their own story and unique look. Let the dazzling churches and temples, colourful streetscapes and regal mansions impress you as you take your afternoon stroll.



## MACAO AT NIGHT

With a plethora of night-time activities, you're spoilt for choice. In particular, we recommend seeing world-class musical production, *The House of Dancing Water*, a theatrical extravaganza.



## MACANESE CUISINE

Various cooking traditions, dining styles and flavours of the east and west meet in Macao. Whether you're experiencing a sizzling side street wok or a traditional pastelaria (pastry shop) in the famous food street 'Rua do Cunha', there's plenty to try for breakfast, lunch and dinner!

**TAKE ME THERE**

**FREE MACAO STOPOVER**

Add Macao onto your China or Burma holiday for no extra cost!

**Must book by 30 Nov.**

Visit [wendywu tours.co.uk/macao](http://wendywu tours.co.uk/macao) for full details

# TRAVEL TALES



Rowan on tour

Our Product Manager, Rowan Goldthorp recently joined two of our more active Discovery tours, 'A China Adventure' and 'Tibetan Wonders', experiencing all manner of adventures on-route. We recently caught up with her to find out all about it...

### So tell us about your latest trip to China?

In May, I was lucky enough to join two of our new Discovery tours. Even though I'd been to China before, this visit opened up my eyes to new experiences and also off the beaten track areas within China.

### What was different about this trip to the last time you visited?

Although I'd already done some of China's 'classic' sights, this trip showed me sides of China which I didn't even know existed! On the 'China Adventure' section of my trip, we hiked on a really wild and rough section of the Great Wall, from Gubeikou to Jinshanling – and the views were constantly changing and totally

immense. Gubeikou is really special, it's the most authentic section and you can climb to the top of the watchtowers to feel what it was like for soldiers to survey the surrounding hills. But it wasn't just about the epic sights for me. I also walked deep into the Hutongs in Beijing and found a fantastic little hole-in-the-wall crepe vendor that sold delicious veggies crepes for about £1! And in Yunnan, I had the most amazing time exploring the quirky food stalls in Dali and Lijiang. Mighty skewers of meat and vegetables were cooked right in front of me; I then sat down and enjoyed them with a number of locals. These were just a few experiences that differed to my first visit, which all have given me a greater understanding into China's incredible culture.

### What were you looking forward to the most?

The hike on the Great Wall was the most exciting thing for me. 'A China Adventure' is the only tour which features the challenging (but very rewarding) walk from Gubeikou to Jinshanling, and I was very lucky to have the opportunity to do it. It definitely surpassed my expectations!

### Was there a stand out moment for you?

My personal and most unexpected highlight of Yunnan was when we walked up through the forests of Weibaoshan. This Taoist mountain is home to 22 beautiful, ancient temples and we visited about four of them. At the top of our walk, we joined a Taoist master who taught us the principles of meditation in the courtyard. The atmosphere was so peaceful and spiritual. On the way back down we visited Longtan Temple, which means 'Dragon Temple'. Inside, we found a beautiful courtyard garden with little stone bridges and immaculately kept flowers and plants. The whole time we were in Weibaoshan, we only saw one other visitor and a few Taoist priests.

### If you could sum up your whole experience in a sentence, what would you say?

On this trip I experienced a whole new side of China I had never seen before, and I fell in love with it all over again.

## ROWAN'S TOP CHINA SIGHTS



Hiking remote sections of the Great Wall



Walking through the forests of Weibaoshan, Yunnan



Trying local delicacies in Yunnan's markets



Exploring the bamboo forest and rope bridge at Jinli

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# 48 HOURS IN... SEOUL

Seoul is a dynamic, round-the-clock city – consumerist and cutting edge as it may be, amongst the skyscrapers, nightlife and shopping malls there is an exceptional amount of culture and tradition, from bustling teahouses to magnificent palaces. While Seoul's treasures old and new are must visits, the very best way to see into Seoul's soul is to stroll the narrow old streets, eat at the plethora of incredible street food stalls and soak up the atmosphere.



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

### Day One

#### MORNING

Head straight for the 12th century Gyeongbok Palace to get a sense of Seoul's past. This was the principle residence of the King and for those that have visited Beijing, it has echoes of the Forbidden City. Stop for a quick pick me up at one of the many traditional tea houses serving a huge variety of teas. Opt for the '5 flower iced tea' for a herbal infusion of jasmine, ginseng, ginger and lemon. Don't forget to leave your shoes at the door.

#### AFTERNOON

Take a stroll through Seoul's oldest district, Insadong, where narrow lanes meander through traditional arts and crafts shops, art galleries and tea rooms. It would be easy to while away a whole afternoon here, soaking up the vibrant atmosphere. Before you head back to your hotel, make your way to the top of the North Seoul Tower for incredible views over the city.

#### EVENING

For a flavour of modern Korea, a visit to the restaurant 'Chicken in the Kitchen' in the university district is a must. Made famous after the Hairy Bikers stopped by on one of their TV shows, they serve fried chicken in every way you can imagine. Make sure you book though as queues stretch around the block for their original take on the humble chicken.

### Day Two

#### MORNING AND LUNCH

Markets are often the lifeblood of a city and Seoul is no exception. Head out early to the Gwangjang market to observe the locals go about their business. The variety of vegetables, meat and fish on display is astonishing. Upstairs you can even pick up some bargain silk, satin and clothes.

Make sure you stay for lunch and pick up some of the local dishes. Most meals have lots of small dishes to share with rice, broths, meat and vegetables. Try the local pancakes with the world-famous Kimchi on the side.

#### AFTERNOON

Arrange a tour to the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) that divides North and South Korea. This 4km area divided the country in two at the end of the Korean War (1950-1953). You will be led around by US soldiers who patrol the southern side and it provides a fascinating insight into this long running conflict. Just make sure you do what the soldiers tell you!

#### EVENING

Enjoy a traditional Korean BBQ to end your stay in Seoul in style. You'll have your very own BBQ in front of you on the table. They will light the coals for you and leave you to cook your own meat and vegetables. It's a great social experience and if you also try the local firewater, Seju, the evening will be sure to go with a swing.



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## TOP SEOUL EXPERIENCES



Gyeongbok Palace



Insadong district



Gwangjang market



Demilitarised Zone

# 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 William Fylan, via email

**Q:** I'm hoping to travel to China next year for the first time, but I'm finding it difficult to decide what style of tour suits me best. The 'Discovery' tours look great, but I wanted to make sure that we'd be up to the challenge. Myself and my wife are in our mid 60's, of average fitness and love exploring!

Answered by Chloe Tower, Product Executive

**A:** Our Discovery tours are our most active range of tours – they include trips such as a 6-hour hike on the Great Wall and cycling through China's countryside. They also give you the opportunity to interact with local people, go off the beaten track and include a little more free time than the Classic tours that we offer. Both our Discovery tours range and Classic tours will give you the opportunity to see China in all of its glory, but it's whether you prefer a more active style of touring or travelling at a more comfortable pace would suit you better.

You can find out more about our Discovery tours range at [wendywutours.co.uk/discovery-tours](http://wendywutours.co.uk/discovery-tours)

Question from Graham McGrath, via Facebook

**Q:** I've travelled with Wendy Wu twice before, to China and Vietnam and am now considering my third trip. Both India and Sri Lanka really interest me, but I'm not sure which one to choose. Are there any tours that offer both countries?

Answered by Arti Gondalia, Personal Travel Consultant

**A:** Unfortunately, there aren't any group tours that offer both India and Sri Lanka together. However, we have just launched a brand new India and Sri Lanka brochure with a wider range of tours to both of these destinations. Both of these countries are so very diverse;



Amber Fort, Jaipur

India has bustling cities, a varying history and cultures and beautiful beaches in the south, while Sri Lanka has a more laid-back approach with so much natural scenery and wildlife across the whole country. Alternatively, if you wish to travel to both of these destinations within one trip, you could opt for a tailor-made holiday, which will allow you to visit the places that interest you the most.

Our new India and Sri Lanka brochure is ready to order from our website now

Question from Diana Stewart, via email

**Q:** As a solo traveller, group dynamics are really important to me. Do you get many solo travellers on your tours and is it easy to interact with other members of the group?

Answered by Lorraine Bowman, Customer Care Executive

**A:** Absolutely. Almost 20% of our customers are solo travellers so there's no need to worry. Customers who travel on our group tours often make friends for life and sometimes even travel with each other again! Meal times are spent together as a group which helps people gel – and generally everyone's like-minded so the group dynamic is a really positive one. As a single traveller, you do have the option of 'willing to share' too, which means you don't have to pay a single supplement, regardless of

whether there's someone to share a room with or not.

We have a dedicated single traveller page on our website too, to help put your mind at rest: [wendywutours.co.uk/single-travellers](http://wendywutours.co.uk/single-travellers)

Question from Daphne Watts, via email

**Q:** I was so excited when I saw that you now have two Russia tours! It's been on my list for a little while now and having enjoyed holidays with you before I'd prefer to travel with you again. What are the main differences between the two tours?

Answered by Liz Cathcart, Personal Travel Consultant

**A:** Russia has been mentioned to us by our customers many times, so we're pleased to hear that this excites you. Both tours visit Russia's two main cities, Moscow and St Petersburg, but they then differ. Our Russian Dreams tour takes a 6-night luxury cruise along the Volga River, passing some incredible beauty along the way, whilst our Timeless Russia tour is all land travel, visiting more of Russia's historical cities. Whichever you choose, you'll experience luxury accommodation and fine dining throughout.

Find out more about our Russia tours at [wendywutours.co.uk/worldwide](http://wendywutours.co.uk/worldwide)

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](mailto:whispers@wendywutours.co.uk) or send us a message via facebook or twitter and you could be featured in the next issue.

# TOP REASONS TO CHOOSE WENDY WU TOURS

- Over 19 years' experience
- Unrivalled knowledge and expertise
- Comprehensive range of group, private and tailor-made holidays
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- Fully inclusive prices with no hidden extras
- 97% independent customer rating
- Award winning guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced consultants
- Authentic dining and delicious local cuisine
- Hassle-free visa service included
- Safe and secure with ABTA, ATOL & IATA



To book and speak to our experts

Call: **0800 977 4888**

Email: [whispers@wendywutours.co.uk](mailto:whispers@wendywutours.co.uk)

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