

CHINESE WHISPERS

THE LATEST TRAVEL NEWS AND INSPIRATION FROM WENDY WU TOURS

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Join BBC's Kate Adie
in China

THE BIG INTERVIEW

With TV Presenter John Carter

TRAVEL IN STYLE

With our Exclusive Collection
and Shangri-La



A MESSAGE FROM WENDY



Welcome to our latest issue of Chinese Whispers, where we not only aim to provide you with inspiration for your next holiday to Asia, but also keep you up to date with our latest travel news.

Many of you will have already seen that our 2016/17 brochures are out now. In addition to our ever popular Classic Tours, we are excited to now offer a new style of touring with our Discovery Tours. This exciting collection of tours are designed for the more active traveller and really delve deeper into the local cultures. To celebrate these new tours, we have launched a writing competition in partnership with travel magazine Wanderlust, giving you the opportunity to win a Discovery Tour for two people! To find out more see pages 14-15.

You will also see a couple of well-known faces in this issue. We were lucky enough to catch up with veteran travel broadcaster John Carter, of *Wish You Were Here...*? to discover his favourite holiday spots. Plus we have joined forces with the Daily Telegraph to offer a tour of China in the company of Kate Adie, the BBC's former Chief News Correspondent. Make sure you book early as this is sure to be a sell-out.

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

Wendy Wu,
Owner, Wendy Wu Tours

Cover image: Halong Bay, Vietnam

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THE BIG INTERVIEW

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Read all about TV presenter John Carter's favourite destinations.



WRITING COMPETITION

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Enter our new writing competition to be in with a chance to win a Discovery tour.



EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION WITH SHANGRI-LA

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Discover how to travel across Asia in style on a luxury tour.

WHAT'S NEW?

OUR EXPERTS BRING YOU THE LATEST NEWS FROM WENDY WU TOURS

NEW BROCHURES OUT NOW

We are excited to have recently launched our new tour programmes for 2016/17 to all your favourite Asian destinations including China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Thailand and Japan.

What's more, look out for our brand new Discovery Tours and Exclusive Collection.

Order your free copy at wendywutours.co.uk



Business Class Upgrade only £99!



You can now travel to Asia in style with this exclusive offer.

Book many of our fully escorted tours to China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Burma or Japan and you can enjoy the best Business Class in the sky with award-winning Cathay Pacific.

What's more, this is now also valid for travel in September 2016 – one of the best times to visit China.

Must book by 31 Oct.

For full terms & conditions and to book, visit wendywutours.co.uk/upgrade

Our website relaunched!

If you haven't already, visit our newly designed website to help inspire your next trip to Asia. You will find it much easier to get around and find the information you are looking for. We have added more information on each country plus news, reviews and a lot more!

Let us know what you think by emailing us at whispers@wendywutours.co.uk



CELEBRATING AROUND THE WORLD

November: Diwali, the festival of light, India

Usually lasting five days, Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil. Local people exchange gifts such as sweets and dried fruits and houses, shops and public places are decorated with small ceramic lamps called 'diyas'.



GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Join in with the celebrations yourself on our introductory 9 day fully inclusive tour of India. Departs 05 November 2016

PRICES FROM
£2,090^{PP}
FOR 9 DAYS

December: Full Moon celebrations in Chiang Mai, Thailand

When the full moon begins to rise, locals carry their decorated Krathong – a float or cup made of banana leaf – to the banks of the rivers, light candles and set the Krathong afloat. Afterwards, they celebrate with fireworks, dancing and singing. A very magical event offering insight into Thailand's culture.



TAILORMADE THAILAND

Experience these celebrations with a tailor-made itinerary. Call our expert tailor-made travel consultants on **0800 988 8202** for further information. Departures available throughout December 2015/16

February: The Tet Festival, Vietnam

This festival marks the end of the lunar calendar and the beginning of spring. It's the most important festival in the Vietnamese calendar, when families gather together and people take to the streets to celebrate with fireworks.



VIETNAM AT A GLANCE

Join our Vietnam at a Glance tour and experience this significant, cultural celebration. Departs 05 February 2016

PRICES FROM
£2,290^{PP}
FOR 12 DAYS

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.

There are so many ways in which you can tell us about your experiences, so get in touch via Facebook, Tweet us, email us, write a review on feefo or even send us a traditional letter!

STAR LETTER

We have just returned from our Wonders of China tour and we wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed the trip, which far exceeded our expectations. There was an excellent balance of history, countryside, museums and cities and some amazing optional excursions that only added to the overall experience. We particularly wanted to praise our National Guide, Ivy who brought everything together flawlessly and helped to make this a holiday of a lifetime. If we do decide to take a similar holiday again we will definitely choose Wendy Wu and we will certainly recommend the company to our friends.

David and Susan Carthy,
travelled on our Wonders of China
tour, via email

The itinerary was very good, interesting and varied - a perfect balance. The pace was busy but that added to the enjoyment. A lot of our enjoyment was down to our guide Pham Quoc Cong (John) who was excellent, knowledgeable, good fun and totally committed to making the holiday a great experience for all. He is a huge asset to the company. Thank you John! We are recommending Vietnam Escape to all our friends.

Rona Davies,
travelled on our Vietnam
Escape tour, via email

Just returned from the Glories of China tour and we have to say, we were very impressed with the standard of the tour and feel that we received great value for money. What made the tour even more special was our guide Bruce. I think the secret of being a great guide is making you feel as if it is more than just your job - nothing was too much trouble and he went the extra mile to ensure everyone was made to feel special. Every company needs a Bruce!

Sandra and David Taylor,
travelled on our Glories of China
tour, via email

facebook



What's your favourite part of Southeast Asia? Or if you haven't been, what interests you the most about this region?

Sandra Alderton

03 September at 21:28

It's so hard to say. I loved both Vietnam and Cambodia and am now about to do it all again in Laos!

Like Comment Share

John May

04 September at 10:02

I've been to a few countries in Southeast Asia, but I visited Burma earlier in the year and loved it. The temples, the people and the gorgeous scenery was all amazing!

Like Comment Share

Joan Bowler

04 September at 12:35

I've travelled throughout most of Southeast Asia and loved all of it, but my highlight was cruising on Halong Bay. It's one of the most beautiful places I've ever visited.

Like Comment Share

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

feefo Service rating: 99%

What is feefo?

Feefo is working hard to be the world's most trusted supplier of ratings and reviews, generating genuine feedback that our customers can rely on. Once returning 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 product. Any feedback at all from you will be most welcomed.



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48 HOURS IN... SAIGON

Saigon, or Ho Chi Minh City as it's known by many, is a city of contrasts; French colonial architecture, sparkling skyscrapers, incense-infused temples and remnants of war coexist alongside each other. Its frenzied streets – home to an ever-flowing stream of motorbikes, bustling markets and vendors peddling street food might seem a little overwhelming at first, but beyond the chaos this exciting city has a plethora of things for visitors to see and do.



Saigon

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

Day One

MORNING

Start with a visit to the imposing Notre Dame Cathedral, built between 1886 and 1890 in the heart of Saigon's government quarter followed by the nearby French-style Central Post Office, built by architect Gustave Eiffel. A short walk away, you'll find Cong Vien Van Hoa Park; cool off under the trees with an iced coffee from one of the street vendors – a popular choice with the locals. Stroll through the park to the 1960's-built Reunification Palace, the former presidential home of South Vietnam.

PIT STOP

Stop at a nearby street stall and try Vietnam's traditional noodle soup, considered by many as the national dish, 'Pho', which is influenced by Chinese and French cuisine.

AFTERNOON

Make your way to the War Remnants Museum, which depicts the brutality of the Vietnam War. Although very poignant, it's well worth a visit. Take your time viewing the displays, which includes photographs, artillery, jets, tankers, army uniforms and a replica of a prison.

AFTER DARK

The day's not over yet! Grab tickets for the acrobatic performance at Saigon Opera House (also known as Ho Chi Minh Municipal Theatre).

Day Two

MORNING

This morning head to the Cu Chi Tunnels, about 35 kilometres from the city. This 120-kilometre network of tunnels was dug by the Viet Cong Communist guerrilla troops and were used during the Vietnam War to house troops, transport communications and supplies, lay booby traps and mount surprise attacks. The tunnels, which are several storeys deep in some parts, feature trapdoors, living areas, storage facilities, weapon factories, field hospitals, command centres and kitchens. Spend time looking around the tunnels – and if you're feeling brave, you can crawl through one yourself!

PIT STOP

Head back into the city for a delicious lunch of Banh Mi – traditional Vietnamese sandwiches with chicken, beef or pork with pate, mayo, cucumber spears and pickled vegetables on a fresh bread roll.

AFTERNOON

Time to head to Ben Thanh Market – the city's most central market. Here you'll find almost anything – from local delicacies and clothing, to jewellery and hardware. Make sure you bag a bargain – bartering is key in these markets, unless there's a 'fixed price' sign. An ideal place to buy souvenirs to take home.

AFTER DARK

Enjoy a delicious dinner on buzzing Dong Khoi Street; this bustling street is dotted with Colonial architecture as well as many cafés, restaurants and bars! After, take a look around the Caravelle Hotel followed by a drink in the rooftop bar, Saigon Saigon and soak up the last of the sights from above.



TOP SAIGON EXPERIENCES



Visit historical Notre Dame Cathedral



Try local Vietnamese dishes at Ben Thanh Market



Watch an acrobatic performance at Saigon Opera House



Visit the famous Cu Chi Tunnels

TAKE ME THERE

VIETNAM ESCAPE

Saigon can be enjoyed on all our tours to Vietnam. One of our most popular, 'Vietnam Escape' includes 4 days in Saigon experiencing all that this evocative city has to offer.

PRICES FROM **£2,290^{PP}** FOR 17 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**

SEE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA

with Kate Adie, OBE

How would you like to experience Beijing in the company of one of the most remarkable journalists of her generation? We are excited to announce that in partnership with the Telegraph, you will be able to join a once-in-a-lifetime tour of China in October 2016, spending time with the former BBC's Chief News Correspondent, Kate Adie.

It was a running joke within the British Army that when Kate Adie arrived on the scene, the soldiers knew they were in trouble. However on this tour, there is nothing to be afraid of. Just an incredible opportunity to hear first-hand of some of her experiences in China and other countries.

Kate Adie, OBE

As the BBC's Chief News Correspondent from 1989 to 2003, Kate became one of the best-known faces on television for her reporting from the major wars of recent years. They include the Gulf War, the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, Albania, Rwanda, China and Sierra Leone. She has written five books including her autobiography, *The Kindness of Strangers*, and now presents Radio 4's *From Our Own Correspondent*.

Photo credit: Clara Molden/Daily Telegraph



Kate Adie on life as a correspondent:

“ I don't find an advantage or disadvantage in being a woman when reporting. What little advantages there might be in some instances is cancelled out by the basic lack of lavatories round the world for women. It may seem trivial but when you're in a frontline unit with 2,000 men in the desert in Saudi Arabia which is flat and has no sand dunes, no trees and no bushes, there were a number of practical difficulties to say the least. ”



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

As one of the most high-profile reporters for the BBC, Kate Adie covered the world's most significant events for almost 25 years. Some of the most memorable of those reports have been from China. Your tour includes a welcome dinner, where Kate will give a talk on some of her experiences. The following morning she'll escort your group as you wander through Tiananmen Square.

THE GREAT WALL

A jaw-dropping 3,915 miles in length, stretching from the western desert to the eastern coast, the Great Wall of China was built to keep marauding invaders at bay.

TERRACOTTA ARMY

Buried for 2,000 years until, in 1974, a group of farmers stumbled upon them while digging a well, the Terracotta Army of Qin Shi Huang is one of the world's greatest archaeological finds.

SHANGHAI

Shanghai is where China meets the West in a high-rise show of modernity. Today it is one of Asia's most cosmopolitan cities.

YANGTZE CRUISE

Experience three nights on the Yangtze, and marvel at the scenery of the Three Gorges. Cruise in comfort with a spacious cabin. Shore excursions offer a chance to learn more about China's cultural heritage.

GUILIN

Set amongst the karst landscapes of the Li River, Guilin has been known for its spectacular scenery since the Tang Dynasty. This pleasant city is the cast-off point for lazy cruises that pass bucolic scenes of rice paddies, quaint villages and jagged peaks to Yangshuo.

Shanghai Yuyuan Garden, China



Li River, China



EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES – SPECIAL OFFER

Book by **31 October** and you can choose one of the following additional experiences at no extra cost:



Journey on the superfast Maglev train in Shanghai



Professional photo with the Terracotta Warriors



Meet a local who discovered the Warriors by accident in 1974



Cycling tour of Xian's medieval walls

TAKE ME THERE HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA WITH KATE ADIE

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PRICES FROM **£3,490 PP** FOR 15 DAYS

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To book call **0800 977 4888**
or visit wendywutours.co.uk/telegraph

HEAD TO HEAD

BEIJING SHANGHAI

TWO OF CHINA'S GREAT METROPOLISES GO HEAD TO HEAD
IN A CLASH OF OLD VERSUS NEW.



CULTURE

With three millennia's worth of history and streets packed with ancient palaces, temples, parks, gardens and tombs, it isn't a surprise that Beijing is China's cultural capital, as well as its official one. Across the city you can find a whole panorama of history, from timeworn wooden pagodas and imperial opulence to Mao's stark utilitarianism and a new innovative modernism. Alongside this impressive array of architecture there is still plenty of tradition particularly in the lanes of the old hutongs, and in the plentiful performing arts.

ATTRACTIONS

Where to begin? This one city has an incredible six UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the colossal Forbidden City and the magnificent Great Wall, snaking through the hills just to the north. For a little tranquillity in the city try the symmetrical perfection of the Temple of Heaven, or come

right up to date with the Birds Nest stadium and futuristic CCTV Building. And that's just for starters!

FOOD

As the long-time capital, Beijing's cuisine has both influenced and been influenced by food from all over China, so whatever dish you fancy, you'll be able to find it here, whether its dumplings, noodles or something a little more fiery. Of course Peking Duck is the most famous local dish and a must try – head to the hutongs for the most authentic taste experiences. With all these options it's easy to see why eating out is the social activity for Beijingers!

SHOPPING

With the widest choice of products in China, shopping in Beijing can be on epic proportions. Flit between huge markets selling everything that you could ever dream of to sparkling new high end malls stocking all the designer labels. Backstreet boutiques, the perfect place to pick up something unique, are springing up everywhere so it's always worth keeping an eye out as you go about your sightseeing.



CULTURE

The world's largest city, Shanghai is China at its most cosmopolitan and is considered the birthplace of 'modern China.' Until a boom in the 19th century that put it on the world map, Shanghai wasn't a whole lot. Its golden era came with the Art Deco stylings of the 1920's which can be found today, most famously, on The Bund. Shanghai's re-emergence as a city to watch in the 1990's has bought a real investment in culture, with many internationally important museums and galleries making Shanghai home.



ATTRACTIONS

Shanghai is perhaps more a city of experiences rather than sights, but that being said there is a range of treasures old and new. A Huangpu River cruise gives an excellent overview of the city's architectural eras, with the Art Deco elegance of the Bund on the west bank facing off with the skyscraping modernity of the Pudong on the east bank. The Shanghai Museum offers one of China's best collections of artefacts, whilst the Yu Gardens are a perfectly harmonious example of traditional Chinese horticulture.

FOOD

From street stalls to Michelin-starred establishments, Shanghai offers a wonderful range of cuisines to try. Shanghai's own cuisine, not particularly well known outside of China, involves lots of oil, sugar and ginger and has several stand out stars – xiaolongbao (soup dumplings) in particular, but the city does food from all over the country to perfection. Ever indulgent all-you-can-eat champagne brunches and luxury cake shops are the places to be seen.

SHOPPING

It's not hard to see why the rest of China calls the Shanghainese 'xiaozi' (little capitalists) when you see the diversity of shopping options that the city offers. Whilst the locals have a penchant for luxury goods, visitors are far better off delving into the backstreets in search of the plentiful boutique bargains and quirky markets.



TAKE ME THERE

CHINA ENCOUNTERS

Start your tour with three nights in Beijing, followed by one night in neighbouring Chengde on this in-depth tour.

PRICES FROM **£3,490pp** FOR 24 DAYS

To book call **0800 977 4888**

Conclusion

These two very different cities offer vastly different experiences for visitors – Beijing culture and heritage plays out on its bustling streets whilst Shanghai is all about the future, a glimpse of where China is heading. For the perfect overview of China then and now, visit them both.

TAKE ME THERE

MAGNIFICENT CHINA

Soak up the sights of Shanghai and nearby Suzhou with visits to the peaceful Yu Gardens, atmospheric Old Town and futuristic Pudong.

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YOU'RE IN SAFE HANDS...

Are you a group travel organiser or are you a member of a local club or society?



Wendy Wu Tours is ideally placed to look after your group travel arrangements. After almost 20 years organising group travel to Asia, we like to think we know a thing or two about what makes a great tour experience. We have the local knowledge and expertise to ensure the tour is precisely tailored to your needs.

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- Gardening clubs
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- Travel clubs

*Conditions apply

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- ✓ A competitive free place policy
- ✓ A complimentary visa service
- ✓ Complimentary UK airport transfers
- ✓ Complimentary UK airport lounge access
- ✓ Single rooms at no extra cost*
- ✓ A dedicated guide throughout your tour



THE Big INTERVIEW



with John Carter

Veteran broadcaster and travel expert, John Carter, is probably best known for presenting ITV's iconic travel TV series *Wish You Were Here...*? and BBC's *Holiday* programme over a 30 year period. He continues to be involved with travel and is currently the Patron of Silver Travel Advisor, a community for travel advice for the over 50's. We are delighted to be able to pick John's brains about his travel history.



The Great Barrier Reef,
Australia



The Terracotta Army,
China



Visiting the unspoiled
Algarve, Portugal



Eating fried scorpions,
Singapore

I BEGAN MY CAREER IN TELEVISION IN 1969

First holiday memory?

My first holiday memory dates from 1946, when I was eleven. Because of the war, we were unable to take seaside holidays and this was the first time I had ever seen the sea. We went to Torquay by train one Saturday in the summer. On the Sunday morning I walked with my father, uphill, through streets studded with bed and breakfast establishments. The smell of frying bacon was overwhelming. At the summit we walked through a small park and stood above Oddicombe Bay. What a sight! It was as blue as the advertising poster for Reckitts which hung in my aunt's corner shop.

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

I have been fortunate enough to visit China on two occasions, both with a film crew from BBC's *Holiday* programme - on which I began my career in television in 1969.

I can't recall the exact year of the first visit, but it was when the Chinese authorities relaxed their visiting rules. In order to visit China in those early days, you had to be part of an organised group, invited by your Chinese counterparts. Thus groups of doctors and lawyers, accountants and other professionals went, with their spouses, to spend time on tightly-organised visits.

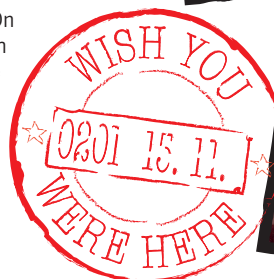
The breakthrough came when a particular travel company managed to get permission to offer straightforward package holidays for their more adventurous clients. The BBC went along to report on just such a holiday.

The Chinese interpretation of 'all inclusive' was just that. Meals and accommodation and transport, of course, plus a complimentary (if small) minibar in your (shared) bedroom, along with a box of complimentary cigarettes. It was impossible to leave anything behind, as you travelled from one hotel to another, the contents of your waste basket were carefully wrapped and given to you as you got on the bus! The hotels were terrified of keeping anything that might have been left behind by mistake, so they took no chances. My main memory is of a boat trip on the Li River between Guilin and Yangshuo. We sailed between high furry hills which, until then, I imagined did not exist outside the imagination of Chinese painters.

"My main memory is of a boat trip on the Li River between Guilin and Yangshuo. We sailed between high furry hills which, until then, I imagined did not exist outside the imagination of Chinese painters".

We passed men in tiny boats fishing - with cormorants. The main course of the meal on board consisted of a small omelette scattered with capers, a handful of limp Chinese leaf salad, a leg of cormorant, and a frog. The second visit was much, much later (1986). Magnificent hotels, wonderful sights (the Terracotta Army, for one thing) and a far better opportunity to meet people. We avoided the Friendship Stores (duty free stuff which could just as easily have been bought at Heathrow) and went instead to the Number One Department Store in whichever town we happened to be. Fantastic!

John is currently compiling a personal collection of *Traveller's Tales*, which will be published towards the end of 2015.



Have you a highlight of your time working with Wish You Were Here...?

The highlight of my 30 years with *Holiday* and *Wish You Were Here*...? is difficult to pick. I could select exotic locations for no reason other than they are exotic, but I don't think that is the answer. I stayed on a ranch in Wyoming and met a man who knew Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. In Sarajevo I spent an afternoon with a chap named Popovic, who had been one of the gang of assassins who killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914 and started the First World War (though that, in 1964, was a trip as a print journalist rather than for television). I ran with the bulls in Pamplona. I went white water rafting in Switzerland. I ate deep fried scorpions in a health food restaurant in Singapore. All highlights, I think.

Have you a favourite destination or region of the world?

My favourite destination - when my children were young and we took proper family holidays - was the then unspoiled Algarve region of Portugal. I had known this region since 1962, long before the airport was built, not to mention a proper road. My favourite destination now is Queensland, Australia. I visited it only once 'professionally', but one of my daughters now lives in Brisbane with her husband and three children. It has something for everyone. The Great Barrier Reef, of course, and stunning beaches on the mainland. It has the ancient Daintree Rainforest, a magnificent Aboriginal heritage and history, a 'Sunshine Coast' with the sort of theme parks families like, and masses more.

What have you learnt from your travels?

If I have learned anything from half a century of travelling the world, it is that I don't know anything. When I was younger I travelled with my prejudices and had them reinforced because I also travelled in blinkers. As I grew older I also learned that 'foreign' isn't the same as 'not as good as at home'. Also, time spent getting to know people - whether they are fellow travellers or the inhabitants of wherever you happen to be - is as important (perhaps more important) than seeing the sights and having your picture taken in front of them.

A LIFE IN THE DAY

Bruce Song...

...one of our most experienced National Escorts, has been showing Wendy Wu Tours' customers all over China for seven years. Here, he shares his insider knowledge and top tips, as well as his passion and enthusiasm for his homeland.



Yuantong Buddhist Temple, Kunming, Yunnan Province

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

Showing my clients my motherland makes me so proud and is something I'll never tire of. I really enjoy getting to know my clients, hearing their interesting stories and sharing a joke or two. Being a National Escort requires passion and enthusiasm – and when I hear how I've helped to make my clients' holidays memorable for all the right reasons that makes it all worthwhile.

Where do you like visiting in China the most?

Nowadays it's so hard to actually just be in 'the moment' and focus on the here and now rather than where you'll be visiting next or what happened yesterday. But Dali in the Yunnan Province always amazes me. You can simply watch the world go by in the Old Town whilst facing the Cang Mountain. You'll simply soak up the local culture and beautiful scenery and forget about everything else. For me, it's not just about the destination, but the experiences that enrich you along the way.

Are there any undiscovered areas in China that you would recommend visiting?

Nujiang in the northwest of the Yunnan Province is still very untouched. There are fifty five ethnic minorities within China and Nujiang is home to the Dulong Minority, one of the smallest of the groups. Life here is lived very simply; most locals live in a hut without any electricity. When visiting this region, you'll come out appreciating the simple things in life and will also realise what you take for granted! It's lovely to sit back and watch the local people – at night they sit by a campfire and sing and dance together – it looks like so much fun! It's also filled with beautiful countryside

here, with plenty of hiking trails and winding rivers to choose from, so don't miss out on these.

Places like these really expand your way of thinking – many of us become so used to city living, we forget about how the other half live, but places like this make us remember.

What's your favourite Chinese dish?

Nothing beats my mum's cooking! I love spending time with my family and us all having dinner together. My all-time favourite is my Mum's prawn dumplings.



Being from Xian, do you have any insider tips on where to visit in this city?

Of course, no visit to Xian would be complete without a visit to the Terracotta Warriors! But I would also recommend paying a visit to the Hanyangling Museum, which really delves into some of our fascinating history – in particular Emperor Jindi who was the fourth Emperor of Han Dynasty over 1,500 years ago. You'll get up close to the emperor's tomb as well as seeing a number of ancient relics – which are covered by glass on the ground that you can walk over. I think it has a real mysterious environment.

It's also worth taking a walk along the markets of the Muslim Quarter – here you'll find lots of food stalls – and some of which are interesting eats to say the least! You get to see local people catching up with friends and going about their everyday lives here, somewhere to soak up the local atmosphere and culture.



Nujiang Canyon



Yuan Yang Rice Terraces, Yunnan Province

TAKE ME THERE

TIBETAN WONDERS

To experience Dali, Bruce's favourite place in China, join one of our new Discovery Tours 'Tibetan Wonders', where you'll visit the diverse landscapes and culture of the Yunnan Province.

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Discovery Tours

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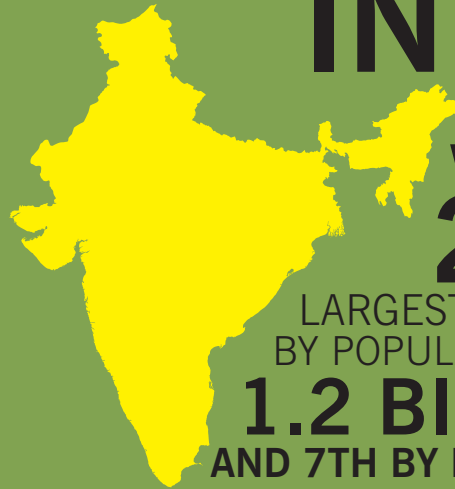
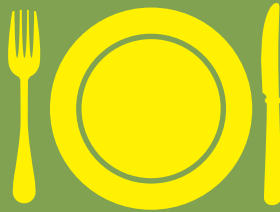


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DISCOVER YOUR INNER ADVENTURER

Have you ever dreamed of not only seeing Asia's eminent sights but taking your trip a step further (literally) by walking, boating, hiking and cycling through idyllic scenery?

Would you like to encounter colourful and sometimes bizarre local people and traditions; take part in celebrations and discover more about real life in this vivacious continent?

At Wendy Wu Tours, we think we have the answer. We have drawn on our extensive experience to design a brand new series of truly unique and exciting tours that take you under the skin of Asia by offering active adventures and cultural encounters that you won't find on any other itinerary.



Visit Mount Everest base camp



Hike on the Great Wall



Ride in a tuk tuk to Angkor Wat

EXPERIENCE THE REAL ASIA

Imagine rising early to witness a misty sunrise over a rugged section of the Great Wall of China, before hiking along this legendary structure as it improbably snakes over forest-covered mountain ridges. As you walk in the footsteps of Ming Dynasty soldiers, over six dynasties worth of Chinese history, conflict and human toil, you'll gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the Wall and the striking landscape it crosses.

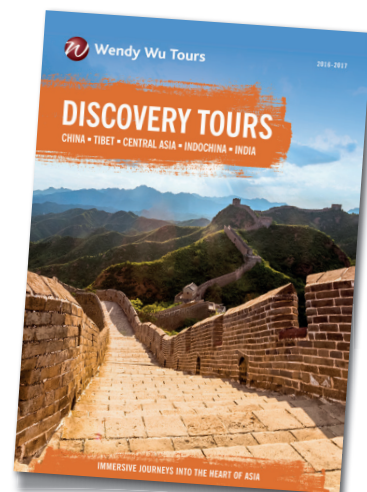
ICONIC COUNTRYSIDE

Our Discovery Tours visit some of Asia's most grandiose countryside. China's iconic Yangshuo is best known for its tooth like karst mountains. Cycling through this extraordinary landscape, you'll wheel past quiet riverbanks and discover more of its peculiar geology. In Sichuan province, lose yourself in a jade green sea of bamboo. In northern Vietnam, hike over the lush, mist-wreathed rice terraces of Hoang Su Phi, a new view of this outstanding landscape unfolds as you turn every corner.

LOCAL CULTURE

Spectacular scenery isn't enough though, is it? We believe that a truly memorable journey is also made by the people you meet along the way. On a Discovery Tour, you'll have the opportunity to meet people from different regions and cities in Asia to learn more about local life and traditions.

Nowhere else encapsulates Xian's ethnic diversity like the effervescent and industrious Muslim Quarter, where local vendors create a myriad of snack foods. Wandering through the warren-like streets, you'll unearth a food culture born out of the Silk Road, and have the opportunity to chat and haggle with stallholders. Travelling deeper into China at the foot of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain you'll meet a Shaman Master, who will demonstrate the traditional Dongba pictographic script; used by the Naxi people. Over the border in Kyrgyzstan, venture to the shores of Lake Issyk-Kul and meet a skilled Eagle Hunter who will demonstrate the complex working relationship between



man and beast.

Asia is an astoundingly diverse and complex continent with infinite opportunities for exploration. If you want to infuse your trip with friendly faces, enlightening cultural experiences and ventures through a film-roll of epic vistas, then stop right here for a chance to do things differently.

WIN A DISCOVERY TOUR FOR TWO WORTH £6,000!

To celebrate the launch of our new Discovery Tours in partnership with award winning adventure travel magazine Wanderlust, we want to hear about your own adventures in Asia. Have you a memorable tale to tell or do you just simply love travelling back to Asia year after year?

THE PRIZES

The overall winner will win a place for two people on one of our new Discovery Tours, 'A China Explorer'. This incredible tour includes a visit to Beijing, Xian, Chengdu and Shanghai. Two runners up will receive a 6" Kindle eReader Touch Screen.

HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning this once-in-a-lifetime tour of China, just finish the following sentence in 100 words or less.

I love Asia because...

Email your answer to whispers@wendywutours.co.uk

Closing date for entries 25 November 2015.

For full terms and conditions visit wendywutours.co.uk/competition

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*The offer is not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & conditions apply.

Wanderlust TRAVEL MAGAZINE

Wanderlust share our passion for adventurous and authentic travel. Since being launched in a bedroom in 1993, they have won numerous awards for their inspiring style of writing and providing a community for people that are truly passionate about travel. Their magazine is a must read and their website contains a vast archive of expert articles, inspirational stories and photography to whet the appetite of all travellers.

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This is a journey through China like no other. See the classical sights from a different perspective.

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15
DAYS

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or take a look at our new collection of
Discovery Tours

CUSTOMER CORNER

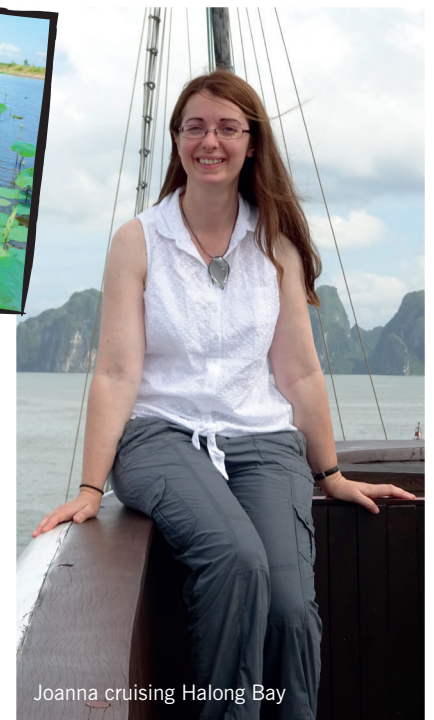
Tell us about your Wendy Wu holiday

Here at Wendy Wu Tours, we can't wait to hear about your holiday experiences. We receive hundreds of complimentary letters and emails telling us about your favourite sights and sounds.

Joanna Moore recently returned from our 'Angkor to the Bay' tour, visiting both Cambodia and Vietnam and shares her experiences of visiting these diverse, untouched countries.



Angkor Wat



Joanna cruising Halong Bay

“ Visiting Angkor Wat was also a huge highlight; the sheer beauty and size of it just astounded me ”



Temple at Angkor Wat



Giants in front gate of Angkor Thom



The river at Hoi An

I'd never considered visiting this part of the world until I watched a documentary on TV which showed the gorgeous scenery and interesting culture - and this really inspired me to go, and I certainly wasn't disappointed.

Being a solo traveller, there's always that concern of how you'll integrate into the group, but shortly after we all met everyone had gotten to know each other and my worries were gone. There was a good mix of British, Australians and New Zealanders who all had a great sense of humour and a good deal of patience, which I think is essential with group travel. Our National Escort Ken made me feel welcome straight away too and throughout the whole tour gave us a good understanding of different aspects of his country which made me appreciate the trip even more. There are so many highlights to choose from, but in particular I loved our two days cruising Halong Bay. The crew on the boat were so accommodating and friendly - nothing was too much trouble for them - and the group really bonded too, we had a lot of laughs! It was wonderful just sitting back and taking in the incredible views - and views that I can't imagine I'll ever experience anywhere else! The food really topped off the experience for me too; we had a delicious seafood dinner which was so fresh, nothing like we'd have back home.

Visiting Angkor Wat was also a huge highlight; the sheer beauty and size of it just astounded me. The whole group just stood in silence watching in awe. It's something you really have to see in person; photos just don't do it justice. We also explored the surrounding temples - it's difficult to see them all as there's over 1,000, but we did get a real insight into the complex history and appreciate the amazing architecture.

But these are just two amazing points about the tour - I loved everything about Vietnam and Cambodia. The scenery is stunning and the local people are so friendly and really make you feel welcome - they're always smiling. An experience I enjoyed was bartering with the locals which often raised a smile; I think the locals knew they were getting a deal regardless! It was still worth it though and felt good to give something back to their community.

I would without a doubt recommend this tour to anyone who's considering visiting Vietnam and Cambodia whether it be by yourself, with friends or a partner.

The scenery and culture will amaze you and your National Escort will top it off. I've been raving about my trip to all of my friends and family since I've returned and can't wait to explore more of this part of the world.

Joanna X



Hoi An



Halong Bay

“It was wonderful just sitting back and taking in the incredible views”

TAKE ME THERE

ANGKOR TO THE BAY

Take a voyage of discovery through the temples of Angkor in Cambodia to spectacular Halong Bay in Vietnam on this popular tour.

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“I would without a doubt recommend this tour to anyone who's considering visiting Vietnam and Cambodia”

FOCUS ON: NORTHEAST ASIA



Northeast Asia, here encompassing Japan, Taiwan and South Korea, offers a glimpse of Asia old and new. The cities of the region may be cutting-edge, but amongst the neon-bright lights the old culture and traditions are still worshipped as vehemently as in centuries gone by.

JAPAN

Japan is a country that has long fascinated travellers. Here, a futuristic façade hides a rich wealth of old traditions that are a deep source of reverence and pride to the Japanese people.

Despite first appearances capital city Tokyo has deep roots in the past. The most Michelin-starred restaurants and the tallest tower it may have, but the old festivals, Zen gardens and temples that sit amongst the high-rises are still as well attended as ever. Explore both sides of the city's personality at old temples such as Senso-ji and more recent additions like the Tokyo Sky Tree.

The city that showcases old Japan the best, though, is Kyoto. Imperial capital for over a thousand years, Kyoto is home to tranquil temples, teahouses and silk clad geishas – in fact, Kyoto has so many heritage sites UNESCO just blanket covered 17 of them under the 'Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto'. Visits to Kinkaku-ji and Ginkaku-ji, plus tea with a Geisha should definitely be top of the list.

No visit to Japan would be complete without laying your eyes upon the iconic cone of Mount Fuji. Perfectly proportioned, it has long inspired author, artist and intellectual alike and can be easily visited in a day trip from Tokyo or in a more relaxed manner, with a night or two in a traditional ryokan in the spa town of Hakone.

SOUTH KOREA

As the world begins to embrace K-pop and kimchee, more and more people are looking to South Korea as the new Asian destination of choice.

Now, the rising star of Asia, it's capital, Seoul is a dynamic and cutting edge city, where the ultramodern collides with the much revered Confucian traditions of the past. With its ornate imperial palaces, old districts, excellent shopping and, just to the north, the formidable border with North Korea, Seoul is a fascinating place to explore – the wonderfully welcoming people make it all the easier.


It's easy to find cultural pockets of old Korea – Gyeongju 'the museum without walls' is a must visit, but also a huge amount of gorgeous natural beauty. Mount Seorak and Mount Goya National Parks are both full of spectacular nature and ancient culture, and thanks to South Korea's excellent infrastructure, really easy to get to. Jeju Island is also a spectacular place to explore, with the added bonus of having fantastic tropical beaches on which to relax when you've seen enough of the rugged peaks and lush forests

TAIWAN

Taiwan is perhaps still best known for its economic miracle, when all manner of products were 'Made in Taiwan' but this fascinating island is so much more. Away from the bright lights of the big city, Taiwan's landscapes are astonishingly diverse and full of adventure. Explore a whopping eight national parks of mountains, gorges and lush forests, as well as thermal spring resorts and tropical beaches.

TAKE ME THERE

Our ASIA Inspirations experts can organise the perfect itinerary for you to Northeast Asia. For more information and to request a quote call **0800 988 8202** or visit asiainspirations.co.uk

For more travel inspiration for Taiwan, see page 19. 

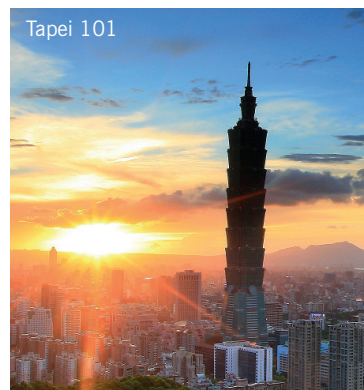
DISCOVER TAIWAN



Taiwanese night market



Sun Moon Lake



Taipei 101

WHETHER IT'S BUSTLING CITIES, STUNNING SCENERY OR DELICIOUS CUISINE YOU LOOK FOR IN A HOLIDAY DESTINATION, TAIWAN CAN OFFER IT ALL...



Foodie Taiwan

Known by many as the foodie capital of Asia, Taiwan is home to some of the continent's most exciting street food – and with 20 streets dedicated to snacking in Taipei alone, this island has become a hub of culinary delicacies. The array of delicious nibbles such as Xiaoichi is endless, but Baozi (pronounced bah-paw) is a local favourite. These delicious steamed buns come with a variety of meaty, savoury fillings – that can be eaten for breakfast, lunch or dinner!



Beautiful Taiwan

Whether it's just a flying visit or you're there to really explore the length and breadth of this stunning island, there's no excuse not to pay a visit to some of the most beautiful national parks in Northeastern Asia.

The mesmerising and tranquil Sun Moon Lake lies in the heart of Taiwan. You'll find emerald green waters, peaceful temples and stunning landscapes – in fact, the scenic area has the largest body of freshwater in Taiwan, backed by high-forested mountains. There's an array of outdoor activities to choose from here, from boating on the lake to hiking and biking, but the list could go on!

Taroko National Park is also a must-visit, with its high mountain peaks and sea cliffs. For the best of the best within this National Park, make sure you visit Taroko Gorge – the steep waterfalls and lush greenery will take your breath away.



Vibrant Taiwan

If you're looking for dynamic, ultramodern and exciting all tied into one, then look no further than Taipei. Taiwan's capital has just the right mixture of buzz and ancient tradition; you'll find the world's most advanced cashless payment system and futuristic skyscrapers like Taipei 101 – the world's tallest and largest eco friendly building – sitting amongst sprawling night markets and ornate temples. There are also world-class museums such as the National Palace Museum, which houses the largest collection of Chinese art in the world. Not only that, but getting around in this bustling city has been made so easy with their new 'Easycard' system, with English being widely spoken and free Wi-Fi being provided via iTaiwan to all tourists, your holiday will run like clockwork!

FACT FILE

Capital city: Taipei

Population: 23 million

Did you know?

You can fit Taiwan into the UK four times

TAIWAN

TAKE ME THERE

Wendy Wu Tours offer private tours and tailor-made holidays to Taiwan

To request a quote or to find out more, contact our dedicated ASIA Inspirations team on **0800 988 8202** or visit asiainspirations.co.uk

Taiwan
THE HEART OF ASIA





SHANGRI-LA

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It's all about the experience. That is our philosophy when looking for new and inspiring ways to see a destination. But how do you make sure that those experiences are as authentic as possible? You need to take advice from the experts who live and breathe the local culture and way of life.

But getting under the skin of a country doesn't mean foregoing the luxuries. Our new Exclusive Collection of tours combines all of these elements into a series of unique journeys through Asia. What's more, we have selected Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts as our local partner. Shangri-La shares our philosophy of creating authentic moments by their unique style of hospitality – from the heart.

Embracing a stranger as one's own

This is the Shangri-La philosophy and what distinguishes their standard of hospitality. After a busy day, there is nothing better than returning to the welcoming embrace of Shangri-La's blend of Asian hospitality and being treated like a member of the family. Whenever you stay at a Shangri-La hotel, you are guaranteed world-class service amidst tranquil surroundings with inspirational architecture and design. This is hospitality from the heart.

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Learn the traditional art of Chinese Calligraphy



Learn Tai Chi with a master



Enjoy a Vietnamese cooking class

CHAMPAGNE MOMENTS ON OUR EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION



Speedboat on the Mekong Delta



Drink champagne on the Great Wall



Sip cocktails in Shanghai

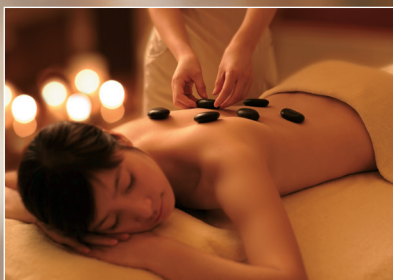
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TRAVEL TALES



Modern Shanghai skyline at night

Our Marketing Executive, Emily Andrews and Online Marketing Executive, Daniela Albano, recently joined one of our most popular tours 'Glories of China', visiting Shanghai, Guilin, Yangshuo, Xian and Beijing – and here they share with us their personal experiences of their trip.

What was the highlight of your trip?

Emily: There were so many highlights to choose from, it's hard to pick just one! But walking on the Great Wall and reaching the top of the section was amazing. I didn't quite realise how high up we would be – and the views from the top were really something! The Li River cruise from Guilin to Yangshuo was also beautiful and I loved seeing the pandas. Having such a fantastic group and National Escort, Bruce also made the whole trip so enjoyable.

Daniela: Emily's right. It's hard to choose just one! I also enjoyed the challenge of the Great Wall; the views as we walked were spectacular. Seeing the Terracotta Warriors was also a highlight; it's hard to believe just how many of them have been unearthed and how their faces are all unique. Our group was also lovely – and many of us are still in touch!



Emily and Daniela on tour

What was the favourite place you visited?

D: My favourite place was Shanghai. To think that 26 years ago the city was no more than a fishing village! The city lights and modern buzz of the city showed the evolution of China. We got to cruise on the city's Huangpu River at night and see all of the sparkling lights which was beautiful.

E: I really did love everywhere! But for me, Yangshuo has to be my favourite place. With all of the surrounding limestone cliffs, it felt like nowhere I'd ever been before. The market there is also great, you can grab a few bargains and their local park is also worth paying a visit, where local people dance and play cards together – something we don't really do in the UK anymore.

What surprised you about China?

E: The food really surprised me. It's a lot fresher and healthier than the Chinese food that we know. They use a lot of vegetables which are cooked to order and many of the dishes aren't ones that we would recognise, so we got to try out lots of new tastes.

D: I was surprised to find out that only 5% of tourism comes from outside of China; I felt really privileged to visit a country that is still very much new to outside tourism.

Is there any advice you would give to someone visiting China for the first time?

D: Embrace the juxtaposition of new and old and take as many photos as you can!

E: Keep an open mind and just soak up as much of the local culture, sights and experiences as possible.

If you could sum up your experience in one sentence, what would you say?

E: A once in a lifetime experience that I'll never forget!

D: A wonderful experience shared with lovely people and a brilliant National Escort.

EMILY & DANIELA'S TOP CHINA SIGHTS



Great Wall of China



Terracotta Warriors



Giant Pandas



Li River Cruise

TAKE ME THERE

GLORIES OF CHINA

This two week tour combines China's iconic cities with the extraordinary landscapes of Guilin and Yangshuo.

PRICES FROM **£2,190^{PP}** FOR 14 DAYS

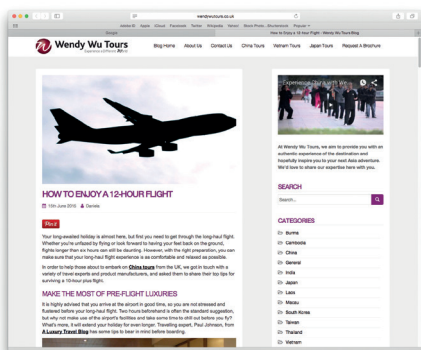
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BEST OF THE BLOG

Our travel blog is there to provide you with the latest travel news, tips and fun facts on all things Asia – and in this issue, we focus on how to make the most of travelling long haul.

HOW TO ENJOY A 12 HOUR FLIGHT

Your long-awaited holiday is almost here, but first you need to get through the long-haul flight. Whether you're unfazed by flying or look forward to having your feet back on the ground, flights longer than six hours can still be daunting. However, with the right preparation, you can make sure that your long-haul flight experience is as comfortable and relaxed as possible. We got in touch with a variety of travel experts and product manufacturers, and asked them to share their top tips for surviving a 10-hour plus flight.



MAKE THE MOST OF PRE-FLIGHT LUXURIES

It is highly advised that you arrive at the airport in good time, so you are not stressed and flustered before your long-haul flight. Two hours beforehand is often the standard suggestion, but why not make use of the airport's facilities and take some time to chill out before you fly? What's more, it will extend your holiday for even longer.

SLEEP

Possibly the best way to pass the time on a long flight is through getting some sleep, though this is easier said than done. A combination of children screaming, snoring passengers and cool air-conditioning can be factors which disrupt a comfortable sleep on long-haul flights. Though obvious suggestions there are multiple items you can bring with you to help. Earplugs should definitely be packed in your hand luggage and to avoid an uncomfortable journey for your neck, a travel pillow is ideal; you can buy inflatable travel pillows which fit easily into hand luggage.

For those who find it particularly hard to nod off, a sleep mask covers your eyes from any distracting background light. Finally, make sure to bring a blanket or jumper as the cabin air-conditioning can get notoriously cool whilst in the air.

BEAUTY PRODUCTS

Due to the drying atmosphere of a plane, there are a number of beauty products that you will want to take along with you, providing they comply with the airline's regulations. From moisturisers and wet wipes to a hydrating face mist and toothpaste, you'll be super grateful for anything which keeps you fresh during your journey. If you are unable to find travel size versions of your favourite products, GoToobs can be a great solution for carrying an appropriate amount on a flight with you.



ENTERTAINMENT

When you're not sleeping, you'll want to make sure that you are entertained in one form or another. It can be the ideal opportunity to catch up on your emails, finish that romantic novel, or get to the next level on your Sudoku app, but don't forget to fully charge your items beforehand or bring along a portable charger with you.

FOOD

Make sure to do your research beforehand, but if you are able to take food on your flight, both your stomach and wallet will reap the rewards. According to the Gatwick Airport website, fruit, vegetables and solid foods can be taken onto the plane in hand luggage, and drinks less than 100ml can be carried in a re-sealable airtight bag.

WHEN YOU LAND

If you have to stopover for a couple of hours, a number of international airports even have showering facilities, which can be a lifesaver for people mid-flight. For a small fee you can have a refreshing wash, before continuing with the rest of your journey.

Visit our blog to read the full post.

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

ONLINE NOW

NATURAL CHINESE REMEDIES AND BEAUTY TREATMENTS YOU MAY LIKE TO TRY

04 Jun 2015



The Chinese are well known for their traditional practices, which include herbal medicines and ancient procedures such as acupuncture. Many are more than 2,000 years old and are often turned to by those seeking alternative methods to western medicine...

DO ICONIC SIGHTS LIVE UP TO THEIR BILLING?

05 Jun 2015



Find out why the World Heritage Listed temples of Angkor in Siem Reap, Cambodia are one of Southeast Asia's highlights...

GREAT WALL OF CHINA MAKES LONELY PLANET'S ULTIMATE HOLIDAY BUCKET LIST

21 Aug 2015



The Great Wall of China has been ranked the fourth best sight to see in the world. Find out why it should be at the top of your travel list...

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3 CHINA DELIGHTS



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4 CHINA ENCOUNTERS



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5 GRAND YANGTZE



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6 GRAND TOUR OF CHINA



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7

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ANGKOR TO THE BAY

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9

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A wide-ranging tour immersing you in the tradition, scenery and astonishing sights of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

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INDOCHINA DELIGHTS



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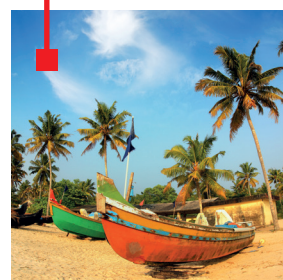
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Alternatively visit your preferred travel agent to discuss a
Wendy Wu Tours holiday.

