



## OSAKA TO SEOUL WITH CELEBRITY CRUISES

### Classic Cruising Tour | 23 Days | Physical Level 1

OSAKA – KYOTO – NAGANO – TOKYO – MT FUJI – KOCHI – HIROSHIMA – KAGOSHIMA – NAGASAKI –  
FUKUOKA – BUSAN – SEOUL

Embark on an unforgettable journey through Japan to South Korea on a tour that combines land and cruise into one. Discover classic sights, featuring modern cities, historical attractions and beautiful landscapes that will make for unparalleled memories.

- Discover tranquil Kyoto
- Admire beautiful Mount Fuji
- Explore Jigokudani Monkey Park and see the Japanese Snow Monkeys
- Feel the rush of Tokyo
- Cruise on the Celebrity Millennium and enjoy Japan and South Korea at sea
- Journey through picturesque Busan
- Embrace the lively nature of Seoul

TOUR MAP
 

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 TOUR INCLUSIONS:
 

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- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 12 nights Celebrity cruise on Celebrity Millennium
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated (if dining on board throughout) – 20 breakfasts (B), 19 lunches (L), 20 dinners (D)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees, transportation and transfers pre and post cruise
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides pre and post cruise
- Visa fees for New Zealand passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with IATA

Pre and post cruise, the only elements or aspects you may have to pay for are personal expenditures e.g., drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.

During the cruise, your meals on board will be included in the main dining areas, however, should you wish to dine in any of the speciality restaurants not included in your cruising package, you will be required to pay for these locally. In addition, if you opt to dine off the ship, these meals will also be paid for locally.

*please note: You will not be refunded for meals missed on board. Excursions are also available to book with your cruise reservation at your own expense.*

*Please note: Tipping during the cruise will be payable onboard the ship.*

## CLASSIC CRUISING TOURS:

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These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Japan on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people combined with a cruise. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis pre & post cruise, so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements before and after your cruise are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

## JOINING YOUR TOUR:

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For travellers that have booked a 'Land & Cruise Only' tour with no international flights, please note the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if you are arriving on the start and departing on the conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre/post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Kyoto, Japan (arrive into Kansai International airport) and end the tour on Day 22 in Seoul, South Korea. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

## ITINERARY CHANGES:

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We intend to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours, or as dictated by local conditions. In these circumstances, we will endeavour to make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip. Similarly, while cruise liners always endeavour to adhere to the published itineraries, they may be changed at the discretion of the captain due to weather advisories, port traffic, and any other unforeseeable circumstances.

## PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

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All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

'Osaka to Seoul with Celebrity Cruises' is rated as a **physical level 1** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required, and you should expect to be on your feet for much of the day. You will be getting on and off coaches, trains or boats and walking around the sights, often including steps, plus occasional longer walks.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time, often on uneven surfaces
- You will be required to get on and off small boats without assistance
- You will be required to board the cruise ship without assistance and get on and off at ports if you wish to disembark the ship

Of course, our National Escort and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

## Day 1-2      Arrive in Osaka - Kyoto      Meals: D

On arrival into the lively, fast-paced city of Osaka, you will be met by an English-speaking representative and transfer to your hotel in Kyoto.

*Please note: Early check-in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservation's consultant. You will be transferred by shared coach with other passengers who are not part of a Wendy Wu Tour. If you are on a shared bus transfer, you may have to walk for a few minutes to get to your hotel. Transfers will differ depending on group size.*



## Destination Information

**Osaka** – Osaka, formerly known as Naniwa, is Japan's third largest city and remains the economic powerhouse of the Kansai Region. The city is famed for its delicious food and is often referred to as the culinary capital. The city also boasts vibrant colours that surround each street, rich history and culture.

## Day 3:      Explore Kyoto      Meals: B, L, D

Start the day with a guided tour exploring some of the city's highlights. Begin with a visit to the Kiyomizu Temple, founded in the 8<sup>th</sup> century and situated halfway up the Otowayama Hill allowing for stunning views of Kyoto.

Continue with a visit to the Fushimi Inari Shrine, famous for its corridors of torii gates, followed a Sukiyaki lunch at a local restaurant.

Enjoy a trip to the Matsui Shuzou Museum for some local sake tasting, followed by a stroll of the Gion. This evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before returning to your hotel.



*You will walk up part of the mountain and the incline allows a steady-paced walk around 15 minutes with flat road and steps to reach the torii gates. Due to the limited space at Fushimi Inari Shrine coach parking, you may need to walk from coach parking for 15 minutes. You will be on your feet for approximately 3-4 hours today.*

## Destination Information

**Kyoto** – Kyoto was the ancient capital of Japan for approximately 1,000 years until 1867 when it was moved to Tokyo. Many national treasures can be found in Kyoto and in nearby Nara, including old shrines and temples, screen paintings, beautiful gardens, and statues of Buddha.

**Fushimi Inari Shrine** – An important Shinto shrine in southern Kyoto, Fushimi Inari is most famous for its thousands of vermilion torii gates which form a network of tunnels around the main shrine buildings. The shrine itself is dedicated to Inari, the Shinto god of rice. There are many fox statues in the grounds of the shrine as foxes are thought to be Inari's messengers.

**Kiyomizu** – Meaning ‘Pure Water Temple’, the 16th century Kiyomizu Temple is one of the most celebrated temples of Japan and houses the Jishu Shrine dedicated to the deity of love. A highlight is the Hondo’s veranda which is perched over the hillside, offering spectacular woodland vistas.

#### Day 4: Kyoto

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, embark on a guided tour of Kyoto. Begin with a visit to the beautiful Kinkaku-ji Temple also known as the ‘Golden Pavilion’ due to its gold-like exterior.

Go on to discover the Ryoanji Temple, the ‘temple of the peaceful dragon’ and Kiyomizu Temple before enjoying lunch at a local restaurant.

Afterwards, visit to the beautiful Arashiyama Bamboo Forest and the Tagetsukyo bridge. Later this evening, enjoy a dinner with a Maiko Performance at a local restaurant before returning to your hotel.



*You will be on your feet for approximately 4-5 hours today.*

#### Destination Information

**Ryoanji Temple** – Ryoanji Temple is a Zen temple renowned for its garden, which features a dry, sand landscape with large rocks and smooth pebbles.

**Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavillion)** – Kinkakuji Temple is a Buddhist temple and is an excellent example of Japanese garden design. The structure is a brilliant golden hue colour and is very minimalistic.

**Day 5: Bullet train to Mt Fuji**
**Meals: B, L, D**

After this morning, travel approximately 2 and a half hours by a Shinkansen ride with your English-speaking guide to Odawara.

Your first stop will be lunch at a local restaurant, before taking the Komagatake Ropeway cable car up to the viewpoint on Mt Komagatake where you will have the chance to admire the unforgettable views of Mt Fuji and Lake Ashi below (weather dependent). Next head to Hakone to board a mini cruise on Lake Ashi (weather dependent).

Afterwards, transfer to your hotel in Nagano for check-in. This evening, enjoy your dinner at a local restaurant.



*Please note: You will need to prepare a small bag for your overnight stay in Nagano. Your main luggage will be transferred separately to your hotel in Tokyo. In case of bad weather, you will visit the Mt Fuji World Heritage Centre instead.*

**Destination Information**

**Mt Fuji** – At 3,776m, Mount Fuji is the highest of Japan's mountains and remains an iconic symbol of the country. Mount Fuji is notoriously shy and is often enveloped by clouds.

**Lake Ashi** – Formed after Mount Hakone's last eruption 3000 years ago, Lake Ashi is the symbol of Hakone and on a clear day offers spectacular views of Mount Fuji in the distance.

**Komagatake Ropeway** – Komagatake Ropeway goes from the shore of Lake Ashi to near the Komagatake peak of Mount Hakone. When the weather and visibility is good, panoramic views of Lake Ashi and Mount Fuji can be enjoyed.

**Day 6: Snow Monkeys**
**Meals: B, L, D**

Today, you will pay a visit to the Jigokudani Monkey Park, home of the famous Japanese Snow Monkeys, accompanied with your English-speaking guide, by private vehicle.

*Please note, from the bus park, you will walk approximately 30-minutes along potentially snowy paths on an incline, to the main pool where the monkeys bathe.*



Accustomed to humans, the monkeys can be observed from very close, and almost completely ignore their human guests.

Next, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before transferring to your hotel in Tokyo for check-in, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant this evening.

## Destination Information

**Nagano** – The host city of the 1998 Winter Olympics, Nagano is the main access point for the Japanese Alps.

**Jigokudani Yaen-Koen** – Home to Japanese Macaques, also known as Snow Monkeys, Jigokudani literally means ‘hell’s valley’. It is named this because of the steam and boiling water that bubbles out of small crevices in the ground. It is in the baths of this hot water that the resident Japanese Macaques like to soak. The monkeys live in large social groups, and it can be quite entertaining to watch their interactions.

### Day 7: Discover Tokyo

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and embark on a full day tour of Tokyo. Begin with a visit to Sensoji Temple, arguably one of Tokyo's most popular and photographed temples and the oldest Buddhist temple in the capital.

Wander down Nakamise Shopping Street, a centuries-old souvenir street, where you will be able to enjoy some shopping opportunities for that perfect souvenir or pick up a local delicacy as there's plenty of scrumptious snacks too.



Next, participate in a sushi making class where you'll enjoy your own creations for lunch. After, visit Imperial Palace, Meiji Jingu shrine and then Takeshita Street for local treats tasting. Finally, head to Shibuya Crossing for a brief photo stop.

*You will be on your feet for approximately 4-5 hours during your touring in Tokyo.*

## Destination Information

**Tokyo** – One of the world's most cutting-edge capital cities, Tokyo is a city of contrasts, famous for its neon lit landscape, towering skyscrapers, peaceful shrines and lovingly tended gardens. Although long the political and cultural centre of Japan, Tokyo became the official capital when the Meiji Emperor moved it to Tokyo in 1867.

**Tokyo Skytree** – The tallest structure in Japan, Tokyo Skytree is predominantly a television and radio broadcast tower and is earthquake resistant.

**Sensoji Temple** – Sensoji Temple is an ancient Buddhist Temple and the oldest in Tokyo. The temple was originally founded in the 7th century. The temple adorns an image of the Buddhist Goddess Kannon, who was said to have been rescued by two fishermen from the Sumida River in Tokyo.

**Meiji Shrine** – Meiji Shrine is a Shinto shrine dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife Empress Shoken. The shrine is located in an evergreen forest within in the busy city and consists of 120,000 trees which were donated by people from all over Japan when the shrine was established.

## Day 8: Embark Celebrity Cruise in Tokyo

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before checking out.

You will be met by your English-speaking assistant and transfer to the Yokohama cruise port, a journey of approximately 45 minutes.

Upon arrival, board the Celebrity Millennium, where your cruise adventure begins! The rest of your day on the cruise ship is at leisure.

*Please note, your National Escort will not be accompanying you for the duration of your cruise.*



Whilst onboard, enjoy the amenities the Celebrity Millennium cruise ship has to offer. Onboard activities available include silent discos, yoga, archery, as well as award-winning shows that offer amazing entertainment at sea. During your time here, you will also be able to benefit from the wide range of eateries, serving flavours from around the world.

**Destination Information**

**Yokohama** – A cosmopolitan city that perfectly blends the old and the new, Yokohama is home to various shopping districts, a large Chinatown and is also known for the Sankei-en Garden, a beautiful botanical garden that also features a number of historic buildings.

## Day 9: Cruising - Shimizu (Mt Fuji)

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will dock in the port of Shimizu. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure or enjoy a range of optional excursions, before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

*Please note: Any excursions on this day will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the Celebrity Millennium cruise ship.*



*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

**Destination Information**

**Shimizu** – Renown for being one of the most scenic ports in Japan, the port of Shimizu provides breathtaking views of Mt Fuji (weather dependent). The port that was once used primarily for exporting tea, is now home to a four storey shopping centre, a number of museums and the Kashi-no-Ichi fish Market.

**Day 10: Cruising - Kyoto**
**Meals: B, L, D**

Today, arrive back in Kyoto. Spend the day at leisure.

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*


**Day 11: Cruising - Kyoto**
**Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy the day at your own pace at port in Kyoto or enjoy a range of optional excursions, before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

*Please note: Any excursions on this day will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the Celebrity Millennium cruise ship.*

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*


**Day 12: Cruising - Kochi**
**Meals: B, L, D**

Dock in the port of Kochi. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure or choose from a range of optional excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation.

*Please note: Any excursions on this day will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the Celebrity Millennium cruise ship.*

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*


**Destination Information**

**Kochi** – Surrounded by stunning mountains and the Pacific Ocean, Kochi is home to a wide variety of stunningly unique attractions, including the Chikurinji Temple, over 1300 years old, the Hirome Market, offering a number of Kochi's most renowned dishes as well as Katsurahama Beach, a crescent-shaped beach that has long been a popular destination to view the moon.

**Kochi Castle** – No visit to Kochi would be complete without exploring the Kochi Castle, built over 400 years ago and remains as one of the last 12 castles in Japan to still have its original main keep.

**Day 13: Cruising- Hiroshima**

**Meals: B, L, D**

Your cruising adventures continues on to Hiroshima, where the ship will dock today. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure or choose from a range of optional excursions at your own expense, before returning to your ship later in the day where your journey through Japan will continue.

*Please note: Any excursions on this day will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the Celebrity Millennium cruise ship.*

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*



**Destination Information**

**Hiroshima** – An atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima on 6th August 1945, and the city's name became famous worldwide for this unenviable distinction. The destructive power obliterated nearly everything within a 2km radius. The city has been rebuilt and has risen phoenix-like from the ashes with destroyed sites of historical heritage reconstructed.

**Peace Memorial Park and Museum** – The Peace Memorial Park and Museum is one of the most prominent features of the city. The trees, lawns and walking paths are in stark contrast to the surrounding downtown area. Before the bomb, this area was the political and commercial heart of the city which is why it was chosen as the target. The museum focuses on the events of August 6th and the ensuing outcome for the residents.

**Day 14: Cruising**

**Meals: B, L, D**

Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship Celebrity Millennium has to offer



**Day 15: Cruising- Kagoshima**
**Meals: B, L, D**

Port in Kagoshima, where you will be able to explore at your own pace, as today is also at leisure or choose from a range of optional excursions at your own expense.

*Please note: Any excursions on this day will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the Celebrity Millennium cruise ship.*

*Please note: Your meals are included on board the ship. If you disembark the cruise, any meals on this day will be at your own expense.*


**Destination Information**

**Kagoshima** – Located in the shadows of Mt Sakurajima, an active volcano, Kagoshima is commonly referred to as the “Naples of the East” due to its similarly mild climate and stunning bay.

Kagoshima played a pivotal role in the modernisation of Japan, particularly in the Meiji Restoration, which saw Emperor Meiji move from Kyoto to Tokyo which then became the new capital. The city was once the seat of one of Japan’s most powerful feudal clans, the Shimazu, that is currently in its 32<sup>nd</sup> generation.

**Day 16: Cruising - Nagasaki**
**Meals: B, L, D**

Dock in the port of Sasebo. Enjoy a day at leisure or choose from a range of optional excursions at your own expense, before returning to your ship later in the day where your journey through Japan will continue.

*Please note: Any excursions on this day will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the Celebrity Millennium cruise ship.*

*Please note: Your meals are included on board the ship. If you disembark the cruise, any meals on this day will be at your own expense.*


**Destination Information**

**Nagasaki** – Known for being the second target for the US atomic bomb that was dropped during World War II, Nagasaki was once Japan’s primary gateway for trading with the West and has since been rebuilt to the charming city it stands as today.

## Day 17: Cruising - Fukuoka

Meals: B, L, D

Port in Fukuoka, where you will be able to explore at your own pace what this stunning city has to offer. Here you can enjoy a range of optional excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation.

*Please note: Any excursions on this day will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the Celebrity Millennium cruise ship.*

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*


**Destination Information**

**Fukuoka** – Fukuoka sits on the northern shore of Japan's Kyushu Island, and is the island's largest city. It is known for ancient temples, beaches and modern shopping malls. Fukuoka is closer to Seoul in South Korea than it is to Tokyo, making Fukuoka an important harbour city for many centuries.

## Day 18: Cruising - Busan, South Korea

Meals: B, L, D

Your cruising journey continues to Busan, the largest port city in South Korea, where you will be able to explore at your own pace, as today is also at leisure or choose from a range of optional excursions at your own expense.

*Please note: Any excursions on this day will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the Celebrity Millennium cruise ship.*

*Please note: Your meals are included on board the ship. If you disembark the cruise, any meals on this day will be at your own expense.*


**Destination Information**

**Busan** – With over 3.6m people, Busan is South Korea's second largest city and the largest seaport. However, the city is full of character and is known for its beaches, mountains and temples. Because Busan was not captured during the Korean War, it gives a glimpse of Korea before the 1950s in a way that other places don't.

**Dongbaekseom Island** – Dongbaekseom, meaning island of camellias, is an island located off one end of Busan's famous Haeundae Beach. Although years of sedimentation have connected the island to the mainland, Dongbaekseom is still referred to as an island.

**Tumuli Park** – In the centre of town, the walled-off Tumuli Park contains over two dozen large and small tombs from the Silla period. Until quite recently this was a functioning, though quiet, part of town, but in the 1970s the buildings were removed, and the area beautified.

**Day 19: Cruising****Meals: B, L, D**

Spend today at sea enjoying what your cruise ship has to offer.

**Day 20: Disembark Celebrity Cruise in Seoul, South Korea****Meals: B, L, D**

Your cruise concludes as you reach Seoul cruise port today, where you will be met by an English-speaking guide.

Transfer to your hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure before having dinner at your hotel.

**Destination Information**

**Seoul** – Capital of South Korea, Seoul is a dynamic metropolis where modern skyscrapers, shopping malls and pop culture meet Buddhist temples, palaces and street markets. Seoul was the capital of Korea from 1394 until the formal division of the country in 1948. However, its history stretches back over two thousand years. The name itself has come to mean “capital” in the Korean language.

**Day 21: Explore Seoul, South Korea**
**Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before being met by an English-speaking guide to embark a full day tour of Seoul.

Begin with a visit to Gwanghwamun Plaza, where you will encounter the statues of King Sejong and Admiral Yi Sun-Sin.

Continue through Gwanghwamun gate to visit Gyeongbokgung (Gyongbok) Palace, where you will witness the ceremonial changing of the guard. Next, change into some traditional clothes before visiting Bukchon Hanok Village. After, head to a local restaurant for lunch.



After, enjoy a Korean Traditional Kimchi cooking demonstration before taking a guided walk along the picturesque Cheonggyecheon Stream.

Next, visit the Myeongdong area renowned for its trendy fashion boutiques, cosmetics shops, street food stalls, and more. You'll also have a chance to visit Myeongdong Underground where you will find all sorts of latest fashion trends and memorabilia.

**Day 22-23: Depart Seoul**
**Meals: B**

This morning is free at leisure before transferring to the airport for your return flight home.

*Please note: Only breakfast is included today. Late check-out is not included. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day in Seoul, please contact our reservations department who can confirm additional pricing and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.*



*Transfers: In the even that your flight departs outside of the majority group departure time, you will be transferred to the airport by a shared coach (not with other Wendy Wu Tours passengers). If you are on a shared coach transfer, you may have to walk for a few minutes to get to the coach.*

**PLEASE INFORM OUR RESERVATIONS TEAM OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING.**

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### VISAS:

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Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into New Zealand. Visas are not required for New Zealand passport holders for entry into South Korea and Japan for stays of up to 90 days.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

### INSURANCE:

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It is a condition of booking Cruise & Tour that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter.

Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance. We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

### CRUISE – CELEBRITY MILLENNIUM:

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The Celebrity Millennium is made up of 12 decks, and offers a range of amenities, including, but not limited to; 9 restaurants, 2 swimming pools as well as lounges and bars.

Performances will take place each night on the main stage of the ship's theatre, from comedy shows, circus performers to Broadway-style shows. Guests on the Celebrity Millennium will also be able to enjoy cooking, dance and language classes as well as wine tasting opportunities and sporting events. Onboard spa (with saunas) facilities are also available.

**Cruise Schedule:** While we do our best to adhere to our published itineraries, they may be changed at the discretion of the captain due to weather advisories, port traffic, and any other unforeseeable circumstances.

**Onboard Dress Code:** Smart casual attire is required for entry into the main dining, speciality dining and Celebrity Theatre. Please note, shorts and flip flops are not allowed in the aforementioned areas. Each itinerary will feature up to 2 "formal nights", where you can dress to impress. A daily programme will be delivered to your stateroom which will outline the correct attire each evening.

**Dining:** Please note, there are no set menus onboard the cruise ship, instead, you will have the opportunity to dine at your choice of restaurant included in your package and have the option to upgrade your package whilst onboard to dine in the various speciality restaurants.

Your package also includes soft drinks and alcoholic beverages whilst onboard your cruise. There is the option to upgrade your drinks package on your Guest Account or on your cruise.

**Luggage Tags:** Luggage tags will be available to download through your personal cruise account

**Tipping:** All gratuities are included in your trip cost.

### ACCOMMODATION PRE & POST CRUISE:

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Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort, or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage-type hotel. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand and Japan/South Korea. Due to environmental regulations not, all hotels provide toiletries in the rooms. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

All hotels have private western bathroom facilities, TV, and a telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide or National Escort.

Please be aware that there are heightened security measures being carried out at all hotels, on guests and vehicles entering the properties.

**Japan:** Please note that in Japan, hotel rooms and bathrooms are renowned for being small. Standard single rooms are usually smaller than a standard double or twin room, contain one small double bed (or one single bed), and are designed for one person to use. In the Fuji area, hotels tend to be more traditional in style and culture. In this area, you may be asked to take your shoes off at the door and store them in a secure locker – this is very traditional Japanese culture.

**South Korea:** Some hotels have hot water restrictions, operating for a few hours at a time, usually in the morning and evenings. Hotels in South Korea often do not have porters and you will be required to carry your own luggage. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/local guide. Rest assure that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

### CRUISE ACCOMODATION AND CABINS:

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At the time of booking, subject to availability you may have the choice to book from an outside cabin or balcony cabin. Should you wish to upgrade to a suite or have a special request for cabin location, please speak to our reservations department who will be able to assist.

### **PORTERAGE:**

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Pre and Post Cruise - Please be aware that portage is not included on this tour. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

Cruise - Porterage service is included onboard the Azamara Onward Cruise Ship. Please note, you will be able to leave your luggage outside your cabin door on the last night of your cruise, staff will then be able to make arrangements for your luggage, ready for disembarkation early next morning. Please also note, it is customary to tip for the portage service.

### **TIPPING POLICY:**

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**Pre and Post Cruise:** Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and South Korea is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed throughout your tour.

The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort. If you are travelling in a smaller group, we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller, to be fair to the guide(s). We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

Although tipping in Japan is not customary, if you feel you have received an excellent service, please feel free to tip your guide at your discretion.

### **EXCHANGING CASH:**

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**Money** - In New Zealand exchanging money prior to departure can be done at money exchanges, or at international airports. We recommend you carry cash in local currency, along with any credit/debit cards. ATMs are widely available in larger cities. We suggest withdrawing/exchanging your money in larger cities as facilities can be limited when travelling to smaller towns. Your National Escort will be able to assist you to do this when on tour.

- South Korea – the local currency is known as the Korean WON
- Japan – the local currency is known as the Japanese Yen
- Cruise – A Cruise Card will be issued on embarkation for all purchases on board. The balance of the Cruise Card is to be paid in USD when disembarking

## AIRPORT TRANSFERS:

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Japan at various times during the day. Depending on the number of customers arriving/ departing on the same flight as yourself, the type of transfer to your hotel/ airport will vary.

You will always be met on arrival by English-speaking staff and transferred to your hotel either by:

- Direct shared bus (shared with other passengers, not just Wendy Wu Tours clients)
- Shared bus plus taxi from the nearest bus stop to the hotel (maximum 5-minute walk)
- Chartered coach (if there are more than 8 Wendy Wu Tours passengers arriving at the same time)

On the departure day, all passengers will be met by English-speaking staff at the hotel and transfer by one of the three ways above. For those passengers using a shared bus or shared bus plus taxi to the airport, the guide services end when they drop you off at the bus stop, and you will need to check in at the airport on your own. If you have paid extra for a private transfer, the above does not apply.

You will meet your National Escort at the welcome dinner or, if arriving late, the following morning after breakfast at the welcome meeting.

Please ensure your Wendy Wu Tours luggage tag is visible on your suitcase/hand luggage, as this may also assist your guide in identifying you. If at any stage you are unable to locate your representative, please contact our Japan ground operator on the number included in your final documents.

## TRANSPORT:

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**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in Japan are extremely well maintained and are comparatively smooth compared with the rest of Asia. Coaches and mini buses do not have onboard toilet facilities, however frequent bathroom stops are made for passengers comfort.

**Bullet trains:** Second class reserved seats are booked for our groups on bullet trains; there will be toilet facilities on board. Due to the limited space on bullet trains, a separate luggage transfer service will be arranged for all suitcases (1 case per person). You will need to pack a separate overnight bag to carry on the train as your suitcase will not arrive until the following day after a bullet train journey. Your guide will indicate when you will need to prepare for this throughout your tour.

## EATING IN SOUTH KOREA & JAPAN:

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On this tour you will get to experience a variety of dining options. Pre and post cruise in Japan and South Korea you will dine as a group, whereas during the cruise, you will dine independently. You will have the option to dine in the main on-board restaurants included as standard in your cruise package. Alternatively, you can opt to dine in the on-board specialty venues or restaurants on land, both of which will be payable locally.

Korean and Japanese cuisine is delicious, colourful and healthy.

Meals in South Korea are usually served with a bowl of rice and a bowl of soup and consist generally of banchan (side dishes) including Kimchi (seasoned and fermented vegetable), fish and meat. In Japan, meals are usually served with a bowl of rice and a bowl of miso soup and consist usually of fish, pickled vegetables and meat. Japan's other main staple is noodles, most famous being Udon and Soba. Most food is eaten with chopsticks so best get practicing as cutlery is not always available at restaurants.

Korean food is generally hot and spicy compared to Chinese and Japanese cuisine. All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from the groups' arrival until the day of departure. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout Korea Breakfast will mostly be buffet style but may be a set-menu.

In Japan, breakfast will mostly be buffet style but may be a set-menu. Lunches are mostly pre-set options as is custom in many local restaurants. Dinner is usually a pre-set option or buffet-style, featuring a wide selection of high-quality Japanese and Western dishes, but may occasionally be a set-menu. We usually find this style of dining suits the wide and varied tastes of our customers on tour. These are also pre-booked in advance prior to your arrival by your guides. This will provide greater flexibility and allow you to sample a broad range of local cuisines and dishes. All beverages will be at your own expense and are readily available.

In South Korea, the restaurants operate differently than other Asian countries. If you want a dessert, you must go to a dessert shop. If you want a coffee, you must go to a coffee shop etc.

Pre and Post Cruise - When eating lunches and dinners, you will usually be seated around a large table with other tour members. Dishes will be served in the traditional 'family style'; meaning that various dishes will be laid out in the centre of the table. These dishes are intended to be shared amongst the group – there is always more than enough to feed everyone. All beverages will be at your own expense.

Pre and Post Cruise - On some days where lots of sights are covered, dinner times may be early and your tour group may head directly to the restaurant after sightseeing without stopping at your hotel to freshen up.

**Please note:** if you have any dietary requirements, you must inform us before your tour starts, and please be aware that restaurants may not always be able to accommodate these. It is recommended that passengers with food intolerances bring snacks or additional food items with them, especially when travelling further from major cities as not all dietary requests will be met due to the limited foods available.

## GROUP SIZE:

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Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a national escort. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

**DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN:**

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South Korea and Japan are developed countries and as such matches the West in modernity and technological advances. South Korea and Japan are extremely safe country and takes great responsibility in maintaining high safety standards.

**CULTURAL DIFFERENCE:**

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Korean and Japanese society and culture are built on intricate social etiquette and customs. As foreigners, we are not expected to be knowledgeable about all etiquette, but it will make your time in South Korea and Japan more enjoyable if you are respectful of local customs. Some examples of scenarios you may encounter include removing your shoes and hats when entering a temple or house (some restaurants as well). You may be supplied with slippers at some places, but please come prepared with plenty of spare socks, and shoes that are easy to take off for the fairly regular occasions when they must be removed. Your National Escort will advise you of some of these other customs at the beginning of your tour.

**PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:**

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If you are travelling within local Public Holidays, please note that celebrations can last a several days and during these times some businesses will be closed. Coach, air and train travel may also be affected. Tourist attractions will be open; but may be crowded.

**SOUVENIRS:**

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We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

**LUGGAGE:**

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All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

**PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:**

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Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you.

Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during your pre and post cruise tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available.

Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion

**Cruise Optional Excursions:** Any optional excursions offered at each port will be at your own expense. You can book your shore excursions in advance or during your time onboard the cruise ship.

### **CLIMBING STEPS:**

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Sightseeing at nearly all the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps. These palaces were built to provide defence against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steps to slow down the advance of enemies once they were inside. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails.

Buddhist temples or pagodas also tend to be built at an elevation, as this is the most auspicious position according to ancient beliefs. This means you sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb some steps inside.

People with knee or hip injuries who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

### **VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:**

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We recommend that you contact either your doctor or Health centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safetravel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz)

### **BEFORE YOU LEAVE:**

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We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz) as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements.

You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

### **AFTER YOUR BOOKING:**

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Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: February 2025