



# SINGAPORE TO KYOTO WITH CELEBRITY CRUISES

Classic Cruising Tour | 25 Days | Physical Level 1

SINGAPORE - HO CHI MINH – DA NANG - HONG KONG - TAIPEI - NAGASAKI - SHIMIZU  
(MOUNT FUJI) - TOKYO - NAGANO - KYOTO

This cruising tour includes all the classic sights and key cultural activities you would expect to see whilst visiting Japan. Moreover, you will also experience visiting Singapore, (Southern) Vietnam, Hong Kong and Taipei. Featuring modern cities, historical sights and beautiful landscapes; Singapore to Tokyo ensures you get the most out of your trip to these fascinating regions.

- Visit the vibrant capital, and ancient capital of Japan: Tokyo, and Kyoto
- Become immersed in the fast paced life of Hong Kong
- Embrace the hustle and bustle in Taipei
- Admire the impressive Garden's by the Bay in Singapore
- Soak up the excitement of Vietnamese culture
- Search for snow monkeys

## TOUR MAP



## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 15 night cruise with Celebrity Millennium
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated (*if dining on board throughout*) – 23 breakfasts (B), 22 lunches (L), 23 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

*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, and 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.*

## CLASSIC CRUISING TOURS:

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Our classic cruising tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Singapore, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan. The combination of cruise and tour is perfect for those who wish to undertake both experiences whilst travelling with like-minded people. 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 1 in Singapore and end the tour on Day 24 in Kyoto (Depart from Osaka Airport). Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

## 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.

'Singapore to Kyoto' 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.

**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.

**DETAILED ITINERARY****Day 1: Singapore****Meals: D**

Fly to the vibrant city Singapore. Upon arrival, you will be met at the airport by your English speaking representative. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, travel to your hotel and check in.

*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 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**

**Singapore** – This tiny republic sits just above the equator and the tip of the Malay peninsula. The trading port was put on the global map by Stamford Raffles, who negotiated the 1819 Treaty of Singapore, when the British East India Company opened up a trading port. Singapore passed through the hands of Britain, Japan and Malaysia before gaining full independence in 1965. Today, it has a highly developed economy and is ranked as a world leader in healthcare and education.

## Day 2:

## Singapore

## Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast this morning, begin your full day city tour with a visit to Singapore's historic Chinatown, a bustling mix of old and new, filled with traditional shops and markets as well as a selection of stores and cafes.

Enjoy a stop at the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Museum, located in Chinatown before visiting the Kampong Glam, a historically rich and vibrant neighbourhood dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Here, you will also get to learn about the art of teh tarik or "pulling tea". Continue your tour with a visit to the Civic District, passing by the historic Parliament House and the National Gallery Singapore before arriving at the Merlion Park. Enjoy views of the Marina Bay before taking a stroll through the hidden underground walkway, once a vital tunnel used for transporting mail, now serving as a corridor for The Fullerton Hotel where you will enjoy an afternoon 'high' tea for lunch.



This evening, embark on a sunset river cruise up Singapore River before enjoying dinner at a local seafood restaurant. To conclude your evening, you will visit the colourful Gardens by the Bay. Explore the unique architecture before enjoying the impressive Gardens by the Bay Light Show.

### Destination Information

**Gardens by the Bay** – This large public garden is famous for its Supertree Grove – vertical gardens built on tree-like sculptures up to 50 metres tall. Atop them sits the Sky Garden, accessible by elevated walkway.

**Chinatown** – Chinatown's maze of narrow roads includes Chinatown Food Street, with its restaurants serving traditional fare like Hainanese chicken rice, noodles and satay. Souvenir shops and indie boutiques dot the area, offering clothes, crafts and antiques.

**Civic District** – This area has a rich history dating back to the colonial era, serving as the administrative and political heart of the city-state. It was here the Singapore declared its independence in 1965.

**Day 3: Embark cruise in Singapore****Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast and check out, you will be transferred to Singapore cruise port. Today, you will board Celebrity Millennium to begin your voyage tonight. Spend the rest of the day acclimatising to life on board.

**Day 4: Cruising – At Sea****Meals: B, L, D**

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



**Day 5:**
**Cruising – Ho Chi Minh City / Saigon (Phu My)**
**Meals: B, L, D**

Today you will be docked in Phu My port. From here you can visit Ho Chi Minh City, a bustling city situated on the edge of the Mekong Delta. Or for a more relaxed experience - explore Vung Tau.

Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*



***Please note: the journey time from the port of Phu My to Ho Chi Minh City is approximately two hours.***

**Destination Information**

**Ho Chi Minh City** – Officially renamed as Ho Chi Minh City but still locally known by its previous name of Saigon, this exuberant city is driving Vietnam forward into the modern world, but is also a treasure trove of fascinating heritage. It was a major base of the American military during the Vietnam War, and was the seat of the South Vietnam government until the events that led to the country's reunification. Today, the old mixes seamlessly with the new and you can wander through timeless alleys to incense-infused temples before catching up with the present in designer malls beneath sleek skyscrapers.

**Vung Tau** – Located along Vietnam's southeastern coast, Vung Tau has long been a popular getaway for city dwellers from nearby Ho Chi Minh City. The city boasts picturesque beaches and scenic viewpoints, including the iconic Christ of Vung Tau statue that overlooks the coastline. Historically a centre for maritime activities, Vung Tau played a strategic role during the French colonial period and later as an important logistics hub during the Vietnam War. Today, it remains a blend of seaside charm, local culture, and coastal recreation.

**Day 6:**
**Cruising – At Sea**
**Meals: B, L, D**

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



## Day 7: Cruising – Hue / Danang, Vietnam

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will be docked in Chan May port. From here you can visit Hue, Vietnam's former imperial capital city. Or you can even choose to visit Hoi An or Da Nang.

Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later for an overnight stay in port.



Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

***Please note: the journey time from the port of Chan May to Hue or Hoi An is approximately one hour and 30 minutes and Da Nang is around an hour.***

### Destination Information

**Hue** – Having been the imperial capital from 1802 until 1945 after the last emperor abdicated, Hue is still regarded as the centre of Vietnam's culture and religion. The city is dominated by the Imperial Citadel, modelled on the Forbidden City in China. There are many wonderful pagodas and temples of high significance and it contains the Grand Tombs of the Nguyen Emperors.

**Da Nang** - Located along Vietnam's central coast, Da Nang is a dynamic city known for its beautiful beaches and modern skyline. The city has a rich history dating back to the Champa Kingdom, which is reflected in the nearby UNESCO-listed My Son Sanctuary. Da Nang is also a gateway to stunning natural landscapes, including the Marble Mountains and the iconic Golden Bridge at Ba Na Hills. Its vibrant culinary scene and laid-back atmosphere make it a popular destination for both cultural exploration and seaside relaxation.

**Hoi An** - A well-preserved example of a Southeast Asian trading port from the 15th to the 19th century, Hoi An is a UNESCO World Heritage Site famed for its lantern-lit streets and historic architecture. The town's blend of Vietnamese, Chinese, and Japanese influences is evident in its ancient temples, merchant houses, and the iconic Japanese Covered Bridge. Hoi An is also celebrated for its vibrant arts and crafts scene, with numerous tailors and artisan workshops. The Thu Bon River, which runs through the town, adds to its timeless charm.

**Day 8: Cruising – At Sea**
**Meals: B, L, D**

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


**Day 9: Cruising – Hong Kong**
**Meals: B, L, D**

Today, dock in Hong Kong. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later for an overnight stay in port.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*


**Destination Information**

**Hong Kong** - Nestled in the Pearl River Estuary, Hong Kong is the personification of culture blend. Influenced by Chinese and British traditions, ways of life and habits, Hong Kong has emerged from being a small fishing community to one of the leading financial districts and richest cities in the world. With its deep-water harbour, stunning mountain vistas and urban glamour, Hong Kong is a buzzing blend of excitement and mystery.

**Day 10: Cruising - Hong Kong**
**Meals: B, L, D**

Spend a second day in Hong Kong at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*



## Day 11: Cruising – At Sea

Meals: B, L, D

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



## Day 12: Cruising – Taipei, Taiwan

Meals: B, L, D

Dock in the port of Keelung, Taiwan. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

## Destination Information



**Keelung** - Situated on Taiwan's northern coast, Keelung is a bustling port city with a rich maritime history. Known as the "Rainy Port" for its frequent rainfall, it has long been a hub of trade and commerce. Keelung is home to historic sites such as the Ershawan Fort, built during the Qing Dynasty, and the Zhongzheng Park, where a towering white statue of Guanyin overlooks the city. The city's vibrant night market and proximity to scenic attractions like Yehliu Geopark make it a cultural and natural gem.

**Taipei** - Taipei, the capital of Taiwan, is a modern metropolis with Japanese colonial lanes, busy shopping streets and contemporary buildings. The skyline is crowned by the 509m-tall, bamboo-shaped Taipei 101 skyscraper, with upscale shops at the base and a rapid elevator to an observatory near the top. Taipei is also known for its lively street-food scene and many night markets, including expansive Shilin market.

**Day 13: Cruising – At Sea**
**Meals: B, L, D**

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


**Day 14: Cruising – Nagasaki**
**Meals: B, L, D**

Dock in the port of Nagasaki. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation.

*Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals 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 15: Cruising – At Sea**
**Meals: B, L, D**

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



## Day 16: Cruising – Shimizu (Mount Fuji)

Meals: B, L, D

Your cruising journey continues today as you dock in the port of Shimizu. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*

*Please note: You will be requested to leave your bags outside your cabin this evening. This allows the cruise team to collect your luggage in the early morning ahead of your disembarkation, without disturbing you in the early hours*


**Destination Information**

**Shimizu** – Renown for being one of the most scenic ports in Japan, the port of Shimizu provides breathe-taking 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 17: Cruising – Yokohama (Tokyo)

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will dock in Tokyo (Yokohama). Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later for an overnight stay in port.

Here you can enjoy a range of excursions here at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. *Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*


**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.

## Day 18: Disembark Cruise in Yokohama (Tokyo)

Meals: B, L, D

Your cruise concludes today as you disembark the ship in Yokohama cruise port, here you will be met by an English-speaking guide.

Transfer to your Tokyo hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure. There will be a welcome dinner this evening.



## Day 19: 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. Next, 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, visit Tokyo Skytree to admire the panoramic views before participating 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. Then return to your hotel and later this evening, enjoy a dinner at a local restaurant.

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

#### Destination Information

**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 the busy city and consists of 120,000 trees which were donated by people from all over Japan when the shrine was established.

## Day 20: Tokyo to Nagano

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast this morning, travel approximately 2 hours to Hakone to board a mini cruise on Lake Ashi (weather dependent). Next, take 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, transfer to lake Kawaguchi where your first stop will be lunch at a local restaurant, then to visit Oishi Park.

You'll then be transferred to Nagano. Enjoy using the onsen facilities on-site followed by dinner at your ryokan.

*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

**Mount Fuji** – At 3,776m, Mount Fuji is the highest of Japan's mountains and 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.

**Nagano** – Surrounded by the Japanese Alps, Nagano is a historic city known for its role as the host of the 1998 Winter Olympics. The city has long been a gateway to the mountainous regions of central Japan, offering a rich blend of history, culture, and natural beauty. It developed as a temple town around Zenkoji, one of Japan's most important Buddhist temples, and remains a centre for pilgrimage. Nagano is also a key access point to the nearby ski resorts, hot springs, and the famous snow monkeys of Jigokudani.

**Ryokan** - Ryokan are Japanese-style inns found throughout the country, especially in hot spring resorts. More than just a place to sleep, ryokan are an opportunity to experience the traditional Japanese lifestyle and hospitality, incorporating elements such as tatami rooms, futon beds, Japanese-style baths and local cuisine, making them popular with both Japanese and foreign tourists alike.

## Day 21: Snow Monkeys and Bullet train to Kyoto

Meals: B, L, D

Following on from breakfast, travel to Jigokudani Monkey Park - home of the famous Japanese Snow Monkeys.

*From the bus park, you will walk approximately 30-minutes along sometimes 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. After, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before being transferred to the train station where you will board the bullet train to Kyoto, a journey of approximately 4 hours. On arrival, transfer to your hotel for check-in and spend the remainder of the day at leisure.



### Destination Information

**Jigokudani Monkey Park** - Jigokudani Monkey Park is located in Yamanouchi, Nagano Prefecture, Japan. It is part of the Joshinetsu Kogen National Park, and is located in the valley of the Yokoyu-River, in the northern part of the prefecture.

## Day 22: 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 Pavillion' which was originally built as a retirement villa for the Shogun but, at his request, became a Buddhist Temple after his death.

Go on to discover the Ryoanji Temple, before enjoying lunch at a local restaurant. Afterwards, enjoy a visit to the Arashiyama Bamboo Forest and the Togetsukyo bridge. Later this evening, enjoy a dinner at a local restaurant before returning to your hotel.



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

#### Destination Information

**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.

**Ryoanji Temple** – This UNESCO World Heritage Site is famed for its Zen rock garden, a masterpiece of simplicity and design. Originally an aristocratic villa, it was converted into a Zen temple in 1450. The garden's 15 carefully placed rocks, set in raked white gravel, embody the principles of meditation and wabi-sabi aesthetics.

**Arashiyama Bamboo Forest** – One of Kyoto's most iconic sights, the Arashiyama Bamboo Forest is a serene grove of towering bamboo stalks that create a mesmerising natural walkway. The rustling sound of the bamboo swaying in the wind enhances its tranquil atmosphere, making it a popular spot for reflection and photography.

**Togetsukyo Bridge** – Spanning the Katsura River in Kyoto's Arashiyama district, Togetsukyo Bridge is a historic wooden bridge that dates back to the Heian period. Its name, meaning "Moon-Crossing Bridge," reflects the area's scenic beauty, particularly in autumn and spring when the surrounding mountains are ablaze with colour.

## Day 23: 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.

Enjoy a Sukiyaki lunch at a local restaurant, followed by a trip to the Matsui Shuzou museum for some local sake tasting. Continue with a visit to the Fushimi Inari Shrine, famous for its corridors of torii gates. 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

**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.

**Matsui Shuzou Museum** – a long-established sake brewery, the museum offers insight into traditional brewing techniques and the cultural significance of sake in Japan. Visitors can explore historical brewing tools, learn about the fermentation process, and sample a selection of the brewery's sake.

**Sake** – Japan's traditional rice wine, sake is brewed through a unique fermentation process. Served warm or chilled, it plays a key role in Japanese culture and cuisine.

**Sukiyaki Lunch** – A classic Japanese hotpot, sukiyaki features thinly sliced beef, vegetables, and tofu simmered in a sweet soy-based broth and dipped in raw egg before eating.

**Days 24-25: Depart Kyoto****Meals: B**

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Today you will be transferred to Osaka Airport for your onward flight, arriving home the same or the following day.

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 Tokyo, 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 event 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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#### **Vietnam**

Entry visas are required for New Zealand passport holders to visit Vietnam. Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa.

#### **Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong & Taiwan**

Visas are not required for New Zealand passport holders for entry into Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong & Taiwan for stays up to 90 Days.

Your passport must be valid for at least six months from your date of entry, and you may need to provide proof of onward or return travel as well as sufficient funds for your stay.

For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website <https://www.wendywutours.co.nz/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/>

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.

Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items.

### INSURANCE:

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It is a condition of booking with us 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. These details will be available to your National Escorts should they be required. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

### PORTERAGE:

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Please be aware that porterage 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.

Porterage is however, included onboard the Celebrity Millenium 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 porterage service and this is not included in your group tour.

## EATING IN ASIA:

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Southeast Asia is home to an incredibly rich food history. The local cuisine is known for its intense flavours, spices and some of the freshest ingredients you can find. In general, meals include either rice or noodles and are packed full of flavour. Lemongrass, ginger, lime leaves, coriander, fish sauce and soy sauce are used in most local dishes. Whilst Southeast Asian food has a reputation for being hot and spicy, each region actually has its own distinct characteristics. Vietnam, for example, is perhaps best known for its fresh and aromatic dishes – influences heavily on flavours from fresh herbs such as mint, basil and dill.

Taiwanese cuisine is a blend of the ingredients commonly used in Chinese and Taiwanese cooking. Meals are usually served with a bowl of rice and several dishes of vegetables, seafood (normally fish and/or shrimps), and meats (pork, beef or chicken). Taiwan's other main staple is noodles, most famous being beef noodle. You'll often find that different variety dumplings are widely eaten too.

Japanese cuisine is delicious, colourful and healthy. 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, the most famous being Udon and Soba. 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 different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout Japan. Food is an important element of Japanese culture. It is a time for families and friends to come together and much of family life revolves around the dinner table. Most food is eaten with chopsticks – Western cutlery is not always available at restaurants.

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 buffet-style, featuring a wide selection of high-quality Asian 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 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. 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. Gluten-free food may not be as readily available as in the UK/Ireland.

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.

## ACCOMMODATION:

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Your accommodation is 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. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities.

**Japan:** In the Nagano, 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. Please note, double bed requests can be made at time of booking but cannot be guaranteed.

Hotels in Singapore & Japan are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels. Differences in facilities and quality will exist between your home country and both Singapore, and 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. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning and a telephone. Hotels in Japan 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 assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

## TRANSFERS:

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As we offer our customers a variety of airlines to suit your needs, passengers will arrive/depart in Singapore / 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.

### **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:** Please note, luggage tags are available electronically for you to print out via your Guest Account. Luggage tags will also be available at the pier for guests who would prefer to use this service at the terminal prior to boarding.

**Tipping:** All standard cruise gratuities are included in your trip cost. Any extra services you wish to purchase, such as speciality dining or spa treatments, incur additional tipping charges that are not included and to be paid onboard.

## 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.

## DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA:

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Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan are developed destinations and as such matches the West in modernity and technological advances.

Vietnam & Taiwan are developing quickly, however they still lack the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in New Zealand. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in New Zealand; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All our suppliers meet local safety standards at a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday, so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your guide.

All countries are extremely safe to visit and takes great responsibility in maintaining high safety standards.

## GROUP SIZE PRE & POST CRUISE:

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Most of our groups pre and post cruise 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 with local guides, as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

## TIPPING POLICY PRE & POST CRUISE:

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### Singapore, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Taiwan:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Southeast Asia 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. 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 to local guides and drivers 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 with local guides only, then tipping is paid at each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups.

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.

### CULTURAL DIFFERENCE:

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In Singapore and Hong Kong, both highly developed cities, you will find a blend of Eastern and Western influences. Public behaviour is taken seriously in Singapore, where laws against littering, jaywalking, and chewing gum are strictly enforced.

In Vietnam religious and cultural traditions are deeply respected. When visiting temples, mosques, or other religious sites, modest attire is required—covering shoulders and knees is expected. In Brunei, alcohol is prohibited, and visitors should be mindful of local customs regarding public behaviour and dress.

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 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 the below Japan public holidays, please note that celebrations can last a couple of 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. Showa Day is on 29th April every year, which will start Golden Week which then runs from 29th April – 5th May, Constitution Memorial Day is on 3rd May, and Emperor's Birthday is on 23rd February every year.

**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 5kgs. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

**PERSONAL EXPENSES:**

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You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry, and souvenirs.

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to cities outside of Tokyo. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be very limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

**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 an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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