



Treasures of Taiwan

Classic Tour | 15 Days | Physical Level 1

Taipei – Sun Moon Lake – Tainan – Kaohsiung – Kenting -
Chihpen – Taroko - Taipei

Explore the cities of Taipei and Tainan, where ancient and modern sit side by side, and lose yourself in the natural beauty of Sun Moon Lake and Taroko National Park. This magical and diverse island has so much to offer, and on our Treasures of Taiwan tour you can experience it for yourself!

- Explore bustling Taipei
- Unwind at beautiful Sun Moon Lake
- Visit Fo Guang Shan Monastery
- Relax on the beach in Kenting
- Spend time in magnificent Taroko National Park
- Discover the first capital city in Taiwan, Tainan



Treasures of Taiwan tour inclusions:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escort
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure 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.

Classic Tours:

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

Physical Level 1:

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.

'Treasures of Taiwan' is rated as a **physical level 1** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You will be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- On several days, there will be sightseeing on foot for extended periods of time, often involving steps or uneven ground
- You will be required to get on and off various sizes of boat without assistance

Of course, our National Escort 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.

Country Profile: Taiwan

Taiwan is a charming island in East Asia, best known for its vibrant culture, delicious fusion cuisine and tranquil lakes and mountain ranges. Though Taiwan is small in size, it is large in life and has a lot to offer. Taipei is the capital city and largest metropolitan area. It is highly technically developed and easily accessible with 2 airports, extensive bus routes and high-speed railways connecting across the island.

Joining Your Tour

The tour is 15 days in duration including international flights. Please note that due to flight schedules passengers may depart/arrive on Day 2.

For travelers booked on 'Land Only' packages, the price includes your arrival/ departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to reservations.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Taipei and end the tour on Day 14 in Taipei. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

Itinerary Changes

It is our intention 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 local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

Itinerary – Treasures of Taiwan

Days 1-2: Fly to Taipei

Fly overnight to Taipei, Taiwan's buzzing capital. On arrival you will be met by driver and transfer to your hotel. In the evening, meet your guide and enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel.

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 Reservations Consultant.



Destination Information

Taipei – The capital of Taiwan, Taipei has an interesting blend of Chinese culture with a fusion of Japanese, Southeast Asian and American influences. The city is a modern metropolis with temples, colonial lanes, busy shopping streets and contemporary buildings, and is known for its lively street-food scene and many night markets.

Day 3: Taipei

Take a full day Taipei City tour, beginning with a visit to the impressive National Palace Museum and the Martyrs' Shrine. After a Dim Sum style lunch, proceed to visit CKS Memorial Hall and Longshan Temple before reaching the observation deck at Taipei 101 for a panoramic view of the city. You will be on your feet sightseeing for several hours today. Tonight, enjoy dinner at a local Xiaolongbao (steamed soup dumplings) restaurant. The rest of the evening is at leisure to explore the area if you wish.



Destination Information

National Palace Museum – sharing the same root with the Palace Museum in the Forbidden City, the museum has a permanent collection of nearly 700,000 pieces of ancient Chinese imperial artefacts and artworks. One of the largest of its type in the world, the collection covers 8,000 years of China's historical and artistic achievements, including treasures in painting, calligraphy, bronzes, ceramics, jade and religious objects.

Martyr's Shrine – The National Revolutionary Martyrs' Shrine was built in 1969 to honour the fallen Kuomintang soldiers during wartime. It is home to around 390,000 spirit tablets.

CKS Memorial Hall – The National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall is a famous national monument erected in memory of the authoritarian leader Chiang Kai-shek, former President of the Republic of China.

Longshan Temple – One of the largest and oldest temples in Taiwan, Longshan was built in 1738 by Han immigrants from Fujian as a gathering place for Chinese settlers. Today it is one of the city's top religious sites, and it is a wonderful mix of the Taoist, Buddhist and Confucian faiths.

Taipei 101 – Taipei's skyline is crowned by the iconic 509m-tall, bamboo-shaped Taipei 101 skyscraper. From its opening in 2004 until 2010 it was classified as the world's tallest building.

Day 4: Taipei – Sun Moon Lake

Drive around 3 hours south to the popular resort that lies in the heart of Taiwan, Sun Moon Lake, and visit the local landmark, Wen Wu Temple. After lunch, take a shared motorboat cruise around the lake and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Also visit Holy Monk Shrine (Syuentzang Temple), Tze-En Pagoda and Tehua Village (the aboriginal village). Check in to your hotel for a two-night stay.



Destination Information

Sun Moon Lake – is Taiwan's largest lake with its name inspired by the beauty of the area. The east side of the lake resembles a sun, while the west side is long and narrow, like a crescent moon. The lake and its surrounding countryside have been designated one of 13 national scenic areas in Taiwan.

Wen Wu Temple – is a temple venerating both the patron gods of civil and martial affairs located on the shore of Sun Moon Lake. It was rebuilt to its present location in 1938 after rising water levels from a dam construction by the Japanese. In 1969, Wen Wu temple was reconstructed in the Chinese palace style.

Holy Monk Shrine – was constructed in memory of Tang Xuanzang (Syuentzang), the monk who contributed greatly to Chinese culture and the spread of Buddhism in China. His legendary pilgrimage provided inspiration for the Classic Novel *Journey to the West*.

Tze-En Pagoda – the octagonal tiered tower was constructed in 1971 by President Chiang Kai-shek in memory of his mother. Sitting on top of Mount Shabalan, it overlooks beautiful Lalu Island and Sun Moon Lake.

Tehua Village – is a place to appreciate the daily life and traditional culture of the Thao people. As residents in Sun Moon Lake area for at least two centuries, this aboriginal tribe is the smallest ethnic group in Taiwan.

Day 5: Sun Moon Lake

This morning, drive 15 minutes to the nearby Puli Township to visit the famous Antique Assam Tea Farm and their tea plantation. In the afternoon, take a cable car and visit the Formosan Cultural Village. Here you can choose to take a walk to visit the homes of Taiwan's main indigenous tribes, experience the exciting rides of the theme park or stroll through the grounds of Taiwan's largest and most authentic European garden. Take the cable car back down and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.



Destination Information

Antique Assam Tea Farm – used to produce high quality Assam black tea, introduced to the area from India by the Japanese, for export since the Japanese Colonial Era. In 2003, five veteran workers decided to rebuild this historical farm and bring back its former glory. Today the factory becomes an attraction of both history and organic tea lovers.

Formosan Aboriginal Cultural Village – is the largest outdoor museum in Taiwan to display the traditional homes and architecture of Taiwanese indigenous tribes. It also serves as an amusement park with the tallest free fall ride on the island.

Day 6: Sun Moon Lake - Tainan

Drive around 2.5 hours this morning to Tainan, the first capital city in Taiwan. Visit the Chihkan Tower and Confucius Temple before enjoying lunch in a local restaurant. Spend the afternoon in the Anping area, wandering down the old streets, admiring Anping Fort, Anping Tree House and Tait & Co. Merchant House. You can also enjoy the beautiful sunset view at Anping Harbor. Check in to your hotel and in the evening, join an optional night market tour (payable locally).



Destination Information

Tainan – is the oldest city in Taiwan and served as the capital for over 200 years after the Dutch colonists were defeated. Today it is known for its complex history, rich folk cultures and other living local traditions.

Chihkan Tower – an 18th-century Chinese complex with gardens, intricately carved towers and a temple erected on the foundations of Fort Provintia, a Dutch outpost dating to the mid-1600s.

Confucius Temple – The Taiwan Confucius Temple, also called the Scholarly Temple, was built in 1665 during the Koxinga dynasty, but has been renovated several times over the past 300 years. Today the temple preserves ancient Confucian ceremonies, which are conducted on a regular basis.

Anping - The history of this district dates back to the 17th century, when the Dutch East India Company occupied the area. In the Japanese period, trade between China and Japan flourished here too. Anping Old Street is lined with traditional rammed earth houses, low brick houses as well as Western mansions, and a myriad of street food, including fried wontons, shrimp rolls and deep-fried sandwich.

Anping Fort – Formerly known as "Fort Zeelandia" this is the oldest fort in Taiwan, built by the Dutch in 1924. Sunset over Anping Old Fort was one of the original Eight Views of Taiwan.

Day 7: Tainan - Kaohsiung

Drive approximately one hour south to Kaohsiung and visit the Dragon & Tiger Pagodas as well as the Spring & Autumn Pavilions. You may take the many stairs up the double spiral staircase inside the pagodas to get to the top, but you can remain outside if you wish. Continue to the biggest monastery in Taiwan, Foguanshan Monastery. After a vegetarian lunch, explore the Main Shrine, the Buddhist Museum and the Great Buddha Land. You will spend around 2-3 hours sightseeing on foot here. Proceed to the Martyrs' Shrine at Shoushan Park for a nice view over Kaohsiung Harbour.



Destination Information

Kaohsiung – Taiwan's second largest city, Kaohsiung is reinventing itself from an industrial port to a cultural hub. Warehouses by the harbour are morphing into galleries and theatres that are buzzing with activity. The city has plenty of night markets, temples and good restaurants with the focal point being the Love river.

Dragon & Tiger Pagodas – are the twin pagodas located on the southern edge of Lotus Lake built in 1976. Connecting to the shore via a bridge, it is said to be good luck to enter through the dragon and exit the tiger.

Spring & Autumn Pavilions – this fun and gaudy complex is a landmark that commemorates the God of War Lord Kuan. A statue of Guanyin, the Goddess of Mercy, standing atop a dragon can also be seen in front of the two colourful octagonal towers, making a pictorial scene against the Lotus Lake.

Fo Guang Shan Monastery – is an international Chinese Buddhist monastic order based in Taiwan that practices humanistic Buddhism. Founded in 1967 by Master Hsing Yun, it is the largest Buddhist monastery in Taiwan.

Buddha Museum – The sensational-looking museum was added to Fo Guang Shan Monastery in 2011. With eight pagodas, each representing different ideas or precepts, leading the path towards the 40m high golden Buddha. It also houses one of the tooth relics of Sakyamuni Buddha.

Martyr's Shrine – The site was originally established during the Japanese rule of Taiwan in 1910. Throughout history the shrine has been renovated, renamed, demolished and rebuilt. It is located on the mountainside of Shoushan so you can enjoy great views over the city and harbour of Kaohsiung.

Day 8: Kaohsiung - Kenting

Transfer around two hours to the beach resort of Kenting and visit Kenting National Park. The most popular travel destination in Taiwan has abundant fauna and flora as well as breath-taking ocean views to discover. Proceed to visit Maopitou, where you can see some interesting rock formations. You will spend around two hours here before checking in to the hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure for you to enjoy this beach resort.



Destination Information

Kenting National Park – commonly known as Kenting, is Taiwan's oldest and southernmost national park on the main island. The park is rich with scenic mountain and beach views, coral coast and sandstone caves. It is also one of the filming locations of Ang Lee's *Life of Pi*.

Day 9: Kenting

In the morning, drive 15 minutes and visit Sheding Nature Park, a part of Kenting National Park. You will be on your feet for 30-60 minutes and be prepared to walk up some stairs and steep hills. Continue another 15 minutes to visit Oluanpi Light House. Return to your hotel for lunch and spend the rest of the day at leisure, enjoying the beach resort.



Destination Information

Sheding Nature Park – features rock formations formed from ancient coral reefs, limestone caves and hosts 329 species of plants and animals. The place used to be the settlement area of the Paiwan People, the 2nd largest indigenous group.

Oluanpi Lighthouse – is located on the southernmost point of Taiwan, also known as "The Light of East Asia" because its light is the most intense of those on Taiwan. First construction finished during the Qing Dynasty in 1883 with the help of an English architect.

Day 10: Kenting - Chihpen

Enjoy a leisurely morning. After lunch at a local restaurant, drive approximately 2.5 hours along the East Coast to Taitung, with the magnificent Pacific Ocean view right in front of you. Continue to Chihpen, the hometown of hot springs. After checking in to your hotel, the rest of the day is free for you to enjoy a rejuvenating hot spring bath in the hotel. Don't forget to bring your bathing suits if you wish to try outdoor public hot spring. Tonight's dinner is at the hotel, where there will also be an aboriginal music and dance performance.



Destination Information

Taitung – The coastal town, at the foot of the Central Mountain range, is the starting point of many popular destinations on the east coast of the island.

Chihpen – Chihpen lies in a canyon in the foothills of the Dawu Mountains and is a popular hot spring area. Public baths have been set up since the Japanese rule era. The area is rich in Aboriginal tribal culture, being home to the Puyuma people for centuries.

Day 11: Chihpen - Taroko

Head north to Taroko, a journey of approximately 5 hours. There are several stops en route to visit Siaoyeliou, Dulan, and Donghe (a chance to see wild Formosan rock monkeys at a close distance). Continue to Sanhsientai and the scenic Cisingtan Lake where you may enjoy lakeside cycling (payable locally). Check in to your hotel in Taroko and dinner will be served in house. This evening, there will be an optional aboriginal dance show to conclude the night.



Destination Information

Siaoyeliou – is a scenic area with a unique geological landscape, sandstone covered by coral reef.

Dulan – is a small coastal town in Taitung County. It has one of the largest Amis people settlements along the east coast and boasts beautiful coastal scenery, as well as a thriving local art scene.

Donghe – is a rural seaside town located in north-eastern Taitung County. The population is mainly the indigenous Amis people. It has become very popular among artists and surfers for an escape from the city.

Sanhsientai – is well known for its long footbridge, completed in 1987, in the shape of a sea dragon that connects the shore to the largest island in the area. The name Sansiantai means "three immortals' platform", referring to three huge rocks found nearby. The beach here stretches for 10km with rocky coastal views.

Cisingtan Lake – or Seven Star Lake, was once the name of a series of ponds situated where Hualien Airport now stands. When the lakes were filled in as part of a modernization drive in 1936 the local people retreated to the coastal area. There are four ponds left nowadays and it is a great place for cycling and hiking.

Day 12: Taroko

Visit the incredible Taroko National Park, one of the 7 wonders in Asia, home to the only marble gorge in the world. Visit Gorge Gateway, the most photographed Eternal Spring Shrine and Swallow Grotto. From the bus there is around 30 minutes of walking. After lunch, enjoy some light hiking in the national park for about 30 minutes to an hour, depending on your energy and interest.



Destination Information

Taroko National Park – Taroko National Park features high mountains, many of its peaks towering above 3,000m, sheer gorges, waterfalls and lush vegetation. The park was named after the Taroko Gorge, the landmark gorge of the park carved by the Liwu River. Almost all the bio-geographical zones in Taiwan are represented here, providing a sanctuary for half of the island's plant and animal species.

Gorge Gateway – Gorge Gateway was built in 1960, when the Central Cross-Island Highway was opened.

Taroko Gorge – Formed by the Liwu River, Taroko Gorge is an 18km marble-walled canyon.

Eternal Spring Shrine – The Eternal Spring Shrine stands majestically on the cliffside, overlooking the Liwu River, about 300m away from the main road. It is dedicated to the workers who lost their lives building the highway. A constant flow of the natural spring water pours out onto the rocks and river below.

Swallow Grotto – The formation of Swallow Grotto was created by the erosion of Liwu River and the constant tectonic collision. Holes on the surface, formed by the swirl of the river during the erosion process, now serve as natural shelters for swallow nests.

Day 13: Taroko - Taipei

Start your journey back to Taipei early this morning. Drive around 30 minutes to the scenic Qingshui Cliff to enjoy the scenery. Continue a further 2.5 hours to visit Kavalan Whisky Distillery to learn about the whisky-making process and get a small taster. Finally, take the express train for one hour and 20 minutes to Taipei. In the evening, join your fellow travellers in a farewell dinner.



Please note: your luggage will be transferred back to Taipei separately by coach.

Destination Information

Qingshui Cliff – the coastal cliff stretches more than 21km with an average height of 800m above sea level. The tallest peak, Qingshui Mountain, rises 2408 meters directly from the Pacific Ocean. It is a magnificently scenic area and was designated as one of the Eight Views of Taiwan in 1953.

Kavalan Whisky Distillery – is named after the indigenous Kavalan people. The distillery was completed in December 2005 and begun bottling in December 2008. In January 2010, one of the distillery's products caused a stir by beating three Scotch whiskies and one English whisky in a blind tasting organised in Scotland. The distillery and its products have won several awards.

Day 14 - 15: Depart Taipei

This morning is free at leisure before you transfer to the airport for your overnight 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 Taipei, please contact our Reservations Department who can confirm the additional price and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.



Treasures of Taiwan Travel Information

Visas

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

At the time of booking Visa conditions may have changed, currently no visa is required for New Zealand Passport holders. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. 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 strongly encourage all customers to be adequately covered by insurance for the duration of their travel arrangements. We advise 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 originals.

Eating in Taiwan

Taiwanese cuisine is delicious, colourful and healthy. 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. 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 Taiwan. Food is an important element of Taiwanese 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 so best get practicing as cutlery is not always available at restaurants.

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

Those with dietary requirements will be well catered for - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip. Please be aware however that restaurants may not always be able to accommodate these. Gluten-free food may not be as readily available as in New Zealand.

All the restaurants we visit will be researched and inspected regularly to ensure that they follow the strictest health, cleanliness, and safety guidelines. All waiting staff will wear face masks and gloves and self-service buffets will be avoided in favour of à la carte dining, waiter-served meals, or waiter-assisted buffets. Hand sanitiser will be provided to the group before and after every food and beverage service.

Please read your travel guide, which you will receive with your final documents for more information about eating in Taiwan. We recommend that when it comes to Taiwanese food, you stay open minded and try to be adventurous!

Accommodation

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 all have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand and Taiwan. We cannot guarantee the availability of double beds.

All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air-conditioning, TV and a telephone. Hotels in Taiwan often do not have porters and you will be required to carry your own luggage. If you experience any difficulty, please speak with 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.

Porterage

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

Transport

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 Taiwan are fairly modern, especially in the more populated areas.

Express trains: Second class reserved seats are booked for our groups on trains; there will be toilet facilities on board. Due to the limited space on trains, a separate luggage transfer service will be arranged for all suitcases.

Development in Taiwan

Taiwan is an advanced economy and as such matches the west in modernity and technological advances in many aspects. Taiwan is safe to visit and the locals are very friendly and willing to help visitors.

Public Holidays in Taiwan

If you are travelling with the below Taiwan Public Holidays please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some business will be closed and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open but may be crowded. In 2020, Lunar New Year is 29th January – 6th February 2022, Children's Day is on 5th April 2022, National Day on 10th October, and the Mid-Autumn Festival starts is the first week of October.

Souvenirs

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrates 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.

Group Size

The group size on our Classic Tours is on average 21 passengers, with a maximum group size of 28. You may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling. On our group tours we operate a seat-and-a-half policy, allowing you to travel in greater comfort.

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.

Tipping Policy

Local tipping is customary in Asia. However, this can often lead to awkwardness in knowing when it is appropriate to tip and how much, as well as ensuring you have a suitable amount of change available at the time. For your convenience, with years of experiences in providing the best customer service, Wendy Wu Tours operates a kitty system on our Group Tours so your National Escort will look after this aspect of your trip for you. It also ensures that the amounts paid are reasonable for you but still fair for the local people. The amount is stated on each Group Tour page will be advised again on your final documentation. Tipping is in USD and will be collected by your National Escort on arrival and distributed throughout the tour on your behalf. Any additional tipping on any of our tours is welcomed at your discretion. Further guidance for tipping contributions will be outlined in your final documentation.

Luggage

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.

Exchanging Cash

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to cities outside of Taipei. US Dollars and New Zealand Dollars can be exchanged at Incheon Airport and in some hotels, provided the New Zealand currency is new and undamaged. 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.

Personal Expenses & Optional Tours

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. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of NZ\$250 per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during your 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.

Climbing Steps

Sightseeing at nearly all the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps. These palaces were built to provide defense 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 & Your Health

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

Wendy Wu Tours is committed to always providing a safe and healthy environment for all passengers. We work closely with our airline partners to take effective measures to protect you from contracting and spreading COVID-19, in accordance with legal requirements and government guidelines. Please follow the link [here](#) for more details on our COVID vaccination policy.

COVID Safe

Your safety and well-being will always be our Number 1 priority which is why we've instituted the most stringent COVID health and safety protocols on all of tours. As we continue to monitor current restrictions and operational impacts, these protocols will evolve, and we will provide detailed guidelines for your particular tour prior to departure. For further details please go to the following link [here](#)

Before You Leave

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

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

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