

# PREPARING FOR YOUR ADVENTURE TO ASIA

It's not long now until you'll be on your way to sensational Asia! The information provided below is to help you prepare for travel to this incredible part of the world and to ensure you have the best possible holiday.

## **SOME INFORMATION ON OUR GUIDES**

Each country we visit in Asia has their own unique culture and intriguing history, making each one an incredibly interesting and fascinating destination in its own right. With this in mind, we generally prefer to use locally based national guides, and sometimes specialist local guides for particular regions or attractions. While all our guides are well-trained and fully qualified, it's their love and passion for their country that makes the history and special culture come alive, in turn, making your touring experience unforgettable for all the right reasons!

## **DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS**

Your guide is not there simply to move you around from place to place... in fact, they are a wealth of knowledge about the area you are visiting! Many have grown up in the region and have studied hard to become a tour guide and are beyond proud to share their local area with you.

## **FITNESS**

Let's talk fitness... a Bunnik Tour is for independently minded travellers with good levels of mobility. We want to ensure that all our guests enjoy their trip, not struggle through it. Our Asia tours are designed to soak in as much of the local atmosphere as possible, which will usually involve a walking tour of several hours, often over uneven streets, up and down stairs, inclines, narrow walkways and rugged terrain. Your ability to walk unaided for this length of time, and also to be able to carry your own luggage is imperative. Our firm fitness guidelines are for your safety, as well as the safety of your fellow travellers. Further details can be found on our website [www.bunniktours.com.au](http://www.bunniktours.com.au) under the 'Info' banner.

## **CULTURAL DIFFERENCES & EXPECTATIONS**

Every country we visit will have its own unique cultural differences that make travel such a wonderful, mind broadening experience. In Asia, the cultural differences can be dramatic (even between countries) and we find they can cause quite a bit of culture shock, so it helps to be prepared for the unexpected! Here, it also pays to be more careful with water cleanliness and food hygiene.

## **ROOM SIZES**

Many of the hotel room sizes in Asia, particularly in Japan and South Korea where space is precious, are much smaller than you may be used to. Western bedding is available when staying in the ryokans in Japan, but need to be requested prior to your departure.

## **BORDER CROSSINGS**

Depending what countries in Asia we are travelling between, sometimes it will be necessary to complete border formalities. When flying between countries while on tour, border formalities are taken care of upon flight check in, however, sometimes we cross international borders by land, when we're on the coach. This process usually involves passing through check points and completing border procedures for both countries. In some circumstances, this process can take some time, depending on the amount of people crossing the border at any one time. Please note at land border crossings that taking any photographs or videos is considered illegal and if caught doing so, you can find yourself in very hot water with the local border officials.

## **INTERNAL FLIGHTS IN ASIA**

When flying throughout Asia, depending on the country and the schedule, Bunnik Tours uses a local airline. With any airline, schedules and timings are always subject to change, however some of the Asian airlines are notorious for making last minute changes (and some, like in Japan, are notorious for being on schedule, down to the minute!). We book and secure flights to ensure the best possibility of reaching our next destination in plenty of time and with minimal impact to our itinerary, just in case there is a change to the expected flight time. Please understand that any unforeseen airline changes or cancellations are out of our hands.

## **LUGGAGE REQUIREMENTS**

A smaller overnight bag is required on multiple tours throughout Asia. For example, on overnight train journeys where it is not possible to bring your big suitcase, or for a one night stay in a location where it is too difficult to bring your suitcase. If this applies to you, further information will be available in your tour documentation.

## **DOLLARS & SENSE**

Here at Bunnik Tours, we like to be prepared, so we recommend departing with at least a small amount of cash in the local currencies of the destinations you are visiting. Alternatively, you can exchange some money at the arrival airport, however, the exchange rates may not be as competitive. If you need to exchange more money later in the trip, your national guide will be able to advise you on the best places to change money.

We also recommend getting small denominations in case you have to pay to use a public toilet, or to buy yourself a drink or a snack from a local vendor.

## **WATER & SOFT DRINKS IN ASIA**

Unfortunately, unless you want a sore tummy, tap water is not safe to drink in Asia. Bottled water and other beverages are sold almost everywhere. Generally speaking, a bottle of water is provided per person in your hotel room.

## **DIETARY REQUIREMENTS**

We suggest informing your Travel Specialist of any dietary restrictions you may have prior to departure. It is also helpful to translate your dietary requirements into the local language of your destination (Google Translate is a handy tool for this). Keeping a printed or photographed copy of the translation can aid in communicating your needs to waiting staff. It's important to keep in mind that local restaurants may have difficulty catering to specific dietary needs, especially gluten-free, celiac or vegan preferences. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that all meals served will be free from allergens.

## **TEA & COFFEE MAKING FACILITIES**

Many hotels in Asia do not provide tea and coffee making facilities in your room. If you would like to enjoy a tea or coffee in your room, we suggest packing a travel kettle or portable heat immersion element along with your favourite teabags and coffee.

## **SOUVENIRS**

We all like to bring back lovely memories of the places we visit, and Asia is no exception. There will be plenty of opportunities for you to purchase some souvenirs. Bartering is part of the Asian lifestyle when purchasing souvenirs from the market or vendor, but in shops it is not custom to barter. Souvenirs can be expensive in Asia, especially the real ones! So, if you've seen something you like, feel free to barter for the best price, but not bartering too hard is a great way to help the local community.

## **OPTIONAL TOURS**

The optional tours listed are a collection of what can be enjoyed during your free time in various places but this is time permitting and they cannot be guaranteed. Should something especially interest you, we recommend booking an additional night or two either before or after your tour, to guarantee you have the time available. All prices listed are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

## **WI-FI**

In most hotels there will be Wi-Fi available free of charge.

## **WHISPERS**

Depending on the destination or attraction we are visiting, your national guide may use the Whisper technology system. Each person is provided with a small device and earphones, allowing the national guide to speak into a small microphone that you can adjust to your preferred volume. This ensures that everyone can hear the information, regardless of where you are standing in relation to the guide, and also prevents disturbing other visitors.

## **ISSUES ON TOUR**

Should you encounter any issues whilst on tour, we encourage you to discuss it with your national guide or contact Bunnik Tours as soon as possible. Any problems are best discussed and rectified at the time they occur to ensure you and everyone else can enjoy their time on tour.

## **CAMERA & VIDEO FEES**

We have found that sometimes fees can apply for taking photos or videos (using cameras and mobile phones) at certain tourist sites. The fees are dependent on the location and can be paid in the local currency. Your guide can assist you with this.

## **TOUR FACTS & TIPS**

For each country we visit, we've put together some handy facts and tips on things like local etiquette, what to wear, currency and dining. Head to our [Tour Facts & Tips page](#) to find out more.

## **KEEP AN OPEN MIND!**

To get the best out of your holiday, keep an open mind. The best memories come your way when you take everything in your stride and enjoy the unique experience of travelling through some of the most interesting places in the world.

**We wish you a truly wonderful journey in this fascinating part of the world!**



**Bunnik Tours**  
45 Flinders Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

**Contact Us**  
1800 286 645  
[sales@bunniktours.com.au](mailto:sales@bunniktours.com.au)