Zhangjiajie, The Avatar Inspiration



The Kiwi agents on the recent Wendy Wu Tours China mega famil got to experience first-hand the epic scenery of Zhangjiajie, famous for being the inspiration of the first Avatar movie.

The Zhangjiajie National Forest Park is a World Natural Heritage site and Global Geopark, with more than 3000 sandstone peaks, which can be reached by the world's highest and fastest outdoor glass elevator (travelling 326m up and down in 90 seconds). Or for those clients wanting a more sedate ascent or descent, there are cable cars that traverse the dramatic scenery.

... Tianmen & More

Other highlights in the region include a boat trip on Baofeng lake, and a visit to Tianmen Mountain. The Mountain, Wendy Wu's Paul Dymond's trip highlight, has an elevation of just over 1500m. The summit is accessed via the world's longest cable car (pictured) travelling from the town centre all the way to the stop.

Once at the summit there's the chance to walk on a glass walkway that hangs to the edge of a cliff face 1400m high.

The way back down is via a network of escalators through the mountain and also includes a walk through a 131m-high natural arch within the mountain called Heaven's Gate.

Then it's on to 999 steps from Heaven's Gate before boarding

a large cable car back down. For those clients who are feeling adventurous there is also a 400m glass bridge, (pictured), at Zhangjiajie's Grand Canyon.



"Not only does the canyon have the glass bridge, but you can also do the world's highest bungy with a 260m drop and take a zipline back across the gap, and four of the famil participants were brave enough to jump," says Dymond.



The last adventure for the agents was to explore part of of the Yellow Dragon Karst Cave system (as pictured above) by foot and boat.

It's Show Time On Tour



The famil group took in three evening shows in Zhangjiajie. These included a bonfire party at the 72-floor Tujia-Stilted Building, and a crazy party with a laser light show, dancing and a carnival atmosphere. Charming Xiangxi, was a variety show with acrobats, dancers and drummers. Marise, Suzie and Paul (pictured above) have some last night fun.



The Tianmen Fox Lady show, (*pictured above*), uses the mountain as the backdrop to this epic outdoor production, adds Dymond.

Hunan And Visas



Wendy Wu Tours founder, Wendy Wu has agreed to help double the number of western travellers to the Hunan province over the next 18 months. At the same time a Chinese Tourism official said the nation would work on making better connectivity to the province and streamlining the tourist visa process.

Mega Famil 2025



The Wendy Wu Tours mega famil will be back in 2025, taking top sellers from New Zealand, Australia and the UK. Those who attended this year, who show year-on-year China sales growth, will get the first invites, announced founder Wendy Wu.

The recent mega famil showcased the wide range of experiences on offer in the Hunan Provence, and Wendy Wu's product range, while offering the agents a chance to upskill on the destination.

"Hunan Provence offers New Zealanders a destination of world class scenic spots that are unique and undiscovered by most of the



world," says Paul Dymond, (pictured above in Hunan). "Within hours of reaching your destination, you have a feeling of being privileged to be somewhere very special."

. . . New Tours

To help Kiwis explore the area, Wendy Wu Tours has released two new Classic group tours that include Hunan's picturesque Zhangjiajie region. Gems of China is a 17-day Beijing to Shanghai tour, with three days in Zhangjiajie, along with the Great Wall, Terracotta Army, Pandas, and a Yangtze cruise, see HERE. For the 16-day National Treasures of China Tour see HERE.