

# WONDERS OF CHINA

Shanghai, Yangtze River, Chengdu, Xi'an & Beijing

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*This amazing 16 day, 14 night tour journeys across one of the world's largest and most fascinating countries. Cruise down the Yangtze River, experience Shanghai and Beijing, visit the pandas in Chengdu and absorb the wonders of the Great Wall of China and the Terracotta Army.*

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to China. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements & insurance.

#### Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

#### DAY 1: UK to Shanghai

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Shanghai International Airport.

#### DAY 2: Shanghai D

On arrival in Shanghai you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel before going out for dinner. Time permitting, after dinner you will experience your first taste of the city with a visit to the magnificent Bund, then a walk along Nanjing Road, the main shopping area in Shanghai.

#### DAY 3: Shanghai B/L/D

Following breakfast, you will embark on a full day tour of the city, taking in the

delights of the famous classical Yuyuan Garden, the French Concession and Tianzifang, the arts and crafts enclave in the French neighbourhood.

After lunch you can saunter around Xintiandi – 'The City's Living Room', a multifunctional entertainment district with unique 1920's style stone gate buildings known as "shikumen".

#### DAY 4: Shanghai to Yangtze River B/L/D

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Wuhan (please take an overnight bag), where you will continue to Yichang to board your ship for the four night Yangtze River Cruise which will tour the Three Gorges Dam and breath-taking scenery along the way as you cruise upstream.

#### DAY 5: Yangtze River B/L/D

The cruise will set sail to reach your first shore excursion to the Three Gorges Dam itself and the Five Stage Ship Lock – a giant ship elevator capable of lifting a 14,000 ton passenger liner! In the afternoon you'll sail past the Xiling Gorge the largest and most famous of

the Three Gorges.

#### DAY 6: Yangtze River B/L/D

Following breakfast you will take a tour of the Shennong Stream, a zigzagging watercourse where local inhabitants line the shore. You will then sail to Wu Gorge, the prettiest of the Three Gorges followed by Qu Tang Gorge, the shortest. In the afternoon there is the option to take a tour of the White Emperor City, an ancient temple perched at the top of an island in the middle of the river.

#### DAY 7: Yangtze River B/L/D

On the final day of the cruise the ship will sail to the Fengdu Ghost City, thought to have been the place where souls must go to pass three tests to enter the afterlife.

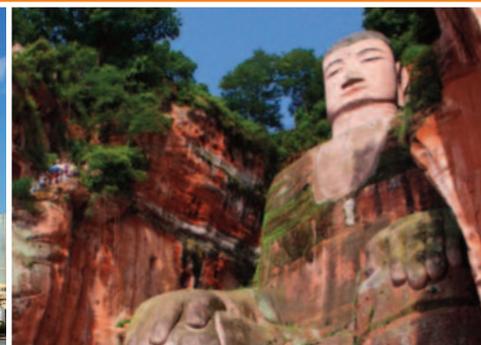
#### DAY 8: Yangtze River to Chengdu B/L/D

Disembarking the ship at Chongqing you will travel to the capital of the Sichuan Province, Chengdu. Your guide will show you around the People's Park, where locals relax, mingle and exercise,

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then enjoy a stroll through the ancient streets of the Wide and Narrow Alleys which have been renovated to their former architectural glory.

## **DAY 9: Chengdu B/L/D**

Today takes you to Leshan, famous for its magnificent riverside cliff carving of a giant Buddha which is the largest stone-carved Buddhist statue in the world, viewed from a boat on the river. Continue in the afternoon to the old town of Huanglongxi, a 1700 year old settlement restored to retain its old-world charm. In the evening enjoy a delicious Sichuan hot pot meal.

## **DAY 10: Chengdu to Xi'an B/L/D**

Perhaps a highlight of the tour, today takes you to experience a once in a lifetime trip to the Chengdu Panda Breeding and Research Centre, home to one of China's largest habitat of pandas. Strolling around a variety of enclosures, you can even pay an extra fee to be photographed next to one of these beautiful animals. This afternoon transfer to the airport for your flight to Xi'an,

## **DAY 11: Xi'an B/L/D**

Known to many as the "Eighth Wonder of the World", a visit to the spectacular

Terracotta Warriors is an unforgettable experience. Taking nearly four decades to complete and over 700,000 workers, this incredible tomb was built to protect China's first emperor in his afterlife. Continue to the Muslim Quarter-a labyrinth of market stalls and shops, then in the evening travel back in time whilst you watch the colourful Tang Dynasty dancing show.

## **DAY 12: Xi'an to Beijing B/L/D**

A morning tour of Xi'an incorporates a visit to the historic City Wall, then the Wild Goose Pagoda, built in 652 to hold sacred Buddhist figurines. In the afternoon board the bullet train to Beijing where you will arrive in the early evening and spend the night at your hotel (please take an overnight bag).

## **DAY 13: Beijing B/L/D**

Begin your day with a visit to the unique Temple of Heaven, China's largest existing masterpiece of ancient sacrificial buildings. The afternoon is left at leisure to relax and explore the city in your own time.

## **DAY 14: Beijing B/L/D**

Following a stroll around the impressive Summer Palace, China's largest and best-preserved royal park, the tour will

continue to the iconic Great Wall. Winding across deserts, grasslands and mountains and stretching over 5,500 miles, it was constructed over 2,000 years ago to guard the Chinese Empire against the Mongol invaders from the North. We've included a cable car trip to a viewing point to avoid the arduous steps. In the evening enjoy a mesmerising Chinese acrobatics performance.

## **DAY 15: Beijing B/L/D**

Following breakfast on your last full day you will visit one of China's most important political landmarks, Tiananmen Square. It is the world's largest city centre square and gateway to the Forbidden City, which houses the wondrous Imperial Palace. Conclude your trip with a traditional Peking duck dinner, a delicious way to end your tour.

## **DAY 16: Beijing to the UK or Extension B**

Transfer to Beijing airport for your flight to the UK, or continue on to your chosen extension.

### Hotel Information

**Shanghai (2 nights): 4★ Ocean Hotel** - 1171 Dongdaming Rd, Hongkou, Shanghai, China, 200082, Telephone Number: +86 21 6545 8888

**Yangtze River (4 nights): 4★ Yangtze 2 Cruise Ship**

**Chengdu (3 nights): 5★ Tibet Hotel** - No.10, North Renmin Road, Chengdu 610081, Telephone Number: +86 28 8318 3388

**Xi'an (1 night): 4★ Grand Metropark Hotel** - 158 Dong Da Jie, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China, 710001, Telephone Number: +86 29 8769 1234

**Beijing (4 nights): 4★ The Landmark Hotel** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Ring Rd N Chaoyang, Beijing, China, 100004, Telephone Number: +86 10 6590 6688

All accommodation is at least 4★ and features an en suite bathroom, air-conditioning/heating, satellite TV, safety deposit box and tea and coffee making facilities. Mercury Holidays has visited and inspected all of the hotels to ensure that they meet the high standards of service which we require for our clients. If the hotels detailed are not available alternatives will be used of a similar standard. Final confirmation of your hotels will be sent in a document approximately two weeks before you travel.

### Meals

Breakfast is always western style & served in the hotel each morning. Lunch and dinner will be taken in local Chinese restaurants and served with either one beer or soft drink. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.

### On your arrival

On your arrival in Shanghai you will be met by a representative from our local agent, China Travel Service, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/China Travel Service rep. will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your national guide will be on hand 24 hours a day should you have any queries. However, if you need to contact China Travel Service during your stay the details are:

China Travel Service Head Office (Beijing)co.Ltd  
Floor 30, 38 Dong Sanhuan Beilu, Beijing, China,  
100026. Tel: 0086-10-84514382 or 0086-10-85908336

### Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for China Travel Service

City	Contact	Telephone number
Beijing	Ms Linda Liu Ms Katty Hu	Mobile: 0086-13911043036 Mobile: 0086-13426098858

City	Contact	Telephone number
Xi'an	Ms.Coco Wang	Office: 0086-29-87880026 Mobile: 008618202907756
Shanghai	Mr. Joseph Gong	Office: 0086-21-58761947 Mobile: 008613301723888
Chengdu	Ms.Qiu Hong	Office: 0086-28-86731711 Mobile: 008613908172036

### Visas

A visa is required for entry into China. We work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa for you on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250 590 and quote "Mercury Holidays". The cost of the visa is approximately £186.00, when calling the Travel Visa Company they will advise you of the most up to date fees. The visas take around 10 working days to issue and are valid for unlimited trips to China for 2 years from the date of issue. We therefore recommend that you apply for your visa 8 weeks before travel, however please be aware that your passport will be required for the application so make sure that you will not need it during this time.

### Insurance

You must obtain suitable travel insurance prior to departure. Mercury Holidays is partnered with Holiday Extras which offer insurance at the following prices:

Age in years	Up to 64	65-74	75-85
Up to 10 days cover	£37	£72	£104
Up to 17 days cover	£42	£79	£135

### Worldwide (excluding USA)

For all persons 86 years and over, please contact us for insurance prices. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays 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.

### Health and Vaccinations

We recommend that you consult your local GP for advice on vaccinations & travel health before your departure. It is not advisable to drink the tap water.

### Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves full days of sightseeing, often on foot, and includes climbing of

stairs and getting on and off coaches and boats. **This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.**

### Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 40. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date then you may be asked to change to a different date. A full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

### Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your national guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip. You will also be joined by a local guide in each of the cities which you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

### Tipping

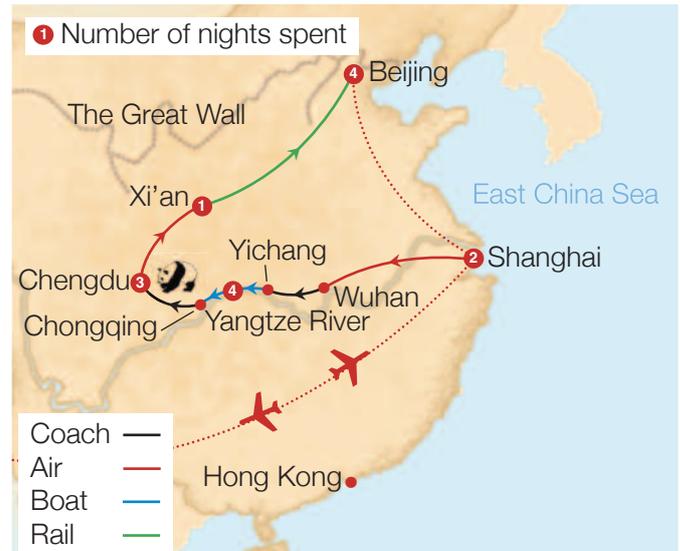
It is customary to tip your national guide, local guide and driver approximately £3.00 (CNY30.00) per person per day. During your Yangtze River cruise it is customary to tip the cruise staff approximately £15.00 per person for the total duration. For your convenience this will be collected by your National Guide on the first day of your tour in Shanghai, approximately £60.00 (CNY600.00) for the total duration per person. Tips are collected in Chinese Yuan.

### Currency Exchange

The currency in China is the Renminbi, known as RMB or CNY. It is often referred to as the yuan. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. US Dollars are widely accepted in China should you want an alternative.

### Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and extra drinks and snacks. Approximately £100 - £200 will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. There are some optional tours available to purchase locally and these generally need to be paid in cash. Therefore please allow an additional £100 if



you wish to book these. For an additional CNY3000 cash you are able to be photographed next to one of the pandas at the Chengdu breeding centre.

### Credit Card information

As normal practice you will be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

### What to Wear

We recommend that you wear warm clothing and thermals during winter and light clothing during the summer. You do not need to bring evening wear.

### Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

### What to Pack

- Sunscreen & hat in summer • Comfortable walking shoes • Camera & charger
- Overnight bag for days 4 & 12
- A travel plug adaptor - The voltage in China is 220 Volts. However, there are many different types of electrical sockets throughout the country, some taking plugs similar to the UK's, others for two or three thin prongs. Should you plan to use your own hairdryer, travel iron, video camera, battery charger, electric shaver etc, it is advisable to bring a multi-adaptor.
- Loo paper for public WCs • Binoculars

### Flight and Airport Information

Your flight is to Shanghai Pudong International Airport with China Eastern Airlines (MU), departing from London Heathrow Terminal 4.

Route	Depart	Arrive	Travel Duration	Identification Number
London Heathrow-Shanghai	21:00	15:45	10 hours 45 mins	MU552
Shanghai-Wuhan	11:10	12:50	1 hour 40 mins	MU2504
Chengdu-Xi'an	09:55	11:05	1 hour 10 mins	MU2342
Xi'an-Beijing	13:10	18:00	6 hours	Bullet Train G88
Beijing-Shanghai	07:40	09:50	2 hours 10 mins	MU5183
Shanghai-London Heathrow	12:35	17:40	13 hours 5 mins	MU551

**IMPORTANT: Please note that all flight times are subject to change. Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.**

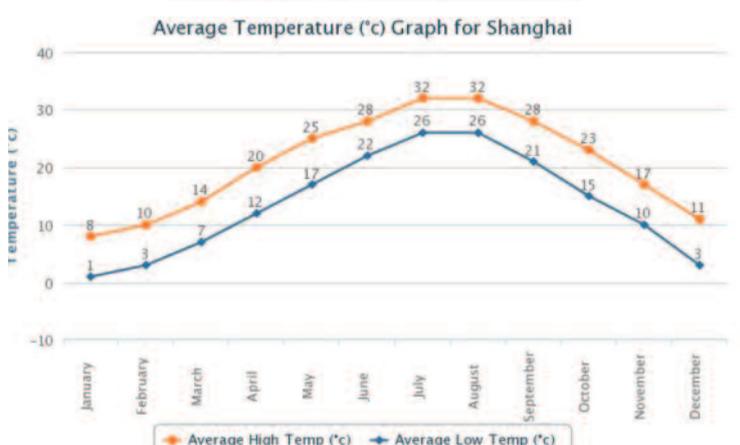
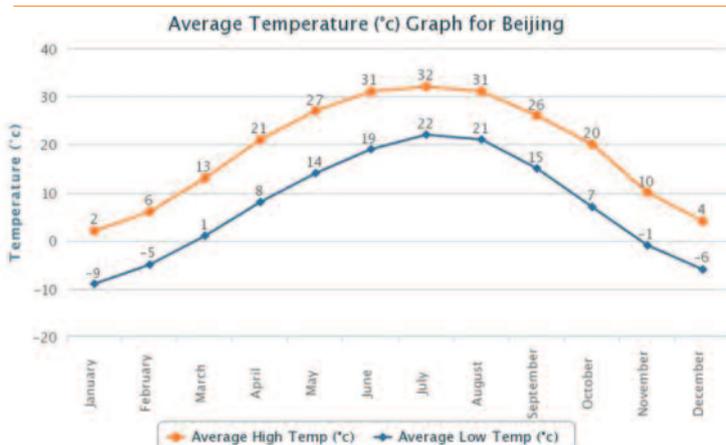
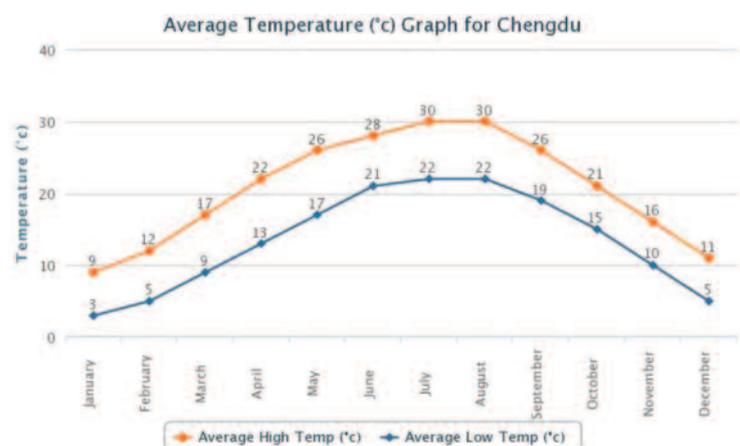
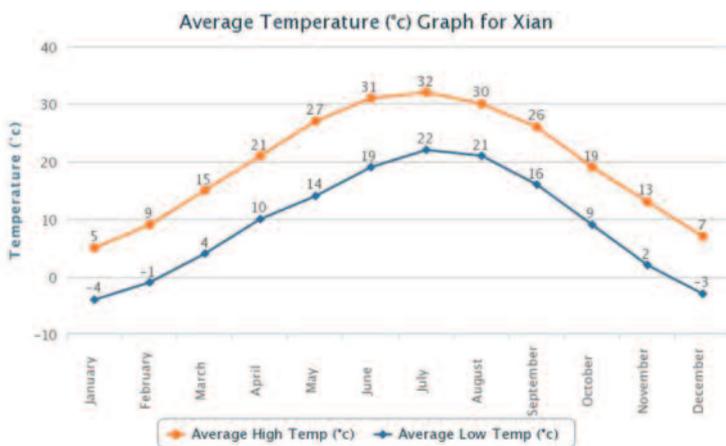
### Baggage Allowance

Baggage allowance (per person): Please note that the baggage allowance may vary. Please refer to the bottom right of your E-ticket receipt for the correct allowance. For example, if it shows "20k" this means your allowance is 20kg. If it shows "2PC" this means your allowance is two bags not exceeding 23Kg each. Important note: For handling purposes the maximum weight of any single piece of baggage is 23 Kg. If the allowance shown on your ticket exceeds this you will need to take an additional bag. You may also take hand luggage of 5kg not exceeding 56cm x 36cm x 23cm in size.

### Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras - Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

**Weather and Climate** Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



# WONDERS OF CHINA - HONG KONG



Add-on 2 nights, 3 days in Hong Kong and you'll have the chance to visit one of the Far East's most iconic cities. Part of the British Empire for over 100 years, it is a hot pot of East meets West culture.

This document aims to give you all the information that you require during your add-on to Hong Kong.

### Daily Itinerary

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

#### Day 16: Beijing to Hong Kong (B)

Depart Beijing in the morning and fly to Hong Kong via Shanghai. You will find your shared coach transfer at B04 at the arrival hall, operated by Airport Shuttle and will be transferred to the 4★ Harbour Plaza 8 Degrees Hotel.

#### Day 17: Hong Kong (B)

After breakfast you will embark on a half day tour of the city with an English speaking guide, where you can visit some of the city's most famous sights. The afternoon is then left to you to spend at your leisure and explore the gems that Hong Kong has to offer.

#### Day 18: Hong Kong to UK

You will be picked up at your hotel in the morning for your return flight to London Heathrow via Shanghai.

### Hotels

4★ Harbour Plaza 8 Degrees Hotel - 199 Kowloon City Rd, Hong Kong, Telephone: +852 2126 1988

This 4★ hotel features air-conditioning/heating, an en suite bathroom, satellite TV, safety deposit box and tea and coffee making facilities.

### Meals

Breakfast is western style and served in the hotel. No other meals are included for your add-on.

### Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 2, and the maximum will be 10.

### Currency

The currency in Hong Kong is the Hong Kong Dollar. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK, however ATMs are available throughout Hong Kong.

### Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for HK Target Travel

Mon-Fri: 09.00 - 17.30, Sat: 09.00 - 13.00

Closed Sunday and Hong Kong public holidays

Office: 00852 2312 1812

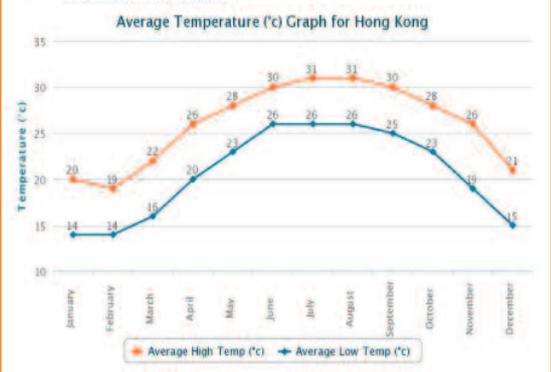
Emergency: 00852 9432 5300

### Tour Guides

This add-on to Hong Kong is **not escorted**. Whilst you will be accompanied by an English speaking guide on your half day city tour on day two, the rest of your time in Hong Kong will be at your leisure.

### Weather and Climate

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate chart below.



**Flight Information:** Please see below a map to show the location of the Airport Shuttle desk at B04 in Hong Kong International Airport.

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number
Shanghai-Hong Kong	12:00	14:35	2 hours 35 mins	MU503
Hong Kong-Shanghai	07:30	9:50	2 hours 20 mins	MU726
Shanghai-London Heathrow	12:35	17:40	13 hours 5 mins	MU551

**IMPORTANT:** Flight times/numbers are for guidance only & are subject to change. Baggage allowance (per person): Please note that the baggage allowance may vary. Please refer to the bottom right of your E-ticket receipt for the correct allowance. For example, if it shows "20k" this means your allowance is 20kg. If it shows "2PC" this means your allowance is two bags not exceeding 23Kg each. Important note: For handling purposes the maximum weight of any single piece of baggage is 23 Kg. If the allowance shown on your ticket exceeds this you will need to take an additional bag. You may also take hand luggage of 5kg not exceeding 56cm x 36cm x 23cm in size.

## Direction to "B01" Vigor Counter

"After immigration & customs clearance proceed to Arrival Hall, Counter "B01" for arrival transfer"

