

GRAND TOUR OF CHINA

Shanghai, Yangtze River, Chengdu, Guilin, Beijing & more



Explore China with this incredible 25 day, 23 night journey. From the cosmopolitan cities of Beijing and Shanghai, to the remote ancient town of Lijiang & the stunning Li River in Guilin, this tour visits the most iconic sights as well as discovering the hidden treasures of China. Encompassing the World Heritage sites of the Great Wall, Terracotta Army, Kunming Stone Forest and the city of Lijiang, experience the rich history of the great cities, as well as the breathtaking landscapes of southern rural provinces.

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 and to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of your tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Shanghai

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight.

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

A full day tour of the city incorporates the Yuyuan Garden, the French Concession and the arts area of Tianzifang. Wander around the district of Xintiandi and take in the beautiful scenery on a night cruise along the Huangpu River.

DAY 4: Shanghai to Hangzhou B/L/D

Spend time at the Shanghai Museum and Pudong area before visiting the ancient water village of Zhujiajiao, with its arched stone bridges and quiet alleyways. Continue onto Hangzhou.

DAY 5: Hangzhou B/L/D

Enjoy a relaxing boat trip on the scenic West Lake and marvel at the Six Harmonies Pagoda. Spend the afternoon in the atmospheric Qing Hefang ancient walking street – the only well-preserved part of the ancient city.

DAY 6: Hangzhou to Suzhou B/L/D

After breakfast depart for Suzhou, the Garden City of China. On arrival, visit the Master of the Nets Garden, one of the finest oriental gardens, as well as the local silk mill. Take a stroll around Guanqian Street, one of the “Four Most Famous Walking Streets”.

DAY 7: Suzhou to Yangtze River Cruise B/L/D

Transfer to Shanghai and fly to Wuhan, then take coach or bullet train to Yichang. Following dinner in Yichang, you will board your ship for the Yangtze River cruise (please take an overnight bag).

DAY 8: Yangtze River Cruise B/L/D

Cruise upstream to reach your first shore excursion to the Three Gorges Dam itself and the Five Stage Ship Lock. In the afternoon you'll sail past the Xiling Gorge the largest and most famous of the Three Gorges.

DAY 9: Yangtze River Cruise B/L/D

Take a morning tour of the Shennong Stream before continuing on to the two other Gorges; the prettiest Wu Gorge, and the shortest, Qu Tang Gorge. An optional tour of the White Emperor City will be available in the afternoon.

DAY 10: Yangtze River Cruise B/L/D

The final day of the cruise will pass through the Fengdu Ghost City. With nearly 2000 years history, this is believed to have been the place where souls go to pass three tests before entering the afterlife.

DAY 11: Chongqing to Chengdu B/L/D

You will disembark your ship at Chongqing and travel, by bus or bullet train, to Chengdu. Stroll around the People's Park, the ancient streets of the Wide and Narrow Alleys, and Jinli Old Street.

DAY 12: Chengdu B/L/D

Spend the morning experiencing a once in a lifetime trip to the Chengdu Panda Breeding and Research Centre, home to one of China's largest habitat of pandas. Stroll around the enclosures, take photos and try to spot the lesser-known Red Pandas.

DAY 13: Chengdu & Lijiang B/L

Fly to Lijiang, a famous remote, ancient town with breath-taking scenery. Visit the Pool of the Black Dragon which, built in 1737, affords stunning views of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain.

DAY 14: Lijiang to Dali B/L/D

This morning takes you on a cable car ride to Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, the region's tallest mountain and the most southern glacier in the northern hemisphere. You will also visit Yufeng Temple and Baisha village before driving to Dali.

DAY 15: Dali to Kunming B/L/D

Visit a family of the Bai minority group before heading on to the Three Pagodas of Chong Sheng. Following some time walking around the Old Town, you will take a drive to Kunming.

DAY 16: Kunming to Guilin B/L/D

Today's excursion is to Stone Forest a UNESCO listed area with incredible limestone formations. You will be transferred to the airport in the afternoon in time for your evening flight to Guilin.

DAY 17: Guilin B/L/D

Arguably China's most picturesque region, Guilin is home to the stunning Karst Mountains and Li River. Visit the Reed Flute Caves with their rock formations and inscriptions, as well as Elephant Hill before walking around the beautiful lakes.

DAY 18: Guilin to Yangshuo B/L/D

Sail for around 5 hours along the Li River, through unforgettable scenery, to Yangshuo. Spend the afternoon exploring West Street with the option to see a theatrical performance of The Impression of Liu Sanjie – a show portraying life and culture of the local Yangshuo people using a stunning natural backdrop.

DAY 19: Yangshuo to Xi'an B/D

Take a leisurely 1.5 hour bicycle tour to a village in Yangshuo, stopping at an old farming house before returning to Guilin and then flying on to Xi'an.

DAY 20: Xi'an B/L/D

Considered by many to be the 'Eighth Wonder of the World', the magnificent Terracotta Warriors is a highlight of the tour. After admiring the awe-inspiring tomb, continue to the Old City Wall and Muslim Quarter before travelling back in time at a Tang Dynasty dancing show.

DAY 21: Xi'an to Beijing B/L/D

A full day tour of Xi'an includes a visit to the Wild Goose Pagoda, Jade factory and Shanxi History Museum. You will then take the overnight train* to Beijing.

DAY 22: Beijing B/L/D

This morning you will arrive in Beijing and be taken to one of China's most important political landmarks, Tiananmen Square. You will also visit the Forbidden City and Wang Fujing area before sampling a traditional Peking Duck dinner.

DAY 23: Beijing B/L/D

Another full day in Beijing allows you time to stroll around the magnificent Summer Palace, shop at Pearl Store as well as visit the Temple of Heaven and enjoy a traditional Tea House and ceremony.

DAY 24: Beijing B/L/D

Start the day with a cable car ride up the iconic Great Wall of China. Spend time at the Cloisonne factory before heading back to your hotel via a photo stop at the impressive Olympic Stadium. Following dinner, be mesmerised by a fantastic Chinese acrobatic performance.

DAY 25: Beijing to the UK or Hong Kong

Transfer to Beijing airport for your flight home to the UK, or continue on to your Hong Kong extension.

Hotels

Shanghai (2 nights): 4★ Ocean Hotel - 1171 Dongdaming Rd, Hongkou, Shanghai, China, 200082. Contact number: 0086 21 6545 8888

Suzhou (1 night): 4★ Garden Hotel - 477 Liuyuan Rd, Jin Chang Qu, Suzhou, Jiangsu, China, 215008, Contact number: 0086 512 8588 8588

Hangzhou (2 nights): 4★ Nade Hotel - No.308, North Road Around City, Wulin Square District, Hangzhou, China, 310006, Contact number: 0086 571 8588 0888

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

Chengdu (2 nights): 4★ Tianfu Sunshine Hotel - 2 Taisheng Beilu, Qingyang District, Chengdu, China, Contact number: 0086 28 86922233

Lijiang (1 night): 4★ Hexi Hotel - South Square, Dayan Ancient Town, Suburbs, Lijiang, China 674100, Contact number: 0086 888 687 7777

Dali (1 night): 4★ Landscape Hotel - No.96 Yuer Road, Dalizhen, Dali, China 671003, Contact number: 0086 872 266 6188

Kunming (1 night): 4★ Jinjiang Hotel - No.98 Beijing Road, Panlong District, Kunming 650011, China. Contact number: 0086 871 6313 8888

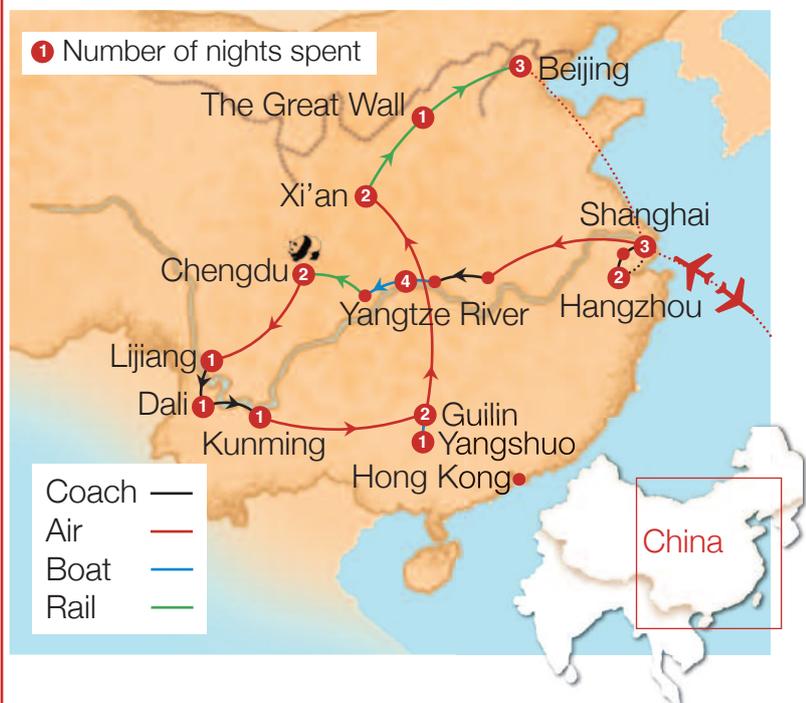
Guilin (2 nights): 4★ Plaza Hotel - 72 Zhong Shan South Street, Railway Station, Guilin, China 541002, Contact number: 0086 773 588 2688

Yangshuo (1 night): 4★ New Century Hotel - Pantao Rd, Yangshuo, Guilin, Guangxi, China, Contact number: 0086 773 882 9819

Xi'an (2 nights): 4★ Grand Metropark - 158 Dong Da Jie, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China, 710001, Contact number: 0086 29 8769 1234

Xi'an to Beijing (1 night): Overnight sleeper train

Beijing (3 nights): 4★ The Landmark Hotel - 3rd Ring Rd N Chaoyang, Beijing, China, 100004, Contact number: 0086 10 6590 6688



All accommodation is 4★ & features an en suite bathroom, air-conditioning/heating, satellite TV, tea making facilities & hairdryer. Most hotels offer a safety deposit box. Mercury Holidays has visited & 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 2 weeks before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and 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	Mobile: 0086-13911043036
	Ms Katty Hu	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

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	Duration	Number
London Heathrow-Shanghai	21:20	15:50	11 1/2 hours	MU552
Shanghai-Wuhan	11:35	13:25	1 hour 50 mins	MU2506
Chengdu-Lijiang	06:40	08:00	1 hour 20 mins	CA4451
Kunming-Guilin	18:10	19:30	1 hour 20 mins	CZ3248
Guilin-Xi'an	22:20	00:05	1 hour 45 mins	MU2308
Xi'an-Beijing	19:55	07:10	11 hours 15 mins	Overnight train Z20
Beijing-Shanghai	07:35	09:50	2 hours 15 mins	MU5183
Shanghai-London Heathrow	12:30	18:40	13 hours 10 mins	MU551

IMPORTANT: All flight times are subject to change. Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket & final documentation which is sent to you approx. 10 days before departure.

Baggage Allowance

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.

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 31 days cover	£53	£104	£157

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 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 and 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 average 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 35. 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 £90.00 (CNY900.00) 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 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. Approx. £100 - £200 per person 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 any of 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 & light clothing during the summer. You do not need to bring evening wear.

Itinerary Changes

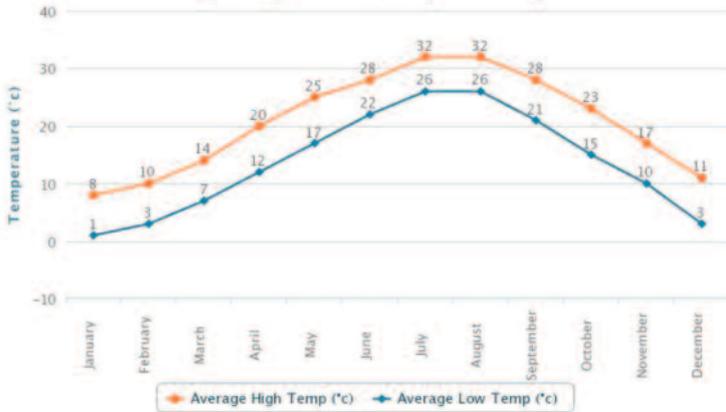
The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes 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

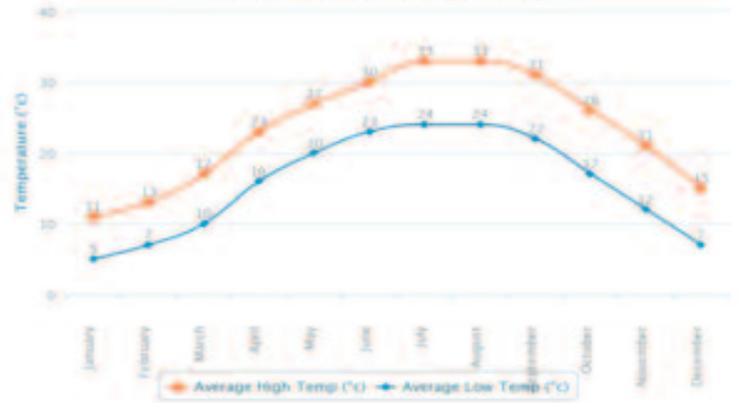
- Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- Overnight bag for day 7
- Loo paper for public WCs
- Binoculars
- A travel plug adaptor - The voltage in China is 220 Volts. However, there are many different types of electrical sockets throughout the country, some taking 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

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

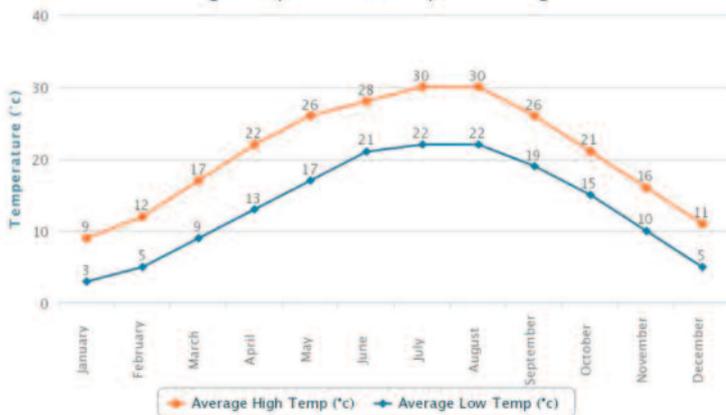
Average Temperature (°c) Graph for Shanghai



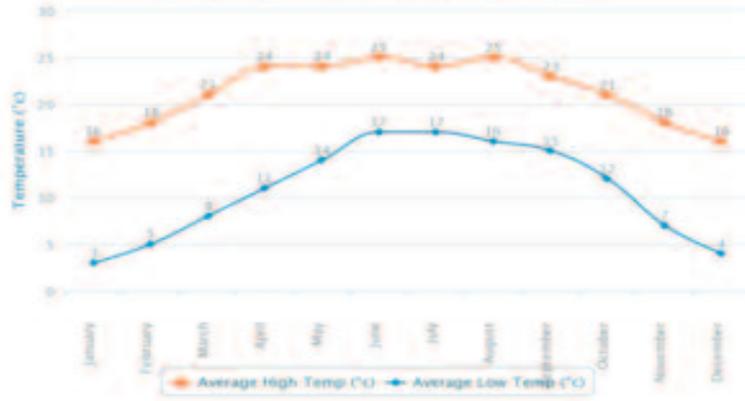
Average Temperature (°c) Graph for Guilin



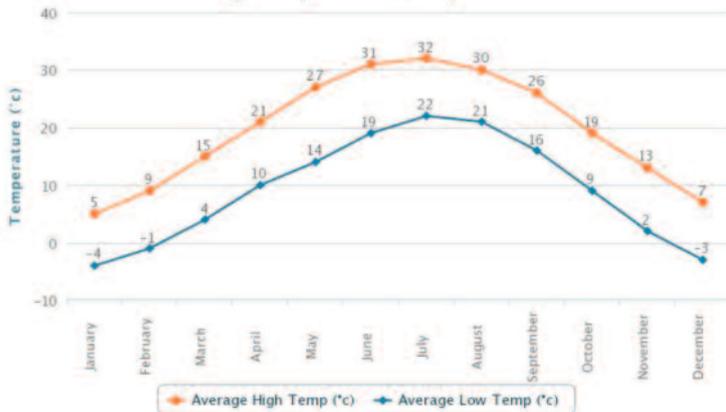
Average Temperature (°c) Graph for Chengdu



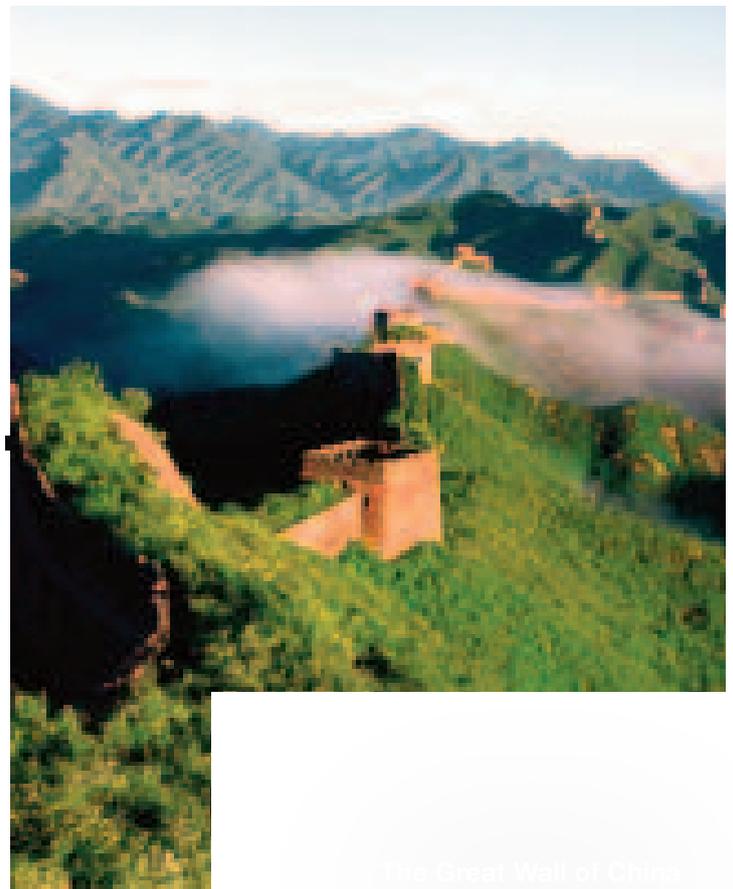
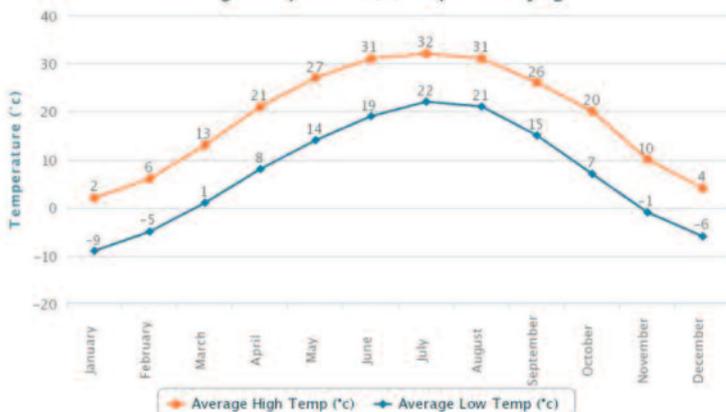
Average Temperature (°c) Graph for Kunming



Average Temperature (°c) Graph for Xian



Average Temperature (°c) Graph for Beijing



The Great Wall of China