MercuryHolidays

CHINA DISCOVERY TOUR

Shanghai, Wuzhen, Xi'an & Beijing

This 10 day, 8 night tour is the perfect way to explore the highlights of China. Incorporating the three major cities or Shanghai, Xi'an and Beijing, it gives you the chance to visit some of the most iconic sights including the Great Wall, the Terracotta Army, the Forbidden City and the beautiful metropolis that is Shanghai.

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to the Far East. 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 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 and taken out for dinner followed by an overnight stay.

DAY 3: Shanghai B/L/D
With a population surpassing 25 million, Shanghai is an incredible metropolis not to be missed with architecture like no other Chinese city.
Our full day tour commences after breakfast and includes visits to the scenic Yu Gardens, the traditional Old Town, Shanghai Museum and shopping in a silk factory with a break for lunch. After dinner in the city, take a night cruise along the Huangpu River, giving you the chance to enjoy beautiful views whilst meandering through the streams of water traffic.

DAY 4: Shanghai to Wuzhen B/L/D
Following breakfast you will travel by coach to the water village of Wuzhen where lush gardens, calming waterways and authentic buildings will transport you back in time to a traditional China from centuries ago. Your boat trip will journey through the stone bridges and winding canals before you retire to your hotel for dinner and your evening's stay.

DAY 5: Wuzhen to Shanghai B/L/D
After returning to Shanghai you will explore the former French Concession area as well as the nearby Tianzifang, a labyrinth of art studios and shops. Before enjoying an afternoon at your leisure your guide will take you to Xintiandi, a district known for arts, crafts and restaurants.

DAY 6: Shanghai to Xi'an B/L/D
After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Xi'an. On arrival in this ancient Sichuan city, lunch will be followed by a fascinating orientation tour showing you the highlights of Xi'an, including a visit to the ancient City Wall. Built in around 582 AD and stretching around a perimeter of 13.7km, it is China's most complete city fortification. In the evening enjoy an East meets West banquet dinner in a grand theatre followed by the colourful Tang Dynasty Show.

DAY 7: Xi'an to Beijing B/L/D
Test your bargaining skills in the morning in the market stalls that zigzag through the Muslim Quarter along with a visit to the Xi'an Great Mosque. In the afternoon visit the magnificent Terracotta Warriors and Horses. 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.
Transfer to the airport for your flight to Beijing.

DAY 8: Beijing B/L/D
Beijing is one of the world's truly ancient capitals and an extraordinary city. One of the tour highlights is a trip to the iconic Great Wall, built over 2,000 years ago to protect the Chinese Empire against marauding Mongol invaders from the North. We've included a cable car ride to the top to explore the wall's ancient attlements. After lunch take a stroll around the magnificent Summer Palace, followed by a traditional Peking Duck dinner in the evening.

DAY 9: Beijing B/L/D
Your final day includes a comprehensive city tour, first stopping at Tiananmen Square. This monumental landmark is not only the world's largest city centre square but also the gateway to the Forbidden City, which houses the wondrous Imperial Palace where dynasties ruled China for hundreds of years. After visiting the famous Temple of Heaven unwind and marvel at the talents of the accomplished performers in the Chinese Acrobatic Show.

DAY 10: Beijing to the UK or Extension (B)
Transfer to Beijing airport for your flight back to the UK via Shanghai, or continue on to your chosen extension.

Hotels
Shanghai (3 nights): 4★ **Ocean Hotel** - 1171 Dongdaming Rd, Hongkou, Shanghai, China, 200082. Contact number: 0086 21 6545 8888
Wuzhen (1 night): 4★ **Tong An Hotel** - No. 129 Xizha Street, Wuzhen West Scenic Zone, Wuzhen Town, Tongxiang City, Zhejiang Province, China Contact number: 0086 573 8873-1088
Xi'an (1 night): 4★ **Days Hotel and Suites** - 189 Jinhua North Rd Xi'an, China, 710032, Contact number: 0086 29 8323 9999
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★ and features an en suite bathroom, air-conditioning and 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 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
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 somake 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

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

Extras which offer insurance at the following prices:
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 departure. It is not advisabke 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. Your national guide will collect this for your convenience on the first day of your tour in Shanghai, approximately £27.00 (CNY270.00) per person for the total duration. 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 wish to keep an alternative currency on you.

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.

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 and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- 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

Leave space in your case for shopping!

Flight and Airport Information

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

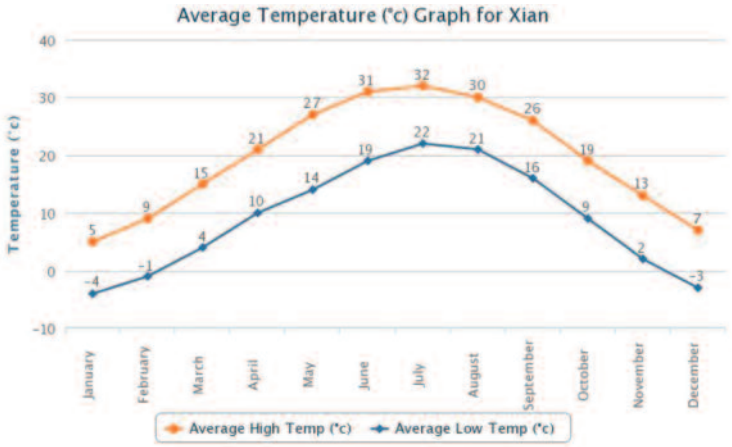
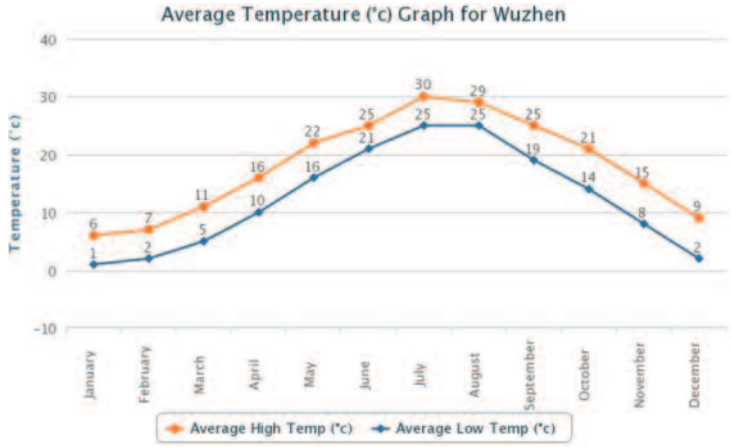
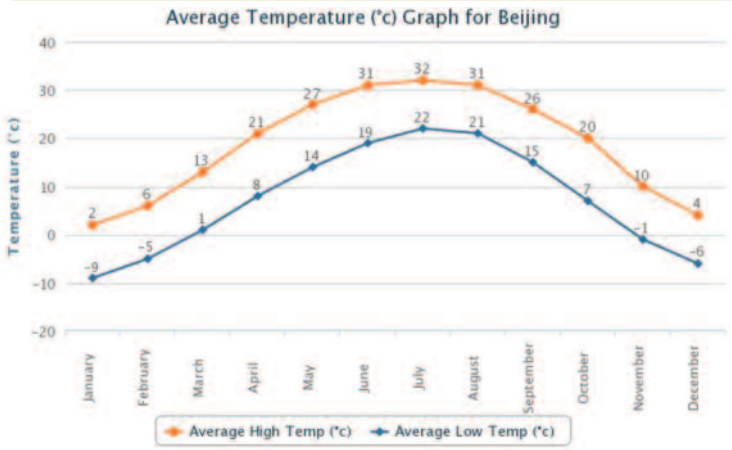
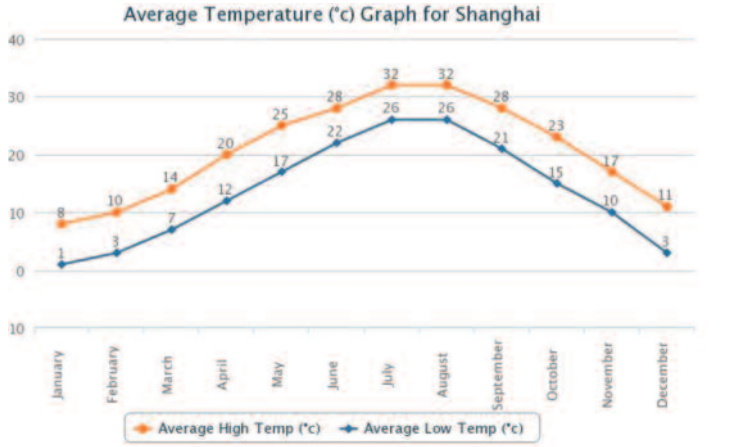
Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number
London Heathrow-Shanghai	21:00	15:45	10 hours 45 mins	MU552
Shanghai-Xi'an	12:05	14:20	2 hours 15 mins	MU2170
Xi'an-Beijing	18:10	20:10	2 hours	MU2117
Beijing-Shanghai	07:40	09:50	2 hours 10 mins	MU5183
Shanghai-London Heathrow	12:35	17:40	13 hours 5 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.