

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 of 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 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

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 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. 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.

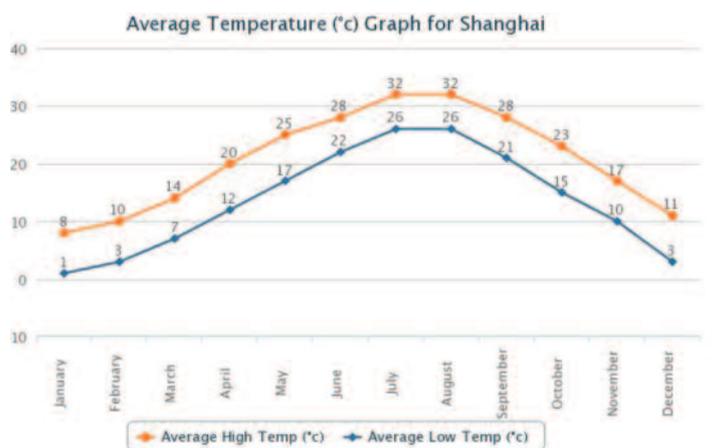
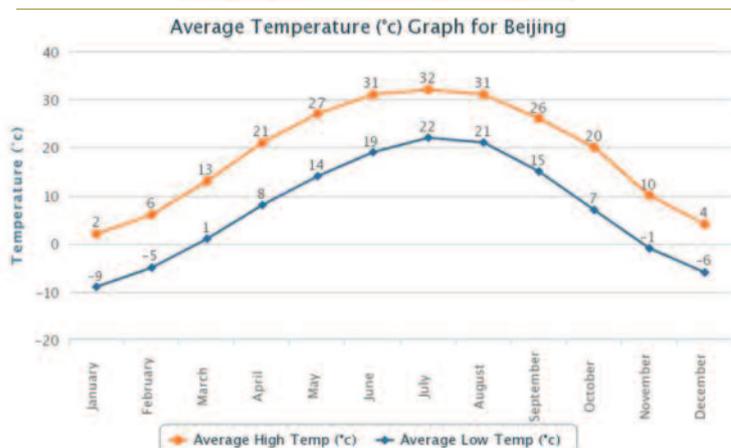
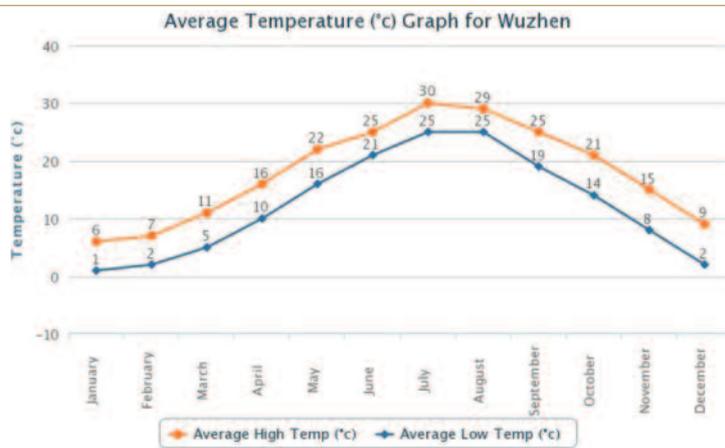
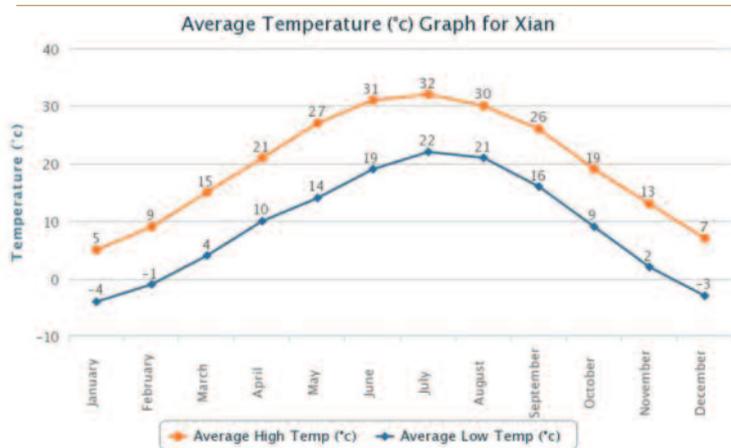
Baggage Allowance

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

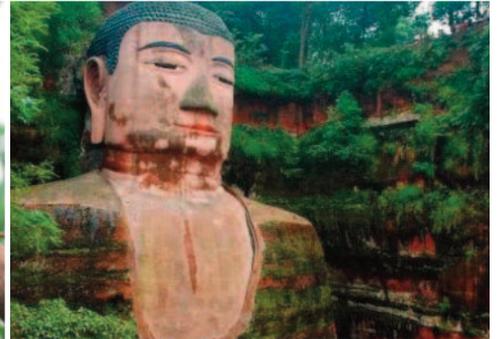
If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras - Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

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



CHINA DISCOVERY TOUR

Pandas of Chengdu



Extend your tour with a visit to Chengdu and you'll have the once in a lifetime opportunity to see China's national treasure – the Giant Panda! This 3 night, 4 day tour takes you to the Chengdu Panda Breeding Centre which is home to one of China's largest habitat of pandas, living in their natural environment.

This document aims to give you all the information that you require during your extension tour to Chengdu.

Daily Itinerary

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Day 10, Beijing/Chengdu (B)

Depart Beijing in the morning and fly to Chengdu via Shanghai. You will be met by your local guide on arrival and transferred to the 4★ Yinhe Dynasty Hotel, where you will stay for the duration of your tour.

Day 11, Chengdu (B/L/D)

Today is the highlight of this extension tour, the once in a lifetime chance to see one of the world's most endangered species – the Giant Pandas. You will visit the Chengdu Panda Breeding and Research Centre which is China's largest panda breeding centre, founded in 1987 to encourage the healthy growth and nurturing of these beautiful creatures. Stroll around the many panda enclosures, watch an educational film in their cinema, visit the museum and discover the lesser known red pandas with their racoon-like features. If you are a true panda fanatic then you may like to pay an additional fee to have your picture taken with a young panda – a truly unbelievable experience! The £130 fee will act as a donation to the centre. In the afternoon you can stroll through the stalls that line the Wide and Narrow Alleys, a smart area of the city where old-style pagoda buildings have been renovated and rebuilt to incorporate a network of three pedestrian alleys. Continue on to the People's Park, where hundreds of locals go to practice traditional forms of martial arts exercise. Dinner is a delicious traditional Sichuan Hot Pot meal, where guests are invited to create their own dipping sauce then cook a variety of meats at their table in their individually flavoured hot pot broths.

Day 12, Chengdu (B)

After breakfast you have the remainder of the day at your own leisure. Alternatively the following full day tour can be taken at a supplement of £99 per person: Travel through China's scenic countryside to Leshan, where you will visit the mesmerising Giant Buddha. It was built over 2,000 years ago during the Tang Dynasty and is an impressive 71 metres tall. See a different perspective of the Buddha by taking a boat ride along the adjacent river, allowing you to see the numerous carvings hidden from view when on the ground. During the afternoon you will stop by the 1,730 year old riverside Huanglong Xi Old Village, an ancient Chinese town with cobbled streets and an array of arts and crafts. In the evening you have the option to attend a Sichuan Opera Changing Faces Show, or relax at your own leisure. The show will also be at a supplement.

Day 13, Chengdu/UK

Depart Chengdu in the morning for your return flight back to London Heathrow via Shanghai.

Hotel Information

Chengdu (3 nights): 4★ Yinhe Dynasty Hotel - 88 Shuncheng St Qingyang, Chengdu, Contact number: 0086 28 8661 8888

This 4★ hotel features air-conditioning/heating, an en suite bathroom, satellite TV, safety deposit box and tea & coffee making facilities. Mercury Holidays has visited and inspected this hotel to ensure that it meets the high standards of service which we require for our clients. Depending on group size, you may be upgraded to the 5★ Tibet Hotel.

Meals

Breakfast is western style and served in the hotel. Lunch and dinner will be taken in local Chinese restaurants on day 2 and will be served with either one beer or soft drink. Day 3 is at leisure so neither lunch nor dinner will be included unless you decide to take the full day tour at a supplement.

Group size

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

Tour Guides

This extension tour to Chengdu is **semi-escorted**. Your guide will meet you on arrival at Chengdu airport and take to your hotel. Day 11 will be fully accompanied, whilst day 12 is at your leisure so you will not be met by your guide at all. You will be met by your guide on day 13 to take you to the airport for your return flight to London Heathrow.

Tipping

The same tipping practice is commonplace in Chengdu whereby 30 CNY (approximately £3) per person per day is required for your guide and driver.



Flight Information

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number
Shanghai-Chengdu	13:10	16:40	3 hours 30 mins	MU5407
Chengdu-Shanghai	07:30	09:50	2 hours 20 mins	MU5402
Shanghai-London Heathrow	12:35	17:40	13 hours 5 mins	MU551

IMPORTANT: Flight times/numbers are for guidance only & are subject to change. All flights are operated by China Eastern Airlines. 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.

Weather and Climate

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

