

WONDERS OF CHINA



TRIP OVERVIEW

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.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

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 1920s 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 Yichang where you will board your ship for the four-night Yangtze River Cruise which will tour the Three Gorges Dam, passing breath-taking scenery as you cruise upstream. **PLEASE NOTE: If you are departing on your tour during the months of May - August the change of water levels can affect the itinerary of your Yangtze River Cruise. Whilst our intention is to adhere to the day to day itinerary as printed, should there be any changes to your itinerary your guide will inform you in resort.**

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, 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, and is viewed from a boat on the river. Continue in the afternoon to the old town of Huanglongxi, a 1,700-year-old settlement restored to retain its old-world charm. In the evening, enjoy a delicious Sichuan 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 habitats of pandas. In the afternoon, board the bullet train to Xi'an. (please take an overnight bag). **Please note the bullet train has restricted Carry-ons; Aerosol spray cans containing hairspray, hair gel, styling mousse, insecticide and air freshener must be under 120 ml (4.2 fl oz)**

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 a 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. This afternoon, transfer to the airport for your flight to Beijing where you will arrive in the early evening and spend the night at your hotel.

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. 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 16/17: Beijing to the UK or Extension B

Transfer to Beijing Airport for your flight to the UK, via Shanghai, or continue on to your Hong Kong extension.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Enhance your tour experience with our excellent range of optional excursions, to be booked locally in resort with CNY (cash). Prices are per person; please speak to your local guide.

Day 3: A night cruise on Shanghai's Huangpu River **From: CNY 250 (£30)**

Day 6: Excursion to the temple of White Emperor City **From: CNY 280 (£33)**

Day 8 or 9: Sichuan opera night show in Chengdu **From: CNY 280 (£33)**

Day 13: Tour the ancient, traditional hutongs of Beijing **CNY 200 (£25)**

*Prices in pounds for illustration purposes based on exchange rate of £1=CNY8.6 and are correct at time of production; please check current rates at your exchange bureau.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation

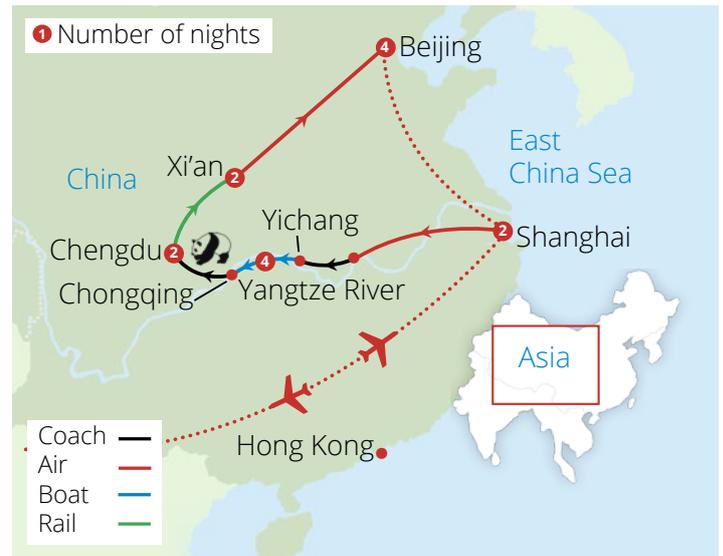
our accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to leisure hotels. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and China. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed.

Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs. If you have booked a triple share please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

Please note: final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Dinner (when included) will be taken in local restaurants or at the hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours. Unlike the western world, Chinese people do not normally pre-heat their plates and food can be presented at a variety of temperatures, which is a typical Chinese way of doing things.



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:

Head office address

China Travel Service

Tel: 0086 10 85908336 / 0086 10 85908341

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for China Travel Service:

During Office Hours: 0086 10 85228340 / 0086 10 85228725

After Office Hours: Ms. Linda Liu (Mobile): 0086 61 3911043036

Ms. Shine Cao (Mobile): 0086 61 8284532334

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

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 £68.50, when calling the Travel Visa Company, they will advise you of the most up to date fees. All applicants who wish to apply for a China Tourist Visa must do so in person at the Chinese Visa Application Centre in London, Manchester, Belfast or Edinburgh where fingerprint information will be collected. Fingerprints are not required for children under the age of 14 and adults over the age of 70. 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. Please see the below information that may be required when applying for your Chinese Visa; Company license number; 91110000710938407L Company name: China Travel Service Head Office (Beijing) Co. Ltd Contactor mail: lhs.oz@ctsho.com

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. 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

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your

General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. Our tour paces are marked with dots out of 3, with the differences being as follows:

- 1 Dot the tour is Easy-Going
- 2 Dots the tour is Intermediate
- 3 Dots the tour is Advanced

Wonders of China is rated as 2 Dots meaning that the tour pace is Intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for approximately four hours in a day, though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and will vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, and may be getting on and off coaches, trains and boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. You will stay in variety of hotels throughout the tour.

Our guides will always endeavor to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 40. In the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Tour Guides - National Guide

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. Should the tour not meet minimum numbers, then it will be operated with local guides only.

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. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

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.

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 approx. £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 £75.00 (CNY700.00) for the total duration per person. Tips are collected in Chinese Yuan.

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunscreen & hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera & charger
- Overnight bag for day 10
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc

Please note; Lighters are not allowed on planes, trains or sights of special interest, such as Tiananmen square, Forbidden city, The Temple of Heaven, Terracotta Warriors, Three Gorges Dam, Wild Goose Pagoda. Spray cans of any form are not allowed on trains or planes.

The following items cannot be transported in Checked Baggage; Mobile phone battery charging packs, Lithium batteries of lower than 100 Wh for laptops, mobile phones and cameras among other personal portable electronic devices. These items must be put in your hand luggage.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

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

IMPORTANT: Please note that 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

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 23kg. If the allowance shown on your ticket exceeds this you will need to take an additional

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.

Passport Information

Your Passport Information is required for this tour. This information is required at least 90 days prior to your departure. Failure to provide this information on time may result in your booking being cancelled with loss of deposit.

Public Holidays

If you are travelling within the below Chinese Public Holidays, please note that celebrations last for several days and during these times some businesses will be closed and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open but may be crowded. Chinese New Year is on 25th January 2020 and Friday 12th February 2021. Golden Week public holidays fall annually between 1st – 3rd of May and 1st – 7th of October.

Please note

It is only possible to leave your ship for a shore excursion during your Yangtze river cruise

- 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.

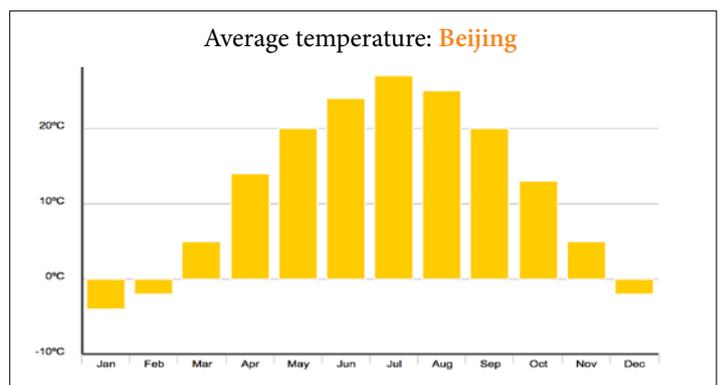
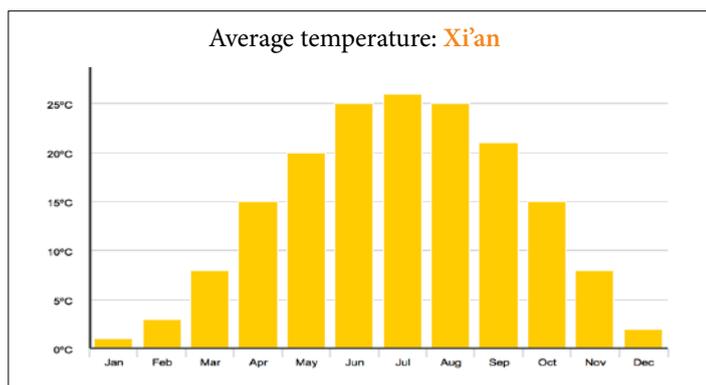
bag. You may also take hand luggage of 5kg not exceeding 56cm x 36cm x 23cm in size.

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 on 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.



HONG KONG CITY STAY EXTENSION

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

Add on 3 nights, 4 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, its fusion of Eastern and Western culture waits to be explored.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension in Hong Kong.

Guide to meals included:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 16: Beijing to Hong Kong

Depart Beijing in the morning and fly to Hong Kong via Shanghai. You will find your shared coach transfer at Counter B18 at the arrival hall, operated by Airport Shuttle and will be transferred to the 4★ The Cityview 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 left to you to spend at your leisure, exploring fascinating Hong Kong.

DAY 18: Hong Kong B

Enjoy a day at leisure to experience Hong Kong at your own pace. Why not visit the outlying island of Lantau, home to the 34m-tall bronze Tian Tan Buddha statue, or take a ferry to the gambling mecca of Macau?

DAY 19: Hong Kong to the UK B

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

Hotel information

Your stay in Hong Kong will take place at the 4★ **The Cityview**. The modern Cityview hotel occupies a great position in downtown Kowloon, within walking distance of many of the city's iconic sites including the Temple street night market and Jade market. The rest of Hong Kong and Kowloon can be explored via the nearby MTR station which is only a minutes walk away. Hotel address: 23 Waterloo Rd, Yau Ma Tei, Hong Kong
Phone: 00852 2783 3888
If the hotel listed is unavailable an alternative will be used of a similar standard.

Meals

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

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any meals not included, drinks and personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, and any extra snacks.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Currency

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

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.

Group Size

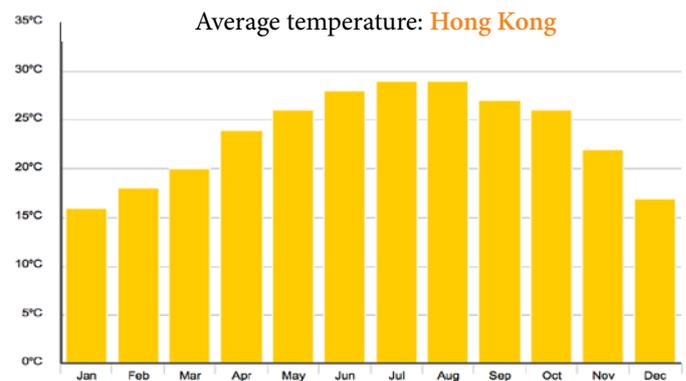
The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 2, and the maximum will be 10.

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

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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



For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0843 224 0723**

HONG KONG CITY STAY EXTENSION

Please see below a map to show the location of the Airport Shuttle desk at B-18 in Hong Kong International Airport.

After immigration & customs clearance, proceed to the arrival hall, counter B-18 for your arrival transfer

The image consists of two parts. On the left is a floor plan map of the arrival hall. The map shows a central 'Arrival Hall 抵港大堂' with a red arrow pointing to counter 'B18'. To the left of the hall are 'Restaurants' and 'To Train Platform Exit & T2 出口'. To the right are 'Shops' and 'Exit B B 出口'. A 'Vigor 活力' logo is placed near counter B18. On the right is a photograph of three staff members in blue uniforms standing behind counter B18. A sign above them reads 'B18 活力 VIGOR HOTEL TRANSPORTATION 酒店交通服務' and 'Hotel Transportation 酒店交通服務 Shuttle Bus 酒店巴士'.

香港國際機場 客運大樓 抵港大堂 B18 Counter B18, Arrival Hall B, Hong Kong International Airport

海關 海關

Vigor 活力