

TREASURES OF JAPAN



TRIP OVERVIEW

The Land of the Rising Sun boasts one of the world's most enthralling and unique cultures and civilisations. Japan is a nation of samurai castles and Zen Buddhist temples on the one hand, and bullet trains racing through neon-tinted futuristic cityscapes on the other. This fully immersive tour offers a fantastic introduction to this fascinating country.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Japan. 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 and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Tokyo

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Tokyo, via Hong Kong.

DAY 2: Tokyo

On arrival in Tokyo you will be met by a local guide and transferred to your centrally located hotel to enjoy the rest of the day at leisure to relax and settle in.

DAY 3: Tokyo B/L/D

Originally a small fishing village, Tokyo has survived a turbulent past to prosper as one of the world's major metropolises. Neon skyscrapers rise up to dizzying heights amongst ancient shrines and temples, all home to the city's population surpassing 13 million. From juicy yakitori to fresh sushi and ramen noodle, it is a foodie's heaven with a plethora of exciting dishes to try. A full day of sightseeing will take you to Sensoji, Tokyo's oldest temple and to the traditional Asakusa area for a special sushi making experience. Stroll through the popular area of Ginza and visit the iconic Akihabara Electric Town to experience the city's passion for all things electronic. After the day's sightseeing, spend the night at your hotel in the city.

DAY 4: Tokyo & Hakone B

Your excursion today is to Hakone National Park, home to one of Japan's most instantly recognisable sights, the iconic Mount Fuji. Fringed by thick forests and a crescent-shaped ring of shimmering lakes, a stop at fifth station is the best place to appreciate the spectacular views on a clear day. Discover volcanic activity along the Hakone Ropeway before visiting the Owakudani Valley.

DAY 5: Tokyo to Takayama B

After breakfast you will travel to Matsumoto, a small city embraced by the great peaks of the Japanese Alps and home to the exquisite Matsumoto castle. Dating back to the 8th century, the city's protected position saw the Ogasawara clan prosper through the defining Edo period to the present day. The castle itself, known locally as 'Crow Castle' due to its striking black and white design contains narrow wooden windows once used by archers and gunmen and now affording picturesque vistas of the regal mountains, city and koi fish circling the moat below. Continuing your journey, pass through spectacular alpine scenery to the secluded mountain town of Takayama.

DAY 6: Takayama B

Nestled between the snow-capped peaks of the northern Alps, the mountain town of Takayama has retained a traditional atmosphere like few others in Japan. Established as a merchant town, the high altitude and remote location has allowed a unique culture to develop. Boasting intricate and ornate oriental facades, the Edo period buildings found scattered throughout the town are some of the finest in the country. This morning, a guided tour takes you back to a bygone Japan, along Sannomachi Street in the heart of the quaint Old Town.

Here canals flow under the eaves of merchant houses with their latticed bay windows, and sake brewing houses display bundles of cedar leaves indicating that the new season's rice wine is available.

DAY 7: Takayama to Kyoto B

Departing Takayama, journey into the ancient capital of Kyoto and experience an age-old tradition with an evening of geisha performances followed by dinner. Famous the world over, geishas generally only perform at small private gatherings in certain districts so it is considered a great honour to observe the unique art form that has been developed over many generations, particularly as now the number of geishas in Japan are in decline.

DAY 8: Kyoto B/D

Once the imperial capital of Japan, the ancient city of Kyoto boasts a history of over 1200 years and as many as 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It was lucky enough to be relatively unscathed from the devastation of World War II and pockets of the old world still linger where traditional geishas can be seen shuffling along narrow streets in their wonderfully colourful kimonos. A full day tour delves into the city's rich history exploring the Zen Buddhist temple of Kinkakuji, the impressive Fushimi Inari shrine and the 400 year old Nikshiki Market. Enjoy a stroll around the Gion area, a collection of streets defined by old wooden buildings, teahouses and exclusive restaurants before returning to your hotel.

DAY 9: Kyoto to Hiroshima B/D

This morning travel to Hiroshima where you will take a boat ride to Miyajima Island, known as the 'Island of the Gods' and visit the awe-inspiring Itsukushima Shrine and its towering, free-standing wooden gate which stands in the middle of the sea. Later, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Please note: an overnight daypack/bag is required for your train journey from Hiroshima to Osaka and your main luggage will be transferred separately to Osaka.

DAY 10: Hiroshima to Osaka B/D

Start your day with a visit to Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park & Museum where photos and belonging of victims of the Hiroshima bombing are on display, serving as a reminder of the horror of the devastating event. Later, a train carries you to Osaka, arriving in time for tonight's entertaining farewell meal — a walking dinner that samples Osaka's best culinary delights.

DAY 11: Osaka to the UK or Extension

This morning, transfer to the airport for your flight back to the UK, via Hong Kong, or continue on to your chosen extension.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP



Accommodation

Your 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 Japan. 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.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Tokyo you will be met by a representative from our local agent in Japan, **Beauty of Japan Tours**, holding a sign displaying 'Mercury Holidays'. The Mercury Holidays/**Beauty of Japan Tours** representative will transfer you to your hotel on arrival where you will spend your first night. If you need to contact **Beauty of Japan Tours** during your stay the details are:

Beauty of Japan Tours

Office: +81 3 66599074

e-mail: Pankaj@beautyofjapantours.com & info@bojt.jp

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

UK passport holders are not currently required to obtain a visa prior to departure. A tourist visa will be issued on arrival for a duration of 90 days when you show your passport (must be valid for at least six months from the date you are due to leave Japan). Visa, arrival and departure requirements are subject to change and obtaining a visa is the responsibility of the traveller and not Mercury Holidays. We recommend you check with your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy prior to departure for the most up to date guidelines regarding these.

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



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: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and 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.

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Beauty of Japan Tours
24 hour emergency number: +81 3 66599074

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

Treasures of Japan 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. If 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 Tour Guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip. Your guide will be on hand for the duration of your tour and will be able to provide you with some general information on each of the destinations/attractions that you visit.

Tipping

It is customary to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately £2 per person per day. This is a total of £20 per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected at the end of your tour. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Japan is the Japanese Yen (JPY or ¥). You can purchase the currency before you travel but you will probably get a better exchange rate if money is exchanged when in Japan. You can buy Yen at foreign exchange banks and at the airport. Credit, debit and prepaid cards from international brands are accepted at a wide variety of places in the major cities within Japan. Outside of these, cards may not be widely accepted, although you will be able to withdraw cash in the local currency across the country at ATMs. 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

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunscreen, insect repellent and wide-brimmed hat
- Waterproof, lightweight jacket
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Lightweight clothing
- Sweater
- Camera and charger

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 £500 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

Credit cards are accepted in most major cities but we also recommend taking some cash and a debit card (to withdraw cash from ATMs) in addition to relying solely on a credit card.

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.

Public Holidays

If you are travelling within the below Japanese Public Holidays please note that celebrations can last a couple of 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. Golden Week is between 29th April – 6th May 2020 & 2021. Obon Holiday is between 13th-16th August 2020 & 2021 and Silver Week is from 19th- 22nd September 2020.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your flight is to **Tokyo's Haneda Airport**, via **Hong Kong** with **Cathay Pacific (CX)** departing from **London Heathrow Terminal 3**.

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

Each passenger is entitled to 23kg of hold luggage. There is also an allowance of one cabin bag not exceeding 25cm x 45cm x 56cm in size and one personal bag not exceeding 45 cm x 36 cm x 20 cm that you can take on the aircraft as hand luggage. Weight restrictions will be finalized on your e-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay an additional fee for this at check-in. Heathrow Airport advises that you should arrive at the airport at least three hours prior to your flight time for international departures.

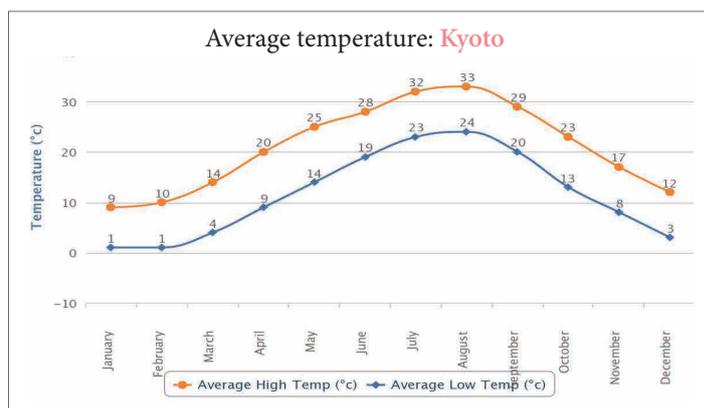
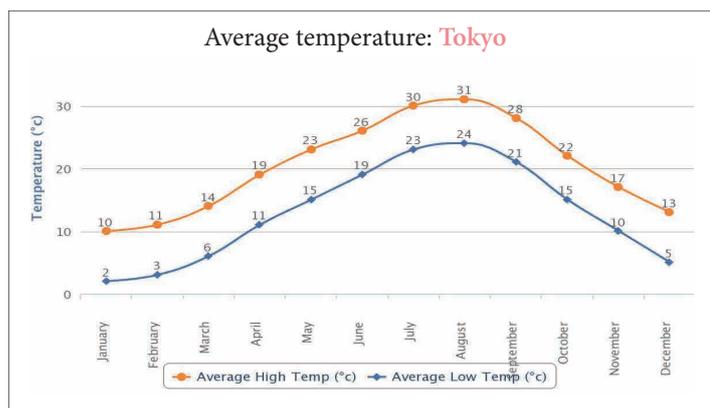
Airport Extras

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.

IMPORTANT: An overnight bag/day pack will be required during your train journeys due to luggage limitations on the trains. Your luggage will be transferred using a 24hr luggage delivery service which will arrive at your accommodation the following day. This applies to the following train journeys: Day 10: Hiroshima to Osaka

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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



TOKYO 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

Your additional three nights in Tokyo allow you to explore this city at leisure or choose optional day excursions to the mountainous town of Nikko and the coastal town of Kamakura with its numerous temples & historical monuments.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

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

Hotel Information - Tokyo (3 nights)

Your Tokyo stay will take place at the 3★ Shinagawa Tobu on Bed & Breakfast.
Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure. All internal transfers are included.
Contact: 4-7-6 Takanawa, Minato 108-0074, Tokyo Prefecture
Telephone Number: 0081 3-3447-0111

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry and any additional snacks or drinks you may wish to have.

Tour Guides

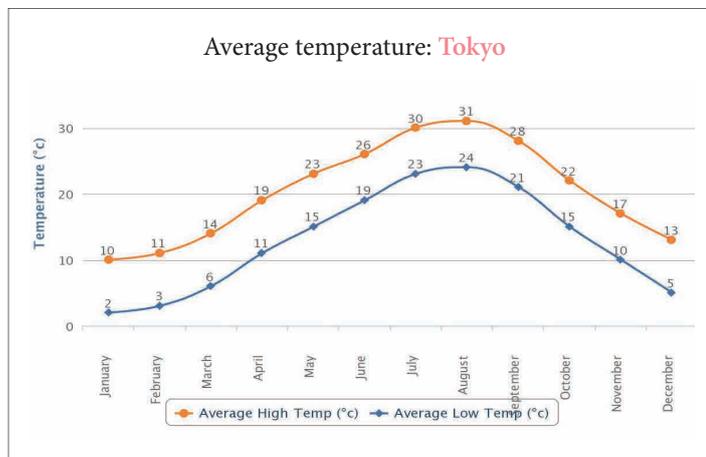
Your stay in Tokyo is not escorted by a tour guide. Your time here will be free to do as you wish. Details of your departure transfer will be confirmed by your guide at the end of your tour, before you begin your extension stay in Tokyo.

Please note:

This extension stay in Tokyo will take place at the end of your main tour and you will travel from Osaka to Tokyo by bullet train, your flight home to the UK will be from Tokyo.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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



Sunshine City Prince Hotel

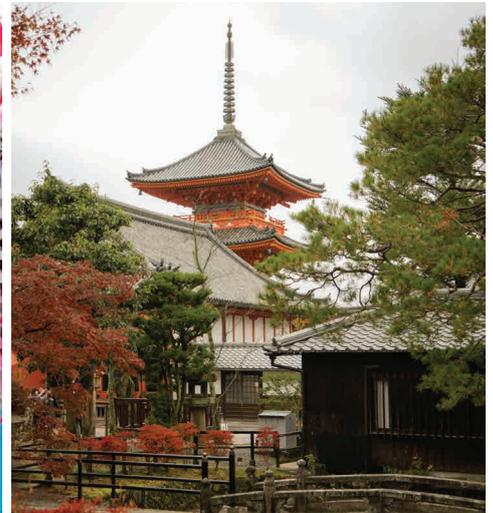
FLIGHT INFORMATION

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.

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

KYOTO 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

Your additional three nights in Kyoto allows you to further explore this ancient capital or venture to the neighbouring city of Nara with its park home to free roaming deer. Alternatively, choose an excursion to Hiroshima to witness its World War II history.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

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

Hotel Information - Kyoto (3 nights)

Your Kyoto stay will take place at the 3★ Miyako Hotel Kyoto-hachijo on Bed & Breakfast.

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

All internal transfers are included.

Contact: 17 Nishi-kujoinmachi, Minami-ku, Kyoto 601-8412

Telephone Number: +81 75 661 7111

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry and any additional snacks or drinks you may wish to have.

Tour Guides

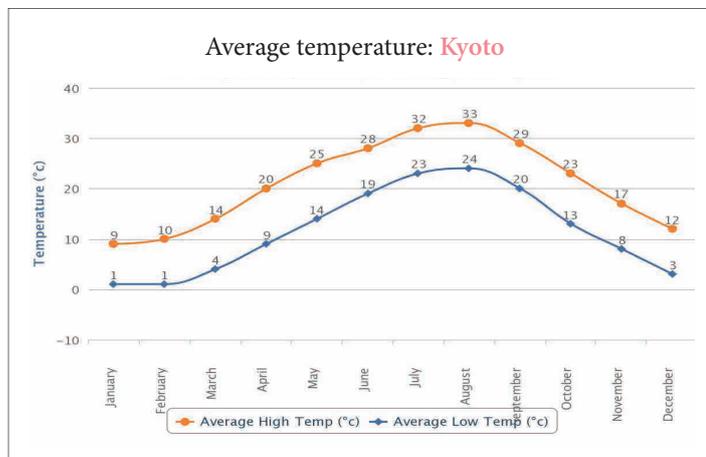
Your stay in Kyoto is not escorted by a tour guide. Your time here will be free to do as you wish. Details of your departure transfer will be confirmed by your guide at the end of your tour, before you begin your extension stay in Kyoto.

Please note:

This extension stay in Kyoto will take place at the end of your main tour and you will travel from Osaka to Kyoto by bullet train, you will then travel back to Osaka for your last night before returning to the UK.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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



Daiwa Roynet Kyoto

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.

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

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

Following your incredible tour of China, why not explore the bustling metropolis of Hong Kong, where towering skyscrapers form the backdrop to the city's busy harbour? Experience the city's unique blend of British and Chinese culture, a legacy of its colonial past.

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 11: Osaka to Hong Kong

Depart Osaka and fly to Hong Kong. You will find your shared coach transfer at B18 at the arrival hall (see map), operated by Airport Shuttle and will be transferred to the 4★ The Cityview Hotel.

DAY 12: 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 13: 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 14: Hong Kong to the UK B

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

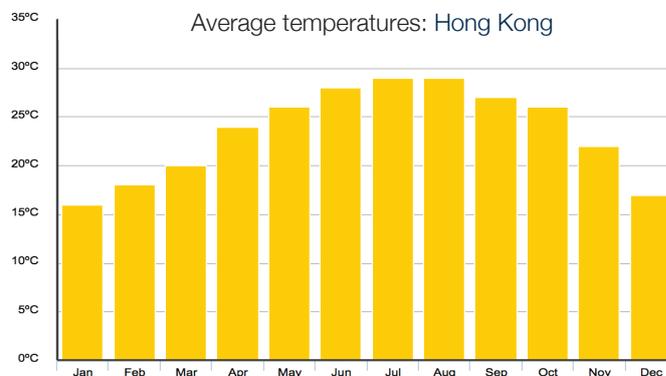
Closed Sunday and Hong Kong public holidays

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.



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 composite 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 'Vigor 活力' logo. To the left of the hall are two 'Restaurant' areas and a 'To Train Platform Exit & T2 出口'. To the right is a 'Customs 海關' area with several 'Shop' units. At the bottom of the map are 'Exit A A 出口' and 'Exit B B 出口'. A red arrow points to 'Counter B18' in the arrival hall. On the right is a photograph of three staff members in blue uniforms standing behind a counter labeled 'B18'. A sign above the counter reads 'Vigor 活力 Airport Transportation 機場巴士' and 'Hotel Transportation 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

Vigor 活力