

## FLAVOURS OF SOUTH KOREA



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Combining war-time monuments, culinary delights and ancient imperial palaces, this 11-day tour of South Korea delves into its fascinating past and politically charged present. Travel from the modern charms of Seoul and coastal Busan to the historic treasures of Gyeongju and Andong, with a visit to the North-South Demilitarized Zone completing your quintessential South Korean experience.

## ITINERARY &amp; DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to South Korea. 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 Seoul

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Seoul.

## DAY 2: Seoul D

On arrival in Seoul, you will be met by your representative for a short tour of the city including the Changing of the Palace guard. Enjoy lunch at a local Korean restaurant before being transferred to your hotel and checking in. After time to settle in, re-join your group for tonight's welcome dinner at a local Korean restaurant, giving you the opportunity to sample Korea's world-renowned cuisine.

## DAY 3: Seoul B/L/D

Following breakfast, embark on a tour of South Korea's Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the no man's land that forms the highly secure frontier between North and South Korea. Visit Dorasan train station, which connects north and south, and the Dorasan Observatory which overlooks the DMZ. Explore the 3rd Infiltration Tunnel, a secret passageway built by North Koreans trying to tunnel into the south, and view the heavily guarded Bridge of Freedom which links the two nations. After lunch, return to Seoul and browse through the stalls of Gwangjang Food Market. Travel to the N. Seoul Tower which rises above the city skyline and provides panoramic views over the city, then return to your hotel for dinner.

## DAY 4: Seoul B/L/D

Seoul has undergone a dramatic transformation over the last five decades, with the ravages of the Korean War making way to sleek skyscrapers and neon-lit districts. The city still retains several remnants of its imperial past and today's walking tour takes in these centuries-old structures, using Seoul's world-class underground system to move between sights. Starting at Changdeokkung Palace, built by the kings of Korea's Joseon Dynasty, explore the pavilions and rooms of this imperial residence before touring its Secret Garden, where the pond, greenery and pavilions combine to create a tranquil setting. Witness the changing of the palace guards then continue onward to Insadong Antique Street and browse through the wares on display in elegant, wooden shopfronts. Travel to the Kimchi Museum and learn more about how this local fermented cabbage dish grew to its current popularity then stop in at the Buddhist temple of Jogyesa. Continue onward to the Bukchon Hanok Village, teeming with charming, traditional 'hanoks' or wooden houses before returning to your hotel for an evening at leisure.

## DAY 5: Seoul to Busan B/L/D

This morning, transfer by metro to the train station (luggage will be transported) and board your high-speed train to the coastal city of Busan. On arrival in Busan, set out on an afternoon coach tour of the city, stopping first to wander through Gamcheon Cultural Village with its pastel-coloured houses set in the slopes of a mountain. Next, pay your respects to the soldiers killed in the Korean War at the UN Memorial Cemetery then visit peaceful APEC Nurimaru Park and the soft sands of Haeundae Beach. Climb 108 steps to picturesque Haedong

Yonggungsa temple and explore this sacred Buddhist site which boasts a stunning setting on Busan's coastal cliffs. Transfer to your hotel for check-in.

## DAY 6: Busan to Gyeongju B/L/D

After breakfast, embark on a morning tour, moving between sights by metro. Wander through bustling Jagalchi Fish Market and haggle with the hawkers of Kukje Market, where you'll stop for a delicious lunch. Visit nearby BIFF Square, Korea's answer to the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and continue on to the soaring Busan Tower. Next, transfer to Busan Train Station and embark on your rail journey to Gyeongju, taking in rural landscapes and urban skylines along the way. On arrival, enjoy dinner and a night-time tour of Anapji, the site of a spectacular palace and pond.

## DAY 7: Gyeongju B/L/D

A full-day tour of Gyeongju takes in the major sites of Korea's ancient former capital, known as the "Museum Without Walls". Journey from the immense Buddha statue which lies in Seokguram Grotto to UNESCO-listed Bulguksa Temple where you'll explore its Buddhist relics, pavilions and gardens. For lunch, visit a Korean cooking school where you will learn how to make Korea's delectable beef barbecue and dine on your culinary masterpiece. Continue onward to the age-old observatory of Cheomseongdae before taking in the greenery of Tumuli Park and browsing through ancient artefacts in the Gyeongju National Museum.

## DAY 8: Gyeongju to Andong B/L/D

Transfer to the train station for your train to Andong, a city renowned for its open-air heritage museums. On arrival, journey to Hahoe Village where you'll discover hundreds of ceremonial masks on display in the Hahoe Mask Museum. Soak in sweeping views of the village from nearby Buyongdae Cliff then wander through the local market. Transfer to your hotel for check-in and dinner, followed by an evening at leisure.

## DAY 9: Andong to Seoul B/L/D

Depart Andong this morning and travel by coach to Poonggi where you'll visit the city's sprawling ginseng plantation and the area's oldest ginseng market. Marvel at the amazing variety of ginseng products on display then journey onward to Daegang Makgeolli (Rice Wine) Brewery in Danyang. Here, you can learn about and taste this unique alcoholic drink and see samples of home-brewed Korean liquor that date back to the Japanese colonial era. Continue on to Seoul, where a night of entertainment awaits. Re-join your group for a farewell dinner and a trip to see 'Nanta', one of the most famous theatrical performances in the country.

## DAY 10: Seoul B

Enjoy a day at leisure to explore this bustling metropolis at your own pace. Alternatively, a number of optional excursions are available (at a fee). Make stir-fried glass noodles and seafood pancakes at a cooking class, join a workshop and learn how to make kimchi (Korea's traditional fermented cabbage dish) or enjoy a show at the Jeongdong Theatre.

## DAY 11: Seoul to the UK or extension B

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK 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 South Korea. 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.

### ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Seoul you will be met by a representative from our local agent in South Korea, **Holidaylink**, holding a sign displaying 'Mercury Holidays'. The Mercury Holidays/Holidaylink representative will transfer you to your hotel on arrival where you will spend your first night. Your guide will be able to answer any queries you may have. If you need to contact Holidaylink during your stay the details are:

#### Holidaylink

Seoul office address:  
RM705, Jindo Bldg., 44 Mapo-daero, Mapo-gu,  
Seoul, 04174, South Korea.  
Telephone 09.00am-18.00pm: 0082-2-755-2955

### WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

#### Visas

A visa is not required for you travel to South Korea. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding visas and passport validity.

#### 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](http://www.fco.gov.uk), [www.travelhealthpro.org.uk](http://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk), [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk), your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

#### Tour Guides - Local Guides

This is a fully escorted tour meaning that you will be met by a local guide in each of the cities that you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times

#### Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal



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. Lunch and dinner will be taken in local South Korean restaurants. 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 Holidaylink's 24-hour hotline (during office hours and after working hours):  
Mobile: 0082 10 4935 1253 or 0082 10 9267 6530

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

Flavours of South Korea is rated as 3 Dots meaning that the tour pace is Advanced. A higher level of fitness as required as you may be on your feet for most of the day though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, getting on and off coaches, trains, boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. There may be some time spend at high altitude. You will stay in variety of hotels, possibly including overnight trains, and accommodation standards may not match those you are used to at home.

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.

#### Tippling

It is customary to tip your guides and drivers approximately £1-£2 per person per day. This is a total of £20 per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips are collected in the local currency South Korean won.

#### 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.

### Currency Exchange

The currency in South Korea is the South Korean won, known as KRW. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. 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 £350 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.

## WHAT TO PACK

- Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- A travel plug adaptor - The voltage in South Korea is 220v 60Hz. South Korean plugs are of the European variety with two round prongs.
- Loo paper for public WCs
- Binoculars
- Small day pack for excursions

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your initial flight is to [Seoul Incheon International Airport](#) with [British Airways \(BA\)](#), departing from [London Heathrow Terminal 5](#).

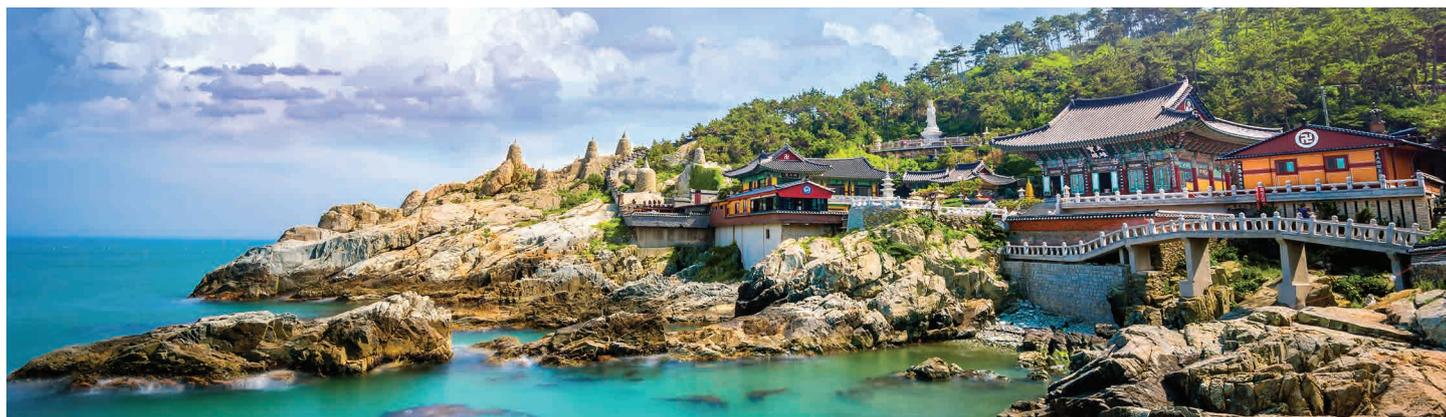
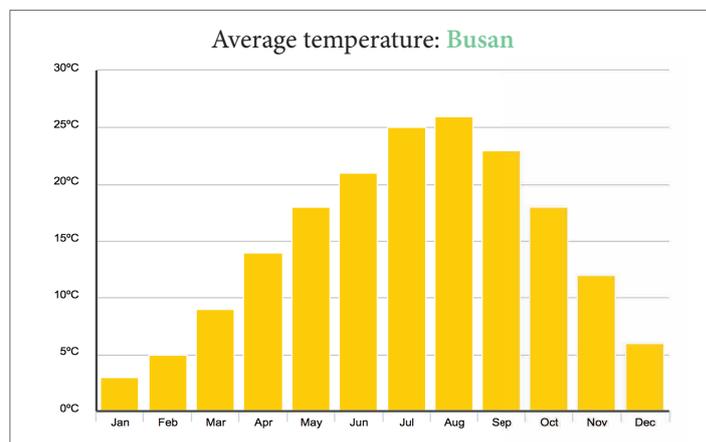
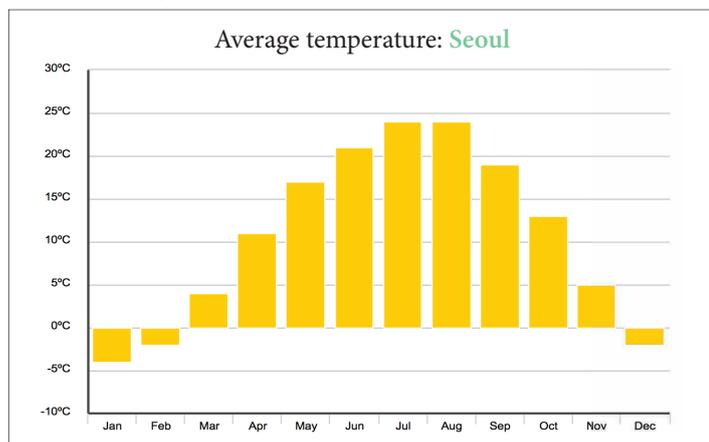
**IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.**

### 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.

## WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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



### 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.

### 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.

- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- Waterproof, lightweight jacket
- Lightweight clothing
- Sweater
- For winter departures warm sweaters, gloves, scarf, hat and a warm coat will be required

# 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

Extend your tour with 3 extra nights in Japan to explore the electric city of Tokyo, which perfectly demonstrates the country's juxtaposition of ancient traditions with its love of new technology.

## 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★ Hotel Sunroute Shinagawa Seaside 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.  
Hotel address: 4-12-8 Higashishinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 140-0002 Japan  
Telephone Number: 0081 3-6716-0011

### Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry and any additional meals, 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.

### Visas

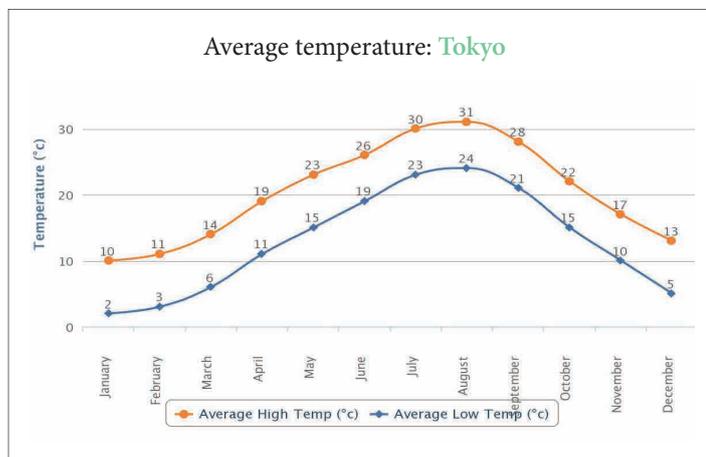
UK passport holders are not currently required to obtain a visa prior to departure. A tourist visa will be issued on arrival for a duration of 90 days when you show your passport (must be valid for at least six months from the date you are due to leave Japan).

### Please note:

This extension stay in Tokyo will take place at the end of your main tour.

## WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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



## 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.

# 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 11: Seoul to Hong Kong

Depart Seoul in the morning and fly to Hong Kong. You will find your shared coach transfer at counter B18 at the arrival hall (see map), operated by Vigor and will be transferred to the 4★ The Cityview.

### 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, via Shanghai.

### Hotel information

Your stay in Hong Kong will take place at the 4★ **The Cityview**. Boasting a prestigious address in the heart of Yau Ma Tei, The Cityview sits adjacent to bustling Nathan Road, the famous shopping and entertainment district renowned for its historical buildings. Rooms are air-conditioned/heated with satellite TV, tea/coffee making facilities, hairdryer and free Wi-Fi. If the hotel listed is unavailable an alternative will be used of a similar standard. Address: 23 Waterloo Rd, Yau Ma Tei, Hong Kong  
Phone: 00852 2783 3888

### 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.

### 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 1 and the maximum will be 35.

### 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

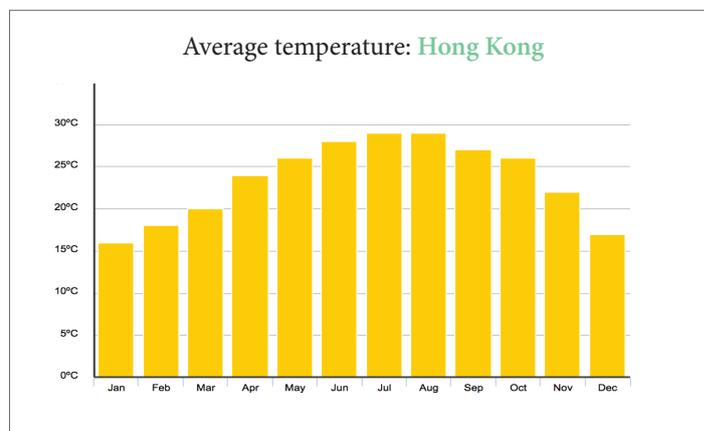
Emergency: 00852 9432 5300

### Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.

## WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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



## 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.

# 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 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'. The 'Vigor 活力' logo is also present. On the right is a photograph of three staff members in blue uniforms standing behind counter B-18. A sign above them reads 'B18 活力 Vigor 機場快線 Airport Express Hotel Transportation 機場巴士'.

**Exit A  
A 出口**

**Exit B  
B 出口**

**Restaurants**

**To Train Platform  
Exit & T2 出口**

**Arrival Hall  
抵港大堂**

**B18**

**Shops**

**Customs 海關**

**Vigor 活力**

**Vigor 活力**

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