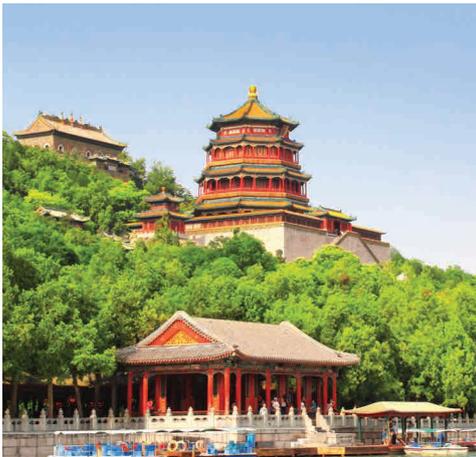


CHINA DISCOVERY TOUR FROM MANCHESTER



TRIP OVERVIEW

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 Summer Palace and the beautiful metropolis of Shanghai.

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 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: Manchester to Beijing

Depart Manchester on your overnight flight to Beijing.

DAY 2: Beijing B/L/D

On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. After lunch visit the famous Temple of Heaven, followed by a traditional Peking Duck dinner in the evening.

DAY 3: Beijing B/L/D

Beijing is one of the world's truly ancient capitals and an extraordinary city. Enjoy a trip to the Summer Palace this morning. One of the tour highlights is a trip to the iconic Great Wall at Juyongguan, built over 2,000 years ago to protect the Chinese Empire against marauding Mongol invaders from the North. In the evening unwind and marvel at the talents of the accomplished performers in the Chinese Acrobatic Show.

DAY 4: Beijing to Xi'an B/L/D

This morning enjoy 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. In the afternoon take the bullet train to Xi'an where you stay for dinner.

DAY 5: Xi'an 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, make a visit to 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.

DAY 6: Xi'an to Wuzhen B/L/D

This morning take 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. Continue 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. Retire to your hotel for dinner and your evening's stay.

DAY 7: Wuzhen to Shanghai B/L/D

Explore Wuzhen on a boat trip through winding canals and past traditional stone buildings before continuing to Shanghai. With a population surpassing 25 million, Shanghai is an incredible metropolis not to be missed with architecture like no other Chinese city. Visit a Silk Factory and the Bund.

DAY 8: Shanghai B/L/D

Our full day tour commences after breakfast and includes visits to the Yu Gardens and the traditional Old Town. In the afternoon explore the former French Concession area as well as the nearby Tianzifang. 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 9: Shanghai B/L/D

Spend the morning at leisure before visiting Shanghai Museum after lunch. Enjoy a stroll along Nanjing Road, before having a packed dinner and taking your evening flight back to Manchester via Beijing.

DAY 10: Beijing to Manchester B

Connect on to your Beijing flight home.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Enhance your tour experience with an optional excursion, to be booked locally in resort with CNY(In Cash). From prices shown are per person; please speak to your local guide.

Day 8: Jinmao Tower & ride the Airport Maglev Train From: CNY 350 (£41)

*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

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 (COUNTRY NAME). All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed. (LODGES) If you are staying in a lodge during your tour, plumbing and electricity supplies can vary and, in some cases, infrequent, with electricity only being accessible during certain times of the day. 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 Beijing 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** representative 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

15F CTS (HK) Grand Metropark Hotel Beijing,
No.338 Guang'an Men Nei Street,
Xicheng District, Beijing, China
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 85228725 / 0086 10 85228340

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 full days of sightseeing, often on foot, and includes 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

China Discovery from Manchester 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.

Tipping

It is customary to tip your national guide, local guide and driver approximately

£3.50 (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 £35.00 (CNY300.00) 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 want 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 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

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.

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.

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. It is advisable to bring a multi-adaptor

- Loo paper for public WCs
- Binoculars
- 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 **Beijing Capital International Airport** with **Hainan Airlines**, departing from **Manchester Airport Terminal 2**. Your return flight travels via Beijing. You will need to collect your luggage at Beijing and check it in for your connecting flight.

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

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 23kg. 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 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.

