

MAGNIFICENT CHINA



TRIP OVERVIEW

Set amongst a backdrop of natural wonders, delight in China's historical legacy with visits to the Great Wall of China, the Terracotta Warriors and the astonishing eathern communal homes of Fujian.

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: UK to Beijing

Depart London on your scheduled overnight flight to Beijing, via Shanghai.

DAY 2: Beijing

Upon arrival into Beijing you will be met by a local guide and transferred to your hotel.

DAY 3: Beijing B/L/D

Delve into Beijing's rich history, starting at the world's largest plaza, and China's Tiananmen Square, and enter the vast Forbidden City, brimming with age-old relics and a staggering 9,999 rooms and chambers.

DAY 4: Beijing B/L/D

Walk on a section of the emblematic Great Wall of China. Later, stroll around the world's best persevered imperial gardens at the exquisite Summer Palace before navigating Silk Street's bustling market stalls, and feasting on a succulent Peking Duck dinner.

DAY 5: Beijing to Xi'an B/L/D

This morning, admire the 14th Century Temple of Heaven, an architectural masterpiece which is now also a popular meeting place for locals to perform their weekly exercise routines or partake in tai chi. Transfer to the airport for an afternoon flight to Xi'an, arriving in time for dinner.

DAY 6: Xi'an B/L/D

Behold the vast underground vaults which boast the extraordinary 8,000-strong Terracotta warriors, known by many as the 'Eighth Wonder of the World'. Later, witness the intricate process of producing smaller Terracotta replicas at the Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Centre, before enjoying a colourful evening of culture at a captivating Tang Dynasty Show.

DAY 7: Xi'an to Chengdu B/L/D

A morning tour of Xi'an incorporates the chance to saunter along a fragment of the megalithic 14th century City Walls, followed by a visit to the Small Wild Goose Pagoda. Before boarding this afternoon's bullet train to Chengdu, try your hand at the ancient art of calligraphy, learning to script iconic Chinese symbols.

DAY 8: Chengdu B/L/D

Meet Chengdu's most famous residents and enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime encounter at the Chengdu Panda Breeding Centre; take in the delights of endearing pandas snoozing on treetops or snacking on bamboo, before exploring People's Park. Following a tasty dinner, stroll amidst the elegant architecture lining Jinli's Ancient Street.

DAY 9: Chengdu to Yangtze River Cruise B/L/D

Experience Chengdu's largest and best preserved Buddhist monastery with a visit to Wenshu Temple; greeted by the aromatic scents of burning incense, observe an assembly of local worshippers before boarding your bullet train to Yichang to embark on a four-night Yangtze River cruise.

DAY 10: Yangtze River Cruise B/L/D

Affording breath-taking panoramas, cruise upstream to reach your first excursion at the monumental Three Gorges Dam.

DAY 11: Yangtze River Cruise B/L/D

Take a side-trip to Shennong Stream, a zigzagging watercourse where local inhabitants line the shore. Sail to Wu Gorge, the prettiest of the Three Gorges followed by Qu Tang Gorge, the shortest, and in the afternoon, an optional tour of the White Emperor City explores this ancient temple, perched at the top of an island in the middle of the river.

DAY 12: Yangtze River Cruise B/L/D

Following an excursion at the Shibaozhai Temple, sail past the Fengdu Ghost City – the place where souls go to pass three tests before entering the afterlife, according to legend. Conclude this spellbinding cruise by sailing to the Fengdu Jade Emperor.

DAY 13: Chongqing to Guilin B/Lunch Box/D

Disembarking at Chongqing, board this morning's bullet train to China's most picturesque region, Guilin, and witness a striking natural phenomenon at Elephant Hill, whose distinctive appearance illustrates the trunk of an elephant drinking from the Taohua River.

DAY 14: Guilin to Yangshuo B/L/D

Relax in tranquillity on the Lijiang River's rippling waters. Following lunch on board, disembark in Yangshuo to explore its oldest avenue; West Street's bustling shopping district attracts visitors from all over the globe for its mesmerising combination of Eastern and international elements. Discover local heritage during an optional theatrical performance of The Impression of Liu Sanje this evening.

DAY 15: Yangshuo B/L/D

After breakfast, explore the sights of Yangshuo, stopping at a traditional farming house, before an afternoon at leisure.

DAY 16: Yangshuo to Xiamen B/L/D

With a dramatic backdrop dominated by stunning karst formations and at the foot of Yao Mountain, visit Guilin Tea Science institute and Tea Gardens, delighting in the chance to sample traditional tea in incredible surroundings. Later, catch a flight to Xiamen and arrive in time to uncover the delicate architecture of Nanputuo Temple, an ancient Buddhist shrine, idyllically nestled in the foothills of Wulaofeng Mountains.

DAY 17: Xiamen to Yongding B/L/D

Journey to the historic town of Nan Jing in Fujian Province where you can delve into ancient Chinese history whilst exploring the unique 'earth buildings' of the Nan Jing Tulou clusters. Visit the characteristic Tianluokeng Cluster, the 'leaning building' of

Yauchanlou, and ancient village of Taxia.

DAY 18: Yongding to Xiamen B/L/D

Dating back to the Ming Dynasty, visit the Chuxi Tulou cluster. Catch a glimpse of the Jiqing Building, the oldest of the cluster, as well as the Gengqing and Shanqing buildings. Return to Xiamen after lunch for your overnight stay.

DAY 19: Xiamen to Shanghai B/L/D

Transfer to the airport for today's midday flight to Shanghai. Upon arrival, travel to your hotel and enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

DAY 20: Shanghai B/L/D

Commencing today's full-day tour in the heart of cosmopolitan Shanghai, discover two rare Buddhist relics, carved out of genuine white jade and housed within the generously embellished Jade Buddha Temple. Heading towards the Garden City of Suzhou, absorb the tranquil scenery of Pan Men Gardens, wander around Guangian Street, and learn about China's long-standing silk history at the Silk Museum and Factory. After dinner, return to Shanghai.

DAY 21/22: Shanghai to the UK B/L/D

Today, transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK or chosen extension.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to overnight sleeper trains. 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.

Please note the hotels listed on our website and brochure 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 Chinese restaurants and served with either one beer or soft drink. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours. 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 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** 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 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

Magnificent 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.

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

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 £4.00 (CNY40.00) per person per day. During your Yangtze River cruise, it is customary to tip the cruise staff approximately £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 £99.00 per person (CNY990.00) for the total duration per person. 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.

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. Approx. £500 - £600 per person 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 any of these. For an additional CNY3000 cash you are able to be photographed next to one of the pandas at the Chengdu breeding centre - please note 3 days notice must be given to your guide if you wish to do this.

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.

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

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 - China

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.

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunglasses, Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- Loo paper for public WC's
- A plug adaptor - the voltage in China is 220 V. 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. It is advisable to bring a multi-adaptor.

- Antibacterial hand gel
- Binoculars
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- Small day pack for excursions
- Waterproof, lightweight jacket
- Lightweight clothing
- Sweater and jacket for the cooler months

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 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

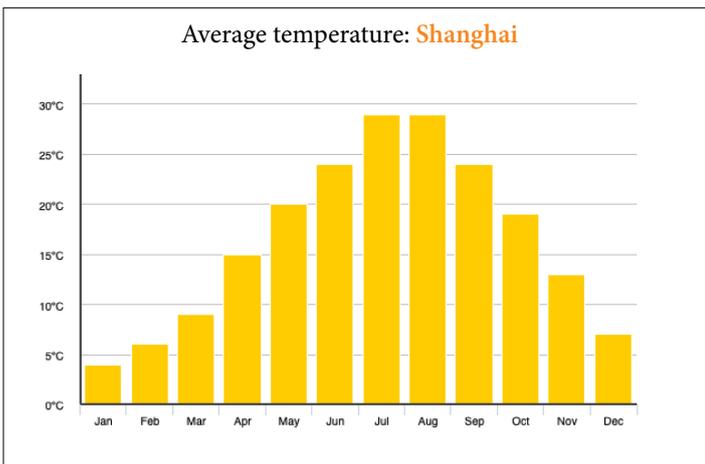
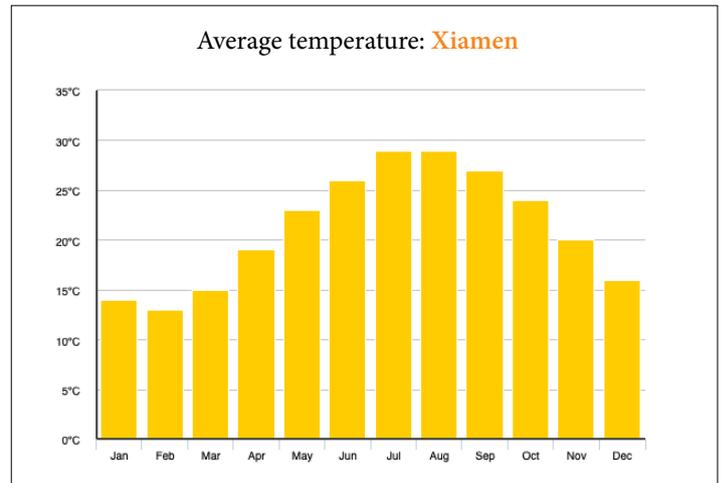
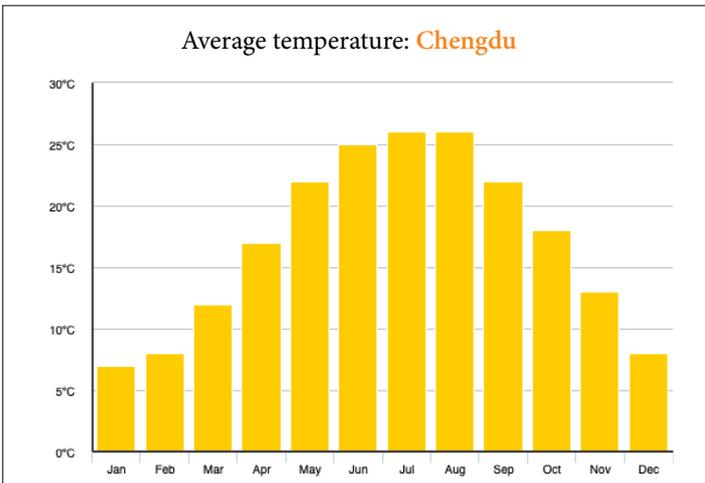
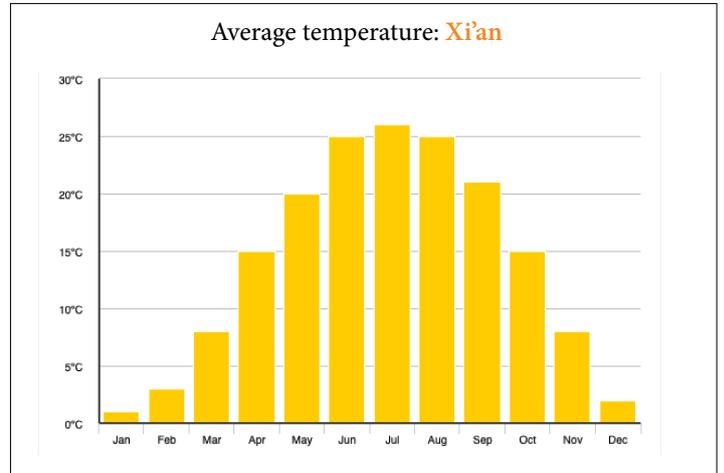
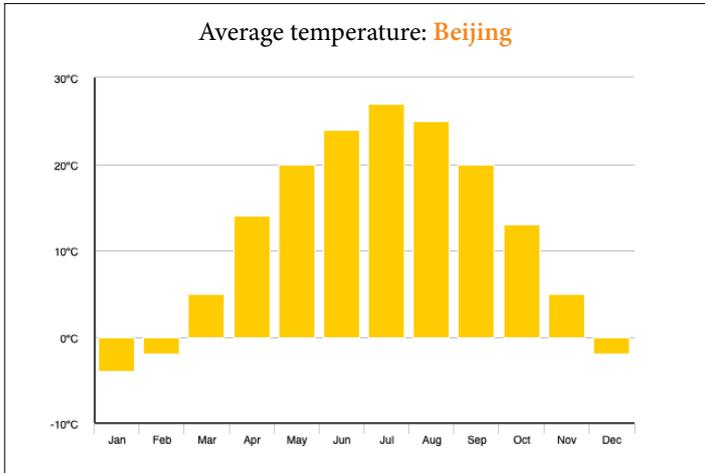
Each passenger is entitled to 32KG of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding (Max 10kg - 56cm/45cm/25cm) in size. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in. Check-in should be at least 3 hours before departure.

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.



ZHANGJIAJIE EXTENSION

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



TRIP OVERVIEW

Discover the amazing scenery of the Wulingyuan Scenic Area and its towering sandstone columns on this incredible 4 day extension to this unique area of China. Marvel as the awe-inspiring Tianzi and Yuanjiajie Mountains via cable car and explore the stunning Golden Whip Stream located in Zhangjiajie National Forest Park.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

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

Guide to meals included:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 22: Shanghai to Zhangjiajie B

Depart from Shanghai airport to Zhangjiajie where you'll be transferred to your hotel.

DAY 23: Zhangjiajie B

Once you've enjoyed breakfast, your day will begin with a trip to Tianzi Mountain. With stunning peaks rising into the sky as far as the eye can see, this stunning formation is known as 'the Monarch of the Park Forest' and was the inspiration for the alien landscape of 'Pandora' in James Cameron's Avatar. Enjoy an incredible cable car ride to see the amazing peaks which cover over 21 square miles of mountainous landscape. In the afternoon, you'll continue to Yuanjiajie Mountain where you'll find the so-called 'First Bridge under Heaven' and 'Glass Bridge'.

DAY 24: Zhangjiajie B

After breakfast at the hotel, the group will enjoy a lovely walk to Golden Whip Stream. Golden Whip Stream is renowned for its crystal-clear water, picturesque mountains, steep cliffs and serene valley. As a paradise for plants, its pathways are surrounded by a range of flowers, trees, and grasses. Golden Whip Stream is named after Golden Whip Crag, its landmark spot, and runs from Laomo Bay to Shui Rao Si Men.

DAY 25: Zhangjiajie to the UK B

After breakfast you have some free time before transferring to the airport for your flight back to the UK via Shanghai.

Hotel information

Your 4-night stay in Zhangjiajie will take place at the following hotels

3★ Santo Domingo International Hotel (3 nights)

Address: 8 Guihua Road, Guihua Lu, 8, Zhangjiajie

Contact number: 00 86-744-5996888

Please note you will spend one night at the following hotel at the end of your extension

4★ Ocean Hotel Shanghai (1 night)

Address: 1171 Dongdaming Road, Dongdaming Lu, 1171, Shanghai

Contact number: 0086-21 65458888

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.

Tipping

It is customary to tip your local guide approximately CNY40/person/day, CNY160/person for 4 days in total, it will be collected by Zhangjiajie local guide. Tips are collected in Chinese Yuan.

Tour Guides

This add-on to Zhangjiajie will be accompanied by an English speaking guide.



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

Towering skyscrapers form the backdrop to Hong Kong's busy harbour whilst the street markets that fill the teeming alleys remain untouched by western influences. Explore Hong Kong and Kowloon at your own pace during this extension which includes a half day city tour.

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 22: Shanghai to Hong Kong

Fly to Hong Kong where you will be transferred to your hotel.

DAY 23: 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 24: 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 25: Hong Kong to the UK B

You will be picked up at your hotel in the morning for your return flight back to London Heathrow via Shanghai. Whilst breakfast at the hotel is not provided, a light snack will be included on your flight.

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.

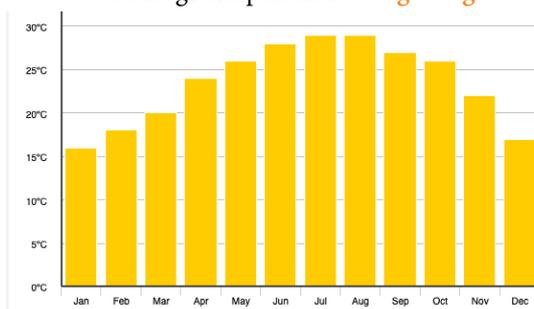
Tour Guides

This add-on to Hong Kong is not fully escorted. Whilst you will be accompanied by an English speaking guide on your half day city tour on day 2, the rest of your time in Hong Kong is at your own leisure giving you the chance to immerse yourself in the varied culture that this city has to offer.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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

Average temperature: **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.

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