

Grand Tour of China



TRIP OVERVIEW

Explore China with this incredible 25 day, 23 night journey. From the cosmopolitan cities of Beijing and Shanghai, to the remote ancient town of Lijiang & the stunning Li River in Guilin, this tour visits the most iconic sights as well as discovering the hidden treasures of China. Encompassing the World Heritage sites of the Great Wall, Terracotta Army, Kunming Stone Forest and the city of Lijiang, experience the rich history of the great cities, as well as the breathtaking landscapes of southern rural provinces.

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 visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Shanghai

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight.

DAY 2: Shanghai to Suzhou D

On arrival in Shanghai you will be met by your local guide and transferred to Suzhou for dinner.

DAY 3: Suzhou to Hangzhou B/L/D

After breakfast depart for Suzhou, the Garden City of China. On arrival, visit the Master of the Nets Garden, one of the finest oriental gardens, as well as the local silk mill. Take a stroll around Guanqian Street. Continue onto Hangzhou.

DAY 4: Hangzhou B/L/D

Enjoy a relaxing boat trip on the scenic West Lake and marvel at the Six Harmonies Pagoda. Spend the afternoon in Qing Hefang ancient walking street – the only well-preserved part of the ancient city.

DAY 5: Hangzhou to Shanghai via Zhujiajiao B/L/D

Depart Hangzhou to visit the ancient water village of Zhujiajiao, with its arched stone bridges and quiet alleyways. Continue to Shanghai to visit the French Concession and the arts area of Tianzifang. Next visit to the magnificent Bund, followed by a walk along Nanjing Road, the main shopping area in Shanghai. Tonight, take in the beautiful scenery on a night cruise along the Huangpu River.

DAY 6: Shanghai B/L/D

Visit the Yuyuan Garden, Shanghai Museum and the Xintiandi entertainment district.

DAY 7: Shanghai to Yangtze River Cruise B/L/D

Today you will fly to Yichang. Following dinner in Yichang, you will board your ship for the Yangtze River cruise. **PLEASE NOTE: If you are departing on your tour during the months of May - August the change of water levels can affect the itinerary of your Yangtze River Cruise. Whilst our intention is to adhere to the day to day itinerary as printed, should there be any changes to your itinerary your guide will inform you in resort.**

DAY 8: Yangtze River Cruise B/L/D

Cruise upstream to reach your first shore excursion - the Three Gorges Dam.

DAY 9: Yangtze River Cruise B/L/D

Take a morning tour of the Shennong Stream before continuing on to the two other Gorges; the prettiest Wu Gorge, and the shortest, Qu Tang

Gorge. An optional tour of the White Emperor City will be available in the afternoon.

DAY 10: Yangtze River Cruise B/L/D

Today, enjoy a shore excursion excursion to Fengdu Mount Shuanggui Scenic Region. The Mount Shuanggui Scenic Region is a national forest park, characterized by its picturesque scenery and cliff brush writings of calligraphists from Song dynasty to modern society. The excursion will provide you with the opportunity to see the traditional Chinese handicrafts and various kinds of performances presenting the intangible culture heritage. You will continue sailing past the Fengdu Ghost City. With nearly 2,000 years history, this is believed to have been the place where souls go to pass three tests before entering the afterlife.

DAY 11: Yangtze River to Chengdu B/L/D

You will disembark your ship at Chongqing and travel, by bus or bullet train, to Chengdu. Stroll around the People's Park, the ancient streets of the Wide and Narrow Alleys, and Jinli Old Street. **Please note the bullet train has restricted Carries; Aerosol spray cans containing hairspray, hair gel, styling mousse, insecticide and air freshener must be under 120 ml (4.2 fl oz)**

DAY 12: Chengdu B/L/D

Spend the morning experiencing a once in a lifetime trip to the Chengdu Panda Breeding and Research Centre, home to one of China's largest habitat of pandas. Stroll around the enclosures, take photos and try to spot the lesser-known Red Pandas.

DAY 13: Chengdu to Lijiang B/L

Fly to Lijiang, a famous remote, ancient town with breath-taking scenery. Visit the Pool of the Black Dragon which, built in 1737, affords stunning views of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain.

DAY 14: Lijiang to Dali B/L/D

This morning takes you on a cable car ride to Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, the region's tallest mountain and the most southern glacier in the northern hemisphere. You will also visit Yufeng Temple and Baisha village before driving to Dali.

DAY 15: Dali to Kunming B/L/D

Visit a family of the Bai minority group before heading on to the Three Pagodas of Chong Sheng. Following some time walking around the Old Town, you will take the Bullet train to Kunming.

DAY 16: Kunming to Guilin B/L

Today's excursion is to Stone Forest a UNESCO listed area with incredible limestone formations. You will be transferred to the airport in the afternoon in time for your evening flight to Guilin.

DAY 17: Guilin B/L/D

Arguably China's most picturesque region, Guilin is home to the stunning Karst Mountains and Li River. Visit the Reed Flute Caves with their rock formations and inscriptions, as well as Elephant Hill before walking around the beautiful lakes. Later, visit a traditional tea house and enjoy a traditional tea ceremony.

DAY 18: Guilin to Yangshuo B/L/D

Sail for around 3.5 hours along the Li River, through unforgettable scenery, to Yangshuo. Spend the afternoon exploring West Street with the option to see a theatrical performance of The Impression of Liu Sanjie – a show portraying life and culture of the local Yangshuo people using a stunning natural backdrop.

DAY 19: Yangshuo to Xi'an B/D

Spend the morning relaxing in beautiful Yangshuo before departing for Guilin in the late afternoon for a flight to Xi'an.

DAY 20: Xi'an B/L/D

Enjoy a full day sightseeing in Xi'an, visit the Old City Wall and Muslim Quarter before travelling back in time this evening at a Tang Dynasty dancing show.

DAY 21: Xi'an to Beijing B/L/D

Today enjoy a half day sightseeing in Xi'an, which includes a visit to the Terracotta Warriors, considered by many to be the 'Eighth Wonder of the World', as well as a visit to the Wild Goose Pagoda.

DAY 22: Beijing B/L/D

Take a morning Bullet Train to Beijing, first visiting Antique culture street-Liulichang and then the Temple of Heaven. Enjoy an optional excursion to watch a Kung Fu show for an additional fee.

DAY 23: Beijing B/L/D

Another full day in Beijing allows you time to stroll around the magnificent Summer Palace and be taken to one of China's most important political landmarks, Tiananmen Square. You will also visit the Forbidden City before being mesmerised by a fantastic Chinese acrobatic performance.

DAY 24: Beijing B/L/D

Start the day with a leisurely walk along the iconic Great Wall of China at Juyongguan pass. Spend time at the Cloisonne factory before heading back to your hotel via a photo stop at the impressive Olympic Stadium. Tonight, delight in a traditional Peking Duck dinner.

DAY 25: Beijing to the UK or Hong Kong extension

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

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

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

Day 2: Sichuan opera night show in Chendgu **From: CNY 280 (£33)**

Day 9: Excursion to the temple of White Emperor City **From: CNY 280 (£33)**

Day 10: Visit Fengdu Ghost City on a shore excursion **From: CNY 280 (£33)**

Day 18: Night-time Impression of Liu Sanjie light show **From: CNY 250 (£30)**

Day 22: Enjoy watching a Kung Fu Show **From: CNY 200 (£25)**

Day 24: Tour the, traditional hutongs of Beijing **From: CNY 200 (£25)**

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

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation guide

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 China. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed.

Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

If you have booked a triple share please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

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

Overnight trains

On the overnight trains, travellers who have not chosen to upgrade to a private cabin will be allocated a four-berth shared cabin. In this event, it is not guaranteed that travellers will be allocated cabins with fellow tour members or with passengers of the same gender. Overnight train facilities feature Asian-style toilets. These are local Chinese trains and standard may not match what you are used to at home. Upgrade to a private cabin for an additional supplement.

Meals

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

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Shanghai you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **China Travel Service**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/China Travel Service rep. will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your national guide will be on hand 24 hours a day should you have any queries. However, if you need to contact China Travel Service during your stay the details are:

Head office address

China Travel Service

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. The tour pace for Grand Tour of China is rated as 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 spent 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 endeavour 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 35. If in the unlikely event there are less than 35 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.

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- Loo paper for public WCs
- A travel plug adaptor - The voltage in China is 220 Volts. However, there are many different types of electrical sockets throughout the country, some taking plugs similar to the UK's, others for two or three thin

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 £3.00 (CNY30.00) 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 £120.00 per person (CNY1050.00) 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. 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 £500-£600 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

Credit Card information

As normal practice you will be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

What to Wear

We recommend that you wear warm clothing and thermals during winter & light clothing during the summer. You do not need to bring evening wear.

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 Sunday 22nd January 2023. Golden Week public holidays fall annually between 1st – 3rd of May and 1st – 7th of October.

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.

Please note

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

prongs. Should you plan to use your own hairdryer, travel iron, video camera, battery charger, electric shaver, etc, it is advisable to bring a multi-adaptor

- 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

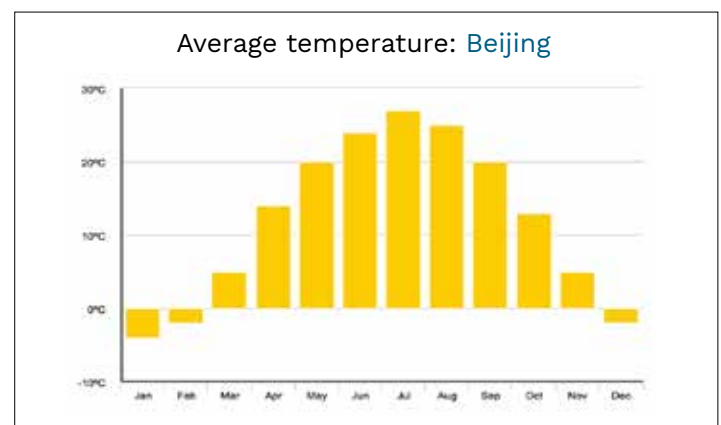
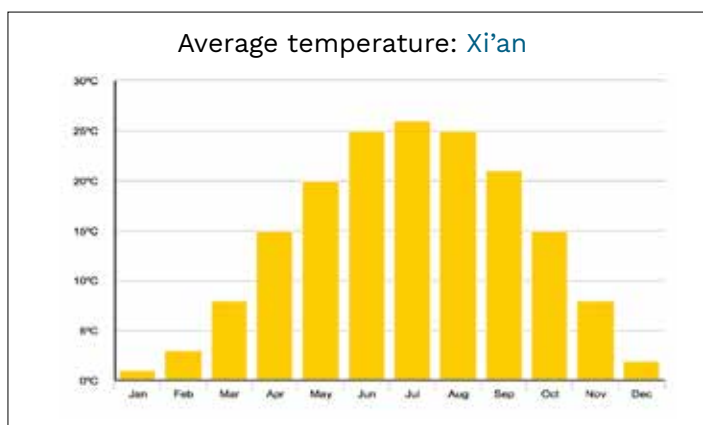
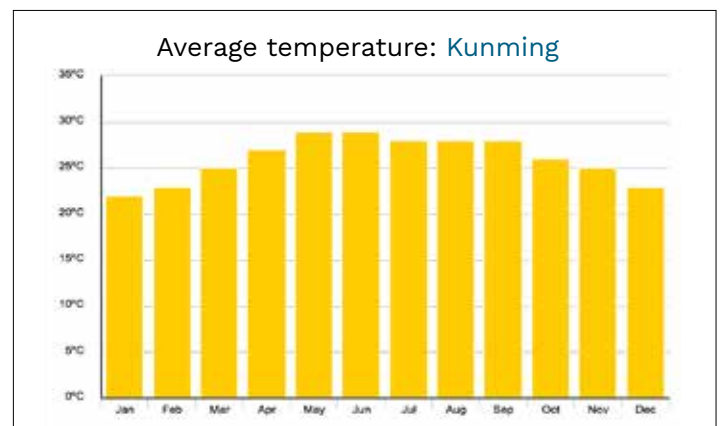
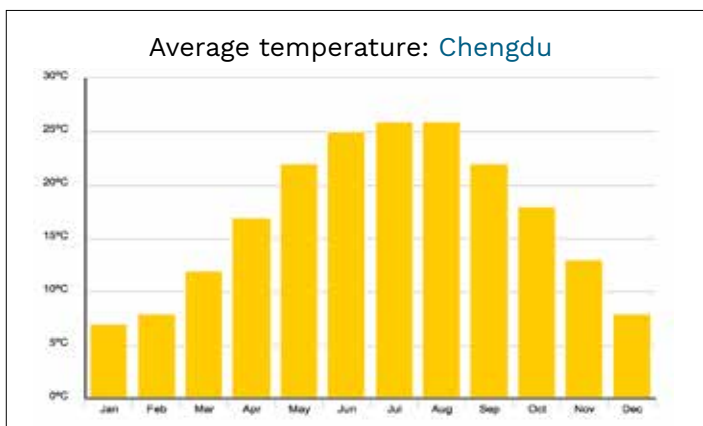
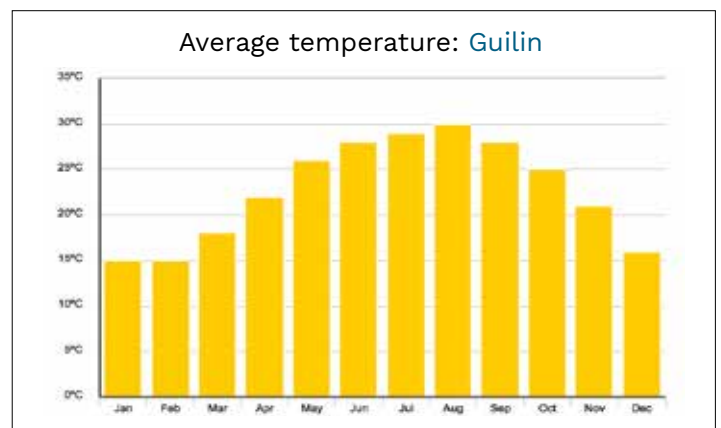
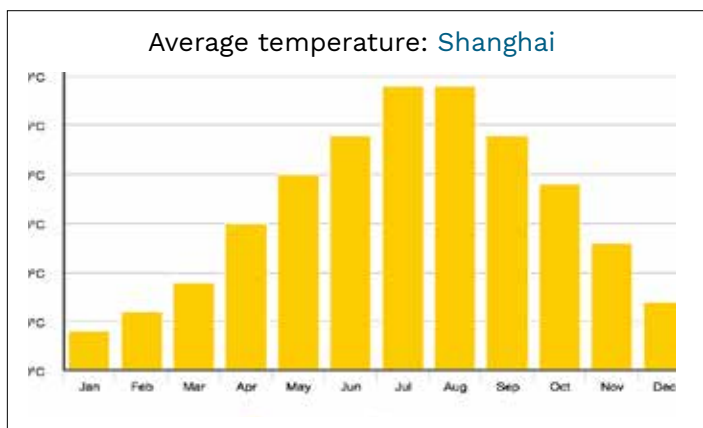
IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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



Hong Kong City Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



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 25: Beijing to Hong Kong

Depart Beijing in the morning and fly to Hong Kong via Shanghai. You will find your shared coach transfer at B18 at the arrival hall (see map), operated by Airport Shuttle and will be transferred to your hotel.

DAY 26: 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 27: 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 28: 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.

On Arrival

You will meet your driver at the arrival hall after customs clearance. The driver will be holding a sign marked with your name & the Mercury Holidays logo at the Arrival Hall Exit. If you have any problems finding the driver, please call 00852 9030 8030 for help.

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 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

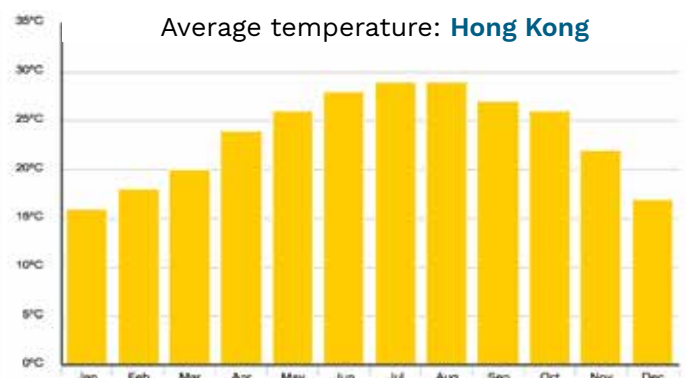
Closed Sunday and Hong Kong public holidays

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.



FLIGHT INFORMATION

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

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**

Hong Kong City Stay Extension

For your arrival transfer, after clearing customs and collecting your bags, you will meet the driver in Arrival Hall B. The transfer driver will holding a sign marked with guest name & Sunspot/Mercury Holidays logo.

For your departure transfer from the hotel to the Airport you need to be waiting in the hotel lobby at your designated pick up time as informed by our guide after the city tour.

Driver contact details (Mr Eric) - (852) 65331890

