

China Discovery Tour



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 Forbidden City and the beautiful metropolis of Shanghai.

ITINERARY AND 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.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Shanghai

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Shanghai International Airport.

DAY 2: Shanghai D

On arrival in Shanghai you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel. Enjoy an evening getting acquainted with your group at a delicious welcome dinner.

DAY 3: Shanghai B/L/D

With a population surpassing 25 million, Shanghai is an incredible metropolis not to be missed, with architecture like no other Chinese city. Commencing today's full day tour after breakfast, begin at the scenic Yu Gardens, which, dating back to the Ming Dynasty contain a plethora of characteristic features including pavilions, halls and ponds; wander to the Great Rockery which boasts spectacular birds-eye views overlooking the gardens below, before heading to Shanghai's Old Street where a backdrop of traditional architecture fuses elegantly with an assortment of shops and entertainment centres. Next, journey to the centre of culture at the Shanghai Museum and stroll around its three major exhibition halls, showcasing a dazzling collection of Chinese art, ancient ceramics and calligraphy. Visit the magnificent Bund and enjoy the opportunity to explore a vibrant silk factory. After dinner in the city, visit Shanghai's main shopping street at Nanjing Road before taking a night cruise along the Huangpu River which divides the city in two parts, enjoying the chance to gently cruise past Shanghai's emblematic landmarks which line the water course.

DAY 4: Shanghai to Wuzhen B/L/D

Travel by coach to the water village of Wuzhen where lush gardens, calming waterways and authentic buildings will transport you back in time to a traditional China. Journeying underneath stone bridges and past ancient wooden homes, glide along Wuzhen's picturesque grand canal before retiring to your hotel for dinner and evening's stay.

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

Transfer to the airport for your morning flight to the starting point of the Silk Route, the historic city of Xi'an. On arrival into this ancient Shaanxi city, lunch will be followed by a fascinating orientation tour of the birthplace of ancient China, showing you the many highlights of Xi'an. A former military defence, gaze in awe at the 14th century City Wall which protectively stands at an astonishing 12 metres high and stretches around a perimeter of 13.7km; surrounded by a dry moat and elevated views of the city, saunter along China's most complete surviving city fortification.

DAY 6: Xi'an B/L/D

Today, visit the vaults which house the awe-inspiring 'Eighth Wonder of the World', the magnificent 8,000 strong 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. Positioned in battle formation, this extraordinary feat of craftsmanship replicates the imperial guard combatants and appear to have been constructed so that no two warriors look alike. This evening, enjoy an East meets West banquet dinner in a grand theatre, followed by an authentic showcase of Chinese music and dance at a vibrant Tang Dynasty show.

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

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Beijing, spending the afternoon enjoying your first taste of China's dynamic capital city. Delight in a leisurely afternoon stroll around the world's best-preserved imperial gardens and exquisite architecture of Summer Palace, revelling in the tranquillity that exudes this stunning landmark. Offering a visual feast from its regal temples and pavilions, to the perfectly manicured gardens and harmonious lakes, this UNESCO World Heritage site is a marvel to behold.

DAY 8: Beijing B/L/D

One of the world's truly captivating capitals, Beijing is complex metropolis which boldly blends its rapidly developing cosmopolitan vibe and fascinating ancient origins, a truly extraordinary city. One of the tour highlights is a trip to the iconic Great Wall, built over 2,000 years ago to protect the Chinese Empire against marauding Mongol invaders from the North. A stroll along this incredible structure is the only way to appreciate its scale and significance as it stretches over 5,500 miles along the horizon, fringed by mountains and rolling grasslands. Tonight, savour the authentic tastes of China as you enjoy a traditional Peking Duck dinner.

DAY 9: Beijing B/L/D

Your final day includes a comprehensive city tour, first stopping at Tiananmen Square. Spanning an enormous 109 acres, this monumental landmark is not only the world's largest city centre square, but also the gateway to the remarkable Forbidden City. Exemplifying iconic Chinese architecture, step behind the imposing 10-metre high walls into a regal palace complex which houses the wondrous Imperial Palace Temple, where dynasties ruled China for hundreds of years. Later, explore China's largest existing 15th century, the Temple of Heaven, where you'll see locals playing cards and practicing Tai Chi in the tranquil surroundings. Spend your final evening marvelling at the incredible talents of accomplished performers at a mesmerising Chinese Acrobatic Show.

DAY 10/11: Beijing to the UK or Extension B

Transfer to Beijing Airport for your flight back to the UK via Shanghai or continue on to your chosen extension.

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 3: 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 AND 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 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.

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 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 Head Office (Beijing) co. Ltd
Room 919, 1 Dongdan North Ave, Dongcheng District, Beijing, China
Tel: 0086-10-85228725

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for China Travel Service:
During Office Hours: 0086 10 85228340/0086 10 85228725/0086-10-85228712

After Office Hours: Ms. Linda Liu (Mobile): 0086 13 911043036
Ms. Judith Zhu (Mobile): 0086 18 611991963
Ms. Carmen Chen (Mobile): 0086 13 120095762

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is required for entry into China. 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. If there are two or more of you then you may be eligible to apply for a group visa which does not require you to submit your fingerprints or need to travel to a Chinese Visa Application Centre. The group visa is exclusively arranged for Mercury clients by the Travel Visa Company and they can be contacted on 01270 250 590 for further information. Clients who do not qualify for the group visa can still contact the Travel Visa Company to apply for the standard visa. We 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.

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 of China Discovery is rated as 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 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 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 £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 wish to keep an alternative currency on you. 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.

Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

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 £100- £200 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 and 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.

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

Public Holidays – 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.

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

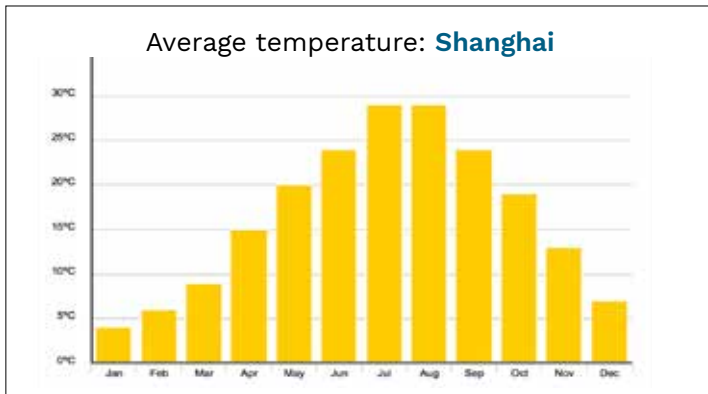
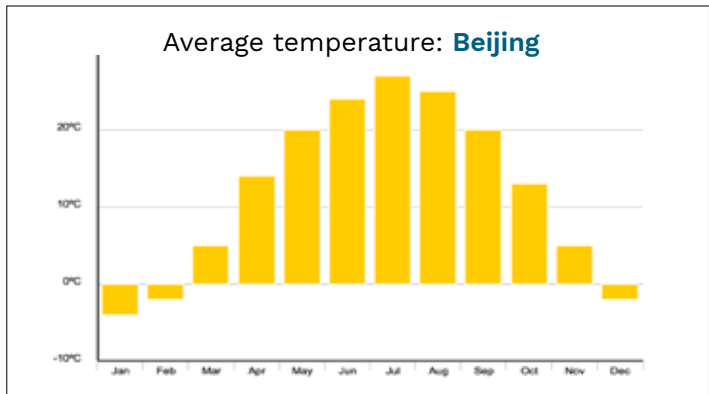
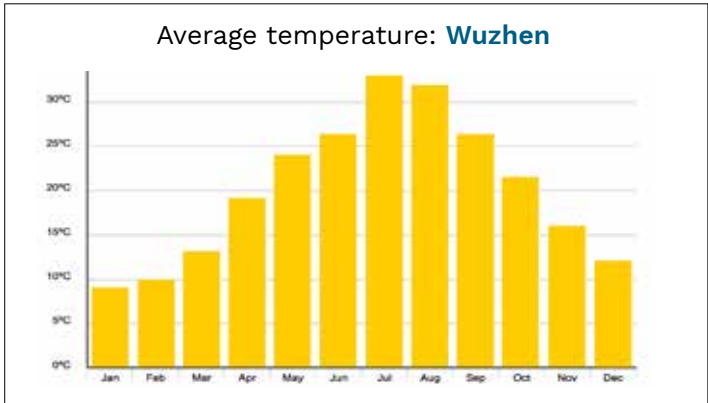
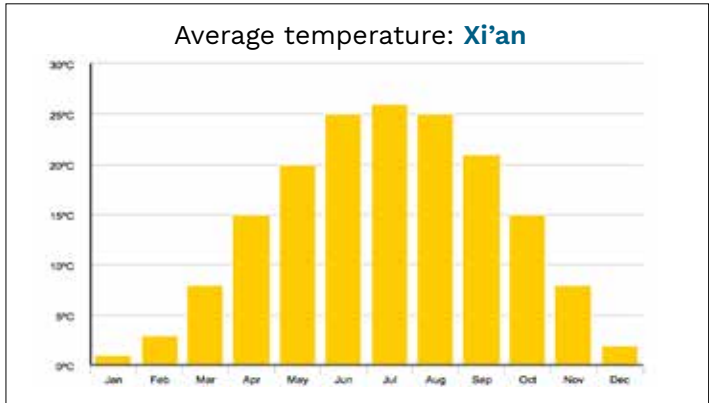
IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your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



Pandas of Chengdu Extension

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



TRIP OVERVIEW

Extend your tour with a visit to Chengdu and you'll have the once in a lifetime opportunity to see China's national treasure – the Giant Panda! This 3 night, 4 day tour takes you to the Chengdu Panda Breeding Centre which is home to one of China's largest habitat of pandas, living in their natural environment.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require during your extension tour to Chengdu.

DAY 10: Beijing to Chengdu B

Depart Beijing in the morning and fly to Chengdu via Shanghai. You will be met by your local guide on arrival and transferred to the 4★ Tianfu Sunshine Hotel, where you will stay for the duration of your tour.

DAY 11: Chengdu B/L/D

Today is the highlight of this extension tour, the once-in-a-lifetime chance to see one of the world's most endangered species – the Giant Panda. You will visit the Chengdu Panda Breeding and Research Centre which is China's largest panda breeding centre, founded in 1987 to encourage the healthy growth and nurturing of these beautiful creatures. Stroll around the many panda enclosures, watch an educational film in their cinema, visit the museum and discover the lesser known red pandas with their racoon-like features. In the afternoon you can stroll through the stalls that line the Wide and Narrow Alleys, an area of the city where old-style pagoda buildings have been renovated and rebuilt to incorporate a network of three pedestrian alleys. Continue on to the People's Park, where hundreds of locals go to practice traditional forms of martial arts exercise. Dinner is a delicious traditional Sichuan Hot Pot meal, where guests are invited to create their own dipping sauce then cook a variety of meats at their table in their individually flavoured hot pot broths.

DAY 12: Chengdu B

After breakfast you have the remainder of the day at your own leisure. Alternatively the following full day tour can be taken at a supplement of £99 per person: Travel through China's scenic countryside to Leshan, where you will visit the mesmerising Giant Buddha. It was built over 2,000 years ago during the Tang Dynasty and is an impressive 71 metres tall. See a different perspective of the Buddha by taking a boat ride along the adjacent river, allowing you to see the numerous carvings hidden from view when on the ground. During the afternoon you will stop by the 1,730 year old riverside Huanglong Xi Old Village, an ancient Chinese town with cobbled streets and an array of arts and crafts. In the evening you have the option to attend a Sichuan Opera Changing Faces Show, or relax at your own leisure. The show will also be at a supplement.

DAY 13: Chengdu to the UK

Depart Chengdu in the morning for your return flight back to London Heathrow via Shanghai.

Hotel Information

Chengdu (3 nights): 4★ Tianfu Sunshine Hotel
Address: 2 Taisheng N Rd, CaoShiJie, Qingyang Qu, Chengdu Shi, Sichuan Sheng, China, 610017

The Tianfu Sunshine Hotel features air-conditioning/heating, an en suite bathroom, satellite TV, safety deposit box and tea & coffee making facilities. Mercury Holidays has visited and inspected this hotel to ensure that it meets the high standards of service which we require for our clients. Depending on group size, you may be accommodated at the 4★ Tibet Hotel.

Meals

Breakfast is western style and served in the hotel. Lunch and dinner will be taken in local Chinese restaurants on day 2 and will be served with either one beer or soft drink. Day 3 is at leisure so neither lunch nor dinner will be included unless you decide to take the full day tour at a supplement.

Group size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 2, and the maximum will be 10.

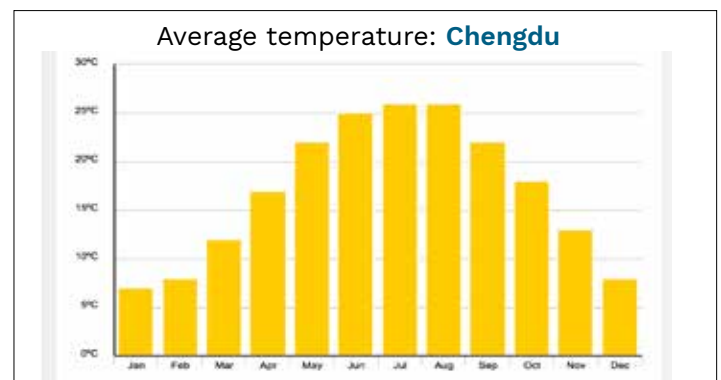
Tour Guides

This extension tour to Chengdu is semi-escorted. Your guide will meet you on arrival at Chengdu airport and take to your hotel. Day 11 will be fully accompanied, whilst day 12 is at your leisure so you will not be met by your guide at all. You will be met by your guide on day 13 to take you to the airport for your return flight to London Heathrow.

Tipping

The same tipping practice is commonplace in Chengdu whereby 30 CNY (approximately £3) per person per day is required for your guide and driver.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE



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

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 10: Shanghai to Hong Kong

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

DAY 11: 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 12: 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 13: 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 of a similar standard will be used.

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

Average temperature: Hong Kong



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

