GLORIOUS CHINA

TRIP OVERVIEW

Glimpse into the future beneath Shanghai’s cloud brushing sky, cruise upon the Li River to observe China’s rural heart against a backdrop of immense karsts and step back in time on a rickshaw as you navigate Beijing’s ancient hutong alleys to the revered Lama Temple. Our fourteen-day itinerary showcases this magnificent country of contradictions, with unique cultural encounters allowing you to join a traditional tea ceremony or marvel at a spellbinding Tang Dynasty performance, and visits to Xi’an’s Terracotta Warriors and the Great Wall of China.

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 to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Day 1: UK to Shanghai

Day 2: Shanghai D Upon arrival into Shanghai you will be met by a local guide and transferred to your hotel. Following dinner, experience your first taste of this fast-paced metropolis with a visit to the Bund, Shanghai’s riverside architectural showcase, followed by a stroll along Nanjing Road to observe a neon-illuminated bustle of the world’s busiest shopping street.

Day 3: Shanghai B/L/D. Following breakfast embark on a morning tour of Shanghai, which includes a meander through the pond-dwelling pavilions of Yuyuan Gardens and past the French Concession’s charming tree-lined avenues. After lunch, tour the affluent district of Xintiandi to admire Shikumen housing of old Shanghai, much of which conceals contemporary interiors that make up international galleries, quaint cafés and upmarket boutiques.

Day 4: Shanghai B/L/D. Discover treasures of the Shanghai Museum, which hosts an astonishing collection of paintings, calligraphy and sculptures representing a complex tapestry of dynasties. Continue to the Pudong area and peer up at the gargantuan skyscrapers that dominate the city’s skyline, including the striking Oriental Pearl Tower’s protruding spheres. Later in the morning, enjoy a scenic coach journey to the ancient city of Zhujialiao for a tour of its winding waterways, delicate bridges and Ming Dynasty suburbs.

Day 5: Shanghai to Guilin B/L/D. This morning take a short flight to the city of Guilin. Your sightseeing tour begins at Fubo Hill, a rock edifice that protrudes through the river. Explore its network of caves that display intricate Buddha statues before ascending a sweeping staircase that’ll lead you to a viewing platform to admire stunning vistas across Guilin. Spend some time at leisure at this afternoon beside the striking Elephant Hill, whose trunk appears to be drinking from the Taohua River.

Day 6: Guilin to Yangshuo B/L/D. Begin today with a peaceful cruise along the winding Li River to witness enormous karsts behind each corner, water buffalo patrolling the fields and the famous compliant fisherman upon bamboo rafts. Having observed this charming rural landscape arrive at Yangshuo, arguably one of China’s most beautiful cities. Following lunch, explore West Street at leisure to savour all the cultural nuances this diverse hub has to offer including stalls decorated with vibrant local crafts and a myriad of freshly caught fish from the Li River.

Day 7: Yangshuo B. Today explore Yangshuo at your own pace, in which you can revist West Street, wonder at the enigmatic Moon Hill or take a scenic bike ride to Xingping Town for an encounter with a quaint fishing community.

Day 8: Yangshuo to Xi’an B/D. Return to Guilin where you will catch your flight to the city of Xi’an. In the afternoon, enjoy a sightseeing tour that will lead you through 3,000 years of history concluding at the Xi’an City Wall, one of the largest ancient defence structures in the world, crowned by elaborate guard towers indicative of fourteenth century Ming architecture.

Day 9: Xi’an B/L/D. Behold over 7,000 soldiers, horses and chariots crafted to protect the first Emperor of China, during your visit to the magnificent Terracotta Warriors, considered by many to be the ‘Eight Wonder of the World’. After admiring this tour highlight, visit the Wild Goose Pagoda to marvel at this 197ft ancient structure surrounded by pilgrims lighting aromatic incense, followed by a meander through the Muslim Quarter’s marketplace, alive with the scent of steamed Jiasan buns. This evening witness a breath-taking artistic performance during a colourul Tang Dynasty Show.

Day 10: Xi’an to Beijing B/L/D. After breakfast take a flight to China’s capital, Beijing. Your half-day tour begins at the grand Temple of Heaven, an oasis of pristine garden space interrupted by lavish Confucian monuments, including the Temple itself that once served as a vast stage for the emperor. After spending time strolling through the Wang Fujing area, savour a delicious Peking duck dinner, for a traditional taste of fine Chinese cuisine.

Day 11: Beijing B/L/D. Your day tour of Beijing includes a visit to Tiansanmen Square, one of China’s most infamous political landmarks and the world’s largest public square. Having marvelled at this symbolic centre of the Chinese universe overlooked by a portrait of Chairman Mao, gaze at the largest palace complex in the world, the Forbidden City. Continue to the Summer Palace, for a stroll through the royal gardens that once acted as a retreat for emperors, before visiting a tea house to be part of an ancient ceremony involving the preparation and serving ofoolong tea.

Day 12: Beijing B/L/D. Today’s sightseeing tour will begin in the iconic Great Wall of China. Winding over 5,500 miles across vast deserts, grasslands and mountains, the Wall was constructed over 2,000 years ago to guard the Chinese Empire against Mongol invaders from the north. We have included a cable car trip to a viewing point, ensuring you get the most from this gargantuan landmark. In the afternoon, stop off at the eye-catching Bird’s Nest stadium used for the 2008 Olympic games. After dinner relax and take-in a spellbinding Chinese Acrobatic show.

Day 13: Beijing B/L/D. Your last full day in Beijing commences with a rickshaw tour of the city’s hutong alleys, a network of ornate houses and elegant courtyards. Before lunch explore the Lama Temple, China’s most perfectly preserved lamasery whose Hall of Harmony houses three enormous bronze Buddha statues. Following an afternoon of perusing Lúlicháng’s antique street, spend this evening witnessing a traditional Peking Opera performance, a quintessence of China and mesmerising way to end your tour.

Day 14: Beijing to UK or Hong Kong Transfer to Beijing airport for your flight back 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 4: A night cruise on Shanghai’s Huangpu River From: CNY 250 (£30) OR: Jinmiao Tower & ride the Airport Maglev Train From: CNY 350 (£41)

Day 6: The night-time ‘Impression of Liu Sanjie’ light show From: CNY 250 (£30)

Day 11: Witness a kung fu show in 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.
ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival into Shanghai you will be met by a representative from our local agent, holding a sign displaying: “Sunspot Tours”. The Sunspot Tours/China Travel Service representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. If you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

China Travel Service Head Office (Beijing) Co., Ltd
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

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 ‘Sunspot’. 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, Edinburgh or Belfast 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 name: China Travel Service Head Office (Beijing) Co., Ltd
- Contact number: 0086 10 85908336
- Contact number: 0086 10 5922 3388

Tour Guides
This is an escorted tour, meaning the you will have the services of an English speaking guide during each excursion ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

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 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.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Hotel information
Shanghai (3 nights): 4★ Regal Shanghai East Aria Hotel 880 Lingling Rd, WanTiiGuan, Xuhui Qu, Shanghai, China 200000 Contact number: 0086 21 6426 6868
Or the 4★ Ocean Hotel No.1117 East Daming Road, Hongkou District Contact number: 0086 21 6545 8868
Guilin (1 night): 4★ Days Inn Hotel Guilin 55 Puthuo Road, Qixing, Guilin, China 541004 Contact number: 0086 773 695 9999
Or the 4★ Guilin Plaza Hotel 20 Lijiang Rd, Xinggu Qu, Guilin Shi, Guangxi Zhuangzuzhiqiu, China, 541004 Contact number: 0086 773 588 2888

Yangshou (2 nights): 4★ New West Street Hotel 131 Pantao Rd, Yangshuo, Guangxi, China Contact number: 0086 773 881 8888
Xi’an (2 nights): 5★ Xi’an Jianguo Hotel Jiacdo Commerce Block, Bellin, Xi’an, China Contact number: 0086 29 8655 8888
Beijing (4 nights): 4★ Beijing Royal Grand Hotel 6A East Beisanhuan Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China Contact number: 0086 10 5922 3388
All departures on 14/10/19 & 28/10/19 will be staying at the: 4★ Novotel Xinqiao Hotel 1 Chongwenmen W St, Dongcheng Qu, China, 100005 Contact number: 0086 10 6513 3368

Accommodation
All accommodation is 4 & 5★ and features an en-suite bathroom, air-conditioning and TV. Sunspot Tours has visited and inspected all of the hotels to ensure that they meet the high standards of service which we require for our clients. If the hotels detailed are not available alternatives will be used of a similar standard.

Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals
Breakfast is always western style & 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.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival into Shanghai you will be met by a representative from our local agent, holding a sign displaying: “Sunspot Tours”. The Sunspot Tours/China Travel Service representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. If you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

China Travel Service Head Office (Beijing) Co., Ltd
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 85908336
0086 10 85908341
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 ‘Sunspot’. 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, Edinburgh or Belfast 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 number: 9111000070109358407L
- Company name: China Travel Service Head Office (Beijing) Co., Ltd
- Contact number: 0086 10 85908336
- Contact number: 0086 10 85908341

Tour Guides
This is an escorted tour, meaning the you will have the services of an English speaking guide during each excursion ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

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 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.

Itinerary Changes
Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to the local conditions or for operational purposes. 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 and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times or tainting conditions.

Tipping
Tipping is at your discretion, however we would recommend approximately £65 (570 CNY) per person for the duration of your tour. Tips are accepted in the local currency, however it is asked that if you do not tip in the local currency that you only pay with notes, as coins cannot be exchanged.

Currency Exchange
The currency in China is the Chinese Yuan (CNY). We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK.

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 an average level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves moderate days of walking on uneven paths and small hills, and getting on and off coaches and boats. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.
**WHAT TO PACK**

- Insect repellent
- High factor sun cream and a hat with a big brim for sunny days
- Comfortable walking shoes such as trainers
- Sunglasses
- Towel, swimsuit and plastic bags
- Ruck sack or light bag per person
- Personal toiletries
- Loo paper for public WCs
- Light rain coat and warm clothing
- Binoculars
- Personal drinks bottle
- Plug adapter - The electricity supply is 110V or 220V. You will need a special three pin plug adapter
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc.

Please note; Lighters are not allowed on planes or 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.

**Personal Expenses**

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any meals where these are not mentioned on your itinerary and personal purchases, such as souvenirs, drinks and snacks. Approximately £500-600 per person should be sufficient for the duration of your tour. Please also bear in mind that there will be several shopping opportunities throughout your tour.

**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. Sunspot 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.

**FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Your initial flight is to **Shanghai Pudong International Airport** with **China Eastern (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 two 23kg pieces of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding in size and 1 personal item such as a handbag, briefcase or laptop case. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. 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, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HKX313.

**WEATHER AND CLIMATE**

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

On your 3 night, 4 day extension to Hong Kong 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, it combines Eastern and Western culture in a plethora of attractions and delicious restaurants.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

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

Your included meal guide:
B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 14: Beijing to Hong Kong B
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, operated by Airport Shuttle and will be transferred to the 4★ The Cityview Hotel.

DAY 15: 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.

DAY 16: 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 17: Hong Kong to UK
You will be picked up at your hotel in the morning for your return flight to London Heathrow via Shanghai.

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

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so, please contact 0843 224 0723
Please see below a map to show the location of the Airport Shuttle desk at B-18 in Hong Kong International Airport.

After immigration & customs clearance, proceed to the arrival hall, counter B-18 for your arrival transfer.