Uncover the ancient city sights of China and the neon-lit districts of Japan, two countries bound by their Buddhist ties and imperial histories yet offering wildly different cultural, culinary and natural attractions. Journey from the geisha districts of Kyoto and towering high rises of Tokyo to explore the iconic sights of Xi’an, Beijing and Shanghai on this 15-day East Asian exploration.

**ITINERARY & DETAILS**

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to China & Japan. 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 Kyoto**
Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Osaka, via Shanghai.

**DAY 2: Kyoto**
On arrival in Osaka, you will be met and transferred to your hotel in the nearby city of Kyoto. The remainder of the day will be at leisure, allowing you to relax and settle in or explore the area around your hotel.

**DAY 3: Kyoto**
Experience traditional Japan at its finest as you tour Kyoto, a city of shrines, temples and geisha teahouses that boasts 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Enjoy double visions of gold as you witness the gold-leafed pavilion of Kinkaku-ji and its shimmering reflection mirrored in the surrounding moat. Visit Fushimi Inari and stroll through a colourful arcade of vivid red ‘torii’, or shrine gates, inscribed with dedications to Inari, the god of rice. Browse the maze of food stalls in the 400-year-old Nishiki Market, bearing fresh produce, intriguing pickles and steaming bowls of udon noodles, then continue on to the geisha district of Gion. Spot geishas draped in lavish kimonos and explore the charming wooden buildings, teahouses and restaurants of the area before returning to your hotel.

**DAY 4: Kyoto**
A day trip to the nearby city Nara allows you to delve into the cultural legacy of Japan’s ancient former capital. Visit the Buddhist complex at Todaiji Temple, home to the world’s largest wooden structure and the colossal bronze Buddha statue nestled in its interior. Continue on to nearby Nara Park and watch over 1,200 deer roaming its greenery, perhaps purchasing some deer crackers to feed to these friendly park inhabitants. Travel back to Kyoto where this evening’s entertainment allows you to experience an age-old tradition with a geisha performance and dinner.

**DAY 5: Kyoto to Tokyo**
After breakfast, board your train bound for Tokyo and experience Japan’s high-tech rail network, renowned for its speed, cleanliness and punctuality. Journey past rolling rural landscapes and through small, traditional towns as you follow the coastline, arriving in Tokyo later this afternoon for the rest of the day at leisure.

**DAY 6: Tokyo**
Tokyo’s fusion of futuristic districts, centuries-old palaces, family-run ramen booths and streets dotted with cutesy anime depictions provides endless chances for exploration. A full day of sightseeing begins at Sensoji, Tokyo’s oldest temple.

**DAY 7: Tokyo**
Following breakfast, visit Hakone National Park, home to one of Japan’s most instantly recognisable sights — the iconic Mount Fuji, fringed by thick forests and a crescent-shaped ring of shimmering lakes. Take a Hakone Ropeway cable car ride to a mountaintop station with spectacular vistas of the sparkling, blue waters of Lake Ashi and Fuji’s snow-capped peak. From here, a short walking trail leads to Owakudani Valley, an active volcanic crater, where hot springs, bubbling pools and steam vents serve as reminders of the area’s volcanic might.

**DAY 8: Tokyo to Beijing, China**
Bid farewell to Japan as you transfer to the airport for your flight to Beijing, China. Touch down in China’s capital city, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel in time for dinner.

**DAY 9: Beijing**
China’s dynamic capital is built on an impressive scale, with its imposing monuments serving as reminders of its imperial past. Today’s full-day tour takes you around the highlights of the city, starting with Tiananmen Square, where you will explore the world’s largest public square under the watchful eye of Chairman Mao’s large, central portrait. From here, enter the vast Forbidden Palace and wander its 9,999 rooms and chambers before travelling onward to the tranquil Temple of Heaven. Later tonight, experience one of China’s top delicacies as you savour a crisp, fragrant Peking duck dinner.

**DAY 10: Beijing to Xi’an**
Today’s excursion starts at the iconic Great Wall, constructed over 2,000 years ago to guard the Chinese Empire against Mongol invaders. Stroll along a section of this amazing structure which stretches over 5,500 miles, crossing deserts, grasslands and mountains. Travel back into the city and browse the old, traditional calligraphy and book shops of Liulichang Antique Culture Street and the historic stores of Qianmen Dashilan, where some of China’s most notable silk stores are located. In the evening, board an overnight sleeper train as you travel to Xi’an, taking in the night-time scenery that passes you by.

**DAY 11: Xi’an**
On arrival in Xi’an, you will be met and transferred to your hotel before setting out in the afternoon to visit Xi’an’s City Wall, a long stretch of fortifications which is the oldest in China and provides dramatic views over the city.
DAY 12: Xi’an B/L/D
Taking nearly four decades to complete and over 700,000 workers, Xi’an’s Terracotta Warriors were built to protect China’s first emperor in his afterlife. Explore this impressive underground mausoleum, and the 8,000 extraordinarily sculpted warriors, bronze chariots and preserved weapons on display. Continue on to the Small Wild Goose Pagoda and the Muslim Quarter, home to historic mosques and a labyrinth of market stalls selling everything from souvenirs to edible delicacies. Later this evening, travel back in time as you watch a colourful Tang Dynasty dancing show.

DAY 13: Xi’an to Shanghai B/L/D
After breakfast, board your bullet train and travel west to Shanghai. On arrival, experience your first taste of this fast-paced metropolis with a visit to the Bund, Shanghai’s waterside walkway, followed by a stroll along Nanjing Road to observe the world’s busiest shopping street. Check into your hotel in time for dinner.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Hotel information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hotel Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number of Nights</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kyoto</td>
<td>Royal Park Hotel The Kyoto</td>
<td>3★</td>
<td>3 nights</td>
<td>Higashiru Kawaramachi Sanpotori, Nakaagyo-ku, Kyoto 604-804, Kyoto Prefecture, Japan</td>
<td>0081 03 3980 1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>The B Ikebukuro</td>
<td>3★</td>
<td>2 nights</td>
<td>1-39-4 Higashi Ikebukuro, Toshima 170-0013, Tokyo Prefecture</td>
<td>0081 03 510 1431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>4★ Landmark Hotel</td>
<td>2★</td>
<td>2 nights</td>
<td>8 North Dongsanhu Road, Beijing, China, 100004</td>
<td>0086 10 6590 6688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xi’an</td>
<td>Xi’an Jianguo Hotel</td>
<td>4★</td>
<td>2 nights</td>
<td>No.2 Huzhu Road, Beilin District, Xi’an 710048, China</td>
<td>0086 10 6500 2233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shanghai</td>
<td>Ocean Hotel</td>
<td>4★</td>
<td>2 nights</td>
<td>1171 Dongtaming Rd, Hongkou, Shanghai, China, 200062</td>
<td>0086 21 6545 8888</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accommodation
All accommodation is 3★ or 4★ and features an en suite bathroom, air-conditioning, heating 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

Japan
Breakfast is always served in your hotel each morning and will be western style. Lunch and dinner, where included, will either be taken at your hotel or at a local restaurant.

China
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.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

Japan
On your arrival in Kyoto you will be met by a representative from our local agent in Japan, Beauty of Japan, holding a sign displaying ‘Sunspot Tours’. The Sunspot Tours/Beauty of Japan representative will transfer you to your hotel on arrival where you will spend your first night. If you need to contact Beauty of Japan during your stay the details are:

Beauty of Japan
Tokyo office address:
Shintomicho 1-chome bldg. 5 Fl, 1-3-2, Tokyo, Japan

Emergency contact information
Please find below the emergency contact details for Beauty of Japan
24-hour hotline number (during office hours and after working hours):
0081 335 370 788

China
On your arrival in Beijing you will be met by a representative from our local agent, China Travel Service, holding a sign displaying: “Sunspot Tours”. The Sunspot Tours/China Travel Service 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 your representative during your stay the details are:

China Travel Service
Head office address: 15F CTS (HK) Grand Metropark Hotel Beijing, No.338 Guang’an Men Nei Street, Xicheng District, Beijing, China
Telephone: 0086 10 85908335 / 0086 10 85908341

Emergency contact information
Please find below the emergency contact details for China Travel Service:
During Office Hours: 0086 10 85908335 / 0086 10 85908341
After Office Hours: Ms. Linda Liu (Mobile): 0086 61 3911043303
               Ms. Shina Cao (Mobile): 0086 61 8284532334
WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas
Japan: UK passport holders are not currently required to obtain a visa prior to departure. A tourist visa will be issued on arrival for a duration of 90 days when you show your passport (must be valid for at least six months from the date you are due to leave Japan). Visa, arrival and departure requirements are subject to change and obtaining a visa is the responsibility of the traveler and not Sunspot Tours. We recommend you check with your destinations’ Tourist Board or Embassy prior to departure for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding visas and passport validity.

China: 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 Tours”. The cost of the visa is approximately £189.00, when calling the Travel Visa Company, they will advise you of the most up to date fees. 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.

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 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 WKB20 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 Tours 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.

Tour Guides
This is a fully escorted tour meaning that you will be met by a local guide in each of the cities that you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Tipping
Japan: Tipping is part of life in Japan and customary on a tour, but you should not feel obliged or pressured to tip if you feel you have not received good service. Gratuities are usually expected for local guides on excursions and tips are also appreciated by the tour leaders/guides at the end of your tour. We recommend an average of GBP £2 per person per day for the duration of your tour. This is only if you feel that their service was up to standard and is completely at your own discretion.

China: It is customary to tip your national guide, local guide and driver approximately ES (CN¥40.00) per person per day. Your national guide will collect this for your convenience on the first day of your tour in Beijing, approximately CN¥35.00 (CN¥320.00) per person for the total duration. Tips are collected in Chinese Yuan.

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 and boats. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

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, In Japan, the electricity supply is 110/120 volts and two or three flat pin plugs
- Loo paper for public WCs
- 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
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Lightweight clothing
- Sweater

Please note: Lighters are not allowed on planes, trains or sights of special interest, such as Tianannmen square, Forbidden city, The Temple of Heaven, Terracotta Warriors, Three Gorges Dam, Wild Goose Pagoda.

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.

Group Size
The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 12, and the maximum will be 40. If in the unlikely event there are less than 12 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.

Currency Exchange
Japan: The currency in Japan is the Japanese Yen (JPY or Y). You can purchase the currency before you travel but you will probably get a better exchange rate if money is exchanged when in Japan. You can buy Yen at foreign exchange banks and at the airport. Credit, debit and prepaid cards from international brands are accepted at a wide variety of places in the major cities within Japan. Outside of these, cards may not be widely accepted, although you will be able to withdraw cash in the local currency across the country at ATMs at 7 Eleven shops.

China: 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.

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. We recommend you bring along a minimum of GBP £30.00 per person to change to local currency. 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.

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.

Visas
China: It is customary to tip your national guide, local guide and driver approximately ES (CN¥40.00) per person per day. Your national guide will collect this for your convenience on the first day of your tour in Beijing, approximately CN¥35.00 (CN¥320.00) per person for the total duration. Tips are collected in Chinese Yuan.

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- A travel plug adaptor - The voltage in China is 220 Volts. It is advisable to bring a multi-adaptor, In Japan, the electricity supply is 110/120 volts and two or three flat pin plugs
- Loo paper for public WCs
- 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
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Lightweight clothing
- Sweater

Please note: Lighters are not allowed on planes, trains or sights of special interest, such as Tianannmen square, Forbidden city, The Temple of Heaven, Terracotta Warriors, Three Gorges Dam, Wild Goose Pagoda.

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.
Your initial flight is to Kansai International Airport (Osaka), via Shanghai, with China Eastern Airlines (MU), departing from London Heathrow Terminal 4. Your return flight is from Shanghai Pudon International Airport, to London Heathrow.

**FLIGHT INFORMATION**

**Baggage Allowance**
Baggage allowance (per person): Please note that the baggage allowance may vary. Please refer to the bottom right of your E-ticket receipt for the correct allowance. For example, if it shows “20k” this means your allowance is 20kg. If it shows “2PC” this means your allowance is two bags not exceeding 23kg each. Important note: For handling purposes the maximum weight of any single piece of baggage is 23kg. If the allowance shown on your ticket exceeds this you will need to take an additional bag. You may also take hand luggage of 5kg not exceeding 56cm x 36cm x 23cm in size.

**Airport Extras**
If you wish to arrange airport car parking, lounges 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.
TRIP OVERVIEW

Known as the ‘Paris of the East’, Shanghai is China’s largest city with futuristic skyscrapers and a fascinating heritage. Take a stroll along the waterfront Bund, the dazzling jewel in East Asia’s pre-war crown, with views across the river to the towering skyscrapers of Pudong and a new Shanghai.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

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

Shanghai (2 nights)
Your stay will take place at the 4★ Ocean Hotel on Bed and Breakfast.

The recently refurbished Ocean Hotel is conveniently located at the bustling North Bund shopping zone. Guests can enjoy a range of facilities including a fitness centre, indoor swimming pool and Spa at the Ocean Hotel.

Meals
Breakfast is included every day and is western style and served in the hotel each morning. No other meals are included for your add-on.

Hotel Information:
4★ Ocean Hotel - 1171 Dongdaming Rd, Hongkou, Shanghai, China, 200082. Contact number: 0086 21 6545 8888

If you have booked another hotel, other than the one featured above, this will be shown on your invoice.

Final confirmation of your hotel will be sent in a document approximately two weeks before you travel.

Currency
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.

Personal Expenses
You will need to take money with you to cover any lunches and dinners, as well as personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and drinks.

Tour Guides
Your stay in Shanghai is not escorted by a tour guide and your time will be free to explore the area at your own pace.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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

Average temperature: Shanghai

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.
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 15: Shanghai to Hong Kong
Depart Shanghai in the morning and fly to Hong Kong. You will find your shared coach transfer at B01 at the arrival hall (see map), operated by Airport Shuttle and will be transferred to the 4★ Harbour Plaza 8 Degrees Hotel.

DAY 16: 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 17: 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 18: 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.

Hotel information
Your stay in Hong Kong will take place at the 4★ Harbour Plaza 8 Degrees Hotel. Centrally located in the lively area of Kowloon, the Harbour Plaza 8 Degrees Hotel offers well-equipped rooms with air-conditioning/heating, an en suite bathroom, satellite TV, safety deposit box and tea and coffee making facilities. If the hotel listed is unavailable an alternative will be used of a similar standard.

Hotel address: 199 Kowloon City Rd, To Kwa Wan, Hong Kong
Contact number: 00852 2126 1988
Final confirmation of your hotel will be sent in a document approximately two weeks before you travel.

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.

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

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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.
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.