

Beijing to Hong Kong Express

Visiting: China, Hong Kong
Code: GCHE

Tour price from **GBP 506.00** for **10 days** - Land Only

Plus a local payment of **USD 250pp** payable locally

Up to 12% off selected trip dates. Was GBP 720 - Now GBP 631

Traveller
Basic

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Beijing to Hong Kong Express Trip Notes

At Imaginative Traveller we always aim to provide accurate information for our travellers.

Unfortunately information such as the price of optional activities is occasionally subject to change, and this means that we are constantly revising our trip notes. In order to ensure that you have the most up to date information for your trip we suggest that you check the trip notes for your tour around one month before departure.

Trip code: GCHE

Trip valid from: 01/01/2012

Trip valid until: 30/06/2013

Trip length: 10 days

Trip starts in: Beijing

Trip ends in: Hong Kong (China) (Country)

Maximum group size: 16



Highlights

Terracotta Warriors Of Xian

The Forbidden City

Yangshuo's Limestone Karsts

Victoria Peak

This trip is ideal if you have limited time and want to see the major attractions in China. In ten action-packed days we visit the Great Wall of China and the famed Terracotta Warriors near Xian, before heading to Yangshuo, to explore its breathtaking countryside by bicycle. Our final destination is Hong Kong, which we arrive at with a spectacular hydrofoil ride into Victoria Harbour. This journey is sure to leave you wanting to come back for more!

Itinerary

Day
1

Beijing

Your trip starts today with your arrival in Beijing. No activities are planned, so arrive early if you can, as there is plenty to see. There will be a pre-departure briefing with your tour guide late in the afternoon.

Day
2-3

Beijing & The Great Wall

Beijing is a thriving metropolis and home to over 16 million people. Over the next couple of days, we explore many of its main attractions. The Forbidden City, built over 500 years ago, has been off limits to commoners until about 100 years ago. After entering through an archway beyond Tiananmen Gate, we spend the morning exploring this huge complex and marvel at the many intricate carvings that adorn its buildings. A visit to China is not complete without taking a walk along the Great Wall. You will visit one of the best-preserved parts of the Great Wall, the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall used to serve as the northern barrier defending the capital and the imperial tombs. Being perched on this incredible engineering feat and surveying the spectacular surrounding countryside is an unforgettable experience - the surrounding views are amazing. There is ample free time to explore the many other sights of Beijing, such as the Summer Palace and the Temple of Heaven, or just kick back and soak up the atmosphere of this historic and vibrant metropolis. On Monday evening we board the sleeper train for Xian. You can either purchase dinner on the train or buy some food prior to boarding. We stay in six-berth air-conditioned cabins that have an open and relaxed feel about them. A blanket, sheets and a pillow are provided, although some people may wish to bring their own inner sheet. Travelling on the train is a great way to mix with the locals and practise your Chinese-language skills.

**Day
4-5**

Xian & Terracotta Warriors

On Tuesday morning we arrive in Xian, the capital of Shaanxi province. After freshening up at our hotel, we are soon out exploring the awesome army of Terracotta Warriors. Unearthed in 1974 by farmers digging a well, these life-sized soldiers, horses and chariots were all individually hand carved. There are over 6,000 of these clay statues, all in battle formation and facing east, in order to protect China's first emperor, Qin Shihuang. Afterwards, we have free time to wander around this historical city. The Muslim Quarter, situated just a few blocks from our hotel, is a fascinating place to visit with its Great Mosque and vast array of market stalls. The local dumplings here are legendary! Alternatively, you can walk along the top of the ancient city walls or climb the Bell Tower, with its commanding views across town.

**Day
6-8**

Yangshuo

On Thursday morning we take a short flight to Guilin, where we are transferred by private bus on to Yangshuo. Over the next two days we explore the region on bicycle and by foot. The town and its surroundings are a photographer's paradise! We hire bikes for half a day and ride past the amazing limestone outcrops that jut up from the surrounding paddy fields on our way to Moon Hill. Which we have the opportunity to climb. We take time to stop in the villages and mingle with the locals. For the more adventurous there is a chance to explore some of the caves in the area, such as Black Buddha and New Water. There is also plenty of free time to relax in the many cafes and restaurants that line Xi Jie (West Street), or shop for a bargain in the marketplace. On Saturday afternoon we return to Guilin and join the overnight train to Guangzhou.

**Day
9**

Hong Kong

Arriving in Guangzhou in the morning, we head to the ferry terminal and catch the hydrofoil to Hong Kong. This short boat journey culminates in a spectacular cruise towards the skyline of the city. There is just so much to see and do in Hong Kong. You can take a funicular ride up to Victoria Peak and enjoy magnificent views over the city, wander through the Stanley Market or just shop until you drop! On our last night we can get together for a group dinner or go out and enjoy some of the many bars and nightclubs around town. Every evening there is a spectacular Sound and Light Show on the skyscrapers of Hong Kong Island – 8:00 to 8:20pm. Be warned – after Vietnam and Mainland China, you will not find Hong Kong a cheap city!

**Day
10**

Hong Kong

Our trip ends this morning in Hong Kong. Checkout time is usually around 12 Noon; however you are free to leave at any time in the morning. Additional accommodation can be arranged on request.

Itinerary Variation

While the information presented here details our planned itinerary, including routes taken, activities included, accommodation and meeting times, please accept that unforeseen changes may occur. We are

constantly on the lookout to improve our program and further enhance your experience. Naturally, we will keep you up to date with any last minute amendments to your tour.

About The Imaginative Traveller

Our aim has always been to provide exceptional travel experiences. We believe that adventure travel should be stimulating, and that it should give you an authentic experience of a place. We want our travellers to relish the amazing diversity of countries and cultures the world has to offer. Our focus is on innovation, not imitation.

Obsessed with quality

One of our strengths has been our obsession with quality. We've always believed that our commitment to you doesn't end as soon as you've paid for your holiday. On the contrary, it is just beginning. Whilst most operators simply get a local company to handle the day to day operation of their tours, we do it all ourselves. We have managers for each of our **key destinations** around the world and all our small groups are escorted by our own leaders. Our local teams include guides, drivers, administration staff and contacts in the local community who help us ensure that our adventures are active and involving.

For comparability, all prices in this dossier are quoted in one currency. We use the US Dollar since that is familiar to most. However, once on tour you will need to pay for all goods and services in the local currency. See your Country Dossier for details of exchange rates.

Trip Grade

Culture

Whether you're taking in man's greatest works at places like Petra or Angkor Wat, experiencing grand set-pieces like the Trans-Mongolian Railway or trying your hand at regional specialities like tango in Buenos Aires, getting to grips with local cultures is what travel's all about. A few tips from a guide and a sense of adventure are pretty much all you need. So what are you waiting for? It's time to get the lowdown on high Tibet among Lhasa's magisterial temples; follow up Delhi's eye-popping bustle with a fix of its fiery food; and mix manic markets and Incan masterpieces in Peru.

Fitness

No particular level of fitness is required for this holiday. Please be aware there will however be some long days travelling on the train, where you will be sitting down for extended periods. Participants should be reasonably healthy; anyone with respiratory or cardiac problems, or over the age of 55, should fully consult their medical adviser prior to booking and we may require full medical clearance.

Included

- Gecko's expert English-speaking Chinese tour guide throughout the tour, and local site guides at some sites.
- Two days exploring Yangshuo on bicycle and by foot including Moon Hill and stops at local villages.
- Sightseeing (including entrance fees where applicable): Terracotta Warriors and Beijing.
- Walk on a remote section of the Great Wall at Simatai.
- Free time to explore Beijing, Yangshuo, Xian and Hong Kong.
- Hydrofoil from Guangzhou to Hong Kong.
- Local flight from Xian to Guilin.
- Overnight trains from Beijing to Xian and Guilin to Guangzhou. Accommodation in six-berth, air-conditioned cabins.

Not included

International flights, arrival transfer, departure and airport taxes, visas, meals, all optional additional tours or activities during free time, transfers outside of the tour program, travel insurance, tips and items of a personal nature.

Accommodation

2 nights Sleeper train, 7 nights Hotel

Single room supplement

Most of our travellers like the thought of travelling with a few like-minded souls. There are NO compulsory single supplements on most tours as we simply arrange twin shared accommodation for you and another tour member of the same sex. But don't worry if that doesn't appeal. We do understand there are times when you just want a bit of privacy and 'me' time so we are more than happy to arrange a private room upon request when you book.

Transport

Bicycle, Hydrofoil, Plane, Private vehicle, Sleeper train

Optional excursions

*prices below are guide only

Beijing - Acrobats

- CNY 100 - 180 (USD \$15- \$25)

Beijing - Bicycle Hutong Tour

- 100 CNY(USD \$15)

Beijing - Lama Temple

- 25 CNY (USD \$4)

Beijing - Opera

- CNY 150 - 200 (USD \$20- \$28)

Beijing - Shaolin Monks Kungfu Show

- CNY 100 - 180 (USD \$15 -\$25)

Beijing - Summer Palace Entrance Fee (and transport)

- CNY 50 + 35 (USD \$7 + \$5)

Beijing - Underground City

- 25 CNY (USD \$3.50)

Hong Kong - Light Show Hong Kong Harbour

- Free

Hong Kong - Ocean Park

- HKD 93-185 (USD \$ 13 - 26)

Hong Kong - Peak Tram (return journey)

- HKD 35 (USD \$ 5)

Hong Kong - Star Ferry

- HKD 3 (USD\$.50)

Xian - Bell and Drum Tower combined ticket

- CNY 45 (USD \$6.50)

Xian - Big Goose Pagoda (and entrance fee to climb to top)

- CNY 50 (USD \$7.50)

Xian - Dumpling Banquet

- CNY 80 (USD \$12)

Xian - Dumpling banquet & Tang Dynasty Show

- CNY 220 (USD \$32)

Xian - Great Mosque

- CNY 25 (USD \$4)

Xian - Shaanxi History Museum

- (Free Entry)

Yangshuo - 1 hour Chinese Cultural Classes: Calligraphy, Kungfu or Tai Chi

- CNY 50 (USD \$7.50)

Yangshuo - Buddha Water Cave

- CNY 120 (USD \$17.50)

Yangshuo - Cooking School

- CNY 100 (USD \$14.50)

Yangshuo - Li River Cruise (including transfers)

- CNY 160 (USD \$23.50)

Yangshuo - Zhang Yimo River Light Show

- CNY 188 (USD \$27.50)

The itinerary and supplementary information has been compiled with care and provided in good faith. However it may be subject to change, and does not form part of a contract between the client and The Imaginative Traveller.

Responsible Travel - Travellers' Guidelines

At Imaginative Traveller we love helping our clients experience the beauty and cultures of the destinations we visit. However, hand in hand with this we have always been aware that we have a responsibility to minimise any negative impacts that tourism can bring.

Responsible Travel is twofold. It's about taking people to the places they want to go in a safe and responsible manner but also about respecting and maintaining the natural and often delicate balance of the destination. Economic gain from tourism is often fundamental to a country, but should never be at the expense of its culture or the environment.

Our Aims

It is our aim to provide journeys that have minimal negative and maximum positive impact on the places we visit.

We do not believe that, as visitors, we should impose our own cultures on others; rather that we should experience foreign cultures and appreciate them for what they are.

Whilst it is our aim to show destinations and cultures in a positive light, we do not believe in papering over the cracks or shielding visitors from the realities of life. This does not mean, however, that we condone or endorse certain situations or regimes that may be in place.

Our guidelines are meant not as rigid instructions but rather as suggestions to make our holidays more enjoyable – for everybody. As cultural and environmental sensitivities vary from country to country more specific guidelines can be found in our individual country and trip dossiers.

Travellers' Guidelines

- ✓ Before you depart try to spend some time familiarising yourself with the destination you will be travelling to – their culture and customs. The country dossiers on our website offer detailed information about all the regions we visit. They also include some useful phrases in the local language for you to use on your trip! A few words of the local language can open up many more opportunities for you to interact with the people you will meet.
- ✓ Although it is tempting to give out pens, sweets and money to people begging, and particularly tempting to give to children, we feel that this encourages a begging mentality and has a long-term negative impact on communities. If someone begging earns more than someone in the same community who works this can discourage local employment. If children regularly bring home money it may discourage their parents from sending them to school. It is of course your own personal choice but you could consider giving to registered charities or contributing to our Responsible Travel fund instead. Money donated through our fund to our worldwide projects is matched pound for pound by Imaginative Traveller and used to help local grassroots projects.
- ✓ Always ask permission to photograph local people and respect their decision if they would prefer not to have their picture taken.
- ✓ Respect local dress codes, especially at religious sites. Our tour leaders are always on hand to give you advice about this.
- ✓ In many of the countries we visit you might see examples of animal cruelty (for example dancing bears, performing monkeys and snake charmers). Please do not take photographs of this or offer money as it encourages the activity.
- ✓ Respect the environment you are in. It sounds obvious but do not throw litter, take it with you or use rubbish bins! You may see locals throwing rubbish on the street but do not follow their example!

- ✓ When shopping in countries where haggling is the norm – enjoy it and only pay what you feel is a fair price for the goods you are purchasing. However, remember that the shopkeeper does have to make a living so do stop once you have reached a price you are happy with. Bargaining should be fun but always remember that a small amount can mean much more to the vendor than to you.
- ✓ Endeavor to take home souvenirs made locally; the money you spend can be very important to the local communities. However, do use your common sense and don't buy anything that you think might be made out of endangered animals or plants.
- ✓ To help keep as much money as possible in the host country - try to eat in locally owned restaurants and order local drinks and produce rather than international brands.
- ✓ In hotels do be conscious of how much water you are using. Many of the areas we visit regularly have shortages; try not to have hour long showers! Don't leave lights, air conditioners or fans on when you leave the room – you wouldn't at home!
- ✓ Respect the environment you are in, especially when in national parks or reserves. Pay attention to rules about keeping on paths, keeping a distance from animals and not removing any of the natural habitat.
- ✓ Relax and immerse yourself in the differences of the culture you are in – you'll be back home in the familiar soon enough (and wishing you were still on holiday!). These cultural differences are part of what makes your experience special.

If you would like to offset the carbon dioxide that will be produced on your flights you can do this on our website ([on our Responsible travel page](#)). We work with climatecare, who will reduce the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide that you produce in another part of the World through their emission reduction projects. These projects are low carbon efficient technologies in developing countries and not only serve to reduce emissions but also help to spread the adoption of low carbon technologies and improve the quality of life for local communities. Details of climatecare's projects can be [found on their website](#).



If you would like to contribute to our Worldwide projects, helping communities all over the World, you can also do this on our website or with a sales consultant. Please refer to our [responsible travel page](#) on the website for details of our current projects. Any donation you make will be matched £ for £ by Imaginative Traveller (up to a maximum of £1000).

Have a great trip!

Please do let us know if you have any comments about responsible travel at rto@imtrav.net

The Imaginative Traveller & Gecko's Adventures This trip is operated by our partner company, Gecko's Adventures. Gecko's is an Australia based company with more than 10 years experience in adventure travel and they share our ethos for offering unique holiday adventures. As this is a code shared departure you can expect there to be both Imaginative Traveller and Gecko's travellers on your trip.

Last updated: 25/04/2012