

China 2024

Geography expedition to Hong Kong and China

Hong Kong – 7650 skyscrapers + / Geo-parks / sea food / markets
Ocean Park Theme Park

1,000 mile bullet train through SW China past famous
limestone landscapes in Guilin.

Chengdu, Sichuan 4* Hotel / Pandas / The ancient
Dujiangyan irrigation system.

Xian, Shaanxi 4* hotel / cycling the city walls /
Terracotta Warriors / Hot Springs /
Great Mosque and Giant pagoda. Massage.

Overnight hard class sleeper train.

Beijing 3* famous Dong Fang Hotel / Peking duck
The Forbidden City, Great Hall of the People and
Tiananmen square Great Wall at Simatai /

Where to?



We will now only use 4 planes instead of five:

Airline will be Emirates (Economy)

17th July (Wednesday)

Manchester to Dubai Dep: 14:05 Arr: 00:20 (+1 day)

About 2 hours in Dubai

18th July (Thursday)

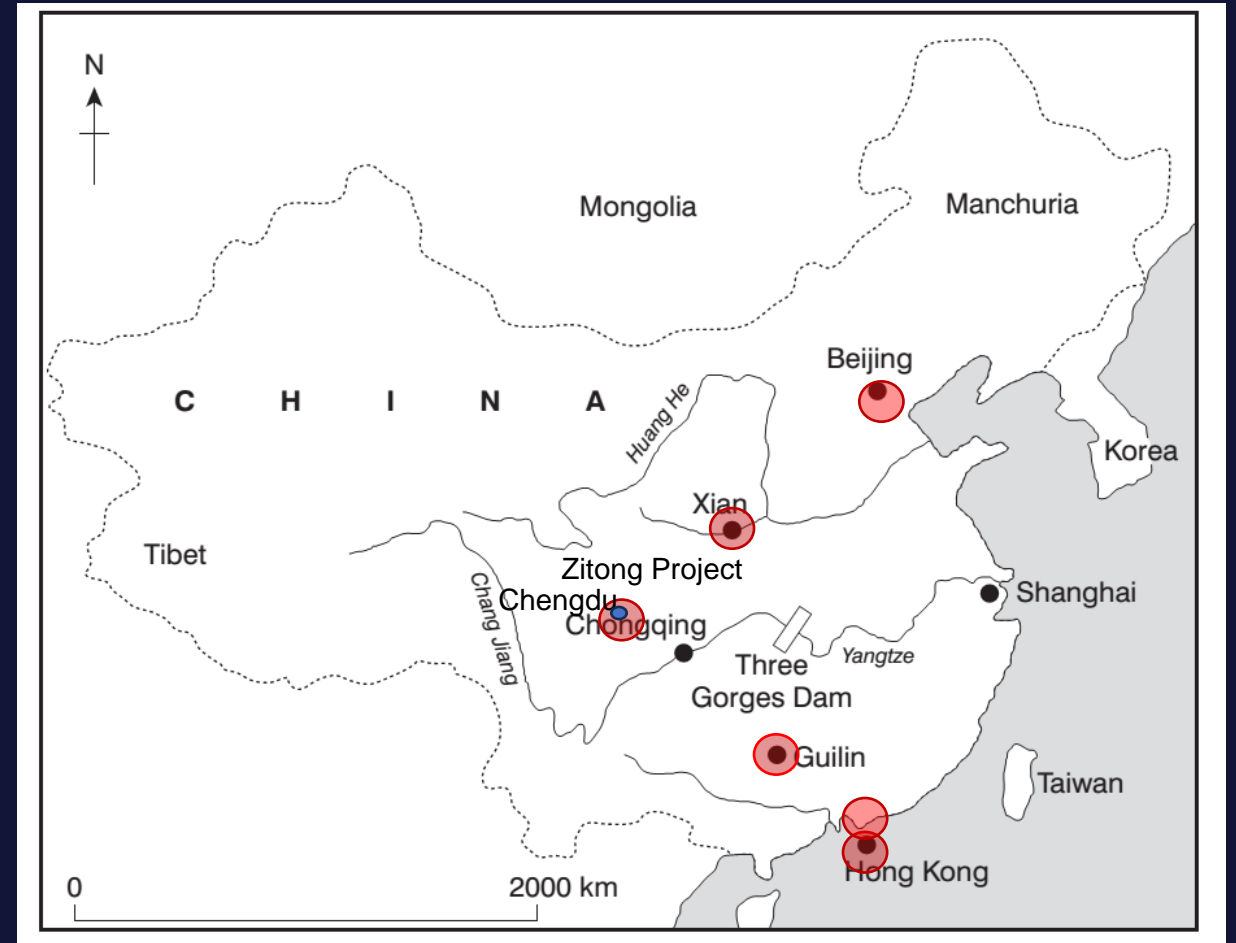
Dubai to Hong Kong Dep 03:15 Arr: 15:25

1st August (Thursday)

Beijing to Dubai Dep: 07:25 Arr: 11:35

About 2 hours in Dubai

Dubai to Manchester Dep 14:30 Arr: 19:15



The internal flight between Shenzhen (across the border from Hong Kong) and Chengdu – over 1,000 miles - will now be by bullet train

Why Geography in China?



Hong Kong, Chengdu and Shanghai: vibrant cities

Hong Kong Geo-parks looking at stunning physical landscapes, unique geological outcrops. This area was once a super volcano

Development and Globalisation, Development issues within the world, 'Economic sustainability versus environmental sustainability' Can China achieve this?

Geopolitics – huge in Y13 geography building on work in Y8; Y11; and Y12. 'Belt and Road'

China's water supply and growing demand.

Limestone (Karst) Scenery in China.

Minorities in China and rural life

The huge migration to the cities and the 'left behinds'

Population – legacy of the One Child policy – the fastest ageing population.

Fast growing cities – does the infrastructure keep up?

Impact of tourism in China. Chinese culture.

Cost



It looked like the trip would be called off because the cost of flights and the tour in China part made the trip too expensive

We have had to cut the Shanghai section as was expected. Everything else though plus a remarkable bullet train ride through the stunning scenery around Guilin is still included.

The cost will be as stated: £2,700 per student. Added to this will be a separate payment for the cost of a visa (£151) and for those aged 16 and over: the Advanced Passenger Duty (£88). These are both government taxes for the respective countries (China and the UK). There is no visa requirement to enter Hong Kong.

Please see the email for further details on what is and is not included.

Hong Kong

<https://youtu.be/PY0WnDMnhPw>



Transport to use in Hong Kong:
Public minibuses, street trams, Peak tram,
public buses (air conditioned), ferries
including the famous Star Ferry, cable car,
coaches, trains and the MTR.
Maybe even a
roller coaster or two!



Hong Kong



Highlights

1. **Swimming at Repulse Bay (behind the shark net)**
2. **Travelling around HK**
3. **The Peak & Hong Kong Park**
4. **Shopping at Stanley Market, the Ladies Market +**
5. **Natural landscape in the New Territories – Geoparks.**
6. **Lantau Island , Tai O fishing village & Po Lim monastery**
7. **Stay at the HK Baptist University Hall of Residence (air conditioned rooms with a lounge area containing microwave and fridge as well as colour TV.)**
8. **Fantastic banquets and cuisine and shopping.**



Hong Kong – where we stay



Baptist University Halls of Residence

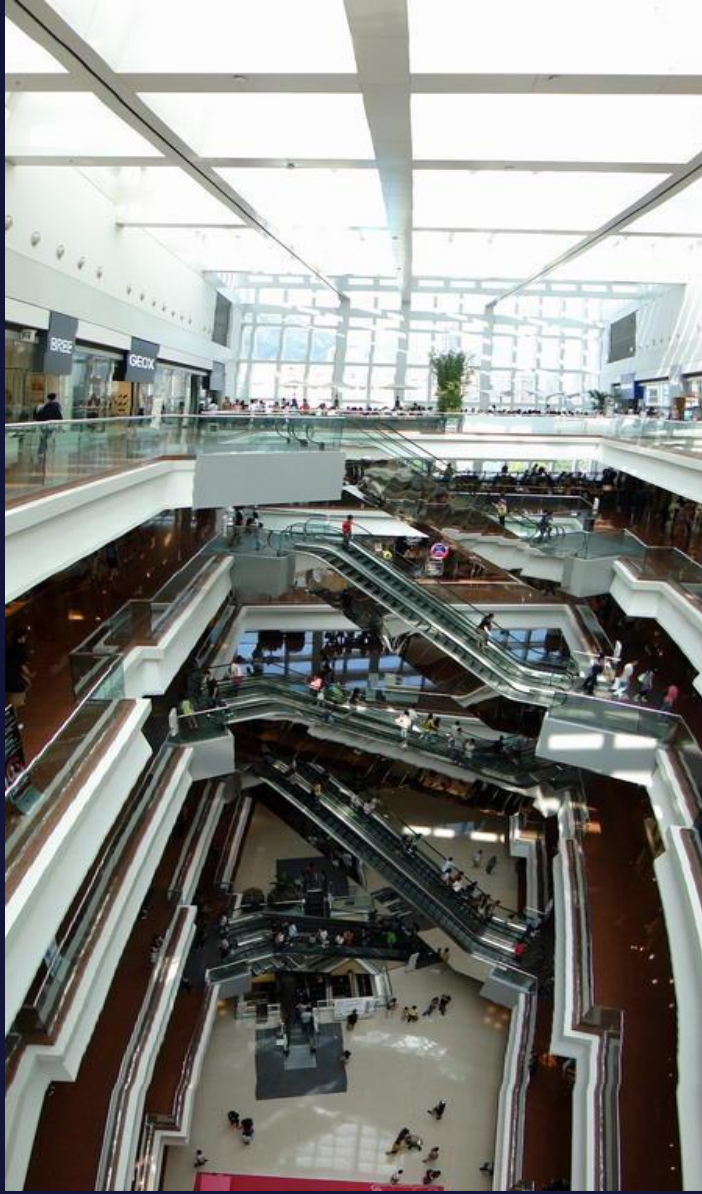


Hong Kong Baptist University



Discounted catering

Hong Kong



In HK we travel mainly by the subway system called the MTR. You will use an octopus called (bought for you) onto which you add further credit when we pass through a subway station. This is then used to cover travel around HK - plus you can use it to buy snacks etc. You can see on the map the route from the MTR to the hall of residence – about 20 mins or less if you use a local bus.

This is Festival Walk next to the local MTR where you can also buy food in the food court.



Hong Kong

Food in Hong Kong – most of the time you pay to use the subsidised canteen in the HKBU but some meals are provided in the budget.



Currently the budget allows for:
Dim Sum banquet
Sea food banquet (vegetarian alternatives available)
Vegetarian banquet for all at the Buddhist Monastery.
A formal dinner may also be possible.

Hong Kong

Swimming will be allowed at this beach – there are many lifeguards and two shark nets plus changing rooms and showers.

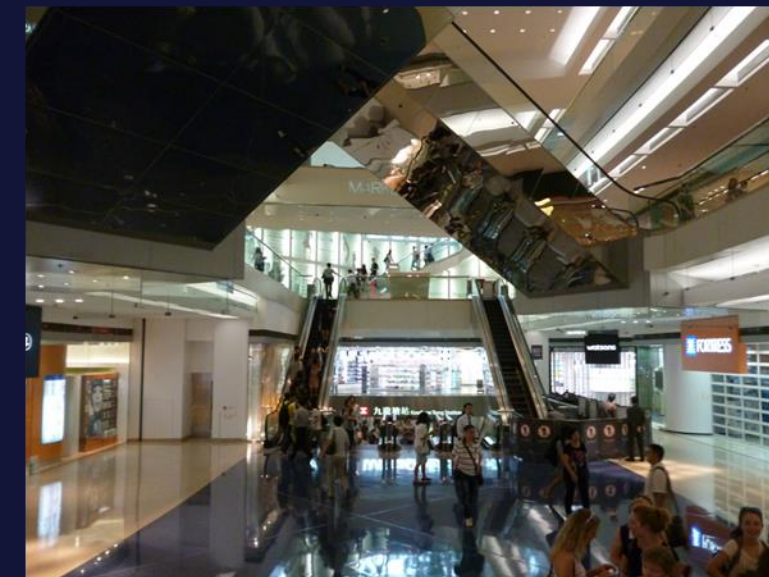


Swimming at Repulse Bay
behind the shark nets.



Hong Kong

As you will always be in groups that YOU have chosen you will be given free time to shop and visit markets and Malls



Shopping



Hong Kong

HK Geoparks, physical geography and geology



https://youtu.be/_LXMuvqQjts

This link shows the amazing geology of HK- it has English subtitles.



Hong Kong

Lantau Island, Po Lim & Tai O
This sort of visit will be included



Hong Kong



The Peak



Hong Kong to Chengdu by train



Chengdu, Sichuan



Main highlights

1. The famous Panda breeding sanctuary
2. Central city location
3. 4* Hotel with outdoor swimming pool & Western buffet breakfast
4. Amazing evening markets and cultural experiences including hot Sichuan food.



Chengdu – where we are staying



4* Tianfu Sunshine Hotel

Tianfu Sunshine Hotel

●●●●○ 460 reviews #59 of 3,165 hotels in Chengdu
📍 No.2 Taisheng North Road, Chengdu 610017 China



Swimming is possible when the lifeguard is present.



Rooms are doubles.



Chengdu



Panda sanctuary



Chengdu plain



Mount Qingcheng and the Dujiangyan irrigation system



Special project Despite a lot of phone calls and letters this is still not possible to do due to the attitude of the Chinese government to Western NGOs



Currently permission not granted.



Xian



Cycling the ancient city wall – something you will be doing!!!

Visits to:

Big Wild Goose Pagoda,

Great Mosque with neighbouring Muslim Street market

Terracotta Army, Huaqing Hot Spring Park,

Plus a massage for everyone – Chinese style

Xian

– the huge hotel you will be staying in.
Swimming is possible when the lifeguard is present.



Grand Dynasty Culture Hotel

724 reviews | #44 of 2,853 hotels in Xi'an

No.172 Lianhu Road, Xi'an 710002 China



4* Grand Dynasty Cultural Hotel,
Xian



Xian



Xian - Beijing Hard Class sleeper



<https://www.travelchinaguide.com/china-trains/hard-sleeper.htm> - worth a look – some amusing phrases



Beijing



Temple of Heaven,
Tiananmen Square,
Great Hall of People,
Forbidden City

Shopping in Silk Street,
Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall

Acrobatic Show (B-L-D)

Great Wall at Jinshanling or Simatai,

Pekin Duck dinner



Beijing



Our last hotel – 3*, not 4* like the others but one we have used for the last 20 years. It is in an area of ‘real’ Beijing.



Beijing Dong Fang Hotel

●●●○ 374 reviews

#252 of 6,262 hotels in Beijing

📍 No.11 Wanming Road, Xicheng District, Beijing 100050 China



Beijing

More sites than space to mention- but the location we visit at the Great Wall is usually very quiet.



Peking Duck dinner

New revised “*Guide to China*” to follow. .

Jet lag and how we try to beat it.

Home sickness

Mobile phones

Parental and student agreement

Vegetarian

Kit list



Beijing Air Pollution: Real-time Air Quality Index (AQI)

BEIJING
北京

SHANGHAI
上海

GUANGZHOU
广州

CHENGDU
成都

HONGKONG
香港

NANJING
南京

SHENZHEN
深圳

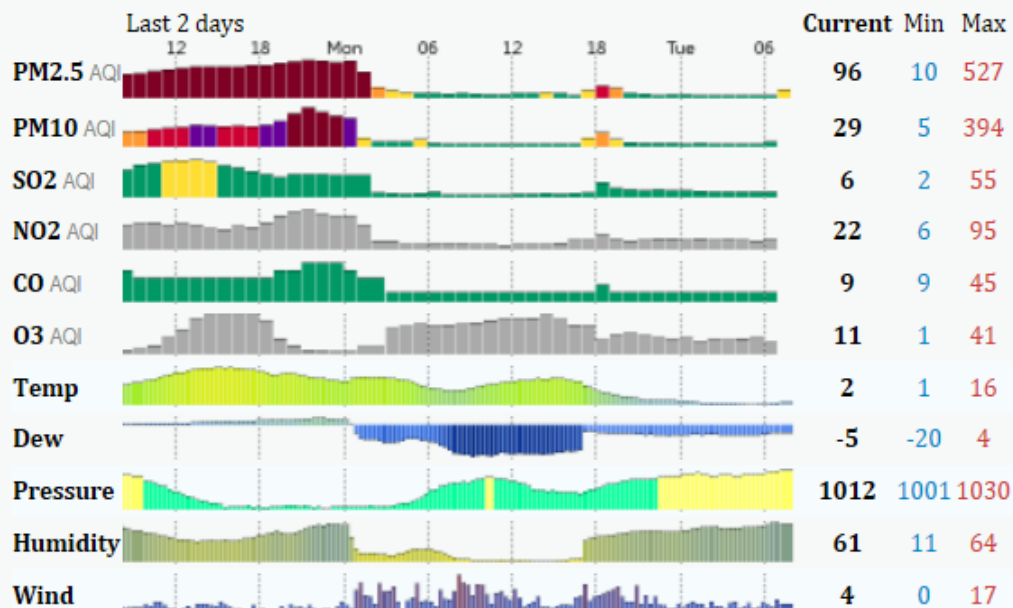
MORE CITIES

Beijing AQI: Beijing Real-time Air Quality Index (AQI)

96

Moderate

Updated on Tuesday 8:00

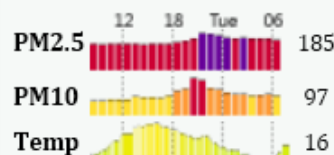


Shanghai Air Pollution

185

Unhealthy

Updated on Tuesday 7:00



Chengdu Air Pollution

153

Unhealthy

Updated on Tuesday 8:00

Shenzhen Air Pollution

81

Moderate

Updated on Tuesday 6:00

HongKong Air Pollution

97

Moderate

Updated on Tuesday 7:00

Tianjin Air Pollution

109

Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups

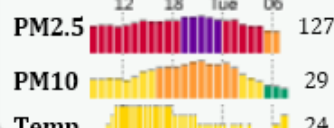
Updated on Monday 16:00

Guangzhou Air Pollution

127

Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups

Updated on Tuesday 7:00



Nanjing Air Pollution

173

Unhealthy

Updated on Tuesday 8:00

F1® - Watch with Sky Go

www.sky.com/F1

Just £5 extra p/m for 6 months. Wherever you are on Sky Go. See how

AdChoices

An outline of likely expenditure

Spend list is always provided. The itinerary clearly states what meals are included.

Currency issues - you will need 3 currencies on this trip.

We can change all the currency together if needed.

A bank is run to help with expenditure

Will update on the latest ways of paying for things. QR code.

Visas and passports. £151 plus train ticket to and from Manchester to get it.

Will you be able to get back into the UK easily with your travel documents ?

Insurance - RPA

A parent can be flown out in an emergency to bring their daughter home – this said the visa will still be needed.

Staff cannot leave the group or return home with a student because of ratios.

Insurance is great coverage and underwritten by UK government.

However, you need to ensure that you have your own insurance for phones, tablets etc is taken out.

Risk assessment – medical and health issues

There will be at least 2 qualified first aiders. Mr Vane is also an Ex HM Inspector of Health and Safety as well as the schools current EVC (Educational Visits Co-Ordinator).

Must have MMR.

Not nut or sea food allergies (peanut oil is used everywhere in China) – the plane simply may refuse to carry you.

Sorry no vegans – can't be catered for.

You must be medically fit, mentally fit and have good attendance and behaviour in school. All are checked. Some who have had various issues have found the challenge of this long trip to be a real positive – even life changing!

What if

a consideration of potential issues and considered actions



Remember Mr Vane has been running trips to China since 2004 at WKGS and since 1998 before that. Our experience means we know how to cope if things don't go to plan



Before departure each family is given a pack containing:

The final Itinerary

A sheet of Emergency Contact Details

Hotel contact details

The British Embassy in China details

THESE ARE FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY

Every participant will be given an emergency contact card – the size of a credit card. Written in Chinese on one side and English on the other.

Also given out are currency converter tables (pocket sized laminated cards) to help work out the cost of items.

A serious breach of the agreed rules as contained in the risk assessment will result in a pupil being sent home. They will be taken to the airport and seen on the plane to the UK. Parents will have to meet them. Costs incurred are to be met by parents- this could run into many thousands of pounds

The simple rules which are followed:

- 1. Inviting person(s) not in the expedition party into your room without the permission of a member of staff is a serious breach of the rules.**
- 2. A failure to eat anything in HK could also result in being sent home. This will include problems with eating as well undisclosed diagnosed eating disorders. Though we have helped with some students with such disorders if known about beforehand.**
- 3. Going out alone and without permission.**
- 4. Please remember that there is a total ban on smoking and vapes and the consumption of alcohol for reasons of health and safety. This matter can be discussed with Mr Vane before travelling.**
- 5. All participants are reminded about the need to observe the instructions given to them. Meeting times are important to avoid inconvenience to others.**
- 6. Students may not buy knives, martial arts stars etc, lasers etc to bring home**

Staffing and behaviour policy.

The pupil teacher ratio: 1 to 10

Staff on the trip: KV; Mrs K Simpson; Mrs L Hughes; Mr Knight; Miss K Leighton (Assistant Headteacher) others to follow.



You must have at least one very good friend with whom you will share a room. We tend to prefer groups of 2; 4 and 6 although if you are a 3 you will join with another group of 3 at times. **YOU SELECT YOUR GROUPS.** All students will be assigned a teacher to whom they **ALWAYS** register with at various times.

Students will be encouraged to mix in their groups at all times.

We will operate a buddy system. You will nominate 3 or 4 other people you would be happy to look after. One new person will then be selected for you to ensure that everyone has a buddy!