

MEP Y9 China Trip Pre-Departure Briefing



Introduction

- IOE, UCL's Faculty of Education and the British Council have secured approval from the Department for Education (DfE) and the Centre for Language Education and Cooperation (CLEC) for the Year 9 intensive study trip to China in Summer 2024 to go ahead in person.
- The scale of this trip is unprecedented. At present there are approximately 1,850 MEP pupils across 69 schools in year 9.
- The purpose of the session today is to update parents and children on the plans for the trip to ensure that everyone can be fully prepared for the trip.



Roles

- IOE – International flights, pre - trip school guidance, back up in China support
- British Council UK – pre-trip school guidance, in China trip support, trip communications
- British Council China – liaison with CLEC and host Universities, overall programme, domestic travel arrangements, in China trip support
- Chinese Universities – individual city programmes, arrival orientation in China trip support at each city
- Schools/MEP teachers – responsible for care of students, lesson engagement, trip organisation, trip insurance, parent and student briefings
- MEP students – behaviour, engagement

Accompanying teachers

- Mrs Zhang
- Dr Bell
- Mr Hitchman
- Miss Qu
- Miss Liu

Flight details (previously provided)

Outbound journey

Route	Departure Date	Flight Number	Departure time	Arrival time
MAN/HKG/HGH	01/07/2024	CX216/CX958	1115/0645/1215	10:10

Return journey

Route	Date	Flight Number	Departure time	Arrival time
HGH/HKG/MAN	12/07/2024	CX961/ CX259	1555/1830/0035	07:55

- Take the school coach for group travel. Please arrive at the **School Hall by 5.15am on 1st July (prompt)**
- Flight tickets will be printed collectively and distributed to students at the airport.
- Each passenger is allowed one piece of checked luggage weighing up to **23kg** and one piece of carry-on luggage weighing no more than **7kg**. It's advisable not to pack your bags too full upon departure, as students might purchase some souvenirs in China.
- Please arrive at the school for **10.30am on Saturday 13th July to collect your child.**

Outward flights

Monday 1 July 2024

1 Jul 2024

11:15

MAN

Manchester
Airport
Terminal 2



12h 30m

2 Jul 2024

06:45

HKG

Hong Kong
International
Terminal 1

CX216

Airbus A350-900

Economy | Class B

Meal included

Connect at **HKG**
1h 5m

2 Jul 2024

07:50

HKG

Hong Kong
International
Terminal 1



2h 20m

2 Jul 2024

10:10

HGH

Xiaoshan Intl
Terminal 4

CX958

Airbus A321neo

Economy | Class B

Meal included

Total duration 15h 55m

[Hide Details ^](#)

Return flights

Friday 12 July 2024

12 Jul 2024

15:55

HGH

Xiaoshan Intl
Terminal 4



2h 35m

12 Jul 2024

18:30

HKG

Hong Kong
International
Terminal 1

Connect at **HKG**
6h 5m

13 Jul 2024

00:35

HKG

Hong Kong
International
Terminal 1



14h 20m

13 Jul 2024

07:55

MAN

Manchester
Airport
Terminal 2

Total duration 23h 0m

CX961

Airbus A330-300

Economy | Class Y

Meal included

CX259

Airbus A350-900

Economy | Class Y

Meal included

[Hide Details ^](#)

Hangzhou Water Museum Tao Hotel



Zhejiang Normal University

Canteen



itinerary

Programme Outline



DAY 1	2 Jul TUE	Fly out from the UK Arrival in Hangzhou
DAY 2	3 Jul WED	Opening Ceremony , Orientation and meeting with Chinese volunteers/peer students Language learning and Cultural activities Evening: Welcome Dinner hosted by ZJNU
DAY 3	4 Jul THU	Language learning and Cultural activities
DAY 4	5 Jul FRI	Language learning and Cultural activities
DAY 5	6 Jul SAT	Language learning and Cultural activities
DAY 6	7 Jul SUN	Cultural activities in Hangzhou
DAY 7	8 Jul MON	Cultural activities in Hangzhou
DAY 8	9 Jul TUE	Language learning and Cultural activities
DAY 9	10 Jul WED	Language learning and Cultural activities
DAY 10	11 Jul THU	Language learning and Closing Ceremony
DAY 11	12 Jul FRI	Fly out from Hangzhou Arrival in the UK

What to expect on a long haul flight?

- Drink plenty of water, flying dehydrates you so it's good to get plenty of water top-ups.
- Go for a walk every couple of hours – it's a nice change to stretch your legs and get the blood moving around your body again.
- If you find it hard to sleep with light and sound, it is advisable to bring an eye mask and ear plugs.
- If you get cold easily, bring a jumper for the flight. Airlines normally supply blankets but sometimes people find it a bit chilly without a jumper.
- Plan your sleep during the journey with time differences and landing times in mind. **We are landing around 10 am in Hangzhou so it is best to try and get as much sleep as possible on the flight so you are ready to hit the ground running.**
- Other things to consider packing in your hand luggage: **toothbrush and toothpaste, reading materials or other things to keep you entertained, boiled sweets to suck if you don't like your ears popping.**

What to expect in China?

- Pollution is not as bad as you might think as there is less pollution than in the past.
- Number of people: Most tourist destinations can be busy, but as long as you stick with the group and **don't wander off on your own** then it won't be a problem.
- Different habits: There may be some local habits that are different from what you are used to. It is important to remember that every country has its own habits and cultural differences and there is no 'right' or 'wrong' in these situations.
- Staring/Photo-taking: Expect to have many Chinese people stare at you! 😊
- Water: **The tap water in China is NOT drinkable.**
- Safety: Crime levels are very low in China. **At the same time, however, pickpockets operate everywhere in the world** and we recommend that students pay attention to their belongings in all tourist sites as well as ensuring they stay with the group unless explicitly told otherwise.



Food

Allergies

- We have a list of known food allergies which have been passed to host/hotels.
- All venues asked not to include nuts/nut ingredients in any meals.
- Students with food allergies should know/carry written phrases e.g I'm allergic to or I can't eat.
- Always ask when you are not sure!

Other

- Students **are advised not to eat from street stalls** where ingredients can't be vouched for, and quality may not be up to standard.
- Vegetarians may find themselves limited to a smaller number of dishes.
- Students with religious requirements (e.g. halal) may find it difficult to find suitable meat in China – should be prepared to eat vegetarian.



Money

- Meals and accommodation are all covered so just spending money is needed. We have been told approx. £100-£200 will be appropriate but it is completely up to you how much you would like to bring (*some small notes like CNY 10, 20, 50 will be a better option compared to CNY100*).
- Easier to get from UK but this often needs to be ordered prior to the trip from so please ensure this is done in advance.
- China has mostly gone cashless but most tourist places and shopping centres still take cash.

Internet

Communication in China

- Most websites and apps used in the UK aren't available in China – any google sites (including gmail), whatsapp, facebook, youtube, Instagram, twitter, snapchat – and others.
- Digital contact will therefore be more limited

Recommendation

- **Skype** normally works so we encourage all children and parents to download Skype so that when the children are in their hotel rooms they can use WiFi to call the UK.
- Microsoft outlook/Hotmail and Facetime also generally work.
- If children want to be able to access the internet outside of the hotel rooms, parents could choose to pay for the roaming service or purchase a SIM Card from **CMLink Global** (<https://global.cmlink.com/?LT=en>).



Phones

- Mobile phone coverage generally good in big cities for texts and calls – but expensive!
- Warnings!
 - Calling or texting the UK from China can be very expensive.
 - You are likely to even be charged by your phone provider to receive calls.
- To avoid unnecessary bills:
 - **Ensure data roaming is off.** Roaming charges can apply simply for having an active connection – unexpected large bills possible.
 - You can receive texts using your UK SIM but do not respond to them or call the UK.
 - Wifi available in hotels and Universities.
 - Travel data passes from different providers – parents' choice.



Health

- The school has obtained travel insurance to cover students.
- Vaccination: The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office offers detailed advice about travelling to China. Currently there are no mandatory vaccinations for China although parents can discuss this with their doctor if they have any concerns.
- For further detail, see:
 - Travel advice for China: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/asia-oceania/china>
 - Health advice for travel in China: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/china/health>



Packing list

We recommend you bring a **main bag and a small day bag**. We will leave our big bags at the accommodation and children will take a day bag with them at all times. **We advise that you also buy a 'travel pouch' for keeping money.**

Necessities – check List

- Passport with visa
- Some Chinese Yuan currency
- UK to China plug adaptors
- Any medication you need and a list of the medication you take.
- Pencil case (Language lessons in China. Students must ensure that scissors and compass are not in their carry-on luggage to avoid issues at security checks. No need for Chinese books.)

Toiletries

- A couple of packets of toilet paper as this is not provided in all public toilets. Your child can purchase more when in China from a shop
- Sun cream
- We do NOT advise student bring sprays with iron container.
- Hand sanitizer if you want



Packing list

Clothes

- Trainers/sport shoes/sensible walking shoes
- Walking trousers or Jeans
- Shorts/dresses
- A towel & wash bag
- T-shirts & Jacket & Hoodies (on the plane)
- Sunglasses
- Waterproof Raincoat

Electronics

- Bring electronic products at your own risk – some students do travel with Kindles and smartphones. We strongly advise against students bringing gaming consoles.
- Adaptors!!!
- Phone chargers



Packing list

Gifts

As this study tour is largely complimentary, the Chinese teachers and students have invested significant time and resources. We recommend that each student brings two small gifts (each not exceeding a value of £10). Based on past experience, they appreciate items such as British teas or biscuits, museum souvenirs (like tote bags or pens), or culturally distinctive keyrings and fridge magnets (such as Harry Potter, Paddington Bear).

Travel

- Earplugs and an eye-mask if you would like this for the airplane.
- A jumper (it gets cold on long-haul flights or in airports during stop over)
- Liquids: Please note you can only take travel sized liquid in your hand luggage- if you wish to bring your own containers to hold 100ml or less, the container must have printed on it the measurement that the container can hold



Mandarin
Excellence
Programme

How will we spot you all?



What next?

- Visas: If there is any further information outstanding, please provide it urgently as there is limited time now ahead of the trip.
- Packing
 - One check-in up to 23kg, one carry-on to 7kg. Also please ensure that your hand luggage does not contain scissors/knives/long steel ruler in your pencil case.
 - Please prepare students' personal medications, including but not limited to common pain relief, digestion medicine and tissues.



Any questions?