



travelmarvel
Premium Travel

CHINA

ESSENTIAL TOUR INFORMATION

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

A valid passport is required, with at least six months' validity beyond your holiday return date. Always carry your passport and travel documents in your hand luggage or store them in the security safe in your room. Keep photocopies in a separate bag. Please ensure we have your full name exactly as shown on your passport, including any middle name(s).

To avoid delays in obtaining required permits, Travelmarvel requires passport details at least 90 days before the start of your trip. Please provide colour copies showing both information pages clearly, including the photo and edges of the page. Travelmarvel is not responsible for delays or missed portions of your holiday due to incorrect or incomplete travel documents.

Australian, New Zealand and UK passport holders travelling on ordinary passports may enter mainland China for tourism without a visa for stays of up to 30 days under China's visa-free entry program. This policy is currently valid until 31 December 2026. Travellers of other nationalities should check with the relevant consulate or embassy for the most up-to-date entry requirements, fees, and processing times.

For more information, visit: travelmarvel.com/en-au/before-you-travel/visa-requirements.

ARRIVAL CARDS

We recommend completing your China Arrival Card online before departure. Please visit the official website and follow the instructions:

s.nia.gov.cn/ArrivalCardFillingPC/entry-registration-home

When completing the Arrival Card, you will be asked a series of questions regarding your entry into China. If you are an Australian passport holder, or hold a passport that is eligible for China's visa-free entry program, and your stay in China is less than 30 days, select "No" when asked whether you hold a valid visa or other entry permit, then choose "Visa-free entry" from the available options.

For your accommodation details, enter the address of your first hotel in China (refer to your final travel documents). When asked "Do you have any inviting entities or inviters in China?", select "No."

Once the form has been submitted, a QR code will be generated. You can save the QR code to your device or have it emailed to you. Please ensure you can easily access the QR code during your journey, as immigration officials may request it upon arrival in China.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is not included in your holiday package. We strongly recommend that you obtain comprehensive travel insurance that covers, without limitation, the full cost of your holiday, medical costs, medical evacuation, loss of luggage and any additional charges for cancellations due to transport disruptions, natural disasters and industrial actions such as strikes. Please ensure that your insurance covers you for the entire duration of your trip, and check the circumstances and activities not covered by your policy.

Please ensure that all pre-existing medical issues are declared to the insurer so that non-covered conditions are identified in advance. Keep the details of your insurance policy handy in the event of an emergency.

DIETARY AND ALLERGIES

If you have any dietary requirements or allergies that need to be managed while travelling with Travelmarvel, and you have not made these known already, please advise your booking agent as soon as possible, as well as your Tour Director upon arrival. Most suppliers require advance notice to accommodate these requirements and in some cases you may be required to fill out a form or waiver. Every effort will be made to fulfil requests, but these cannot always be guaranteed.

WHAT TO PACK

LUGGAGE

The luggage limit on your tour is restricted to one suitcase weighing 20kg (44 pounds) per person. We advise keeping your luggage to a manageable weight, as you may be required to handle your luggage independently at airports and hotels. Additional fees will be charged to cover portage handling of any excess luggage. Your Tour Director will provide details of any additional charges.

CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR

Smart casual attire is suitable for a Travelmarvel tour and appropriate to wear for Welcome and Farewell Dinners, including while aboard Victoria Sabrina, if your itinerary includes a cruise on the Yangzi River.

We recommend bringing a hat for sun protection, and a large scarf or shawl for covering your head and shoulders when entering religious sites. It's customary to

remove your shoes before entering temples and private homes.

If you're travelling during the cooler months of the year, pack using the layering method, allowing you to add or remove items as required. Bring comfortable, sturdy shoes for excursions and activities that require walking and standing on your feet for extended periods.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

RECONFIRMATION OF FLIGHTS

We recommend checking your booking directly on the airline's website to ensure there have been no last-minute schedule changes. Your airline booking number can be found at the top of your e-ticket.

INTERNAL FLIGHTS

Flights within China are included in the tour price, as stated in your itinerary. These flights are booked by Travelmarvel's ground operator, and the flight details will not appear on your final documentation. Your Tour Director or local guide will carry all necessary documents for these flights including the e-tickets. Please note all flights included in your tour are in economy class

and have a luggage limit of 20kg. If this weight is exceeded, an excess luggage fee may be charged at the time of check-in for each flight.

DELAYED OR MISSED FLIGHTS

In the unfortunate event that you miss your flight or experience a significant delay, please inform an airline representative that you are booked on a group tour with a specific start location, date and time. Be sure to notify Travelmarvel of your new travel arrangements immediately.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

If you have an arrival airport transfer included in your tour package, you will

be welcomed upon arrival by a local representative, holding a Travelmarvel sign with your name on it. If you cannot locate your transfer representative, refer to your itinerary for the relevant contact number to call. If you miss the pre-booked transfers, you must make your own way to and from the hotel at your own expense. Please provide your flight details to Travelmarvel at least 60 days prior to the start of your tour in order to confirm the airport transfers. Transfers cannot be re-routed to other pick-up points or destinations. No refund will be given for unused transfers.

GENERAL DESTINATION INFORMATION

PASSPORTS

Your passport is an essential travel document in China and should be carried with you throughout your trip. Many bookings are linked directly to your passport, which is used to verify your identity rather than a traditional paper ticket. You may be asked to present your passport upon boarding high-speed trains, entering attractions such as the Great Wall of China, checking into hotels, and verifying domestic flights or other pre-booked services. As many tickets and reservations are issued electronically and linked to your passport details, staff will often scan or check your passport before granting entry. We recommend carrying your original passport each day and keeping it secure. A photocopy or digital copy is useful as a backup, however it is generally not accepted in place of your original passport.

ELECTRICITY

Electrical plugs used in China range from flat two-pin US plugs (Type A), Australian/New Zealand three-pin plugs (Type I) and,

less frequently, you may also come across the two round-pin Type C. We recommend bringing universal travel adaptors.

POWERBANKS

Please be advised that power banks are only permitted in your carry-on luggage and usage is prohibited during take-off or landing. When travelling in China, power banks require a visible '3C certification' label or they will be confiscated.

QUEUING FOR MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

Please be aware that many of China's most popular attractions receive large numbers of both domestic and international visitors. As a result, queues and waiting times should be expected at some locations. Visitor numbers are typically highest at major sites in Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai and Chengdu, particularly during weekends, public holidays and peak travel seasons.

TRAVELLING BY TRAIN

When travelling by train in China, all luggage is subject to security screening prior to boarding. Certain items are prohibited or restricted and may be confiscated if detected during bag checks.

Flammable liquid and gel products, such as perfume and styling gel, are generally limited to containers of no more than 100ml per item. Aerosol products, including hairspray and deodorant, must not exceed 150ml per container. Compressed gases, flammable liquids, fireworks, strong magnetic materials, and certain sharp or dangerous items, including many types of knives, are prohibited. Medication required for personal use is permitted.

As regulations may change and security staff have final discretion, we recommend packing only essential items and avoiding packing potentially restricted goods when travelling by train in China.

PUBLIC RESTROOMS

Throughout many public areas in China, toilet facilities can be quite basic, particularly outside hotels and major shopping centres. Please be aware that Western-style toilets are not always available, and squat toilets are commonly used. We recommend carrying tissues or toilet paper with you, as public restrooms may not be equipped with paper.

MONEY

We recommend carrying both an international credit or debit card and a small amount of cash while travelling, ensuring you have access to more than one source of funds.

China is largely a cashless society, with Alipay and WeChat Pay being the most commonly used payment methods. Eligible international bank cards can be linked to these platforms, allowing payments to be made by scanning QR codes. To make transactions easier during your tour, we recommend downloading and setting up your preferred mobile payment app before departure.

International credit cards are generally accepted at international hotels and larger restaurants. However, smaller restaurants, local shops, supermarkets and market stalls may only accept mobile payments or, in some cases, cash. For this reason, we recommend carrying a small amount of local currency for incidental purchases and situations where electronic payment methods are unavailable.

SIM CARDS AND INTERNET ACCESS

We recommend arranging your mobile connectivity before departure. You may choose to activate international roaming with your mobile service provider or purchase a travel eSIM, provided your device is compatible.

Please be aware that internet access in mainland China is subject to government regulations, and a number of commonly used websites and applications are generally inaccessible when using local internet services. These may include Google services (such as Google Search, Gmail and Google Maps), as well as

Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, X (formerly Twitter) and YouTube.

Many travellers choose to use a VPN to access these services. If you intend to use a VPN, we strongly recommend downloading, installing and testing it on all of your devices before departing for China, as VPN websites and applications may be difficult to access once you have arrived.

Please note that some international roaming services and travel eSIM providers route data through networks outside mainland China. Depending on the provider, this may enable access to websites and applications that are otherwise restricted without the use of a VPN. As capabilities vary between providers and may change over time, this should not be considered guaranteed.

If uninterrupted access to services such as Gmail, Google Maps, WhatsApp and social media platforms is important to you, we recommend researching connectivity options and completing all setup prior to departure.

STAYING HEALTHY ON HOLIDAY

It is important to follow good hygiene practices during the tour to prevent the spread of common infections including colds, flu or gastroenteritis, which can spread quickly. Respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses, while usually minor in nature, can spread rapidly within a tour group, and have a major impact on everyone's enjoyment. Travelmarvel is committed to reducing the spread of infections on all tours, and asks that you read and follow our recommendations to ensure a healthy, safe and enjoyable holiday for yourself and your fellow travellers.

TRAVELMARVEL HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOL

Travelmarvel has a Health and Safety Protocol that all our Tour Directors are required to follow. Please read our Health and Wellbeing information on our website for more information travelmarvel.com/en-au/before-you-travel/health-and-wellbeing.

WATER AND FOOD SAFETY

Tap water in China is generally not considered safe to drink. It is best to drink bottle or filtered water when travelling. Always ensure the seal is intact prior to consuming. Bottled or filtered water should always be used for cleaning your teeth,

unless you are specifically advised the tap water is safe for cleaning your teeth. If you are unsure, please ask your Tour Director. Tasting new cuisine is one of the joys of travel. We recommend packing some medicine to alleviate symptoms should you experience an upset stomach from eating foods that are not usually a part of your regular diet.

SUN EXPOSURE AND DEHYDRATION

It's important to remain hydrated while on tour. Wearing a hat and applying sunscreen are vital to prevent sunburn, even on overcast days.

ONBOARD INFORMATION

VICTORIA SABRINA

Ship Schedule

Under normal operating conditions, itineraries will follow what is outlined in the brochure. However, changes to the itinerary may be necessary due to factors such as road, rail, river or weather conditions, strikes, or other circumstances beyond Travelmarvel's control. If conditions make any routes unsafe for navigation, Travelmarvel reserves the right to provide alternative services, including, but not limited to, accommodation on the docked ship or substitute land arrangements.

Dining

All meals on board your cruises are included and are prepared by onboard chefs. Tables for two are limited in the dining room. We recommend arranging a table for two in advance with reception staff. Meals on board include Chinese and Western-style buffet.

Beverages

On board the Victoria Sabrina, enjoy a selection of international wines and regional Chinese beers served with lunch and dinner. Throughout the day, soft drinks, tea, and freshly brewed coffee are available

at the Yangtze Club. Complimentary purified drinking water is available throughout your cruise.

Getting On And Off The Ship

During your cruise aboard Victoria Sabrina, you will be required to climb into smaller boats and be transferred ashore for sightseeing excursions. In ports where there are no established docks, you may need to walk along unpaved embankments. Some ports including Yichang and Chongqing had a significant number of stairs from the ship to the bus.

Onboard Account

Purchases made while on board are billed to your shipboard account, and you will receive an invoice at the end of the cruise. The accepted currency on board the Victoria Sabrina is Chinese Yuan (also known as Renminbi) or USD. Both cash and major credit cards including Visa,

Mastercard and American Express are accepted forms of payment.

Medical Assistance

The Victoria Sabrina offers an onboard doctor service. Should a guest require medical assistance ashore, arrangements will be made for transfer to the nearest

hospital for further treatment. Guests are responsible for any expenses incurred from medical care, whether onboard or ashore. Travelmarvel is not responsible for the nature or quality of medical services received. For this reason, we strongly recommend comprehensive travel insurance.

USEFUL TRAVEL WEBSITES

CUSTOMS

Australia: homeaffairs.gov.au

New Zealand: customs.govt.nz

United Kingdom: gov.uk

China: english.customs.gov.cn

TRAVEL ADVISORY AND VISA INFORMATION

Australian: smartraveller.gov.au

New Zealand: safetravel.govt.nz

United Kingdom: gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice



This flyer is designed as a guideline to assist you when preparing for your tour. Much of the information within is subject to change and while all care has been taken to ensure all information is correct at time of production, we cannot take responsibility for any subsequent changes. Effective July 2026. Australian Pacific Touring Pty Ltd. ABN 44 004 684 619. ATIA accreditation #A10825. TM-4383

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