



ACROSSIA

Your gateway to China

Getting to know **China**

Our guide and travel tips

China ♦ We know it like our own backyard



Shanghai



To get one of the best views of the Bund why go to an observation deck with the crowds when its more fun with a cocktail! Cloud 9 bar is on the 87th floor of the Grand Hyatt Hotel (Jinmao Tower). Get there at dusk and watch the sun set on the Huangpu River.



Just past People's Park is Huanghe Lu (road), often referred to as Shanghai's best 'food street'. Here you will find a collection of little outlets where you can taste all the flavours of China as you stroll down the road - don't go past the fried dumplings - you will be hard-pressed to find better.



After a long day's walking treat yourself to a Chinese foot massage. The concierge at your hotel will be able to recommend a good one nearby, it wont cost more than \$20 and most places are open until midnight. Be sure to be VERY honest about your pain threshold though.

The beating heart of modern China, Shanghai is a fast moving city where the emphasis is on business, communications and technology. Testimony to this is the Shanghai World Financial Centre, a magnificent addition to the Pudong skyline which stands at 492 metres and boasts the world's highest observation deck.

Yet even here, visitors will find glimpses of the past and much of Shanghai's history is very much its own – not replicated anywhere else in China. The Bund is one of Shanghai's most famous historical precincts, where well preserved and maintained 1930s art deco architecture, can still be found. Nearby is Nanjing Road, Shanghai's ultimate shopping experience, considered by many to be the busiest shopping street in the world.

Acrossia recommends an evening Huangpu River cruise, which offers remarkable views of the Bund. Passengers will note a stark neon contrast between old and new Shanghai.

Beyond the Bund, travellers should visit the French Concession area, which gave Shanghai its name - The Paris of the East. With traditional Shikumen houses from the early 1900s, plus art deco buildings, the area has been well preserved and still signifies the 'glory of the old days' of Shanghai.

Other 'must sees' include the 1.9 metre Jade Buddha in one of Shanghai's few active Buddhist monasteries, the Oriental Pearl Tower on the eastern bank of the Huangpu, and the famous Yuyuan Garden and adjacent Chenghuangmiao Bazaar (the latter being a fun place to shop for all sorts of produce, from imitation brand names to food).

There are many side trips from Shanghai and it is well worth heading to Suzhou for attractions such as Tongli Village (known as Little Venice), Tiger Hill and its leaning Cloud Rock Pagoda, the Humble Administrator's Garden and The Garden of the Nets.

Shanghai - China's largest city
Meaning: 'On the sea'

Summer: JUN-SEP average temperature 24-28°C
Winter: DEC-FEB average temperature 5-8°C
Ideal climate: MAR-MAY
Population: 23 million

Shanghai Airport

Maglev	20 minute intervals
Airport Buses	15-20 minute intervals
Taxi	60 minute duration



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



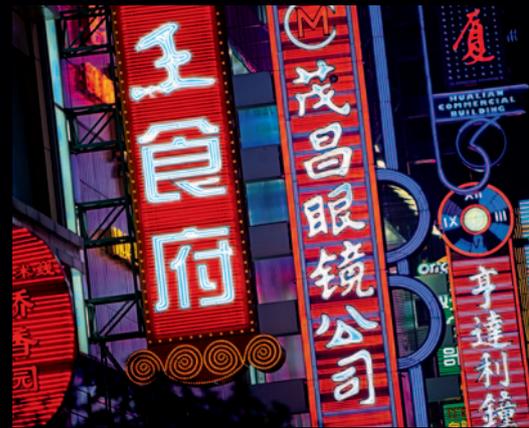
AIR NEW ZEALAND 



explore china

There's a lot more to China than meets the eye. From cultural treasures to stunning cuisine and amazing shopping, there's a host of hidden gems just waiting to be discovered.

Air New Zealand flies non-stop from Auckland to bustling Hong Kong and vibrant Shanghai giving you the choice of two amazing gateways into China. So whether you're exploring more of China or heading on to Europe, now's a great time to visit. See more at www.airnewzealand.co.nz



Beijing

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The 798 Art district in Dashanzi is the place to go. Cutting edge artists (such as Ai Wei Wei) have overtaken this disused 1950's factory and turned it into their own community. You'll need a good two hours to see the highlights.

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When you enter the Forbidden City, take the eastern side opposed to taking the traditional "down the middle path". There you will find a huge museum housing the best collection of Ming China you will ever see.

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Established in 1864, Quanjude Peking Duck restaurant is an institution. Go to the original location, Qianmen, look at the photos of famous diners outside (yes that is Fidel!) and see what number your duck is...

The paradox of Beijing today is that the city is home to some of the world's greatest historical icons – the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and Summer Palace to name just a few – while also exemplifying the rapidly changing face of modern China.

Even so, for any first time visitor to Beijing, the first stop must be Tian'anmen Square the largest city square in the world and the gateway to the Forbidden City. The latter is the former residence of the Ming and Qing emperors of China, a highlight of a visit to Beijing with all the romantic allure of a time passed. Also not to be missed - with its huge lake, sprawling grounds, temples, pavilions, bridges and corridors - is The Summer Palace, once the playground for the Imperial Court.

No visit to Beijing would be complete without an excursion to The Great Wall, one of the world's most iconic structures. Many people go to Badaling, which is heavily restored and the most populated part of the wall. The Mutianyu section is another option, famed for its Ming dynasty guard towers.

Acrossia's Jessie Zhang recommends getting to other sections of the wall, such as Simatai, where the original steps and ancient brickwork can still be viewed. 'Jinshanling section is restored and has the advantage of being not so crowded. Here you will be able to gaze in wonder as the wall snakes its way across 10 kilometres to Simatai section without the bustling crowds and hawkers.'

Those with time can still explore the nooks and crannies of Beijing and walk the hutongs (narrow alleyways) that traditionally linked courtyard residences to form a neighbourhood, which was then linked to other hutongs. One of the most endearing experiences of old Beijing is to wander through these old neighbourhoods where families live, play cards, hang their washing and conduct business. Some of the best preserved hutongs are near Tian'anmen Square – sit back in a pedicab and have the driver show you the sights.

Other recommendations in Beijing include the Lama Temple, the most renowned Tibetan Buddhist temple outside of Tibet; the Temple of Heaven, not really a temple but the place where the Son of Heaven (the Emperor) performed sacred rites praying for a good harvest; and the Silk Market.

Beijing

Reminiscent of China's imperial past, features the world's largest palace, Forbidden City
 Summer: JUN-AUG average temperature 24-26°C
 Winter: DEC-FEB average temperature -1 to -4°C
 Ideal climate: SEP-OCT
 Population: 19 million

Beijing Airport

Airport Express	15 minute intervals
Express Buses	10-20 minute intervals
Taxi	30-60 minute duration



Xi'an

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Enjoy a night stroll through the Muslim Quarter. A great collection of street food stalls will ensure you don't go wanting. Once full, wander the lanes searching for those perfect gifts from miniature warriors to calligraphy scrolls.

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Just past the Terracotta Warriors are some typical Yaodong cave dwellings. People have been carving out and living in these cave dwellings for hundreds of years, however unfortunately with progress they are rapidly disappearing.

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Across the road from the Little Goose Pagoda is Maogong Xiangcaiguan restaurant - The Great Helmsman overlooks you as you eat classics from his home city - Hunan. Try the boiled frog if you're brave enough.

No matter how many times you visit Xi'an, a "must see, number one" attraction has to be the Terracotta Warriors.

The 2000 year old Terracotta Warriors are among the most extraordinary archaeological discoveries ever made. Stumbled on by two farmers in 1974, the 6000 strong army now stands silently in battle formation guarding its emperor. Anyone who wanders through the three pits of warriors is awestruck by the sheer volume, detail and magnificence of the find.

Amazingly, the secrets of six or seven more pits, believed to house not warriors but courtiers and others involved in the Emperor's life, are yet to be revealed.

While the Terracotta Warriors have put Xi'an on the visitor map, the region has many other attractions of interest. The City Wall of Xi'an is the most intact ancient Chinese Wall in existence and features a series of watchtowers, turrets, crenels and gate towers, all surrounded by a moat.

The Bell Tower of Xi'an, built in 1384 during the early Ming Dynasty, is a symbol of the city of Xi'an and one of the grandest of its kind in China.

Big Wild Goose Pagoda was built in 652 during the Tang Dynasty and is a collection storehouse of Buddhist scriptures, while the Great Mosque here is one of the largest in China and is a fascinating blend of Chinese and Islamic architecture.

Those with extra time to explore the region will find a trip to Mt Huashan rewarding. One of the five sacred mountains in China, it is home to several influential Taoist temples.

Xi'an

Meaning: 'Western peace', known as the birthplace of China's civilisation
Summer: JUN-AUG average temperature 25-27°C

Winter: DEC-FEB average temperature 0-3°C

Ideal climate: MAR-MAY, SEP-OCT

Population: 8.5 million



Chengdu

For many people one word will justify a visit to Chengdu – Pandas.

'This is the place to really see pandas in an attractive and natural environment,' says the team at Acrossia. 'It is also an area that was devastated by the massive 2008 earthquake, so visiting will assist the people of the region and add to their economy. You can hug a panda and make a donation – that's a win-win.'

Home to nearly 50 giant and red pandas, the Giant Panda Breeding Research Base plays an important role in the survival of this magnificent animal through its world leading research and success with its breeding programmes. (Some 10 to 15 cubs have been born there in the last few years). Visitors can view the pandas as they feed, play and nap. Extra lucky travellers may see tiny new-borns in the nursery. **Acrossia's panda tip is to visit in the morning – they are far more active then.**

Chengdu's other claim to fame is its position on the edge of the Tibetan Plateau and its amazing Buddhist culture. Wenshu Monastery is Chengdu's largest Buddhist temple. Dating back to the Tang Dynasty, it is well preserved and creates a sense of calm.

Baoguang Temple, adorned with ancient sculptural relics and multiple courtyards, and the Leshan Giant Buddha, carved more than 1200 years ago out of a cliff face and (standing at 71 metres), the world's tallest Buddha statue, are two other unforgettable sights.

Then there is Mount Emei (Emei Shan). This is one of four Buddhist sacred mountains and at 3,099 metres is the highest by 1,000m. The area was added to UNESCO's Natural and Cultural Heritage List in 1996.

Just out of Chengdu is Luodai Ancient Town. With a history of 1800 years, it is the largest community of Hakka (a branch of the Han ethnic group) in south-western China.

Acrossia advises those with time to spare in Chengdu, to visit People's Park. 'After watching the pandas, go and watch the people.' And be sure to taste the Sichuan cuisine – spicy and good.

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Whenever I'm in Chengdu I spend a couple of hours in the People's Park watching the old ladies play Mah Jong. It reminds me of my Nana's bridge afternoons with all the friendly gossip and chatter.

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Wolong Nature Reserve was closed for repair in 2008 after the devastating earthquake. All the pandas were moved to Bifengxia Panda Base which you can now go to instead. Take extra cash with you when you go to any panda place, as sometimes they will allow you to 'hug' the panda for a donation - best 400 Yuan I have ever spent.

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Some Sichuan Cuisine has a reputation for being VERY spicy and hot so be prepared. No trip to Chengdu is complete without having Kung Pao chicken or twice cooked pork.

Chengdu

Home of Giant Pandas, emerging city for international investment in Western China
 Summer: JUN-SEP average temperature 21-25°C
 Winter: DEC-FEB average temperature 6-8°C
 Ideal climate: MAR-JUN, SEP-NOV
 Population: 14 million



Yangtze



Another highlight of a Yangtze cruise is Fengdu. Nicknamed the 'City of Ghosts' it was the legendary capital of the Ghost King.



The most popular cruises on the Yangtze are from Chongqing to Yichang, or vice versa. However you can travel from Chongqing all the way to Shanghai if you're a real cruise buff.



On the lower Yangtze is Huangshan – the scenery here has inspired many of history's great painters.

The Yangtze River features some of nature's most spectacular creations. However, for many people it is an amazing feat of human engineering – the Three Gorges Dam – that will be the highlight of a cruise on the river. The dam is the world's largest, due to its 2.3 kilometre length (185 metres high, 18 metres wide at the top and 130 metres wide at the bottom) and is also the world's largest hydropower project. Most cruise vessels give passengers time to visit the viewing platform of the now fully operational dam, before continuing the journey towards Chongqing.

The gorges themselves – Qutang, Wu and Xiling have been carved along the Yangtze. Wu, the Gorge of Witches (and the favourite of the Acrossia team) is about 40 kilometres long, with sharp jagged peaks. Visitors should make the effort to get out of bed in time to see the sun rise above Goddess peak – often shrouded in mist. There are many sidetrips to be taken along the Yangtze. These require getting into smaller boats and travelling up narrow passes – highlights include the Little Three Gorges and the Shennong Stream.

With its fast flowing waters that are a stunning jade green contrasted against the trees on either side of you in the sheer limestone cliffs, the journey on Shennong Stream can often be the highlight of most visitors' Yangtze cruise experience. Only recently opened to the outside world this area has been preserved incredibly well. It is most famous for its "hanging coffins" that jut out from the crevices that they have been placed in. More than four storeys high, these sheer cliffs are completely inaccessible and the mystery of how they got there remains unsolved to today.

Shibaozhai is a 12 storey, 56 metre high wooden red pagoda which leans improbably against a rock face. With the construction of the Three Gorges Dam, the base of the pavilion would have been under the new water level, so a coffer dam was built around the base to protect it – a marvel of engineering in its own right. Other features of Shibaozhai include the Duck Well and the Rice Flowing Well – each with their own story.

Cruising the River is a more relaxed approach to travelling through China, away from the hustle and bustle of the big cities.

Yangtze River - The largest river in China
Third longest in world after the Nile and the Amazon
Its basin produces half of China's grain (70% of which is rice)
Chinese name: Cháng Jiāng
Length: 6,380 km (3,964 miles)
Source: Glacier of Jiānggēndírú



Hong Kong

The colonial influence and separate development of Hong Kong gives the special administrative region (SAR) an atmosphere and feeling of its own.

A thriving city, with attractions as diverse as Disneyland and the Big Buddha at Po Lin Monastery (both on Lantau Island), Hong Kong also has pockets of Chinese and British history – side by side and not difficult to find.

Visitors can easily do what the locals do – ride the Star Ferry between Kowloon and Hong Kong Island, shop at the markets (Temple Street, Stanley or Ladies Market to name just a few), or enjoy food from a street stall (or, for that matter, an upmarket restaurant or anything in between).

First time visitors should definitely get to The Peak, the tram trip is an experience in its own right, as it slides past Hong Kong Island’s skyscrapers, and the view from the top makes The Peak one of the destination’s most popular attractions.

Great for families, Ocean Park Hong Kong is a world class marine life theme park, featuring animal exhibits, thrill rides and shows.

Surprisingly to many people, Hong Kong also has a number of rural hikes. Some can easily be accessed alone (like the Dragon’s Back hike and the Lantau Island family trail) while others are best explored with a guide (the deserted beaches hiking tour for example). A Hong Kong biking tour is another fantastic way to explore the region – especially for those wishing to get into Hong Kong’s New Territories.

Visitors will also find a number of important temples – still active places of worship and the focal point of many festivals. Some examples include Lo Pan Temple, dedicated to the patron saint of builders and carpenters; Chi Lin Nunnery and Nan Lian Garden; with its elegant architecture, treasured Buddhist relics and lotus ponds; and Sik Sik Yuen Wong Tai Sin Temple, a Taoist, Buddhist and Confucian temple honouring a legendary monk

Hong Kong is on the world stage when it comes to arts, culture and entertainment. Regular events include the Hong Kong International Film Festival, Le French May Arts Festival, a series of Chinese Opera events, the Hong Kong Arts Festival and much more.

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Taste some of the most delicious vegetarian food at Po Lin Monastery on Lantau Island - will help to get your strength up before exploring the monastery’s Big Buddha.

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The Star Ferry is not only easy to use, it’s an attraction in its own right. Great views of Hong Kong and a chance to travel like the locals do.

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Look to purchase an Octopus pass at a local subway station. Prepaid use of the underground network eliminates the hassle of coins, with a refund of bond upon return of card.

Hong Kong

Meaning: ‘Fragrant harbour’, a world financial centre
 Summer: MAY-SEP average temperature 26-29°C
 Winter: DEC-FEB average temperature 16-18°C
 Ideal climate: OCT-DEC
 Population: 7 million

Currency: Hong Kong Dollar
Religions: Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Christianity, Islam and Hinduism
Language: English and Cantonese
Time Zone: (-4) hours of New Zealand (-5) hours of New Zealand DST
Electricity: Current is 220V, 50HZ Plug is a 3 point rectangle pin adapter

Hong Kong Airport

Airport Express 12 minute intervals
 Taxi 40 minutes to Central



Cathay Pacific and Dragonair



Choosing the right airline for your special trip is just as important as planning what to do when you get there. Cathay Pacific would like to invite you to join us on board for your Acrossia China experience.

Cathay Pacific operates a modern fleet of over 120 widebody aircraft and with partner airline Dragonair offers a one-stop service from Auckland to 19 cities across China. Established in 1985, Dragonair operates a fleet of 38 aircraft and provides a comprehensive regional network throughout China.

At Cathay Pacific we believe that it is the little things we do that help make your flights all the more enjoyable. Small things count such as, on a long haul flight you might not be hungry just because we are ready to serve your meal, so we include a variety of snacks available between meals.

Once in the sky, you can sit back and enjoy your own personal TV with audio and video on demand. Cathay Pacific's inflight entertainment programme, StudioCX, offers hundreds of hours of entertainment ranging from the latest movie titles, news and sports channels, kids channels and comedy to a selection of games.



Guilin

Spectacular rural and river scenery, with nature at its most breathtaking is what sets Guilin apart.

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The best time to visit Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces is just after the summer rains (Jul-Sep). This is when the fields are glistening with reflections.

Guilin

Meaning: 'Osmunthus tree woods', renowned for hilly landscape
Summer: JUN-AUG average temperature 26-28°C
Winter: DEC-FEB average temperature 8-11°C
Ideal climate: APR-OCT
Population: 5 million

It's all about the nature in Guilin, says the team at Acrossia. If you see pictures of peaks and caves on posters and in magazine spreads promoting China, the likelihood is that the images will be from this area. Acrossia encourages visitors to discover the huge array of limestone karst peaks that encircle Guilin. A highlight is the Reed Flute Cave (Ludi Yan) with its fantastic stalactites and stalagmites, as well as the underground grotto that easily holds 1000 people. A great way to see the area is by Li River Cruise, where you can view farmers sowing their fields and water buffalo wallowing in the water – all set against the dramatic backdrop of limestone peaks. Highly recommended is a side trip to Longji and the Dragon BackBone Terrace Fields. This feat of farm engineering reaches all the way up a string of 800 metre peaks and resembles the scales of a dragon's backbone (hence its name).



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Possibly the best Yum Cha you will ever eat in your life will be in Guangzhou. We recommend a visit to Tao Tao lu restaurant however if you visit over lunch, be prepared for a little bit of a wait.

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Visit the Tea Market in Fangcun, which is filled with blocks and blocks of shops - it certainly does feel like all the tea in China! Just don't forget to declare it when you get home.

Guangzhou

Known as the City of Flowers, home to China's largest trade fair, Canton Fair
Summer: JUN-OCT average temperature 24-29°C
Winter: DEC-FEB average temperature 14-15°C
Ideal climate: SEP-DEC
Population: 12 million

Guangzhou Airport

Metro – Line 3 to
Guangzhou East Station 45 minute duration
Airport Express 15-30 minute intervals
Taxi 60 minute duration

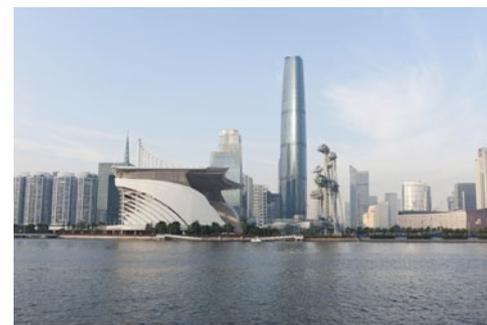
Guangzhou

With its mix of ancient sites, tasty Cantonese food and markets, Guangzhou is the place to take in Chinese life on various levels.

It's a good place to get a shopping fix – Qingping market alone has over 2000 stalls and attracts more than 60,000 shoppers each day.

For those seeking culture and history, Guangzhou has plenty to offer. The Chen Clan Ancestral Hall is a spectacular temple. Covering an area of 15,000 square metres, it served as a hall for ancestor worship as well as being a temporary residence for all the Chen descendants who travelled to Guangzhou for imperial examination. The temple of the Six Banyan Trees dates back to AD537 and is popular for its beautiful Hua Ta (Flower Pagoda) built a few hundred years later. In the meantime, the Tomb of Nanyue King is a superb mausoleum. Discovered by accident in 1983, it is considered one of China's best museums.

A little out of town is Zu Miao, an essential Foshan attraction. Built by Taoists during the northern Song Dynasty, the temple's highlights include a 2.5 tonne statue of Beidi, the Taoist god of water and guardian of the city. Nearby is Nanfeng Ancient Kiln, the oldest kiln in China. Visitors need to set aside time to enjoy dining – the Yum Cha in Guangzhou is particularly good. Of course, this region is the old Canton and with that comes Cantonese food, the most familiar Chinese cuisine for New Zealanders.



Meet the Team



Wendy Stanton | General Manager

Wendy has a long standing career in the New Zealand travel industry including various roles with Canadian Airlines, Air Canada and GSA Manager for Royal Brunei Airlines.

Wendy values the importance of building strong relationships with industry partners and the necessity to provide a professional and valuable, customer service experience.

The team's priority and focus is to ultimately grow the New Zealand traveller demand for destination China as well as support those airline partners who provide seamless connectivity between New Zealand and Hong Kong and mainland China.



Kelvin Chak | Sales Executive

Kelvin's key role is to provide the front-line point of contact for our valued industry partner – the Retail Travel Agent.

Kelvin was born in Hong Kong however has lived in New Zealand since 1997. He is a regular visitor to Hong Kong and has visited the wider area of Southern China where he has strong family connections.

Prior to joining the team, Kelvin worked in Media sales which enabled him to develop strong and effective business development skills. He is responsible for the sale and promotion of Acrossia's product and services and will be undertaking regular nationwide sales activities. He will also be happy to undertake joint consumer activities if desired.



Jessie Zhang | Wholesale Manager

Jessie joined the travel industry in Beijing in 1994 and subsequently moved to New Zealand, from China in 2002.

Her previous experience on the ground in China is extensive including various roles of Tour and National Guide as well as Tour Manager for a Chinese Inbound Tour Operator.

Jessie's personal experience of China includes the cities of Shanghai, Suzhou, Hangzhou, Xi'an, Mt Huangshan, Yangtze Cruise, Chongqing, Chengdu, Guilin, Yunman, Silk Road and Beijing.

After now working and living in New Zealand for over 10 years, Jessie clearly understands the needs and interests of the New Zealand traveller in particular what the Kiwis truly value as part of their travel experience.



Polly Luan | Wholesale Sales Consultant

Polly joined the travel industry in New Zealand in 2004, after moving from China to New Zealand to undertake a Diploma in Travel and Tourism.

Polly's personal experience in China includes travel to many key cities in China including Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, Guilin, Hong Kong and other regional cities.

With having now studied and worked in New Zealand for over 8 years, her travel industry experience includes retail, airline and wholesale travel.

Polly has gained extensive customer service experience including the handling of both inbound and outbound Group bookings.

Contact: Your local bonded travel agent nearest you.

Acrossia House
Level 14, 155 Queen Street
PO Box 106782
Auckland, 1143
New Zealand
P: 0508 4 China
+64 9 309 1188
F: +64 9 374 3934

www.acrossia.com

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- A dedicated China specialist with extensive experience and expertise
- An independent New Zealand owned company
- Supporting and working with all travel agents
- A willingness and ability to create tailor-made personalised itineraries, no matter what the size or length of stay
- A desire to provide Kiwis with the confidence to explore China

