



*Crafty agents and greedy tourists are a bad mix*

## Death of a Tourist: China tells its travellers to wise up

By Travel Weekly Asia / October 26, 2015



Chinese tourists warned about cheap shopping tours. Photo Credit: winhorse/iStock

Mainland tourists have again been reminded that they should steer clear of low-cost “shopping” tours in the wake of the death of a Chinese tourist in Hong Kong.

The National Tourism Administration warned tourists to “firmly say no” to unreasonably low-cost tours and to get wise to forced shopping tactics used by unscrupulous tour agencies.

Mainland laws ban zero-fee tours but some agencies evade enforcement by submitting false documents to authorities.

The agencies ask greedy tourists attracted by super-low tour fees to sign false contracts that contain prices or itineraries deemed acceptable to authorities with an understanding that they will be changed later when the tour sets off, reports [singtaonewscorp.com](http://singtaonewscorp.com).

The reminder came after a Chinese tourist who joined a cheap group tour departing from Shenzhen died in Hong Kong.

A mainland tour guide and a local guide were charged with manslaughter for allegedly assaulting the man outside a jewellery shop.

Hong Kong Inbound Tour Operators Association chairman Ricky Tse Kam-ting said established local agencies seldom receive problem tours, but mainland agents are now starting their own branches in Hong Kong to continue running below-cost tours.

Travel Industry Council chairman Michael Wu Siu-ieng said the Trade Descriptions Ordinance bans forced shopping and the council carries out more than 1,000 patrols at shops.

The Hong Kong Tourist Board spokesperson said, “The HKTB has zero tolerance for any act that impacts the hospitable image of Hong Kong, particularly acts of violence.”

*Source: [singtaonewscorp.com](http://singtaonewscorp.com)*