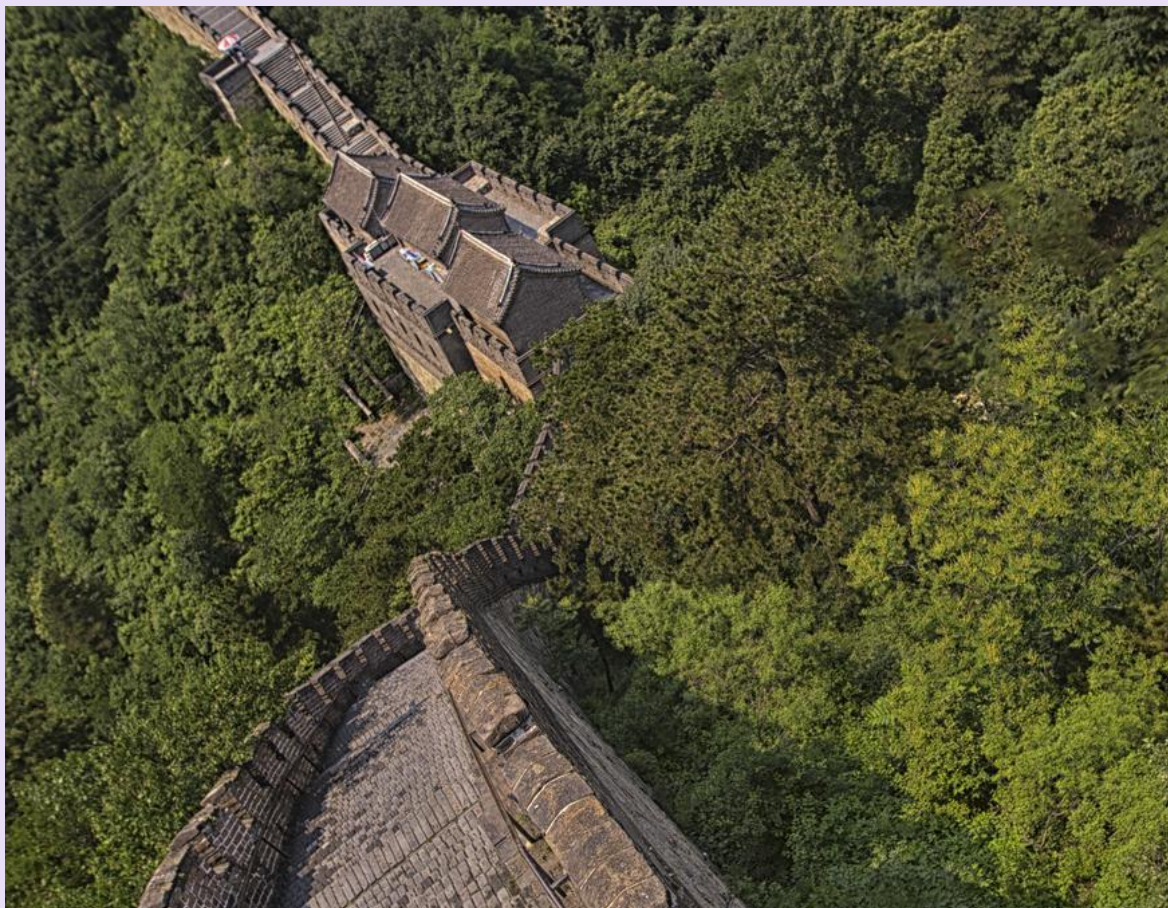


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Sorry! There are no remaining departures for "Central Asia on the Silk Road" (ACKU), [but here are some similar trips](#).



Central Asia on the Silk Road

26 days, Beijing to Tashkent

Trip code ACKU

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Local Living Moment: Overnight in a Yurt, Tash Rabat

- Your Local Living Moment: CBT Homestay, Kochkor
- Your Local Living Moment: Plov Cooking Class and Dinner, Samarkand
- Great Wall entrance (Beijing)
- Tiananmen Square and Forbidden City guided tour
- Terracotta Warriors tour (Xi'an)
- Mogao Grottoes (Dunhuang)
- Turpan guided sightseeing tour
- Sunday bazaar and animal bazaar visit (Kashgar)
- Torugart Pass (China/Kyrgyzstan border)
- Yurt stay with local meals
- Carpet-making workshop visit
- Karakol village tour
- Burana Tower visit
- Bishkek orientation walk
- Tashkent city tour
- Khiva ancient city tour (half-day)
- Bukhara city tour
- Samarkand city tour
- Plov-making demonstration with dinner
- Internal flights
- Border crossing and language support
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing January 1st, 2015 and onwards

Itinerary



NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

Beijing

Arrive at any time.

There are no activities planned until an evening welcome meeting and optional group dinner of Beijing Duck.



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Day 2

Beijing

Visit the spectacular Great Wall of China. Opt to take in a kung fu show or a Chinese acrobats show.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Mutianyu Great Wall Visit

Beijing

3h

Climb the rolling hills of Huairou County at Mutianyu, one of the best-preserved sections of the Great Wall. Enjoy scenic views as the wall winds along mountain ridges, and take brag-worthy photos of the wall from any of the 22 towers. The Great wall is an incredible piece of engineering stretching 6000 km west from the mountain ridges north of Beijing. It was originally constructed to protect Chinese empires from nomadic northern tribes, and even though it failed in this purpose, it's still one of the country's most remarkable achievements and an iconic destination. The Mutianyu section of the Great Wall is located about 80km away from the Beijing City Center. The walk is approximately 5 kilometres and will take 2 to 3 hours depending on your level of fitness.



Optional Activities - Day 2

Shaolin Monk Kung Fu Show

Beijing

90-180CNY

Watch this moving performance of choreographed martial arts, complete with a story line to follow.

Beijing Acrobatics Performance

Beijing

Enjoy an evening of spectacular acrobatics performed by some of China's most talented performers and athletes. This unforgettable spectacle features Chinese-style tricks, like plate-spinning, contortion, foot-juggling, and a host of circus-style acrobatics, too.

Beijing Opera

Beijing

120-180CNY

Enjoy this form of traditional Chinese theatre that combines music, vocal performance, mime, dance, and acrobatics. Dating back to the late 18th century, this form was extremely popular in the Qing Dynasty court and has come to be regarded as one of the cultural treasures of China.

Day 3

Beijing/Xi'an

Take a guided tour of Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City with free time in the afternoon to explore before an overnight train to Xi'an.

Enjoy a guided tour of Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. In the afternoon options include shopping, taking a hutong tour or visiting some of the remaining sights in the city like the Lama Temple and the Bell and Drum towers.

In the evening board the first overnight train of the journey.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Tiananmen Square

Beijing

Explore one of the world's largest public squares and the symbolic centre of Chinese power. Framed by the Gate of Heavenly Peace with its Mao portrait, Mao's Mausoleum, the Great Hall of the People, the National Museum, and with elaborate flag raising and lowering ceremonies at dawn and dusk, it's a place of pilgrimage for the Chinese tourists who consider it the heart of their nation.

Forbidden City Tour

Beijing

2h

Our CEO will steer around crowds and help make the most of a visit to the Forbidden City.

Basic Overnight Train (beds)

Beijing - Xi'an

12h-15h

Experience overnight travel like a local. Sit back and get some well-earned (and likely much-needed) rest en route to your next stop.

Free Time

Beijing

Use this time to shop or see a few more sights.



Optional Activities - Day 3

Hutong Cycling Tour

Beijing

50-100CNY

2h-4h

Roll through the ancient alleyways and lanes typical of Beijing. This old area of the city is rapidly diminishing as modernization takes over, but taking to the streets by bike is the perfect way to explore the neighbourhood. See daily life in these old lanes while cycling by.

Drum and Bell Tower Visit

Beijing

30CNY

Visit the striking Drum Tower for some incredible photo ops. Back in the Han Dynasty the towers were used to echo the time to the city with bells in the morning and drums in the evening. Today the 63-ton bell still stands in one tower and drum performances happen daily in the morning and afternoon.

Lama Temple Visit

Beijing

25CNY

2h-4h

Tour Lama Temple, or Yonghe Temple as its formally known, to learn more about the history of Buddhism in Beijing. The temple is ornately decorated with impressive frescoes, arches, and intricately carved architecture. Admire some of the statues in the different pavilions and halls, then head to the Wànfú Pavilion to see the Maitreya Buddha.

Day 4

Xi'an

Arrive to Xi'an and take an orientation walk. Opt to cycle around the city walls, visit the Muslim Quarter or the Big Goose Pagoda.



Meals included

Lunch



Today's Activities

Orientation Walk

Xi'an

1h

Enjoy a CEO-led orientation walk close to the Xi'an hotel to help you get the lay of the land. Learn where you can find local services (like ATMs and laundromats) and, perhaps, see some city highlights. Every CEO does something slightly different for their orientation walk to show visitors what they like best about the city.

Free Time

Xi'an

Get out and explore.



Optional Activities - Day 4

Cycling Xi'an City Walls

Xi'an

45-45CNY

1h-2h

Rent a bike and cycle the Xi'an city walls. The walls – built for protection in the Tang Dynasty and expanded in the Ming dynasty – are a great way to absorb local history. Hop off where you like and admire the views as you pedal along the 12m (39 ft) wide wall, which takes about 2 hrs to cycle along.

Big Goose Pagoda Visit

Xi'an

50CNY

Head to the outskirts of the city to the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, a beautiful, brick Buddhist temple.

Muslim Quarter Visit

Xi'an

1h-1h30m

Explore the lively Muslim Quarter and its serene Great Mosque, making time to indulge in the offerings of exotic local street food stalls. At night, head out for some of the best street food in China – the spicy beef and lamb kebabs are always a favorite.

Day 5

Xi'an

Take a guided tour to see the Terracotta Warriors with an included lunch at a local farmer's house.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Today's Activities

Terracotta Warriors Guided Tour

Xi'an

3h

2km

Take a guided tour of the Terracotta Warriors where more than 8,000 clay soldiers and hundreds of replica horses and chariots stand in three pits. Learn why the Emperor Qin Shihuang commissioned the statues to serve as his army in the afterlife and how they were discovered. Spend a half-day exploring this archaeological wonder.

Free Time

Xi'an

Get out and explore.

Day 6

Xi'an/Dunhuang

In the morning, hop on an overnight train to Dunhuang.



Today's Activities

Basic Overnight Train (beds)

Xi'an - Dunhuang

23h

Experience overnight travel like a local. Sit back and get some well-earned (and likely much-needed) rest en route to your next stop.

Day 7

Dunhuang

Arrive to Dunhuang and take a guided visit to the UNESCO-listed Mogao Grottoes. Enjoy a free afternoon to wander the town centre or visit sights further afield.

Enjoy a free afternoon to continue exploring the city or villages in the area. Outdoor tables in the centre of town are a great place to grab a beer and some local eats. The local delicacy here is donkey. Cover it in chilis and garlic – tastes like chicken!



Today's Activities

Mogao Grottoes Visit

Dunhuang

4h

Enjoy a visit to the Mogao Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, inspiring a school of study called Dunhuangology. According to the Tang Dynasty records, a monk witnessed a vision of 1,000 Buddhas with golden rays. Inspired, he started the construction of the caves, which ended up spanning ten dynasties. There are 750 caves filled with different types of art depicting Buddhas, Apsaras, and daily life.

Free Time

Dunhuang

Spend some time exploring the town or nearby attractions.

Opt to visit the unique Mingsha Sand Dunes for sunrise to climb the massive dunes and enjoy a camel ride. Overnight train to Turpan.

Opt to climb the massive dunes and watch the sun come up over the "desert". Take a camel ride through the dunes in the early morning sun.

In the evening, board a sleeper train to Turpan, the first stop in the Xinjiang province. Here, the culture, food and language changes from "mainland China". The Uyghur minority people speak Uyghur, a Turkic language with an arabic script. Food is more similar to Central Asian cuisine and includes rice, kebabs and handmade noodle dishes – the original spaghetti and meatballs brought to Europe along the Silk Road.

Today's Activities

Free Time

Dunhuang

Soak up the last of this charming city.

Basic Overnight Train (beds)

Dunhuang – Turpan

9h30m

Experience overnight travel like a local. Sit back and get some well-earned (and likely much-needed) rest en route to your next stop.

Optional Activities - Day 8

Mingsha Sand Dunes Visit

Dunhuang

120CNY

Visit the Mingsha Sand Dunes, at the edge of town in Dunhuang. Pay your entrance fee at the gate and get transported to an empty desert. Hike in the dark to reach the top of the dunes and watch as the sun rises, turning the dunes from black and gray to white to golden. After sunrise, opt to ride a camel further into the dunes and hike up for a sandy sled ride down.

Day 9

Turpan

Arrive in Turpan, the lowest point in Asia. Enjoy a city tour with a local guide including the ancient Karez water system.

Arrive to the train station and drive by private van (about 1 hr) to Turpan.

Enjoy a city tour with a local guide and learn about this interesting desert city, the ancient Karez water system and the culture of the Uyghur minority people.



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Turpan

1h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Turpan City Tour

Turpan

4h

Meet the locals and find out more about this completely unique culture on a city tour. Get a taste of the Uyghur culture and language and what life is like so far west of Beijing. Wander the streets under trellised grapevines and visit the bazaar and mosque. Learn more about the ancient Karez water system, a feat of engineering allowing this arid desert region to sustain life.



Optional Activities - Day 9

Tuyoq Village Visit

Turpan

30CNY

Explore this rustic village located near the Flaming Mountains and famed for its seedless grapes. Take in the traditional Uyghur way of life as you wander around the old houses.

Emin Minaret Visit

Turpan

40CNY

The Emin Minaret is the tallest minaret in China at 44m (144.4 ft) tall. Built between 1777 and 1778, it showcases both traditional Islamic features and local Uyghur style and architectural traditions.

Flaming Mountains Visit

Turpan

50CNY

The Flaming Mountains are a beautiful stop outside the city of Turpan. The red sandstone hills are part of the Tian Shan mountain range near the edge of the Taklamakan Desert. These red coloured mounds have eroded over time, forming deep gullies and trenches, which give the appearance of flames when the sun hits the mountains.

Jiaohe Ruins Visit

Turpan

40CNY

1h30m-4h

Located in the Yarnaz Valley, the city of Jiaohe was the capital of the Jushi kingdom from 108BC to 450AD. It was built on an island in the middle of a river, surrounded by steep cliffs, using the landscape as a natural defense system. It's estimated that 7,000 people once lived here. Opt to visit the site with a local guide to learn more about its rich history.

Day 10

Turpan/Kashgar

Drive to Urumqi and fly to Kashgar. Take an orientation walk of the city and head out for an optional dinner.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Turpan - Urumqi

3h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Plane

Urumqi - Kashgar

1h45m

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Orientation With CEO

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Day 11

Kashgar

Enjoy the Sunday markets in Kashgar, including the famous Sunday bazaar and fascinating animal market.

Spend the rest of the day exploring the old town centre or the People's Square.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Animal Market

Kashgar

1h

The animal market is the highlight of a trip to Kashgar. Watch as people come from miles around to bargain and barter for animals. Men in traditional Central Asia Muslim garb negotiate for the best sheep around, boys load goats on and off trucks, and barbers cut hair and trim beards in the middle of it all. Stand back and observe the frenzy.

Sunday Bazaar Market

Kashgar

1h

Sunday is the best day to visit the ancient Silk Road bazaar in Kashgar. Once an important trading spot on the route, Kashgar is famous for its bazaar. While the traditional Sunday Bazaar isn't what it once was, you get a taste of what it must have been like back in the day. Past the donkey parking lot, see traditional fabrics, nuts, spices, and normal household goods being sold in the stalls.

Free Time

Kashgar

Make the most of the remaining time in this Silk Road city.



Optional Activities - Day 11

People's Square Visit

Kashgar

Wander around Kashgar's main square to watch locals doing their shopping and heading to the mosque.

Drive to the border via the Torugart Pass. Continue to Tash Rabat, a small community of Kyrgyz nomads high in the Tian Shan mountain range. Overnight in a yurt.

Settle into this idyllic setting surrounded by bright green rolling hillsides, topped with snow, icy running rivers cut through the area and kids and animals running around. Enjoy a delicious homemade meal with the family.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Kashgar - Torugart

2h-3h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Border Crossing (China - Kyrgyzstan)

China Kyrgyz Border - Torugart

Ready for a little more ink in your passport? Grab your bags and get ready to check another country off your bucket list.

Private Vehicle

Torugart - Tash Rabat

2h-3h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

ACTIVITY

Spend the afternoon and evening at a nomadic campsite in the mountains. Settle into a cozy yurt in traditional Kyrgyz fashion. Enjoy the icy babbling creek and kids and animals running around the area. Head into the hills for a short hike before a tasty dinner.

Day 13

Tash Rabat/Kochkor

Enjoy the scenic mountains in the morning then drive to Kochkor to visit women at a carpet-making workshop. Enjoy a homestay in the community-based tourism (CBT) houses.

Enjoy the morning in the scenic mountains hiking, visiting the ancient stone building called Tash Rabat, playing with the kids or horseback riding.

Continue on a typical scenic Kyrgyz drive to Kochkor to visit women at a felt carpet-making workshop. Feel free to chat with the women and learn about their traditional craft.

Spend the night at a homestay in the community-based tourism (CBT) houses. CBT is an organization that helps families offer their homes to travellers.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Tash Rabat - Kochkor

270km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Carpet-Making Workshop Visit

Kochkor

1h

Visit the women at a felt carpet-making workshop. Feel free to chat with the women and learn about their traditional craft.

ACTIVITY

Enjoy a homestay in the community-based tourism (CBT) houses. CBT is an organization that helps families offer their homes to travellers. The group may split across a few houses near each other and have different experiences at each home. The families provide comfortable places to sleep, varied washing facilities from outhouses to running hot water indoors and tasty meals, but their level of interaction will vary. Keep an eye out for homemade raspberry jam!

Tash Rabat Visit

Tash Rabat

1h30m

Visit the ancient stone structure in the mountains and learn more about the theories of its origin.



Optional Activities - Day 13

Hiking

Tash Rabat

Free

Head into the mountains and explore the area on foot.

Horseback Riding

Tash Rabat

20USD

Saddle up to explore the area by horseback, soaking in the beautiful view.

Day 14

Kochkor/Karakol

Travel to Karakol with a guided village tour. With free time, opt to check out the Przhevalsky Museum, the local market, Dungan Mosque or the Orthodox church.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Kochkor - Karakol

4h

280km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Village Tour

Karakol

2h

Head out with a guide to learn more about the area, its history and way of life of the locals who live here.

Free Time

Karakol

Use free time to further explore the town.



Optional Activities - Day 14

Russian Orthodox Holy Trinity Cathedral Visit

Karakol

Free

Stop by Karakol's cathedral to admire the unique architecture. This beautiful wooden church was built in 1895, after the old structure was destroyed by an earthquake and is still used for services on Sundays.

Przhevalsky Museum

Karakol

Free

Tour the Przhevalsky Museum, named for Nikolai Przhevalsky, the first European to study the geography and nature of Central Asia. The museum is situated in a park and offers great insight into the history of the area.

Dungan Mosque

Karakol

Free

Visit this colourful mosque originally built in 1910 that almost resembles a Buddhist temple. This is the only mosque in the area and definitely worth checking out. The word Dungan in the temple name is a term from the Soviet-era referring to the ethnic group of Muslims of Chinese descent. The people themselves, however, call themselves Hui.

Day 15

Karakol/Cholpon-Ata

Stay in Cholpon-Ata for the night. Enjoy a free afternoon to hang out on the beach, visit the petroglyphs or take a boat tour on the lake.

Head to the resort town of Cholpon-Ata on the shores of Lake Issyk-Kul.

Hang out on the beach with snow-capped mountains in the distance, visit the Cholpon-Ata petroglyphs or take a boat tour on the lake.

This is one of those town best explored by just wandering around. If you're lucky, you might even find a spot for a traditional 'banya' (Russian bathhouse).



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Karakol - Cholpon-Ata

4h

200km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time

Cholpon-Ata

Explore this Russian resort town on the lake.



Optional Activities - Day 15

Boat Tour

Cholpon-Ata

100-150USD

Head out on a boat to explore Lake Issyk-Kul.

Cholpon-Ata Beach Visit

Cholpon-Ata

Free

Stretch out on the beach with the locals and view the gorgeous snow-capped mountains in the background.

Cholpon-Ata Petroglyphs Visit

Cholpon-Ata

Visit some of the ancient petroglyphs in the area. The rocks depict people hunting animals that are now rarely found in the region or are already extinct.

Day 16

Cholpon-Ata/Bishkek

Travel to the capital city- Bishkek. Stop en route at the Burana Tower. Enjoy free time to shop, visit the city and enjoy the nightlife.

In Bishkek, enjoy some meals and drinks out in the city, wander the local markets and bargain for tasty snacks. Catch a mashrutka (a set-route taxi) and learn how to hop on and off like a local. Visit museums and stock up on souvenirs from the craft stores in the TsUM (mall).



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Cholpon-Ata - Bishkek

4h

280km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Burana Tower Visit

Burana

Visit the historical site of Burana and climb the stairs to check out the view from the top. A large minaret, along with some grave markers and remnants of a castle and mausoleums, are all that remain of the 9th century city of Balasagun.

Orientation With CEO

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Free Time

Bishkek

Explore the Soviet-esque capital city.

Day 17

Bishkek

Explore the city or opt to go further afield for a hike in Ala Archa National Park.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Free Time

Bishkek

Head out and start exploring.



Optional Activities - Day 17

Ala Archa National Park

Ala Archa Gorge

3h-5h

2-3km

Make the 40km (25 mi) journey from Bishkek to the gorgeous Ala Archa National Park in the Tian Shan Mountains. Spend some time hiking the trails to the Broken Heart Stone and discovering more of Kyrgyzstan's raw grandeur.

Day 18

Bishkek/Tashkent

Fly to Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Take an orientation walk to get to know the city.

Enjoy an optional dinner out tonight and maybe find a place to smoke a sheesha and relax.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Plane

Bishkek - Tashkent

1h15m

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Orientation With CEO

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Day 19

Tashkent

Take an included sightseeing tour of the city with a local guide before free time to explore.

Take the metro and wander the central markets to savour the local sights, tastes, and aromas. Visit the religious centre and Koran museum to learn about the history of the city in this diverse country.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Tashkent Guided City Tour

Tashkent

4h

Visit the city's highlights with a local guide. Ride the Russian-esque metro and visit the religious centre of the city and Museum of Applied Arts. Wander the neighbourhood streets and learn about daily life and history of the city and the Uzbek people.

Free Time

Tashkent

Explore more of this capital city.

Day 20

Tashkent/Khiva

Fly to Urgench and drive to UNESCO-listed Khiva. Enjoy a half-day tour of this ancient city.

Explore the old town surrounded by city walls, bargain with locals at the market and wander through the madrassas, climb up minarets, and explore the dark dungeons Khiva was infamous for back in the 10th century.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Plane

Tashkent - Urganch

1h45m

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Private Vehicle

Urganch - Khiva

30m-45m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Khiva Ancient City Exploration

Khiva

4h

Khiva feels like a museum city, with well-preserved city walls and ancient monuments. Wander the city on a guided tour, learn about life here and its important place in history.

Day 21

Khiva/Bukhara

Travel day through the desert to Bukhara, one of the most charming cities in the country.

Spend a full day driving through the desert to Bukhara– it's worth the effort. Spend the evening wandering the city and getting to know the place.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Khiva - Bukhara

6h

450km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.



Optional Activities - Day 21

Bukhara Hammam Visit

Bukhara

35USD

There are a few hammam choices in the city and they are often gender specific - Hammam Kunjak for ladies and Bozori Kord Hammam for gentlemen. Depending on the day of the week and when you want to go, your CEO can advise you on some options.

Day 22

Bukhara

Take an included city tour with a local guide. Use some free time to visit a local hammam (bathhouse) or pick up some souvenirs.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Bukhara City Guided Tour

Bukhara

3h

Join a local guide to visit the the Samanid Mausoleum, the Ark Citadel, and the Poi-i-Kalon complex. Wander around beautifully restored mosques, madrassas, and covered markets that make up the Old City.

Free Time

Bukhara

This is the perfect city for shopping or settle in to enjoy tea and snacks at a chaykhana.



Optional Activities - Day 22

Bukhara Hammam Visit

Bukhara

35USD

There are a few hammam choices in the city and they are often gender specific - Hammam Kunjak for ladies and Bozori Kord Hammam for gentlemen. Depending on the day of the week and when you want to go, your CEO can advise you on some options.

Jewish Area and Synagogue Visit

Bukhara

Free

Bukhara has a fascinating Jewish history, with Bukharan Jews speaking a Turkic-Persian dialect with a Hebrew script. The city once was home to 40,000 Jews and now has a community of about 25-30 families. The synagogue is well worth a visit (donation expected) and houses a Torah that is roughly 1,000 years old. Please note that on Friday evenings and Saturday, the Synagogue is usually closed for Shabbat.

Carpet Museum

Bukhara

1USD

The Magok-i Attari Mosque (Museum of Carpets) offers information about the art of carpet making and some fine examples to boot. Perhaps more impressively, the building the museum is located in was once used for Jewish, Muslim, and Christian services, demonstrating the diversity and open-mindedness of this intriguing city.

Day 23

Bukhara/Samarkand

Travel on to Samarkand. Take an orientation walk and opt to visit the Amir Timur Mausoleum.

In the evening, venture out and go for dinner at one of the many delicious restaurants in the city.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Bukhara - Samarkand

4h

280km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Orientation With CEO

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.



Optional Activities - Day 23

Amir Timur Mausoleum Visit

Samarkand

Amir Timur, known as Tamerlane, is an important figure to the city of Samarkand. He was a conqueror in the 14th century hoping to rebuild the empire of Genghis Khan and is considered the last of the great conquerors of the Eurasian steppe. Visit his mausoleum and learn more about his life and contributions.

Day 24

Samarkand

Enjoy a tour of the city with a local guide. In the evening, enjoy a plov-cooking demonstration and dinner with a local family.

With free time, opt to explore more of the Registan or the city itself.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Samarkand City Tour

Samarkand

4h

Visit the important sights of the city with a local guide. See the Shaki Zinda complex, Samarkand bazaar, Bibi Khanum, and Registan Square.

ACTIVITY

Visit a local family and learn how to make Plov, a traditional dish found all throughout Central Asia that varies from country to country and household to household. In Uzbekistan, it's most often a combination of rice, carrots, onions and lamb cooked in a massive cast iron, wok-like pan. Enjoy the delicious results for dinner.

Free Time

Samarkand

Explore more of the city.



Optional Activities - Day 24

Registan Visit

Samarkand

Explore the mosaic-covered medressas and open spaces of the spectacular Registan, once the heart of Uzbek learning. The city blossomed under Amir Timur, a tyrannical 14th century ruler. A lover of art, Timur was responsible for the colourful domes and exquisite minarets that now form the city's evocative skyline. The spectacular Registan, one of the city's most impressive works of art, is an impressive collection of buildings and probably the most recognizable of all of Central Asia's monuments.

Day 25

Samarkand/Tashkent

Travel back to Tashkent for a final evening together.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Train

Samarkand - Tashkent

5h

300km

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Day 26

Tashkent

Depart at any time.



Meals included

Breakfast

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Local Living Moment: Overnight in a Yurt, Tash Rabat
- Your Local Living Moment: CBT Homestay, Kochkor
- Your Local Living Moment: Plov Cooking Class and Dinner, Samarkand
- Great Wall entrance (Beijing)
- Tiananmen Square and Forbidden City guided tour
- Terracotta Warriors tour (Xi'an)

- Mogao Grottoes (Dunhuang)
- Turpan guided sightseeing tour
- Sunday bazaar and animal bazaar visit (Kashgar)
- Torugart Pass (China/Kyrgyzstan border)
- Yurt stay with local meals
- Carpet-making workshop visit
- Karakol village tour
- Burana Tower visit
- Bishkek orientation walk
- Tashkent city tour
- Khiva ancient city tour (half-day)
- Bukhara city tour
- Samarkand city tour
- Plov-making demonstration with dinner
- Internal flights
- Border crossing and language support
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Wander along the Great Wall, stare down the Terracotta Warriors, bargain at Kashgar's Sunday bazaar, stay in a yurt with a Kyrgyz family, marvel at the sights in Bukhara and Samarkand.

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Wander along the Great Wall, stare down the Terracotta Warriors, bargain at Kashgar's Sunday bazaar, stay in a yurt with a Kyrgyz family, marvel at the sights in Bukhara and Samarkand.

Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Is there an itinerary Disclaimer?

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

1. LUGGAGE

As we use (sometimes crowded) local transport please note backpacks are much more suitable than suitcases for this style of trip. There may be a weight restriction for the internal flight on this tour. Each passenger is allowed to carry one checked bag with a maximum weight of 20 kg (33lbs). Additional bags or excess weight charges may apply. These charges are the responsibility of the passengers.

2. RAMADAN

Depending on the lunar cycle, Ramadan will fall between June 18th to July 17th, 2015. Please note that Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world, during which time the followers of Islam should not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset. There may be some limitations to services and disruptions to schedules during Ramadan in Muslim areas, but generally our tours still operate effectively during this period and food is available to non-muslims throughout the day. It is very important to display increased cultural sensitivity during Ramadan. Please wear loose fitting clothes, that cover knees and shoulders, and try to avoid eating, drinking or smoking in public out of respect for those who can't at that time.

What is the group leader like?

Your G Adventures group trip is accompanied by a G Adventures Chief Experience Officer (CEO) in China. The aim of your CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. G Adventures CEOs are experts in their region with a broad, general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local expert guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting- we think it's the best of both worlds.

How large will the group be?

Max 16, avg 12

What meals are included in this trip?

20 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners

What are the meals like on this trip?

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world.

Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each others company. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. Vegetarians will be able to find a range of different foods, although in some areas the choice maybe limited.

For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Train, private van/bus, walking, plane, camel, metro

Are local flights included in the cost of the trip?

All local flights are included in the cost of your tour unless otherwise noted. It is important that we have your passport information at the time of booking in order to process these tickets. Internal flight tickets are issued locally and will be given to you prior to the flight departure.

Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

We believe single travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotels/guesthouses (19 nts), sleeper trains (3 nts), community-based tourism/homestays (2 nts, shared facilities), yurt (1 nt, multi-share).

Will I get my own room?

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops

Do any exceptions apply to Rooming or “My Own Room” on my tour?

Nights 3, 5, and 8 due to overnight trains. Night 12 due to yurt stay and night 13 due to CBT stay.

What is the joining hotel?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

What are the joining instructions?

When arriving to Beijing International Airport, you have a few choices on how to get to your starting point hotel.

A. Taxi: Follow the signs to the taxi ranks once you have come out of the baggage hall. The ranks are clearly defined, and traffic guards will systematically put you into a taxi. Print out the name of your hotel in Chinese. A taxi ride will take between 34-45 minutes depending on traffic, and should cost between 95-120 Yuan (plus an extra 10 for the tollway).

DO NOT GO WITH ANYONE WHO APPROACHES YOU OFFERING A METERED TAXI WHICH IS PARKED IN THE LOT. THEY WILL RIP YOU OFF.

B. Airport Express Train: Once you have come out of the luggage hall, follow the signs to the underground Airport Express Line. This line takes you to the center of Beijing, to DONGZHIMEN, where you can transfer to Subway line 2, or take a taxi from here to your hotel. The Airport Express ticket costs 25 yuan. It takes about 16 minutes from Terminal 3 of the Airport to Dongzhimen. Train hours are from 6:30am to 10:30pm. To continue to the Chongwenmen Hotel by subway, it is very easy to transfer to Line 2 of the Subway and take it 5 stops to the Chongwenmen stop. Exit C. Turn right. The hotel is on your right hand side. Subway Fare is 2 yuan.

C. If you have paid for an arrival transfer when you booked your trip, our driver will be waiting for you with a G Adventures sign with your name on it. He will be waiting for you outside the luggage hall. There most likely will be many signs, so please check carefully for your name.

What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your CEO (if you are not on a group tour please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier). If you are unable to get in touch with your leader, please refer to our emergency contact details.

If you have not made contact with our transfer representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, please contact the Beijing transfer complications number below. As a last resort we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Operator (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Office Bangkok, Thailand:

Mr Laziz Otayarov (Operations Manager - Central Asia)

Mobile 1: +998 90 134 7888 (24h)

Mobile 2: +998 93 528 7678 (24h)

After hours emergency number

From outside Thailand: +66 87 049 6074

From within Thailand: 087 049 6074

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

What should I take on my trip?

What you need to bring depends on the trip you have chosen and the countries or regions you are planning to visit. We suggest that you pack as lightly as possible as you are expected to carry your own luggage. As a rule we try not to have to walk more than 15-20 minutes with your bags which is why we recommend keeping the weight of your bags between 10-15kg/22-30lb. Suitcases are not recommended for G Adventures trips! Most travellers carry a backpack or rolling bag of small to medium size (no XXL ones please!) as they need to fit under the beds when travelling on sleeper trains. You will also need a day pack/bag to carry water, cameras and other electronics like ipods and mobile phones.

What should be on my packing list?

Health & Safety:

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)
- Hand sanitizer

When can I do my laundry on this trip?

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

What the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

UZBEKISTAN: all nationalities require a visa to visit Uzbekistan.

Most nationalities also need an official Letter Of Invitation (LOI) before they can apply for their Uzbekistan visa.

Noted Exemptions: Citizens of the following countries do not require an LOI to apply for a tourist visa valid up to 30 days: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom. Those who don't need an LOI can leave the "Invite Party" on their visa application form blank.

You can obtain the LOI through our visa support agent in Uzbekistan. The visa support link you need to complete will be sent to you or your travel agent by email when you confirm your booking. You must read the instructions carefully and fill out all the details. Please note that we also require a 3x4cm. scanned passport photo which can be emailed to your G Adventures Representative or Agent upon confirmation.

The documents you will need to obtain your visa:

- 1) A standard application form from the embassy or consulate where you want to collect your visa
- 2) Two passport sized photos (note it is sometimes better for women to have their head covered in a head scarf, but it is not obligatory)
- 3) Payment for the visa depends on nationality and sometimes needs to be made at a local nearby bank.
- 4) Passport with empty pages
- 5) Uzbekistan Letter of Invite
- 6) Letter of Employment

HOW TO FILL IN UZBEKISTAN LOI FORM ONLINE:

Input your name the same way it is in your passport. The Uzbekistan MFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) is very precise about the information on the application form and it must match your passport (if you have 2 or more names - all of them have to be listed under "first name").

As Uzbekistan visas are dated specifically for entry and exit, please ensure you enter the correct dates. We also recommend you add on an extra day to both the start/end of your trip so your visa length will cover any unexpected delays. Please, remember to put exactly the same dates when you fill out the application at the Uzbekistan embassy.

The Uzbekistan Government has implemented a new requirement asking passengers to provide a Letter of Employment (LOE) in order to issue the Letter of Invitation (LOI) Please make sure to attach this LOE to your LOI application below as both are required to begin this process. If you are retired, please attach a typed letter advising when you officially retired (you may be contacted by us to follow up with you for more information if necessary)

If your country has an official Uzbekistan Consulate/Embassy, you must choose this as your 'Visa pick up location', if you do not see a local consulate/embassy on this list or you are unable to go there due to prior travel arrangements, please contact your travel agent or G Adventures for further assistance. Certain nationalities may be able to obtain a visa upon arrival at Tashkent airport, but this is for special circumstances only and you must make sure to check with your embassy if this applies for your nationality, before choosing this option.

Please do not submit your application until 3 months prior to your entry into Uzbekistan. The details will be forwarded to our local agent in Uzbekistan, As an Uzbekistan visa is only valid for 90 days once it is issued, you will be emailed your Uzbekistan invitation Letter only once we are within 60 days of the trip start date.

Please Note: As the Visa Authorization Number is issued by the Uzbekistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs - unexpected delays can occur and this process can not be rushed.

Once you have received your LOI you can apply for your visa by going to the Uzbekistan embassy you listed in the online application. Please, remember that it is your responsibility to check whether passport details, name spelling and dates on the LOI are correct.

KYRGYSTAN: Most nationalities do not require a Visa to enter Kyrgystan for up to 60 days.

These include: USA, Canada, Australia, Austria, Belgium, UK, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark, Ireland, Spain, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Finland, France, Sweden, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Switzerland, Iceland, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Greece, Portugal, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Malta, Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Monaco, Vatican, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Kingdom of Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Qatar

Please ensure you check with your nearest consulate/embassy for most up to date details.

CHINA: all nationalities require a visa to visit China

Most nationalities also need an official Letter Of Invitation (LOI) before they can apply for their Chinese visa.

You can obtain the LOI through our visa support agent in China. The visa support link you need to complete will be sent to you or your travel agent by email when you confirm your booking. You must read the instructions carefully and fill out all the details.

When filling out your Chinese Visa Application form, Please ensure that you list the same details as appear on your LOI when filling out your Chinese Visa Application form.

Passengers traveling to Tibet:

As Tibet continues to be a sensitive area for travel to the Chinese government you must refrain from listing Tibet as one of the places you are going to visit as your application form or your Visa will be denied. We will provide you with the necessary documents to obtain your Chinese Visa, please use the details provided when filling out your Chinese Visa application form.

HOW TO FILL IN CHINA LOI FORM ONLINE:

As Chinese visas are dated specifically for entry and exit, please ensure you enter the correct dates as per your flights entering and exiting China. Please remember to put exactly the same dates when you fill out the application at the Chinese embassy. You will need to provide additional documentation to the consulate (i.e. flights tickets, hotel reservations) if these dates fall outside the duration of the tour.

Please do not submit the application until 3 months prior to your entry into China. The details will be forwarded to our local agent in China and you will be emailed your Chinese Invitation Letter (With day by day Itinerary) only once we are within 60 days of the trip start date.

Once you have received your LOI you can apply for your visa by going to the nearest Chinese embassy. Please, remember that it is your responsibility to check whether passport details, name spelling and dates on the LOI are correct.

Following the successful implementation of their 144 hour visa free program for the Shanghai district, The Ministry of Public Security of China have announced the extension of the 144 hour visa free program for provinces of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei. As of the 29th of December 2017, over 50 foreign nationals can now enter or exit via one of the following ports:

- Beijing Capital International Airport
- Railway West Railway Station
- Tianjin Binhai International Airport
- Tianjin International Cruise Homeport, or
- Shijiazhuang Zhengding International Airport in Hebei Province and Qinhuangdao Harbor.

Where can I read detailed notes about this trip?

China has emerged as a great tourist destination in the last ten years and is an intriguing and rewarding destination to visit. Developing at a fast rate, travel is becoming easier for foreigners but please be aware that English is still not widely spoken outside the large cities and that accommodation, toilet facilities and some transportation is not yet at the same level as you would expect in developed countries. If you are able to bring with you a lot of patience, a great sense of humour and a willingness to try and interact with the local people, your travel experience will be greatly enhanced.

How much spending money do I need for my trip?

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?

As currency exchange rates in Asia fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: www.xe.com.

As of Nov 2011 the exchange rate for China was 1 USD = 6.3 CNY (Chinese Yuan).

Cash (Chinese Yuan) is the best method of money in China. There are some ATM machines at international airports and major cities that accept Visa and debit cards but these should not be relied on as a source of funds. We recommend the use of cash and traveller's cheques in major currencies (USD, CAD, GBP, EUR, AUD, HKD) as a backup. Major credit cards are accepted in a few shops (except for AMEX and Diner's) but they may charge a 2-4% transaction fee.

How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Do I need to pay a departure tax?

Departure Tax is included in all International and Domestic tickets in China.

Should I be tipping on my trip?

Traditionally in China tipping is not expected and thus there is no need to tip in restaurants and your general interaction with locals; however, tipping is customary - though not compulsory - in the tourism industry and not only shows an expression of satisfaction it may also be of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. You may do this individually, or your CEO may offer to collect the money and tip as a group.

Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from 1 to 3 USD per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture. A suggestion would be for each group member to contribute anonymously by putting their tip into an envelope. This often works the best and the group as a whole should gather to present the gift to the recipient(s), offering their thanks and showing their appreciation. This method brings the action out into the open, allowing for a friendly and appreciative interaction between the group and the recipient(s).

Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline \$5 USD per person per day can be used.

What activities are optional on this trip?

Beijing

- Shaolin Monk Kung Fu Show (90-180CNY per person)
- Beijing Opera (120-180CNY per person)
- Drum and Bell Tower Visit (30CNY per person)
- Beijing Acrobatics Performance
- Hutong Cycling Tour (50-100CNY per person)
- Lama Temple Visit (25CNY per person)

Xi'an

- Cycling Xi'an City Walls (45-45CNY per person)
- Big Goose Pagoda Visit (50CNY per person)
- Muslim Quarter Visit

Dunhuang

- Mingsha Sand Dunes Visit (120CNY per person)

Turpan

- Tuyuq Village Visit (30CNY per person)
- Flaming Mountains Visit (50CNY per person)
- Emin Minaret Visit (40CNY per person)
- Jiaohe Ruins Visit (40CNY per person)

Kashgar

- People's Square Visit

Tash Rabat

- Hiking (Free)
- Horseback Riding (20USD per person)

Karakol

- Russian Orthodox Holy Trinity Cathedral Visit (Free)
- Przhevalsky Museum (Free)
- Dungan Mosque (Free)

Cholpon-Ata

- Boat Tour (100-150USD per group)
- Cholpon-Ata Beach Visit (Free)
- Cholpon-Ata Petroglyphs Visit

Ala Archa Gorge

- Ala Archa National Park

Bukhara

- Bukhara Hammam Visit (35USD per person)
- Jewish Area and Synagogue Visit (Free)
- Carpet Museum (1USD per person)

Samarkand

- Amir Timur Mausoleum Visit
- Registan Visit

Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that sometimes we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our CEOs are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. In Asia pharmacies tend to stock the same western drugs as you get at home but they are usually produced locally so please bring the full drug name with you when trying to purchase a prescription drug. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your CEO will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgment when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards) have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/

What are the trip specific safety considerations?

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

What rules should I know before joining this trip?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

How should I dress to respect local customs during the tour?

In Asia the dress standard is more conservative than it is back home. When packing try to pick loose, lightweight, long clothing that will keep you cool in the usually hot and humid climate of Asian summers. In predominately Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim countries we ask that you dress respectfully and avoid very short shorts/skirts and singlets/tanktops when visiting temples or mosques or other holy sites.

How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at customersolutions@gadventures.com and we will send it on to you.

Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

How old must I be to join this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.