

# EXPEDITIONS



## SIGNATURE: CHINA'S GREAT WALL, XI'AN & THE GOBI DESERT

10 days, Beijing to Chengdu

Trip code ACPDNS

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your Expedition Leader and Group, Beijing
- Signature Moment: Great Wall of China Talk with an Expert, Jinshanling
- Your Foodie Moment: Sunset Beijing Duck Dinner on the Great Wall, Jinshanling
- Your Foodie Moment: The Tang Dynasty Cultural Show with Dumpling Dinner, Xi'an
- Signature Moment: Institute of Archeology Visit, Xi'an
- Arrival and departure transfer
- Forbidden City Visit
- Temple of Heaven Visit
- Tiananmen Square Visit
- Great Wall of China Jinshanling Section
- Mogao Grottoes Visit
- Free Time in Dunhuang
- Sunset at Mingsha Mountain & Crescent Spring
- Yadan National Geologic Park Visit
- Yumen Pass and Ruins of the Han Great Wall Visit
- Xi'an's West Gate Visit
- Terracotta Warriors Visit
- Muslim Quarter Visit
- The Great Mosque Visit
- Giant Panda Breeding Center Visit
- Engaging Discussions with the National Geographic Expedition Expert throughout
- Porterage at hotels and when getting on and off of vehicles
- Tips are included for all activities, meals and porterage, except for your Expedition Leader
- 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 October 27th, 2025 and onwards

## ITINERARY

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**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

Welcome to China. Your expedition begins as you touch down in Beijing, the heart of the Middle Kingdom. You will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. In the evening, gather with your National Geographic Expedition Leader and fellow travellers. A presentation from the National Geographic Expedition Expert sets the stage for the expedition, weaving together the threads of imperial history you are about to explore, followed by a delicious welcome dinner.

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### Meals included

Dinner

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### ACCOMMODATION

The Peninsula Beijing (or similar) **Hotel**

Nestled in the heart of Wangfujing, The Peninsula Beijing is the city's premier all-suite hotel, offering a luxurious fusion of Chinese artistry and contemporary style. Suites here are spacious and feature separate living areas and marble bathrooms. Just steps from the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square, the location is unbeatable. Guests can indulge in Michelin-starred French cuisine at Jing, refined international dining at The Lobby, or relax at the heated indoor pool, fitness centre, or elegant Peninsula Spa.

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### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Arrival Transfer **Beijing Daxing International Airport – Beijing**

You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel to start your adventure.

#### ACTIVITY

Upon arrival, your Expedition Leader is on hand at the hotel to assist with check-in, provide guidance, and answer questions. In the evening, enjoy an a welcome reception with wine, beer, and soft drinks, paired with an expert-led “Introduction to China” presentation and followed by a welcome dinner.

Day 2

## BEIJING

Step into the scale of imperial China at the Forbidden City. Navigate the vast courtyards and intricate palaces where emperors once ruled, revealing the secrets of dynastic life. After lunch, discover the spiritual symmetry of the Temple of Heaven, where emperors prayed for cosmic harmony. In the late afternoon, visit Tiananmen Square when the crowds have thinned, allowing for a reflective experience at the center of modern power. Conclude the day with a walk through a local park where a part of the Wall of the Ming Dynasty can be seen.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



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### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Forbidden City Visit **Beijing** 2h

Check out the iconic Forbidden City in the heart of Beijing. For 500 years the palace was only accessible to the emperors' attendants and officials by invitation only. Visit sights and wander through the Three Great Halls or stand in the shade of the cypress trees in the Imperial Garden.

Temple of Heaven **Beijing**

Explore the stunning Temple of Heaven, which was built during the rule of the Ming dynasty. Learn more about the history and significance of this place, often referred to as the symbol of Beijing.

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.

Day 3

## BEIJING/JINSHANLING

Travel to the Jinshanling section of the Great Wall, where the stone ribbon winds dramatically over the mountains. After checking into your nearby hotel, ride in an electric car to the trailhead and hike to the Xiliang Tower. Here, meet a local Conservationist dedicated to protecting this world wonder. Gain exclusive insight into the restoration efforts before the day culminates in a truly exclusive experience: as the sun sets and the mountains turn purple, sit down to a traditional Peking Duck dinner served atop the Great Wall – an unforgettable evening of history and flavors.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Jinshanling Great Wall Hotel (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle Beijing - Jinshanling 3h 165km

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

Lunch at Jinshanling Jinshanling

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant run by a local farmer.

Great Wall of China Jinshanling Section Jinshanling 1h-1h30m 2km

Along a Jinshanling Section of the Great Wall of China, the watchtowers get closer together, and the Wall is in its best state of repair. These watchtowers were used to store weapons and to keep an eye out for invading enemy forces, as this was getting closer to the middle of the Chinese empire. Enjoy scenic views as the wall winds along mountain ridges, and take brag-worthy photos of the wall from the "original" unrestored sections. 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. Join a local expert for a walk along the wall and learn first hand of its history. Take an electric car up to Shalingkou, and then walk to Xiliang Tower where the dinner is arranged.

ACTIVITY

Step behind the scenes of one of the world's most iconic landmarks during an intimate encounter with an expert dedicated to the restoration of the Great Wall. Meet the local craftsmen whose families have lived alongside the Wall for generations and hear firsthand how deeply their heritage is woven into every stone they restore. Through their stories, discover not only the techniques used to safeguard the Wall's structure, but also the profound cultural significance it holds for the communities who protect it. This immersive talk delves into the Great Wall's rich history, the challenges of modern preservation, and the ongoing efforts to restore this extraordinary symbol of Chinese resilience and identity.

#### ACTIVITY

Enjoy a Beijing-style duck dinner on the Great Wall at sunset before returning back to the hotel for the evening.

Day 4

## JINSHANLING/DUNHUANG

Leave the capital behind and fly west to Dunhuang, an ancient oasis at the crossroads of the Silk Road. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel, where the view shifts dramatically from cityscapes to the rolling sands of the Gobi Desert. Settle in overlooking the Mingsha Mountain, or "Singing Sand Dunes." Join a conversation on Dunhuang's vital role in trade and culture, followed by dinner with views of the dunes glowing in the distance.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle Jinshanling - Beijing Daxing International Airport 140km

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

Plane Beijing Daxing International Airport - Dunhuang Airport 3h45m

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

Dinner at Hotel in Dunhuang Dunhuang

Enjoy an expert talk about Dunhuang and Silk Road before dinner at the hotel rooftop restaurant with the view overlooking Mingsha Mountain.

Day 5

## DUNHUANG

Immerse yourself in the artistry of the Silk Road at the Mogao Grottoes. You'll go beyond the standard visit, gaining entry to special, restricted-access caves to view stunning Buddhist murals and sculptures spanning centuries. After lunch, venture into the desert to Mingsha Mountain and the crescent-shaped oasis hidden in the dunes. Arrive for the golden hour, watching the sun dip below the horizon and cast long, dramatic shadows across the sand – a moment of pure desert beauty.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel (or similar) Hotel



### 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 in Dunhuang Dunhuang

Drive back to the hotel for free time before visiting Mingsha Mountain.

Sunset at Mingsha Mountain & Crescent Spring Dunhuang

Experience the breathtaking golden hues over the rolling sand dunes of the Gobi Desert. Watch as the sun slowly dips behind the dunes, casting long shadows and creating a serene, almost magical atmosphere around the Crescent Spring oasis. A truly iconic moment in Dunhuang.

Day 6

## DUNHUANG

Travel deep into the Gobi to the Yadan National Geological Park, known as the 'Devil City' for the eerie sound of the wind whistling through its rock formations. Marvel at the surreal, wind-sculpted landscape before visiting the Yumen Pass, the legendary Jade Gate that once guarded China's frontier. Stand before the eroded remnants of the Han Dynasty Great Wall, contemplating the soldiers who stood watch here millennia ago. Return to Dunhuang for a free evening to explore the local markets or dine at your leisure.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### ACCOMMODATION

The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle Dunhuang 2h30m 168km

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

Yumen Pass and Ruins of the Han Great Wall Visit Dunhuang

Board the shuttle bus to explore three key Silk Road sites: the Ruins of the Han Great Wall, where eroded earthen walls still trace the desert horizon, Big Fangpan Castle, and the Jade Gate Pass, the historic Han-dynasty gateway that once guarded the Gobi Desert along the ancient Silk Road.

Yadan National Geologic Park Visit Dunhuang

Hop on the park's shuttle bus and travel through the vast Gobi Desert, stopping at several scenic viewpoints throughout the Yadan Geopark to take in its dramatic, wind-carved landscapes.



### Optional Activities - Day 6

Optional Night Market Visit Dunhuang

Join your Expedition Leader for an optional evening at the Dunhuang Night Market, where you can soak up local culture, explore stalls filled with crafts and street snacks, and pick up unique regional souvenirs.

Day 7

## DUNHUANG/XI'AN

Fly to Xi'an, the eastern terminus of the Silk Road and home to the terracotta armies. Upon arrival, visit the historic West Gate of the city wall, admiring the Ming Dynasty architecture that still encircles the center. In the evening, celebrate the city's culinary fame with a traditional dumpling banquet, sampling delicate parcels of every shape. Cap the night with a spectacular Tang Dynasty Show, immersing yourself in the music, dance, and opulent costumes of China's golden age.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Sofitel Legend Peoples Grand Hotel Xian (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Plane Dunhuang Airport - Xi'an Xianyang International Airport 2h45m

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

Private Vehicle Xi'an Xianyang International Airport - Xi'an 1h15m 36km

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

Xi'an's West Gate Visit Xi'an

Stop for a quick visit to explore the West Gate, a historic gate of Xi'an's ancient city wall. Admire its architecture, and learn about its role in the city's history.

#### ACTIVITY

Witness the Tang Dynasty Music and Dance Show preserving the cultural heritage with a blend of ancient music, inspiring dances to various Chinese instruments, and interesting historical stories to captivate audiences. Before the show there will be a traditional banquet with the main source being the Chinese Dumplings, which are also named Jiaozi. They typically consist of a ground meat and/or vegetable filling wrapped into a thinly rolled piece of dough, which is then sealed by pressing the edges together or by crimping.

Day 8

## XI'AN

This morning, visit the imposing, life-sized soldiers standing in silent formation at the Terracotta Warrior Museum. One of the world's greatest archaeological discoveries—you'll learn about the incredible scale of the mausoleum and the preservation work that protects the warriors' faded colors. After lunch, dive into the sensory bustle of the Muslim Quarter. Visit the Great Mosque, a stunning fusion of Chinese and Islamic architecture, and learn about the Hui community that has called this city home since the days of the Silk Road.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Sofitel Legend Peoples Grand Hotel Xian (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle Xi'an 1h-1h30m 45km

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

Terracotta Warriors Visit Xi'an 4h

Visit the site of the Terracotta Warriors, an archaeological treasure where approximately 8,000 soldiers and hundreds of horses stand on guard in three excavated pits in an on-site museum. Learn how the underground warriors were discovered (by accident) in 1974, and why Emperor Qin Shihuang commissioned the statues to serve as his army in the afterlife.

Private Vehicle Xi'an 1h-1h30m 42km

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

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.

The Great Mosque Visit Xi'an

Discover this hidden oasis behind the markets of the Muslim Quarter. Learn about the Great Mosque's centuries-old history, and explore the temples and gardens to see how Chinese and Islamic architecture came together in this place of worship.

Day 9

## XI'AN/CHENGDU

Begin with an exclusive, private visit to the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology. Step into restricted areas to view recently unearthed antiquities and discuss preservation with Museum staff. Then, experience the speed of modern China on a bullet train to Chengdu. Head to the Panda Breeding Centre to watch giant pandas in their naturalistic habitat and learn about critical conservation efforts. Conclude your expedition with a farewell dinner and a final presentation, reflecting on the thousands of years of history you have witnessed.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Niccolo Chengdu (or similar) **Hotel**



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Farewell Dinner in Chengdu **Chengdu**

Enjoy a meal with your new found friends and reminisce about the fantastic adventure you've all had.

#### ACTIVITY

Enjoy an exclusive behind-the-scenes visit to areas typically closed to the public, offering a rare look at newly unearthed antiquities and ongoing research.

Giant Panda Breeding Center Visit **Chengdu** 1h30m

Visit the popular pandas at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, created to provide an ideal breeding environment for these endangered creatures. Learn about their life cycle and habitat and take memorable photographs of these iconic national treasures.

Private Vehicle **Xi'an** 1h 24km

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

Private Vehicle **Xi'an - Xian North Railway Station** 1h 58km

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

Bullet Train

Xian North Railway Station - Chengdu

3h45m-4h

770km

Get to your next destination faster than the speed of light (ok maybe not that fast) aboard a high-speed train.

Day 10

## CHENGDU

Your expedition concludes today. Transfers are provided to the airport at any time during the day.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Departure Transfer

Chengdu - Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport

You will be met at your hotel and transferred to the airport at the end of your adventure.

## What's included

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- Signature Moment: Great Wall of China Talk with an Expert, Jinshanling
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- Porterage at hotels and when getting on and off of vehicles
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- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

## What are the main highlights of this trip?

Savor an exclusive Peking Duck dinner atop the Great Wall as the sun sets over the peaks, Go behind the scenes in Xi'an to see rare artifacts and unearthed antiquities, Observe the famed statues, learning about the army's lost colors and preservation, Gain entry to the Buddhist caves to view unparalleled Silk Road murals and statues, Watch the dunes of Mingsha Mountain turn gold at sunset from the Crescent Spring oasis.

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

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## 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?

### COMBO TRIP

Please note that this tour combines with other G Adventures tours. As such, the staff and some travel companions on your tour may have previously been traveling together with G Adventures, prior to Day 1 of your tour. Likewise, some staff and travel companions may be continuing together on another G Adventures tour, after your trip concludes.

### INTERNET ACCESS

Please note while traveling through mainland China you will not be able to access some popular internet websites, certain websites such as Google, Dropbox, Gmail, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WordPress, etc. It may be possible to access some of these websites using a VPN. If you wish to use above blocked sites, we suggest you get a suitable VPN on your device prior to travel.

Peak season notice: Golden Week falls between October 1st and 7th. Please note that Golden Week is a semi-annual 7-day or 8-day national holiday for the people of China. This is a very busy time of the year for domestic tourists, so expect some crowding at major attractions. We recommend booking these dates well in advance as accommodations and transportation availability is extremely limited.

### ACCOMMODATION NOTE:

Please be aware that properties we stay in with only two stories may not have elevators installed and climbing the stairs with your luggage will be necessary.

## **What is the group leader like?**

All National Geographic Signature group trips are accompanied by one of our National Geographic Expedition Leaders throughout. The aim of the Expedition Leaders 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. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local 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 22

## **What meals are included in this trip?**

9 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 7 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. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your Expedition Leader will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. While trekking in remote regions, food is included, plentiful and made of fresh local ingredients. For all trips, please refer to the meals included and budget information.

## **What are the modes of transportation on my trip?**

Private vehicle, Walking, Plane, Bullet Train.

## **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?**

Yes, for those travelling solo there is a single supplement

## Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotels (9 nights)

## 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

## What kind of accommodation can I expect on this trip?

Train travel is often used throughout our China trips as it's an easily accessible and fast way to make the most of the time you have in China. While packing for your trip please note the following restrictions and remember that the local policies in place are for yours and everyone's safety.

Prohibited items on China's trains and metro:

1. Any knives or scissors
2. Items or food that have an unpleasant odour (ex. Durian)
3. Open liquor bottles (new bottles with the seal intact are okay)
4. Pressurized/flammable containers over 120ml in size (ex. sunscreen spray, mosquito repellent spray, hairspray, etc.)

Prohibited items on trains to/from Guangxi Province - Guilin/Yangshuo

1. Floria Water - a mosquito repellent water common in China
2. Self-heating food items (self-heating hot pot, rice, etc.)
3. As well as everything on the previous list above

## What are the joining instructions?

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

An arrival transfer is included when you arrive on Day 1, or if you arrive up to three days prior provided that you have booked your pre-accommodation through National Geographic Signature Journeys in our joining hotel. Due to customer experience and quality considerations, all services related to the tour must be continuous.

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day.

Upon arrival to your Joining Hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon), look for a note or bulletin board in the reception with a note from your Expedition Leader. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 1 (usually between 5pm and 7pm), where you will get a chance to meet your Expedition Leader and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run. If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details!

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your Expedition Leader will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

## 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 Representative (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.

### AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. Included arrival transfers are provided from the nearest airport to your starting location. If you are advised of a flight schedule change or flight cancellation within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, please call the emergency contact number to advise of your new arrival flight information. If you do not, we will not be able to rearrange your arrival transfer and you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel at your own expense. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Local Tour Operator (China):

Head Office: +86 18122213686

Beijing Office: +86 010-65128789 or +86 13379009576

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: 1 800 394 5416

Calls from UK: 0800 041 8146

Calls from Germany: 0800 181 9454

Calls from Australia: 1 800 204 905

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 424 389

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

## Which hotel is the finishing point for this trip?

You will be met at your hotel and transferred to the airport at the end of your adventure.

## What instructions should I follow at the finishing point?

You will be met at your hotel and transferred to the airport at the end of your adventure.

# What should be on my packing list?

## Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

## Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

## Health & Safety:

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

## What are 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](#)

### CHINA:

If you require a visa to enter China, you may also need an official Letter Of Invitation (LOI) before you can apply for your Chinese visa. If you require a Letter of Invitation (LOI) to apply for a Chinese visa, please fill out & submit the following request [form](#)

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.

Please ensure that you list the same details as appear on your LOI 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 below application until 3 months prior to your entry into China. The details will be forwarded to our local agent in China and your Letter of Invitation (LOI) will be issued within 10 business days of receipt.

Letter of Invitations (LOI) will be issued as a matter of priority based on the number of days from departure.

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.

You must print out the full set of application forms including the 'Confirmation of Online Visa application' and 'Visa Application Form of the People's Republic of China'. All pages of each form must be printed out. The signature and date on the Confirmation Page and the 8th page of Visa Application Form of the People's Republic of China must be handwritten by the applicant themselves. Visa applicants under the age of 18 must be signed by their guardian while also adding a handwritten signature in the 'For person filling in the application on the applicant's behalf'.

Travellers must have at least two blank passport pages available for each country they will visit on your tour. These are required for entry & exit stamps.

## 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.

Due to Internet restrictions, some popular websites and applications – including social media sites like Facebook and email services like Gmail – may not work in China. If you think these restrictions may affect you, we suggest you do research before your departure in order to be prepared. Bear in mind the availability of websites and apps can change without notice at any time.

## 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.

## 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!

## Should I be tipping on my trip?

On our National Geographic Signature tours, tipping is included for all included activities and meals, and portage. Tipping is not included for the Expedition Leader. Should you want some basic guidelines on tipping for the activities you do on your own, please see below. At the end of each trip if you felt your National Geographic Signature Expedition Leader did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline would be \$10-\$15 per person per day.

For meals and activities not included in your itinerary, traditionally in China, tipping is not expected and thus there is no need to tip in restaurants and your general interaction with locals.

In addition, please note that tipping is not required or expected for the Expedition Expert.

## What activities are optional on this trip?

### Dunhuang

- Optional Night Market 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 leaders 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 Expedition Leader 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 group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Expedition Leader 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 and explore at your leisure. While your Expedition Leader 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 judgement 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. 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 Expedition Leaders 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. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

## 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 Expedition Leader 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 Expedition Leader, 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 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?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to \$100 USD)\*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is \$100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

## 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 National Geographic Signature Specialist 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.