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Wild China

21 days, Beijing to Hong Kong

Trip code ACWC

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Discover Moment: Yangshuo

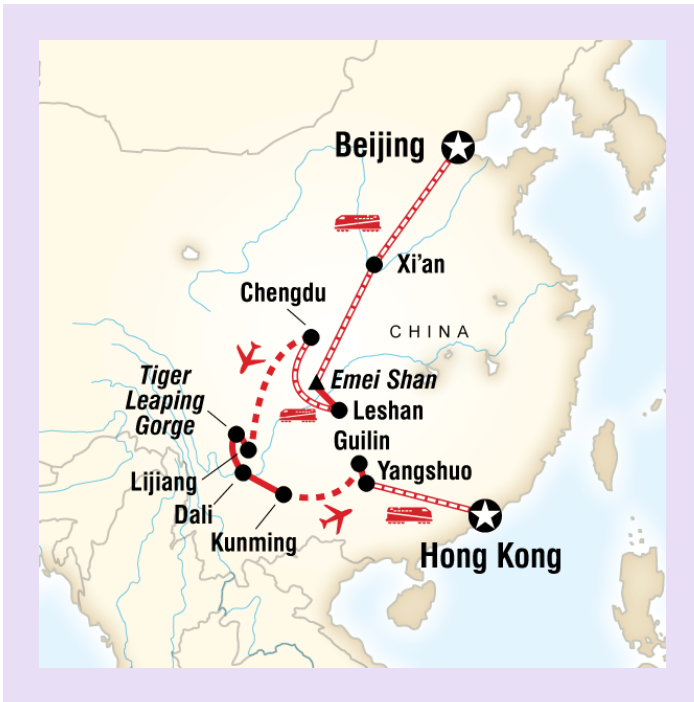
- Great Wall excursion and entrance (Beijing)
- Tiananmen Square and Forbidden City guided tour
- Xi'an orientation walk
- Terracotta Warriors excursion
- Panda Breeding Center visit (Chengdu)
- Emei Shan hike
- Lijiang UNESCO World Heritage site orientation walk
- Tiger Leaping Gorge trek
- Dali orientation walk
- Kunming city tour
- Li River cruise (Yangshuo)
- Internal flights
- Border crossing support
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

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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.



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Please see the notice board in the hotel foyer for details of this meeting.

Visit the Great Wall of China at Mutianyu.

Travel out of Beijing to explore the Great Wall at Mutianyu, an incredible piece of engineering stretching almost 3000km westwards from mountain ridges north of Beijing. Spend the day exploring the wall, taking photos, and chatting up souvenir hawkers.



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.

Walk the legendary grounds of Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City before an overnight train to Xi'an.

Enjoy an included visit to Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. Use your free afternoon to shop in the various markets scattered throughout the city. Take tours of the ancient hutongs (alleyways) in Beijing's old city or the Summer Palace, or visit a Tibetan Monastery. In the evening, board an overnight train to Xi'an.



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.

Day 4

Xi'an

Arrive in Xi'an and take an orientation walk of the city before using free time to explore.

Take an orientation walk to get the lay of the land.

With some free time, opt to visit the Bell and Drum Towers and the vibrant Muslim Quarter with its lively market and Great Mosque. In the evening, opt for a feast at a local dumpling banquet.

Central Xi'an is still enclosed by Ming Dynasty walls, which are a great place to view the city. An excellent option is to rent a bicycle and ride around the city on the top of the walls. Visit one of the parks or squares and watch the locals ballroom dance or practice tai chi in the morning.

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.

The Great Mosque

Xi'an

25CNY

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 5

Xi'an

Enjoy an included visit to one of China's greatest archaeological treasures – the Terracotta Warriors.

Visit the Terracotta Warriors, located a short drive out of town. The army of warriors was discovered in 1974, having been buried for more than 2000 years. Learn all about this once-buried treasure.



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Xi'an

Take an excursion to the Terracotta Warriors and back by 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.

Day 6

Xi'an/Emei Shan

Enjoy free time to explore. Later, board an overnight train to Emei Shan.

Spend the day exploring Xi'an before catching an overnight train to Emei Shan.



Today's Activities

Free Time

Xi'an

Get out and explore.

Basic Overnight Train (beds)

Xi'an - Emei Shan

19h

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

Emei Shan

Arrive in Emei Shan, one of the four sacred Buddhist mountains of China, and stay in a basic monastery.

Continue on to Emei Shan and check into the monastery. This accommodation is very basic, but the experience and the views are breathtaking.



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Emei Shan

45m

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

Day 8

Emei Shan

Enjoy free time to hike in the area before another night in the remote monastery.

Lace up your hiking boots for treks around Emei Shan. Opt to take the cable car or public bus' to explore the area.



Today's Activities

Free Time

Emei Shan

Enjoy free time any way you want. Your CEO will help arrange any hikes or activities you may be interested in.

Mount Emei Entrance Fee

Emei Shan

Visit Emei Shan, one of China's four sacred mountains, and home to many Buddhist monasteries. Enjoy its natural beauty and soak in scenic views.

Day 9

Emei Shan/Chengdu

Visit Leshan with an option to see the giant Buddha. Continue to the vibrant, modern city of Chengdu. Opt to watch a Sichuan opera.

En route to Chengdu, stop for an optional visit to the world's largest outdoor sitting Buddha in Leshan.

Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, is a city of almost 12 million people, which still manages to retain some of its older characteristics and traditions.

One of these traditions is the Sichuan Opera. The singing, comedy, puppetry, and incredible 'changing faces' act performed as part of the opera are a feast for the eyes.

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Emei Shan - Leshan

45m

Private transfer to Leshan with an optional to visit the Giant Buddha.

Local Train

Leshan - Chengdu

1h

Catch express train from Leshan to Chengdu.

Optional Activities - Day 9

Sichuan Opera Show

Sit back and enjoy the show at the vibrant Sichuan Opera - a performance filled with wit, humour, and local flavor. Be taken on a journey by the singing, acrobatics, acting, and exquisite, stylized movements.

Leshan Giant Buddha Visit

Leshan

See centuries-old Dafo, the largest Buddha in the world, at this UNESCO World Heritage site. Building started in 713 and this seated Maitreya was completed by 803 AD being 71 metres tall (233 ft). Opt to board a boat and head out into the Mingjiang River to get an overall view of the statue from afar.

Explore carvings and temples before climbing down the path that travels from the statue's head to its enormous toes.

Visit the Panda Breeding Centre for an up-close experience with these gentle giants. In the afternoon, fly to Lijiang, a World Heritage-listed town. Enjoy an orientation walk.

Take a flight to Lijiang.

Spend time in Lijiang getting lost in the small pedestrian lanes that meander throughout the town. Every twist and turn reveals picturesque old buildings, local arts and crafts, fast flowing canals, and beautiful arched bridges.

Today's Activities

Giant Panda Breeding Center

Chengdu

3h

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. See a number of other rare species, including the little-known red panda. Arrive in the fall for a chance to see tiny newborn pandas.

Plane

Chengdu - Lijiang

1h30m

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

Lijiang

Enjoy a free day to explore Lijiang.

Opt to spend an afternoon resting in a pavilion in the Black Dragon Pool Park, gazing at the reflection of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain or listening to local Naxi music.



Today's Activities

Free Time

Lijiang

Use some free time to make the most of Lijiang.



Optional Activities - Day 11

Black Dragon Pool Park

Lijiang

Explore the gorgeous Black Dragon Pool, a pond in Jade Spring Park, which is a short walk from the Old Town of Lijiang. Take in a spectacular view of the region's tallest mountain, Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Visit the many temples and pavilions in the park, including the Deyue Lou (Moon Embracing Pavillion), the Longshen Temple, and the Wufeng Tower. Tour the Dongba Culture Research Institute and the Dongba Culture Museum, which help to preserve local culture.

Day 12

Lijiang/Hetaoyuan

Trek Tiger Leaping Gorge, a spectacular trail following the Yangtze River that cuts through the dramatic gorge.

In the heart of Yunnan province, the fast-flowing Yangtze has cut a dramatic gorge so narrow that legend has it a tiger once escaped capture by jumping across it.

This area definitely rivals the well-known Three Gorges as the most spectacular scenery along the Yangtze River. Hiking the route is surely the best way to experience the landscape.

Today's Activities

First-class Bus

Lijiang - Qiaotou

3h

Ride on in style. This sure isn't your grandmother's public bus.

Tiger Leaping Gorge Trek Day 1

Qiaotou - Hetaoyuan

6h-8h

13km

Enjoy a first day of hard walking on a combination of a new dirt road and smaller farmers' trails.

Ascend the '28 bends', where the path twists and turns, climbing steeply, until you come out at the top of the path (not the top of the gorge - that is still several hundred metres above you!). Enjoy the stunning, hard-earned views from the top! You can also see where a tiger reputedly jumped across the gorge, a mythical occurrence from which the gorge derives its name.

Day 13

Hetaoyuan/Lijiang

Continue the hike through Tiger Leaping Gorge. Typically, return to Lijiang at the end of the second day's trek.

Today's Activities

Tiger Leaping Gorge Trek Day 2

Lijiang - Qiaotou

4h-6h

Continue on for the second day of the hike - it's easy walking today. Enjoy breathtaking views of Jade Dragon mountain and waterfalls along the way.

Day 14

Lijiang/Dali

Explore this ancient walled town on an orientation walk. Choose to visit the stunning 'Three Pagodas' or one of the local markets.

The town is small enough to explore on foot, but a bicycle or bus ride can take you to see smaller Bai villages, or to visit the colourful markets where women in traditional dress sell their handicrafts.



Today's Activities

First-class Bus

Lijiang - Dali

3h30m

Grab a taxi to the bus station before boarding the express bus to Dali. From there, take a 10-min cart ride into the ancient walled town.

Free Time

Dali

Make the most of your time in Dali – spend free time any way you want.



Optional Activities - Day 14

Three Pagodas of Chongsheng Temple

Dali

120CNY

Tour these three striking pagoda towers from the Tang Dynasty arranged on the corners of an equilateral triangle. The Central Pagoda is almost 1,200 years old, and represents a period when Dali was a Buddhist Kingdom. Climb to the top of the towers for a beautiful view of Dali Ancient Town and Erhai Lake below.

Day 15

Dali

Enjoy a free day to explore markets, scenery, and temples.



Today's Activities

Free Time

Dali

Make the most of your time here. Free time can be spent exploring Dali any way you want.

Day 16

Dali/Kunming

Travel by bus to Kunming and explore the Green Lake and local markets on an included city tour.



Today's Activities

Local Bus

Dali - Xiaguan

1h

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

First-class Bus

Xiaguan - Kunming

5h

Continue on by express bus to Kunming.

City Tour with Local Flower and Bird Market

Kunming

2h

Enjoy an included city tour starting with a trip on a public bus to the local flower and bird market. Find locals shopping for house pets - birds are very popular and crickets are on offer too! Wander through the flower market with its amazing scents and vibrant colours. Then, head through the park, the perfect place to spend a relaxing afternoon.



Optional Activities - Day 16

Green Lake Park Trip

Kunming

Check out the brightly coloured pavillions, tree-lined walkways, and locals doing tai chi in centuries-old Green Lake Park (Cui Hu Park). Traverse the bridges that connect the park's four small lakes, or relax with a visit to the many restaurants, shops, and tea houses lining the park's edge.

Day 17

Kunming/Yangshuo

Spend the morning in Kunming before a flight to Guilin and bus to Yangshuo. Enjoy the next three days exploring the beautiful countryside around the Li River.

Often remembered as a highlight on a trip to China, Yangshuo has some of the country's most spectacular scenery along with a vibrant countryside and relaxed atmosphere.

Hop on a bicycle and head off the beaten track for a ride into the countryside. It's like cycling through a traditional Chinese painting. Mountains, rivers, bamboo, rice paddies, water buffalo – there's something new to see at every turn.



Today's Activities

Plane

Kunming - Guilin

1h30m

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

Private Vehicle

Guilin - Yangshuo

1h30m-2h

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



Optional Activities - Day 17

Impression Liu Sanjie Culture Show

Yangshuo

298CNY

When the sun goes down, the Li River lights up for the 'Impression of Liu Sanjie' light show. The show consists of 7 episodes: the Prelude, Red Impression, Green Impression, Golden Impression, Blue Impression, Silvery Impression and the Epilogue. Each scene in the show is more spectacular and breathtaking than the last and is made up of 600 actors and actresses, colourful stage lights, and special-effect smoke systems. Watch the moonlight dance along the Li River combined with colourful lights and dancers as the show plays on!

Day 18

Yangshuo

Relax on an included Li River cruise passing through a seemingly endless range of stunning karst mountains. Enjoy lunch at a local farmer's house.

Enjoy an included river cruise on the Li River. Embark from Fuli town, taking in views of the mountainous landscape as you cruise down this scenic river.



Meals included

Lunch



Today's Activities

Li River Boat Tour

Yangshuo

1h30m

Enjoy a float on the Li River a centrepiece of any trip to northeastern Guangxi Province. Take in breathtaking scenery and a taste of a life far removed from the concrete metropolis. See gorgeous karst mountains peeking out each river bend, water buffalo patrolling fields, and locals reaping rice paddies. Greet school kids and fishermen as they float by on bamboo rafts.

Li River Boat Tour

Xingping

1h30m

Enjoy a float on the Li River, a centrepiece of any trip to northeastern Guangxi Province. Take in breathtaking scenery and a taste of life far removed from the concrete metropolis. See gorgeous karst mountains peeking out each river bend, water buffalo patrolling fields, and locals reaping rice paddies. Greet school kids and fishermen as they float by on bamboo rafts.

Enjoy free time to continue exploring Yangshuo.



Optional Activities - Day 19

Calligraphy Yangshuo

Yangshuo

80-150CNY

Watch and learn how to do calligraphy, a traditional form of writing Chinese characters using a brush and ink. See how calligraphers have evolved a richly varied tradition of calligraphic styles, which have been handed down from generation to generation.

Chinese Language Lesson

80-150CNY

Enjoy a lesson in basic Mandarin and practice what you've learned with the locals.

Yangshuo Tai Chi Lesson

Yangshuo

80-150CNY

Learn how to do Tai Chi, the local exercise regimen. Practice in any park around sunrise, and be sure to have company from locals.

Kung Fu Lesson

80-150CNY

Pick up some basic skills of Kung Fu and learn a bit of the history behind this ancient martial art form.

Central Chinese Cooking Class - Yangshuo

Yangshuo

Calling all foodies! Get an inside look at real Chinese food with a tour of the Yangshuo market to learn about the ingredients used in the Yangshuo area. Afterward, learn to cook Chinese food in a traditional Chinese farmhouse in the beautiful countryside just outside Yangshuo. After the cooking class you can sit down and enjoy the delicious dishes you have prepared.

Day 20

Yangshuo/Hong Kong

Travel to Guilin to board a fast train to Shenzhen. Cross the border to Hong Kong and enjoy free time to explore this bustling city.

Arrival to Shenzhen and cross the border by foot. Catch the metro into the heart of Hong Kong. Prepare for the extreme change of pace and enjoy a last night in the most dynamic city in Asia.

With extra time here, explore Stanley Park, shop and eat in one of the many night markets, visit Victoria Peak or take a harbour cruise for incredible views.

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Yangshuo - Guilin

1h30m-2h

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

Local Train

Guilin - Shenzhen Train Station

3h30m

Climb aboard, take your seat, and get around like the locals do.

Border Crossing (China - Hong Kong)

Luohu - Hong Kong

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

Metro

Hong Kong

1h-1h30m

Get around underground via public transit.

Day 21

Hong Kong

Depart at any time.

We highly recommend you book post-accommodation to fully experience this vibrant city.

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Discover Moment: Yangshuo
- Great Wall excursion and entrance (Beijing)
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- Terracotta Warriors excursion
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What are the main highlights of this trip?

Meet the Terracotta Warriors, sleep overnight in a monastery, hike Emei Shan and Tiger Leaping Gorge, marvel at the Li River countryside near Yangshuo, bask in the glamour of Hong Kong

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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.

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?

LUGGAGE

As we use (sometimes crowded) local transport please note backpacks/rucksacks are much more suitable than suitcases for this style of trip. There may be a weight restriction for the internal flights on this tour. Each passenger is allowed to carry one checked bag with a maximum weight of 15 kg (33lbs). Additional bags or excess weight charges may apply. These charges are the responsibility of the passengers.

What is the group leader like?

All our G Adventures group tours are accompanied by a G Adventures Chief Experience Officer (CEO) in China. The aim of the 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. 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 16, avg 12

What meals are included in this trip?

1 lunch

What are the meals like on this trip?

Eating is a big part of travelling. 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 CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. Included breakfasts will usually be asian style consisting of noodles or congee (rice porridge) or bread and eggs. Vegetarians will be able to find a range of different foods, although in some areas the choice maybe limited. 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 for included meals and meal budgets.

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Train, plane, air-con bus, public bus, walking.

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 solo 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. Solo 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 solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Simple hotels (12 nts), guesthouses (4 nts), basic monastery (2 nts), sleeper train (2 nts).

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 & 6 on the sleeper trains

What kind of accommodation can I expect on this trip?

A variety of styles of hotels/guesthouses are used on this trip. In many instances they might not be like what you are used to back home as service and efficiency can vary. In some areas we stay in simple local guesthouses in stunning locations – rooms are small and simple and there may be shared toilet facilities and showers. While there is plenty of bedding and (in most cases) it does get washed, it can be dusty so we do recommend bringing a sleep sheet.

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, if you have not pre-booked an arrival taxi with G Adventures, you can take a taxi or the Airport Express Train.

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 45min-1hour 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.

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 take a taxi to your hotel (taxi fare is about 30 yuan). 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.

If you have paid in advance for an arrival transfer, a G Adventures representative will be at the airport to meet you. If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call our local support line. If you are unable to make contact for whatever reason, please make your way to the joining point hotel via taxi.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other than your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time. Similarly the last day is a departure day during which no activities have been planned.

A G Adventures Representative will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

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 (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 CEO, please refer to our emergency contact details. If you have pre-booked an airport transfer and have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the starting point hotel by 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 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. If you are advised of a flight schedule change within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, we will do our best to rearrange your arrival transfer however we cannot guarantee this. 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

If your call is specifically concerning Beijing Airport Transfer complications please call our local G Adventures Transfer provider directly at: +86 1391 0388 356 –Ms Xiaofeng Chen (Beijing)

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Beijing Airport Transfer Assistance:

+86 1391 0388 356 -Ms Xiaofeng Chen

G Adventures Local Tour Operator (China):

During office hours, Mon-Fri 9:30-18:00 Local Time

+86 199 3740 7980

After office hours emergency number: +86 187 0058 2383

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 XXLs 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.

Do not bring any knives or swords into China (gifts or otherwise). If they do make it into the country, they will not be permitted on trains. If you purchase a knife or sword while travelling elsewhere before arriving in China your best option is to post/mail it home before entering the country as no post/mail companies in China will accept it as a parcel.

What should be on my packing list?

Additional Items:

- Sleeping bag (required)

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.)

Hiking/Trekking:

- Gloves
- Hat
- Hiking boots/sturdy walking shoes
- Hiking pants (Convertible/Zip-off and quick dry recommended)
- Snacks (Protein bars, chocolate, dried fruits, candies, energy sweets)
- Socks (Trekking socks – woollen or synthetic, not cotton)
- Thermal base layer (Woollen or synthetic, not cotton)
- Walking poles (Highly recommended)

Smart Dress:

- Smart outfit (For evenings out)

Train Travel (Optional):

- Slip-on shoes
- Small container with lid
- Travel cutlery
- Travel or camp cup

Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

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 need 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](#)

** Please be advised that if you have recently travelled to Turkey, or you are a Turkish citizen, it is possible that your Chinese visa will not be approved. Please contact your local embassy for further information. **

Please note that visas for China and Hong Kong are the responsibility of the individual traveller. The visa requirements for your trip vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. For the most up to date information please check your governments foreign ministry website or with you travel agent as rules do change. It is important that you check for yourself. For most travellers there will probably have an embassy and consulate in the country that you live in. Please note that China and Hong Kong are two separate goverment areas so you go through two sets of immigration procedures. If your trip finishes in Hong Kong and you are travelling back into Mainland China then you may need a double entry visa. Please check your travel itinerary.

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.

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 below 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.

As of April 3rd, 2018, all Chinese visa application forms must be typed. Handwritten forms will no longer be accepted.

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.

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 while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than another. 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 February 2013 the exchange rate for China was 1 USD = 6.2 CNY (Chinese Yuan).

Cash (Chinese Yuan, also referred to as kuai) is the best method of payment 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?

Xi'an

- Cycling Xi'an City Walls (45-45CNY per person)
- The Great Mosque (25CNY per person)

Emei Shan

- Sichuan Opera Show

Leshan

- Leshan Giant Buddha Visit

Lijiang

- Black Dragon Pool Park

Dali

- Three Pagodas of Chongsheng Temple (120CNY per person)

Kunming

- Green Lake Park Trip

Yangshuo

- Impression Liu Sanjie Culture Show (298CNY per person)
- Chinese Language Lesson (80-150CNY per person)
- Kung Fu Lesson (80-150CNY per person)
- Calligraphy Yangshuo (80-150CNY per person)
- Yangshuo Tai Chi Lesson (80-150CNY per person)
- Central Chinese Cooking Class - Yangshuo

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.

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 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 tour, 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 snorkelling, 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 travelling, 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 tour, 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. For women, a light scarf can often double as a shoulder covering or head covering if necessary.

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.