

## Essential China - ACEC

21 days: Beijing to Hong Kong

### What's Included

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- Great Wall excursion and entrance (Beijing)
- Tiananmen Square and Forbidden City guided tour
- Shanghai Museum entrance
- Xi'an orientation walk
- Terracotta Warriors excursion and tour
- Emei Shan entrance
- Tea plantation visit (Emei Shan)
- Overnight stay in a monastery
- Leshan Giant Buddha visit
- Panda Breeding Center excursion (Chengdu)
- Yangtze River boat trip through the Three Gorges with tributary excursion
- Yangshuo countryside bike ride with local lunch (full-day)
- Border crossing
- 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

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#### Day 1 Beijing

Arrive at any time.

#### Arrival Day and Welcome Meeting

1h18:00

The adventure begins tonight. Feel free to explore before your welcome meeting, but make sure you're back in time to meet the group. After introductions, your CEO will review the details of your tour. Please note that normal check-in times apply at our start hotels, but you can usually store your luggage for the day if you arrive early.

#### Accommodation

##### Chong Wen Men Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

#### Day 2 Beijing

Head out to discover the wonders of the Great Wall of China.

Travel north to the Great Wall. One of the most iconic sights in all of China, spend the better part of the day exploring and taking photos, soaking in the atmosphere.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Beijing 2h

Drive through the city and countryside to reach the Great Wall's Mutianyu section. Take the same transportation back.

#### **Great Wall Mutianyu Visit**

Mutianyu 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.

#### **Optional Activities - Day 2**

##### **Cable Car at Great Wall**

Mutianyu

80-100CNY per person

The cable car ride is about 5 minutes ride up to tower 14, from where you may walk to the highest point of Mutianyu Great Wall at Tower 23. The walk from ticket check to tower 10 is about 30 minutes. The cable car ride is a good option if you are hoping to save energy to challenge the Tower 23. Return ticket is recommended as you may spend more time on the wall.

##### **Toboggan at Great Wall**

Mutianyu

80-100CNY per person

After your hike on the Great Wall, opt to take a Toboggan ride back down instead of the cable car!

#### **Day 3 Beijing**

Visit the famous Tiananmen Square and Forbidden City before free time to explore.

Explore the vast expanses of Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. Use free time to shop in the various markets scattered throughout the city, take a tour of the ancient hutongs (alleyways) in Beijing's old city or visit the Tibetan Monastery.

##### **Tiananmen Square**

Beijing

Explore one of the world's largest public squares, home to the Monument to the People's Heroes and the Great Hall of the People.

##### **Forbidden City Tour**

Beijing 2h

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

##### **Free Time**

Beijing Afternoon

Set out and explore this capital city.

#### **Optional Activities - Day 3**

##### **Kung Fu Show - Beijing**

Beijing

42USD per person

Follow the tale of a young boy on his journey to becoming a kung fu master through six gripping scenes told through traditional Chinese art and live modern dance. (Don't worry; there are subtitles above the stage). Developed by some of China's top stage directors and designers, the performance showcases the skills of its talented cast, most of whom are just 17 years old.

#### **Accommodation**

##### **Chong Wen Men Hotel (or similar)**

Hotel

## **Day 4 Beijing/Shanghai**

Enjoy a free morning before a bullet train ride to Shanghai. Overnight in Shanghai.

### **Bullet train**

Beijing - Shanghai 5h-6h

Relax and enjoy a smooth ride at 300km per hour and scenery along the way.

## **Day 5 Shanghai**

Take a walk along the Bund before a visit to the world-famous Shanghai Museum. Opt to take in a breathtaking Chinese acrobat performance.

Take an orientation walk down one of the city's most famous streets, Nanjing Road, ending at the Shanghai Museum, one of the best in the country.

### **Orientation Walk of the Bund**

Shanghai 1h

Take a stroll along the Bund, a main road that follows the Huangpu River, with our CEO. This is a great opportunity to get a layout of the city and figure out what you want to explore next.

### **Shanghai Museum**

Shanghai 1h30m

Visit Shanghai Museum, home to a world-class collection of ancient Chinese art. Tour individual galleries devoted to such items as sculpture, bronze, ceramics, jade, coins, Ming and Qing Dynasty furniture, paintings, and calligraphy. Stop at the gift shop on your way out.

### **Free Time**

Shanghai

Enjoy free time in this bustling city.

## **Optional Activities - Day 5**

### **Yuyuan Gardens**

Shanghai

45CNY per person

Explore this tranquil, 400-year-old, five-acre garden. Climb to the top of the Rockery to see the greenery from above. Check out the Jade Rock and watch the swarms of goldfish swim around in the ponds. With multiple pavilions and halls there's plenty to see. Depending on when you visit there may be flower shows or tea ceremonies in the area. Opt to visit the bustling bazaar located outside the gardens and hone your bargaining skills.

### **Shanghai Acrobatic Performance**

Shanghai

42USD per person

Enjoy a Chinese acrobatic show with tumbling, balancing and plate-spinning. There are amazing contortionists and high-wire walkers-- truly not to be missed!

## **Day 6 Shanghai/Xi'an**

Enjoy free time before boarding an overnight train to Xi'an.

Temples, markets, gardens and colonial enclaves are around every corner. Spend some time exploring the Yuyuan Gardens or the old alleyways.

### **Basic overnight train (beds)**

Shanghai - Xi'an 18h

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

### **Carte Blanche**

## Shanghai Full Day

There's plenty to see and do in Shanghai, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like visiting the Shanghai Museum, wandering around the Yuyuan Gardens, and taking in a traditional Chinese acrobats show. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

### Optional Activities - Day 6

#### Yuyuan Gardens

Shanghai

45CNY per person

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### Day 7 Xi'an

Opt to cycle the ancient city walls or visit the Great Mosque.

Arrive in Xi'an in the morning and, after checking into the hotel, opt to visit one of Xi'an's most fascinating areas - the Muslim Quarter. Tour the lovely and unusual Great Mosque, a wonderfully serene place to escape the hustle and bustle of the city, bargain at souvenir stalls and enjoy some of the best street food in China. The remaining city walls are a great place to watch the sunset or join the locals for ballroom dancing or tai chi in the early morning.

#### Free Time

Xi'an

Explore all the city has to offer.

### Optional Activities - Day 7

#### Cycling Xi'an City Walls

Xi'an 1h-2h

40-80CNY per person

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 per person

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.

#### Big Goose Pagoda Visit

Xi'an

50CNY per person

Head to the outskirts of the city to the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, a beautiful, brick Buddhist temple. Check out the Music Fountain Square at the base of the leaning pagoda at night to see an amazing light show.

#### Defachang Dumpling Banquet

Xi'an

105CNY per person

Dumpling banquets are a great way to experience the traditional Northern Chinese cuisine. Have a delicious meal trying all the different dumpling flavours.

#### Bell and Drum Towers - Xi'an

Xi'an

50CNY per person

Climb to the top of the Drum Tower for an unforgettable aerial view of the city. Back in the Han Dynasty the towers were used to echo the time to the city with bells in the morning and drums in the evening. Today the 63-ton bell still stands in one tower and drum performances happen daily in the morning and afternoon.

#### **Accommodation**

##### **HNA Hotel (or similar)**

Hotel

#### **Day 8 Xi'an**

Full day exploration in Xi'an.

#### **Free Time**

Xi'an Afternoon

Explore all this city has to offer.

#### **Optional Activities - Day 8**

##### **Cycling Xi'an City Walls**

Xi'an 1h-2h

40-80CNY per person

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#### **Accommodation**

##### **HNA Hotel (or similar)**

Hotel

## **Day 9 Xi'an/Emei Shan**

Visit one of China's greatest archaeological treasures--the Terracotta Warriors. Later, board an overnight train to Emei Shan.

### **Private Vehicle**

Xi'an1h

Drive out to the Terracotta Warriors site, located about an hour out of the city.

### **Terracotta Warriors Guided Tour**

Xi'an4h

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

### **Basic overnight train (beds)**

Xi'an - Emei Shan15h-17h

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 10 Emei Shan**

Arrive in Emei Shan in the late afternoon and travel to the monastery for an overnight stay. Enjoy an orientation walk and some free time to explore the area.

Settle in for a stay at the monastery - one of the highlights of the trip! Facilities are basic but the views and the experience will take your breath away.

### **Orientation Walk**

30m-1h

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

### **Free Time**

Emei Shan Afternoon

Get outside and explore the area.

### **Optional Activities - Day 10**

#### **Tea Plantation Visit - Emei Shan**

4h-6h

185CNY per person

Visit a family owned tea plantation near Emei mountain and gain a better understanding of China's tea culture and the locals' traditional way of life.

### **Accommodation**

#### **Baoguo Monastery (or similar)**

Monastery

## **Day 11 Emei Shan**

Hike around Emei Shan and learn more about the significance of the area.

Spend a full day exploring the monasteries, stunning vistas and sites of Mt Emei - one of China's sacred Buddhist peaks.

### **Emei Shan Hike**

Emei Shan6h-10h

Lace up your hiking boots for treks around Emei Shan. Continue to explore Mt Emei and the Giant Buddha and learn more about the region.

### **Accommodation**

#### **Baoguo Monastery (or similar)**

Monastery

## **Day 12 Emei Shan**

Visit Giant Buddha in the morning, optional take a tour visiting local tea farm and one of the region's old villages.

### **Private Vehicle**

Leshan - Emei Shan 45m

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

### **Private Vehicle**

Emei Shan - Leshan 45m

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

## **Leshan Giant Buddha Visit**

Leshan 3h

See centuries-old Dafo, the largest Buddha in the world, from a number of viewpoints. Opt to board a boat and head out into the Mingjiang River to get an overall view of the statue from afar, and then visit a beautiful forested park. Explore numerous carvings and temples before climbing down the path that travels from the statue's head to its enormous toes. Be sure to take a break with a cup of tea in one of the teahouses in the park.

### **Accommodation**

#### **Baoguo Monastery (or similar)**

Monastery

## **Day 13 Emei Shan/Chengdu**

Travel by local train to Chengdu. Free exploration in this tea & spice loving city. Enjoy a local Hotpot dinner.

### **Private Vehicle**

Emei Shan - Leshan 45m

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

### **Local train**

Leshan - Chengdu 1h

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

## **Optional Activities - Day 13**

### **Wenshu Monastery**

Chengdu

5CNY per person

Wenshu Monastery definitely worth a visit during your stay in Chengdu. The monastery was first built in Tang dynasty (618-907). More than 500 pieces of painting and calligraphy by celebrities are stored in this monastery. The exquisite garden and solemn halls are other highlights of this place.

### **Accommodation**

#### **Flower Hotel (or similar)**

Hotel

## **Day 14 Chengdu/Yangtze River**

See the famous giant pandas up close at the Panda Breeding Centre before boarding a fast train to Chongqing. Later, board the Chinese-style boat and settle in before tomorrow's cruise down the mighty Yangtze River and through the Three Gorges.

### **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.

### **Local train**

Chengdu - Chongqing2h

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

### **Chinese-style boat**

Chongqing - Yangtze River

Float to your next destination in traditional style.

### **Accommodation**

#### **Yangtze River Boat Cruise (or similar)**

Hotel

### **Day 15 Yangtze River**

Enjoy the views from the deck and embark on riverside excursions up stunning tributaries and to historic sites.

Spend two days on board a basic boat traversing through the Three Gorges en route to Yichang. Along the way take the opportunity to visit some of the many attractions and towns.

There is the opportunity to leave the boat to take an early morning trip down a tributary of the Yangtze River.

The cabins are clean, twin-share with private toilet and shower facilities, but not luxurious. There is basic Chinese food available in the restaurant on board.

### **Yangtze River Cruise**

Yangtze River48h

Spend two full days floating down the Yangtze River. The cruise is what you make of it -- meet your fellow passengers, spend time reading and relaxing, and take in the spectacular scenery. Opt to take excursions along the way.

### **Chinese-style boat**

Yangtze River

Float to your next destination in traditional style.

### **Day 16 Yangtze River**

Enjoy the views from the deck and embark on riverside excursions up stunning tributaries and to historic sites.

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### **Chinese-style boat**

Yangtze River

Float to your next destination in traditional style.

### **Day 17 Yangtze River/Liuzhou**

Disembark in Yichang and board an overnight train to Liuzhou.



### **Basic overnight train (beds)**

Yichang - Liuzhou16h

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 18 Liuzhou/Yangshuo**

Drive to Yangshuo, a backpacker town set amongst the picture-perfect limestone karsts by the Li River. Opt to try a cooking class, practice tai chi or see the Light and Sound show produced by Zhang Yimou.

Arrive in Liuzhou early in the morning and travel to the small countryside town of Yangshuo, where the Li River winds its way around thousands of limestone karst mountains. Every turn in the road brings you to another picture-postcard sight.

Here, there are so many activities to choose from-- bamboo rafting, rock climbing, hiking, acupuncture and traditional massage, the Light and Sound Show, calligraphy lessons, tai chi, or a countryside cooking class.

### **Private Vehicle**

Liuzhou - Yangshuo3h30m

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

### **Orientation Walk**

Yangshuo1h

This backpacker town is full of things to do and see. An orientation walk will get you situated and help you make the most of your time in this idyllic location.

### **Free Time**

Yangshuo Afternoon

Head out and explore.

### **Optional Activities - Day 18**

#### **Central Chinese Cooking Class - Yangshuo**

Yangshuo

39USD per person

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.

#### **Chinese Language Lesson**

80-150CNY per person

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

#### **Impressions Light Show (Liu San Jie)**

Yangshuo

200-400CNY per person

Take in the Light and Sound Show (Liu San Jie), a 1-hr performance that showcases the ethnic diversity of the region and tells the story of 'Third Sister Liu'. See more than 500 singers and dancers, many of whom are local farmers, perform on and around the beautiful Li River against the backdrop of the incredibly illuminated karst mountains. The show usually takes place at 8pm, and is located at the confluence of the Li and Yulong rivers on the outskirts of Yangshuo.

### **Accommodation**

#### **Yangshuo Landmark Collection Hotel (or similar)**

Hotel

### **Day 19 Yangshuo**

Take a full-day bike ride through the surrounding countryside with a local guide to gain insight into rural Chinese life. Enjoy lunch at a local family's home.

Cycle out over the mostly flat fields to get more of a feel for the region. Ride past rice paddies with water buffalo and stare up at towering limestone karsts. En route, enjoy a delicious local lunch with options like the local beer fish, garlic fried water spinach and stuffed aubergine.

### **Yangshuo Guided Cycle Tour**

Yangshuo 4h-5h 10km

Follow the guide and cycle over the flat(ish) landscape past rice paddies, local farmers, and water buffalo. Marvel at the limestone karsts and hear the legends of how they came to be.

### **Optional Activities - Day 19**

#### **Impressions Light Show (Liu San Jie)**

Yangshuo

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### **Accommodation**

#### **Yangshuo Landmark Collection Hotel (or similar)**

Hotel

**Meals included: Lunch**

### **Day 20 Yangshuo/Hong Kong**

Travel back to Guilin for the fast train to Shenzhen, then cross the border into Hong Kong. Enjoy some free time to explore the city.

Arrive late morning to Shenzhen, cross the border and catch the metro into the heart of Hong Kong, arriving late afternoon.

Prepare for the change of pace as you enjoy your last night's dinner in the most dynamic city in Asia. Explore Stanley Market, shop, eat, go to the top of Victoria Peak or take a harbour cruise.

### **Private Vehicle**

Yangshuo - Guilin 1h30m

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

### **Local train**

Guilin - Shenzhen 3h30m

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

### **Border Crossing (China - Hong Kong)**

Luohu - Hong Kong Morning

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

Get around underground via public transit.

### **Free Time**

Hong Kong Afternoon

Start crossing a couple things off your list with some free time this afternoon.

### **Accommodation**

#### **West Hotel (or similar)**

Hotel

### **Day 21 Hong Kong**

Depart at any time.

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

## What's Included

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Great Wall excursion and entrance (Beijing). Tiananmen Square and Forbidden City guided tour. Shanghai Museum entrance. Xi'an orientation walk. Terracotta Warriors excursion and tour. Emei Shan entrance. Tea plantation visit (Emei Shan). Overnight stay in a monastery. Leshan Giant Buddha visit. Panda Breeding Center excursion (Chengdu). Yangtze River boat trip through the Three Gorges with tributary excursion. Yangshuo countryside bike ride with local lunch (full-day). Border crossing. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

## Highlights

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Bargain in bustling markets, Walk the Great Wall and explore the Forbidden City, stand face-to-face with Terracotta Warriors, visit a panda sanctuary, cruise the Yangtze, bike through Yangshuo's karst landscape

## Dossier Disclaimer

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## Itinerary Disclaimer

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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.

## Important Notes

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### 1. LUGGAGE

As we use (sometimes crowded) local transport please note backpacks are much more suitable than suitcases for this style of trip. Train travel means that bags have to be stowed either overhead or under beds, so travelling as light as possible is recommended.

### 2. ACCOMMODATION ON THE YANGTZE RIVER

Please note that if you are a single traveller you may have to share a room with someone from a different travel group or a domestic tourist on the Yangtze River boat portion of this trip. This is managed by the boat crew and G Adventures has no control over the organization of single traveller rooming on this boat. However, we do guarantee that all single travellers will share with someone within the G Adventures group for the hotels used on the other night stays during this trip.

## Group Leader Description

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All our G Adventures group trips are accompanied by a G Adventures Chief Experience Officer (CEO) in China. The aim of the group leader 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.

## Group Size Notes

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Max 16, avg 12

## Meals Included

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1 lunch

## Meals

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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.

## Transport

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Train, local bus, air-con bus, boat, walking, bicycle, taxi.

## Local Flights

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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.

## Solo Travellers

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

## Accommodation

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Hotels (10 nts), basic monastery (3 nts), sleeper trains (4 nts), Yangtze boat (3 nts).

## My Own Room Exceptions

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

Day 4 - Overnight train Beijing/Shanghai

Day 7 - Overnight train Shanghai/Xi'an

Day 9 - Overnight train Xi'an/Emei

Day 17 - Overnight train Yichang/Liuzhou

## Joining Hotel

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

## Joining Instructions

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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.

## Arrival Complications

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

## Emergency Contact

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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

G Adventures Local Representative (China) - John Jiang  
During Office hours (Weekdays, 9am-5pm Local Time): +86 10 6512-8789  
Mobile: +86 136 8303 7670  
Email address: johnjiang@chinaadventureltd.com

G Adventures Regional Operations Manager, China : Vincent Zhu  
Mobile: +86 138 2809 0310

G Adventures Office Bangkok, Thailand  
During Office hours (Weekdays, 9am-5pm Local Time)  
From outside Thailand: +66 2 381 5574

From within Thailand: 02 381 5574

After hours emergency number

From outside Thailand: +66 87 049 6074

From within Thailand: 087 049 6074

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below, which will connect you directly with our 24 hour Sales team, who will happily assist you.

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 to Take

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

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.

## Checklist

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Cold Weather:

- \* Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- \* Scarf
- \* Warm gloves
- \* Warm hat
- \* Warm layers

Documents:

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

Essentials:

- \* 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
- \* 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
- \* Toiletries (Preferably biodegradable)
- \* Watch and alarm clock
- \* Waterproof backpack cover
- \* Windproof rain jacket

Light Hiking:

- \* Hiking boots/sturdy walking shoes
- \* Hiking pants (Convertible/Zip-off and quick dry recommended)

Smart Dress:

- \* Smart outfit (For evenings out)

Train Travel:

- \* 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)
- \* Sun hat/bandana

Note: from Apr-Aug is rainy season for most of Southern China, so please ensure you have some waterproof clothing. From Nov-Apr weather can be cold, so please pack warm clothing.

## Laundry

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

## Visas

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\*\* 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 government 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.

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 CHINA: all nationalities require a visa to visit China

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

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

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

Passengers traveling to Tibet:

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

HOW TO FILL IN CHINA LOI FORM ONLINE:

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

Please do not submit the 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.

## Detailed Trip Notes

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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.

## Spending Money

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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.

## Money Exchange

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

As of March 2014 the exchange rate for China was 1USD=6CNY(Chinese Yuan).

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

## Emergency Fund

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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!

## Departure Tax

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



## Tipping

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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.

## Optional Activities

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All prices listed are in Chinese Yuan (CNY), per person (unless stated otherwise), and are subject to change as services are provided by third party operators.

### Beijing

- Cable car at Great Wall - CNY 60.00
- Toboggan at Great Wall - CNY 60.00
- Forbidden City - CNY 60.00
- Temple of Heaven - CNY 35.00 (Taxi 12 CNY per taxi from your hotel)
- Summer Palace - transfer - CNY2 PP by subway (Taxi or Subway)
- Summer Palace - CNY 50.00 (30main entry; 10 Cixi Museum; 10 Dragon boat)
- Lama Temple - CNY 25.00 (Subway 2 CNY PP)
- Legend of Gongfu Beijing - CNY200-680
- Acrobatic Performance Beijing - CNY180-880
- Beijing Opera Performance - CNY180-680
- Hutong Trishaw Cycle Tour - CNY100-150
- Bike tour Drum Tower & Houhai - CNY 25.00 (Bike Rental)
- Factory 798 Art & Galleries - Free
- Tiananmen Square - Free
- Beijing Duck - CNY100-150
- Hutong Cycle tour - 100-150

### Xi'an

- Terra Cotta Warriors Museum - 150CNY
- Bell & Drum Towers - 35CNY - one way; 50 CNY - round trip
- Great Mosque - 25CNY
- City Wall Xi'an South Gate - 54CNY (20 CNY/ hr to bike the wall)
- Big Wild Goose Pagoda - 50CNY PP (15CNY per taxi - one way)
- Shanxi History Museum - Free (20CNY for non-reserved visitors)
- Dumpling Banquet Defachang Restaurant - 108CNY

### Yangtzi River

- Baidi Cheng - Fengjie - 180CNY-280CNY
- Three Lesser Gorges - 220CNY-280CNY
- Dam - Three Gorges - 220CNY-280CNY

### Chengdu

- #Massage CNY 60-150 per hour
- #Cooking Class CNY 150
- #Wenshu Monastery CNY 5
- Giant Panda Breeding Research Centre entry: 60 CNY

## Yangshuo

- Calligraphy Yangshuo - 60-80CNY (depends on groups size) (40 mins)
- Chinese Language lesson - 60-80CNY (depends on groups size)
- Gongfu Lesson Yangshuo - 60-80CNY (depends on groups size) (per hour)
- Moon Hill - 15CNY
- Cooking School & market Tour - 150-180CNY (depending on the meal)
- Bike-riding - 25-50CNY (bike rental - depends on the bike)
- Kayaking Yangshuo - 220CNY
- Li River Cruise Yangshuo - 108-370CNY (transfer not included)

## Shanghai

- Yuyuan Garden Shanghai - 40CNY
- Jinmao Tower - 120CNY
- Huangpu River night cruise - 100CNY (10CNY taxi from your hotel to the pier - one way)
- Shanghai Museum - Free
- Old Town Shanghai - Free
- Urban Planning Exhibition Centre - 30CNY
- Acrobatic Show Shanghai - 260-600CNY
- Oriental Pearl View deck - 120 CNY for second ball view deck;150for third ball view deck
- Meglev Train Longyang train station to Pudong Airport - 100CNY (Round Trip)

## Hong Kong

- Disney Land Hong Kong - 450HKD
- Victoria Peak Peak Tram Hong Kong - 40HKD (round trip)
- Light Show HongKong Victoria Harbour - Free
- Ngong Ping (360 Cable Car) - 94HKD (one way)
- Ocean Park Hong Kong - 185HKD
- Star Ferry Hong Kong - 2.8 HKD (one way)

\*\*\*Please note these are examples of the entrance fees charged, this does not include hiring transport to/from the destination (unless stated otherwise)

## Health

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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 CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

## Safety and Security

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

when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

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

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

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

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

[www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/](http://www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/)

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## Trip Specific Safety

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.

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## Medical Form

Our small group adventures bring together people of all ages. It is very important you are aware that, as a minimum, an average level of fitness and mobility' is required to undertake our easiest programs. Travellers must be able to walk without the aid of another person, climb 3-4 flights of stairs, step on and off small boats, and carry their own luggage at a minimum. Travellers with a pre-existing medical condition are required to complete a short medical questionnaire, which must be signed by their physician. This is to ensure that travellers have the necessary fitness and mobility to comfortably complete their chosen trip. While our CEOs work hard to ensure that all our travellers are catered for equally, it is not their responsibility to help individuals who cannot complete the day's activities unaided. Please refer to the physical ratings in this Trip Details document for more information.

The medical questionnaire can be found online at:

[www.gadventures.com/medical-form](http://www.gadventures.com/medical-form).

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## A Couple of Rules

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.

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## Travel Insurance

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

## Planeterra-The G Adventures Foundation

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Through our commitment to responsible tourism we have developed the Planeterra Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of people and communities around the world through support of international charities, local organizations and community projects in the places that we visit on our tours. G Adventures matches all individual donations and pays all administration costs, which means that 100% of each donation is doubled and goes directly to support our projects. For more information about Planeterra and the projects we support, or to make a donation, please visit [www.planeterra.org](http://www.planeterra.org)

### Planeterra Dollar-A-Day Program

Our Dollar-A-Day Program provides travellers with the opportunity to help us give back to the people and places visited on our tours by donating one dollar per day for the duration of their tour. 100% of these proceeds will go directly to support our G Adventures for Good projects.

To participate in this program please indicate at the time of booking that you would like to participate in G Adventures' Dollar-A-Day program, either by clicking the check box online, or by advising your G Adventures specialist or travel agent. (Note: Donation will be charged in the currency of your booking)

## Local Dress

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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.

## Feedback

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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 [customerservice@gadventures.com](mailto:customerservice@gadventures.com) and we will send it on to you.

## Newsletter

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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/](http://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.

## Travel Forum - The Watering Hole

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Be sure to stop by [The Watering Hole](#), our adventure travel forum. If you're interested in meeting others booked on your upcoming trip, check out the [Departure Lounge](#) section of our forum and introduce yourself. Otherwise, just drop in at anytime to share some travel tips, ask questions, meet other travellers and quench your thirst for travel. Our forum is located at [wateringhole.gadventures.com](http://wateringhole.gadventures.com).

## Minimum Age

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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.

## International Flights

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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.