China - Wander the Great Wall

Valid from: 15/03/2020 to 15/11/2020

Wuhan Novel Coronavirus alert

The World Health Organisation continues to advise international travellers to practice the usual precautions against exposure to and transmission of illnesses, to protect yourself and others from getting sick and to stay healthy while travelling. On our trips this includes:

* Encouraging usual hygiene practices, including frequent hand washing with soap and water, and use of hand sanitiser, covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing, not sharing utensils etc
* Assisting travellers to purchase face masks on request
* When visiting markets or farms, avoiding direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals
* Avoiding close contact with people who have a fever or a cough
* Monitoring the health of travellers closely and ensuring that medical care is sought as soon as possible if anyone is showing symptoms of a cold or flu like illness, particularly fever, cough or difficulty breathing.
* Ensuring our leaders inform their managers immediately if they have any customers on tour who have travelled in Hubei province since 1/1/2020, or are showing symptoms of illness and have been in China since 1/1/2020
* Continuing to monitor the advice of the World Health Organisation and foreign travel advisories

Other recommendations for travellers:

* Talk to your doctor before travelling with children, if you are pregnant, have a weak immune system or are concerned about the risks
* Seek medical advice before travelling if you are feeling unwell
* Read the foreign travel advice for your destination before you go
* Read the advice about coronavirus provided by WHO, DFAT or other government sources (see below)

Introduction

Imagine the Great Wall in all its former glory and tread the elevated highway as it stands today. Dating back 2,000 years, the wall was originally made of compacted earth and built to keep out marauding nomads from the north. Gradually the structure has deteriorated and some sections have turned to dust, but over the subsequent dynasties, several strategic sections have been rebuilt and reinforced. Travel at a leisurely pace with a local guide and picnic amid the breathtaking scenery. Complemented with time in Beijing, this Great Wall adventure is a great way to experience one of the most iconic parts of the world and see this great land from another perspective.

Itinerary

Day 1 Beijing

Ni hao! Welcome to China.

Upon arrival at Beijing Airport you are met by our local operator and transferred to your hotel (transfers cannot be arranged on arrival, please advise flight arrival details at least 14 days prior to departure).

The remainder of today is at leisure in Beijing so you can start your explorations of this vast and amazing city. Perhaps track down a bargain at the wonderful silk markets, see the hutongs or back lanes of Beijing by rickshaw, walk to Tiananmen Square or find a great restaurant for Peking duck!

Meals included: None

Overnight: Tian An Rega Hotel, Beijing

Days 2-3 Great Wall

No trip to China is complete without a walk on the Great Wall, an incredible piece of engineering which stretches over 6,000 km from the eastern coast of China all the way to the mountain ridges north of Beijing. Originally constructed to protect the Chinese empires from the Mongolian 'barbarians' of the north, the Wall ultimately failed in its purpose but remains a poignant reminder of the power of the Middle Kingdom.

The fun begins as you set off on your Great Wall adventure on day 2. You will be advised on departure time from reception. You travel by private vehicle to the Jinshanling section of the Great Wall to start your trek. A guide will meet you here and will stay with you for two nights.

The trek takes 5-6 hours and has some very steep parts and narrow paths, so make sure you have strong shoes with good grip. Your guide will provide a picnic lunch which you carry yourselves. The walk from Jinshanling to Gubeikou is spectacular. It follows the original unreconstructed wall, with many steep, crumbling staircases and ruined watchtowers that are overgrown with vegetation along the way. At Jinshanling, the wall zigzags up the steep terrain and straddles peaks like a suspension bridge so be prepared for some tough going. All in all, it's a demanding day but also a very rewarding one, particularly on a clear day when you can see range after range of mountains unfolding in the distance.

On day 3 you continue your trek to Wohushan (Crouching Tiger Mountains) Great Wall for a full day's hiking (approx. 5-6 hours). The walk is slightly easier than the previous day, but no less spectacular.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Overnight: Local guesthouse

Days 4-5 Beijing

On the morning on day 4 you are transferred by private vehicle to Mutianyu. The section of the wall at Mutianyu has been restored and is notable for its numerous guard towers and sweeping views. Enjoy a picnic lunch on the wall before taking the slow road back to Beijing, which offers time to observe the rural Chinese way of life.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch

Overnight: Tian An Rega Hotel, Beijing

The morning of day 5 is free to explore Beijing further or enjoy a leisurely breakfast after your adventure. A transfer is included to the airport for your departure flight so please let us know your return flight details at the time of booking. Note that hotel check-out is normally 12:00 pm. Extra nights can be added at the hotel if you wish to extend your stay.

Meals included: breakfast

Important Notes

Please note that during China’s national holidays it is peak travel season for Chinese nationals. During this time literally the whole country is on the move - that's over a billion people! Although these are fascinating and exciting times to travel in China, please be aware your group will almost definitely experience transport delays and massive crowds at tourist attractions and train stations. It is common for there to be difficulties in securing train or flight tickets at our preferred times, hotels become overbooked, traffic chaotic and often changes to the itinerary are necessary as a result. If clockwork organisation is important to you we advise to book outside of the weeks of Chinese New Year (Spring Festival), the first week of May and first week of October for a much more enjoyable experience of travelling in China!

This itinerary is offered from 15 March to 15 November. This is due to the safety risks and decline in weather conditions during the winter season.

This is a join-in trip so you will likely share included activities with other travellers, if others are booked on the same date.

Included Activities

This is a list of included activities on this trip. All other activities are optional and at your own expense. For a list of optional activities and sightseeing available on this trip, see the optional activities section below. If you choose not to participate in the included activities on this itinerary, the cost will not be refunded.

Roundtrip airport transfers

Transport to/from the Great Wall - Beijing

Day treks with guide - Great Wall

Optional Activities

We list the following optional activities for your information. This is not an exhaustive list and should be used as a guide only.

They are not necessarily endorsed or recommended by Sojourn nor included in price of this trip. If you do any of them, you do so at your own risk and it must be clearly understood that your participation is your own decision and does not form part of your contract with Sojourn.

Acrobats, Beijing - CNY100

Kungfu Show, Beijing - CNY100

Summer Palace, Beijing - CNY50

Beijing Opera, Beijing - CNY150

Bicycle Hutong Tour, Beijing - CNY100

Temple of Heaven, Beijing - CNY35

Peking duck dinner, Beijing - CNY80

Lama Temple, Beijing - CNY30

Underground City, Beijing - CNY25

Got extra time before or after your Sojourn adventure? Maybe there is a day trip in one of the cities that you're visiting. To make a booking visit [www.urbanadventures.com](http://www.urbanadventures.com).