

## Classic Hong Kong to Xi'an Adventure - ACRX

13 days: Hong Kong to Xi'an

### What's Included

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- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group
- Yangshuo countryside bike ride with local lunch
- Bird and flower market visit
- Orientation walk in Lijiang
- Tiger Leaping Gorge Trek (2 days)
- Panda Breeding Centre excursion
- Internal flights
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

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

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

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing May 26th, 2016 - December 31st, 2018

### Itinerary

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

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#### Day 1 Hong Kong

Arrive at any time.

##### **Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group**

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

#### Day 2 Hong Kong/Yangshuo

Cross the border to Shenzhen for the fast train to Guilin, then transfer to Yangshuo, nestled amongst the limestone karsts jutting out of the Li River.

Arrive to Guilin by train and transfer to the nearby village of Yangshuo. One of China's most scenic regions, this beautiful backpacker town is a haven for activities, cultural immersion, and relaxing at cafés.

The Li River and the limestone karst mountains interspersed with picturesque riverside villages and markets make this area perhaps the best known scenic attraction in the region.

##### **Metro**

Hong Kong 1h-1h30m

Get around underground via public transit.

##### **Local Train**

Shenzhen Train Station - Guilin 3h30m

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

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

Futian – 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.

### **Private Vehicle**

Guilin – Yangshuo 1h30m-2h

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

### **Day 3 Yangshuo**

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

### **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. Stop for lunch at the house of a local family for a tasty meal made from freshly grown produce.

### **Free Time**

Yangshuo Evening

Get out and explore relaxing Yangshuo.

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

#### **Yangshuo Tai Chi Lesson**

Yangshuo

80-150CNY per person

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

#### **Calligraphy Yangshuo**

Yangshuo

80-150CNY per person

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 per person

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

#### **Kung Fu Lesson**

80-150CNY per person

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

### **Impression Liu Sanjie Culture Show**

Yangshuo

298CNY per person

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!

### **Meals included: Lunch**

### **Day 4 Yangshuo/Kunming**

After a free morning in Yangshuo, transfer to Guilin and fly to Kunming, capital city of Yunnan.

### **Private Vehicle**

Yangshuo – Guilin 1h30m-2h

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

### **Day 5 Kunming/Dali**

Enjoy a walk around the Bird and Flower Market in Kunming before boarding an express bus to Dali. With free time, opt to explore the old town.

Enjoy free time in Dali with optional activities like visiting the old town, taking a boat around Lake Erhai, and riding a bike to Xizhou. Choose to spend some time wandering the local markets.

### **Bird and Flower Market Visit**

Kunming 2h

Enjoy the exotic scents and vibrant colours of this lively flower market. You'll find several locals shopping for house pets; birds are among the most popular items but you can buy crickets, too!

### **Local Bus**

Kunming - Dali 4h30m-5h34km

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

### **Free Time**

Dali

Get out and explore.

### **Optional Activities - Day 5**

#### **Dali Old Town Visit**

Dali

Free

Visit the Old town of Dali and enjoy its traditional architecture. It's a great opportunity to learn more about the minority cultures (mostly Bai but also with many Yi and Hui) and relax in this unique place.

### **Day 6 Dali**

Enjoy a free day to explore this scenic town. Opt to rent a bike to visit Lake Erhai and explore the Villages along the lake.

### **Free Time**

Dali

Get out and make the most of your time in beautiful Dali.

### **Optional Activities - Day 6**

#### **Bike to Xizhou**

Dali

50-80CNY per person

Hop on a bike and peddle out to Xizhou to explore.

#### **Dali Old Town Visit**

Dali

Free

Visit the Old town of Dali and enjoy its traditional architecture. It's a great opportunity to learn more about the minority cultures (mostly Bai but also with many Yi and Hui) and relax in this unique place.

### **Day 7 Dali/Lijiang**

Travel by bus to Lijiang and take an orientation walk before free time to explore on your own.

### **Local Bus**

Dali - Lijiang 3h-3h30m 148km

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

### **Orientation With CEO**

30m-1h

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

### **Free Time**

Lijiang

Don't waste a minute, get out and explore.

### **Day 8 Lijiang/Yongsheng County**

Take a bus to Tiger Leaping Gorge and start on the famous hike. The route follows the stunning scenery of the Yangtze as it cuts through the 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 rivals the well-known Three Gorges as the most spectacular scenery along the Yangtze River and hiking the route is surely the best way to experience the landscape.

### **Local Bus**

Lijiang - Yongsheng County 2h30m-3h

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

### **Tiger Leaping Gorge Trek Day 1**

Qiaotou – Hetaoyuan 6h-8h 13-14km

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 9 Yongsheng County/Lijiang**

Continue the hike through Tiger Leaping Gorge. After completing the trek, drive back to Lijiang.

### **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.

### **Local Bus**

Lijiang 2h30m-3h

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

### **Day 10 Lijiang**

Enjoy a day to discover Lijiang. Opt to explore the UNESCO Heritage-listed Old Town or visit the Black Dragon Pool Park.

### **Free Time**

Lijiang Full Day

Explore more of this city or just relax and take it easy after the hike.

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

#### **Black Dragon Pool Park**

Lijiang

45CNY per person

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 11 Lijiang/Chengdu**

Fly from Lijiang to the vibrant, modern city of Chengdu. Opt to watch a Sichuan opera.

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.

### **Optional Activities - Day 11**

#### **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.

### **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.

### **Day 12 Chengdu**

Visit the Panda Breeding Centre for an up-close experience with these gentle giants. Later, board an overnight train to Xi'an.

### **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.

### **Basic Overnight Train (beds)**

Chengdu – Xi'an 12h-16h

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 13 Xi'an**

Trip ends on arrival at Xi'an train station at approximately 1pm.

### **Departure Day**

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

## **What's Included**

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Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group. Yangshuo countryside bike ride with local lunch. Bird and flower market visit. Orientation walk in Lijiang. Tiger Leaping Gorge Trek (2 days). Panda Breeding Centre excursion. Internal flights. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

## **Highlights**

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Explore the countryside, Enjoy lunch at a local family's home, Walk around the Bird and Flower Market in Kunming, Hike the Tiger Leaping Gorge, Visit the Panda Breeding Centre

## **Dossier Disclaimer**

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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.

## **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. COMBO TRIP**

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

3. Peak season notice: Golden Week falls between October 1st and 7th, 2019/2020/2021. Please note that Golden Week is a semi-annual 7-day or 8-day national holiday for the people of China. This is a very busy time of the year for domestic tourists, so expect some crowding at major attractions. We recommend booking these dates well in advance as accommodations and transportation availability is extremely limited.

## Group Leader Description

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All of 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. Vegetarians will be able to find a range of different foods, although in some areas the choice may be limited. Should breakfast not be included, your CEO can suggest some local options. 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, private vehicle, plane.

## About our Transportation

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

Prohibited items on China's trains and metro:

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

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

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

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

## Accommodation

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Hotels (7 nts), guesthouses (4 nts), sleeper train (1 nt).

## About Accommodation

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A variety of styles of hotels/guest houses 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 local guest houses - rooms are small and simple but locations are great

## 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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There are a few ways to get to Hong Kong from the Airport. If you are taking a taxi, we always recommend printing out the address of the hotel (in the native language as well as English if available), to show to your taxi driver.

Follow signs to the taxi station. It's by the left-hand ramp outside the Arrivals Hall. Cost is around HK\$250 to the hotel.

If you are using public transit:

### 1. Directions to PENTAHOTEL:

Address: 19      , 15 Luk Hop St, San Po Kong, Hong Kong

By Train (Airport Express): Follow the signs to the Airport Express Station, take the train to Tsing Yi Station      , then follow signs to transfer to Lai King      (MTR Tung Chung Line, Direction to Hong Kong), then transfer to Prince Edward      (MTR Tsuen Wan Line      , Direction to Central), then transfer to Diamond Hill      (MTR Kwun Tong Line, Direction to Tiu Keng Leng). Get off at Diamond Hill      . Come out via EXIT A2, walk towards southeast and turn left to Lung Cheung Road for 25 meters, then turn left for around 200 meters, turn right onto Choi Hung Road, turn left to Tai Yau Street, turn left onto Luk Hop Street; Penta Hotel Kowloon would be on your left. The Cost is around HKD90.

By Public Airport Bus: The bus station is situated outside the Arrivals Hall on the right side. You need to leave the Arrivals Hall and turn right, following the direction signs to Ground Transportation Centre. Take Line A26 or A29P to Diamond Hill Station; Tai Hom Road      (6th stop including Hong Kong International Airport). Once you get off the bus, walk forward (same direction as bus goes) and turn right to cross Lung Cheung Road, then turn left toward Choi Hung Road, turn right onto Choi Hung Rd, turn left toward Sze Mei Street, continue onto Sze Meiyou slightly right; at the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto Luk Hop St., at the cross turn right to stay on right side Luk Hop St., then you'll see Penta Hotel Kowloon. The Cost is around HKD33.

### 2. Directions to HARBOUR PLAZA NORTH POINT:

Address: 665 King's Rd, North Point, Hong Kong

By Train (Airport Express): Follow the signs to the Airport Express Station, take the train to Hong Kong Station      , then follow signs to transfer to Central Station (MTR Island Line      ). Get off at Quarry Bay Station      . Come out via EXIT B, head north on King's Road for 200 metres, turn right toward King's Road then turn left toward King's Road and slight left onto King's Road. The hotel will be on the right. The cost for the train is about HK115.

By Public Airport Bus & Metro: The bus station is situated outside the Arrivals Hall on the right side. You need to leave the Arrivals Hall and turn right, following the direction signs to Ground Transportation Centre. Take Line A22 to Chi Wo Street; Jordan Road (4th stop including Hong Kong International Airport). Once you get off the bus, head southwest on Jordan Rd toward Nathan Rd, take entrance Jordan Station Exit B2. Take Tsewn Wan Line      from Jordan Station      to Admiralty Station      . Follow the transfer take Island Line      from Admiralty Station to Quarry Bay Station      . Come out via EXIT north on King's Road for 200 metres, turn right toward King's Road then turn left toward King's Road and slight left onto King's Road. The hotel will be on the right. Cost is about HK21.

\*\*\*Taxi/train is recommended as they are the easiest ways to get to the hotel. Bus is the cheapest option.

If you have paid in advance for an arrival transfer:

Please approach Vigor Tours airport counter upon arrival and advise your G Adventures confirmation number to Vigor Tours airport staff. Vigor Tours airport service counter location: Counter B18, Arrival Hall B of Terminal 1.

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.

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, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you 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 Operator or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Hong Kong Airport Transfer Assistance:  
+852 2301 1824 - Vigor

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 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.

## Packing List

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Cold Weather:

- Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- Scarf
- Snow Boots
- Warm gloves
- Warm hat
- Warm layers
- Warm waterproof jacket



#### 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, band-aids/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
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

#### Smart Dress:

- Smart outfit (For evenings out)

#### Train Travel (Optional):

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

#### 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.)

#### Warm Weather:

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

Note: from Apr-Aug is rainy season for most of Southern China, so please ensure you have some waterproof 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 and Entry Requirements

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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 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. We keep the following information up to date as much as possible, but rules do change. It is important that you check for yourself with the embassy of each country. Your travel agent can assist. Please, keep in mind that all countries require passports valid for at least 6 months from the moment of departure from the country.

**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.

**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.

**HONG KONG:** all Indian nationalities require a 'pre-arrival registration' to enter Hong Kong

Indian nationals must apply for and successfully complete pre-arrival registration online before they can visit or transit the Hong Kong. Pre-arrival registration is not required for Indian nationals in direct transit by air and not leaving the airport transit area. An Indian national can make use of the online service to apply for pre-arrival registration free of charge if he/she:

- Holds an Indian passport valid for at least six months; and

- Intends to visit or transit (except in direct transit by air and not leaving the airport transit area) in Hong Kong for a stay not exceeding 14 days.

Information accurate as of December, 2018.

Link to Indian pre-arrival registration: [https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/pre-arrival\\_registration\\_for\\_indian\\_nationals.html](https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/pre-arrival_registration_for_indian_nationals.html)

## 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.

## 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!

## 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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Yangshuo

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

Dali

- Dali Old Town Visit (Free)
- Bike to Xizhou (50-80CNY per person)

Lijiang

- Black Dragon Pool Park (45CNY per person)
- Sichuan Opera Show

Chengdu

- Wenshu Monastery (5CNY per person)

## 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 group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to

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

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our 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. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

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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 people in the sex trade 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 utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

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## 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 leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. G Adventures can provide you with the appropriate coverage. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. 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.

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## Local Dress

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 small rural communities or visiting temples or mosques or other holy sites as this may restrict your entry.

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## Feedback

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

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## Newsletter

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.

## **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.