

Beijing Great Wall Int'l Travel Agency

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Great Wall Trekking

(GWT-003) Beijing-Great Wall Trekking from the west to the east-Beijing (22 days)

The Great Wall, whose building started more than 2,000 years ago, as a defensive fortification. Just like a gigantic dragon, the Great Wall winds up and down across deserts, grasslands, mountains and plateaus, stretching approximately 8,851.8 kilometers (5,500 miles) from east to west of China. Now, some of the sections are in ruins or have disappeared. However, it is still one of the most appealing attractions all around the world.

During this trip, you will see the Great Walls mostly built during the Ming Dynasty, traversing Gansu Province, Qinghai Province, Ningxia Province, Inner Mongolia, Shanxi Province, Beijing, Hebei Province.

Day01/Arrive in Beijing

Arrive in Beijing, the capital of China. Pick up from the airport and transfer to your comfortable hotel. Dinner is on your own. (NO meal)

Day02/Beijing-Jiayuguan

(2200km by air)

Take a morning flight to Jiayuguan, the site of the fort that marks the western end of the Great Wall in Gansu Province. We will meet the local guide at the airport, and transfer to the hotel. Pay a visit to the Tombs of Wei & Jin Dynasties, 15 kilometers northeast of Jiayuguan. Entering the cold stone tomb, you will marvel at the vivid murals and special layout inside. Most tombs are of families, each tomb generally has two or three chambers which are connected by corridors paved with tiles in various flower patterns. The exquisite murals on the inner chamber walls tell the master and mistress's contemporary carefree life, and servant's hard working. Most reflect the political, cultural, military, and scientific developments of the Wei and Jin Dynasty age. (B,L,D)



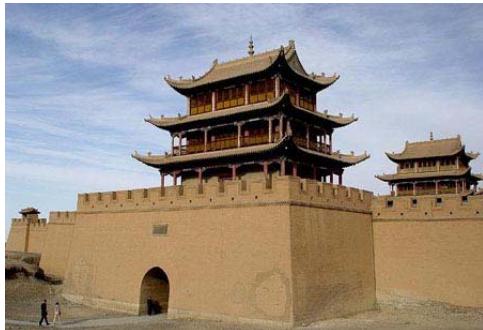
Day03/Jiayuguan-Zhangye

(hiking: 7-8km, 3 hrs; driving: 244km)

In the morning we will meet the drive and van that we will use until Day 10 inclusive. We will first visit the **Jiayuguan Pass**, the first pass at the west end of the Great Wall of China

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and was built during the Ming Dynasty, earned the name “Strategic Pass under the Heaven”. The desolate desert surroundings and the snow-capped Qilian Mountains form a dramatic backdrop to the impressive fort, to keep out the remnants of the defeated Mongols. It is also served as logical place of Silk Road. Our first hiking will be from Jiayuguan Pass to the Overhanging Great Wall, some 8km to the

north, an important part of the defensive work of Jiayuguan Pass. Built with sandstone and clay, it is a rich sandy-brown color, and quite different from the gray bricks seen elsewhere. Then, drive to Zhangye, a famous commercial port on the Silk Road. Pay a visit to the **Giant Buddha Temple**, the largest architectural relic in Gansu Province of the Western Xia (1038-1227) period. The Giant Buddha Temple was built in 1098 to house the Buddha. (B,L,D)

Day04/Zhangye-Shandan-Wuwei

(driving: 257km; hiking: 16-20km, 6 hrs)

This morning, drive 1.5 hours to Shandan, where we will start our today's hiking. The scenery during the 16-20km hiking is quite varied: grassland, Gobi Desert, red stone mountains, and the ruins of both a fortress and a beacon tower. Then, we will drive to Wuwei, called Liangzhou in ancient time. Its importance as a stop along the Silk Road made it a crossroads of cultures and ethnicities from all over central Asia. Numerous Buddhist grottoes and temples in the area attest to its role as a path for bringing Buddhism from India and Afghanistan to China. Visit the **Leitai Han Tombs**, in which the most important find was the Bronze Galloping Horse. Known in Chinese as “Ma Chao Long Que”, the horse is depicted in a full gallop supported on just one foot upon the back of a bird in flight which has been adopted as a symbol for Chinese tourism. (B,L,D)



Day05/Wuwei-Zhongwei-campsite



(driving: 300km, hiking: 5km)

This morning we will drive for half day along the Old Silk Road to Zhongwei, a desert city in Ningxia Province which is surrounded by sand dunes. We will also stop briefly at the highly-photogenic “S” bent of the Yellow River. We will ride camel to the Tengger Desert. Then start our hiking in the late afternoon, this ancient Great Wall named Si fangdun Great Wall, half

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of which will be in the desert and the other half on and along the ruins of the Wall. Partway we will pass a beautiful lake - Gaodun Lake. Dinner in the desert. (B,L,D)

Accommodation: camping in the desert

Day06/Camel Riding-campsite

(camel riding)

Today is our day to imagine life in the camel caravans that traveled the Silk Road so many years ago. We will ride woolly Bactrian camels from our morning campsite to our evening one, across what appears to be the endless Tengger Desert. That evening, we will view the setting sun from our campsite, and wake up to a magnificent sunrise the next morning before our busy Day07 activities start. (B,L,D)

Accommodation: camping in tents

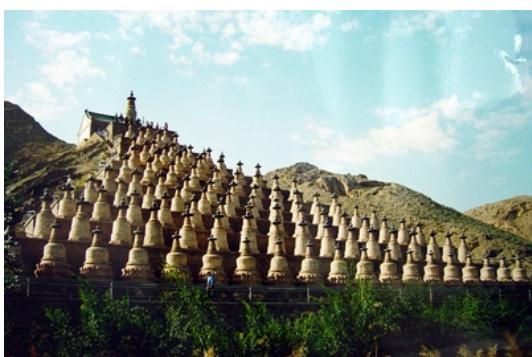


Day07/Campsite-Qingtongxia-Wuzhong

(driving: 150km; hiking: 8km)

Enjoy the magnificent sunrise in the morning. After breakfast, we will take an exciting trip

down the Yellow River (the second-longest river in China) by sturdy sheep-skin raft. Then drive to Qingtongxia, we will have a short visit to the curious 108 Dagobas, located near the bank of the river in the shape of an equilateral triangle. Then, we will start to hike on the wall for about 8km in the afternoon, seeing both Pigeon Mountain along the way. Then we will arrive at Wuzhong. After 2 days of camping, we will enjoy the amenities of a good hotel in town. (B,L,D)



Day08/Wuzhong-Gaoshawo-Campsite

(driving: 100km; hiking: about 15km)

Wuzhong is a special area for the Hui minority who are Muslims - therefore one highlight will be a visit to their local Bazaar after breakfast. Drive to Gaoshawo, from where we will hike to our No.3 campsite, about 3-4 hours on the way. By this time you will be enjoying the fresh air, the healthy life-style, and being at one with Nature, appreciating of the stark beauty of the Gobi desert,



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with its sparse animal and plant life. Although we may see an occasional Steppe Eagle during the day, geckos, and other desert inhabitants normally emerge after dark, when it is cooler. (B,L,D)

Accommodation: camping in tents

Day09/Campsite-Yinchuan

(driving: 150km;hiking: about 15-20km)

The scenery on the way becomes greener as we enter an area of grasslands, dotted with small lakes, villages, and along the Wall, ruins of fortresses built so many years ago! At the end of our hiking day, we will drive to Yinchuan, the capital of Ningxia Province. (B,L,D)



Day10/Yinchuan-Taiyuan-Shuozhou

(700km by air; driving: 220km)



This morning we will take a sightseeing tour to **West Xia King's Tombs** (Xixia Wang Ling), which are heralded by the Chinese as the "Pyramids of China". The tombs were originally created by the founder of the Western Xia Kingdom (1038-1237 AD), Li Yuanhao, who built over 70 tombs, one for himself, a number for his relatives and more to be left empty, presumably against theft. In the afternoon, take a flight from Yinchuan to Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi Province. Meet the local guide at the airport and transfer to the hotel in Shuozhou, located in the north of Shanxi Province. (B,L,D)

Day11/Shuozhou-hiking eastward through small villages

(driving: 3 hrs; hiking: about 17km, 8 hrs)

Drive 3 hours to Lao Niu Wan (Old Ox River bend) where the Great Wall meets the Yellow River. Then, trek eastward along the boundary of Shuozhou and Inner Mongolia. Many dynasties throughout history built their walls in this area, such as the Warring States, Eastern Wei, Northern Qi, Northern Zhou, Sui Dynasty, Song Dynasty, Ming Dynasty and Qing Dynasty. But, due to natural disasters and man-made sabotage, sections of the Great Wall in Shanxi are not exempted from destruction. Most are the disjointed relics of Great Wall, the body of the walls



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were weathered to grow smaller or collapsed to change to the farmland. Stay overnight in Huashizhai. (B,L,D)

Accommodation: guesthouse or camping

Day12/Huashizhai-Bai Ni Yao-Youyu County

(hiking: 4 hrs; driving: 4 hrs)

Trek from Huashizhai to Bai Ni Yao. This section is relatively well-preserved, which was the remnant of the Great Wall built in North Wei. Both sides of the wall are planted with the trees, and the piers are scattered randomly and stretched to the far. Many photographic fans like this part, especially in autumn: the blue sky, the golden land stretched afar, the strange-shaped trees, the infertile yellow earth, the harvesting farmers, the sheep eating grass around the remnant of the Great Wall at ease, which will provide the best material to the humane pictures with the thick color and unlimited imagination. Then, drive 4 hours to Youyu, and check in the hotel. (B,L,D)



Day13/Shahukou-ruins of a Fortress-Datong

(hiking: 2 hrs; driving: 120km)



Drive to Shahukou, located near the boundary of Shanxi Province and Inner Mongolia. It is 100km from Datong and 180km from Huhhot. Then, trek to West Fifteen Gou Village. Shahukou has a circumference of 20km, you will not only appreciate the mighty and ancient structures, but also enjoy the magnificent natural scenery. Then, drive to Datong, known as the “City of the Coal”. Datong is one of the 24 famous historical and cultural cities in China due to its ever

prosperous history. Stay overnight in Datong Hotel or the same standard. (B,L,D)

Day14/Datong- Beijing

(take train)

Today we will visit the famous Yunguang Grottoes, with their 252 caves and 51,000 statues, represent the outstanding achievement of Buddhist cave art in China in the 5th and 6th centuries. Shanhua Monastery contains more than thirty Buddhist statues sculptured during the Liao and Jin dynasties, the most noteworthy being covered in gold leaf. Then take an afternoon train to Beijing. Transfer to the hotel on arrival. (B,L,D)

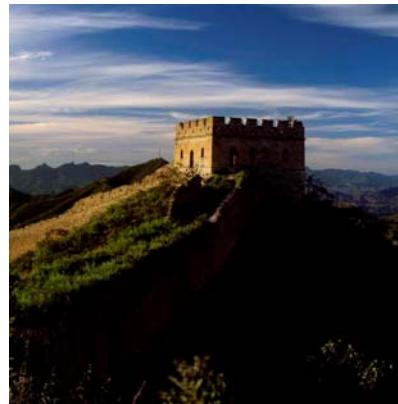
Day15/Beijing-Gubeikou-Jinshanling

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(driving: 170km, hiking: 3 hrs)

Drive from Beijing to Gubeikou Great Wall. Continue trek from General Tower in Gubeikou to Jinshanling Great Wall. On the way, you will pass a military area where you have to trek a short distance country road away from the wall. Today's trekking is easy because the Jinshanling section of the Great Wall is still kept well. (B,L,D)



Day16/Jinshanling-Huangyaguan

(driving: 105km, hiking: 2 hrs)

Drive to Huangyaguan, another important pass on the Wall, located in the south mountain area of Jixian County in Tianjin. The Huangyaguan Great Wall has two sections: The east section runs from the pass to Taipingzhai Great Wall and the west section from the pass to Wangmaoding Mountain. Each section has its own special characteristics. In the afternoon, trek the western part of the wall, constructed on steep cliffs and part of it is single-sided. It is not very long and a small segment of the wall is in ruins. Then, trek back to the pass along the same way. Stay overnight in the hostel at the bottom of the wall. (B,L,D)

Day17/Huangyaguang-Qing East Tomb-Zunhua

(hiking: 2 hrs; driving: 70km)

Get up early in the morning and hike the eastern part of Huangyuan Section, 873 meters long with heights ranging from 400 to 500 meters. Although Taipingzhai Great Wall is also single-sided, it is better preserved and not as dangerous as the west section. Here, too, a handrail is available as you continue along the wall. Huangyaguan Great Wall trekking ends in Taipingzhai Village at the foot of the mountain.



Drive to visit Eastern Qing Tomb, a sacred burial ground along Changrui Mountain in the west of Malanyu Town, Zunhua County of Hebei Province, it is one of the two tomb areas devoted to the emperors, empresses and imperial concubines of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911, the last feudal empire in China). The tombs of five emperors, four empresses, five imperial concubines, and one princess are arrayed based on the traditional concept of placing the most senior and most distinguished in the center. Stay overnight in a hotel in Zunhua. (B,L,D)

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Day18/Zunhua-Luweishan-Beidaihe

(driving: 100km, hiking: 4-5km, about 5 hrs)

Transfer to Luweishan, start trekking along the wild wall from Luweishan to Liujiakou where is known for its huge cross-river watchtower. This part of Great Wall contains beautiful Ming-era calligraphy bricks in the Wall. The towers here are very close to each other, thus forming an intensive defense system. Then, transfer to Beidaihe. Stay overnight in a hotel in Beidaihe. (B,L,D)



Day19/Beidaihe-Dongjiakou

(driving: 60km, trekking: 2.5 hrs)



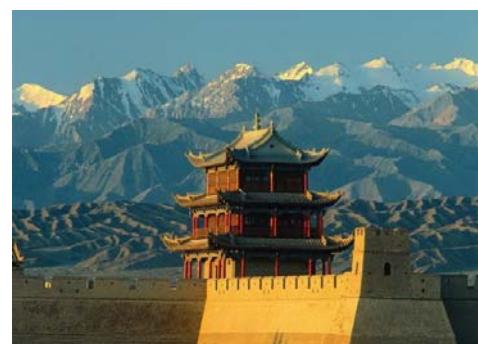
After breakfast in the hotel, drive to Dongjiakou. This section of the Great Wall is located to the northeast of Funing County, which is 38 miles from Qinhuangdao downtown. As an important strategic point, this section fortified with 36 turrets, 28 ramparts and 16 beacon towers with a total length of 8.5 miles. The highest altitude is 556m. Trek from Dongjiakou to Chengziyu. The architectural forms of the Great Wall are various. Some the relief carvings on the arched gateways are

scanty in China, because this is the vivid embodiment of the culture from south China, which General Qi brought in from Fujian Province. You will trek some part of Dongjiakou Great Wall, taking 2 and half hours. Stay overnight in family house. (B,L,D)

Day20/Dongjiakou-Jiaoshan-Shanhaiguan Pass

(driving: 50km; trekking: 5 hrs)

Transfer to visit Jiaoshan Great Wall, which section is only 1.5km long, and trek to Shanhaiguan Pass. The first part is from Jianshan Mountain to Weiyuan Hall. The wall was built by green bricks and filled in with loess and gravel. Many sections of wall have been collapsed and only some adobes are left. The second part is from North Gate (only 200m west of Weiyuan Hall) to the First Pass, it has been blocked, you need to get off the way and take the bus. Then trek again in



First Pass sightseeing area, taking about one hour with walking at this part. The "First Pass Under the Heaven" is actually an arrow tower. It is 13 meters high, 10.1 meters wide from east to west and 19.7 meter long from north to south. The tower also has two floors, and

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altogether there are three steles which inscribed by words of "First Pass under the Heaven". Stay overnight in a local hotel. (B,L,D)

Day21/Shanhaiguan Pass-Laolongtou-Beijing

(hiking: 4.5 hrs; driving: 285km)

Visit the Great Wall Museum, then trek to Laolongtou (Old Dragon Head). This part is about 5km, take about half day to finish it. On the way, you could have a good view of sea and rural scenery. The trekking ends in the Old Dragon Head, the very eastern end of the Great Wall, where it plunges into the sea. It was built in the Ming Dynasty by General Xu Da. Drive back to Beijing in the afternoon. Check in the hotel on arrival. (B,L,D)



Day22/Depart from Beijing

Transfer to the airport and prepare for boarding on your homebound flight. TOUR ENDS!
(B)

Note: B-Breakfast L-Lunch D-Dinner

Hotel list (or the same standard):

Beijing: ***(*) Days Inn Forbidden City Beijing

Jiayuguan: **** Changcheng Hotel

Zhangye: **** Hua Chen Hotel

Wuwei: *** Rong Hua Hotel

Wuzhong: **** Hong Bao Hotel

Yinchuan: **** Kaida Hotel

Jinshanling: Jinshanling Hotel

Simatai: Sima Shanzhuang Guesthouse

Huangyaguan: Huangya Shanzhuang Guesthouse

Shuozhou: ***(*) Hai Yuan Grand Hotel

Huashizhai: guesthouse or camp

Baiyu: *** Baiyu Hotel

Datong: **** Datong Hotel

Zunhua: *** Zunhua Hotel

Dongjiakou: guesthouse

Shanhaiguan: **** Shanhai Holiday Hotel

Include:

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- Twin sharing accommodation: 18 nights in hotel or beds in guesthouse
- Domestic flights in economic class and its airport tax: Beijing-Jiayuguan, Yinchuan-Taiyuan
- Train ticket: Datong-Beijing
- Lunch and Dinner as mentioned in the itinerary
- (first) Entrance fee mentioned above: Jiayuguan Pass, Zhangye Giant Buddha Temple, Leitai Han Tomb, West Xia King's Tomb (included boat), Yungang Grottoes, Laolongtou, Shanhaiguan Pass, Jiaoshan Great Wall, Dongjiakou, Qing East Tomb, Huangyaguan, Jinshanling, Gubeikou
- English speaking accompanying guide through out program on all days with excursions
- All Transfers specified in the itinerary by air-conditioned vehicle

Exclude:

- International Flight and airport tax
- Tips, personal expenses
- Transfer for "day at leisure"
- Guide Service during the plane and train
- Camping tents and outdoor gear: 3-4 nights for camp