



Why book this trip?

Travel across China using a combination of overnight sleeper and ultra-modern high speed bullet trains. This fast-paced journey takes us from the imperial palaces of Beijing to the skyscrapers of Hong Kong. Trip highlights include Xian's Terracotta Army, giant pandas in Chengdu and the rural town of Yangshuo. We also walk through the vast Dragon's Backbone rice terraces, stay in traditional village houses and meet the local Zhuang tribes, ending the trip in cosmopolitan Hong Kong.

- **Beijing** - Walk along the Great Wall at Mutianyu. Explore Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City
- **Xian** - Meet the famous Terracotta Army of Qin Shi Huangdi
- **Hong Kong** - Free time to explore one of Asia's most vibrant cities



INCLUDED MEALS
Breakfast: 13
Lunch: 1



TRIP STAFF
Explore Tour
Leader
Driver(s)
Local Guide(s)



TRANSPORT
Bus
Train



ACCOMMODATION
2 nights simple
guesthouse
8 nights
comfortable hotel
2 nights premium
hotel
2 nights simple
overnight train



TRIP PACE:
Full on



GROUP SIZE:
14 - 20

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join trip in Beijing

Arrive in Beijing, China's political and cultural capital. The city has undergone breath-taking development over the past decade, yet still retains plenty of sites that showcase the nations ancient past.

For those arriving on time our Leader plans to meet you in the hotel reception at 6pm for the welcome meeting and for those that wish, there is the chance to go out for dinner. There are no other activities planned today, so you are free to arrive in Beijing at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you can arrive into either Beijing Capital International airport (airport code PEK) or the new Beijing Daxing International airport (airport code PKX). Depending on your arrival airport, the transfer is between 1 hour and ninety minutes to the hotel. Should you miss the welcome meeting, your Leader will inform you of any essential information as soon as you catch up.

If your flight arrives earlier in the day, perhaps you might choose to head out and explore Beijing's central district with its many parks, temples and restaurants.



ACCOMMODATION:
Dong Fang Hotel Beijing (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel





MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Free in Beijing to visit Tiananmen Square.

Today offers a chance to explore something of a city that has been at the centre of China, politically and culturally, since the days of the great Kublai Khan. You could pay a visit to Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, home to the Ming and the Manchu (Qing) emperors for over 500 years. Other options include a visit to the Temple of Heaven or a tour of the city's fascinating hutongs (traditional alleys and backstreets) by rickshaw.



ACCOMMODATION:

Dong Fang Hotel Beijing (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 3 - Drive to the Great Wall at Mutianyu, return to Beijing via the Olympic stadium. Overnight train to Xian

This morning we drive by private bus to Mutianyu, some 90 kilometres to the north-east of the city, to pay a visit to China's famous Great Wall. One of the country's most iconic symbols, the Great Wall stretches from the China Sea to the Gobi desert, a journey of over 5,000 kilometres. The section we visit today is one of the best preserved parts of the wall, built over 400 years ago during the Ming dynasty. Over 10 kilometres in length, this magnificent structure crosses five mountain passes and features two beacon towers and nearly 70 watchtowers. Returning to Beijing in the afternoon we make a brief stop at the Birds Nets stadium, the main venue of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. This evening we board an overnight sleeper train to Xian.



ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight Train from Beijing to Xian



Grade: Simple Overnight Train



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 4 - Free day to explore the Shaanxi National Museum or the Muslim Quarter

We arrive in Xian early this morning and walk the short distance to our hotel in time for breakfast. The rest of the day is then free to make the most of China's old imperial capital. You might like to pay a visit to the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, a 64 metre high structure that offers some superb views out across the city. Another possibility is a visit to the Shaanxi National Museum. Alternatively, the network of alleys that make up the city's Muslim Quarter provide an excellent destination for a day of exploring.

The hotel in Xian offers good sized rooms with en-suite facilities and internet connection, TV, air-conditioning and a tea/coffee maker. Hotel facilities include a restaurant, fitness/health centre, sauna, laundry service, safety deposit boxes and Wi-Fi. The hotel is located close to the railway station with the bus for the Terracotta Warriors leaving from across the road.



ACCOMMODATION:

Grand Soluxe International Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Premium Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 5 - Visit the Terracotta Warriors and Workshop and Calligraphy Class

Today we visit one of China's most famous sights, the Terracotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi. Travelling by private bus to the site on the outskirts of Xian, we spend three to four hours exploring the well preserved characters, visiting the three excavated pits that hold, literally, thousands of life-sized archers, soldiers and charioteers. Buried here to guard the tomb of China's first emperor, the Terracotta Army is considered to be one of the greatest archaeological finds of the last century. Before experiencing the site, we visit a workshop close by where we witness the making of smaller versions of the Terracotta figures which gives some idea of the challenge that the Chinese craftsmen had when making the life sizes equivalent. Returning to Xian, we then travel onto the Tang Art Museum where we try our hand at the ancient art of calligraphy which of course is Chinese letter writing - learn how to write your name in this ancient communication style.



ACCOMMODATION:

Grand Soluxe International Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Premium Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 6 - Morning bullet train to Chengdu. Visit Kuan Zhai alley in Chengdu

We take the Xian to Chengdu bullet train to Chengdu, the capital of China's Sichuan Province. The line is one of China's newest state of the art high speed train routes, reducing the journey time from upto 18 hours to around 4 hours. The line opened on 6th December 2017 and has a top speed of 250km/h travelling 658 kilometres in total.

Travelling by high speed rail in China is a highly efficient way of covering large distances and offers views of the country you wouldn't get by taking a domestic flight, passing through the central Shaanxi plains with views of the Qinling Mountains and the western edge of the Sichuan Basin. It's also an opportunity to meet with local people along the way. It's possible to purchase food and drinks on board either from the buffet car or from the trolley service. Food on board is usually Chinese style, western food is usually not available.

The city of Chengdu once marked the starting point of the old southern Silk Road and can trace its ancestry back over 2,500 years. On arrival we head to the Kuan Zhai district of Chengdu, formed of three main alleyways, the majority of the buildings dating back from the Qing Dynasty (although renovated extensively between 2005 and 2008) with ancient temples which have all been featured in numerous films as part of exterior scenes of period movies.



ACCOMMODATION:
Chengdu Furong Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 7 - Visit the Panda research centre. Bullet train to Guilin.

Chengdu is home to the world famous Panda Breeding and Research Centre which lies just on the outskirts of the city. This morning we travel directly to the centre to see an animal that has become synonymous with China itself. Home to numerous free roaming Giant Pandas, the ultimate aim of the centre is to reintroduce these rare animals back into the wild in such numbers as to ensure their survival. To that end, the centre has enjoyed an extraordinary level of success with numerous new-born pandas over the past few years.

After lunch we head to Chengdu east railway station and board the bullet train to Guilin using the newly opened high speed link. Guilin is China's most picturesque region and its breath-taking scenery has attracted many visitors (and famous poets and artists!) for thousands of years. The city boasts an active nightlife but you can still catch a glimpse of Guilin's yesteryears in the countryside which continues to be home to many ethnic minority groups.



ACCOMMODATION:
Dan Gui Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 8 - Drive to Pingan Village; village walks

The village of Pingan sits perched on the central ridge of the Dragon's Backbone, a visually stunning series of rice terraces that runs along the meandering contours of surrounding hills. Upon arriving at the village, the pace of our trips slows as we take a walk around and meet some of the local Zhuang people and see the unique agricultural feat of engineering that has created this remarkable landscape. Today's walk follows the rice terraces and there are a lot of steps along the route, we can take our time to enjoy the views and with plenty of breaks to rest our legs during the three hour adventure.

The guesthouse in Pingan is a small family run hotel set in a wooden style building design. There are fine views of the village and rice terraces from the balcony. The guesthouse provides a excellent location to wander around the surrounding area and discover the local village. The rooms are simple but clean with air conditioning, TV and internet access in the lobby.



ACCOMMODATION:
Ping An Guesthouse (or similar)



Grade: Simple Guesthouse



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 9 - Full day in rural Pingan village including a walk to meet the local Zhuang people

The Zhuang migrated into this region of China over 5,000 years ago and today represent the largest of the country's minority groups. Skilled in weaving and embroidery, the Zhuang follow a fascinating tradition of beliefs that are deeply rooted in the power of nature. This morning we take a walk for around three hours to another Zhuang village at Longji following a flat path, the afternoon is left free to further explore the villages or relax at our guesthouse.



ACCOMMODATION:
Ping An Guesthouse (or similar)



Grade: Simple Guesthouse



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 10 - Free morning. Afternoon drive to picturesque town of Yangshou on the banks of the Li River

Bidding farewell to our guesthouse hosts, we drive on to the small market town of Yangshou this morning. Nestling besides the banks of the Li River, Yangshou lies amongst what many consider to be some of the most scenic landscapes in China set amid towering pinnacles.

The hotel in Yangshuo has tastefully decorated rooms with air-conditioning and heating, private bathrooms, radio, TV and phone. It is easy walking distance from the centre and close to the famous Western Street and a local food market that opens in the evening. There is a bar and lounge area, shopping arcade and Chinese and Western Restaurants. The hotel also offers laundry service, safe-deposit box and even shoe shine facility. There is a bank next door for currency exchange.



ACCOMMODATION:
New Century Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 11 - Morning cooking lesson in Yangshou. Fly kites in a local park overlooking the Li River.

We visit a cooking school in the city where the whole family learn how to prepare a number of traditional Chinese dishes using local produce for our lunch today.

The afternoon is free to relax and soak up the atmosphere of this beautiful riverside town. Wandering through the town's local market offers a chance to barter for everything from batiks and silk paintings to Chairman Mao's Little Red Book then head of the riverside park alongside the Li River to fly kites. You may want to hire bikes and cycle out into the surrounding countryside, climb to the top of 'Moon Hill' or take a short excursion by bus to the Xianggong Shan mountain view point just outside of Yangshou for some wonderful views across the open plains and out to the distant mountains.



ACCOMMODATION:
New Century Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

DAY 12 - Optional cycle ride and raft along the Li River with lunch stop. Overnight sleeper train to Shenzhen

The morning is left free to further explore Yangshou. For those that wish to, cycle to the docks and take a motorised bamboo raft trip, gently cruising downstream along the Li River. This is the best way to appreciate the beautiful Karst landscapes that Yangshou is so famous for. Returning to dry land, we are reunited with our bikes and cycle to Moon hill where we have lunch with fine views of the surrounding countryside, cycling back to our hotel early afternoon. For details of the cost of this optional activity please refer to the 'budgeting and packing' section of the trip notes. If you decide to try bamboo rafting, we recommend you can swim 25 metres unaided.

Late afternoon drive back to Guilin to take an overnight train to Shenzhen, just to the north of Hong Kong. A testament to the resurgence of China as a modern world power, Shenzhen is one of the country's most successful Special Economic Zones. It is also the end of our journey across mainland China.



ACCOMMODATION:
Overnight Train from Guilin to Shenzhen



Grade: Simple Overnight Train



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 13 - Cross border into Hong Kong. Free time on arrival

On arrival in Shenzhen this morning we need to cross the border into Hong Kong by way of the Lu Wu rail connection. This requires us carrying our own bags across the border, where our local Hong Kong guide will be waiting to take us to our hotel, travelling with the locals on the MTR metro system. The rest of the day is then free to relax and enjoy one of Asia's most vibrant cities.



ACCOMMODATION:
Panda Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel





SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 14 - Free day in Hong Kong to explore this bustling waterfront city

You are free to take in Kowloon's bustling waterfront today, perhaps taking a trip on the famous Star Ferry to enjoy one of the world's most famous cityscapes from the water. Other options include a ride on Hong Kong's funicular railway to the top of Victoria Peak, where you can enjoy some panoramic views out across the city and the outlying islands. You could also visit the Lam Tsuen Wishing Tree, one of the city's most popular shrines, or take a stroll through the stalls and markets of Li Yuen Street in search of some last minute bargains.



ACCOMMODATION:
Panda Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 15 - Trip ends in Hong Kong

The trip ends after breakfast at our hotel in Hong Kong.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Hong Kong at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you need to depart from Hong Kong International airport (airport code HKG), which is 30km, around 30 minutes from the hotel.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Climate and country information

China

Climate

China has primarily a temperate climate, with a wide spectrum of extremes due to its huge area. Summer months are hot and rainy though in the south the climate is tropical and we can experience rain at any time of the year, often falling in sharp tropical rain-storms which are heavy but short lived. Winter is colder and drier, temperatures in Beijing can be as low as -12c.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
+8	3 Pin Flat	Mainly Buddhist	Mandarin

Hong Kong

Climate

Hong Kong enjoys more of a sub-tropical climate and the winter months tend to produce temperatures in the high teens, with January being more susceptible to cloud cover, with occasional rain and cold fronts.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion
+8	3 Pin Flat	3 main religions - Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism

Language

Chinese, English

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

A selection of optional activities are listed below to help you budget for your Family adventure. Whilst the basic tour price you pay before you travel includes a great selection of highlights, we have also built in free time to allow you the flexibility to choose from a carefully selected range of additional excursions and activities or take time to relax, the choice is yours. At certain destinations along the way there may be several options to choose from and it may not be possible to fit all the activities in; your Explore Leader

will be able to give advice on which are the most suitable for your family.

Days 1 to 3: Beijing

Opera £17.00, Hutong trip £19.00, Temple of Heaven £3.50, Summer Palace £5.00 (entrance only)

Days 4 and 5: Xian

City Walls by bike - £17.00; Tang Dynasty show and dumpling banquet £30.00 to £34.00, Wild Goose Pagoda £5.00

Days 11 and 12: Yangshuo

Bamboo rafting, cycling and lunch on Moon hill £45.00

Charter bus to Xianggong Shan mountain view point £23.00 (min 6 people)

Sound and Light show £24.00 (£30.00 for VIP seat), Painting lesson £11.00, Calligraphy lesson £11.00, Kite flying no charge.

Clothing

Lightweight clothing is needed all year round with some warmer clothes for the cooler evenings. Casual clothes are the most practical. You may also wish to bring some lightweight rainwear or an umbrella.

Footwear

Comfortable walking shoes, trainers and sandals

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

It is essential that your baggage is lockable; the airport authorities insist on this. Please be aware, before boarding a flight in China that the Chinese authorities will only allow glass bottles onto aircraft if they have been checked in as main luggage. Any glass bottles in the hand luggage may be confiscated. Please bring a shoulder bag large enough to carry clothing and toiletries for the nightstop in Pingan as we will not bring our main luggage with us for the night.

Equipment

Torch, insect repellent, sunglasses, sun cream and a water bottle. A Mandarin phrase book may also be helpful.

Tipping

Explore leader

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. You may however, want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline.

Local crew

In this region, tipping is a recognised part of life across the service industry. Local staff will look to

members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided.

To assist with this your Explore Leader may organise a group tips kitty for included activities and meals, they will then account for kitty use throughout the tour.

For this we suggest £25 per family member.

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.

China

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£5	£6.00 - 10.00	£2	£1.5

Foreign Exchange

Local currency	Recommended Currency For Exchange
Renminbi/Yuan	Either EUR, USD or GBP.

Where To Exchange

We'd strongly recommend changing enough money for the duration of your trip at the airport on your arrival. When changing money ask for a receipt so you can change Yuan back into your own currency when leaving China.

ATM Availability	Credit Card Acceptance
All major towns.	Most major restaurants and stores.

Travellers Cheques

Travellers cheques can be changed in Hong Kong and at the Bank of China in all major cities but only during bank opening hours. Please note this is very time consuming and is not recommended.

Hong Kong

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£7.5	£14	£2.4	£1.3

Foreign Exchange

Local currency	Recommended Currency For Exchange
Hong Kong Dollar.	Either EUR, USD or GBP

Where To Exchange

In all towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival. When changing money ask for a receipt so you can change Yuan back into your own currency when leaving China.

ATM Availability	Credit Card Acceptance
All major towns.	Most major restaurants and stores.

Travellers Cheques

Travellers cheques can be changed in Hong Kong and at the Bank of China in all major cities but only during bank opening hours. Please note this is very time consuming and is not recommended.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Train

Accommodation notes

As tourism developed relatively recently in China, accommodation is usually modern, spacious and comfortable, albeit rather generic. Most hotels are large and purpose built and though rarely characterful, you can generally rely on good facilities. In Beijing we use a three star hotel within walking distance of Tiananmen square providing easy access to numerous main sites. In Xian we use a four star hotel opposite the main train station, here again we have chosen the hotel for its proximity to the city's main sites.

Elsewhere the hotels that we use are of international style generally with business facilities, restaurants and bars and all mod cons, though few have pools. In other cities and large towns the standard is similar although on a lesser scale. In small towns or villages where tourism is less prevalent, the hotels we use are smaller and facilities are more limited, though we generally stay in the best place in town. Rooms will still be en suite but rooms can be basic. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be somewhat erratic and although the welcome is warm, service levels may be less efficient than you might expect. Please be aware that the beds in China are often quite firm and may take a few nights for you to get used to.

On days where we will arrive on a sleeper train the Tour Leader will try and arrange an early check in for the group, however this may not be possible as the majority of hotels in China offer check in from 12 noon.

When travelling on sleeper trains we use a combination of a 'hard sleeper' berth (usually on the Shenzhen to Guilin journey), which are berths with 6 beds (3 on each side) and a curtain to separate from the main

carriage and 'soft sleeper' berths, which are berths with 4 beds (2 on each side) which would be allocated to the Explore group. Due to the nature of booking train tickets in China we cannot guarantee that the entire group will be in the same carriage and you may be sharing your berth with non-Explore passengers or both sexes.

Family swimming

Swimming is not available on this tour

Essential Information

Government Travel Safety Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK citizens, check the latest Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice.

Please refer to our COVID-19 entry requirements page for any country-specific conditions of entry. Whilst we strive to update this on a regular basis we recommend you also check the FCDO website for the latest advice on entry requirements in this fast-evolving situation. Information can change at any time.

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

China: A visa is required by all nationalities. A single entry visa should be arranged in advance of travelling.

From 1st November 2018, British Passport Holders will be required to present themselves in person at the Chinese Visa Processing Centre in London, Manchester, Edinburgh or Belfast on the day of application, to provide biometric information (fingerprints). Appointments can be booked and forms completed via www.visaforchina.org

In order to apply for your Chinese visa you will need to submit supporting documents from our local supplier confirming your itinerary and travel arrangements, which we will obtain on your behalf. So that we can provide this for you, and to ensure all local arrangements are in place, we require a copy of your passport no later than 8 weeks before you are due to start your trip. Once we have your passport copy we shall process and pass on the documents you require 6-8 weeks before your trip, please be mindful of this when applying for your visa. If you require the supporting documents earlier than this, please

contact Explore so we can arrange this.

Passengers wishing to extend their stay in China should be aware that current visa regulations only allow foreigners to stay in the country for up to 30 days. Please consider this when planning your trip.

You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them here.

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Ability to swim

An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you wish to participate in these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

China

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against malaria, infectious hepatitis, typhoid, tetanus and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Travellers may wish to take immunisation against Japanese Encephalitis. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Hong Kong

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against malaria, infectious hepatitis, typhoid, tetanus and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Travellers may wish to take immunisation against Japanese Encephalitis. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Family information



Terracotta Warriors, Xian



Chengdu historic centre

Triple rooms: This trip allows the option for triple rooms to be included within the booking on all night stops within the holiday, except for the overnight train journeys. If you would like this option, a discount may be applicable on the cost of the trip - please ask our Sales team for further information.

Average Age: As a guide we have identified the actual average age of the children who

have travelled on this trip over the last 5 years, to help you decide whether it's the right one for your family. The average age on this trip is 14 years old.

Minimum age: This trip is suitable for children of all ages from 7 upwards. On certain trips there may be some flexibility to accept children from the age of 5 if travelling with older siblings, please speak to our reservations team for details.

Additional Information



Why book this trip

This adventure is an epic journey across China taking a number of overnight trains and recently opened high speed bullet trains travelling over 250kph to cover the huge distances that are involved. Families who want to really discover a country and don't mind travel around will really enjoy this holiday - plus there are lots of added extras such as flying kites, making a Terracotta statue, visiting a Panda sanctuary and a cooking lesson.

Reviews



**AWARD WINNING
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT
TRANSFERS**