



Great wall of China trek Itinerary

Stretching 6,300km from coast to desert, the Great Wall of China is one of the few man-made constructions that can be seen from space. This trip is for anyone who wants to take on a challenge or simply has a dream to visit one of the world's great wonders.

Join us on an unforgettable 9-day adventure, camping at night in tents, studying in the nature, taking in the magnificent scenery & breath-taking views, whilst enjoying and practising its correlation in Jewish meditation, seclusion, & inspiring Kabbalah classes, B-B-Q's, great Farbrengens and much more.....

Each day you will trek approximately 12kms along the stony path, twisting and winding its way along the mountains, interspersed with crumbling watchtowers. It is demanding but also very rewarding, particularly on a clear day when you can look at the vast and beautiful mountain ranges.

Your imagination will take you back several centuries to when the wall was the frontline defense of Imperial China. On completion of your challenge you will return to Beijing to explore some of the many attractions of China's capital city including the Forbidden City.

The Great Wall in Beijing



Day 1: Sun May 23rd

Depart London Heathrow for Beijing

Day 2: Mon May 24th - Beijing - Huangyaguan

Arrive in Beijing during the morning,

We transfer from the busy streets of Beijing, driving northwest into the hills above Huangyaguan (3.5-4.5 hours). Huangyaguan is situated in a beautiful valley in the heart of the Yanshan Mountains. After a scenic drive through a landscape of hills and lakes, we arrive at our village and see the Great Wall for the first time, as it snakes along the ridgeline of the mountains. After a good traditional lunch we start our trek! The Wall is well renovated here and disappears into the horizon in both directions. After some steep sections, which give a good indication of what lies ahead, we walk predominantly downhill until we reach the small town of Huangyaguan. Here the wall crosses the road that leads to our nearby accommodation.

Approx 2 - 3 hours walking



Day 3 Tue May 25th: Huangyaguan - Mountain Village

Our day's walk begins where we left the Wall yesterday, and we head up the steep renovated steps towards what appears to be a sheer cliff face. This is where we encounter 'Heavens Ladder', a steep climb of over 200 steps leading us up the cliff face. There are fabulous views from the top and, once we have caught our breath the path continues gradually on steep tracks through forest, up to the top of the ridge. Once again we join the old Wall, and follow it along the contours of the mountain until we clamber down into the valley below. We bed down in the houses of a local village, a real cultural experience.

Approx 7 hours walking

Day 4 Wed 26-May Gubeikou - Jinshanling

Early morning transfer through the mountains to Gubeikou, (3- hours) very scenic! We walk through the village and farmland until our path takes us alongside an un-restored, yet well-preserved, section of the Wall. This part appears to be of almost brick-like construction and dates back to the Qing Dynasty, the last dynasty to rule over this vast land. We follow a track down into the valley in order to skirt a Chinese military post and follow dirt paths through trees and undergrowth before rejoining the Wall. There are some steep sections and we help each other out if need be. Stunning views of the Great Wall snaking along the hilltops keep us going whenever we find it tough! The final stretch to Jinshanlin is on restored Wall with lots of steps. A short walk through the village and small shops takes us to our simple accommodation

Walking hours: 7 hours

Day 5 Thu 27-May Jinshanling - Simatai

Today we walk the most beautiful section of the Great Wall, lots of photo opportunities. Today's stunning walk on this largely restored section of the Wall takes us from Jinshanlin to Simatai. Starting where we left off yesterday, we head up the carefully restored steps which take us into the mountains one final time. There are a few sections on older bricks and some dirt tracks, but for most of today we walk on good flagstones. The scenery is superb with rolling purple hills fading into the distance. We leave the Great Wall at Simatai, enjoying the view as it clings precariously to the rock face opposite, dotted with many watchtowers; classic 'scales on a dragon's back' scenery. We cross a pedestrian bridge and finish the day with the opportunity to zip slide (approx 35 yuan) across the lake and then catch a small boat ride back across to our accommodation. If you prefer not to zip slide it is an easy 30 minute walk down

Walking hours: 6 hours



Day 6 Fri 28-May Simatai - Beijing

We do a further walk at Simatai section to try to reach the highest point, then we make our way down to the car park for the bus to take us back to Beijing.

Walking hours: 2.5 hours Bus transfer: 2 hours

Free time in Beijing for the rest of the day.

Get ready For Shabbat!

Day7 Shabbat May 29: Inspiration in Beijing

Spend a Shabbos with drifting tourists who frequent the warmth of Rabbi Fraundlich Shabbat table, enjoying great meals, plenty of singing, dancing and joy. Followed by Melave Malkah

Day 8 Sun May 30th

A guided tour of Beijing, the nation's capital and home to over 13 million people. The city's frenetic energy is quite a contrast to the natural scenery and remote tranquillity of the past few days. We have an opportunity to visit the Forbidden City, do some shopping on the way and visit a silk factory en-route before preparing for an evening Farbrengen to mark our achievements.

Day 9 Mon May 31st - Return to London (Arrive back in Heathrow on Mon May 31st)