
GEEO ITINERARY

China 7/6/2026

Day 1: Beijing Arrive in Beijing at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., and then go on an orientation walk in the area of Beijing near the hotel.

Arrive at any time. There are no planned activities until the Welcome Meeting in the evening. The main airport is **Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK)**. The city's secondary airport is **Beijing Daxing International Airport (PKX)**.

Consider arriving 1-2 days early to explore the city, adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can request extra hotel nights for you before the program begins.

Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting

Hotel check-in is normally between 2-3 p.m. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, typically between 6-7 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so that your tour leader can let you know where and when to meet the group.

After the welcome meeting, join your tour leader for an orientation walk near the hotel to get your bearings. They will show you restaurants, points of interest, supermarkets, ATMs, etc. Opt for a group dinner to get to know your tour leader and travel companions.

Joining Instructions

Pre-booked Transfer with GEEO/G Adventures: A G Adventures representative will be at the airport to meet you. If you cannot find your ride, call the emergency number on your trip voucher and take a taxi to the start hotel (save your receipt).

Airport Express Train: Follow signs to the underground Airport Express Line after baggage claim. Trains run 6:20am-10:50pm.

From PEK: 25 yuan (\$3.50 USD), 20 minutes to Dongzhimen Station. Then taxi to hotel, or continue by metro to Hufangqiao Station (Line 2 to Chongwenmen, Line 5 to Ciqikou, Line 7 to Hufangqiao—total 5 yuan/\$0.70 USD). Short walk to hotel from there.

From PKX: 35 yuan (\$5 USD), 20 minutes to Caoqiao Station. Then taxi to hotel, or continue by metro to Hufangqiao Station (Line 10 to Shuangjing, Line 7 to Hufangqiao—total 5 yuan/\$0.70 USD). Short walk to hotel from there.

Taxi: 200-250 yuan from PEK, 250-300 yuan from PKX. Follow signs to official taxi area with attendants. Print your hotel name in Chinese to show the driver. Takes 45 minutes to 1 hour depending on traffic. *IGNORE ANYONE OFFERING RIDES IN THE PARKING LOT—they are a rip-off.*

Day 2: Beijing Visit the Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, and then enjoy free time to explore more of the city.

Explore bustling Beijing today, including the famous Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City in the heart of the city.

At Tiananmen Square, explore one of the world's largest public squares and the symbolic center of Chinese power. It is a place of pilgrimage for the Chinese tourists who consider it the heart of their nation. The square is framed by the Gate of Heavenly Peace with its Mao portrait, Mao's Mausoleum, the Great Hall of the People, and the National Museum. At dawn and dusk, there are elaborate flag-raising and lowering ceremonies.

For 500 years, the palace at the Forbidden City was only accessible to the emperors' attendants and officials by invitation only. During your visit, see the Clock Exhibition Hall, wander through the Three

Great Halls, or stand in the shade of the cypress trees in the Imperial Garden.

Please note: The Forbidden City has a strict daily visitor cap, with tickets released seven days in advance at 8:00 p.m. Beijing time. Our local team books as soon as tickets become available and is virtually always successful. We fully expect the Forbidden City to be included in your program. In the rare event that tickets cannot be secured, we will instead visit the Summer Palace and the Temple of Heaven, two of Beijing's most significant imperial sites.

Use free time later in the day to explore Beijing's hutongs (traditional narrow alleyways and backstreets), or visit the Temple of Heaven, the Drum and Bell Tower, the Lama Temple, or the Summer Palace. Opt to have a Peking Duck meal with your group in the evening.

Day 3: Beijing Travel north to the Great Wall, one of the most iconic sights in all of China.

Travel to the Great Wall of China by private vehicle and see one of the most iconic sights in the entire world. Spend the better part of the day exploring and soaking in the atmosphere. There will be approximately 5 km of walking at the site, which will take 2-3 hours depending on your level of fitness.

Travel through the rolling hills of Huairou County at Mutianyu, one of the best-preserved sections of the Great Wall. Take in the scenic views from any of the 22 towers as the wall winds along mountain ridges. The Great Wall is an incredible feat of engineering, stretching over 13,000 miles across the mountain ridges north of Beijing. It was originally constructed to protect Chinese dynasties from the nomadic northern tribes. Even though it failed to keep out the Mongols, it is still one of the country's most remarkable achievements and an iconic destination. The Mutianyu section of the Great Wall is located about 80 km from the Beijing city center.

If you don't want to conquer the wall on foot, opt to ride a cable car up to Watchtower 14. You can get a round-trip ticket for the enclosed cable car, or take the cable car up and ride the "toboggan" down (individual cars on tracks).

Approximate travel time: 4-5 hrs by private vehicle

Day 4: Beijing/Xi'an Catch a bullet train from Beijing to Xi'an and go on an orientation walk.

In the morning, take a bullet train from Beijing to vibrant Xi'an. After settling in at your hotel, go on an orientation walk with your tour leader and visit points of interest around the city, like the bustling Muslim Quarter, one of Xi'an's most fascinating areas. You will pass the lovely and unique Great Mosque (admission not included) and have an opportunity to try out the food stalls with some of the best street eats in China—the spicy beef and lamb kebabs are particularly popular.

Approximate travel time: 4.5 hrs by bullet train

Day 5: Xi'an Visit one of China's greatest archaeological treasures—the Terracotta Warriors.

Take a guided tour of the Terracotta Warriors, where more than 8,000 clay soldiers and hundreds of replica horses and chariots stand in three pits. Learn why Emperor Qin Shihuang commissioned the statues to serve as his army in the afterlife and how they were discovered. Spend a half-day exploring this archaeological wonder.

Enjoy an included lunch at a restaurant run by a local family out of their own home near the Terracotta

Museum. Options include home-cooked noodles, stir-fried dishes, and seasonal fruits from the garden.

Explore Xi'an with free time in the afternoon, and opt for a dumpling banquet with your group in the evening.

Approximate travel time: 2 hrs by private vehicle

Meals included: Lunch

Day 6: Xi'an/Chengdu Spend a free morning in Xi'an before traveling to Chengdu. In the evening, enjoy a hotpot dinner with the group.

Spend a free morning exploring more of Xi'an. In the afternoon, board a bullet train to Chengdu. After getting settled at the hotel, go on an orientation walk with your tour leader, and then sit down for a hotpot dinner with the group in the evening. Hotpot is a traditional communal dining experience that brings together friends and family around a bubbling pot of richly flavored broth.

The centerpiece of the meal is the hotpot itself, usually split into two sections: one containing a fiery red broth infused with Sichuan peppercorns and chilies, and the other a milder, savory broth for those who prefer a less intense heat. As the pot simmers in the middle of the table, diners select from an array of fresh ingredients (tofu, noodles, vegetables, meats, and seafood) laid out on platters and add them to the pot to cook. The table also has an array of dipping sauces, herbs and spices, and other condiments to create your perfect flavor combination. The spiciness of the Sichuan broth can cause a pleasant numbing sensation on the lips and tongue, a hallmark of Chengdu's renowned cuisine. To cool down, sip on a cold beer or enjoy local herbal teas that balance the heat of the meal.

Approximate travel time: 3.5-4 hrs by bullet train

Meals included: Dinner

Day 7: Chengdu Visit the Chengdu Panda Base and witness the conservation efforts being made to save this endearing species. Later, visit People's Park for an orientation walk ending in Tianfu Square.

Enjoy a morning visit to the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding and see some pandas. Learn about the conservation efforts being made to preserve this threatened bear species endemic to China, as well as the species's life cycle and habitat. The research base has a number of other rare species, including the red panda.

Later, take time for lunch on your own before joining your group on an orientation walk from People's Park to Tianfu Square, located in the center of Chengdu. People's Park was the first public park in Chengdu and features an artificial lake, gardens, and teahouses. It is a popular place for locals to enjoy the outdoors. Take the metro back to the hotel before an optional group dinner in the evening.

Day 8: Chengdu/Emei Shan Travel from Chengdu to Leshan and visit the Giant Buddha. Later, drive to the foot of Mt. E'mei.

Travel by private vehicle from Chengdu to Leshan, where you can grab lunch on your own before visiting the Dafo (meaning "Great Buddha"). It took thousands of workers over 90 years (from 713 to 803) during the Tang dynasty to carve the monument out of a cliff face. The 233-foot-tall statue is the largest and tallest stone Buddha statue in the world. Explore carvings and temples near the statue's head before climbing down the path to its enormous toes. Opt to board a boat and head out on the Mingjiang River to get a broader view of the statue.

Then, drive to the foot of Mt. E'mei, located southwest of the Sichuan Basin. The evening is yours to

explore the area around Mt. E'Mei and learn more about the region.

Approximate travel time: 3.5 hrs by private vehicle

Day 9: Emei Shan Enjoy a day of hiking around Emei Shan. Enjoy some free time before an optional group dinner in the evening.

Take the shuttle bus to the Wannian Temple parking area where today's hike will begin. Spend a full day exploring the temples/monasteries and taking in the stunning vistas of Mt. Emei, one of Buddhism's holiest sites.

The hike takes 6-10 hours. Stops will include Qingyin Pavilion, Guangfu Temple, Zhongfeng Temple, Shenshui Pavilion, Chunyang Palace, and Leiyin Temple, before ending at Wuxiangang parking are. From there, hikers can take the shuttle to Baoguo Temple or choose to keep hiking to Huyu Bridge, Fuhu Monastery, and Baoguo Temple on foot.

There will be free time before an optional group dinner in the evening.

Day 10: Emei Shan/Yangshuo Travel to Yangshuo and go on an orientation walk upon arrival.

Travel by private vehicle to Leshan train station and catch a bullet train to Yangshuo. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel, get settled, and then enjoy an orientation walk before an optional group dinner.

Approximate travel time: 45 mins by private vehicle, 5.5 hrs by bullet train

Day 11: Yangshuo Float the Li River on a bamboo raft. Visit Dabeicun Village and the Jia Community Restaurant.

Drive to Xingping pier and navigate the most beautiful portion of the stunning Li River on a local boat (called a bamboo raft).

After the float, take the local ferry across the river to Dabeicun Village and set off on a short walking tour. End the walk at the Jia Community Restaurant, where you will enjoy a traditional Chinese meal served by rural women working to create new opportunities for their families. With the migration of men to urban centers being common in rural regions, women and children have created places to gather and learn together at Community Corners, established by the Rural Women's Development Foundation. Your meal helps support women who are developing new work skills to become self-reliant. This initiative helps to create meaningful employment alternatives to agriculture as a source of income.

Spend free time this afternoon to explore Yangshuo on your own. Optional activities in Yangshuo included a Tai Chi class, a market tour and cooking class, and the outdoor Impression Sanjie Liu light show on the Li River.

Meals included: Lunch

Day 12: Yangshuo Enjoy a free day in Yangshuo.

Enjoy free time today to explore this beautiful area. Feel free to relax, or try optional activities like a traditional massage or a guided cycle tour past rice paddies and water buffalo (including lunch at the house of a local family). If you want more hiking, check out Moon Hill, one of Yangshuo's most popular attractions.

Day 13: Yangshuo/Shanghai Fly to Shanghai, arriving in the late afternoon. Go on an orientation walk.

Catch a flight from Yangshuo to Shanghai and arrive in the late afternoon. After arriving, take an orientation walk down one of the city's most famous streets, Nanjing Road, and visit the Bund, a famous waterfront area on the west bank of Huangpu River that offers a great view of the city's skyline. Shanghai has some of the best Art Deco architecture of anywhere in the world, having spread to China in the 1930s.

Approximate travel time: 1-1.5 hrs by private vehicle, 2.5 hrs by plane

Day 14: Shanghai Visit the Shanghai Museum, and then take the metro to Yuyuan Gardens for an optional walk around the grounds. The rest of the day is free, with an optional group farewell dinner in the evening.

Spend some time immersed in Shanghai today, starting with a visit to the Shanghai Museum, home to a world-class collection of ancient Chinese art. The galleries contain sculptures, bronze artifacts, ceramics, jade, coins, Ming and Qing Dynasty furniture, paintings, and calligraphy.

Later, take the metro to Yuyuan Gardens for an optional visit and walk around the 400-year-old, five-acre grounds. Climb to the top of the Rockery to see the green space from above. Check out the Jade Rock and watch the swarms of goldfish swim around in the ponds. Opt to visit the bustling market located outside the gardens and hone your bargaining skills.

The remainder of the afternoon is free for optional activities, including a Chinese acrobatic show with tumbling, balancing, plate-spinning, and amazing contortionists. There will be an optional group farewell dinner in the evening.

Day 15: Shanghai Depart Shanghai at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Shanghai at any time. The main airport is **Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG)**. The city's secondary airport is Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport (SHA), mainly serving domestic and regional flights. If you wish to extend your stay in Shanghai, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us.

Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk.

Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive 10% off the lesser value program(s), up to 3 programs per year.

Interested in extending your time abroad? We can help you find a trip from our tour partner G Adventures' larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but by booking through GEEO we can offer you a discounted educator price, and you will be helping our non-profit.

Accommodations List Click here to see the accommodations scheduled for this program.

The hotels listed below reflect the properties *expected to be used* for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. **The confirmed start and end hotels are listed on your trip voucher:**

Day 1 Beijing (Jul 6): Dong Fang Hotel Beijing
Day 2 Beijing (Jul 7): Dong Fang Hotel Beijing
Day 3 Beijing (Jul 8): Dong Fang Hotel Beijing
Day 4 Xi'an (Jul 9): HNA Hotel
Day 5 Xi'an (Jul 10): HNA Hotel
Day 6 Chengdu (Jul 11): Celebrity Ruicheng Hotel
Day 7 Chengdu (Jul 12): Celebrity Ruicheng Hotel
Day 8 Emei Shan (Jul 13): Chanlin Inn
Day 9 Emei Shan (Jul 14): Chanlin Inn
Day 10 Yangshuo (Jul 15): Zhangtai Heju Hotel Ubud Town
Day 11 Yangshuo (Jul 16): Zhangtai Heju Hotel Ubud Town
Day 12 Yangshuo (Jul 17): Zhangtai Heju Hotel Ubud Town
Day 13 Shanghai (Jul 18): Zhen Yue Hotel
Day 14 Shanghai (Jul 19): Zhen Yue Hotel

****Itinerary Disclaimer:*** While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, 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 information on our website 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. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.