Trek the Great Wall; 2000 years of history built to repel all invaders.
It is a world icon, a sight to behold and one that should not be missed.
Camp on the Wall on the final night to experience the silence and sunrise
We avoid the most popular locations
Accommodated close to the Wall; less travelling in vehicles
Includes a tour of the Forbidden City and Tianenmen Square; no forced shopping!
Our guides are professionals; min 2 years experience, english speaking

Challenge Highlights

Great China Wall
7 - 15 Oct 2017
Open Charity Challenge

Fast Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>China</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty</td>
<td>Challenging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altitude</td>
<td>1000m, max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trip Duration</td>
<td>9 days UK ~ UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nights on Trek</td>
<td>5 nights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nights in Hotels</td>
<td>3 nights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>All meals on trek, B&amp;B in hotels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note......
Camp up on the Wall; yes, our Great Wall Challenge includes a night camping up on the Wall!
No-one else, sunrise & coffee to yourself, camping gear provided.
Has to be done!

Great China Wall
7 - 15 Oct 2017
Open Charity Challenge
Great Wall of China Charity Challenge

The Great Wall of China is an ancient architectural marvel that stretches for thousands of miles and an icon amongst trekking destinations. To walk along its undulating snaking path is to take you back more than 2000 years when this masterpiece was constructed to repel invaders.

Our itinerary snatches the best of the Wall, ranging from original sections to restored watchtowers, from wide open vistas to narrow overgrown paths, it all forges its way over mountains and through valleys.

To get the best out of the Wall, you have to live it, be close to it and even in our case, live on it! On our final trek night, when everyone else has gone, we trek back up to the Watchtower and camp overnight there to experience the silence and see the sun rise (camping equipment supplied).

We maximise our time in China. On arrival, we transfer you straight to the Wall, staying overnight in a local hotel before trekking the next morning. The Wall can be demanding at times; very demanding. Following the contours of the land, it is a consistent undulation, relentless and seemingly endless like the back of the legendary Chinese Dragon.

Subsequent overnight stays are in local farmhouses close to either the beginning or end of the day's trek. We learn to make Chinese dumplings with a local family and your picnic lunches are hand made to ensure you get to eat what you want to eat!

Once you come off of the Wall on the final day, we get you back to Beijing early afternoon to allow you some free time before a complimentary celebration roast duck dinner that evening. There are a total of 2 nights in hotels in Beijing.

No visit to the capital would be complete without seeing the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square, both of which are included on our Tour. After the morning tour, you have more free time to explore the city before your flight home in the morning.

That is, unless you choose to extend your time in China by taking the opportunity to see the Terracotta Warriors (Xi’an) and maybe the Chengdu Research Base of Panda Breeding too. See the itinerary inside for more details.

To sum up the challenge...

Experience thousands of years of history on the Great Wall as it forges its relentless, undulating and seemingly endless path through China.

Why choose our Great Wall of China Charity Challenge?

- **We Camp By A Watch Tower On The Wall (1 night and optional)**
  
  Our clients come to us for an original experience. In this instance, your final night will be right on the Wall itself, camped by a Watch Tower. You’ll have the place to yourself! Camping gear provided.

- **No supplements of fuel charges**
  
  Our trip costs include all your flights related costs so you won’t have to cover an unknown additional cost at a later date.

- **Early Guarantee Status/Low Minimum Numbers**
  
  Our challenges are guaranteed to run once we receive bookings from just 4 people. This means you can fundraise safe in the knowledge that your trip will go ahead and not be cancelled due to low numbers at the last minute.

- **Flexible and Resilient itinerary**
  
  This is adventure travel and there can be numerous reasons beyond our control that can alter the intended plan. Our itineraries are sufficiently flexible and resilient to withstand a good deal of adjustments and still retain the aim.

- **Challenging but Safe**
  
  Weather conditions can often make our trips more challenging. There is a fine line between challenging and unsafe. Our experienced Guides will make the right decisions to keep you safe.

- **Qualified English Speaking Local Guides**
  
  Our local guides are professionals, have a min of 2 years experience and are on the Wall over 200 days a year.

- **No supplements to extend**
  
  We do not charge admin fees for using different departure and/or return flight dates. We’re also happy to help you arrange your extended break.

- **Extensions to Xi’an (Terracotta Army) and Pandas Breeding Centre**
  
  These extensions are available if requested. Xi’an is a 3 night extension and if you add the Pandas on, it makes it 4 nights. See inside the document for further details.

- **All Meals and Water included on Trek**
  
  All meals and unlimited drinking water on trek are included. That’s breakfast, lunch and evening meal. Most dietary requirements can be catered for; just let us know.

- **Peace of Mind**
  
  All our trips have full ATOL protection.
Itinerary

Day 1, 7 Oct 2017 - Depart UK
Fly from London, bound for Beijing.

Day 2, 8 Oct - Arrive Beijing, transfer to mountains (Huanyayguan area)
On arrival, the group will be greeted by the guide who will oversee the 2hr drive from the airport to the guesthouse in the mountainous area surrounding Beijing.

Do your best to battle jetlag as today is a great opportunity to explore your new surroundings. The group will get together for a first team meal, as well as a briefing about the challenge ahead.

Accommodation: guesthouse near Huanyayguan (western toilet & shower)
Meals: lunch/dinner

Day 3, 9 Oct - Taipingzhai to Huangyaguan (3 hours, 4 km hiking)
After a typical countryside breakfast, it’s about a 10 min drive to Taipingzhai where today’s walk will start. The trek to Huangyaguan is about 3 hours. Lunch is taken after the trek, which is more than enough on this day, followed the drive to Gubeikou village and stay overnight in this traditional walled village.

There is opportunity to trek up ‘Crouching Tiger Hill’ in the village (2hrs).
Originally built in 557 AD, the Huangyaguan Great Wall was repaired for the first time in Ming Dynasty with bricks and then restored again in 1985. It is 41 kilometres in length with its walls and towers built on mountain ridge with an average altitude of 738 metres. The name Huangyaguan translates to “Yellow Cliff Pass” and is named after the yellowish hills and rocks nearby. It is unique in that it has various different-shaped watchtowers. There are not many tourists in this area, as it is a remote and seldom visited location. The most unique feature here is the Street of the Eight Diagrams, an architectural wonder of the Ming Dynasty lying just below the pass. A labyrinth set up to confuse and entrap invading armies, this fortification design is based on the ancient trigrams of the Book of Changes. UNESCO placed Huangyaguan Great Wall on the UN list of the World heritage.

Accommodation: local farmer’s guesthouse at Gubeikou village (western toilet & shower)
Meals: lunch/dinner

Day 4, 10 Oct - Gubeikou to Jinshaling (5 hours, 10 km hiking)
We drive for 10 minutes after breakfast to the entrance at Gubeikou, from where we trek to Jinshaling. Gubeikou is located 146 kilometres north of Beijing. It has the Panlong (Coling Dragon) and Wohu (Crouching Tiger) mountains in the background. In 1378 General Xu Da ordered this section of the Great Wall rebuilt.

Gubeikou has probably seen more battles than any other part of the Great Wall including some of the most famous in Chinese history. Our trek takes us eastward along the old city wall passing numerous watchtowers and other parts of the wall that have not yet been restored.

After 2 hours trekking of the Gubeikou section, we have to get off the wall to avoid a military area nearby. Going through the path in the field for 1.5 hours, and then we will come back to the wall again on the Jinshaling section.

When we leave the wall, we will have fresh Chinese dishes in a local farmer’s restaurant before driving back to Gubeikou village.

A Chinese dumpling-making learning will be organised in the afternoon.

Accommodation: local farmer’s guesthouse at Gubeikou village (western toilet & shower)
Meals: breakfast/lunch/dinner

Day 5, 11 Oct - Jinshaling to Simatai West (3 hours, 6 km hiking)
We will drive to Jinshaling (20 mins) after breakfast at 8am (optional sunrise watching can be organised upon request without additional cost if weather permits, please advise your guide).
It will take about 3 hrs trekking on the wall. We will get off the wall at East-Five-Eye Tower at Simatai West Great Wall.

This section offers arguably the finest hiking anywhere on the Great Wall. It is extremely photogenic, with over 15 varied watch-towers and steep gradients that give constantly changing perspectives and wide open views. This section of the wall is wild, ruined, preserved and original. On a clear day, it is difficult to fail to take good photographs here.

We will drive (2 hours) to Jiankou village after lunch.

Accommodation: local farmer’s guesthouse at Jiankou Village (western toilet & shower)
Meals: breakfast/lunch/dinner

Day 6, 12 Oct - Jiankou to Mutianyu (5 hours, 10 km hiking)
We will drive 10 minutes to the start of trekking at Jiankou; a 5hr day on the wall. Today’s trek takes place on both restored and original walls.

The first one hour straight up to reach the wall, and then treks through the unrestored towers.

This section has superb scenery, dense vegetation and many fine watch-towers. The brickwork is elaborate. The wild Wall to the west is the original Ming Dynasty with fine stonework, and there are almost no other people. You will be rewarded when you approach Zhenbeilou Tower, where you will have a breathtaking view of Jiankou section. There will be a sharp contrast when you arrive at Mutianyu with the restored wall and towers.

There’s a chance to try toboggan (optional) when finishing the hike at Mutianyu.

We will then drive to Huanghuacheng village (just over an hour) for the camping experience. Basic showers are available at the guesthouse and we will also have a home-made local dinner here. Our host will take the camping equipment to the watchtower on the Wall after dinner.

We will trek back up to the Watchtower on the Wall (20 mins, torch required). Alternative accommodation is available if needed.

Accommodation: camping on the Great Wall
Meals: breakfast/lunch/dinner

Day 7, 13 Oct - Huanghuacheng to Xishuiyu (4 hours, 6 km hiking)
We wake up to the sunrise and enjoy coffee on the Great Wall; a great start to the final trek (4 hrs).

Wake up to the sunrise and enjoy coffee on the Great Wall; a great experience. Perfect for amazing photographs; there is usually no-one else about. Breakfast is down in the guesthouse after which we start the final trek (4 hrs).

Inclusions

- International flights London - Beijing - London
- Return airport transfers in Beijing
- Fully qualified English speaking local guides
- 3/4* hotel accommodation in Beijing, twin share, B&B basis
- Basic guesthouse accommodation on trek (5 nights)
- All meals & drinking water on trek
- Luggage transfer during trek (night stop to night stop)
- All trek and National Park access permits
- Ground transport as per itinerary
- Camping gear for 1 night: twin share tent, roll mat & sleeping bag per person
- Challenge Manual containing everything you need to know
- Full support before and during your trip
- Discounts from UK retailers

Exclusions

- Chinese Tourist Visa
  You will require a visa; cost approx £160 - £180. Details on how to apply are provided separately.

- Travel Insurance
  Requires policy coverage for trekking; max altitude 1534m. Check existing policies first; budget ~£40 - £60 for a stand alone policy.

- Tips for local staff
  We would recommend you should set aside £80 in either local currency of USD to be divided between the staff. Advice will be provided.

- Personal spending money

info@travelandtrek.com +44 1529 488 159 +44 7725 943 108
Itinerary

Originally built in the Beiqi Dynasty (550 A.D.-577 A.D.), Huanghuacheng was extended and consolidated in the Ming Dynasty due to its close distance to the Ming Tombs area. It was critical to protect the imperial tombs area in the Ming Dynasty. There are four defence walls in this area and Huanghuacheng is the command center. The Wall was built on steep mountain ridges and it can be seen from a far distance. Two reservoirs were built in 1970s and the Wall was cut down at two positions, thus there’s reflection of the Wall on the lakes/ reservoirs.

The Wall at the beginning is steep so pace yourself. You will meander through jungles and bushes after halfway. A stunning view is waiting for you when you reach the last watchtower. It’s quite high and you’ll feel as if you’re on top of the entire Wall; enjoy the beautiful lake scenery. On completion of the trek, there’s a hotpot lunch. Hotpot is originally from Sichuan Province and now is popular all over China. You can choose Plain or Spicy one as you like. This is also a good opportunity to practice your chopstick skills!

You will get back to hotel at 2-3 pm.

Accommodation: Beijing Hotel
Meals: breakfast/lunch/celebration dinner
Day 8, 14 Oct - City Tour of Beijing
It’s time to enjoy a day exploring China’s capital city. The guided tour will highlight the contrast of old and new, including the Old Imperial Palace known as the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square.
Lunch is included. Then it’s time to perhaps shop for some last minute souvenirs before a final dinner.
Accommodation: Beijing Hotel
Meals: breakfast
Day 9, 15 Oct - Depart Beijing

Day 10: High Speed Train back to Beijing
After breakfast, we walk through the Muslim Quarter which is alive at this time of day. We visit the Great Mosque, which displays features of both local and Arabic architecture. We then head back to the station for the wonderful high speed train journey back to Beijing.
Accommodation: hotel in Xian
Meals: L/D

Day 11: Departure Beijing
Depart for international flight back to the UK arriving the same day.

Extensions

There are numerous options to extend:

- Arrive earlier or depart later than the group in Beijing (extended time in Beijing)
- Extend up to Xi’an to see the Terracotta Army
- Extend up to Xi’an to see the Terracotta Army + the Pandas Breeding Centre

We do not charge any administration charges arriving or departing Beijing on different dates. You pay for the cost of the extension itself. The cost of the extension will very much depend on the numbers attending. General costs are shown below.

Extend To Xi’an

Day 8: City Tour of Beijing; Beijing to Xi’an by overnight Train
You will still conduct the Tour of Beijing with the group and at the appropriate time, we transfer you to the station to catch the overnight train to Xian. There is a supermarket at station if you wish to stock up on snacks and drinks.
Note: the sleeper is based on air conditioned, four-berth cabins, mixed sexes. 2 berth, en suite cabins at additional cost; not guaranteed.
Accommodation: overnight sleeper train. Meals: B/L

Day 9: Xi’an, Terracotta Warriors
On arrival in Xi’an, our guide will pick you up and drive to the Terracotta Warriors; one of the most important archaeological discovery in the 20th century. Coming back to the city, we will visit the 500-year City Wall and ride a bike on the top of the Wall. It will take 1.5 hours for 11 km. A dumpling dinner plus Tang Dynasty show will be organised at night.
Accommodation: hotel in Xi’an
Meals: L/D

Day 10: High Speed Train back to Beijing
After breakfast, we walk through the Muslim Quarter which is alive at this time of day. We visit the Great Mosque, which displays features of both local and Arabic architecture. We then head back to the station for the wonderful high speed train journey back to Beijing.
Accommodation: hotel in Xian
Meals: B/L

Day 11: Departure Beijing
Depart for international flight back to the UK arriving the same day.

Extend To Xi’an & Chengdu (Pandas)

Day 8: City Tour of Beijing; Beijing to Xi’an by overnight Train
You will still conduct the Tour of Beijing with the group and at the appropriate time, we transfer you to the station to catch the overnight train to Xian. There is a supermarket at station if you wish to stock up on snacks and drinks.
Note: the sleeper is based on air conditioned, four-berth cabins, mixed sexes. 2 berth, en suite cabins at additional cost; not guaranteed.
Accommodation: overnight sleeper train. Meals: B/L

Day 9: Xi’an, Terracotta Warriors
On arrival in Xi’an, our guide will pick you up and drive to the Terracotta Warriors; one of the most important archaeological discovery in the 20th century. Coming back to the city, we will visit the 500-year City Wall and ride a bike on the top of the Wall. It will take 1.5 hours for 11 km. A dumpling dinner plus Tang Dynasty show will be organised at night.
Accommodation: hotel in Xi’an
Meals: L/D

Day 10: Xi’an, Yangling Tomb, fly to Chengdu
After breakfast, we walk through the Muslim Quarter which is alive at this time of day. We visit the Great Mosque, which displays features of both local and Arabic architecture. On the way to airport, we will visit Yangling Tomb where half-sized terracotta figures are exhibited, a different collection from the Han Dynasty (202 BC - 220 AD).
We catch the late afternoon flight to Chengdu where our Guide will meet you at the airport and transfer to the city.
Accommodation: hotel in Chengdu
Meals: B/L/D

Day 11: Chengdu (Pandas), fly to Beijing
First thing, we head to Chengdu Research Base of Pandas Breeding where both adult and baby pandas are taken care of. They are active in the morning.
Afternoon flight to Beijing. Accommodation is in a hotel close to the airport for ease of transfer the next day; transfer is by the hotel shuttle bus.
Accommodation: airport hotel in Beijing
Meals: B/L

Day 11: Departure Beijing
Depart for international flight back to the UK arriving the same day.
**Challenge Costs**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total Cost for your trip (includes deposit below)</th>
<th>£1850</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Payment Breakdown</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deposit for all payment options</td>
<td>£350</td>
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<tr>
<td>+ Plus one of the following payment options</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self funded balance *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsorship funded fundraising total</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexi funded additional personal contribution **</td>
<td>£500</td>
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<tr>
<td>fundraising total</td>
<td>£2000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Your payment is made up of an interim payment of £500 due 7-8 months prior to departure, plus the balance payment of £1000 which is due 60 days prior to departure.

**Payment Options Explained**

There are 3 payment options to choose from when you sign up. With all 3, there is the initial deposit which is your personal contribution towards the cost of your challenge. This is not a fee for administration but will secure the services/flights for your trip and forms part of the overall trip cost.

**Self Funded**

This option allows you to pay the entire cost of your trip yourself. An interim payment is due 7-8 months prior to departure with the balance payment due 60 days prior to your departure. You can then make arrangements directly with your chosen charity and all money you raise will go directly to that charity.

**Sponsorship Funded**

You commit to raising a minimum amount of sponsorship for your chosen charity from which the remaining balance for your trip will be paid. You will be asked to complete a pledge form with the charity setting out the target dates and any guidelines required; this is a requirement of your booking. Your chosen charity will support your fundraising throughout and all sponsorship money you raise must be paid to them upon receipt. Generally, the sponsorship target is set to ensure that a minimum of 50% of the money you raise is retained by the charity. All money raised above the target will also be retained by the charity. Your fundraising target must be met, and paid to the charity, a min of 10 weeks prior to your departure date. This enables them to pay the remaining balance for your trip with no financial risk to themselves.

**Flexi Funded**

In addition to the deposit, you pay a 2nd personal contribution, 7-8 months prior to departure which reduces the fundraising target. You then commit to raising a minimum amount of sponsorship for your chosen charity from which the remaining balance for your trip will be paid. You will be asked to complete a pledge form with the charity setting out the target dates and any guidelines required; this is a requirement of your booking. Your chosen charity will support your fundraising throughout and all sponsorship money you raise must be paid to them upon receipt. Generally, the sponsorship target is set to ensure that a minimum of 50% of the money you raise is retained by the charity. All money raised above the target will also be retained by the charity. Your fundraising target must be met, and paid to the charity, a min of 10 weeks prior to your departure date. This enables them to pay the remaining balance for your trip with no financial risk to themselves.

**Your financial protection**

You are financially protected against our insolvency. Our ATOL Licence number is 10755. Click here to view verification.

When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong.

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvent, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with the services you have bought or a suitable alternative (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable).

If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolveny, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. That agree that in return for such a payment of benefit you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent (or your credit card issuer where applicable). You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.

Click here for Consumer Information on your ATOL protection.
Your questions answered

Is this challenge for me and how tough is it?
We will be walking between 3 - 5 hours per day, occasionally longer if it is necessary (usually not). We don’t usually work in distance as the terrain plays a huge part, therefore we always work in hours. Temperatures during the day (sun up) will vary between 15° and 35° and the night temperatures correspondingly lower.
There are lots of steps on this trek! The Great Wall follows the natural terrain of undulating hills so it’s generally either up or down; rarely flat. It can therefore be quite demanding in places but taken at a sensible pace, it can be achieved. We recommend a reasonable level of fitness and adopt a regular training regime well before you depart.
There are no altitude issues, the highest point on the entire Wall is only 1534m so way inside anything that will affect you.
We include 1 night camping up on the Wall to enhance your experience; sleeping bag and mat and tents are all provided.
After booking, you will be asked to complete an Emergency Details Form which will include your medical history. If we have any doubts about your ability to take part in the challenge, we may ask you to provide a letter of fitness from your GP , therefore we would recommend that if you have any concerns, you speak to your GP prior to booking.

What is a typical day like on trek?
Most days will begin at 8am, having had breakfast. Whether that be ready to get into the vehicle or to begin trekking from the guesthouse will depend on the day.
There are regular breaks during trekking. There is no shortage of places to stop.
Lunch is either on the trek or just after you finish; it varies (see itinerary).
There is normally a drive during the day, either before or after the trek in order to travel between the various sections of the wall.
Overnight accommodation will be basic guesthouses with washing facilities and twin bedded rooms.

What will the food be like?
All of your meals will be supplied by either the accommodation we are using and/or supplies carried with us. We appreciate the creature comforts western clients like and have adapted accordingly.
Options for breakfast are homemade pancakes, omelettes, other local food, tea, coffee, water.
Picnic Lunches (if taken) are usually a spread of breads, ham, cheese, salad (cucumber, tomato, etc.) and you can make your own.
Lunches at guesthouses will be a mix of chinese food.
Evening meal; meat and vegetables + drinks.

If you have a preferred snack bar or similar, consider taking your own as China is pretty much stuck on Snickers!

What about special dietary requirements?
Virtually all individual dietary requirements can be catered for if you let us know in advance.

Can I travel on my own?
Yes! Our ‘Open Challenge’ trips are available to anyone wishing to join, either as a group or as an individual. Groups form close bonds even if they have never met before the challenge, which makes our trips such a huge success with those taking part and leads to lifelong friendships. In some situations, it’s also possible to join one of our closed groups challenges if the charity and the group are open to additional members. There is no harm in asking!

Will I have to pay a single supplement?
Not unless you request sole occupation.
Generally, all accommodation is on a twin share, same-sex basis. We will pair you with another member of the group. If you wish to be paired with someone specific within the group, just let us know.
If you decide that you would like to have your own room, we can accommodate this and an additional fee will be applicable and payable personally. Please indicate your preference on the booking form.
If you do not indicate that you wish to have sole occupation and you happen to be the odd one out, then you will be accommodated on your own at no additional cost.

Requested Sole Occupation fee for this Challenge: £210

What will the accommodation be like?
Beijing - We use quality 3/4* hotels for the final 2 nights you stay in the city. The hotels are well equipped with free wifi!
On Trek - local farmer guesthouses. These are located close to the Wall. They have twin bedded rooms, western style toilets and showers. Be aware that the beds are quite hard! Mattresses in the countryside are generally filled with straw.
Camping - there is just 1 night camp but it is not compulsory. The camp is up by the Watch Tower and provides a unique and different experience of the Wall, seeing the sunrise over the horizon with no-one else about. Tents, sleeping bags and sleeping mats (air filled) are provided. Recommended.

What do you mean by ‘Early Guarantee Status’?
Unlike many companies, we will guarantee this trip with just 4 people,
Your questions answered

even if they are independent travellers. This means that from a very early stage you can fundraise and make your travel plans, safe in the knowledge that your trip will not be cancelled at a late stage due to minimum numbers not being reached.

We have organised many trips at the last minute for people who have achieved their fundraising total, only to find that the trip is cancelled by other companies two months before they are due to depart. We know how vital this assurance is.

How big are your groups?

Our average group size 4 - 8, however we can accommodate smaller (supplement) or larger groups if required.

Can I extend my stay?

As long as you let us know at the time of booking, we can adjust your outbound or return flights so that you can enjoy some additional time in country. We don’t make any charge for this adjustment and as long as your revised dates are not affected by increase flight prices, the cost will only increase by the amount of additional services you book.

If you would like to extend and discuss the options with us then we’re more than happy to help.

Some suggestions:

- Spend an extra night or two in Beijing.
- Extend out to Xi’an to see the Terracotta Warriors (3 nt extension).
- Extend to Xi’an and the Panda Breeding Centre (4 nt extension).

When is the best time to go?

Late Mar - early Nov is considered the optimum months for completing this challenge.

Temperatures during the day can reach 35° in the summer months.

Our advertised dates try to avoid busy seasons.

Do I need a visa?

Yes; UK Nationals will require a visa, obtained through the Chinese Visa Application Service Centre. We will provide full details of how to do this but expect to pay £160 - £180

Can I book if I’m travelling from overseas?

Yes. If you live outside the UK then please contact us and we will be able to make arrangements for you to meet in country on a Land Only basis or connect with our flights from the UK.

Do bear in mind that on arrival, our UK groups will be transferring straight out to the mountains (2 hr) drive, so you would need to link into that transport and therefore it may affect what time you need to arrive.

Can we book as a private group?

Yes. All of our challenges can be booked for a private group either through the charity of your choice or as an independent group of friends fundraising for one or more charities. You will have the option to choose dates to suit and also amend the itinerary to either lengthen or shorten your trip as required.

Can I choose any charity?

You can choose your charity when booking onto an open challenge or if you are booking as a group. We work with many of the large as well as smaller charities which are local, national and internationally based.

Before your booking can be processed, we need confirmation from your chosen charity which we will organise on your behalf. Please be aware that some larger charities will now only accept self funded challenges.

How soon should I book? / How long to fundraise?

We would always advise that you book your challenge as soon as possible (many opt to book a year in advance) to allow plenty of time for fundraising. Fundraising target dates are 10 weeks before departure.

That said, if flights and the trip you are interested in still have availability, you can book at any time, particularly if you are choosing the self funded payment method.

If you want to book onto a specific challenge then we would always advise that you contact us first to discuss the funding options in relation to the timescale before departure.

How do I book?

A Charity Challenge is one of the most rewarding events you can take part in.

Once you decide what you want to do and when you would like to go, the next thing is to decide which charity you would like to fundraise for.

We would even suggest that you contact us to have a chat about the challenge and in particular if you are taking on a sponsorship method so that we can contact the charity to seek their approval for the funding.

Before booking any challenge, we would recommend that you thoroughly check through our booking conditions as acceptance is a requirement of your booking.

Once approval is in place, we will issue you with:

- The charity pledge form.
- Our booking form - available on line or to download.

These forms should be returned to us together with your deposit.

Those who are self funding can complete the booking form and forward it to us with their deposit.

How to Pay can be found on the Booking Page.

What happens after I book?

Once we receive your completed booking, we will issue you with a confirmation letter, ATOL certificate, receipt invoice, the Challenge Manual and details of any retail discounts available to our clients. You will also be provided with a link to the client area of our web site. Here you will be able to access our required forms, and information which will help you prepare for your challenge.