



GWTA27– Summit of Great Wall Challenge Hiking (private)

Two-day from Jiankou to Simatai West

PRICE

| Group size | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Price/USD each | 360 | 370 | 380 | 400 | 420 | 420 | 450 | 690 |

For group sizes over 9 please send us an email request to obtain the best possible rate.

Children under age 12 are not allowed to take this tour.

Remember when comparing price, you get what you pay for. We don't earn money by taking you to commissioned shopping stops, a common practice in China, wasting your time. Our guides are carefully selected, highly trained and well-paid to be friendly and patient travel companions. We are not the cheapest, but we are one of the best.

BOOKING: customer@greatwallhiking.com

WHY US?

- Great Wall hiking specialist with western standard service
- No hidden cost; no unscheduled or mandatory shopping stops
- Licensed tour guides and experienced drivers; safe and comfortable vehicles
- Your satisfaction and safety is our priority
- Responsible travel

TRIP NOTES

Trip name: Summit of Great Wall Challenge Hiking: Two-day from Jiankou to Simatai West (private)

Trip code: GWTA27

Trip length: 2 days

Hiking route: Jiankou, Mutianyu, Lianhuachi, Gubeikou, Jinshanling & Simatai West

Meeting point & time: your hotel lobby at 07:00 on Day 1

Finishing point & time: your hotel lobby at 17:00-18:00 depending on traffic on Day 2

Hiking duration: 6.5 - 7 hours on Day 1; 7 - 7.5 hours on Day 2

Hiking distance: 10 km on Day 1; 14 km on Day 2

Best time to go: April/May/September/October, it's very hot (30-35 C) in June/July/August

Physical rating: ★★★★★ **Strenuous**

Departure: your selected date, start and finish in Beijing, March to November

Highlights:

- *Wild Great Wall at Jiankou, Lianhuachi Gubeikou, Simatai West,
- *Partially restored Great Wall at Jinshanling & Mutianyu
- *Stunning photo opportunity of the Great Wall
- *Countryside-style food at local farmer's guesthouse
- *Challenging hiking route



Included:

- air-con vehicle with experienced driver
- personal expert English-speaking hiking tour guide
- entrance fees for both sections of the Great Wall
- one night twin-shared accommodation at local farmer's guesthouse
- unlimited bottled water; snacks; late lunch at local farmer's restaurant after the hike
- a certificate of completion for hiking on the Great Wall of China

Not included:

- travel insurance
- cable car, chairlift or any other additional local facilities
- personal expenses
- tipping of hiking guide/driver recommended on good service on a 2:1 ratio separately

What to take:

comfortable **hiking boots**, sunscreen, sun-glasses, lip balm, cap, day pack

Notes:

- There is no toilet along the path on the Wall. There are toilets at the entrance of Jiankou, Gubeikou and Simatai West. Please prepare before hiking and always carry toilet paper by yourself.
- Please don't make any appointment after the trip as the return depending on the traffic between 5-6 pm.
- You will be followed by local farmers at Jinshanling. The farmers will give you help along the way, as a reward they will sell some souvenirs. If you don't like this, you have to say NO firmly at the beginning (MAYBE LATER does not work in Chinese culture) or just ignore them and not speak a word with them; otherwise they can be persistent and follow you all the way on the Wall.
- Unlimited bottled waters are stored in our car/van today, and you need a day pack to carry them.
- We will bring trekking poles in our car/van and please tell your guide if you need one.
- It's recommended to prepare some snacks before your departure from Beijing if you don't like snickers.
- Travel insurance is optional and is the sole responsibility of travellers. It is encouraged to have coverage of injury or accident.
- As responsible travellers, we "take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprint".

DETAILED ITINERARY

In this 2-day challenging hiking, you will complete what the regular hikers walk for 4 days at Jiankou, Mutianyu, Lianhuachi, Gubeikou, Jinshanling & Simatai West, all photogenic sections of the Great Wall around Beijing. Every section of the Wall is different from the other, as well as the scenery. There are many ups and downs, as well as some big and steep steps. You have to be prepared for this lifetime adventure!

Day 1 Beijing - Jiankou - Mutianyu - Lianhuachi - Gubeikou (6.5 - 7 hours, 10 km hiking)

Pick you up at your Beijing hotel at 7am and drive 2 hours to Jiankou. Our hike starts from a small village at the foot of the mountain. The first hour is a challenging straight up to Zhenbeilou Tower where we will have panoramic view of all Jiankou section. We will be rewarded by stunning scenery by the hard walk, and this is a great photo spot. The superb views, dense vegetation and many watch-towers make this a memorable trek. After refreshment and photo taking, we will continue eastward to Mutianyu. We have walked 2 hours so far and will approach Mutianyu soon which is a popular section among regular tourists hordes. The rest of walking today is mainly downstairs. There's a sharp contrast between original Jiankou and restored Mutianyu. Keep walking on Mutianyu for 2 hours and we will leave the tourist behind and come across remote section at Lianhuachi. The last 1.5 hours steps are crumbling and we have to watch our feet carefully. Our driver is waiting for us at the end and we will then drive 2 hours to Gubeikou.



Jiankou & Mutianyu Great Wall

Jiankou or the Arrow Nock is probably the most steep and dangerous section of the Great Wall around Beijing. We will skip the dangerous section, but not losing the beautiful scenery. The Wall was built on very narrow ridge, some part is just half-meter wide. Some part is almost vertical. The builders collected local stone for construction. We will check the basement of the Wall and find that one piece of stone will exceed two tons. Thanks to the solid stone and hard work of hundreds of thousands of builders, the Wall still stand here and we could walk today.

Both Jiankou and Mutianyu sections of the Wall were built in the Ming Dynasty (1368 A.D.-1644 A.D.). Mutianyu is well-known for its dense vegetation and with fine stonework. It benefits from a recent restoration in 1980s. The brickwork is elaborate, with crenellations on both sides and finely curved eaves on some watchtower roofs. There are decorative gables with animal statues, and tablets bearing calligraphy above some entrances.

Meals: picnic lunch/dinner

Accommodation: Great Wall Inn Gubeikou

Day 2 Simatai West - Jinshanling - Gubeikou - Beijing (7 - 7.5 hours, 14 km hiking)

Finishing breakfast by 7am and drive 30 minutes to Simatai West. A 40-minute walking up will lead you to East-Five-Eye watchtower at Simatai West. You may take a few breaths before reaching the Wall, and will be rewarded by the breathtaking panoramic view of this amazing human constructions. Once standing on the top of the Wall, you could see Simatai, Jinshanling and Gubeikou in a clear day, what a spectacular view! We will walk mainly on brick steps at Jinshanling section and some of them are big. This section of the Wall is very popular among keen photographers for its intact watchtowers, beacon towers and other solid constructions. The steps rise up and down constantly and scenery is changing at every watchtower. Take a short break and some photos here, we will then walk westward to Jinshanling. We will get through Shalingkou and Zhuanduokou and then off the Wall at West-Five-Eye watchtower for 2.5 hours. We will climb up the mountain again walk on hilly path and then farmer field for. Coming back to the Wall again at 24-Eye Watchtower at Gubeikou, we could see the panoramic view of the Crouching Tiger Hill in a distance if weather permits. The rest of 1.5 hours' walking on the Dragon Hill is relatively flat and easier. We will come back to Great Wall Inn for a late lunch. We will drive 2.5 hours back to the city.

Jinshanling & Gubeikou Great Wall

Jinshanling is the name given to the wall situated on the Jinshan Mountains. Its earliest section was built in the 6th Century but most of what you see now also dates from the Ming Dynasty. The walkway along the top is paved with square bricks providing a level surface wide enough to construct batteries. Poems and tablet writings can be found here, left from the time General Qi Jiguang directed building of this section of the Great Wall. Barrier walls were built leading to the enemy to protect the towers. Some of the towers were storerooms for food, hay and weapons.

In 1378 (the 11th year of Emperor Hongwu's reign in the Ming Dynasty), General Xu Da ordered this section of the Great Wall rebuilt. Gubeikou has probably seen more battles than any other parts of the Great wall, including some of the most famous in Chinese history. On the southern slope of Gubeikou stands a temple dedicated to Yang Ye, a famous Great Wall garrison general of the Song Dynasty. This is one of the oldest temples dedicated to this general in China. In WWII there's fierce fighting between Chinese and Japanese armies for weeks, and a cemetery for some 300 Chinese soldiers is preserved close to the Wall.

Meals: breakfast/sandwiches/lunch



PAYMENT

We accept credit card payment via Paypal which is safe and fast. **Non-refundable deposit** is required via Paypal at the time of booking, remaining payment can be paid via Paypal as well before leaving home. If you want to pay the outstanding balance upon arrival, then only cash payment (either USD or CNY) is accepted. Please note that Paypal may not work **when you are already in China** due to safety concerns.

CANCELLATION POLICY

| Days before departure | Charge applicable |
|-----------------------|--|
| Not less than 14 days | Loss of deposit |
| Between 7 and 13 days | Loss of 50% of the total booking cost or loss of deposit; whichever is the greater |
| 6 days or less | Loss of total booking cost |

Google Earth Info:

Note: the actual hiking distance is longer than the Earth info.

Day 1:

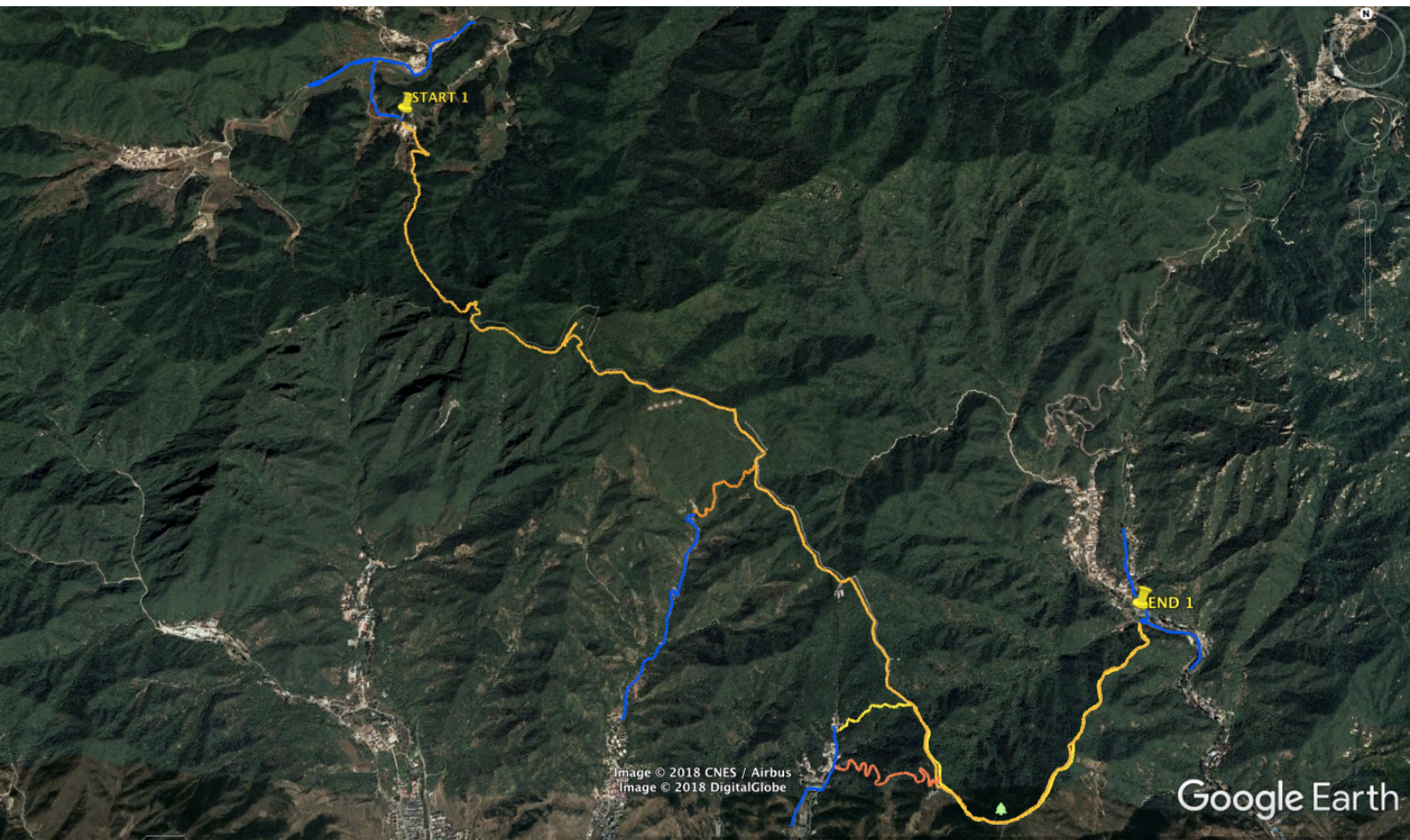
Distance: 9.04 km;

Elev Gain: 683 m;

Elev Loss: -1002m;

Max Slope: 47.7%, -53.5%;

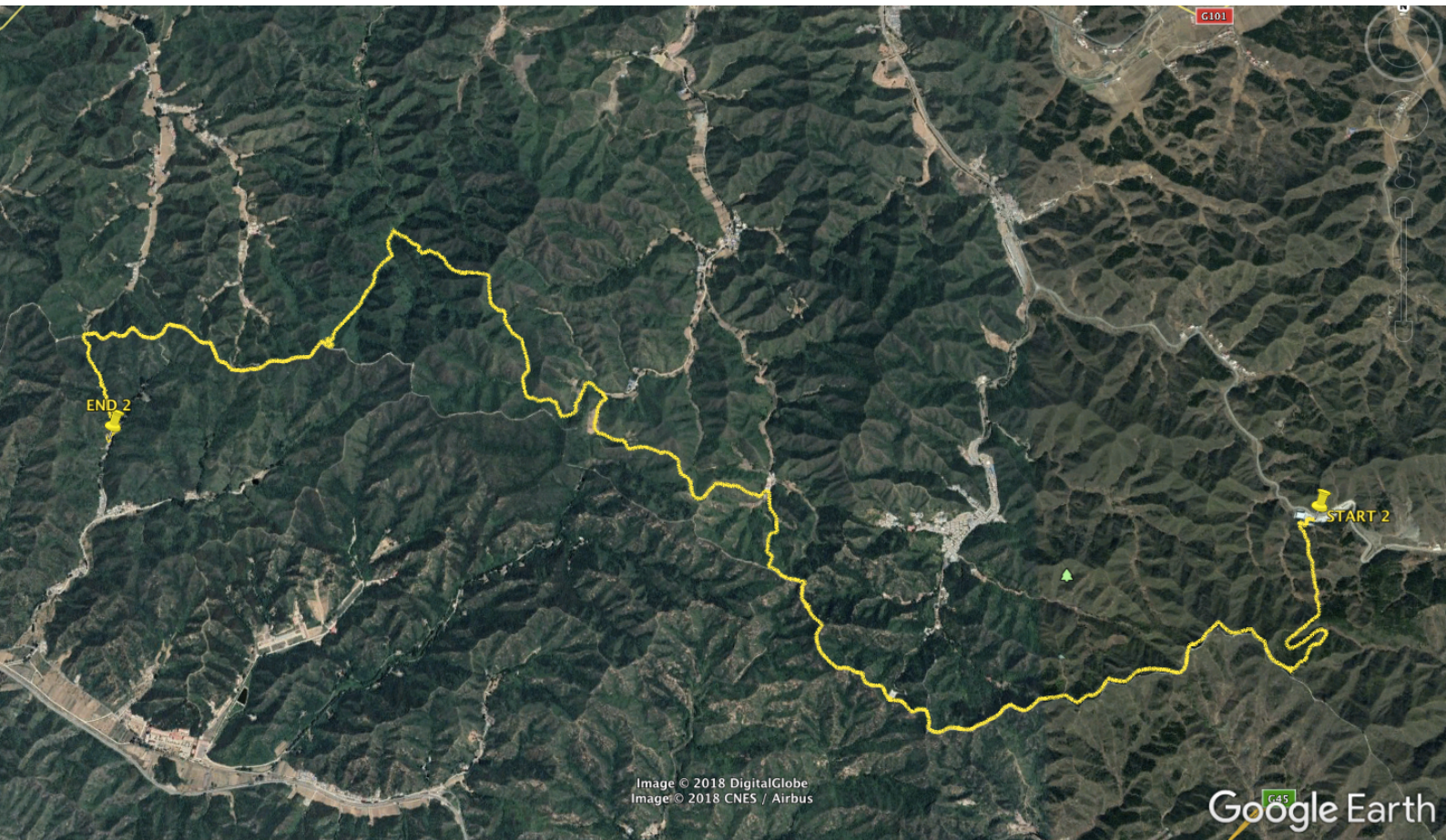
Avg Slope: 15.9%,-17.5%





Day 2:

Distance: 12.9 km
Elev Gain: 676 m
Elev Loss: -810m
Max Slope: 32.4%, -33.0%
Avg Slope: 10.2%, -10.9%





Advertisement

Mountain Escape Yangshuo, a hidden retreat in peaceful Yulong village, plan an exotic holiday and enjoy the breathtaking natural beauty of Yangshuo and its surrounding area.

Gary, founder at Great Wall Hiking, starts his adventure of a boutique accommodation project in South China's Yangshuo, well-known for its karst mountains and rivers landscape. His family is welcoming friends all over the world in the village. Staying is opened by **Feb 6, 2017**.

Get **30%** discount with promo code **GWH** when booking at www.mountainscapeyangshuo.com.

