



GWPA61- Essential Great Wall Hiking

Six-day from Huangyaguan to Shixiaguan

PRICE

Group size	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Price/USD each	940	980	1120	1160	1200	1320	1420	2290

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

Children under age 12 receive 50% discount. Children under 5 are free. Children's price is based on adult travelers. Please send us children's details in email.

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: Essential Great Wall Hiking from Huangyaguan to Shixiaguan

Trip code: GWPA61

Trip length: 6 days

Hiking route: Huangyaguan, Gubeikou, Jinshanling, Simatai West, Jiankou, Mutianyu, Huanghuacheng, Xishuiyu, Old Badaling, Shixiaguan

Meeting point & time: your hotel at 08:00 on Day 1

Finishing point & time: your hotel at 16:00-17:00 on Day 6

Hiking duration: 3 hours on Day 1, 5 hours on Day 2, 3 hours on Day 3, 5 hours on Day 4, 4 hours on Day 5, 4 hours on Day 6

Best time to go: late March to early November

Highlights:

- *Hike on less-visited, wild, original, restored and safe sections of the Great Wall
- *Try varied home-made food at local farmer's guesthouses
- *Learn Chinese dumpling-making at one local family
- *Optional sunrise watching if weather permits
- *Insight visit to local villages near the Great Wall

Physical rating: ★★★★★ **Strenuous**

Departure: your selected date, start and finish in Beijing, all year round



Included:

- comfortable air-con vehicle with experienced driver
- fully-escorted personal expert English-speaking hiking tour guide
- entrance fees of all sections of the Great Wall as listed
- 5 nights twin-shared accommodation in local hotels or guesthouses
- unlimited bottled water; meals as listed in the itinerary; daily snacks (mainly snickers)
- a certificate of completion for hiking on the Great Wall of China

Not included:

- travel insurance
- cable car, chairlift, toboggan (slideway), flyingfox (zipline) or any other additional local facilities
- personal expenses
- tipping of hiking guide/driver recommended on good service on a 2:1 ratio separately (CNY 50/25 per person per day for guide and driver respectively can be guideline)

What to take:

Passport (with photocopies)

Travel insurance (with photocopies, is required to show us before tour departure)

USD cash and travellers' cheques

Credit card or debit card

China entry visas (or vaccination certificates) required

Day pack (with water tank, or water bottle) for daily personal items

Wet wipes/Moist towelettes

Alarm clock

Flashlight/torch

Sun hat, sun block, sunglasses

Insect repellent

Ear plugs for light sleepers

Small towel

Toiletries (biodegradable)

Sturdy walking shoes/sports sandals/hiking boots

Money belt

Shorts for summer months (June-August)

Zip-off hiking pants/track pants

Shirts/T-shirts

Fleece, jacket, hat and gloves (in winter)

Waterproof jacket

Cover for backpack or plastic bags to keep clothes dry

Camera and memory card

Reading/writing material

First-aid kit

Notes:

- You will hike the Wall from A to B and you need a day pack to carry water, snacks and other personal stuff.
- Travel insurance is optional and is the sole responsibility of travellers. It is strongly encouraged to have coverage of injury or accident.
- There is no toilet along the path on the Wall. There are toilets at entrances of all sections of the Great Wall, otherwise be prepared to commune with nature. Please prepare before hiking and always carry toilet paper by yourself.
- Unlimited bottled waters are stored in our vehicle.



- We will bring trekking poles in our vehicle and please tell your guide if you need one.
- Since this trip will go through jungles and bushes, then long pants with zip-off legs will be the best in summer time and shorts are not recommended.
- You will be followed by local farmers when starting the hike on Day 3. 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.
- It's recommended to prepare your own 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".

Customized pick-up & drop-off:

If you plan the hike on the first or last day of your duration in Beijing, we can include a customized pick-up or drop-off at the following points without additional cost. It's safe to store your luggage at our car/van.

Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK at T1/T2/T3): arrival before 7am or departure after 7pm

Beijing Railway Station: arrival before 8am or departure after 7pm

Beijing West Railway Station (train to/from Xi'an): arrival before 8am or departure after 7:30pm

Beijing South Railway Station (train to/from Shanghai): arrival before 8am or departure after 7pm

DETAILED ITINERARY

Overview:

Day 1	Beijing to Huangyaguan
Day 2	Gubeikou to Jinshanling
Day 3	Jinshanling to Simatai West
Day 4	Jiankou to Mutianyu
Day 5	Huanghuacheng to Xishuiyu
Day 6	Old Badaling to Shixiaguan, back to Beijing

Day 1: Beijing to Huangyaguan (3 hours, 4 km hiking)

In the morning at 8am we will depart to Huangyaguan, a 2.5-hour journey. We will walk the Wall from Taipingzhai to Huangyaguan in 3 hours. If you're energetic, you may challenge yourself by climbing up to the top of Sky Stairs. A lunch will be organised after the hike and then we will drive to Gubeikou village and stay overnight in this village.

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. In May each year marathon runners from around the world come here to participate in one of the world's most demanding courses, with exhausting ascents, steep descents and more than 5,164 steps. We only walk this section once, rather than completing the circuit twice as is required of the marathon runners.

Accommodation: local farmer's guesthouse at Gubeikou village (western toilet & shower)

Meals: lunch/dinner

Day 2: Gubeikou to Jinshanling (5 hours, 10 km hiking)

We drive for 20 minutes after breakfast to the entrance of Gubeikou, from where we trek to Jinshanling. Gubeikou is located 146 kilometres north of Beijing. It has the Panlong (Coiling 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 hiking on the wall of 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 Jinshanling section. We will then off the wall to have fresh Chinese dishes in a local farmer's restaurant.

We will drive 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 included: breakfast/lunch/dinner

Day 3: Jinshanling to Simatai West (3 hours, 6 km hiking)

We will drive to Jinshanling in 20 minutes 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 hours hiking 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 watch-towers, and steep gradients that give constantly changing perspectives and wide, open views. There is fascinating variety in the watchtowers here. Some have two storeys, others three. Some have flat roofs, others rounded and others again are pitched with upturned eaves. The walkway along the top is paved with square bricks providing a level surface wide enough to construct or erect batteries. 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 4: Jiankou to Mutianyu (5 hours, 10 km hiking)

We will drive 40 minutes to start the hiking at Jiankou, and it will take 5 hours hiking on the wall. You will hike on both restored and original walls. We will drive (1.5 hours) to Xishuiyu village after lunch.

Jiankou to Mutianyu section offers a wonderfully satisfying experience of the Wall. It has superb scenery, dense vegetation and many fine watch-towers in an excellent restored section which is about six metres



broad. 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. The first one hour is going straight up and reaches the wall, and then hikes unrestored towers. 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 Zhenbeitou 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.

Accommodation: local farmer's guesthouse at Xishuiyu village (Chinese toilet & shower)

Meals: breakfast/lunch/dinner

Day 5: Huanghuacheng to Xishuiyu (4 hours, 6 km hiking)

We will finish our breakfast by 8am and then start the hike for 4 hours today.

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 at this area and Huanghuacheng is the commanding 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 and you have to take many breaks to ease your pace. You will meander through jungles and bushes after halfway. A stunning view is waiting for you when you reach the last watchtower at today's hike. You feel like you stand on the top of the Wall and enjoy a beautiful lake scenery.

We will drive to Yanqing after lunch, a town close to the next hiking section.

Accommodation: hotel in Yanqing

Meals: breakfast/lunch/hotpot dinner

Day 6: Badaling to Shixiaguan, Beijing (4 hours, 7 km hiking)

Finish breakfast by 8am and drive for 40 minutes to Old Badaling (instead of the well-known Badaling which can accommodate 10,000 people every day) to start our hike toward Shixiaguan. It will take 4 hours hike on the Wall.

Badaling played a very important role to defence the capital from attacking by Mongols in the Ming Dynasty (1368 AD-1644 AD). The mountain slope is very steep and the roads are tortuous. These features made it a military stronghold. The wall is like a strong dragon winding its way along the mountain ranges. We will walk on the less-visited part of Badaling and finish the hike at Shixiaguan.

We will have lunch en route and then drive back to Beijing. Your Great Wall experience with us will finish at your hotel.

Meals included: breakfast/lunch

Accommodation details:

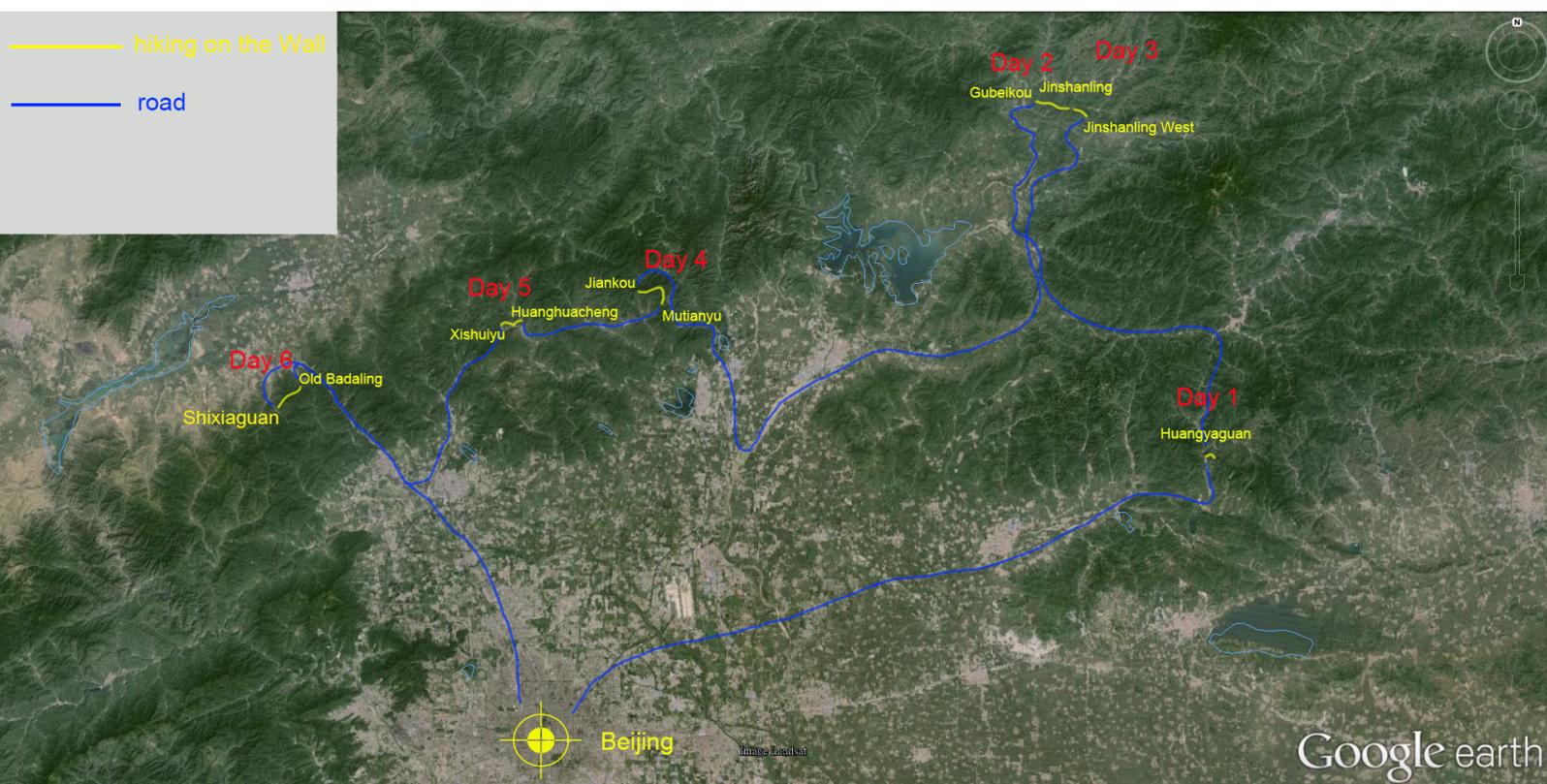
Day	Location	Accommodation	Style
1	Gubeikou village	Local farmer's guesthouse	comfort
2	Gubeikou village	Local farmer's guesthouse	comfort
3	Jiankou village	Local farmer's guesthouse	basic
4	Xishuiyu village	Local farmer's guesthouse	basic
5	Yanqing	Local hotel	comfort

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





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.mountainescapeyangshuo.com.

