

great wall cycle challenge, kit list



The items listed below are purely recommendations. The list has been designed by the local ground handler and past challenge leaders; however please take into account your personal preferences and common sense. We are open to further recommendations upon your return. See what you can borrow, and if you need to purchase any items, remember that you can get a discount on equipment and clothing from various well known suppliers and outdoor shops – for more information, please refer to the document “Kit Discount” which you will find in your member’s area in the “Challenge Pack” section once you have booked and paid your deposit.

If you would prefer to hire kit, please contact Outdoor Hire, a company specialising in the hire of top quality outdoor gear. They are working with Charity Challenge to provide all the kit you need for your challenge and offer a 10% discount to Charity Challenge customers who have booked onto one of our challenges. Simply obtain the promotional code by referring to the document “Kit Discount” which you will find in your member’s area, and then go to <http://www.outdoorhire.co.uk/charity-challenge/>, select the kit list for the challenge you have booked and follow the online instructions for how to hire the kit you need.

Try to use your equipment before you go – particularly your rucksack, cycling kit, boots and sleeping bag (if camping) – this will show up any manufacturing faults and whether they are comfortable enough. Good footwear and care of the feet is most important. Well broken-in walking boots should be worn on treks. Trainers are too flimsy for wilderness treks and trainer boots are not appropriate. Sandals leave the feet exposed to sunburn, abrasions, thorns, insect and animal bites.

Bring as little as possible but bring everything you need. Travelling light is much less of a hassle, so do not bring things you can do without. If you need to wear jewellery, keep it simple and inexpensive. The general rule is that if you don’t need it, don’t bring it. Always keep your night clothes in a watertight bag to ensure they stay dry if there is a sudden downpour or if you are crossing water – you will have a much better night’s sleep in dry clothing. Bring clothes that wash and dry easily (jeans take forever to dry and should not be worn on the trek).

Your main bag should not weigh more than 15kg. If you exceed this limit, you may be charged for excess luggage on internal flights or when entering National Parks. Additionally, in line with our responsible tourism policy, it is important not to overload the porters and transfer agents who have to carry and transport it. Your hand luggage should not exceed 5kg and maximum dimensions of 56x45x25cms. Please make sure you pack your rucksack/kit bag yourself, and do NOT under any circumstances take any items through customs that are not yours or that you have been asked to deliver for someone else.

If possible, lock your bags before you check them through at the check-in desk. When packing, think carefully about what you are packing in your hold luggage as, once you have handed it over at check-in, you will not see it again until you arrive at the other end. Don’t pack things you will need again before or during the flight – such as medicine - and make sure you have an adequate supply. Keep extra cash, passports and house keys in your hand luggage. Also, if taking a long flight, it is sometimes a good idea to take toiletries such as toothbrush to freshen up on the long journey but please do remember that there are strict regulations governing the transport of liquids in hand luggage. For the most up-to-date air travel hand luggage rules, please follow the link [here](#).

Don’t pack valuables, cash, fragile or perishable items in your hold luggage. Airlines and insurance companies will not accept liability for them. When leaving the UK, we recommend that you wear your trekking boots and trekking/cycling gear, and take as much as possible in your hand luggage, especially a full day’s underwear and other clothing. This is to ensure that in the unlikely situation that your bags do not arrive at your final destination, you are still able to make a start on the expedition while we relocate any missing baggage.

item	take it?
baggage	
Large Rucksack or soft holdall (a suitcase is not appropriate)	Yes
Day Rucksack (for sun cream, camera, spare battery and memory card, water bottles etc)	Yes
Sleeping bag liner and pillow case, recommended added warmth during the cooler months of March and October (sheets and pillows provided by lodge, however some participants may want to supply their own)	optional
clothing	
Cycling Helmet (MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHILST CYCLING) and Bike Lights	Yes
Cycling Gloves	Optional
Cycling Shorts x 3 (padded for cycling is advisable- worn with no underwear/stitching causes pain)	Yes
Loose Shorts (to wear over cycling shorts for modesty reasons)	Optional

Long Trousers / Sarong (to wear over your shorts in order to respect the local culture, when in villages – men & women)	Yes
Comfortable footwear for cycling	Yes
Long-Sleeved Shirt	Yes
T-Shirts	Yes
Long trousers or skirt and long sleeved top (for visiting temples)	Optional
Lightweight Fleece	Yes
Swimwear (there maybe swimming pools)	Optional
Underwear (cotton light & loose – to avoid saddle sore in the heat)	Yes
Socks	Yes
Dress/Skirt/Sarong	Optional
Sandals/Flip Flops/Trainers for evenings	Yes
Wide Brimmed Hat	Optional
Cotton Scarf	Optional
Waterproofs (jacket and trousers)	Yes
Gloves (for March and October cycles only)	Optional
Warm hat (March and October Cycles only and April evenings)	Optional
Sightseeing clothes (casual for evenings and for your day in Beijing)	Yes
hygiene	
Toothbrush & toothpaste, soap (anti bacterial or bio-degradable), shampoo/conditioner (bio-degradable), lip salve with sun protection, antiseptic wipes, toilet paper/tissues (you may need this in the hotels but also when using public toilets as not provided), anti-bacterial dry hand wash, wet wipes (limited hot water in certain lodges which will affect showering in cooler seasons)	Yes
Razor & Cream, Sanitary Products, Shower Gel, Travel Towel, Deodorant, Hairbrush/Comb	Optional
health	
Insect Repellent (you may want to bring this but insects are few in China)	Optional
Vitamins	Optional
After Sun/Moisturiser	Yes
Sun Protection (factor 20 minimum)	Yes
documents (where relevant, please leave a copy at home with your next of kin)	
Passport	Yes
Visa (see China Fact File for more information)	Yes
Air Travel Tickets (issued at the airport)	Yes
Cash	Yes
Travellers Cheques	Optional
Credit Card	Optional
Travel Insurance	Yes
Vaccination Certificates (not needed as a condition of entry however very useful if medical attn needed in country, originals not necessary)	Optional
other	
Gel seat	Optional
Camera & spare battery and memory card	Optional
Clip Pedals (SPD, Look...) and relevant shoes (bring only if you have and are experienced in using them)	Optional
Seat bag / frame bag (for small items and repair equipment)	Optional
Puncture repair kit	Yes
Mini pump	Optional
Spare inner-tubes	Optional
Toe clips	Optional
Sunglasses (good quality with high 100% UV protection)	Yes
Water Bladder (2 Litre, minimum) or Water Bottle (it is recommended to fill a Water bladder in your day sack so you have continuous access to your water throughout the day. Main cause of illness and Fatigue is dehydration)	Yes
Spread for toast (marmite, jam etc) & hot chocolate / fruit or English teas (hotel supplies are basic	Optional
Odometer	Optional

High Energy Snacks (Tracker Bars, dried fruit and nuts)	Optional
Contact Lenses (bring spare lenses and glasses in case of dust)	Optional
Guide book/novel	Optional
Ear Plugs	Optional
Cord Or String	Optional
Re-Sealable Plastic Bags (for laundry etc)	Optional
Sewing Kit	Optional
Note Book And Pen(s)	Optional
Alarm Clock, Watch	Yes
small first aid kit	
Pain Killers/Paracetamol	Yes
Adhesive Dressing (plasters), Compeed Blister Pads	Yes
Antiseptic Spray	Yes
Diarrhoea Tablets	Yes
Anti-histamine tablets (i.e: Piriton)	Yes
Motion sickness tablets	Optional
Any Medication You Normally Use	Yes
Vaseline	Yes