

CH>RITY
CH>LLENGE



TRIP NOTES

**BELIEVE
ACHIEVE
INSPIRE**

**GREAT WALL CYCLE CHALLENGE
CHINA**

Fri 13 Sep - Sun 22 Sep 2013





In aid of your choice of charity

13 Sep - 22 Sep 2013

10 DAYS | CHINA | TOUGH

The Great Wall of China was originally constructed to keep out nomadic tribes who raided China's northern frontier. As you ride alongside the Great Wall, your imagination will take you back several centuries to when the wall was the frontline defence of Imperial China.

Your cycling challenge starts in the village of Changping, north of Beijing city. Each day you will cycle approximately 75kms - 85kms in the shadows of the Great Wall, with the opportunity to set foot on the Wall itself.

This incredibly scenic challenge covers a route along one of the world's best known UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It is a demanding yet rewarding expedition, as you enjoy the vast and beautiful mountain ranges all around and witness the rural life of northern China from your saddle.

On completion of your challenge you will return to Beijing to explore some of the many attractions of China's capital city: the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and Tiananmen Square.

To view the Great Wall of China Cycle Charity Challenge photo album [click here](#)

- Cycle over 400kms in the shadows of the Great Wall of China
- Witness Imperial China's frontline defence
- Experience rural life around the UNESCO Heritage Site
- Explore Beijing's Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven
- Optional extensions to see the Terracotta Warriors and Pandas

YOUR CHALLENGE DAY BY DAY

DAY 1 Fri 13 Sep

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International Departure from London

The countdown is over as we meet at London Heathrow for the long-awaited adventure. A Charity Challenge representative will meet the group to assist with check-in.

DAY 2 Sat 14 Sep

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Transfer from Beijing airport to Changping

A local Charity Challenge agent will meet you at the airport and oversee the 2.5 hour transfer to the lodge in the Ming Tomb Reservoir area of northern Beijing. The afternoon is free to fit your bike and spend at your leisure. The first team dinner tonight will be followed by a challenge briefing. Overnight at lodge.

DAY 3 Sun 15 Sep

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Changping to Xiushui Village, Yanqing (approx 85kms)

Set off along the Ming Tomb Reservoir to the mausoleum area where 13 Ming emperors are buried. It's a gentle start, but two tough hills follow, affording the first glimpse of the Great Wall. Later, the ride passes the ancient town of Yongning, before the final 33km. Overnight in lodge.

DAY 4 Mon 16 Sep

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Yanqing to Yunmeng Mountain (approx 85kms)

The day begins with a ride into the 'landscape corridor', between Yanqing and Tanghekou in Huairou County. The landscape changes over 50km. from a flat country road to Yunmeng Mountain. The rest of the day is spent on the National Road, climbing up the mountain through tunnels on the way. Ultimately we arrive at Yunmeng, China's Grand Canyon, for a night in a nearby lodge.

DAY 5 Tue 17 Sep

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Yunmeng Mountain to Jinshanling Great Wall (approx 80kms)

Tiredness may be setting in by now, but the stunning surroundings will spur you on as you pass through the canyon. After about 15km, the route turns off onto a typical rural Chinese road. From here it's a long and somewhat uphill ride on a main road, bringing you to your home for the night – a lodge alongside the Great Wall.

DAY 6 Wed 18 Sep

-

Jinshanling Great Wall (approx 75kms)

This morning you'll have the opportunity to walk on the wall. It's then back in the saddle for 35km until you reach the Miyun Reservoir. From here you will follow the course of the water, passing by family-run fish restaurants and fields of fruit as you ride. The final leg will be faster on a newer and wider road, leading to your lodge for the night.

DAY 7 Thu 19 Sep

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Miyun to Huanghuacheng Great Wall through Mutianyu Great Wall (approx 80kms)

Starting on rural pathways, you join the National Road after two hours. Head for the lush Yanqi Lake, before approaching the Hongluo Temple and World Heritage Site at Mutianyu Great Wall. After a brief stop, it's onwards to a rarely visited village at the foot of the wall in Huanghuacheng. Climb up to a watchtower for the spectacular views, before returning to a lodge for the night.

DAY 8 Fri 20 Sep

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Huanghuacheng Great Wall to Ming Tombs (approx 20kms)

The final 20kms of the ride are on an undulating path to the Ming Tombs, from where the ride began. After some victory selfies, we pack up the bikes and then have lunch at a nearby restaurant. Time permitting, we will stop at a jade factory en route back to Beijing. And then it's time for a celebratory dinner before staying overnight in a centrally-located hotel.

DAY 9 Sat 21 Sep

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Full day city tour of Beijing

Now the adrenaline has stopped pumping, it's time for a day touring China's fascinating capital city. Led by a local guide, we will explore the Forgotten City, Tiananmen Square and The Temple of Heaven before navigating our way around the city's market for some last minute souvenirs. The day ends with a sumptuous Chinese banquet – the perfect way to round off our unforgettable journey.

DAY 10 Sun 22 Sep

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Arrive Home

After breakfast, you will have a few hours to explore, before being transferred to Beijing Airport for the return journey to London.

NB

N.B. The itinerary is there as a guide and may change due to unusual weather patterns, the strength of the group and so on. We will do our very best to keep to the set itinerary; however we cannot be held responsible for any last minute changes that might occur. In all such circumstances, your expedition leader will have the final say.

HOW TO FUND YOUR CHALLENGE

This page provides you details of the costs of your challenge.
The costs below are per person.

SELF FUNDER

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Pay a registration fee of £475.00 when you book

Then a balance of £1553.00 (8 weeks before your challenge)

Raise as much as you can for your charity.

MINIMUM SPONSORSHIP

-

Registration fee of £475.00 when you book

Raise a minimum of £3450.00 for your charity.

FLEXI

-

Registration fee of £475.00 when you book

Then £475.00 towards challenge costs (8 weeks before your challenge)

Raise a minimum of £2395.00 for your charity.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Before you go

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- Access to your own password protected account including support materials and training schedules
- Risk assessment and emergency management planning
- Public liability insurance
- Discount on personal equipment from The Outdoor Shop, Outdoorhire, Cotswold Outdoor and Nomad & MASTA
- Access to "ask the expert" re your kit requirements
- Access to training weekends (optional and at additional expense)
- Warm up exercise routines
- 16 and 20 week trek/bike training schedule
- Fitness training notes
- Sponsorship forms (online and hard copy)
- Template press release
- A-Z of fundraising ideas
- Support materials (itinerary, kit list, fact file, Q&As, health notes, travel tips, responsible travel policy and guidance)
- Fundraising advice

On your challenge

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- International flights to and from the UK (including all known UK air taxes, and fuel surcharges, at the time of costing)
- Internal road and air transfers as per the itinerary
- Accommodation during the challenge (usually in twin share)
- Three meals a day (unless otherwise stated in the itinerary)
- Drinking water on challenge days
- Entrance fees to national parks or other places of interest visited on the itinerary
- All ground staff including English speaking guide, drivers, cooks, and porters
- Full back-up support including first-aid qualified staff and first-aid supplies
- Activity equipment such as bikes, tents and rafts as per the challenge activity
- A donation to a community project in one of the countries in which we operate
- A contribution towards funding the reduction of carbon emissions through Climate Care's portfolio of award winning projects
- A Charity Challenge T-Shirt
- All challenge management before, during and post event

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Before you go

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- Travel to and from the UK airport of departure
- Visa
- Vaccinations (please check Trip Notes for requirements)
- Travel Insurance (you can buy at time of booking or in your Account Area, or provide your own policy details)
- Clothing and equipment listed on your Kit List

On your challenge

-
- Tips
- Departure Tax (if applicable)
- Personal spending money
- Any other specific items listed as not included in your Trip Notes

THE DETAILS**Fundraising deadlines**

You will need to send your sponsorship money to the charity as you raise it. At least 80% of the minimum sponsorship required must be sent to the charity 10 weeks before departure (by 05/07/2013), and the remaining 20% within 4 weeks of completing the challenge (by 20/10/2013). If you have raised the necessary funds, the charity will then pay the balance of your challenge costs. The charity benefits by keeping the remaining sponsorship money and every pound over and above that you raise.

Prices include all known air taxes

We include ALL known air taxes (including fuel) at the time of costing. Many companies do not include air taxes at all, and clients are therefore hit with a surcharge of three or four hundreds of pounds just before departure. Our aim is to provide you with transparent pricing and clear instructions as to what is included in our prices and if applicable what isn't.

Typical group size

The typical group size is 20 - 30 participants

Small group supplement

The costs and sponsorship levels on our website are based on a minimum of 20 participants. We can run this trip with 15-19 people, but there will be a small group supplement of £75. This is payable by you if you book as a Self Funder or your charity under the Minimum Sponsorship or Flexi payment option if you have raised the necessary minimum fundraising target. For Self Funders, we will notify you 12 weeks before departure if this is necessary, and it will be added to your final balance of challenge costs invoice.

Optional extras

Business class upgrades*
Travel insurance
Single room supplements*
Extensions at end of trip*
Trek/bike training weekends*
(*subject to availability)

Travel insurance

Your safety when travelling with Charity Challenge is our main concern, which is why it is a booking condition that you have a suitable travel insurance policy, which covers you for the adventurous nature of your challenge, the activities you are undertaking, and the altitudes. Charity Challenge has chosen to partner with specialist travel insurance providers Campbell Irvine (for UK residents) and Rise & Shield* (for non-UK residents). Both companies can arrange cover for an extensive number of activities, such as high-altitude trekking and cycling events, which include emergency medical treatment and repatriation expenses. Please note that Charity Challenge is not able to advise on matters relating to individual travel insurance policies and does not accept any liability for policy matters or claims. Full details including costs may be found at <https://www.campbellirvine.com/charitychallenge> and <https://riseandshield.com/partners/charity-challenge/>
* Rise and Shield do not provide cover to Cuba.

Level of Difficulty

The Great Wall Cycle challenge is graded as "Tough". This is a challenge for participants who already do a little bit of cycling, but want to train for something that will put themselves out of their comfort zone both physically and culturally.

You can tell your supporters that on your Great Wall Cycle challenge you will be:

- Covering approximately 450km across 5 and a half days of cycling
- Cycling for 105km and approximately of 8-9 hours on the longest day
- Tackling some tough hills in the mountainous area of the Beijing district
- Staying in basic lodges each night
- Expecting a couple of the local lunchtime restaurants to be more local, using long drop toilets and more basic facilities
- Battling temperatures of up to around 33 degrees

Money

Currency: The currency in China is the Yuan ¥. For up to date currency exchange, go to www.xe.com. We recommend exchanging currency before you go; however there are ATM's and currency exchanges available at Beijing airport. You can only convert 100 Yuan notes (around £10 GBP) back in the UK, so make sure that you spend any extra change.

Credit Cards: Cards are not accepted at the lodges along the cycle route, therefore you should have sufficient currency with you before leaving the airport.

ATMs: You will have no access to ATMs or be able to use cards the days that you will be cycling but once back in Beijing you are able to withdraw cash if needed at ATMs.

How much to bring: All accommodation and meals are included within the price of the trip, as well as water during the days of your cycle. You will not need to carry a lot of money with you during the challenge, but as there are daily opportunities to buy soft drinks, alcohol and snacks we would suggest a maximum amount of about £15 a day (in Yuan). Bring more if you intend to buy souvenirs and take up the opportunity of the additional tours offered by the guides. You may have the opportunity of visiting an acrobat show (around £20) and enjoying a relaxing post-cycle massage (about £25) on your return to Beijing at the end of the trek, as well as souvenir shopping and visiting silk or jade factories. There are plenty of great souvenirs in China so do keep that in mind!

Tipping: Tipping is at your sole discretion and all staff are paid a fair wage. However, tourism is a tipping culture, and Chinese guides will generally receive a tip at the end of a job well done. If you choose to tip, we would suggest an amount of £35 - £40 per participant for the duration of the challenge (around 400 Yuan). For those on Charity Challenge organised extensions, we would suggest between £5 and £6 per person per day.

Visa

UK Citizens DO require a visa to enter China. You cannot obtain visas upon entry to China. We will supply you with the relevant form and application advice three months prior to departure, and if you would like to start having a look at the information you can visit the Chinese Visa Application website by clicking [here](#). However, you should not apply before 3 months prior to departure due to the validity of the visa.

Vaccinations

For up to date vaccination information please check the NHS 'Fit for Travel' website:

<http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/home.aspx>. Although the Charity Challenge team are travel professionals, they are not medical experts and we would encourage you to visit your GP or travel nurse to discuss vaccination requirements.

Your GP may ask questions about the specific locations that you are visiting in China, and as such it may be useful to take a copy of your itinerary with you.

Flights

You will be flying from London Heathrow to Beijing. The flying time is approx. 9-10 hours if flying non-stop or 14-16 hours if indirect. Your flight tickets will be issued to you upon departure at the airport. If you choose to book your own flights please confirm with the Charity Challenge office first, otherwise you may be liable for your included group flights (please contact flights@charitychallenge.com for further assistance). For more general flights questions, please refer to our main [FAQs page](#).

Insurance

It is a condition of booking that you have a suitable travel insurance policy whilst participating on the challenge. We have a special policy which covers among other things, medical (emergency, evacuation and repatriation) arrangements, cancellation and curtailment of the challenge, and more specifically for the adventurous activities undertaken on this challenge. If you have your own travel insurance policy, you must ensure that it provides at least the same level of cover as our recommended policy, including protecting the charity in the event of your cancellation 56 days or less prior to departure. If you choose not to purchase our recommended policy when you book we will send you a disclaimer which you should complete and return.

For more general travel insurance questions, please refer to our main [FAQs page](#).

Group Size

Each group is intended to be 16 people minimum in order to run and maximum of approx. 30 people. We will be able to run this challenge for 10 to 15 people by charging a small group supplement of £75 which will be added to your final balance invoice (self funders) or charged to your charity (minimum sponsorship or flexi).

Leadership

There will be an English-speaking challenge leader who will be responsible for the logistics and co-ordination of your challenge. There will also be numerous local support staff to assist them. The challenge leader will be ultimately responsible for the running of the itinerary and the safety of your group.

Climate

China has the same seasons as the UK, but much more pronounced. April and May are the spring months, and as such the trees are blossoming – there are plenty of flowers around, which may affect hayfever sufferers. In September/October, the trees are losing their leaves and the mountains are surrounded by vibrant oranges and russet colours. Both seasons are incredibly beautiful. April/October will generally be cooler than May/September, although in all months you may experience wind chill up on the high points, and heat in the valleys. The nightly temperatures will be cool, particularly in April/October, and temperatures may drop to 8-10 degrees C. Warm layers will be necessary for the evening, but in the day you can expect to reach temperatures of around 20 degrees in early April/late October, and around 28 degrees in late May/early September.

Just like the UK, the weather is changeable, and these are rough guidelines.

Terrain and bikes

The route is mountainous, and will take place over a variety of busy but safe tarmac roads, and off road on dusty and gravelly tracks through local villages. The bikes are 21-speed with front suspension and v-brakes. They all have a water bottle holder, and you are able to bring your own gel seat or clip-in pedals if you would like to adapt the bike on arrival. Please indicate your height on your booking form so that we can book the correct size bike in advance.

Luggage allowance and valuables

The luggage allowance will depend on the airline we are using for your challenge, but in general it will be one piece of checked baggage at around 23kg. However, we suggest that for our Great Wall cycle challenge you should only need around 15kg-17kg. If you don't need it, don't bring it, is a good rule. For any valuables, safe deposit boxes are usually provided in Beijing for guests' use in the hotels, but will not be available in the local lodges. Use a padlock on your luggage when in transit to reduce any risks. Carry your passport with you and make sure you have a photocopy of your documents (travel insurance etc.) in case they get lost or damaged.

Responsible Tourism

At Charity Challenge we are committed to sustainable and responsible tourism, and work closely with bodies such as the International Porter Protection Group and Climate Care to ensure that our challenges benefit the local environments and communities in which they take place. We ensure that all rubbish is disposed of responsibly, and following local guidelines on cultural and environmental protection and respect, we aim to limit our impact on the natural environment. In addition to taking these practical steps to ensure that our challenges are sustainable, we also make a contribution each year to a number of local community projects, so as to give something back directly to the communities that we visit. Since 2000 we have donated almost £200,000 to such projects, supporting a range of initiatives, including schooling for children in Africa, shelter for street children in Brazil, and Orang-utan conservation in Indonesia. We recommend that any gifts brought over for children are given to the UK challenge leader and distributed where needed by them and our local Ground Agent. If you wish to do more, you should consider buying drinks, postcards and souvenirs from the local vendors. For many, it is their sole source of income. For more information, please visit our Responsible Tourism pages, where you will be able to view a list of the projects that we currently support.

Typical day

You will wake at around 7am, pack up your bag and go to the hotel dining room for your breakfast. You will be given enough water for the day and you will put your main bags onto the coach to be transported to the next destination. Depending on the itinerary for the day you will either cycle straight out of the hotel, or have a short transfer to the start point of the cycle. You will be cycling for 6-9 hours each day and arriving in the late afternoon at your next accommodation. Specific hours of activity for each day are given in the itinerary.

Accommodation

On the cycle you will be staying in basic, but adequate, lodges or hotels. It may not be up to the standard expected in Western hotels, but you should have clean linen and hot water – everything you need! In the colder months of early April and late October, we recommend taking a sleeping bag for anyone who feels the cold in the night. Blankets are provided in the lodges, but a sleeping bag will increase your comfort. The hotels in Beijing will be of a three star standard and much more comfortable. All rooms are en-suite and have facilities for charging batteries. If you are travelling with a friend or partner who you wish to share with please ensure that you note this where appropriate when booking or email challenges@charitychallenge.com.

Food & Drink

Food is basic but filling. In recent years, breakfast has become more westernised, with eggs, tomato and cucumber, as well as cooked meats. Lunch will usually be a sandwich along with nuts, snacks and fruit. Dinner will consist of Chinese dishes and of course rice or noodles. There will, of course, be vegetarian options provided, although the choice is more limited. It is important that you eat as much as possible during the cycling phase in order to replace body salts lost due to increased perspiration. All participants but especially those with personal eating restrictions should bring snacks to supplement their meals. You may also wish to bring additional treats like marmite, peanut butter etc. as you will be eating Chinese food everyday – this can become monotonous for even the most adventurous eater!! The tap-water is not safe to drink. Bottled water will be provided during the cycling sections, and you can buy bottled water or soft drinks in hotels and lodges for meals (around 5 Yuan, or 50p). Please let Charity Challenge know prior to departure if you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies.

Clothing and equipment

Good quality, durable kit could mean the difference between a fantastic challenge experience and an uncomfortable one. For your cycle challenge, padded cycling shorts and comfortable footwear are essential, and helmets are compulsory throughout. Training with your cycling shorts is definitely advised! You can bring equipment like clip-in pedals or a gel seat, if desired, in order to adapt your bike in country, and we would also recommend technical/wicking t-shirts rather than cotton shirts. If travelling in October, we would recommend full length leggings, full finger warm gloves and a warm fleece jacket as well. A full kit list for this challenge can be found [here](#), and once you book you will have access to kit discounts with our partners The Outdoor Shop, Outdoorhire and Cotswold Outdoor.

Toilets

There will be en-suite toilet and washing facilities at the hotels and lodges; however, depending on the season hot water may be limited in some of the rural accommodation. On the cycle, your toilet stops will be limited to restaurants and cafes that you pass on route, or 'the great outdoors'!

Phone and WiFi

Most of the accommodation you are in will have limited WiFi which you will be able to use, but please do not rely upon this. Facebook and any Google-based applications (including Gmail) are blocked in China, so you will not have access to these sites or be able to post updates for your friends and family. You will have phone signal in almost all places on the challenge.

Safety

Charity Challenge considers the safety of all of our participants and staff to be a top priority, and as such we have set up Challenge Safe, one of the most advanced and thorough safety management systems in the industry. Challenge Safe formalises our ethos when it comes to safety, and brings together the procedures and risk management strategies that we use to audit all aspects of our challenges, from vehicles to accommodation to the challenge activity itself. Your welfare is absolutely paramount!

In terms of your Great Wall Cycle challenge, there are a couple of important points that you should be aware of:

- Remember that they drive on the right in China, so you will be cycling on the other side of the road. Some junctions can also be busy; your leaders and guides will be signalling the junctions, and briefing you regularly on cycle safety in China.
- The brakes on your bike will be the opposite way to normal. Be aware of this and ensure that you test the brake softly in order to become accustomed before starting the ride.
- You will be cycling on some dirt roads, but also tarmac roads that can have more car users. Remember that in China you will be cycling on the right, and always signal when turning.
- This trip takes place in the mountainous region around Beijing, and as such you will be constantly ascending and descending the hills, which can cause knee and joint strain. If you have any existing knee injuries make sure that you highlight them on your booking form and bring any knee supports or other medication that you normally use. Train with very low gears on hills to reduce this strain. You are looking at some short bursts of gradients at 5-6%
- Smoke alarms are not a legal requirement in China, and as such many of the lodges we use do not have them in place. Your leader will explain the emergency fire procedures to you.

Emergencies

The event is not run as a race and there is always a discrepancy in people's cycling speed. This is allowed for. There will be a staff member at the back of the group at all times to ensure that you are not left behind and can take things at your own pace. In the event of an emergency all guides and leaders are maintaining contact via radio, and the backup vehicle will be following the group at all times.

Training

Training and fitness is definitely required. It is important that you work specifically on your stamina, core and leg strength in order to get the most out of the challenge. You will be taking on some immense hill climbs around the Beijing area, so wherever you are based in the UK you should try and get at least two consecutive days of hill riding in prior to the challenge.

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Any more questions?

Contact us:

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