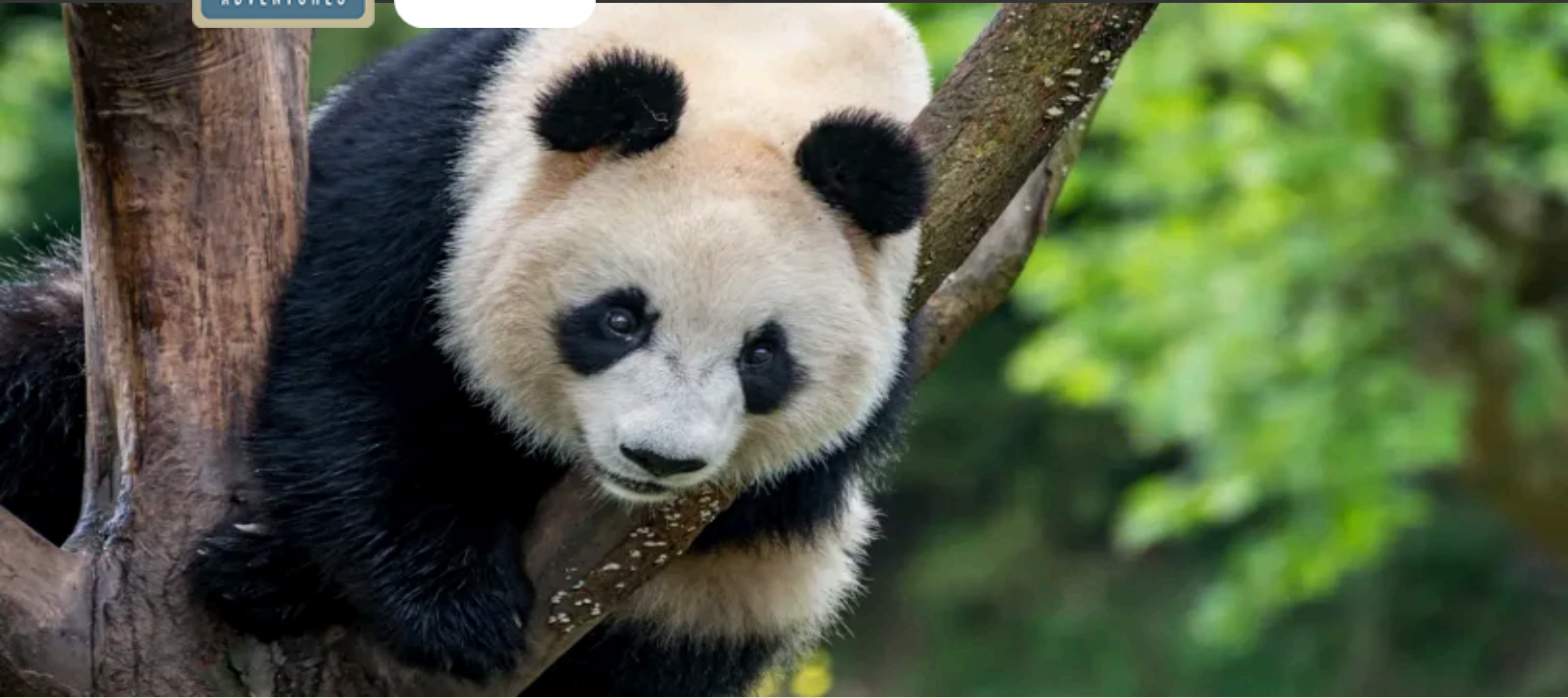




Discovering Our Planet Together



Wild China Photo Expedition

Photograph Giant Pandas, Golden Monkeys & Dramatic Mountain Landscapes



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Trip Details:

Days

14 Days /
Mar–Apr,
Oct

Price

From
\$16295

Wild China Photo Expedition

Photograph Giant Pandas, Golden Monkeys & Dramatic Mountain Landscapes

When you're on a quest for a truly unique nature photography adventure, China is calling. You'll come home with rare images of wildlife and landscapes few travelers are privileged to see. In secluded nature reserves and national parks deep within the Minshan Mountains of Sichuan, clear rivers course through deep gorges, and lush forests shelter some of the world's most endangered creatures. This is the last wild habitat of the giant panda, which subsists on the bamboo protected in these sanctuaries. Supported by WWF, these little-visited wilderness enclaves also harbor rare moon bears, golden snub-nosed monkeys, shaggy takin, Chinese goral, blue sheep and exquisite birds, including the golden pheasant. Developed with our own Photo Expedition Leaders and local Chinese guides, our singular itinerary reveals Chinese nature at its most entrancing—plus cultural highlights like traditional Tibetan villages and the Terracotta Army in the ancient city of Xi'an. We also include close-up panda photography at China's renowned research and breeding bases.

Trip Highlights

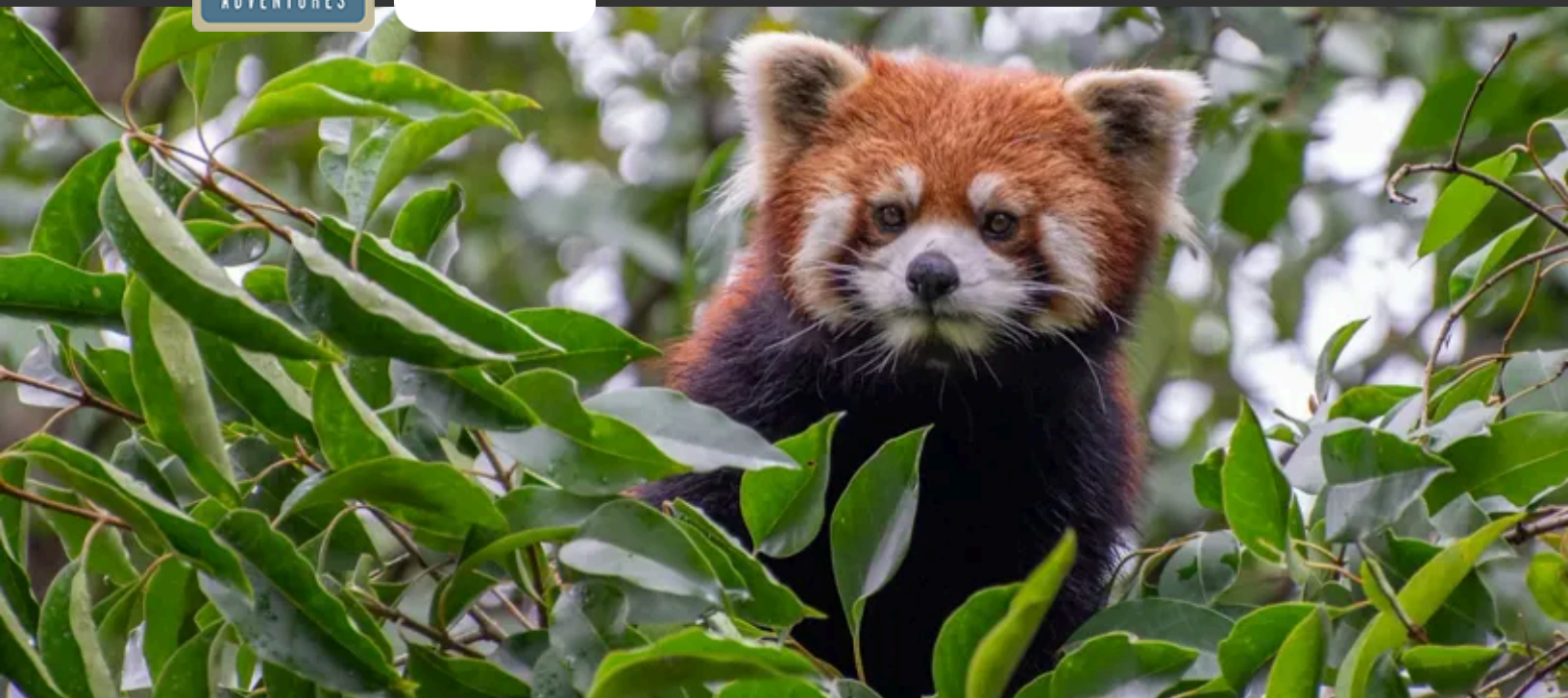
Watch and photograph giant pandas at close range at four world-renowned panda research centers, each offering a unique setting and visitor experience

Special permits allow us into a virtually unvisited reserve where elusive wild pandas live and breed freely—we don't expect to see them, but other rare wildlife is on view

Get delightful images of endangered golden snub-nosed monkeys, charming blue-faced primates found only in a small area of temperate forest in central China



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Xi'an, China — Ancient City Wall

Day 2

Xi'an—Terracotta Army / Lesser Wild Goose Pagoda

Day 3

Wild Panda Nature Reserve

Day 4

Exploring the Wild Panda Nature Reserve with Exclusive Access

Day 5

Wild Panda Nature Reserve / Pingwu

Day 6

Golden Monkey Nature Reserve

Day 7

Dujiangyan

Wild China Photo Expedition Itinerary

Photograph Giant Pandas, Golden Monkeys & Dramatic Mountain Landscapes

Day 1: Xi'an, China — Ancient City Wall

Arrive in the ancient imperial capital of Xi'an, one of China's earliest regions to be settled, and transfer to our hotel in the Yanta District where we find a number of iconic cultural sites including the Wild Goose Pagodas. Xi'an is where China's first emperor united the disparate warring tribes of the vast realm in the 3rd century B.C. to launch one of the world's most extraordinary civilizations. The capital of 13 dynasties, Xi'an's walled city and narrow streets hark back to a time when it was a center for cultural, religious and economic interactions between East and West at the east end of the Silk Road traveled by Persian and Arab traders 1,300 years ago.

After lunch, we visit a portion of the ancient city wall. Xi'an is one of the few cities in China where the old city walls still stand, with most sections carefully restored or rebuilt. Constructed originally in 1370 during the Ming dynasty, the imposing 40-foot-high walls are surrounded by a dry moat and form a rectangle with an 8.6-mile perimeter. Atop the city walls, photograph the old city within its confines, and get panoramic shots over modern-day Xi'an beyond. This evening, gather for a delectable Chinese meal at our welcome dinner.





Itinerary At A Glance

Day 8

Dujiangyan Panda Base /
Dujiangyan Panda Valley

Day 9

Gengda Wolong Panda Base /
Rilong

Day 10

Siguniangshan National Park

Day 11

Rilong / Labahe Nature Reserve

Day 12

Labahe Nature Reserve

Day 13

Labahe / Bifengxia Panda Base /
Chengdu—Bian Lian "Sichuan
Face Changing" Show

Day 14

Chengdu / Depart

Day 2: Xi'an—Terracotta Army / Lesser Wild Goose Pagoda

Depart early this morning to photograph Xi'an's most famous sight, the Terracotta Warriors. Unearthed in 1974 in the suburbs outside the walled city, the stone army is one of the world's most remarkable archaeological discoveries. Consisting of 8,000 life-size soldiers, 130 chariots and more than 500 horses, none identical, the army was built to guard the massive mausoleum complex of Qin Shihuang (259–210 B.C.), the pivotal leader who became China's first emperor. The figures vary in height according to their rank, the tallest being the generals. The majority of the figures remain in situ in the pits near the mausoleum, while other non-military terracotta figures were found in adjoining pits, including officials, acrobats, strongmen, and musicians. The Terracotta Army was discovered by a group of local farmers who were digging a well near the Qin Emperor's tomb mound in a region laced with underground springs. Subsequent excavation and research via ground-penetrating radar has revealed that the Army is part of a much larger necropolis covering 38 square miles, part of the emperor's imperial palace compound surrounding his tomb.

We continue on to Lesser Wild Goose Pagoda, the smaller of two impressive towers built in Xi'an in the 8th century during the Tang dynasty. The site was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2014 as part of the Silk Roads Network. The well-preserved Buddhist temple is surrounded by a tranquil park and gardens, which we wander through before returning to our hotel. After dinner, we head out to discover Xi'an after dark, capturing photos of the cityscape lit up at night.

Day 3: Wild Panda Nature Reserve

This morning, board the bullet train to Guangyuan, where we meet our bus and drive to the Wild Panda Nature Reserve. Along the way, we stop in the Muslim village of Qing Xi, with time to photograph scenes of relaxed street life amid the 300-year-old wooden buildings that date from the Qing dynasty. It's a peaceful setting, with a stream coursing through the center of the village. Just beyond lies a secret slice of Chinese wilderness, a chain of nature reserves little known to outsiders and visited by a mere handful of Westerners. As we follow a rushing river up the narrow valley to our destination, keep an eye out for native wildlife, which we stop to photograph along the way. Eventually we arrive at our hotel, tucked away in the forest in a setting that's virtually unknown to tourists, where our nearest neighbors are mostly wild animals that flourish in these protected environs.



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Day 4: Exploring the Wild Panda Nature Reserve with Exclusive Access

Our focus for two days is a remote 100,000-acre sanctuary encompassing a densely forested ecosystem that is among the most diverse and intact in Asia. This national reserve, rated Grade I by WWF as a global biodiversity hotspot, is home to healthy populations of some of the world's most endangered and vulnerable wildlife, including at least 60 giant pandas. Among its 430 different mammal species, the reserve also harbors more than 1,200 takin — a large, shaggy relative of wild sheep and goats — as well as more than 2,400 different plant species. Look for wildlife on morning and evening excursions, stopping to capture stunning photos of waterfalls, boulder-strewn gorges and mist-shrouded limestone peaks. This is prime panda habitat, and although sightings of this famously elusive animal are extremely rare, our exclusive permits allow us into remote areas of the reserve where pandas freely live and breed, affording us the best possible opportunity to spot signs of them in the wild. Even though we almost certainly will not spy them in the heavy bamboo understory, just knowing we're in their midst is exhilarating.

Day 5: Wild Panda Nature Reserve / Pingwu

Spend another day searching for wildlife as we explore more of the reserve's lush recesses. Bring your longest lens as we look for Tibetan and rhesus macaques, golden and Sichuan takin, musk deer, muntjac, serow, wild boar and blue sheep. More rarely, we may also see endangered moon bears and red pandas. Birding is superb, with more than 150 species in the reserve—the elegant golden pheasant is a prize. We can often photograph many of these from the many remote roads and trails we explore, although dense vegetation and weather may affect our sightings. Late this afternoon, we depart the reserve and follow the scenic Fujiang River through the Min Mountains, returning to Qing Xi where we stop for an authentic local dinner. Afterward, we drive a short distance to Pingwu in far northwest Sichuan, our destination for the next two nights.

Day 6: Golden Monkey Nature Reserve

This morning we enter the forested nature reserve home to golden snub-nosed monkeys that live in the shadow of Sichuan's tallest mountain. We walk uphill for about 30 minutes on a trail leading into the nature reserve where the monkeys reside, with rest stops en route. The reserve covers 62 square miles of wild terrain filled with alpine forest, waterfalls, lakes, colorful karst formations, glacial rivers and an abundance of animals. Expect to get excellent close-up photos of endangered golden monkeys, which have been habituated to humans and are unfazed by our presence. The monkeys live in highly social bands, and their interactions delight us. Covered in a mantle of long, shaggy fur, they are hardy creatures, tolerating winter snow and colder temperatures better than any other non-human primate. On our return journey to Pingwu, we drive through territory home to Baima Tibetans, the descendants of Tibetan soldiers sent here more than 1,300 years ago to conquer the frontier. Keep an eye out for hats sporting white rooster feathers worn only by this group of Tibetan women.



Day 7: Dujiangyan

A scenic drive is in store as we make the full-day journey south to Dujiangyan. Traveling through this mountainous region, we pause periodically to photograph dramatic landscapes, rural villages and Buddhist temples. Along the way, we pass through Mianyang, known as Fujun in ancient times, with a 2,200-year history that spans the Qin and Han dynasties. We also visit a local market in Jiangyou that gives us a taste of small-town life and showcases the bounty of fruit and vegetables harvested locally in the Sichuan Basin. Enjoy a traditional dinner this evening, then rest up in Dujiangyan at an elegant new resort hotel.

Day 8: Dujiangyan Panda Base / Dujiangyan Panda Valley

Today provides chances for close-up views of China's beloved giant pandas on a visit to two panda facilities in Dujiangyan. Opened in 2013 with the arrival of 10 pandas, Dujiangyan Panda Base focuses on rescue, disease control and prevention, and rehabilitation of injured and ill wild pandas. It has expanded its mission, and its numbers, to encompass care for senior and disabled pandas as well as healthy pandas that are part of the preventive research program. We dedicate a portion of our time here to volunteer in the care of the pandas, though this opportunity is not guaranteed and depends on the status of the pandas at the time of our visit. Conditions permitting, we enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at caring for pandas and may have the chance to assist their keepers with tasks such as preparing their food.

After lunch, we visit Dujiangyan Panda Valley for more close-up panda shots. This is a newer facility that is both a panda research and breeding base and a center for conservation education. Reintroduction training experts from around the globe gather here for collaborative research. In natural environs, pandas are gradually habituated and returned to the wild, and we may see pandas in transitional "dens" learning to live on their own. We'll see many red pandas here as well.



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Day 9: Gengda Wolong Panda Base / Rilong

Setting out from Dujiangyan, our destination is the recently rebuilt Gengda Wolong Panda Center in the Wolong Nature Reserve, a base that integrates scientific research, captive breeding and reintroduction of pandas into the wild. More than 30 pandas reside at the center, which includes a 680-acre bamboo forest. Get close-up photos of giant pandas in this natural habitat that features a striking mountain backdrop.

Continue driving west to Rilong, a Tibetan village well known as a base camp for climbing 20,505-foot Mount Siguniang. Translating to Four Sisters Mountain, this imposing massif encompasses four separate peaks and is often referred to as the “Chinese Alps.” In Rilong, we are immersed in Tibetan culture, with traditional architecture on display and yak butter tea for sale by local vendors. This high-altitude village, which sits over 10,000 feet above sea level, is the center of the Jiarong Tibetan culture, found only in this region of Sichuan province. The rural Jiarong people are known for their intricately embroidered costumes and agricultural lifestyle, and we're sure to have plenty of chances to capture their rich cultural heritage in photos.

Day 10: Siguniangshan National Park

Early risers will want to catch a photo of the sunrise behind the peaks in Rilong, a vista of singular beauty. We spend the full day photographing the dramatic scenery of nearby Siguniangshan National Park. Entering the 25-mile-long Shuangqiao Valley, view snowcapped peaks in every direction, with Four Sisters Mountain towering above. The valley floor is 10,000 feet above sea level, and the highest mountains nearly double that. Explore the colorful geological features and mirror-like lakes of this subalpine terrain, following boardwalk trails that weave among intermittent pagodas and prayer flags. Highlights include the Yin-Yang Valley, Willow Bridge, Sun-Moon Mirror Mountain and Five-Colored Mountain with its rocks that glow red, yellow, green, blue and white. These high-altitude forests are native habitat for the endangered red panda. Deeper into the valley, we reach the Ginsenguo flatland, with a viewing deck overlooking highland swamps and snowy peaks, and Jiujia Lake, which is actually a group of four seasonal lakes and nine perennial ones—the legendary bathing pools for the “four sisters.” Return to Rilong for the night.



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Day 11: Rilong / Labahe Nature Reserve

Depart this morning for Labahe Nature Reserve located southwest of Chengdu in the Hengduan Mountains. En route, we travel through another Jiarong Tibetan region, stopping for photos in Yaoji Tibetan village. At the head of the Baoxing Valley separating the plains of Sichuan from the Tibetan Plateau, we visit Dengchigou Catholic Church where Father Pere Amand David stayed in the mid-19th century, introducing the giant panda to the Western world for the first time. The priest, who was also a natural historian and researcher with the National Museum of France, is credited with finding 68 new bird species, over 100 insect species, and many mammal species including golden monkeys and Milu deer in addition to giant pandas, which he revealed to the wider world in 1869. Once we reach the Labahe reserve, we check in to our hotel, then head out to start exploring the area around it. Labahe Nature Reserve is one of China's premier spots for seeking out the elusive and endearing red panda. At dinner time, we may see water deer coming down to lick salt outside our hotel.

Day 12: Labahe Nature Reserve

A full day is dedicated to searching for wildlife, especially red pandas, in the Labahe reserve. Although giant pandas also live here, we are less likely to see them. Comprised of mixed forests and pockets of dense bamboo, the reserve's diverse vegetation and altitude create ideal habitat for the red panda, which is adapted to environments above 7,000 feet. A wide variety of other mammals and birds thrives here, too, and we look for Tibetan macaque, Chinese leopard cat, hog badger, serow, sambar deer, golden takin, and red and white giant flying squirrels. Notable birds include the golden-breasted fulvetta, Lady Amherst's pheasant, crimson-breasted woodpecker and three-toed parrotbill. In our private vehicle, we have the freedom to explore different parts of the reserve, including opportunities for stunning landscape photography from higher mountain locations.

Day 13: Labahe / Bifengxia Panda Base / Chengdu—Bian Lian "Sichuan Face Changing" Show

Early this morning, depart Labahe to drive to Bifengxia Panda Base, home of the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda. We'll see plenty of pandas roaming within large enclosures filled with lush vegetation, including their favored food, bamboo. Afterward, take photos at scenic Bifengxia Gorge followed by lunch, before continuing to our hotel at Chengdu's international Tianfu Airport for convenient departures tomorrow.

At this evening's festive farewell dinner, enjoy a demonstration of Bian Lian, or "Sichuan face changing," a mesmerizing opera element where performers rapidly switch colorful masks to portray different characters and emotions. Only about 200 people practice this secretive art form that can entail changing up to 10 masks in less than 20 seconds, and we marvel at the mystery and the mastery as we reflect on the adventures we've shared.



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Day 14: Chengdu / Depart

After breakfast at our hotel, transfer to the airport terminal close by to meet departing flights.



Accommodation Details:

Shangri-La Xian

Wild Panda Reserve Hotel

Jiuzhou Jindu Hotel

Tianfu Source Hotel

Jiarong Tibetan Qingcheng Hotel

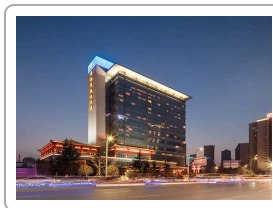
Labahe Lanshuijing Hotel

JoyHub Air Hotel

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/asia-adventure-travel/wild-china-panda-photo-expedition/accommodations

Wild China Photo Expedition Accommodations

Photograph Giant Pandas, Golden Monkeys & Dramatic Mountain Landscapes



Shangri-La Xian

Blending contemporary luxury with details that hark back to Xian's ancient Silk Road heritage, this 5-star hotel offers spacious rooms overlooking the city skyline or surrounding gardens.



Wild Panda Reserve Hotel

The sole lodging within this remote national nature reserve offers modern accommodations in chalets along a river, and a large dining room for family-style meals.

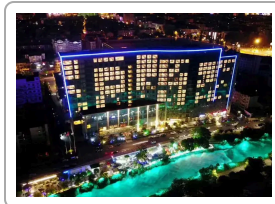


Jiuzhou Jindu Hotel

Located near the Bao'en Temple in Pingwu, this hotel offers comfortable modern rooms with opportunities to relax in the outdoor pool or retreat to the serene teahouse.



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Tianfu Source Hotel

With its prime location in Balan Square and close proximity to scenic and natural areas near Dujiangyan, this contemporary hotel is an ideal base for exploration.



Jiarong Tibetan Qingcheng Hotel

Offering a rare glimpse into authentic Tibetan culture and rural mountain life, this simple, cozy and charming local hotel provides a comfortable stay with big views.



Labahe Lanshuijing Hotel

This modern mountain chalet is situated inside the Labahe Nature Reserve, where the river and broadleaf forest meet, and wildlife abounds.



JoyHub Air Hotel

Enjoy exceptional convenience and deluxe view rooms at this sleek new luxury hotel offering first-class airport accommodations for international departures into and out of Chengdu.



Photograph a Hidden Side of China as You Travel “Behind the Scenes”

Book any other photo tour to China, and you'll likely shoot the classics: the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square. We, however, approach China differently for nature photographers. On Nat Hab's one-of-a-kind Photo Expedition, you'll go deep into hidden wilderness spots few Westerners can access—including native wild panda habitat and a spectacular national park in western Sichuan that's virtually unknown outside China. You'll also get to document authentic scenes of rural and village life, rarely included on standard tours. Find out more about what makes our China photo odyssey so exceptional:

1

A Rare Opportunity to Search for Wild Giant Pandas

We hold exclusive permits to enter a remote, little-visited nature reserve, with access to areas where wild giant pandas live and breed freely. Though their numbers are few in this vast reserve and they are *highly* elusive—we won't expect to see them—it's a thrill to be able to look for them in their native wild habitat.

2

A Virtually Unvisited Reserve Offers Exclusive Wildlife Photo Opportunities

In addition to wild pandas, the reserve described above is home to many other species including red panda, blue sheep, civet, leopard cat, Tibetan and rhesus macaque, muntjac, serow, moon bear, golden and Sichuan takin, and more than 150 species of birds, including the golden pheasant. Due to a half-century of protection from hunting, they are often visible from roads and trails. However, it is important to note that vegetation is heavy, weather can affect wildlife visibility, sightings are highly unpredictable, and we generally see wildlife at a distance.

3

Get Close-Ups of Giant Pandas on Four Separate Panda Bases Visits

If it's panda photos you're after, we're certain no other tour offers the panda immersion this one does. We make sure you get all the close-range shots you hope for. On four separate panda base visits, you'll photograph pandas in different settings, from enclosures ensuring good close-ups to natural, open environs where pandas may climb trees or otherwise engage in typical "in the wild" behavior.

4

Photograph Golden Monkeys in a Mountain Nature Reserve

China's other hallmark species is the golden snub-nosed monkey, and we include a visit to a golden monkey reserve where a large habituated troop provides endless entertainment from just feet away. Though they are not truly "wild," neither are they enclosed, and we are thus able to get wonderful close-ups of their wizened faces and charming behavior.



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5

A Full Day for Nature Photography in Siguniangshan National Park

We spend the entire day photographing the dramatic scenery of Siguniangshan National Park as we traverse the high-altitude Shuangqiao Valley, ringed by snow-capped peaks, including Four Sisters Mountain, rising to 20,000 feet. Colorful geological features, mirror-like lakes, pagodas and prayer flags make for captivating photography subjects. Few if any western travelers regularly set eyes on this stunning landscape. Our Expedition Leader offers guidance along the way to help you get exceptional shots.

6

Photograph Scenes of Traditional Tibetan Culture

Our travels include an overland traverse along the edge of the sprawling Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, where small villages, prayer flags and chortens dot the landscape. We'll learn more about this deeply traditional culture, which offers a dramatic counterpoint to the urban Chinese setting of Chengdu.

7

Visit Ancient Xi'an to Photograph the Terracotta Army

Of course, we would not omit the chance to visit this extraordinary archaeological site, where you'll have a chance to get close-up shots from a wide range of angles of the thousands of hand-carved warriors, horses and chariots unearthed here more than 2,000 years after their intricate creation—no two statues are exactly alike!

8

Our Small Group Allows Us to Adapt to Changing Conditions

Because we limit this trip to 10 guests, you'll get plenty of personalized attention and photography coaching from our Expedition Leader. A small group also means we're able to get everyone up and out early in the morning to chase the best light. We'll have the flexibility to remain at a site longer if it shows a lot of photographic potential, or move on to a new destination if it doesn't.

9

An Accomplished Photographer Expedition Leader, Plus Expert Local Guides

Your Nat Hab Expedition Leader is not only a naturalist but also an expert nature and wildlife photographer, offering tips and techniques for challenging forest photography conditions, with plenty of time and enthusiasm to answer all your questions. We are also accompanied by an outstanding Chinese naturalist guide. With a tremendous depth of experience, plus additional training and resources provided by WWF's top scientists, our staff will make your trip a learning adventure as well as a photography quest. **See Expedition Leader bios** with traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

10

Accommodations Selected to Optimize Photo Opportunities

From a quiet group of mountainside chalets in a remote nature reserve where other travelers are few, to a simple hotel in a traditional ethnic village on the Tibetan Plateau, our comfortable lodgings place you in close proximity to the highlights of each region we visit, whether that's wildlife, evocative landscapes or scenes of traditional life.



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11

Dine on Outstanding Local Cuisine

While photography may be your primary interest, food lovers will be thrilled by the culinary delights you'll discover. Sichuan province is famed for its piquant cuisine, and offer a wide selection of restaurants and dishes, carefully selected by our local Chinese guide to appeal to Western palates and preferences. Since food is typically served family-style at a large round table, multiple tastes and dietary preferences can be catered for (though be sure to make special needs known to us ahead of time). We make a point to choose locations that are popular with local people, for a truly authentic Chinese dining experience.

12

An Opportunity to Volunteer with Panda Care When Conditions Permit

At Dujiangyan Panda Base, we may have an optional opportunity to help with aspects of the pandas' care. This could involve preparing their food or other tasks that place us directly into the daily activities of the pandas' caregivers at this research base. *Please note that this volunteer opportunity is intermittent and depends on the pandas' situation at the time, and it will not always be available.*

13

Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Photography Expedition

Natural Habitat Adventures offers an exclusive guarantee that clearly states that we will meet the high expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.

14

Feel Good About the Way You Travel

We all care about the planet, and you can travel with us knowing that the emissions from your trip are 100-percent carbon-offset. Natural Habitat Adventures is the world's first carbon-neutral travel company and a leader in sustainable practices throughout its operations abroad and at home.

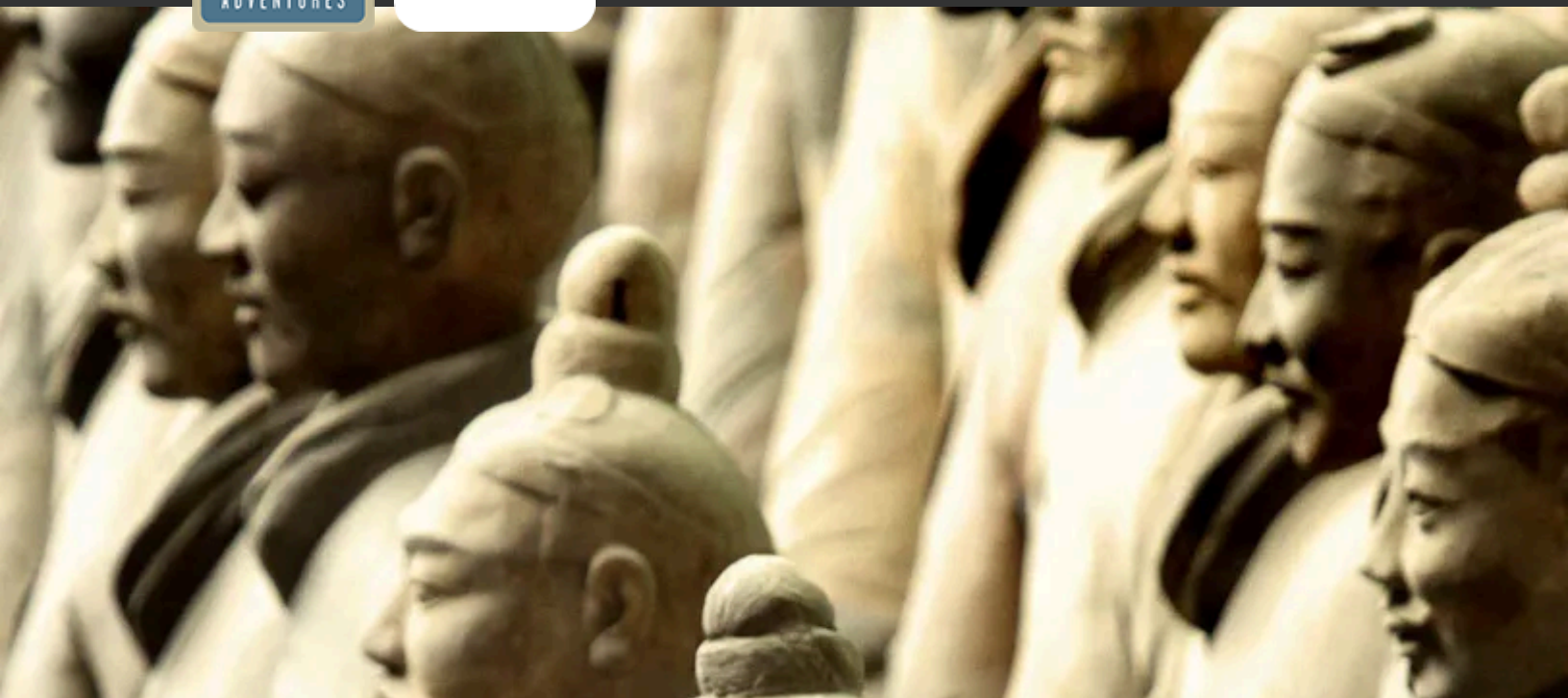
15

Natural Habitat Adventures Is World Wildlife Fund's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our small-group nature adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat its worldwide travel partner—a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$16295

Group Size:
Limited to 10 Travelers

Wild China Photo Expedition Dates, Pricing & Info

Photograph Giant Pandas, Golden Monkeys & Dramatic Mountain Landscapes

2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Mar 27, 2026	Apr 9, 2026	\$16295 USD Wildflower Season, Habitat Club Pricing Available
Apr 11, 2026	Apr 24, 2026	\$16295 USD Wildflower Season
Oct 18, 2026	Oct 31, 2026	\$16295 USD Fall Foliage Season
Oct 26, 2026	Nov 8, 2026	\$16295 USD Fall Foliage Season

2027 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Mar 23, 2027	Apr 5, 2027	\$16495 USD Wildflower Season
Apr 8, 2027	Apr 21, 2027	\$16495 USD Wildflower Season
Oct 10, 2027	Oct 23, 2027	\$16495 USD Fall Foliage Season
Oct 12, 2027	Oct 25, 2027	\$16495 USD



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Departure	Return	Notes
		Fall Foliage Season
Oct 28, 2027	Nov 10, 2027	\$16495 USD
		Fall Foliage Season



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Pricing

See <https://nathab.com/asia-adventure-travel/wild-china-panda-photo-expedition/dates-fees> for the latest pricing details.

Included

Trip price includes: Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s) and local guides, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, still camera fees, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, passage aboard the bullet train from Xi'an to Guangyuan, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees, optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Important Information About This Trip

Among many travelers, China tends to be known more for its history and culture than its nature. But we focus on the natural treasures most visitors miss, including an in-depth experience with the pandas of Sichuan province and a remote, rarely visited wildlife reserve where wild giant pandas live and breed, as well as a host of other rare animals and birds. Our staff who helped create the itinerary commented: "This itinerary trades time spent in polluted air, traffic, crowds and airports for beautiful, pristine mountain country. But we don't always have 5-star restaurants or services, and English-speaking locals and hotel staff do not exist in many areas. Parts of the trip are more rustic, but the nature rewards are so worth it!"

That said, however, **it's important to note that there is a fundamental difference between the wildlife experience in China and what you would experience on a typical African safari**, for instance. Terrain here is heavily forested, and while wildlife abounds in natural areas, animals are not always easy to see or photograph. Many are expertly camouflaged or hidden within the vegetation, making them challenging to spot. To date, we have never seen a giant panda in the wild, as they are exceptionally elusive. But rangers have seen them, and we have seen signs of them, including chewed bamboo and scat. Guests should not come to China *expecting* to see wild pandas, but it is exhilarating nonetheless to know we are in their midst. Weather can also affect wildlife sightings, and when it is inclement, animals may be more likely to take cover in the deep forest. However, our itinerary is carefully designed to capitalize on the very best opportunities to see rare Chinese wildlife, maximizing your chances. Our seasoned Expedition Leaders and local guides are experts at locating wildlife—and we encourage our guests to understand that the privilege of stepping into a wild, untouched world inside China is a reward in itself.

We do have multiple opportunities to see giant pandas up close, though—a highlight of our trip. These encounters occur not in the wild, but at China's panda research bases where the pandas live within a constructed setting that contains or mimics elements of their natural habitat. While the environment is more zoo-like, it provides a rare chance for hours of observing many pandas at close range, a privilege very few people get to enjoy. It's a moving opportunity not available anywhere else but Sichuan.



Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to on this trip are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require medical evacuation insurance for our guests' safety. If you decline the medical evacuation insurance coverage offered by Natural Habitat, we request that you send us documentation of the independent coverage you have selected. We will add the cost of a medical evacuation policy to your tour invoice until you provide our office with proof of coverage including your insurance company's name, contact number and your individual policy number. Thank you for understanding that our policy exists exclusively in the interest of our guests' safety.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins in Xi'an and ends in Chengdu. Because this is a long international journey with significant travel time, **we recommend that you arrive the night before Day 1** to rest from your travels and begin the trip refreshed. For guests who come in early, recommended hotels will be included in your pre-departure materials.

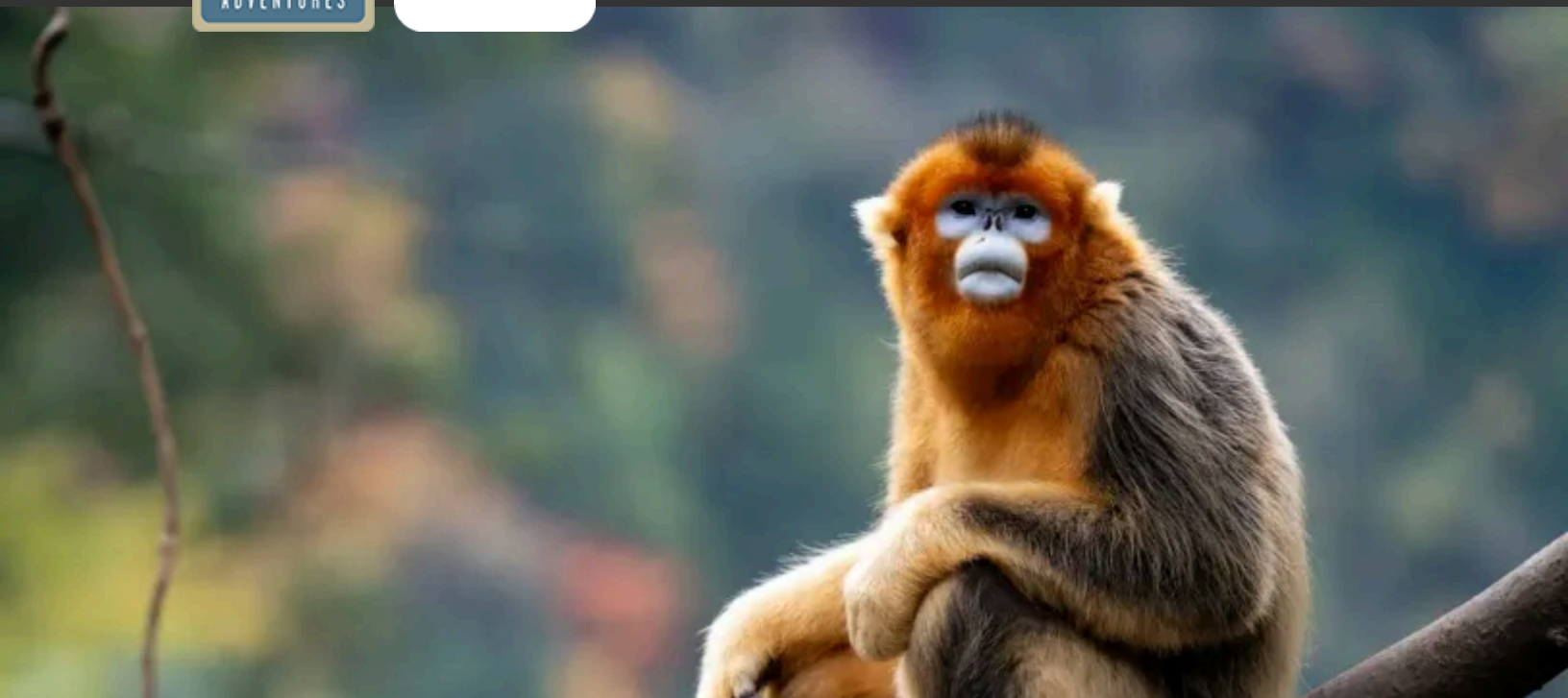
If you plan to arrive on Day 1, you must arrive in Xi'an by 9 am in order to participate in activities beginning at 11:30 am.

You may depart Chengdu at any time on the final day, and we recommend using Chengdu Tianfu International Airport (TFU) for your departure flights.

Our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.



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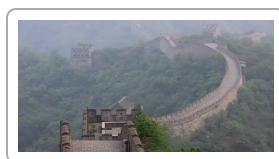


Extension Details:

**Beijing & the Great Wall
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