China Family Adventure

Beijing - Xi'an - Chengdu - 10 days / 9 nights

Sample itinerary - Subject to availability

Travel style: private group

Overview

Built for families with children, paced around shorter days.

The journey

Ten days designed around the practical truths of travelling China with children - short transfer legs, hands-on afternoons and hotels that work for families - while parents still see the Great Wall, the Terracotta Army and Shanghai's skyline.

Highlights

- Wall toboggan
- Panda keeper session
- Kung fu class
- High-speed rail between cities

Day by day



Day 1 - Arrive Beijing

Met at the airport and driven to a family-rooms hotel chosen for location and breakfast quality. The first day is deliberately soft: bags down, a short walk, and an early dinner from the familiar-fallback list every city on this route carries - noodles tonight counts as success. The guide arrives tomorrow with a plan the children can repeat back.

Meals: - - Hotel: Beijing, city centre

Day 2 - The Great Wall at Mutianyu

Early drive to Mutianyu ahead of the coaches: cable car up, the morning on the ramparts at kid pace, and the toboggan down - reliably the most-replayed moment of the trip (operating conditions and weather rules apply, as noted). Farmhouse lunch below the wall, back in the city by mid-afternoon, and an unhurried Peking-duck evening with the trimmings. (toboggan operating conditions and weather rules)

Meals: B, L - Hotel: Beijing



Day 3 - Forbidden City, hutongs and dumplings

The Forbidden City at opening, told through the stories children keep - what the roof animals mean, where the emperor ate - and out before the crowds thicken. Afternoon in the hutongs by rickshaw or bicycle, then a dumpling-making session: mixing, rolling, folding, and eating the evidence. A courtyard-lane wander between the

two keeps everyone moving without calling it a walk.

Meals: B, L - Hotel: Beijing

Day 4 - Kung fu class, then the train to Xi'an

A morning kung fu class sized to the group - provider and session length confirmed before travel, as noted. Lunch near the hotel, then the afternoon bullet train to Xi'an (about 4h30): seats pre-booked together, activity packs ready, and a race across the plains out the window. Evening check-in inside the walled city, with the wall lights for a short bedtime walk. (kung fu class provider and session length subject to confirmation)

Meals: B - Hotel: Xi'an



Day 5 - The Terracotta Army and a clay session

The Terracotta Army with a kid-paced guide at the quietest hours - how every face differs, what the farmer who found the first head did next. Afterwards the hands-on clay session: the children build and paint a miniature warrior sturdy enough for the suitcase home. Adults get the archaeology, children get the making, and everyone gets the drive back for a rest.

Meals: B, L - Hotel: Xi'an

Day 6 - Xi'an city wall and the Muslim Quarter

A gentle morning on the Ming city wall - the full circuit by bicycle for strong legs, the shorter walk for everyone else, kite flyers overhead for company. Afternoon in the Muslim Quarter's alleys as a family snack trail: bread off the ovens, pomegranate juice, noodle-pulling to watch. The evening stays free; bags are staged for tomorrow's train.

Meals: B - Hotel: Xi'an



Day 7 - By rail to Chengdu

About 3h30 by bullet train southwest to Chengdu, through the tunnels and into the green Sichuan basin - another seats-booked-together day with activity packs standing by. On arrival the evening is easy: a first hot pot with mild broths and spice on the side, or the familiar-fallback list, and an early night before the pandas.

Meals: B - Hotel: Chengdu

Day 8 - Pandas at opening

Into the panda base at opening, when the animals are most active and queues are shortest: enclosures, nursery windows and the red pandas that hold younger attention spans. The conservation-education session afterwards is subject to the foundation's confirmations - minimum age and daily quota decide its final shape, as noted. Late afternoon goes to a park teahouse: kites, goldfish, ice cream, and parents finally sitting down. (panda keeper programme: minimum age and daily quota, subject to confirmation)

Meals: B, L - Hotel: Chengdu

Day 9 - Easy Chengdu

Left soft on purpose - the trip's recovery valve before the flight home. A slow park morning among the chess players and kite flyers, lunch wherever the children voted for the night before, and an afternoon that can go anywhere from a last dumpling round to doing nothing at all. The guide stays on call rather than on schedule.

Meals: B - Hotel: Chengdu

Day 10 - Depart

Transfer to Chengdu's airport for the international flight, timed backwards from check-in with children's patience in mind. If the departure allows, a final teahouse hour or one last snack-street lap fills the morning; if not, the drive from the centre is short. The China coordination team remains reachable until boarding - and most families leave arguing about the next trip.

Meals: B - Hotel: -

What makes this journey different

- Cycle or rickshaw hutong exploration and a dumpling-making afternoon in Beijing.
- Terracotta Army with a kid-paced guide and a hands-on clay session.
- Panda base at opening time plus a conservation-education session, subject to the foundation's confirmations.
- High-speed rail seats pre-booked together, with activity packs for the legs between cities.

Where you stay

Family rooms or connecting rooms throughout, four-star standard, chosen for location and breakfast quality rather than facilities lists.

Food & local life

Dumpling and noodle making the children join in, mild-first Sichuan with spice on the side, and familiar fallbacks in every city for the tough evenings.

Included

+ Accommodation in the agreed grade, with breakfast
+ Private guide and private vehicle on touring days
+ All internal transport between cities as stated - high-speed rail, internal flights and transfers
+ Entrance fees for the sites named in the itinerary
+ Meals as stated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)
+ Drinking water in the vehicle, and a 24-hour emergency contact while the group is in China

Not included

- International flights to and from China
- Chinese visa or visa-application costs
- Travel insurance, including medical and cancellation cover
- Meals not marked in the itinerary, drinks and personal spending
- Anything listed under subject to confirmation until it is confirmed

To be confirmed with suppliers

- panda keeper programme: minimum age and daily quota
- toboggan operating conditions and weather rules
- kung fu class provider and session length

Customisation

Every framework can be re-built around your client's dates, party size, hotel grade, pace and interests - or combined with scheduled small group departures where budget matters. Send us the brief and we will quote in writing.