

Giant Panda Conservation and the Mountains and Cities of China

China 2019 | Oregon Episcopal School



Day 1 | March 15, 2019 | Welcome to the Sichuan Province!

Landing in Chengdu, where your Rustic Pathways Program Leaders will meet you outside of baggage claim. After a brief round of introductions, we'll head off to explore the city. Experiencing the sights and sounds of Chengdu, China's fifth largest city, is a great way to get a glimpse of the rapid development intrinsic to China's past two decades. Don't worry about taking it all in – you will be back in Chengdu in the middle of your trip.

After arriving, you will head out to Dujiangyan (the hometown to one of the two panda centers that you will visit). We will check into the hotel, grab dinner, do an orientation for the days to come, and then let you hit the hay so that you are ready for volunteering tomorrow!

Flight Details: Rustic Pathways will arrange flight details after your group is enrolled.

Overnight: TBD (depart Saturday, March 16th)

Days 2 - 3 | March 16 - 17, 2019 | Panda Service

After a delicious breakfast in town, you'll head out for the first Panda center! After your program orientation yesterday, you'll be able to dive right into today's service project. Your Program Leaders will go over the day's schedule, and you will break into groups of three or four with the other students on your trip. Each group will be paired with specific pandas and researchers to spend the morning with for your service work.

The daily itinerary for your time at the Panda Conservation centers will be divided between direct interaction working with the pandas and spending time with your group learning about general

conservation topics, participating in in-depth discussions on the panda breeding program, and performing behavioral observations to learn how scientists conduct their research at centers like this one.

During your time with the pandas, you can expect to care for their living area, plan and prepare their food, learn about their habitat and examine threats to their environment.

Taking the occasional break from service work, your group will take some time to explore the natural beauty and culture around the Panda Conservation Center. In addition to protecting Giant Pandas, the area is a National Reserve with lots of beautiful flora and fauna unique to the area.

Additionally, students will take tours of the local temple, learn to make local cuisine (dumplings!), visit the surrounding towns, and take part in an oral history project in the area. These evenings, in addition to group discussions, the group will be given time (and encouragement!) to participate in discussion/reflection and take a moment to update their travel journals.

A daily schedule might look something like:

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Clean the indoor and outdoor facilities that your group is assigned to, including sweeping up poop, sweeping up bamboo leaves, picking up any uneaten bamboo stalks, and mopping the indoor facility. □

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Read an article about conservation and have a group discussion on the topic. □

11:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Prepare and weigh food provisions and feed your pandas. □

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Take a lunch break at the restaurant, rest, and play some local games like mahjong and dou di zhu □

1:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Prepare and weigh food provisions and feed your pandas. □

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Perform behavior observations on the panda of your choice.

□ 3:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Prepare and weigh food provisions and feed your pandas. □□

Your evening activities will differ each night, but depending on the weather and the optimal times to do the activities you may take a walk through downtown Dujiangyan, join the square dance and enjoy some traditional Sichuan hotpot, visit Jlezi Old Town for some souvenir shopping, or visit the Sichuan Earthquake Museum.

Overnight 2: Hotel in Dujiangyan

Overnight 3: Hotel in Wolong

Days 4 - 6 | March 18 - 20, 2019 | Danba village immersion

It will take us all morning to head through mountains and valleys towards Danba Jiaju Tibetan Village. Once you reach Danba, you'll meet your Tibetan homestay family. The drive will seem well worth your time when you see the beautiful mountains and hidden pagodas.

For the next day and a half, we will take the time to relax and truly get to know Danba. There are beautiful walks around the homestay to enjoy, and the locals are always excited to have foreigners come see their small village. In the evening, you will enjoy a large BBQ and learn some traditional Tibetan dances.

After lunch on day 6 we will bid Danba goodbye and head to a town outside of Four Girls National Park to spend the night.

Overnight 4-5: Guesthouse, Danba

Overnight 6: Hotel near Four Girls Mountain

Day 7 | March 21, 2019 | Hike in Four Girls Mountain National Park + Explore Chengdu

In the morning, take an early hike in Four Girls Mountain National Park to (weather permitting) view the beautiful mountain landscape.

In the afternoon, return to Chengdu for a bit of sightseeing. Stroll through Jinli Street to enjoy the local night market. No visit to Sichuan would be complete without a trip to the opera! It's part acrobatic show, part comedic relief with modern and traditional dance performances and Chinese music all blended together in a wonderful artistic performance.

Overnight: Hotel, Chengdu

Day 8 | March 22, 2019 | Fly to Beijing

Take a morning flight to Beijing. In the afternoon, we will visit the Beijing Foreign Affairs School, a school that trains students and prepares them for getting a job in hospitality, finance and tourism.

After touring around the school, take a cooking class taught by the students at the school. After class, we will move to the school's teahouse and enjoy a tea ceremony. You will be able to sample different teas including green, jasmine and wulong, and learn a how to make the same tea when you return back home!

Overnight: Traditional View Hotel, Beijing



Day 9 | March 23, 2019 | Temple of Heaven and Forbidden City

After breakfast, we will head out to explore the Temple of Heaven. This Temple is where the emperor held the worship ceremonies to pray for good weather and abundant harvests. Today, the area around the Temple of Heaven is now used as a park where people play mahjong, sing operas, and square dance.

After lunch, we will take the metro to the biggest square in China, Tiananmen Square. We will walk from the top of Tiananmen Square to the entrance of the Forbidden City, which was home to the royal families of the Ming and the Qing Dynasties. After walking through the City, we will climb up Jingshan Park to overlook the beautiful view of the Forbidden City.

□□After enjoying a huge day, we will feast our eyes on an acrobatics show. Marvel as these masters flip, juggle, and dance the night away. We will head back to our Hutong to enjoy dinner and head to bed this evening.

Overnight: Traditional View Hotel, Beijing



Day 10 | March 24, 2019 | GREAT WALL OF CHINA!

After a quick breakfast, it's time for one of the trip's highlights: a visit to the Great Wall of China. Nothing can truly prepare you for an in-person look and this often photographed site of and monument to human achievement.

Depending on your flight time, we can go to one of two sections of the Great Wall- Gubeikou or Mutianyu. If you have a late departure, you could stay at a guesthouse close to the more remote section of Gubeikou Great Wall.

Overnight: Depends on flight out

Day 11 | March 25, 2019 | Fly Home!

After our delicious breakfast, pack and say goodbye to your Rustic Pathways leaders. We will help you check in for your international flight back home. We hope you had a great experience and we trust to see you again next year!

Flight Details: TBD



Program Details

Program Cost \$2,795 + internal airfare (estimated at \$350) + international airfare (estimated at (\$800) for a total of \$3,945.

Please note that the price is quoted based on a minimum of 12 students and includes 2 free chaperones. Rustic Pathways will arrange your airfare within China.

Program Includes

- 10 nights of accommodation
- All meals all days
- All transportation
- Rustic Pathways fulltime international and local guides
- All activities as detailed in your itinerary
- Single point of contact from Rustic Pathways for support leading up to the program
- Rustic Pathways 24-hour emergency support throughout program
- International SOS emergency evacuation insurance
- All airport taxes and departure fees
- All fees, community service donations, and guide tips

An Important Note about Schedule Changes:

Rustic Pathways reserves the right to change, alter, or amend the daily itinerary for this trip at any time. Changes can be made for various reasons including changes in flight or program schedules, changes in the schedules of various external operators or partner organizations, changes due to weather or safety concerns, the addition of new activities into a trip, or the substitution of a new activity for an old activity. The itinerary shown here provides our best projection of the daily schedule for this program. As with any travel program, some changes may occur.