

We recommend that you check the weather forecast prior to your departure so that you can pack accordingly.

Winter falls in the middle of January and February. In northern and eastern China, the weather is cool and dry with occasional days at freezing temperatures. The Yangtze and southern regions have milder temperatures but as it is more humid here, cold days can feel quite damp. During the **winter** months you will need to bring layers of warm clothes, as well as water/windproof clothing for the possibly freezing conditions.

Spring in northern and eastern China is traditionally marked by cool, comfortable weather with lower rainfall, while the Yangtze and southern regions still experience mild temperatures with higher humidity.

Summer in northern and eastern China experiences warm weather and strong sun, while the Yangtze and southern regions will have higher humidity levels.

Autumn in northern and eastern China experiences warm weather but temperatures definitely get cooler towards the end of the year. By mid-October there are occasional days at freezing temperatures. The Yangtze and southern regions have milder temperatures for longer but can have damp, cool days. During these months you will need to bring clothing suitable for sun exposure and mild temperatures, as well as water/windproof clothing for the possibly freezing conditions. Loose fitting, lightweight cotton materials are the most comfortable for humid and warm conditions.

If you are travelling to the Sichuan Province: Much of the southern regions have a sub-tropical climate, while the mountains of Sichuan (such as the Nine Villages Valley or Mt. Huang) experience cooler temperatures and higher rainfall.

If you are travelling to Tibet: The Tibetan plateau experiences a greater range of temperatures than the other regions of China. No matter what time of year, or how warm the average temperature is, sudden and unpredictable drops in temperature, snow or storms can hit on the mountain passes. The sun is also much stronger at high altitude so you will get sunburnt much more quickly. See temperatures for Lhasa, Linzhi and Shigatse.

If you are travelling on the Silk Road Explorer: You will be travelling over a vast distance, from temperate areas near the east coast to high mountains and desert; you need to consider your packing carefully. Northwest China has a desert climate – with higher temperatures that drop at night-time. The hottest places are Turpan and Kashgar, which can reach a high of 40°C during the day. Xiahe is also located at an altitude of 3,100m, high in the mountains and can be cold and damp at any time of year. At the warmest time of year (July) temperatures can reach 27°C but can drop to 15°C in the evening. There are often sudden storms, so you will need warm and waterproof/windproof clothing for Xiahe.

Please note, due to restrictions on your internal flights, your luggage allowance is 20kg for checked luggage and 5kg for hand luggage.

Average temperatures	January		
	Temp °C min/max	Humidity	Rain mm
BEIJING	-9 / 1	LOW	3
CHENGDU	2 / 9	HIGH	10
CHONGQING	4 / 10	MED	20
GUILIN	5 / 11	MED	63
SHANGHAI	1 / 7	MED	76
KUNMING	1 / 15	LOW	16
LIJIANG	5 / 17	LOW	2
TAIYUAN	-14 / 2	LOW	3
XIAN	-4 / 6	LOW	7
ZHONGDIAN	3 / 16	LOW	15
Average temperatures	February		
	Temp °C min/max	Humidity	Rain mm
BEIJING	-8 / 3	LOW	5
CHENGDU	4 / 11	HIGH	15
CHONGQING	7 / 12	HIGH	21
GUILIN	6 / 12	HIGH	97
SHANGHAI	1 / 8	MED	44
KUNMING	2 / 17	LOW	16
LIJIANG	5 / 20	LOW	6
TAIYUAN	-10 / 4	LOW	5
XIAN	-3 / 7	LOW	10
ZHONGDIAN	4 / 17	LOW	25
Average temperatures	March		
	Temp °C min/max	Humidity	Rain mm
BEIJING	-1 / 10	LOW	8
CHENGDU	8 / 16	MED	25
CHONGQING	11 / 18	HIGH	36
GUILIN	10 / 16	HIGH	137
SHANGHAI	4 / 12	HIGH	118
KUNMING	5 / 20	MED	20
LIJIANG	8 / 24	MED	17
TAIYUAN	-4 / 10	MED	13
XIAN	2 / 15	LOW	29
ZHONGDIAN	7 / 20	LOW	1.3
NINE VILLAGES	-2/14	MED	30
MT. HUANG	5/15	HIGH	183
XIAHE	-5/7	LOW	18
Average temperatures	April		
	Temp °C min/max	Humidity	Rain mm
BEIJING	6 / 19	MED	26
CHENGDU	13 / 22	MED	45
CHONGQING	15 / 23	HIGH	105
GUILIN	15/22	HIGH	247
SHANGHAI	10/18	HIGH	63
KUNMING	9 / 24	MED	24
LIJIANG	11 / 27	MED	21
TAIYUAN	3/18	LOW	20
XIAN	8 / 20	LOW	43
ZHONGDIAN	10 / 22	LOW	20
NINE VILLAGES	6/20	MED	15
MT. HUANG	11/21	HIGH	233
LHASA	0/15	MED	25
LINZHI	3/18	MED	16
SHIGATSE	2/16	LOW	22
XIAHE	1/16	LOW	19

Average temperatures	May		
	Temp °C min/max	Humidity	Rain mm
BEIJING	12 / 26	MED	28
CHENGDU	17 / 25	HIGH	86
CHONGQING	18/26	HIGH	152
GUILIN	20/27	HIGH	352
SHANGHAI	15/23	HIGH	85
KUNMING	13 / 24	MED	97
LIJIANG	7 / 17	MED	56
TAIYUAN	9/25	MED	33
XIAN	13 / 25	MED	60
ZHONGDIAN	13 / 25	MED	60
X'BANNA	18/29	HIGH	127
NINE VILLAGES	11/25	HIGH	30
MT. HUANG	16/26	HIGH	273
LHASA	5/19	MED	23
LINZHI	3/18	MED	16
SHIGATSE	2/16	LOW	22
XIAHE	7/23	MED	31
Average temperatures	June		
	Temp °C min/max	Humidity	Rain mm
BEIJING	17 / 30	HIGH	71
CHENGDU	20/28	HIGH	104
CHONGQING	21 / 29	HIGH	171
GUILIN	23 / 30	HIGH	347
SHANGHAI	20 / 27	HIGH	212
KUNMING	16 / 23	HIGH	181
LIJIANG	16 / 25	MED	167
TAIYUAN	14 / 28	MED	56
XIAN	18 / 31	MED	54
ZHONGDIAN	16 / 25	MED	175
X'BANNA	19/29	HIGH	132
XIAHE	12/26	MED	55
Average temperatures	July		
	Temp °C min/max	Humidity	Rain mm
BEIJING	21 / 30	HIGH	176
CHENGDU	22 / 30	HIGH	231
CHONGQING	24 / 33	HIGH	175
GUILIN	24 / 32	HIGH	231
SHANGHAI	24 / 31	HIGH	142
KUNMING	16 / 24	HIGH	202
LIJIANG	17 / 26	HIGH	242
TAIYUAN	17/29	HIGH	102
XIAN	21 / 32	HIGH	99
ZHONGDIAN	17 / 25	MED	180
XIAHE	15/27	HIGH	114

Example Packing List

- ✓ Your travel documents and Passport – including a photocopy of your passport in case it is lost or stolen whilst you are travelling. Keep one photocopy at home and take another photocopy on your trip with you.
- ✓ Main luggage and 'day bag' – a smaller bag to carry with you during the day.
- ✓ Luggage padlocks.
- ✓ Money belt to carry passport, cash, credit cards, airline tickets and other important travel documents.
- ✓ Smart casual clothes are suitable but not compulsory for evening banquets and shows, and welcome and farewell dinners if your tour involves a Yangtze River Cruise.
- ✓ Comfortable trousers and shorts (or skirts for women).
- ✓ Shirts or tops of light cotton material.
- ✓ Walking shoes, sandals and socks – it is important to have sturdy and comfortable shoes for sightseeing every day.
- ✓ A water/windproof jacket and small umbrella.
- ✓ Sun protection – hat, sunscreen, sunglasses and lip balm.
- ✓ Scarf or bandana to protect your face against dusty winds in high altitude areas.
- ✓ Some clothing covering the knees and shoulders for visits to religious sites. Women may find a 'modesty shawl' or sarong useful in Muslim areas.
- ✓ Personal medical kit – please refer to your *Travel Guide*.
- ✓ Spare glasses/contact lenses – it is difficult to get any prescription lenses repaired or replaced in China.
- ✓ Small torch, conversion plug and spare batteries – batteries available to buy in China tend to be unreliable.
- ✓ Camera and spare film/memory card – film available in China tends to be bad quality or sun damaged.
- ✓ Antibacterial wipes and or gel – to clean hands before eating.
- ✓ Toilet paper – not all sightseeing public toilets will provide this.
- ✓ Snacks – tea bags/coffee, milk powder or sachets, muesli bars, instant soups or noodles, or anything you can't go without!
- ✓ Tracksuit/similar outfit of soft material is recommended for overnight train journeys as well as a small bath towel.
- ✓ Small bath towel – if you are travelling to remote areas such as Everest Base Camp. Some basic accommodations may not provide these.

Average temperatures	August			September			October			November			December		
	Temp °C min/max	Humidity	Rain mm	Temp °C min/max	Humidity	Rain mm	Temp °C min/max	Humidity	Rain mm	Temp °C min/max	Humidity	Rain mm	Temp °C min/max	Humidity	Rain mm
BEIJING	20 / 29	HIGH	182	13 / 25	MED	49	6 / 18	MED	19	-0.6/9	MED	6	-7 / 2	LOW	2
CHENGDU	21 / 29	HIGH	223	18 / 25	HIGH	132	14 / 20	HIGH	40	9/15	MED	17	4 / 11	HIGH	5
CHONGQING	24 / 33	HIGH	184	20 / 28	HIGH	128	16 / 22	HIGH	92	11 / 16	MED	46	7 / 12	HIGH	25
GUILIN	24 / 32	HIGH	173	21 / 30	HIGH	82	17 / 25	HIGH	86	11 / 20	HIGH	64	6 / 14	HIGH	43
SHANGHAI	24 / 31	HIGH	230	20 / 27	HIGH	76	14 / 22	HIGH	64	16 / 16	MED	43	10/10	MED	34
KUNMING	15 / 23	HIGH	204	14 / 22	HIGH	119	11 / 20	HIGH	79	6 / 17	MED	42	7 / 15	MED	12
LIJIANG	17 / 28	HIGH	206	15 / 23	HIGH	161	12 / 21	HIGH	70	7 / 17	MED	16	3 / 15	MED	9
TAIYUAN	16 / 27	HIGH	107	9 / 23	MED	52	4 / 17	MED	26	-3 / 8	MED	11	-10/2	MED	8
XIAN	20/32	HIGH	71	16 / 25	MED	92	10 / 20	MED	60	2 / 13	LOW	24	-5/7	LOW	6
ZHONGDIAN	16 / 24	HIGH	220	15 / 23	HIGH	155	11 / 21	HIGH	110	7 / 18	LOW	30	2/16	LOW	10
NINE VILLAGES	N/A	N/A	N/A	19/27	MED	56	13/21	HIGH	21	7/15	LOW	18	3/9	LOW	5
MT. HUANG	N/A	N/A	N/A	12/24	HIGH	180	13/24	HIGH	112	7/18	HIGH	83	-3/4	HIGH	51
LHASA	9/20	HIGH	121	7/19	HIGH	69	1/16	LOW	9	-9/7	LOW	2	-9/7	LOW	1
LINZHI	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0/15	LOW	4	0/15	LOW	4	0/15	LOW	4
SHIGATSE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1/19	LOW	9	-6/13	LOW	9	-8/9	LOW	5
XIAHE	14/25	HIGH	117	7/20	MED	53	1/14	MED	21	-6/5	LOW	7	-14/-1	LOW	3