



Travellers Worldwide is a leading International Provider of
Volunteering Programmes, Work Experience Internships
and Cultural Courses Abroad

CHINA



PANDA CONSERVATION IN YA'AN, CHENGDU

The Giant Panda is among the world's most adored and loved animals. There are only 1,600 left. They are listed as the most endangered species in the world, making this experience a true once in a lifetime opportunity.

Play an important part in ensuring their survival by giving your time to caring for and researching these magnificent gentle giants as they go about their daily lives.

You'll work in the largest Panda base in China, where the focus is on protecting and building a safe environment in which to begin the possible reintroduction of Giant Pandas into the wild. It is located in the beautiful mountainous area of the Woolong Nature Reserve and near the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Leshan Giant Buddha.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering on this Project. Below is a description of what you can do and expect. You can volunteer whether you're taking a gap year, on a career break, retired, or on a holiday with a purpose. No matter what your age or experience, we look forward to welcoming you to the team!

WHAT DO YOU GET?

SELF-DEVELOPMENT:

- New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
- The enormous satisfaction of helping an endangered species
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Your safety is our top priority. We risk-assess all destination countries, projects, accommodation and more to ensure that they are stable and safe.
- We have experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who are there to assist you and look after you, starting with an in-depth induction on your arrival.

AN ADVENTURE!

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into the Orient and the fascinating Chinese culture, and best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**

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SUMMARY

Prices: £595 for 1 week, £945 for 2 weeks. Excluding flights.

See our [Full Price List Online](#)

Duration: Projects are in 1-week segments. The maximum duration is 2 weeks. However, if you're a biologist or similarly qualified, you can do up to 4 weeks

Start Dates: Programmes start every other week throughout the year. Please see start dates on our website.

Requirements: Minimum age 17. No qualifications necessary but you should be an enthusiastic person who loves animals.

What's Included:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ▶ Arranging your Programme, | ▶ Full pre-departure support and assistance, |
| ▶ Payment Protection insurance | ▶ Accommodation |
| ▶ Food | ▶ Certificate of Completion |
| ▶ Meeting you at the nearest airport | ▶ Transfer to your accommodation |
| ▶ Transport to and from your project | ▶ Local in-country team support and backup |
| ▶ 24-hr emergency support. | |

What Not Included: Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas (if a visa is required), Return transfer to airport.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

WORK CONTENT:

Get up close and personal, with both baby pandas who weigh only 100 grams at birth and gradually develop to 60lbs in their second year of life to their far larger parents that weigh a massive 250-350 lbs. In the last 2 years the volunteer work at the panda base has contributed to the doubling of the panda population – which is an amazing achievement. The numbers are now such that the panda reserve can at last experiment with returning them to the wild.

Your duties may vary depending on what is required of you at the time, so flexibility is essential. During your placement your daily activities will include:

- Cleaning of the Giant Panda enclosures, and the nursery.
- Preparing the food and feeding the Giant Pandas. 99% of their diet is bamboo, however the balance usually consists of rice gruel, high fibre biscuits, carrots, apples and sweet potatoes.
- You may also be asked to conduct some research into their habits and health, in order to expand the knowledge of how best to care for these highly endangered species.

If you are interested in animal conservation, this represents a real opportunity to learn about the Giant Panda, something that is unique to China.

A typical programme is as follows, but this will vary from week to week and season to season.

Sunday:

Pick up from Chengdu airport.

You will be collected from Chengdu airport by one of our English speaking co-ordinators who will transfer you to the city where you will stay for two nights.

Monday:

After a morning's rest, you can take a tour the city of Chengdu including local markets, parks and the famous ancient pedestrian street of Kuan-zhai Alley. Visit the Business quarter. Later, join us at the welcome dinner in one of the City's restaurants.



Tuesday:

Transfer to the Panda Reserve (3 hours by bus).
Lunch at the Panda base.

Afternoon briefing and introduction to the work you will be doing.

Also registration (where you will be issued with your uniform, volunteer card etc).

Guided tour of the Panda base and meet the panda keepers whom you will be assisting.

Dinner at the hostel restaurant.

Wednesday – Friday:

For the next 3 days you will work as an assistant to the Panda Keeper. General duties will include cleaning, preparing food, chopping and carrying bamboo.

Saturday:

8:00 am transfer to Chengdu City/airport (arriving Chengdu airport at approximately 11.00 a.m) for your departure.

Afternoon flights are recommended.

If your programme is for longer than one week, you can explore the local area or go further afield. Your next week working at the Panda Base will start on Monday and go through to Friday.

ABOUT THE PANDA CONSERVATION CENTRE

The Woolong Nature Reserve was first established in June 1980 by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Chinese Government as a research centre for endangered animals in China. This led to the opening of the Giant Panda Conservation Centre in 2004.

Since the beginning of this movement, 66 Giant panda cubs have successfully been bred.

The purpose of the Conservation Centre is to increase the numbers of Giant Pandas found in the world and potentially begin to reintroduce them back into the wild. This requires the protection of their natural habitat and their major food source, bamboo.

The Panda centre has established a 90% survival rate for Giant Panda cubs due to its development in raising twin cubs. In nature a Panda is only able to raise and protect one cub at a time. However, with the help of caretakers in the nursery, they are able to leave one cub with the mother to nurse and bond, while another is placed in an incubator and hand-raised. Here Staff will stay with the baby panda for 24 hours a day, every day, for one week and then the cubs are swapped around. This results in both cubs being able to be naturally raised by their mother and receive the care that only she is able to give.

“I had three amazing weeks at the panda base... an incredible experience. You were able to get to know the different personalities of the pandas you were working with and had access to the whole panda reserve”.

Lisa, Norway

“This week has been amazing!! I love the pandas - they are so cute. I can't believe how fast the week has gone though, everybody's so friendly and the pandas can be so funny. It's a once in a lifetime experience I will never forget”.

Fiona, Scotland



ACCOMMODATION

ACCOMMODATION:

Accommodation at Chengdu:

When you arrive, your accommodation for the first two nights will be at Chengdu. Here you'll stay in a hostel room with between 4 and 6 other people. It has a shared bathroom.

At the Panda Base:

You'll then be transferred to the Panda Base. The Greenway Centre in the Ya'an Panda base has been chosen to give you a special environment for your visit to China. It is located 1,100 metres above sea-level with an average temperature of 15 degrees. It is perfect for the pandas – and for you!

The Centre is in a pleasant, cosy, recently renovated hostel. Accommodation is in twin rooms with TV, 24-hour hot water and toilets. If you prefer, upgrade options are available (please contact us for further details).

Laundry facilities are available for a small charge (roughly 20 CNY each time). Other facilities include; free Wi-Fi and a book cabinet with a few books in different languages. There's also a small shop where you are able to buy the basics like drinks and snacks.

FOOD:

At the Greenway Centre you will be provided with three meals a day - breakfast, lunch and dinner. These will be Chinese dishes typical of the local area, comprising mainly rice, noodles and vegetables with some meat.



WHY TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE?

- Over 20 years' experience of sending thousands of participants overseas, plus the largest variety of flexible projects that are value for money!
- Accredited projects helps appeal to future employers
- Excellent support!
- Your own dedicated Project Co-ordinator to answer all questions before, during and after your trip of a lifetime!
- Detailed information on your project and country and suggestions, safety guide, tips and checklists, via our EXTRANET, available from anywhere, 24/7.
- 24/7 emergency helpline for you and your family
- Free pick up from the nearest airport.

HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

By joining a Travellers Program you enable us to keep donating money to worthwhile projects around the world; from clothing and feeding school children, building playgrounds or funding vital conservation research - your participation makes these donations possible.

Donations to **Bridge The Gap Foundation**. This Foundation was set up by us to donate directly to particularly worthwhile and necessary projects for children and animals around the world, and partners with other NGO's to raise match-funding for worthy projects.

The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Meeting you at the airport
- ✓ Transport to and from your project
- ✓ Local in-country team support and backup
- ✓ 24hr emergency helpline
- ✓ Donations to worthwhile projects
- ✓ Full pre-departure support
- ✓ UK administration
- ✓ Marketing (brochures, website design and maintenance, attending careers fairs, advertising, website listings and presentations)
- ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection
- ✓ Staff Training/Equipment

“My placement was an unbelievable experience and I had an amazing time - thank you for helping me to have such a great experience! Travellers were very helpful, whenever something was asked or wanted it was provided to the best level...”

Ruairudh Couston

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

WHY IS THE GIANT PANDA ENDANGERED?

Giant Pandas are naturally solitary creatures that move freely from area to area seeking out fresh bamboo (their staple diet), creating avenues in order to come together in spring and mate.

This magnificent creature that is known to have survive the ice age, has over the years been faced with great challenges, such as their natural habitat decreasing significantly due to the expansion of humans: the development of new roads, towns and power lines resulting in the need for more logging and thus haltering the natural migration and contributing to the lack of bamboo. (Bamboo requires shade in order to grow.)

This has resulted in Giants Pandas being unable to find new food and thus preventing male and female Giant Pandas from finding one another and being able to mate and increase their numbers in the wild.

The 2008 earthquake in China also had a devastating effect on the Giant Pandas' natural habitat and food sources, thus further decreasing the number of Giant Pandas found in the wild.

Got any questions? Please email us: info@travellersworldwide.com

Once you have applied for a placement, we'll contact you and send you our Welcome Pack. You'll also receive Log-on details and password for our Volunteer Extranet where you'll have access to all the documentation and information which we've put together to facilitate preparations for your adventure!

Your Project Co-ordinator for your country will liaise with you throughout the arrangements process, as well as while you're on your placement and on your return home. The documents you'll have access to also include a Country Fact file, Safety Guide and any manuals that may assist you on your particular programme (for example, Teaching Guide, Sports Manuals, Enrichment Suggestions for Animal Care, etc.). We do all we can to make your stay one that you'll never forget.

As with all our destinations, the culture and heritage is different to what you're used to ... which, although one of the most exciting aspects of travelling, should be borne in mind. Self-reliance and independence are highly appreciated in all our destinations and will help you to make the most of this wonderful opportunity!



ARRIVAL AND TRANSPORT TO YOUR PROJECT

Please note that this will vary from week to week and season to season.

You'll fly into Chengdu airport on a Sunday where you will be collected by one of our coordinators. You will then travel to Chengdu City which is approx. 30-40 minutes away where you will spend your first day, giving you time to relax and rest. Monday will be spent touring the city of Chengdu including the local markets, parks and later you will be invited to a welcome dinner.

The following morning you will be transferred to the Panda base which is approx. 3 hours away, where you will have lunch at the panda base with a briefing and introduction to your work content in the afternoon. Registration will also take place, where you will receive your uniform and volunteer card before you will receive a guided tour before dinner.

REQUIREMENTS AND NOTES:

China is still a developing country in a period of transition. The living standard falls short of what we are used to in the West. The Chinese culture and heritage is totally different to Anglo-Saxon or Western cultures. However, the people are very friendly. China is a non-English speaking environment and it would benefit you to try to learn a few basic Chinese words before starting your programme. This will help you to get involved in the daily life of the local people.

THINGS TO DO IN CHINA

LOCATION, EXPLORING AND SIGHTSEEING:

The Panda base is in the middle of nature reserve, thus surrounded by tranquillity and peacefulness, with the loudest noises often only being the male pandas' chatter and birds singing in the trees.

Often after completing your duties there is a fair amount of free time, as Pandas do also want their own space to be wild animals. So during this time there is a range of activities for you to be able to take part in:

- Full access to the Panda reserve and volunteer centre
- The Chinese favourite sports, including: Table tennis, Mah-jong, and Chinese chess
- Free Chinese language lessons from 4pm -6pm daily
- You will also have access to the Volunteer Centre – this is a general area where most volunteers will take time to relax, chat or eat ice cream.



On the weekends, you will have time to further explore this beautiful country, with options like:

- The many walking routes in the reserve. (Guided tours are available around nearby waterfalls)
- Fishing.
- Visit the hot springs that are approx. 1 hour away from the Panda base.
- Explore the city of Ya'an for shopping and general sight seeing
- Visit the local zoo (10 minutes from the reserve).
- Visit sites like the Sichuan opera, Jinli night fair or the Tibetan quarter in Chengdu city.
- Hike to the Emei mountain or mount Oingchent to see the giant Buddha

Your project Coordinator will be able to suggest more options depending on your budget and interests

In our opinion, some of the highlights of the rest of China are:

The Army of Terracotta Warriors outside Xi'an - 6000 soldiers and horses that were originally designed to guard the tomb of an ancient Emperor. 2000 years old, these warriors were discovered by accident in the 1970s by peasants digging a well! Every figure differs in facial features and expression, and they make for an amazing sight!

Tropical Xishuangbanna - China's very own South-East Asia complete with sunshine, Thai style temples, Dai minority dancing and water splashing festivals! Here you can explore tribal villages on the border with Burma, or trek through the rainforest.

Northern China, along the path of the ruins of the Great wall, also has many sights, and a slightly rough-around-the-edges charm. Here, you can visit the Gobi desert & climb enormous sand dunes in Gansu Province or explore ancient grottoes and caverns full of religious art & Buddha statues at Dunhuang or Datong. You can even spend a night camping out under the stars in a yurt on the epic grasslands of Inner Mongolia. Here you might find yourself taking part in traditional Mongolian wrestling or drinking the local spirit (hopefully not at the same time!)

China's big cities - The economic and cultural and centres of this blossoming nation can be found in its 3 big cities - Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. These cities are practically alive with energy and each deserve a visit during your time in China. They represent the glitz and glamour of China's future and everything that's hip in China's new youth, with the rich history of Chinese culture running strongly through them.

The far North-West - Xinjiang Province in the far North-West of China next to the borders with Mongolia & Kazakhstan is a multicultural melting pot of Han Chinese, Uyghurs (the local Muslim people) and Kazakhs. Here you can visit Tian Chi, a lake halfway up a mountain inhabited by nomadic Kazakh people or take part in local grape making in the desert around Turpan



HOW TO BOOK

TWO EASY WAYS ...

Complete a [booking form](#) online.

Telephone
01903 502595 (UK)
or
1-603-574-4935 (USA)



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR PROGRAMME!

We hope you'll join us!

Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

We're happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!

www.travellersworldwide.com

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