

China Panda Breeding Centre

Help to preserve panda populations at one of the biggest panda bases in China!

China is a land of mesmerising and awe-inspiring contradictions. As the world's oldest continuous civilisation, travel around China can lead you down a path of rich antiquity. Tempt yourself with out of this world flavours from tender Peking duck, sizzling meats in night markets and slurp down everlasting bowls of Lanzhou noodles. Enliven your senses by experiencing the sights, smells and tastes of this Asian treasure.

Join this programme to be a part of the extraordinary work to help save China's iconic panda species. Pandas find their home in the geographic and economic heart of China which is also home to millions of people. Habitat destruction, poaching and forest fragmentation have contributed to dramatically isolating panda populations. With less than 1600 pandas left in the wild this project is vital to ensure the species survival for future generations to enjoy. With your contribution to this project, you will be helping to preserve this national treasure of China.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Make lifelong friendships
- Gain a better understanding of Chinese culture
- Contribute to the conservation of pandas

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum age 18 years
- A signed waiver confirming your health and ability to work with pandas

FAST FACTS

Location	Bifengxia, China
Activities	Feeding the pandas Shelter maintenance Assist with the running of the park Possible data collection Medical examinations (depending on quals/experience)
Transport	Pick-up from the airport Transport to & from the project site

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?

Today, the Giant Panda's future remains uncertain. This peaceful, bamboo-eating member of the bear family faces a number of threats. Its forest habitat, in the mountainous areas of southwest China, is fragmented and Giant Panda populations are small and isolated from each other. Meanwhile, poaching remains an ever-present threat.

Conservation efforts are being made both in the field, in creating national parks and trying to prevent further deforestation, and also by captive breeding programmes which aim to release pandas into the wild to help restore and maintain a healthy population. There are currently over 50 national parks in China that are home to wild pandas, but there are still pandas living outside these areas that are unprotected and vulnerable to further deforestation and the spread of humanity.

The Frontier-China Panda Conservation Project carries out research into all aspects of panda behaviour and aims to breed pandas and successfully release them into the wild when possible.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

After a day's introduction in Chengdu, where you will be provided with introductory talks by the sanctuary staff to familiarise yourself with your surroundings and brief you on the work you will be doing, you will make your way to the panda base in the mountains. Work will include assisting in feeding the pandas and helping with general day-to-day maintenance work - cleaning the pandas' enclosures. Giant Pandas are very strong and can be fierce, so you will not be able to handle them. You will learn about all aspects of panda life and assist the centre staff with the feeding and everyday running of the park. As well as helping prepare the pandas' food you may also have the opportunity to help the sanctuary scientists to collect valuable data about the behaviour of the pandas, which could ultimately benefit the wild populations in China. In addition to this you may be able to assist with medical examinations and breeding efforts. Tasks like these are dependent on time constraints, your own experience and qualifications and the current priorities of the panda base. Entrance fees to the park are included in your contribution.

The success of the breeding programme is crucial to the conservation of pandas in China. Founded in 1980, the staff are experienced and professional and will ensure that your experience is rewarding and unforgettable.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?

The project is based in Bifengxia, 16 kilometres from Ya'an and 150 kilometres from Chengdu, in Sichuan province. On arrival in China you will be met at Chengdu airport by our partners and transferred to your accommodation for the two-day orientation period. For airport pickup, you will need to be between 8am and midnight (12am) on Sunday. Following this orientation you will be transferred to the panda base for the remainder of your placement. At the end of your project you will be returned to Chengdu prior to your flight home. Please aim to depart after 2pm on the Saturday

after your project concludes. If you depart earlier than this then you may need to cover the cost of earlier transport to Chengdu.

WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?

You will be staying in a simple local hostel set amidst forests and mountains, close to the sanctuary. You may be sharing a room depending on availability and will have a bathroom with hot water and with a Chinese-style toilet. This is the only accommodation in the area and the staff are extremely friendly and helpful. There is a telephone and internet communication available at times at the panda base.

WHAT WILL I BE EATING?

During your stay you will be provided with three meals a day, which will be mainly authentic, local Chinese cuisine. This will be served at the accommodation where you are able to choose from a set menu. Other dishes may be available at extra cost.

COSTS

1 week	£ 844
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DEPARTURE DATES

Weekly. Please arrive on the Sunday between 8am and midnight.

DURATION

1 week

This project is available throughout the Christmas period

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Before you go

- Pre-departure support
- Travel & medical advice & documentation
- Equipment advice
- Discounted medical kit
- Free Frontier t-shirt (UK only)

In-country

- Food
- Accommodation

- Local orientation
- Project training
- Ground transfers & in-transit accommodation
- Airport pick-up (between 8am & 12pm on Sunday)
- In-country emergency support
- 24-hour international HQ backup

AIRPORT INFORMATION

Nearest airport(s): Chengdu (CTU)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Call us on 020 7613 2422 (UK) / 1 949 336 8178 (US)

Mail us on info@frontier.ac.uk

Check out our social media here:

Project details were correct at the time this document was generated. Price, dates and other details are subject to change. Please see our website for current details for this project.