

Mountain Trekking in Sichuan, China

1) 贡嘎雪山 GongGa Snow Mountain Trek, Sichuan



About Mount GongGa (“Minya Konka”)

Mount GongGa, in Tibetan language called Minya Konka, is located in Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan Province in China. With its elevation of 7,556 meters above sea level, Mount GongGa is the highest peak in Sichuan Province, and hence has the nickname “King of Mountains”. Part of the Eastern Tibetan Plateau, Mount Gongga is the easternmost 7000m+ peak in the world, and the third highest peak outside of the Himalayas/Karakoram range. With 20 peaks at an altitude over 6000m, and about 200 snow-capped peaks over 5000m high surrounding the King of Mountains, GongGa Snow Mountain is part of the Hengduan mountainous region offering stunning views weather permitting.

Altitudes & Distances

The Trek will bring us into altitudes between roughly 3000-5000m. The highest Camp Site is at 4350m on Hike Day 2, and the highest pass of the route at 4920m needs to be climbed on Hike Day 3. The total Trek is about 60km. Total elevation gain about 2,500m; Total descent about 1,500m.

Schedule: (detailed schedule to be determined): 6-10 days**: Trekking days: 4 days / 3 nights

Plus min. 2 days for arrival/departure (depending on departure location and onward destination).

**3x additional day hikes can be added after the Trek, if interested.



PRICE QUOTATION:

GONGGA Price, per person: from 6,900rmb (6 days) to 9,900rmb (10 days) – **final price TBC according to trip details and season.**

2) 亚丁大转山 Yading Three Holy Snow Mountain Big Kora Trek, Sichuan



About Yading Three Holy Snow Mountains

Daocheng Yading is located in Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan Province in China, in the traditional Tibetan region of Kham. Yading was designated as a Nature Reserve in the late 1990ies, covering an area of 1344 square kilometres. The Tibetan name for Yading is “Nyingden” ཉིང་རྟེན, and the Three Holy Mountains stand for power, wisdom and compassion:

1) XiàNuòDuōJí (5958m), 2) YāngMàiYǒng (5958m), 3) XiānNǎiRì (6032m)

They are facing each other in a triangle, and during the whole trek one will never lose sight of them. In addition to clear glacier lakes and rivers, forested valleys and meadows, one can appreciate the different angles on the impressive snowy peaks.

Altitudes & Distances

The whole Trek happens in altitudes between 4000-5000m. The highest Camp Site is at 4700m on the first night, 8 passes over 4500m need to be climbed, the highest pass of the route being at 4930m on Day 2. The total Trek is about 64km. Total elevation gain and descent about 3,600m.

Schedule: (detailed schedule to be determined): 8 days

Trekking days: 6 days / 5 nights

Plus min. 2 days for arrival/departure (depending on departure location and onward destination).



PRICE QUOTATION:

YADING Price, per person:

from 7,900rmb (8 days) – **final price TBC according to trip details and season.**

I. General Notes on CLIMATE & WEATHER:

The weather in such high mountain areas is very complex, due to their geographic location and environment determined by the vertical distribution of natural and climatic zones. Therefore, the weather varies with altitude rises and changes rapidly on its different slopes.

The rainy season in Sichuan and Yunnan usually happens from mid-June to September, accounting for 70% of the annual rainfall there. Trekking is not recommended during rainy season, as sunny days are rare to see, and paths might become difficult to walk on. The months before or after the rainy season (May-June and Oct-Nov.) are normally the best time for high altitude trekking, providing the clearest views on its glaciers, meadows and snow mountain peaks, as well as blooming flowers during early summer. The winter months are not suitable for trekking due to very low temperatures and snow.

Temperatures will be estimated according to actual weather situation before each trip, but in general:

Daytime: max. 10/12+C to min. 5C [Higher feel temperatures with bright sunshine]

Nighttime: max. -3C to min. -10/12C [Lower temperatures with strong winds]

II. General Notes on TREKKING PROPOSALS:

Participants: min. 4 to max. 8 hikers.

Requirements to participate:

- General fitness, able to hike several days in a row.
- Some prior experience in higher altitudes, over 3000m.
- Available suitable equipment, camping and clothing (or can be rented – please advise).

Schedule: It is highly recommended to add at least one full day and night for altitude acclimatization before starting a trek.

Each proposal includes:

Preparation, organization, operation*, leading (Chinese, English, French & German speaking), transportation by car (from Chengdu or nearest airport and back, plus all transfers during the trip, as per schedule), accommodation in simple but clean guesthouses (shared rooms) or camping (as per final schedule), 2 meals a day** (every day of the trip, as per schedule), drinks (water***, coffee & tea).

Each proposal excludes:

Flights to and from Chengdu or nearest airport, trekking and camping equipment****, entrance fees (for parks etc., if applicable), lunch, personal consumptions, personal health and accident insurance.

---- Additional Notes:

* Equipment and food will be carried by horses. Personal equipment shall not exceed 10kg per person.

** Local food in available restaurants. Simple but efficient food for the trekking days: breakfast and dinner.

*** Mountain water will be fetched and boiled on the way during trekking days, as needed.

**** Missing equipment can be rented, if necessary (+\$\$). Please advise at least 2 weeks in advance.

General Payment Schedule: 10% deposit to sign up (non-refundable); 50% 1 month prior to trip; remaining 40% 7 days before arrival.

Cancellation and Refund policy:

Cancellation by the client:

- The deposit of 10% is not refundable.
- Until 14 days prior to departure: 80% of the second payment is refundable.
- 5 days prior to departure: no refund, unless for special reasons (*see below).
- After departure: no refund of the whole travel sum (please see our disclaimer).

(*) special reasons: If the cancellation by the client is caused by force majeure, or severe illness, a complete refund will be given to the client anytime, except for the 10% deposit. The reason for the cancellation must be demonstrated through an official statement or document from the Chinese or foreign (traveler's homeland) authorities or through a medical report. Valid reasons for cancellation include some government policy related to pandemic control (e.g. COVID-19), a change in local regulations at the place of destination of the trip for the guests upon arrival, or the complete closure of some area that affects the trip in a way that it cannot be conducted anymore.

Cancellation by SYLVIE:

- Full refund until the departure date.
- After departure: refund of the percentage not delivered during operation of the tour.

III. About the Organizer

SYLVIE Culture Consulting is an independent consulting service provider based in Yunnan China. SYLVIE Travel is not a travel agency, but is offering tailor-made experiences for small groups of travellers who wish to explore the stunning nature and colorful mix of minority cultures in South and South-West regions of China. With some 15 years of professional experience out of Germany, Canada and China organizing cultural tours worldwide, SYLVIE offers solid organizational skills and a large-reaching network to provide a sensitive and very personal insight into their chosen host country China. Respect, trust and inclusiveness are the key terms of our operation modus; curiosity, flexibility and a positive state of mind define our approach to travel.



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