

Great Wall of China Trek

12th - 21st October 2027



Reg. charity number 1118947

WHO WE ARE

Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service is a local charity that provides specialist care and vital support to children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions, and their families, across Berkshire and into surrounding counties.



Alexander Devine

John and Fiona Devine set up the charity in memory of their extraordinary little boy who in early 2006, aged just eight, sadly passed away from a rare brain tumour. Their personal experience, and subsequent extensive research, led them to realise that there was a vital need for a local children's hospice service with a hospice facility in Berkshire.

VISION & AIMS

We deliver palliative care to children and families through an holistic approach that meets the individual needs of each child and their family.

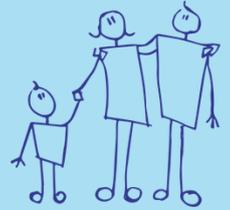
Our vision is to provide a service within Berkshire and into surrounding counties that will give children and families the choice of care and support from a skilled and dedicated team.

OUR MISSION

Reaching out to every child and family that needs us, offering support and care from people who understand

THE NEED FOR OUR SERVICE HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER.

200+

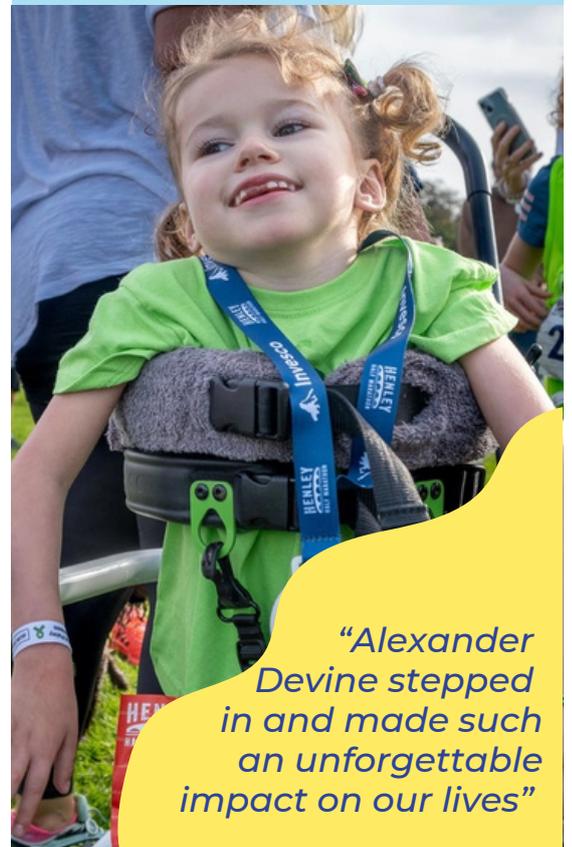


children and families currently supported by Alexander Devine



2,765+

children in Berkshire and the surrounding counties with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions and research shows that this number is likely to increase by a further 11% by 2030



"Alexander Devine stepped in and made such an unforgettable impact on our lives"

TRIP OVERVIEW

China

China is a giant country which boasts beaches, jungles, huge mountains, wildlife, architectural heritage and fascinating culture. The incredible variations of culture can be experienced in a number of ways, even just in the variations of cuisine throughout the country; from the spicy stir fries of the Szechuan province to the piquant Peking duck of Beijing. A journey to China is a mesmerising adventure that, from start to finish, leaves you with an appetite for more.

Beijing

Also known as Peking, Beijing is the capital of China and one of the most populated cities on the planet. Beijing is home to a staggering 21.5 million people in an area of only 16,000km². You will find ancient architecture next to high-rise buildings and fast food restaurants; you will find peace and serenity in enchanting temples located next to busy highways, and of course, just slightly north of Beijing you find the awe-inspiring Great Wall. Beijing is also home to delicious cuisine so take your time to explore the restaurants, sampling Peking duck, dumplings, noodles and much more.

The Great Wall

The Great Wall of China is the longest man-made structure on the planet. The Wall was built, rebuilt and maintained from as early as the 7th Century BC to protect the Chinese empire from invaders. It stretches approximately 8850 km (5500 miles) across the rolling hills of northern China to the sea. Many sections of the Wall are unrestored, scarred by battles of the past. A visit to the Great Wall is an opportunity to step back into history and marvel at the ingenuity and tenacity of the Chinese dynasties and the millions of soldiers who defended their land.

Trek overview

This trek takes you to a remote section of the Great Wall of China, from Gubeikou to Jinshanling and Simatai. Not only will you trek on the wall itself, meticulously built and restored over thousands of years, but you will also have the opportunity to trek through wild and remote landscapes with distant views of green rolling hills, mountain peaks and with one of the great wonders of the world as the backdrop. Staying in guesthouses throughout the trek allows you to gain an understanding of authentic Chinese culture as you discover more about the lifestyle of the local people and also taste some incredible local cuisine.

This trip is operated by The Different Travel Company (ATOL no 6706) on behalf of Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service (Registered Charity no.1118947). The flight-inclusive holiday in this brochure is financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to www.caa.co.uk.

WHAT IS THE EXPERIENCE LIKE?

Who accompanies us?

The trek is accompanied by local English-speaking guides who have an excellent knowledge of trekking in the region. The guides are first-aid trained and will support you throughout your journey. You will also be supported by an excellent team of assistant staff, cooks and drivers, a Different Travel Company UK tour manager and a representative from Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service.

How tough is it?

The trek is rated moderate to challenging. There are many steep uphill and downhill sections to contend with and you must be prepared to carry a daypack weighing 6-7kg. Although the distances trekked may appear short, due to the hilly terrain it can take 6-7 hours to trek just 5km, as ascent and descent profile each day ranges from 515m-866m.

What is the terrain like?

The terrain is hilly and undulating with steep sections. You will not trek on the wall the entire time, often you will walk next to it through the countryside so be prepared for a variety of ground underfoot from the grassy, dry terrain of the countryside to the stone steps of the Great Wall. The Great Wall has been restored in some sections so you will find smooth paved ground with steps built up the hillside. In the original sections, the Wall may be crumbling, with earth and stone rubble that shifts underfoot like scree, making it challenging to climb. In general, you should expect to climb a lot of steps during the challenge so you must train with this in mind and ensure you do plenty of hill walking to prepare for the hills.

What kind of food will we eat?

The trek day will start with a breakfast of hot drinks, noodles, rice, eggs, Chinese dumplings and fruit. You will prepare your own packed lunch each day which will consist of sandwiches with jam or peanut butter, fresh fruit, Oreos (or similar), dried fruit and nuts etc. You should bring your own snacks to eat throughout the day. A freshly cooked traditional Chinese evening meal will be served at the guesthouse comprising rice, noodles, meat, tofu and vegetable dishes.

Where will we stay?

During your nights in Beijing you will stay in hotels, and each night during the trek you will stay in local guesthouses. Rooms are allocated on a twin or triple share basis.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Is there an age limit?

You must be 18+ to join this trek. It may be possible for you to participate if you are 16 or 17 years old if accompanied by a parent or guardian. There is no upper age limit.

Who can take part?

An ideal candidate for the trek would be someone who enjoys being out of their comfort zone and trying something new. Adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected so do not expect standards to be the same as you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable (be it because of group pace, weather conditions, local bureaucracy or other factors) and itineraries may be altered to allow for this. For you to get the most out of your challenge it is important that you are flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. Suitable fitness preparation before departure forms part of this.

How fit do I need to be?

You should have a good level of fitness to ensure fast recovery from each day of trekking.

How should I prepare?

You must engage in training (including plenty of walking up and down hills) before departure to ensure your best chance of enjoyment on the trip. This could include hill walking, running, cycling, gym workouts, boot camps, etc. You can download a number of free apps to help you train and track your progress e.g. MapMyWalk, C25K, MyFitnessPal etc. Attempting to complete the trek without training will make it more challenging than necessary and will be detrimental to your experience, and the experience of your teammates.



TRIP COST

Fundraising Model A (Self Funding Costs)

- £395 registration fee then pay the balance of £2,625 due 20th July 2027.
- Plus £1,500 sponsorship target (excluding Gift Aid.)
 - £1,200 (80%) of the sponsorship must be received by Alexander Devine by 1st October 2027.
 - The final £300 (20%) must be received within 1 month of returning from the trip.
 - The balance will be used to pay the trip costs. Sponsorship will help fund out vital service.

Fundraising Model B (Full Sponsorship)

- £395 registration fee plus £3,995 raised in sponsorship (excluding Gift Aid.)
 - £3,196 (80%) of the sponsorship must be received by Alexander Devine by 20th July 2027.
 - The final £799 (20%) must be received within 1 month of returning from the trip.
 - Part of this sponsorship will go towards the cost of the trek with the remainder helping fund our vital service.

N.B. Trip costs are based on the overall group size and are subject to change. This is the most you will be required to pay.

Trip Includes:

- ✓ Return flights from London (inc. airport taxes)
- ✓ All transport in China
- ✓ Accommodation (hotel in Beijing for 3 nights, guesthouses on trek for 4 nights)
- ✓ Meals
- ✓ English-speaking guides and support crew
- ✓ Trek permits
- ✓ UK Different Travel tour manager

Trip Does Not Include:

- ✗ Chinese visa (current cost approx. £190)
- ✗ Personal expenses (e.g. drinks, souvenirs, etc.)
- ✗ Vaccinations
- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Tips (approx. £40-45 per person)
- ✗ Trek kit and equipment
- ✗ Optional Xi'an extension

THE ITINERARY:

Day 1 - London to Beijing

Fly to Beijing on an overnight flight.

Day 2 - Beijing

Meals: Dinner.

Arrive in Beijing and check into a central hotel in time for a group dinner and a briefing on the week ahead. If time permits, why not explore the maze of alleys (hutongs) where you will find traditional houses, small local shops and other wonders.

Day 3 - Beijing to Gubeikou

Walking Distance: Approx. 9 km

Total ascent: 515 meters

Estimated Walking Time: 3-4 hours

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

Today we transfer by bus to the Great Wall (approx. 3 hours). After lunch we start our trek, winding our way uphill to reach an ancient and original section of the Great Wall, from where you will enjoy views of the wall stretching across the countryside. We descend next to the wall then through a forest to a small town and to our first guesthouse at Gubeikou.

Day 4 - Gubeikou

Walking Distance: Approx. 11 km

Total ascent: 709 meters

Estimated Walking Time: 6-7 hours

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

This morning we transfer from our guesthouse to explore the Gubeikou section. This area is completely original, quite challenging and one of the lesser visited sections.

It is believed to have seen more battles than any other part of the Great Wall and has long been a place of military significance. The majority of the trek today is along a part of the wall which is almost completely worn away and the terrain underfoot is rugged and uneven.

We return to the guesthouse tonight.



Day 5 - Gubeikou to Jinshanling

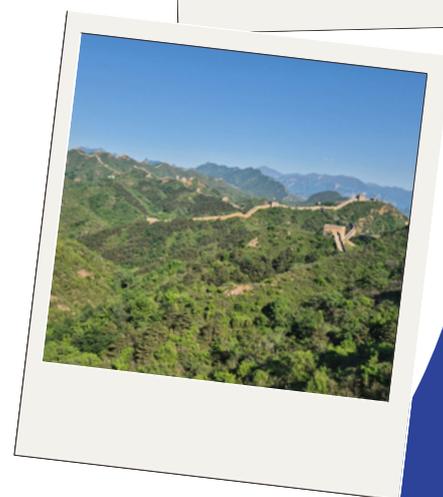
Walking Distance: Approx. 15.4 km

Total ascent: 866 meters

Estimated Walking Time: 6-7 hours

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

We set off early today to transfer to the start of our trek. Today we will trek up to a section of the wall known locally as the 'dragon standing on the beautiful golden mountain'. It's easy to see how the wall resembles a dragon as it weaves across the land. The views are stunning and you will have hundreds of great photographic opportunities. Unlike other sections of the wall, this area has seen little restoration and many of the stairs and turrets have crumbled away to leave steep stone slopes between each watch tower. We descend through forests and past farmland before transferring to our guesthouse in Jinshanling.



Day 6 - Jinshanling to Simatai

Walking Distance: Approx. 8 km

Total ascent: 697 meters

Estimated Walking Time: 7 hours

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

Today's trek takes us along a restored section of the wall originally built in the 15th century. In contrast to the unrestored sections of the previous days, here you can see how the wall looked when it was built centuries ago. Here you will gain an appreciation of the incredible effort in building the wall and the meticulous attention to detail, tactical wisdom, and subtle beauty in its construction. We descend through the forest and return to our guesthouse.

Day 7 - Simatai to Beijing

Walking Distance: Approx. 6 km

Total ascent: 539 meters

Estimated Walking Time: 4-5 hours

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

After breakfast we transfer to the start of our half-day trek through the forest to a remote and rarely visited watch tower at the top of a hill. After enjoying the views from the top we descend on the same trail through the forest where we meet our vehicles which transfer us to our lunch spot and a final farewell to our trek support team. After lunch we drive back to Beijing (approx. 3-4 hours).

Day 8 - Beijing

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

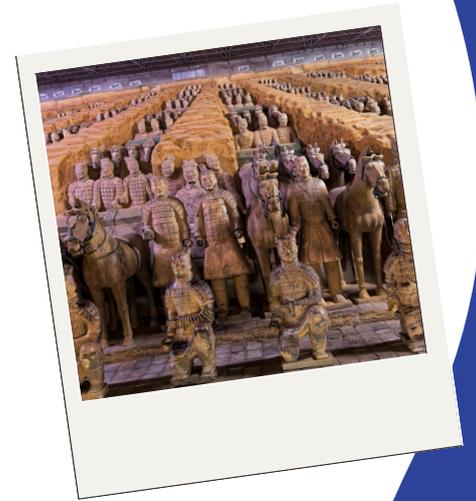
Today you will have guided visits to the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square before some free time and a special farewell dinner tonight.

Day 8 - Beijing

Meals: Breakfast.

Transfer to the airport for the return flight to London which may arrive the following day (Tuesday 20 October 2026) depending on flight schedules

N.B. *This itinerary may change due to unusual weather patterns, the ability of the group and so on. We will do our best to keep to the set itinerary however we cannot be held responsible for changes that might occur outside of our control. In all such circumstances your guide and tour leader will have the final say in the interest of the health and safety of the group.*



OPTIONAL XI'AN TERACOTTA WARRIORS EXTENSION

Day 9 - Beijing - Xi'an

Meals: Breakfast.

You will have some further free time today to explore more of Beijing before we depart to the station for an overnight sleeper train to Xi'an. (Times tbc but approx. dep. 20.40, arr. 08.30).

Day 10 - Xi'an

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

On arrival you will be met by your local guide who will take you on a visit around the Old City. Highlights will include the City Walls, History Museum, the Wild Goose Pagoda and the impressive Great Mosque.

We will stay in a hotel overnight, the centrally located Skytel or similar.

Day 11 - Xi'an - Beijing

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

Spend the day visiting the magnificent Terracotta Warriors. The famous collection of sculptures depicting the armies of China's first emperor Qin Shi Huang were buried with the emperor in 210-209 BCE. They were rediscovered by a farmer in 1974. Tonight you back to the station for the return overnight train to Beijing. (Times tbc but approx. dep. 18.30, arr. 07.25).

Day 12 - Beijing – London

Meals: Breakfast.

We will transfer to a hotel for breakfast and have some free time until departure to the airport. Flight times TBC.

Extension Price:

- Minimum of 5 participants: £775pp
- Single supplement (hotel only): £80pp

N.B. *This is based on a twin share basis. Single supplement is subject to availability. Prices for larger groups are available on request.*

Cost includes:

- All transfers & transport in China on a private basis.
- Accommodation as mentioned.
- Return train fare in 2nd class soft-sleeper carriage.
- Escorted transfers in Beijing, local guide in Xi'an (you will not be accompanied on the overnight train, but will meet your guide on arrival in Xi'an).

Cost does not include:

- Personal expenses (such as drinks, laundry etc).
- Visas and vaccinations.
- Personal travel insurance.
- Optional tips.

A deposit of £300 for this extension is payable directly to The Different Travel Company to confirm your place. This must be received by 12 October 2026.

**Please log in to your online profile to join the extension.
Email bookings@different-travel.com with any queries.**

MEDICAL DECLARATION

We require a medical form to be completed by everyone upon registering, and any pre-existing conditions, medications used and other medical issues must be specified.

All your data, including medical details, is treated in the strictest confidence. The information will be securely screened by a qualified medical professional, and details provided to your tour manager and local guides so our staff are adequately informed and prepared to support you during the trip. It is a condition of your registration that you give full and accurate details. If any details change, you must update us. By completing the booking form, you are giving consent for us to contact you confidentially with any follow-up questions regarding your health. If your medical issues at the time of booking represent a concern for your safety and wellbeing, or the safety and wellbeing of others in the group, it may be recommended that you do not take part. If this happens, your deposit will be refunded. If you develop a new medical condition after making a booking and this results in your withdrawal from the Event, this will be treated as a cancellation by you. Please refer to the terms and conditions at the time of booking. Please note that we will never unreasonably deny participation on a trip nor contravene the Equality Act 2010.

HEALTH & SAFETY ASSURANCE

Your health and safety are our highest priorities, and we are committed to ensuring your trip is not only memorable but also safe.

We closely monitor guidance from the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), which provides up-to-date travel advice and recommendations. All adventure travel involves an element of risk. We will never operate a trip in an area against the advice of the FCDO, whether due to health concerns, political instability, natural disasters, or any other safety threat.

If travel restrictions in the destination country prevent the trip from going ahead safely, we will offer the option to postpone or cancel your booking at no cost to you.

We will keep you fully informed of any updates relevant to your travel arrangements.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to us at info@different-travel.com.

THE DIFFERENCE YOU CAN MAKE

WHAT IT COSTS

The specialist care and support is free of charge for families. But it costs

over £3million each year

just to maintain our current level of care.

With very minimal government and NHS funding, 83% of what our charity needs to meet the cost of running our service, comes from donations, fundraising and gifts in Wills.

This means for every one hour of specialist care and support that we provide to each child and their family, only 10 minutes is funded by statutory sources.

ONLY 10 minutes each hour is funded




The support we receive from individuals, businesses, schools, community groups, clubs and volunteers enables us to run our vital children's hospice service across the whole of Berkshire and the surrounding counties

HOW YOU CAN CHANGE LIVES



 **£17**

could provide a memory box for a bereaved family, full of things to treasure forever

£118 

could pay for a visit from a Clinical Nurse Specialist to help improve a child's quality of life through symptom management

£52 

could give a child with complex healthcare needs an hour of specialist care from an Alexander's Nurse

 **£442**

would fund a day at our hospice for a seriously-ill child, with plenty of fun and play as well as specialist clinical care

£96 

could pay for a Splash session in our hydrotherapy pool, time for a family to come together and have fun

£1,440 

could pay for a child with complex healthcare needs to stay with us overnight at the hospice

Ready, set... FUNDRAISE!

How to raise
£1000 towards
your challenge

£50

Cake Sale

Sell 25 cakes for £2 each
(£50 or charge 10 friends £5
to enter a bake off contest.



£250

Bag Pack £200

Ask your local supermarket
if you and your friends can
bag pack for donations. You
can also help spread the
word about us!



£250

could fund everything our
specialist play team need a
month to give children
opportunities for play.

Summer BBQ £160

Sausages, burgers, fish or
veggie. Ask for donations
and hold a raffle!



Auction of services

From DIY to dog-walking,
car-washing to gardening,
5 jobs at £10 each.



£460

£300

£500

Collection tins £40

Put our tins at work, your
local shop, school gym or
pub.



£576

could pay for six Splash
sessions in our
hydrotherapy pool, time for
a family to spend time
together and have fun!



Table top sale £80

Make, decorate or donate
items, or sell unwanted
items on eBay. Ask our
team for seasonal items
you can sell for us.



£580

£750

Casual dress in the office £50

Pick a theme and charge
£2 for your colleagues to
take part, add a cake sale
to raise even more.



£700

Quiz night £120

Invite 20 people at £6 per
ticket. Your local pub may
well donate the first
drink!



£884

would fund two days at our
hospice for a child with a
life-limiting or life-
threatening condition.

£1000

Match Funding

Many companies will
match fund your
fundraising up to £250.



You did it!

Thank you, your fundraising will
make a huge difference.



Sign Up Now!

Any questions? Contact Anne



anneb@alexanderdevine.org



01628 822777



www.alexanderdevine.org

Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service
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Maidenhead
Berkshire
SL6 3UA



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Registered charity no 1118947

