

Minya Konka Test Trip - Emily Rhodes

Trip Code: MKTA

Version:



WALK & TREK



FAMILY



MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- TEST Trek beneath Minya Konka (7556m), the third highest peak beyond the Himalaya/Karakorum range
- TEST Meet the distinctive Khampa and Minyak communities of the Kham region
- TEST Discover the Great Mani Pile of the Tagong Plateau and overnight at Konka Monastery
- TEST See Pandas and Red Pandas at the Breeding and Research Centre at Chengdu

AT A GLANCE

- 34 day trekking
- Max altitude - 56000 metres
- Join at Xian

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

This superb adventure in remote China combines the experience of real Tibetan culture with a spectacular trek through the beautiful valleys of Riwoche and Moxi to the Monastery below the ice-fluted shark's fin of Minya Konka (7556m), the world's third highest peak outside the Himalaya. Situated on the eastern edge of the Tibetan Plateau, Minya Konka is also one of the most sacred mountains to Tibetan Buddhists, equal in status to Mount Kailas in Western Tibet. Impressive mountain panoramas and austere glaciers, babbling brooks and river torrents, azure blue lakes, enchanting mixed woodland, grazing yaks and their nomadic herders, chortens, mani walls, prayer flags and elaborately decorated Gompas can all be found here.

Our week long trek begins just south of Kangding, the 'Gateway to Tibet'. We make a steady ascent of the Riwoche valley with its soaring cliffs and fast river torrents. At the head of this valley we enter a high grazing area where we will encounter the temporary settlements of the nomadic yak herders. Climbing to cross the 4900 metre Bhuchu La, we then descend the beautiful Moxi valley eventually entering forests of rhododendron, juniper, birch and oak which in October become a riot of Autumnal colours. We stay overnight in the Konka monastery and the climax of our trek is the climb to the ridge above for unrivalled views of Minya Konka and the Daxue range of 6000-metre snowy peaks. Although Minya Konka is the undoubted centre-piece of this great trekking holiday to a little visited mountain region of Sichuan, there is much more to the holiday than this, admittedly, superbly photogenic mountain.

If you want to see real Tibetan culture, this is where you should come. This holiday will give you an insight into the rural life of the Kham region and also of the Minyak people who are an ethnic group distinct again from their Khampa neighbours. Combined with a fascinating journey through Sichuan province, with its many spectacular monasteries, gigantic 'hill paintings' and the great Mani Pile of Tagong, and sightseeing in the city of Chengdu, including the Pandas at the world famous breeding centre. This is a world class trekking holiday and also a real adventure and travel experience in an area visited by very few Westerners.

Is this holiday for you?

This holiday combines a week long trek with a cultural experience staying and touring in Western Sichuan - an area steeping in Tibetan culture. The trek to Minya Konka is not long or sustained but it travels through rugged country, generally at a high altitude and across a high pass of 4900 metres. The average walking day is around 5 - 6 hours with one longer day across the Bhuchu La of 8 or possibly 9 hours. In general the underfoot conditions are good and we follow a well established trails used by the semi nomadic Yak herders who travel through these valleys.

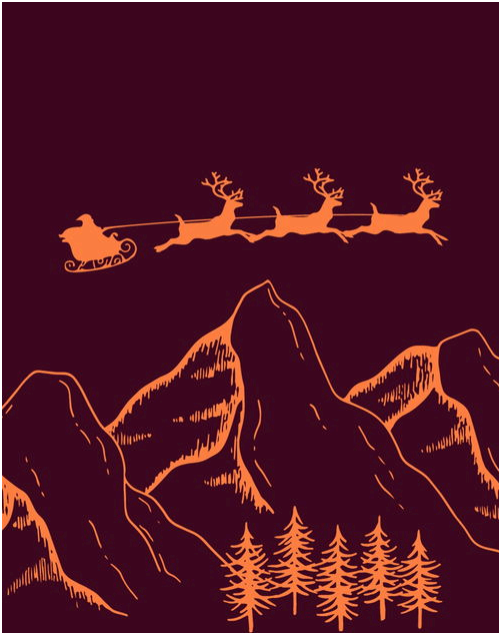
Though altitude will of course be a factor, this short trek is suitable for experienced hill walkers with a good level of fitness. Please note that this is a real adventure in an area rarely visited by other groups. Organised trekking is still in its infancy in this part of the world and therefore services will be more basic than you may have experienced trekking in the Himalaya. This holiday is perfect for those who are seeking to trek in remote areas and who are happy to accept the pioneering nature of the trip.

Itinerary

Version:

Extensions

When booking your holiday, you will be able to 'add an extension option'. Once we have received your booking we will contact you to discuss additional services required for the extension and to take any additional deposit.



GXXF Test Extension

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3 days from
US\$1,500 per person

Holiday Information

What's Included

- TEST An experienced KE leader
- A professional English-speaking local guide
- Group airport transfers
- Visit to the Chengdu Panda Centre
- All accommodation as described
- All meals
- All land transport required by the itinerary
- All permits and entrance fees required by the itinerary
- All camping equipment (except personal equipment)
- While on trek a support crew including cook baggage ponies and their handlers

What's not Included

- DBVisas
- Travel insurance
- Airport transfers other than group transfers
- Tips for local staff
- Miscellaneous personal expenditure - drinks etc.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

DBThe group will meet at the hotel in Chengdu.

A single timed transfer from Chengdu International Airport to the group hotel is provided on Day 1.

At the end of the holiday a group transfer from the hotel to the airport is provided.

Anyone may join the group transfers by prior arrangement. Travelling as a group or on public transport saves energy. If this is not practical, we can provide private transfers at an additional cost. Taxis are also available.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

DB All meals are included in the holiday price.

Food & Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. If you are on a trekking or cycling holiday, water is supplied to fill up your individual bottles. This will be boiled, filtered or provided in large jerry cans or 5 litre bottles. Additionally you should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a [Water-To-Go bottle](#)) to treat your water when in towns or where water is not supplied. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Sichuan cuisine has a great reputation within China and also in Chinese restaurants throughout the world. It is usually spicier than other Chinese cuisines although there is always sufficient non-spicy dishes to choose from on most menus. The food served during the trek is cooked from locally purchased ingredients by our trained trek cooks who never fail to impress. The emphasis is on providing a high-carbohydrate and largely vegetarian diet, which we have found to be easily digestible at high altitude. All meals while on trek and while staying in hotels are included in the trip price.

[test link](#)

more text

Accommodation

DBWe will have 3 nights at a four star hotel in Chengdu and a total of 3 nights in comfortable tourist class hotels in Kangding, Tagong and Luding. All rooms are en suite.

We will also have a total of 3 nights in basic homestay/monastery/lodge accommodation in Luoyling, in the Minya Konka Gumpa and in Tsemi Village respectively. Though twin rooms should be available, it is possible that you will have to share with more than one other person on these nights. Bathroom facilities will be shared.

While on trek there will be a total of 5 nights camping. Whilst camping we will have the use of a dining tent with tables and chairs and a toilet tent. Accommodation on trek is in 2 person mountain tents.

All accommodation is twin share. If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Single hotel rooms and/or single tents are available for a supplementary cost. If you are planning to extend your holiday, additional nights are available on request.

Group Leader & Support Staff

DB The group will be led by a highly experienced KE tour leader travelling from the UK, who will be supported by a local English speaking guide. The tour leader will have the further assistance of a trek crew of cook plus baggage animals and their handlers.

Altitude

This holiday involves going to high altitude. During the course of your trip you will reach altitudes in excess of 3500 metres. This is not something that you should worry about; the human body is quite capable of adapting to a very wide range of altitudes, but it is important that we follow some simple rules in order to acclimatise successfully. Before coming on this holiday you should read the advice on [trekking at high altitude](#). You can also talk to one of our trekking experts if you have any concerns about altitude. On this trip we carry a portable altitude chamber (PAC-bag) and/or bottled oxygen for use in emergencies.

Spending Money

Approximately £200 - 250 (or equivalent in US dollars, Euros etc.) should be allowed for miscellaneous expenses including around £50 - £60 (in equivalent local currency) for tips to local staff. It is not necessary to obtain local currency prior to departure. Sterling, US Dollars and Euros are equally acceptable for exchange in Chengdu or you can withdraw money from ATMs in Chengdu and Kangding. Note that most US credit cards will not work in Chinese ATMs but the majority of European cards are fine. If you are bringing your travel money with you we recommend that you carry this in the form of cash, since travellers cheques can be time consuming to exchange.

Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is the accepted way of saying 'thank you' for good service. Tips do not form part of the wages of your trek crew but they are very much appreciated. It is important to remember that tipping is voluntary and should be dependent on good service. Normally the tips are given at the end of the trek and this is best coordinated by the group rather than as individual tips. As a rough guide, we recommend that each group member contributes the equivalent of £50 -60 (in local currency equivalent) to a pool for these tips.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage, which should be a soft and sturdy duffel bag, and one day pack. Your bag on trek will be carried by porters or pack animals and should not weigh more than 15kg. It is possible to leave travel clothes and other items not required on trek at the group hotel in Chengdu and you may wish to bring a small bag for this purpose. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

All British passport holders are required to obtain a visa for entry into Pakistan. Download our [Pakistan Visa Information](#) document for full details of how to apply.

Visa India

Most nationalities, including travellers from the UK, the USA and many European countries can apply for their Indian Visa online through the **E-Visa Application** process. You must make your application at least four days prior to departure. Please download the detailed information document for details of how to apply for your visa: [Visa India PDF](#)

Visa South Korea

A visa is not required by citizens of more than 100 countries including the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand for a stay of less than 90 days.

A full list of countries not requiring a visa can be found on the Korea Visa Portal <https://www.visa.go.kr/>

Visa China

All nationalities require a visa. The visa fee is approximately GBP £171.50 (including handling fee) and you need to apply for it prior to departure. Please download the detailed information document: [Visa PDF China](#).

Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

VACCINATIONS

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you specific require any vaccinations or other preventive measures. You should be up to date with routine courses and boosters as recommended in the UK e.g. diphtheria-tetanus-polio and measles-mumps-rubella), along with hepatitis A and typhoid. A certificate of yellow fever vaccination is required if travelling from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission and for travellers having transitted for more than 12 hrs through an airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dentist check up. A good online resource is [Travel Health Pro](#).

Dengue fever is a known risk in places visited. It is a tropical viral disease spread by daytime biting mosquitoes. There is currently no vaccine or prophylaxis available and therefore the best form of prevention is to avoid being bitten. We recommend you [take precautions to avoid mosquito bites](#).

Currency

The unit of currency in China is Yuan Renminbi.

Preparing for your Holiday

Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. You should be aerobically fit and comfortable with walking 7-8 hours for consecutive days. Hill walking, with a good amount of ascent and descent, is the best training, and we would suggest that you try to fit in a number of long weekend walks before you depart. Running, cycling and swimming are also good for developing cardio vascular fitness and stamina. There is little you can do to prepare for the altitude but if you have an excellent level of fitness this can help.

Climate

The Konka Shan range is located at the boundary of the south west and the south east monsoonal air masses and is influenced by both of these. As in the Himalaya, the majority of precipitation occurs between June and the end of August. At other times rainfall is very low. Winters are very cold which limits the trekking season to April-May and September - October. Daytime temperatures at these times will range from 17 to 22 degrees Celsius in Chengdu to 10 to 15 degrees in the mountains. At our highest camps the nighttime temperatures may drop below freezing and possibly as low as minus 10 degrees Celsius.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

Great pre-trip reading: [China Blog](#)

Maps

Mount Gongga Glaciers

A detailed map of the environs on Minya Konka at a scale of 1:25,000 published by the Chinese Institute of Glaciology based on surveys from the early 1980s and aerial photography from December 1996. Contours are at 20m intervals, enhanced by shading, plus graphics and/or colouring for exposed rock, scree, moraine, crevasses, vegetation, etc. Place names are given in both Chinese and Latin alphabet. The map highlights expedition routes and locations of camps.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

FSW Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the 'baggage allowance' section for further details.

You should bring the following items

- Warm and waterproof snow boots
- Trainers or similar (for casual wear)
- Warm/Ski socks (2 or 3 pairs)
- Underwear
- Thermal baselayers - tops and leggings
- Waterproof padded ski salopettes OR waterproof overtrousers with warm/thermal leggings
- Casual clothes for evening wear and travel
- Fleece jacket and/or jumper
- Warm ski jacket or down jacket
- Warm hat
- Scarf
- Ski goggles and good quality sunglasses
- Warm fleece gloves
- Warm and windproof overgloves or mittens
- Daypack 20 to 30 litres (depending on how much of the kids' stuff you need to carry)
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 2x 1 Litre (quart) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Selection of dry bags (to keep daypack contents dry)
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Basic First Aid Kit including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters, blister treatment, antihistamine cream and tablets, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

The following items are optional:

- Karrimat or similar foam mat (for lunch stops)
- 1 litre Thermos Flask
- Swimwear (for spa)
- Camera
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Equipment provided locally:

- Additional warm clothing as required
- Snowshoes
- Ski touring equipment including boots

Notes:

Additional clothing and all equipment will be provided at Camp Ripan for all the activities. You should take the sort of warm clothing that you would use for a skiing

trip. Warm outdoor clothing is available to hire at Camp Ripan for 175 SEK per person (pre-booking required), or 200 SEK on the spot.

Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the 'baggage allowance' section for further details.

You **SHOULD** bring the following items:

- Hiking boots

- Socks

- Trekking trousers

- Waterproof overtrousers

- Underwear

- Baselayer shirts

- Casual shirt and/or T-shirts

- Fleece jacket or warm jumper

- Waterproof jacket

- Sunhat

- Warm hat

- Sunglasses

- Gloves or mittens

- Headtorch with batteries

- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 Litre x2 (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Small towel
- Selection of dry bags (to keep kit bag contents dry)
- Daypack (approx. 30 litres)
- Sleeping bag (comfort rating -15°C)
- Thermarest or similar sleeping mat
- Warm jacket (down)

Basic First Aid Kit including: A broad spectrum antibiotic, antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), altitude (Diamox), painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, insect repellent, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

The following items are optional:

- Trekking poles (recommended)
- Training shoes or similar for camp use
- Shorts
- Baselayer - thermal leggings
- Gaiters

- Sleeping bag liner
- Scarf or buff
- Travel clothes
- Camera
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for joining in Chengdu. Single timed transfers from Chengdu Airport to/from the group accommodation will be provided at the start/end of the holiday.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Chengdu. Outbound flights will usually depart from the UK in the afternoon, arriving the following day. Return flights will depart Chengdu in the early morning the last day of the itinerary, arriving in the UK in the evening on the same day.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Travel with KE, as the only UK based operator offering this off-the-beaten-track trek in the wildest regions of China. The chance to experience real Tibetan culture visiting the remote communities of Khampa and Minyak in the shadow of the majestic Minya Konka - the third highest peak outside the Himalaya.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 22/11/2024 and the trip is subject to change