

Robert Frost wrote that 'good fences make good neighbours', and the Great Wall of China is perhaps the boldest embodiment of that sentiment. Legend has it that the Great Wall was built by the first emperor of the Qin dynasty (circa 220 BC), but historians date rudimentary fortifications to the fifth century BC. The Wall was recently voted one of the New Seven Wonders of the World and is a must-see for visitors to Beijing;

but your Wall may not be my Wall. There are many ways to experience the Great Wall depending on your time and preferences – here are our picks, from mild to wild.

### GOOD TO KNOW

You can reach all sections of the Wall by public transportation, but hiring a driver for the day is more than worth the fee. Your hotel Concierge can arrange this for you.

#### 你最好知道的

你可以搭乘公共交通去长城所有的参观景 点,但是更值得推荐的方式是包上一整 天计程车。酒店门口的服务生可以为你 做好安排。

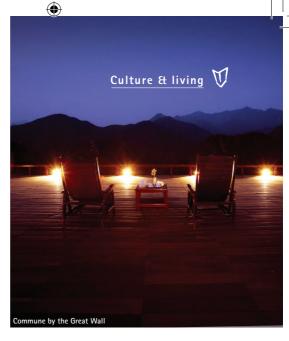
□□伯特 ● 弗洛斯 特(Robert Frost) 曾经写道: "好围墙 才能修得好邻居", 对这种看法最大胆的 诠释或许就是中国的 长城了。传说中,长 城是由秦始皇建造的 (约西元前220年), 但是历史学家认为最 初的防御工事其实在 西元前5世纪就开始 动工了。长城最近被 选为"新世界七大奇 迹"之一,是去北京 的游客必看的景点。 但是你眼中的长城或 许和我所看到的并不 相同。根据你的时间 和个人偏好,体验长 城的途径也多种多 样——以下这些是我 们编者的选择,让你 感受一番从温柔到狂 野的长城之旅。

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# 温柔长城

八达岭长城是最受旅 游者欢迎的一处景 点,人气上占尽优 势,游客人数保持终 年上涨,甚至还开了 一家自己的"星巴 克"咖啡馆,里面的 热水瓶上刻著"长城 星巴克"的字样。如 果有人不愿意购买宣 称自己"徒步登长 城"的T恤衫,甚至 不想骑马或者骑骆驼 登长城,八达岭则为 他们准备了缆车。我 们的建议则是,继续 走到与八达岭相邻 的水关长城,去看 看那里一家华丽的 名叫"长城脚下的 公社"的饭店(www. commune.com.cn) • 在那里你可以一边欣 赏长城城墙令人惊叹 的景色,一边在阳台 上啜饮香槟美酒。

### 滑行长城



# Badaling and Shuiguan (Mild)

The most popular vantage point for tourists, the Badaling section of the Wall, is heaving year-round and even has its own Starbucks with 'Starbucks at the Great Wall'-branded thermoses. Badaling has cable cars for those who don't feel like buying the 'I Hiked the Great Wall' T-shirts, and even horse and camel rides. Our suggestion is to continue to the Shuiguan section, just next door to Badaling, and pop into the spectacular Commune by the Great Wall resort (www. commune.com.cn). Here you can enjoy stunning views of the ramparts while sipping bubbly on the terrace.





# Mutianyu

Further afield is the Mutianyu Great Wall, which is less overrun with tour groups. You might even have parts of the Wall to yourself early in the morning or during winter months. There are several ways to ascend the wall: gondola, chair-lift or sweat and tears. There is also a fun bob-sled slide to take you down again (insider tip: don't pull back on the bar, it works as a break and you'll get stuck like we did).

# Simatai and Jinshanling (Wild)

For the truly intrepid traveller, a Wild Wall Weekend (www.wildwall.com) led by author and conservationist William Lindesay will sate your thirst for adventure. Experience living in a farmhouse in the shadow of the Wall, climb unreconstructed stretches and learn about conservation efforts. If you don't have a whole weekend to spare, take the luxury tour bus to the Simatai Great Wall, leaving from Qianmen at 8.30am on Saturday and Sunday mornings and returning around 3-4pm. The four-hour hike from Simatai to Jinshanling affords some of the most breathtaking views of the Wall, but be sure to wear sturdy shoes as the path is crumbling in places and there are some treacherous drops.

KRISTINA PÉREZ

乐趣的长橇滑行。( 内行人士建议:不要 向后拉动把手,这就 好像"刹车"一样, 会把你困在半路中。 我们就吃过这样的苦 头。)

# 狂野长城

对干那些真正勇敢 的旅行者,身兼作 家和环保人士的 William Lindesav发起 组织的"狂野长城周 末行" (www.wildwall.com) ,将满足 你对于探险的渴望。 你可以住进深藏在长 城阴影下的农民家 里,攀登未被重建的 广阔城墙,并且了解 有关环保措施的知 识。如果你没有一整 个周末的空暇时间, 你可以搭乘豪华旅游 大巴去司马台长城。 巴士会在周六和周日 早上八点半从前门出 发,约在下午三点至 四点之间返回。从司 马台到金山岭四小时 的徒步之旅包含了长 城的一些最美丽的景 色。不过一定要记得 穿上比较结实的鞋 子,因为有些地方道 路终年失修,崎岖难 走,而且还有一些危 险的陡坡。■

