



CHINA NATIONAL PARKS PROGRAM

DURATION

10
days

HIGHLIGHTS

Public Lands &
U.S. National Parks Tours

UTAH EXPERTISE

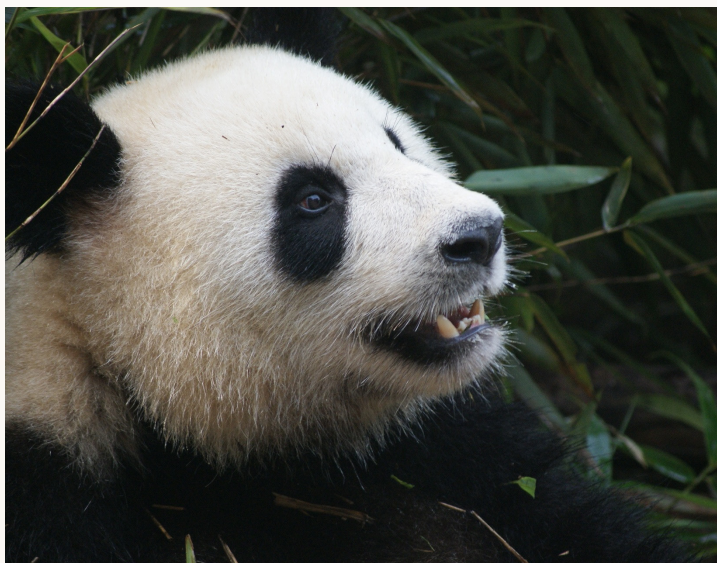
Parks, Recreation
& Tourism

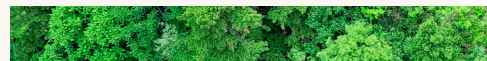
PARTNERS

San Jian Yuan National
Park, Sichuan Grassland
and Forestry Bureau

The U is working with multiple provinces in China to develop best practices for managing critical natural resources.

In 2017, China's central government formally introduced a new concept to the country—the creation of national parks. A year later, the Chinese government partnered with the University of Utah. Since then, delegations from Qinghai and Sichuan have participated in training to learn more about Utah's national parks and public land policies in an effort to build its new program using best practices honed in the United States during the past nearly 150 years.





CHINA NATIONAL PARKS PROGRAM

“China is excited to learn from the long history of national parks in the United States,” said Hassan An, professor at Qinghai Normal University. “We appreciate the opportunity to work with the University of Utah and look forward to developing a customized model that will allow our parks to thrive.”

The Chinese government has proposed 10 new parks, with the possibility of announcing more in the future. Several have been designated to protect endangered species, including the giant panda, Siberian tiger and snow leopard. The first of the Chinese national parks will be in the Qinghai province, a 47,500 square-mile area that contains

the headwaters for the Yellow, Yangtze and Lancang (Mekong) rivers, and is the watershed for a billion people. Additionally, the Qinghai park is prime territory for over 60% of the world’s remaining snow leopards.

“China is in an extremely rare position in creating its National Parks System. They have an opportunity to learn from other’s mistakes—to start with a clean slate” said Kelly Bricker, U professor in the Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, located in the College of Health. “Those tasked with organizing the new system are looking at the U.S. as a case study and will be able to customize an approach that will work best for China.”

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