



Dragon Burn Survival Guide



Whether you are new or old to Dragon Burn, it's time to reset your mindset – things are different here, and the more you know and understand where the burn culture comes from and how it works, the more you will get from the experience.

This guide helps you prepare for the Burn. Read it carefully to orient yourself and prepare for what's to come. But of course, it's not perfect —talk to others, ask questions, and be curious and open. The more you engage, the more you will get.

Here is our best advice:

Dragon Burn is an Experiment in Temporary Community

We—the participants—are co-creating a different kind of reality, so you are free to express yourself radically while respecting other people's boundaries. You are responsible for bringing everything you need: food, beverages, camping equipment, and first-aid supplies. You are accountable for contributing to creating a safe and positive space for our temporary community to flourish.

There are no paid performers at the event; there are no spectators; what is shared are the passions and dreams of those who give them. You do not “attend” Dragon Burn; you are



part of it. There will be no money exchanged for anything at the event, and there is no place where you can buy anything. Please read all the details below <3

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Introduction

This guide helps you prepare for Dragon Burn at the best. Regardless it is your first time or you have been to many Burns, it contains essential and specific information you **MUST KNOW**. **Read it carefully, or suffer the humiliation of Burn failure.**

Dragon Burn is a regional event based on the ethos and values of the 10 principles. People worldwide have created and respected these principles for over thirty years; the 10 principles are the basis for developing inspiring, collaborative, creative, and supportive communities and events. Some principles may not be self-evident now, but by participating in the community and the event, you will understand the experience and ethos more.

Dragon Burn is an event celebrating art, community, music, fire, imagination, interaction and participation. Our event is 100% not-for-profit. **There are no spectators and no organizers; we are all participants. There are no organizers; everyone is welcome.** Everyone is invited to contribute their time and skills to improve the event. **Everyone coming to Dragon Burn has purchased a ticket, regardless of the size of their contribution. There are no gift tickets, and no discounts. There are no sponsors or vendors.**

Dragon Burn is part of a global community of like-minded, open-minded, and loving people who come together at hundreds of events annually. For many, Dragon Burn is a container for growth and new experiences, so check out a workshop, installation, or panel discussion. Set an intention and use your time here to learn something new and unexpected about others, the world, and yourself.

The most important thing is your frame of mind. This event celebrates art, creativity, fire, performance, and, most of all, community. It comprises what participants bring to it, no more, no less. Arriving with a good mindset is as important as arriving with food, water, and shelter.

The Ten Principles of Dragon Burn



THESE PRINCIPLES AREN'T COMMANDMENTS, AND THEY'RE NOT RULES - THEY'RE IDEALS THAT OFFER GUIDELINES TO HOW WE, AS A COMMUNITY, CAN REINVENT BOTH THE WORLD AND OURSELVES.

RADICAL INCLUSION. Anyone may join Dragon Burn. We welcome and respect the stranger. No prerequisites exist for participation in our community. We are grateful to everyone for their unique contribution. Include others as you want to be included, with respect, consideration, and compassion. There's lots to learn from everyone's differences.

GIFTING. Dragon Burn is devoted to acts of gift-giving. The value of a gift is unconditional. Many people misunderstand this and think it is a barter system. It's not. Gifts are given unconditionally, with no expectation of anything in exchange.



Some of the best experiences will be between you and others at unexpected times. Whether it's a heartfelt conversation about life, someone hugging you, or sharing a smile, gifting is everywhere at Dragon Burn.

You can prepare a small trinket of your appreciation before the event, keep it on you, and share it at the right time. Great gifts do not create trash, and they are spontaneous. Jewelry, gum, cigarettes, Polaroid photos, handmade items, food, drink, soaps, good words, gratitude, skills, etc. Gifting is an exercise in generosity - sharing for the sake of sharing and expecting nothing in return. We give to help others and because it makes us feel good. From sharing a cold beer to digging out a tent pole to providing a small badge, our gifts come from our hearts.

DECOMMODIFICATION. To preserve the spirit of gifting, our community seeks to create social environments unmediated by commercial sponsorships, transactions, or advertising. We stand ready to protect our culture from such exploitation. We resist consumption and cherish collaboration and participatory experiences because they can give us much more than we could buy.

FORGET ABOUT MONEY – THERE'S NOTHING TO BUY.

By removing commerce from our community, we create cooperation and participation. We plan ahead and work together. We live without money to remind us of what's essential. 'No commerce' means there will be no money circulation and nothing to buy or to sell! **No waimai is allowed.**

RADICAL SELF-RELIANCE. Dragon Burn encourages the individual to discover, exercise and rely on his or her inner resources.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOURSELF, MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY.

You must care for yourself in every situation, from food and water to a hug or quiet space. Give yourself what you need.

RADICAL SELF-EXPRESSION. Radical self-expression arises from the unique gifts of the individual. Your true self is offered as a gift to others. In this spirit, the giver should respect the rights and liberties of the recipient.

Be the person you are. Be the person you want to be. We respect and value you and expect the same from you towards others. Dragon Burn is the opportunity to live yourself at the fullest and to know yourself in new ways.

COMMUNAL EFFORT. Our community promotes social interaction and help. We value creative cooperation and collaboration. We strive to produce, promote, and protect social networks, public spaces, works of art, and communication methods that support such interaction. Co-operation is at Dragon Burn's core, from how we work together to how we communicate. If we can make life easier for each other, we will. If we can make life better for each other, we will. Together, we are stronger.

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY. We value civil society. Community members should assume responsibility for public welfare and endeavor to communicate civic responsibilities to participants. Everyone must take responsibility for abiding by national law and district bylaws. We are a family of individuals. A diverse group of separate self-reliant beings, we are united in our need to be part of something larger than ourselves—community, others, self—united by tolerance and joy.



LEAVING NO TRACE. Our community respects the environment. We are committed to leaving no physical trace of our activities wherever we gather. We clean up after ourselves and endeavor to leave such places in a better condition than when we found them. We encourage everyone to have a sustainable, eco-friendly burn. Choose reusable stuff over disposable stuff. Please do not bring glow sticks, Styrofoam, glass, or single-use plastic packaged products. Pack your food to reduce the amount of trash you bring along. **Trash bags are a burner's best gift—bring bags for you, friends, and neighbors. Clean your camp area and keep your trash sorted at all times! Lead by example—it may not be your trash, but that's okay. Love your neighbor and clean up after them.**

SMOKERS - we love you, please have a metal tin on you at all times to collect your cigarette butts.

DON'T USE THE LAND AS A TOILET. Your poop and pee is M.O.O.P. (Matter Out Of Place). The event site is small, and we intend to avoid pests, bad smells, and possible illness. Please find a toilet out of respect for the environment and your fellow Burners. We are serious! DO NOT DO IT!

PARTICIPATION. Our community is committed to a radically participatory ethic. We believe that transformative change can occur only through deeply personal participation in experience, whether in the individual or society. We achieve being through doing. Everyone is invited to work. Everyone is invited to play. We make the world real through actions that open the heart.

GET INVOLVED – The more you do, the more you get back. When you join others in play and work, you become part of Dragon Burn. Your contribution is always valuable.

IMMEDIACY. Immediate experience is a key value in our culture. We seek to overcome barriers that stand between us and the recognition of our inner selves, an appreciation of the reality of those around us, participation in society, and contact with the natural world. No idea can substitute for this experience; it is a radical and challenging practice!

MAKE NOW COUNT. All this will soon be gone, so enjoy it now. Experience, participate, be. This is all there is, so enjoy it!

Before the Burn

You need to have a ticket. No tickets, no Dragon Burn!!

The tickets give you access to the event, but **remember that you must pay the landlord's camping fee once you arrive at the campsite. Usually, the camping fee is 80 CNY/night, and you pay from when you arrive until the end of the burn (May 5th), regardless of when you plan to leave.**

Example: If you arrive May 1st, you will pay 4 nights. If you arrive May 2nd, you will pay 3 nights. If you leave early, it's your choice. Whether the camping site can offer refunds is beyond our control. In any case, you are supporting a local business and an old friend, so just let it be. We encourage people to stay until the end for a complete and immersive experience.



Online Community

We are all connected – you can keep up with what is happening and talk to other Burners here:

The official WeChat account is the one source of truth for our official comms.

Website dragonburn.org – for official messages and archives.

Facebook Group – for discussions and questions

Theme

Each year, the Burn has a Theme – something to rally around. Live the Theme! Ignore the Theme! It's all up to you, but the Theme is meant to inspire and unite. Have fun with it. This year, our theme is “Arousal”. Get your sparks ignited with and through the community. Get out of the winter of creativity and create amazing things together.

Participation

Whether it's your first time or your many times, participation is key to the Burn. There are no spectators. Think about your participation in advance. Many people think they need to bring a “gift” to the Burn, and that's cool, but gifts are not the only things you could give:

- Joining a team is the best way to participate. You can participate in a year-round role (there are so many things to do, from making the website to figuring out our sustainability plan!) or on-site during, before or after the Burn – the Gate checks tickets, Rangers look after everyone so nothing goes wrong, Medics look after everyone when something goes wrong, Nirvana Camp builds the effigy, Storage Quartermasters and Logistics, making Wayfinding and signage postages... and many more. If it's your first year at Dragon Burn, participation in a team is a great way to get into the spirit and community.
- Join or start a Theme Camp – Theme Camps provide experiences from yoga lessons to dance parties; you can be part of this!
- Make Art: Dragon Burn is about radical self-expression, so make Art! Some artworks are many stories high, and others can fit in a shoebox. It all counts and makes the event magical.
- Events and workshops: You can also create an event, either in a Theme Camp, out in the wild, or at Centre Camp

What to Bring

The Essentials!

- **ID Documents**
Original passport/Chinese ID. No one will be allowed on-site without an original passport or a Chinese ID.
- **Shelter and weather gears**
You will need a tent. **Tents cannot be rented on site.**
Consider also bringing a shade structure like a gazebo or something for



shade. There are no shade structures on site. Bring sunscreen. It gets hot in Anji! It can also be cold at night, so bring comfy sleeping bags and layers. It may rain, so be prepared.

- **Cups, cutlery and anything you need for your cooking/eating**
 - This is vital. Without cups, it's gonna be hard to drink. Welcome to decorate and dress-up your cup to make it fun/attractive/recognizable.
 - Reusable bowl, plate, and chopsticks/fork/spoon
 - Food, drinks, snacks and everything you need for 5 days
 - We also recommend that to purchase food and supplies in the small town near the event venue (TianZiHu Town 天子湖镇), this will help the local economy, also can reduce your burden during the traveling. However, please ensure that all grocery purchases are completed before entering Dragon Burn, and you will not be allowed to go out to purchase supplies after the event starts.
 - Water: at least 2L per day. **Please do not bring water in small bottles.** You can organize with your friends and get big water jugs, find a local supplier to buy 20-litre gallons, and ensure you are not creating trash with your water.

This is the address of a local water supplier you can contact, but there are many!

(Across from Gao Yu Post Office in Tian Zi Hu Town, Anji, Wa Ha Ha water shop 0572-5807369)
- Bug-repellent
- Toilet paper
- Good shoes
- Rain gear. Do not forget your rain gear or you will be soaked!
- Trash bags
- Headlamp/portable light source. Very important, there is no lighting at night!
- Earplugs, if you like to sleep at night
- Gloves for building and helping out
- A first aid kit for yourself, your theme camp, or your friends.

What Not To Bring

- Hand-held lasers
- Items that create useless or dangerous trash, for example:
 - Glow Sticks
 - Feathers, including on outfits
 - Tubs of confetti
 - Glitter (also biodegradable glitter IS NOT OK)
 - Anything that will break up and/or blow away in the wind
 - Food that is packaged with lots of packaging and plastic or in single portions
 - Disposable cups, bowls and cutlery
- Explosives, aerial flares, rockets and fireworks. Firearms of any kind, including BB guns, air rifles and paintball guns
- No flying lanterns, floating lanterns, Chinese lanterns
- **Animals or pets. No animals will be allowed. If you come with your cat, dog, horse or dragon, we will refuse your entry and send you away.** If



you need to bring a service animal, you **MUST** contact us earlier and get permission.

What NOT to do at the Burn

The Burn is a social experiment to do things differently, and some things normal in the default world are just not done at the Burn:

- No selling of anything, no money at all, and **NO BARTERING**, **NO WAIMAI**
- No commercial logos, advertising, promoting products or signing anyone up for a subscription
- No leaving the site – no camping outside the boundaries. We do not have consent to be on other people's land
- No taking photos of people without their consent
- No burning things or creating fire hazards with unattended candles and gas stoves.
- Do not bring bad attitude!!

Very Important Things You Should Know

Placement will create areas for registered theme camps and arts, and a map will be provided for you to orientate.

There will be toilets of course, and some showers with cold water. Bring your own soaps and toilet paper.

There are some electricity points at the venue. Some camps will have electricity, some not. Share electricity when you can. In general, electricity is for arts and camps and do not expect to have access to plugs to charge your phones. Bring a solar panel for that purpose. Or forget your phone in your tents, there is no much use for it anyway. Better to go out and explore what is in the present moment.

Centipedes

The number one injury we have every year is due to centipede bites. You can recognise them as large centipedes with orange heads. While their bite isn't dangerous, it hurts a lot for several days. In some cases, it's preferable to bring people to the hospital for observation. The best way to treat a bite is to soak the body part into running water and try to squeeze out the venom. If you are bitten, try to reach Centre Camp and/or find someone with a walkie-talkie to inform of the situation. Centipedes are primarily seen in the late afternoon around sunset times. They love damp areas and they will definitely come out after rain or when is very humid. For this reason it is recommended that:

1. You **always** keep your tent closed, especially if you are going to be gone from it for a while. Check your tent moving stuff around once you are back
2. You **always** wear something on your feet when walking around the site, especially at sunset and night.



In-and-Out Policy

While you can leave the event early, casual traffic in and out of Dragon Burn is discouraged. Participants who leave and return will be required to pay a fee of 50 CNY per person each time they want to leave.

Dragon Burn Gate opens May 1st at 8am.

Gate is open with this schedule:

May 1st: 8am to 10pm

May 2nd: 8am to 8pm

May 3rd: 10am to 5pm. No entry is possible after this time.

May 4th: Gate is closed.

Outside of these hours, it is not allowed to enter the event.

You cannot enter the event at night, so plan your travel accordingly. If you arrive outside of these hours, you must sleep outside and wait for Gate to open before getting in.

You will receive your wristband at the Gate and have to keep it on throughout the event. You may also receive a printed events guide and map.

About Fire

We are very close to forest and farmland and do not want dangerous fires to happen.

It is not allowed to make a fireplace on the bare ground. If you want to make a fire, contact someone from the Fire team at Centre Camp. In any case, you must bag and remove ash from anything burned.

Tent fires are very real! Set up equipment to heat, boil, or do anything to do with high heat safely, protected from wind, or in an open area.

Cooking equipment is allowed, but be self-reliant and look after it. Never leave a gas stove unattended; think of safety when installing them. Use protected, solid, sturdy surfaces which are not in direct contact with the ground. Don't use tables with three legs to place your cooking burner; ensure it is stable and safe! No cooking or barbecuing on an open fire is allowed.

Do not use candles inside tents, and do not leave candles unattended at any time!

Please smoke safely. Use an ashtray to dispose of your used cigarettes. **DO NOT THROW CIGARETTES BUTTS ON THE GROUND!!**

There will be fire extinguishers near the major structures/camps.



Do not fire spin outside of the designated areas on the map. The Fire Conclave will have a dedicated area for fire spinning. You can find the details at Center Camp.

Near Center Camp, there will be a communal fire barrel. We welcome donations of wood and cardboard to keep the barrel alive.

During the Effigy and Temple burn, respect the safety crew's instructions. Thank you. Burn perimeters are set out to protect participants. Breaching the perimeter of Burns will result in instant eviction, no exceptions. We want the burn to be safe and enjoyable for everyone. On-Site Help

There is a medical service nearby in town. Medical services are for true emergencies. Booboos, cuts, bug bites and non-serious emergencies should not be reported to the medics. Bring a First Aid kit and take care of it, or ask Centre Camp or someone with a radio if you need more support; we are here to help.

If you are a doctor or a nurse, or you have any medical or ER experience, please contact us before the Burn or introduce yourself at Centre Camp, thank you; we may need your help.

Consent

NO means NO!

ONLY Yes means Yes!

Always ask. Do not assume consent. Recognize and respect people's boundaries. People have different comfort levels with physical and emotional intimacy. Before you assume someone wants a big kiss, hug, or any touching as a new best friend, ask them.

When someone says NO, it means NO. It also means that pleading, manipulating, harassing, or intimidating in any form is UNACCEPTABLE.

Tips for maintaining your safety and well-being:

- Communicate with those around you about anything making you uncomfortable.
- You are in charge of your boundaries. You must be sober enough to be in control and say no.
- You must ask before photographing, videotaping, or recording anyone on any media. If you are asked to stop recording or taking photos, you must do so immediately.
- Tolerate and respect your fellow participants by not interfering with their enjoyment, art, or expression.
- We thank you all for coming to Dragon Burn; we know you will have a wonderful time. Respect yourself, respect others, respect the land, and respect the rules. At Dragon Burn, we are free to express ourselves, share, co-create, and be in the moment; but when our actions directly alter someone else's experience, we need to get their consent. As a community with diverse views, backgrounds, and communication styles, it's best to use clear verbal communication to ensure everyone's boundaries are understood and respected.



Consent is a framework we can all use to engage in this playful, experimental space we create together. Consent isn't just about kiss and hugs, it is about checking in before acting on any desire involving others, including any kind of touch, using other people's belongings, gifting, and taking photographs.

GIVE ONLY WHAT'S APPRECIATED, TAKE ONLY WHAT'S OFFERED.

Photographs and Social Media Sharing

Dragon Burn is a special place, where people are encouraged and inspired to express themselves in many ways. It is a ready feast for the eyes and the camera.

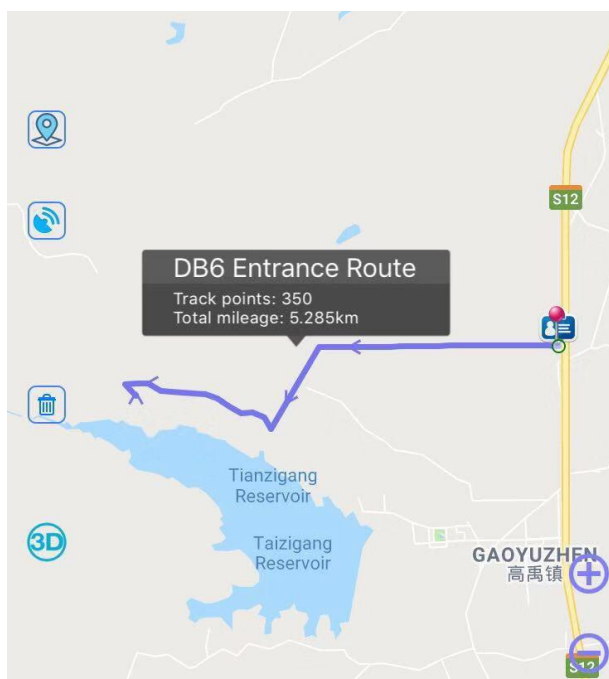
ALWAYS ASK PERMISSION WHEN YOU TAKE PHOTOS OF PEOPLE. DO NOT TAKE SOMEONE'S PHOTO AGAINST THEIR WILL. IF THEY ASK YOU TO DELETE A PHOTO YOU'VE JUST TAKEN OF THEM, PLEASE DO SO.

Please, refrain from sharing Dragon Burn content on social media. Xiao Hong Shu and TikTok do not need to be informed about what's happening at the Burn. You have the right to collect memories for yourself, but you NEVER have the right to go against the privacy of other participants. People have different expectations of privacy online.

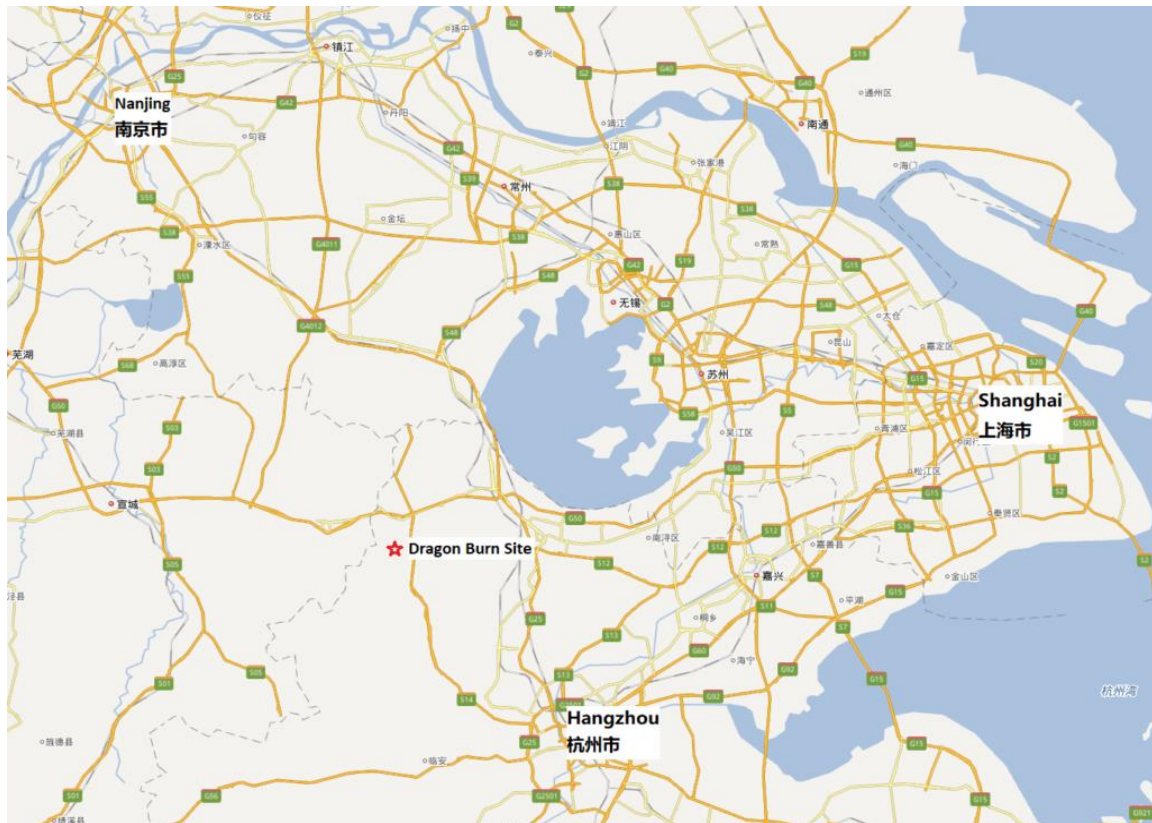
Drones

IN ORDER TO RESPECT PRIVACY AND BOUNDARIES, if you want to use a drone, you must come to Centre Camp to register IN ADVANCE, leave your contact information, and then share your drone footage with us. Thank you.

Getting There



The event location is private land located about 2.5 hrs driving from Shanghai downtown. The site is called Ye Huan Yuan in the town of Tian Zi Gang in Anji county or use the Chinese 野欢原自由王国 (you can put this in your GPS). This private land is a small peninsula along the Tian Zi Gang Reservoir.



From Anywhere in China

By Public Transportation

We encourage you to take the speed train to **Anji Station** and its only **10 minutes** taxi from the Anji Station to the site. This is a great way to reduce the carbon footprint for the environment's sake and to plan your arrival within the opening hours of Gate.

From Outside China

If you are travelling from another country, the easiest option will be to fly into Shanghai or Hangzhou. **Ensure you have a tourist visa or a legal right to visit/reside in China.** You cannot attend Dragon Burn using the 72 hour transit visa. If you are coming from abroad and need some special assistance, get in touch with us (info@dragonburn.org and/or facebook)



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to bring a tent and sleeping bag?

You will need a tent, sleeping bag, plus anything else to make your sleep comfortable. It will be warm in Anji in May, but it still gets cold at night, and it might rain, so come prepared!

Will there be tent rentals?

There are no tent rentals on site. However, it's perfectly fine to rent a tent from somewhere else and bring that to the Burn.

How do I get to the Dragon Burn site?

Check out our [guide to getting to the site](#).

How much space is there for camping?

We can camp several hundred participants comfortably. There are designated areas for the theme camps and plenty of space for everyone else to camp, but if you show up late, you may need to get a bit cozy.

Is there quiet camping?

If you're showing up late, you will unlikely find a quiet spot to camp. We will reserve some space in the quieter areas for people coming with young children.

Can I bring my pet?

We are animal lovers and know they are cute and fun to play with. However, in a multi-participant event, they can get lost, and unlike humans, they don't use toilets or abide by the ten principles. So the answer is NO, YOU CANNOT BRING YOUR PET.

If you need to bring a service animal, please email us IN ADVANCE info@dragonburn.org.

Where can I buy food/water/beer/other?

Dragon Burn is an event based on Radical Self Reliance. This means you need to bring everything you need for the entire Burn – shelter, food, water and anything else you may need. Dragon Burn is also an experiment in decommodification. No money will be exchanged on site, and there will be no food or drinks for sale.

[Take some time to learn how Dragon Burn works.](#)



Credits and More Info

We tried to write this guide being as clear as possible. We took some inspiration from the survival guide of our regional friends: Kiwiburn (New Zealand), Nowhere (Spain), and Turtle Burn (China Taiwan). Thank you!

If you still have stuff unclear or doubts you can/should:

- check again the websites for past events and updated news www.dragonburn.org
- Keep updated with the Wechat Official Account
- Read this Survival Guide many times
- If you still have questions, we host a live streaming session for Q&A on our Official account Wechat Channel, 8pm, Wednesday 17th and Wednesday 24th, you can find more info through our recent posts and emails. We encourage you to join if it is your first Dragon Burn
- Write us an email about any doubts at info@dragonburn.org

