



桂林中青旅国际旅游有限公司特色旅游部

China Expedition Tours, A Division of CYTS International Tours Co., Ltd. Guilin

Splendid Ancient Town Tour

<http://www.chinaexpeditiontours.com/china-tours/splendid-ancient-town-tour.html>

Tour Code: CET-AT03

Length: 16 days and 15 nights

Cities Visited/Stayed: (Hong Kong), Guilin, Shanghai, Huangshan Mountain, Wuyuan, Jingdezhen, Shanghai

Highlight Attractions: Li River, Yangshuo, the Bund, Yu Yuan Garden, Scenic Areas of Yellow Mountain, Hongcun Village

Experience & Features: Longsheng Minority Villages, Ancient villages and towns near Shanghai and Huangshan, Wuyuan Countryside Sceneries, Porcelain and china town

During this tour, you can visit the famous ancient towns in China to experience their different sceneries, customs, architectures and cultures. Starting our tour in Guilin, you experience a cruise on the world-wide famous Li River through stunning karst landscapes in Guilin and enjoy wonderful natural sceneries in Yangshuo. The famous West Street in this old town will surely intoxicate you in its leisure and modern atmosphere. Then go to visit the beautiful water village and graceful ancient town near Shanghai. The Hongcun Village shows you well-preserved ancient buildings and natural sceneries, just indulge yourself in this "village in the Chinese painting". Also we can't miss the ancient county of Wuyuan-the most beautiful village in China. The unique-built houses remain almost unchanged over the last century. Our tour ends in the largest city of China-Shanghai, which will amaze you by its modern atmosphere and traditional culture and art.

Itinerary

Day 1: Hong Kong-Guilin

You take a flight from Hong Kong to Guilin. When arrive in Guilin, our guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel.

Stay overnight in Guilin.

Meals:

Day 2: Guilin-Ping'an

Today let's go to Longji, a minority area with magnificent terraced rice paddies. The **[Longji Terraced Rice Paddies]** in Ping'an Zhuang minority village are located in Longsheng County. There you will have the chance to take some wonderful pictures of minority people wearing exquisite costumes. The rice terraces are built into the hillsides which look like great chains or ribbons as they wind from the foot to the top of the hill. This ingenious construction makes best use of the limited arable land and water resources in the mountainous area. During the way to the Terraced Rice Paddies, we will stop to visit **[Huangluo Red Yao minority village]**, where women all keep their hair to a length of more than one meter. Their costumes are featured with red color and unique beauty.

Stay overnight in Yangshuo.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 3: Ping' an-Guilin

The morning time is free for you to explore this charming and mysterious Zhuang village yourself. After lunch we will leave the village and drive to the local market to see daily life of people and have some interesting discoveries. Then we drive back to Guilin city (about 2 hour drive).

Stay overnight in Guilin.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 4: Guilin-Yangshuo

This morning we embark the boat for the **[Li River cruise]**. Cruising downstream with a pleasant breeze greeting, you can sit on cushion comfortably or enjoy the open-air viewing platform. Bring lots of films or be sure the memory card in your digital camera is with a large capacity, because this is a photographer's dreamland, where you are able to capture the dramatic landscapes that Chinese artists have been painting for centuries. Lunch will be served onboard. Disembark at Yangshuo Town and walk to the **West Street**, which has received countless foreigners from all over the world and reputed as "Global Village in China". Today, the 600 meters long street is over 300 cafes, restaurants, hotels art crafts and tourist stores, foreign language clubs, internet centers and Kungfu schools. This afternoon you are free at leisure, you can enjoy a coffee time at the West Street, or walk around the small **Yangshuo town**.

Stay overnight in Yangshuo.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 5: Yangshuo-Guilin

Today let's have a **[Li River cruise]**. It will be very interesting for you to cruising downstream with a pleasant breeze greeting your face. You can sit on cushion comfortably or enjoy the open-air viewing platform. You can bring your own digital camera to capture the dramatic landscapes that Chinese artists have been painting for centuries. Lunch will be served onboard. When we arrive in Yangshuo Town, we will walk in the West Street, which has received countless foreigners from all over the world and reputed as "Global Village in China". Today, the 600 meters long street is over 300 cafes, restaurants, hotels art crafts and tourist stores, foreign language clubs, internet centers and Kungfu schools. You will surely have a great time there.

This afternoon you are free at leisure, enjoying a coffee time at the West Street will be a good choice. Besides, you can also walk around the small Yangshuo town.

Stay overnight in Guilin.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 6: Guilin-Shanghai

The morning time is free for your disposal. After lunch, we will drive to the airport for a flight to Shanghai. Upon arrival, you will be met by the guide and transferred to the hotel. The rest of the day is on your own to relax.

Stay overnight in Shanghai.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 7: Shanghai-Zhouzhuang-Shanghai

This morning we drive to **[Zhouzhuang]** -- one of the most famous water towns in China, only 30 kilometers (18 miles) southeast of Suzhou. Zhouzhuang is a place that is famous for its profound cultural background, the well preserved ancient residential houses, the elegant watery views and the strong local colored traditions and customs. When you are there, you will find that the abundant rivers and lakes make it a wonderful place to walk around. Stone bridges and overhanging towers span the waterways can provide free passage for the local people. The murmuring streams under small bridges and dwelling quarters with delicate courtyards are the distinct features of Zhouzhuang, now rarely seen in the whole of East China.

Drive back to Shanghai after the visit to Zhouzhuang.

Stay overnight in Shanghai.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 8: Shanghai-Huangshan

You can spend your own morning time. After lunch we will go to the airport for a flight to Huangshan. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to the hotel in the city. **[Tunxi Ancient Street]** is our first stop there. It locates in the center of Tunxi district, where the municipality of Huangshan is based on. A stone arch bridge that starts in the west from Zhenhai Bridge and ends up in the east with the tablet of memorial archways was built in Ming Dynasty. It is 1500 meters (about 4 921feet) long and the sides of the street are laid with slab stones. The buildings there are simple and elegant. It is a commercial street only for pedestrians, with the building style of Ming and Qing dynasties. There are many merchants from the Anhui, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, and Fujian provinces jostle each other in a crowd there, just look like the picture "Upper River during Qing Ming Festival". Whether you are wandering along the old bridge, visiting the fish beside the river, finding shoots of bamboo on the slope, or standing under a tree and listening to the birds whistle, it is easy to rest and attain mental tranquility by getting back to the nature.

Stay overnight in Huangshan City.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 9: Huangshan Mountain

Early this morning we **[take cable to visit the Huangshan Mountain]**, and enjoy the spectacular view along the way to the top. Huangshan Mountain can be regarded as an amalgamation of all the merits of other mountains: grand, steep, picturesque, and with a rich cultural heritage. Xu Xiake, a well-known geographer of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), once said, "When I have visited Huangshan Mountain, I don't even wish to visit others." This saying may reflect the beauty and uniqueness of Mt. Huangshan. You can explore scenic spots on the mountain and enjoy spectacular view.

Stay overnight in Huangshan Mountain.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 10: Huangshan Mountain-Hongcun Village

Today we **[take cable down the mountain]** and drive to **[Hongcun Village]** which is located at the foot of the southwest side of Mt. Huangshan. This village is a key historical monument under state protection, a historic and cultural village of China, and one of China's top 10 most beautiful villages. The village now boasts

158 dwelling houses dating back to the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, nearly 140 of which are still in good shape. The water system in the village is really an unparalleled part of the village construction arts in ancient China. The village features nice scenery -- simple but elegant, a fine mixture of old houses, green hills and clear creeks, and enjoys the name "a village in the Chinese painting". You can spend some time walking along the old paths.

Stay overnight in Hongcun Village.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 11: Hongcun Village-Wuyuan

This morning we can have a leisurely walk in the town, and then we depart for **[Wuyuan Ancient County]**. Located in Jiangxi province, Wuyuan County enjoys the reputation as "the most beautiful village in China". The unique-built houses remain almost unchanged over the last century. Local people still keep their traditions ways of life, which make this county seem like isolated from the outside world. When you walk on stone bridges and watch yellow waves of rape flowers among farmers' cottages, you will feel that it looks like a paradise. Since Wuyuan is home to many famous scholars in China, it is a place full of cultural atmosphere. Then we will pay a visit to **[Likeng]**, a thousand year old village which has been well preserved and the local life there is interesting to discover.

Stay overnight in Likeng.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 12: Wuyuan-Jingdezhen

Today we will enjoy a Chinese breakfast made by local hospitable hostess, and then we depart Likeng to **[another ancient village]**. It will cost us more than one hour on the bumpy road. Upon arrival, we walk along the stone-path to see more ancient buildings, and to experience the local life by visiting a local market. Lunch is arranged in a local family, this afternoon we depart and drive to Jingdezhen -- a town famous as "The Chinaware Capital". When you arrive, you will be met and transferred to the hotel. The rest of the day is on your own. We recommend you to pay a visit to the local porcelain market in the center square, where you can have a look of various porcelains and may purchase some.

Stay overnight in Jingdezhen.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 13: Jingdezhen

Today let's go to explore the Jingdezhen whose white glazed porcelain was known as the "false jade ware" in the Sui and Tang dynasties. In the Ming Dynasty, Jingdezhen became one of the four famous towns in China. As long as 2000 years ago, in the Han Dynasty, some ancient kilns for pottery were built here. We will visit the **[Jingdezhen Ancient Folk Kiln Museum]** first. There are rich cultural deposit of porcelain from Wudai Dynasty to Ming Dynasty (907-1644 AD), which covers an area of more than 400 thousand square meters (about 98.8 acres). Jingdezhen is the pilgrimage place of porcelain historiography pursuer, the porcelain industrial arts fans and the tourists all in the world. About 20 locations of the relics of valuable kilns and porcelain factories in the important history periods of Song, Yuan and Ming dynasties are contained in Jingdezhen Ancient Folk Kiln Museum. You can watch different procedures of making porcelain done by professional workers, and you can also try to learn how to mould a vase. You can have a great time there.

Stay overnight in Jingdezhen.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 14: Jingdezhen-Shanghai

Today you can visit Jingdezhen or go to buy some local products yourself.

In the evening, we take a flight to Shanghai. Upon arrival, you will be greeted by our guide and transferred to the hotel.

Stay overnight in Shanghai.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 15: Shanghai

After a leisurely breakfast, we will go to visit the **[Yuyuan Garden]**, where you find more delicate handicrafts and tasty Chinese snacks. Then we go to visit the **[Jade Buddha Temple]**, an elegant structure famous for its Buddha statue which is carved of a complete piece of solid white jade and decorated by jewels. Lunch is arranged in a characteristic Shanghai restaurant.

After that our guide takes you to the **[Outer Bund]** where you will have a grand view of Shanghai from the perspectives of modern and tradition. Then you take a walk on the **[Nanjing Road]**, the most prosperous commercial street. You can find lots of world famous brands setting along the street and you will have a great shopping time there.

Stay overnight in Shanghai.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 16: Shanghai-Departure

You can enjoy your own time until you are ready to be transferred to the airport for an onward flight to your next destination or a flight flying back home.

Meals: (B)

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