



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**

## Yunnan & Guilin Old Town Discovery Trip

<http://www.chinaexpeditiontours.com/china-tours/yunnan-guilin-old-town-discovery-trip.html>

**Tour Code:** CET-AT04

**Length:** 16 days and 15 nights

**Cities Visited/Stayed:** Beijing, Kunming, Dali, Lijiang, Shangri-la, Guilin, (Hong Kong)

**Highlight Attractions:** Forbidden City, Great Wall, The Stone Forest, Dali Ancient Town, The Ancient Town of Lijiang, Li River, Yangshuo

**Experience & Features:** Bai Minority Family Visit, Tibetan Family Visit, Longsheng Minority Villages

With a long and brilliant history, China has many beautiful and unique ancient towns with various customs, cultures and sceneries. This Old Town Discovery Trip brings you to appreciate magnificent Beijing, picturesque Guilin and colorful Yunnan. We begin our tour in Beijing, to climb the magnificent ancient construction of the Great Wall, get a brief impression of this big capital. Then we go to Yunnan Province to visit ancient towns and to experience great ancient building style and exquisite art and handicrafts by local people. We go to Longsheng, to admire the spectacular rice terrace fields and to explore more at local villages. Our tour ends 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.

### Itinerary

#### Day 1: Beijing

Arrive in Beijing, our guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

**Meals:**

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#### Day 2: Beijing

After breakfast, we go to pay a visit to the [**Temple of Heaven**], which is a complex of ancient buildings, gardens, pathways and its organization indicates relationship between Earth and heaven. Then, enjoy a walk on the [**Tian'anmen Square**] -- one of the largest city squares in the world. It is located on the central axis of old Beijing. In the center of Tian'anmen Square stands the **Monument to the People's Heroes**. Then we go to the [**Forbidden City**] – the imperial palace for the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties. The city contains 800 ceremonial buildings, 9,999 rooms, and a courtyard that can hold 100,000 people. Best ancient Chinese architectural styles are well preserved here, consisting an imposing view. Later the day is on your own to explore more about this city.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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### Day 3: Beijing

There is a famous saying goes "one cannot be a hero unless he climbs on the Great Wall." This morning we drive to the [**Jinshanling Great Wall**], the most original and less commercial section of the Wall. This historic construction is somewhat a challenge to the climbers as it winds up and down the precipitous ranges. But as a reward, splendid views are available.

People say that a visit to Beijing isn't complete without trying the crispy and tasty Peking duck, so we will recommend a dinner with **Peking duck** for you at one famous restaurant.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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### Day 4: Beijing-Kunming

This morning we go to visit the [**Summer Palace**] -- one of China's architectural masterpieces. The beauty of the Summer Palace is deliberated. The pavilions, kiosks, terraces, bridges, dikes, corridors are delicately crafted and placed, well displaying the thousand-year old Chinese landscape gardening. The scenic spots contain a nation's profound philosophical and aesthetic tradition.

After lunch we drive to the airport for a pm flight to Kunming. Upon arrival, be met and transferred to the hotel. If time permits, we suggest you go to the **Green Lake Park** (Cuihu Gongyuan) - one of the most picturesque parks in downtown Kunming. All year round the park is venue of one sort of exhibition or another, and with its snug seclusion it is frequented by local residents who come here for few hours of leisure.

Stay overnight in Kunming.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 5: Kunming

Let's have a day tour to the **[Stone Forest]**. Those magnificent stone masterpieces, various strange and steep intricate formations, and countless labyrinthine vistas make Stone Forest (Shi Lin in Chinese) worthy of the fame as the "First Wonder of the World". And there goes a local saying, "It is a waste of time without being in the Stone Forest while visiting Kunming".

Later this afternoon we drive to Kunming Train Station to catch an overnight train to Dali.

Stay overnight on train.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 6: Dali

You are picked up by your guide at Dali Train Station in the morning, transferred to your hotel in the Old Town. The rest time in the morning will be your own.

After lunch, we set out to visit a typical sight of Dali-the **[Three Pagoda Temple]**. As its name implies, Three Pagodas are made of three ancient independent pagodas forming a symmetrical triangle. This is unique in China. Enjoy a walk along the old street in **[Dali Ancient Town]**. It was an important gateway to the Silk Road in Southwest China, and also served as a seat of government and a major military barracks for Yunnan Province in the ancient times. By witnessing some parts of the city wall and the tower remained, we can still explore the mystery belonging to the history. The Dali City layout was uniform, with five main streets from south to north and eight main streets from east to west, while marketplaces were neatly arranged within the city, which has remained unchanged to this date. Traditional Bai ethnic minority folk houses can be seen everywhere, which gives us a different feeling from any other Chinese city. Then we continue to **[visit a local Bai Minority Family]** for the first hand experience of the local daily life. Their traditional way of life and finished handicrafts will surely impress you.

Stay overnight in Dali Old Town.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 7: Dali-Lijiang

Today we depart for Lijiang by private van/car/bus after lunch. It is roughly a 3.5 hours drive. The beautiful scenery on the way will surely give you some special feeling, and we may stop on the way for you to relax and take some photos. We will arrive in Lijiang by dinner time.

Stay overnight in Lijiang.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 8: Lijiang

Lijiang is the ideal destination for nature lovers and anyone interested in ancient people groups and their customs. This morning we go to the **[Jade Dragon Snow-capped Mountain]**. With skyscraping snow-capped peaks and its imposing body, it reflects in the interlaced rivers flowing under the old town, composing a fabulous picture. We **[take cables to climb the mountain]** and be intoxicated in the picturesque scenery. And we also organize a tour in the ancient town. The **[Ancient Lijiang City]** has no city walls, which is one of the features of this ancient city and different with other China's ancient cities. "The city depends on water for existence and water comes along with the city" has become one of the main features of the old town. The Yuquanshui River includes three mainstreams, which flow towards the west, east and in the middle. The river running into the ancient city includes many branch canals, so the network of rivers mixed with the roads of the five-flowered stones. You can get the beautiful picture that "every house is surrounded by the rivers and the drooping willows", so it is highly spoken by the architects of China and abroad.

Stay overnight in Lijiang.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 9: Lijiang-Shangri-la

Depart Lijiang for Shangri-la by private van/car/bus after breakfast. It will be a long drive, but the scenery all the way is fantastic. On the way, we will stop to view the First Bend of the **Yangtze River** and the **Tiger Leaping Gorge**. We also have a lunch stop on the half way. We will arrive in Shangri-la by dinner time.

Stay overnight in Shangri-la.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 10: Shangri-la

Let's go to visit **[Songzanlin Monastery]** -- a famous Tibetan style Buddhist temple in China and a spiritual hub for people to discover the mystery and traditions of Tibetan Buddhism. Tourists are attracted to this scenic spot where they can enjoy the view and be lucky to take photos of girls wearing exquisite Tibetan costumes holding perfectly white fluffy lambs against the imposing mountains and blue sky. Visit to the **[old part of the town]** and a **[Tibetan family]** are included in today's tour as well. The Tibetan built their houses in distinctive religious styles influenced by Buddhism. You can taste Tibetan specialties of **yak butter tea**, **local yogurt** and **Tibetan barley**. Later this afternoon is on your own to walk around. We suggest you get a feeling of local people's daily life by **visiting the local market**.

Stay overnight in Shangri-la.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 11: Shangri-la-Kunming-Guilin

Take a morning flight back to Kunming. In the late afternoon, catch another flight from Kunming to Guilin. With beautiful scenery, pleasant climate and abundant tourist resources, Guilin is a popular tourist resort in China. Upon arrival, your guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel. The rest of the day is leisure at relax.

Stay overnight in Guilin.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 12: Guilin-Ping'an

Today we 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 where you may have a chance to take some wonderful pictures of minority people wearing exquisite costumes. Located southeast of Longsheng, 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. Before 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. You will be marvel at their characteristic red costumes and beauty.

Stay overnight in Ping' an Village.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 13: Ping'an-Guilin

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

Stay overnight in Guilin.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 14: 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)

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## Day 15: Yangshuo-Guilin

In the morning, we drive back to Guilin city, spend the rest of the day in Guilin to discover its shining scenic spots that make the city unique and especially beautiful. The **[Elephant Trunk Hill]** is the symbol of Guilin, standing in the Li River and looks like an elephant drinking water from the river. The **[Reed Flute Cave]** is one of the most spectacular caves displaying karst geographical formation in various shapes. After the visit, we will continue to the nearby **[South China Sea Pearl Museum]**, where we can learn some knowledge of pearls and have the chance to purchase real sea pearl at competitive prices.

After dinner, we may recommend **a cruise in the city's central area** on a water system, which will absolutely give you a deep impression of Guilin.

Stay overnight in Guilin.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 16: Guilin-Hong Kong-Departure

Today is on your own to relax and until you are transferred to the airport for a flight to Hong Kong to continue your tour or for departure.

Our service ends at Guilin airport.

**Meals:** (B, L)



**Add:** 3rd F, Dongfang Bldg, 30 Qixing Rd, Guilin 541004, China

**Tel:** 86-773-5817222, 5817255

**Website:** [ChinaExpeditionTours.com](http://ChinaExpeditionTours.com)

**Fax:** 86-773-5829185