



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

Essence of Classic China Biking Tour

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Tour Code: CET-BK02

Length: 21 days and 20 nights

Cities Visited/Stayed: (Hong Kong), Guilin, Yangshuo, Kunming, Dali, Lijiang, Tiger Leaping Gorge, Shangri-la, Beijing

Highlight Attractions: Li River, Yangshuo, Terraced Rice Paddies at Longji, The Stone Forest, Dali Ancient Town, Jade Dragon Snow Mountain (Yulong Xue Shan), The Ancient Town of Lijiang, Tiger Leaping Gorge, Songzanlin Monastery, Forbidden City, Great Wall, Summer Palace

Experience & Features: Biking in Yangshuo, Local Market in Longsheng, Biking in Dali, Hiking in Tiger Leaping Gorge, Biking in Shangri-la, Tibetan Family Visit, Biking along the Hutongs in Beijing

This splendid biking tour takes you to visit picturesque Guilin, colorful Yunnan and magnificent Beijing. You can experience a different China by bicycle. Our tour starts from Guilin. Ride a bike to explore beautiful scenic spots in Guilin, and you experience a cruise on the world-wide famous Li River through stunning karst landscapes in Guilin. Enjoy a leisurely walk at the West Street and a memorable biking trip to Yangshuo Banyan tree. In Yunnan, enjoy spectacular scenery on the way to the Stone forest, be marvel at the ancient town in Dali and Lijiang. The Jade Dragon Snow-capped Mountain and herds of yaks and sheep on the beautiful grasslands will make you hesitate to leave. The two-day long trekking in the Tiger Leaping Gorge will be a little bit adventurous, but the sense of achievements you have eventually will make you forget your sore legs. Our tour ends in Beijing-the capital of China, to witness and climb the magnificent ancient construction of the Great Wall, cycling in Hutong to get a brief impression of this big capital.

Itinerary

Day 1: Hong Kong-Guilin

You will take a flight from Hong Kong to Guilin, and when you arrive in Guilin, our representative will meet you at the airport, and transfer you to the hotel. The rest of the day will be on your own for you to relax and prepare for the next day.

Stay overnight in Guilin.

Meals:

Day 2: Guilin-Yangshuo

This morning we will embark the ship for **[Li River cruise]** at wharf in the downtown. You can sit on cushion comfortably or enjoy the open-air viewing platform with a pleasant breeze greeting when cruising downstream. Preparing lots of film or memory card with large capacity because this is a photographer's dream place, where you are able to capture the dramatic landscapes that Chinese artists have been painting for thousands of years. Lunch will be served onboard. You can enjoy the Li River picturesque scenery to **Yangshuo**. We will disembark from the ship and walk to the West Street, which has received countless foreigners from all over the world and reputed as "Earth Village in China". Today, the 600 meters(about 1 968 feet) long street has over 300 cafes, restaurants, hotels art crafts and tourist stores, foreign language clubs, internet centers and Kungfu schools. This afternoon you will be 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 3: Yangshuo

After breakfast, we will follow our guide to enjoy **[a bike tour to the big Banyan Tree and the Moon Hill]**. Those continuous mountain peaks create spectacular views along the way which seems to take you into a fairly landscape. This evening we suggest that you watch the performance, "Impression--Sanjie Liu", the first new concept minority cultural show which takes the advantages of the live landscape as its stage background. It will realize your nostalgic dream of lights on fishing boats and experience the distinctive interests of life at the Li River.

Stay overnight in Yangshuo.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 4: Yangshuo-Guilin

This morning we will drive back to Guilin. We are going to discover its shining scenic spots in downtown that make the city unique and especially beautiful. The first one will be the **[Elephant Trunk Hill]**, the symbol of Guilin, standing in the Li River and looks like an elephant drinking water from the river. Next will be the **[Reed Flute Cave]**, 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

suggest that you take 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)

Day 5: Guilin-Longsheng

Today we will go to Longji, a minority area renowned for the magnificent terraced rice paddies, **[Longji Terraces]** which are located in Longsheng County. You may have a chance to take some wonderful pictures of minority people wearing exquisite costumes along the way; the rice terraces locate southeast of Longsheng and 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 scare arable land and water resources in the mountainous area. Later this afternoon we will go to visit **[Huangluo Red Yao minority village]**. Women there 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 Longsheng.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 6: Longsheng-Guilin

Early this morning we will drive to the Longsheng town. You can see daily life of local people by **visiting the local market** to have interesting discovery. Then we will drive to Guilin city. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to the hotel, enjoy a leisure afternoon.

Stay overnight in Guilin.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 7: Guilin-Kunming

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast, this morning will be on your own, you can **ride a bicycle around this small and lovely city**. After lunch, we will take a flight to Kunming. Upon arrival, our guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel. The rest of the day will be free at leisure.

Stay overnight in Kunming.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 8: Kunming

Today let's go to the **[Green Lake Park]** (Cuihu Park), 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. During the winter months, the Kunming daytime is still warm and sunny and Green Lake attracts red-pecked seagulls from Siberia who migrate there to escape the arctic chill. They entertain the crowds of visitors as they swoop and dive across the lake. This charming scene, in which man, birds, and nature mingle in such harmony has added to the allure of Green Lake. Then we will go to the **[Yuantong Temple]** at the foot of the Luofeng Hill in the northern part of the city. Yuantong Temple is grandeur, unique. Its brilliant appearance, grand building complex and tranquil surroundings have intoxicated generations of poets, painters who written poems, brushed scrolls about it. Yuantong temple is very popular among tourists and pilgrimages alike. Later, we will drive back to the hotel.

Stay overnight in Kunming.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 9: Kunming-Dali

Kunming is well known for its beautiful and peculiar, breathtaking and unique natural landscape. The city is nicknamed "City of Spring" due to the fact that it is covered all the year round with the rich verdure of trees and plants. After breakfast we will drive to the **[Stone Forest]**. The Stone Forest was formed by karst two million to thirty mullion years ago. Due to a process of weathering and erosion, nature has created an art gallery of stone sculpture here. This typical karst physiognomy takes the form of a forest of stone pillars and boulders. It is as if the countless stone shapes have sprung from the ground, assuming different shapes as if vying to surpass each other in grandeur and sublime beauty. Later this afternoon we will drive to Kunming Train Stain to catch an overnight train to Dali after dinner.

Stay overnight on train.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 10: Dali

Our guide will meet you at Dali Train Station in the morning, transferred to your hotel in the Old Town. The rest time in the morning will be on your own. After lunch, we will set out to visit a typical sight of Dali-the **[Three Pagoda Temple by bike]**. From its name, we can know that Three Pagodas are made up of three ancient independent pagodas forming a symmetrical triangle. This is unique in China. Later we will enjoy **[a cycling around Xizhou]**. 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 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 city layout was uniform: 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 give us a different feeling from any other Chinese city.

Stay overnight in Dali Old Town.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 11: Dali-Lijiang

This morning we will depart for Lijiang by private car, van or bus after lunch. It is roughly a 3.5hours 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. You will arrive in Lijiang before dinner time.

Stay overnight in Lijiang.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 12: Lijiang

Lijiang is an ancient town where remains unique architectural styles and people there still hold on their original way of living. This morning we will 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. Viewed from afar, the snow-capped range resembles a silver dragon with snow curling up its middle. That is its name coming from. Rich forest, herb and animal resources thrive on the mountain and a giant tram cart up here is one of the highest of its kind in China. We will take cables to climb the mountain and be intoxicated in the picturesque scenery. And after down the mountain, we will also have **[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 from 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.

Stay overnight in Lijiang.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 13: Lijiang-Tiger Leaping Gorge

Today we will head for the **[Tiger Leaping Gorge]** by private car, van or bus after breakfast. You'll have lunch at Qiaotou Town on the way before trekking. We head for TLG and go straight to our first guest house.

Stay overnight in Tiger Leaping Gorge.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 14: Tiger Leaping Gorge

Relax in the morning and enjoy the view before we take the high trail to our second guest house. Wedged tightly between steep cliffs, the Tiger Leaping Gorge is a well-known gorge of Yangtze River, where the river is so narrow here. There is a legend goes like that a hunted tiger made his escape to the other side in a single bound.

Stay overnight in Tiger Leaping Gorge.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 15: Tiger Leaping Gorge-Shangri-la

We are planning to walk out from the Tiger Leaping Gorge before lunch time and have lunch in Qiaotou Town. After that we will continue our trip to Zhongdian, the town now officially recognized as "Shangri-La". This is actually the old Tibetan Province of Kham and was used as a winter grazing area for the livestock. The surrounding countryside is much as it always has been, preserving mysterious and ancient atmosphere. Eventually we will arrive at Shangri-la before dinner time.

Stay overnight in Shangri-la.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 16: Shangri-la

Today we will start for **[a tour to the Songzanlin Monastery]**, a famous Tibetan style Buddhist temple in China. 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. We will visit the **[old part of the town by bike]**, including a **[Tibetan family visiting]**. Influenced by Buddhism, the Tibetan built their houses in distinctive religious styles. You can **taste Tibetan specialties of yak butter tea, local yogurt and Tibetan barley**. Later this afternoon will be on your own to walk around. We suggest that it is a good way to feel the daily life of local people by visiting the **local market**.

Stay overnight in Shangri-la.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 17: Shangri-la-Kunming-Beijing

We take a morning flight back to Kunming, and another flight followed from Kunming to Beijing. When you arrive, 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 Beijing.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 18: Beijing

After breakfast, we will go for a visit to the **[Temple of Heaven]**, which is a complex of buildings, gardens and pathways. Its organization indicates relationship between Earth and heaven because of that in ancient time, the emperors used to worship the heaven to pray for harvests. Next will be the **[Tian'anmen Square]**, one of the largest city squares in the world. It is located on the central axis of old Beijing and you may have a leisurely walk. In the center of Tian'anmen Square stands the Monument to the People's Heroes. Then we will go to the **[Forbidden City]**, imperial palaces 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 of an imposing view. Later the day will be on your own to explore more about this city.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 19: Beijing

This morning we are going to climb up the **[Jinshanling Great Wall]**, the best preserved and less commercial section of the Wall. It is somewhat dangerous to climb because 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 dinner, so we highly recommend a featured dinner at one famous restaurant.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 20: Beijing

This morning we will go to visit the **[Summer Palace]**, one of China's architectural masterpieces. The palace is an outstanding example of imperial parks and private gardens of both northern and southern China, and is the best preserved and largest of the Chinese imperial parks. China has long been known worldwide for its gardens, including private gardens and imperial parks, all characterized by the harmony of natural and manmade beauty. Followed by a **[cycling trip to Hutong]**, meaning alleys, derives from the narrow lanes

created by the walled residential compounds built one on top of the other in these cramped districts. The high walls surround the traditional siheyuan quadrangle, made up of four, single-story buildings fronting a courtyard. Hutongs take their names from the groups who live within, for instance, the Bowstring Makers' Lane, or if populated by a single family, their surname. However, unfortunately, encroaching urban development now threatens hutongs.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 21: Beijing-Departure

Your China tour we sponsored will end after breakfast. You may get to the airport for a flight to home or to another destination.

Meals: (B)



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