



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

Best of China and Yangtze with Hiking

<http://www.chinaexpeditiontours.com/china-tours/best-of-china-and-yangtze-with-hiking.html>

Tour Code: CET-HK02

Length: 16 days and 15 nights

Cities Visited/Stayed: Beijing, Xi'an, Guilin, Chongqing, Yichang, Shanghai

Highlight Attractions: Forbidden City, Great Wall, Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum, Li River, Elephant Trunk Hill, Three Gorges, Three Gorges Dam Project, Yu Yuan Garden, The Bund

Experience & Features: Hiking on the Great Wall, Hiking along the Li River, Hiking in the Yangtze Gorges

This tour is an extended one of the tour "Best of China with Hiking". Besides visiting the most renowned attractions in the most famous four cities, you also have opportunities to hike on the Great Wall in Beijing, hike along the picturesque Li River in Guilin and trek along the mighty Yangtze Three Gorges.

Itinerary

Day 1: Beijing

Arrive in Beijing, your guide (CET rep) will meet you at airport upon your arrival, and you are transferred to your hotel. In your spare time, you can explore the host city of the 2008 Olympics yourself, such as going to the Olympic Park. In the evening, you meet your guide for a pre-tour briefing. This is generally followed by an optional group dinner at a local restaurant - Beijing Duck is often a popular choice.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

Meals: ()

Day 2: Beijing

Visit the **[Temple of Heaven]**, the place where the ancient emperors used to pray for the God's bless of the whole nation, and the **[Tian'anmen Square]**, the largest city square in the world. And then we walk to the

[Forbidden City] which is the largest imperial palace in China during the Ming and Qing dynasties with a history of around 600 years.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

Meals: (B,L)

Day 3: Beijing (Hiking on the Great Wall)

It's a hiking day today! You will be picked up at your hotel in the morning and then drive for about 2 and half hours to Simatai West. This section of the Great Wall undoubtedly offers the finest hiking anywhere on the Wall. With over 15 watch-towers, and steep gradients that give constantly changing perspectives and wide, open views, it is photogenic anywhere during the hiking. There is fascinating variety in the watch-towers here. Some have two storeys, others three. Some have flat roofs, others rounded and others again are pitched with upturned eaves. This section of the wall is wild, ruined, preserved and original. On a clear day, it is difficult to fail to take good photographs here. It will take about 3 hours to complete the hiking. Then we arrange you a late lunch in a local farmer's restaurant to reward your stomach before returning to the city.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 4: Beijing-Xi'an

Visit the **[Summer Palace]** which is the biggest and most renowned imperial summer resort from the Ming and Qing Dynasty and a great example of China's extraordinary workmanship and architecture. After lunch drive to the airport for a pm flight to Xi'an.

Stay overnight in Xi'an.

Meals: (B,L)

Day 5: Xi'an

A tour to the renowned **[Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum]** today will show us these unearthed pottery statues, considered "the Eighth Wonder of the World" and one of the most important archaeological finds of the 20th Century. After coming back, the rest free time can easily be spent wandering the narrow streets among the Muslim quarter where we can find quaint shops, lively markets, groups of white-bearded men in skull caps sipping tea in dingy cafes.

Stay overnight in Xi'an.

Meals: (B,L)

Day 6: Xi'an-Guilin

You may still have some free time to explore the city yourself in the morning. Then we go to visit the **[Shaanxi Provincial Museum]** which will explain to you how Xi'an became the cradle of Chinese culture. And then we go to visit the **[Big Wild Goose Pagoda]** which was built by the eminent monk Xuanzang in 652 AD, with a great importance in China's Buddhism history. After those, we go to the airport, taking a pm flight to Guilin.

Stay overnight in Guilin.

Meals: (B,L)

Day 7: Guilin (Hiking along the Li River)

Another hiking day waits! This hiking route along the **[Li River]** can be the most classical one among all of its type not only around Guilin but also in the whole country. There's a famous Chinese saying goes, "East or west, Guilin landscape is best." Guilin's charm comes from Li River's beauty. The Li River's Beauty is best illustrated by its section between Yangdi and Xingping, which is exactly the part we hike.

The starting point of the hiking is the Yangdi Village. We hike along the river (downstream way), crossing it for 3 times, feasting our eyes with the breath-taking karst sceneries all the way. In about 5 hours, we will arrive in a town named Xingping. After a late lunch, we drive back to the city of Guilin.

Stay overnight in Guilin.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 8: Guilin-Chongqing

We go to visit the **[Reed Flute Cave]**, the natural beauty of a large amount of stalactites and stalagmites, with their endless variety of remarkable scenes. Then come to the symbol of Guilin city, the **[Elephant Hill]** that looks like a giant elephant with its trunk drinking water from the Li River. Then we take a pm flight to Chongqing.

Upon arrival at Chongqing, you will be met and transferred to the hotel. Some preparation work for the hiking in the following days is necessary.

Stay overnight in Chongqing.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 9: Chongqing-Fengjie-Kuimen (Hiking in Kuimen Area)

Hiking Info: 175-500 meters (574-1640 ft) above sea level, 5 km (3 miles)/ 3 hours

Today, we gotta set off quite early this morning. First of all, a local bus ride will take us from Chongqing to Wanzhou (400km or 250 miles, about 5 hours bus ride). Then, we will take a boat to get to Fengjie by noon time. After lunch, we will start our hiking in Kuimen area which is the Gate of the Yangtze Gorges. The hiking covers about 5 km (3 miles) and takes roughly 3 hours. The end of the hiking is a pass named Qutangguan, which has been playing an important military role since the Eastern Han Dynasty.

Return to Fengjie and transfer to the hotel.

Stay overnight in Fengjie.

Meals: (B, L, D)

Day 10: Qutang Gorge (Hiking in Qutang Gorge)-Wushan Town

Hiking Info: 175-250 meters (574-820 ft) above sea level, 15 km (9.3 miles)/ 7 hours

Today we start to hike in the first gorge, Qutang Gorge. Commonly known as the symbol and the entrance of the Yangtze Three Gorges, Qutang Gorge is the most magnificent one of all. With vertical cliffs of some thousand meter high as its two flanks, Qutang Gorge is the most majestic and rugged one of the three, just like a narrow gateway, although it is only 8 kilometers long. We're going to spend several hours to trek in it along the plank road.

We will have panoramic and spectacular views all the way when hiking in the Gorge. Along the trails flanked by peach trees or maples in different seasons, you will pass some villages, meeting local farmers, having chat with them, and step by the fertile fields with different crops in different seasons.

After the hiking, we will be transferred to the hotel in Wushan Town. Enjoy a good rest and prepare for the next day's hiking.

Stay overnight in Wushan Town.

Meals: (B, L, D)

Day 11: Wu Gorge (Hiking in Wu Gorge)

Hiking Info: 175-1200 meters (574-3937 ft) above sea level, 12km (7.5 miles) / 6 hours

Leave the hotel and go to the boat dock in the early morning to take a local ferry to the hiking start point in the mid Wu Gorge. Wu Gorge extends 44 kilometers (27 miles) and is gifted with exquisite peaks and lush mountains and ranges. It's deep and serene with changeable weather. The Twelve Peaks of Wushan Mountain all rise to the sky. Among them, the most fabulous is the Goddess Peak, towering over the Yangtze River. Shrouded in clouds and mists, a protruding rock of the Peak with the shape of a slim girl is faintly visible.

Have accommodation and dinner at local farmer's house (Home stay) at the foot of the Wushan Goddess Peak at the river bank.

Stay overnight in the Wu Gorge.

Meals: (B, L, D)

Day 12: Wu Gorge – Wushan Town – Badong Town

It's an easy day today!

After a leisure local breakfast, we will take a local ferry back to Wushan Town for connecting another boat trip through the Wu Gorge to Badong Town. The rest of the day will on your own to relax and recover from the past two day hiking.

Stay overnight in Badong Town.

Meals: (B, L, D)

Day 13: Badong – Xiling Gorge (Hiking in Xiling Gorge) – Yichang

Hiking Info: 75-600 meters (246-1969 ft) above sea level, 26km (16 miles) / 9 hours

Take the boat to Xintan and then hike to Sandouping at 08: 00 in the morning. This route is about 26 kilometer long inside the Xiling Gorge which is noted for dangerous shoals, queer stones and fast running water. We will arrive at Sandouping at about 17: 00. Pay a visit to the Three Gorges Dam Site before taking a bus to Yichang.

Stay overnight in Yichang.

Meals: (B, L, D)

Day 14: Yichang – Shanghai

Enjoy your own time before being picked up and transferred to the airport for the flight to Shanghai.

Upon arrival in Shanghai, you will be greeted by your guide and transferred to your hotel.

Stay overnight in Shanghai.

Meals: (B,L)

Day 15: Shanghai

Today, we are going to visit **[Yuyuan Garden]**, a beautiful private garden which is the most typical representative of its sort of Chinese garden; the **[Outer Bund]**, from where you see the modern skylines of this China's biggest city; and then **[Nanjing Road]** nearby, to experience the most prosperous and bustling shopping center of Shanghai.

Stay overnight in Shanghai.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 16: Shanghai

Free at leisure until to be transferred to the airport for your flight home. Your tour we sponsored ends at the airport with our tour representative.

Meals: (B)

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