



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

15-day Plant Hunting in Sichuan

<http://www.chinaexpeditiontours.com/city-tours/15-day-plant-hunting-in-sichuan.html>

Tour Code: SC-PHS

Length: 15days and 14 nights

Cities Visited/Stayed: Chengdu-Baoxing-Mt. Jiajin Shan-Rilong Town-Laoniu Yuanzi-Hongyuan
-Ruo'ergai-Jiuzhaigou-Huanglong-Chengdu

Highlight Attractions: Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area

Experience & Features: Mt. Wawu Shan, Balang Shan Pass, Dahaizi Lake, Huahaizi Lake, Mt. Siguniang,
Mt. Yanggong Shan Pass, Jiuzhaigou Valley, Huanglong

Physical Rating : 2

Cultural Shock Rating : 2

The great range of environmental conditions in Sichuan makes a fabulously plant-rich region, home to the bulk of China's endemic plants and the home of its Giant Pandas. On this exciting trip we will concentrate on seeing the endemic and near-endemic species. Although the wild mountainous terrain and torrential rivers have combined to keep the province isolated until relatively recently, today the rich diversity of habitats and a well-developed tourist infrastructure make Sichuan an appealing destination for a plant tour.

Itinerary

Day 1: Chengdu

Arrive in Chengdu and prepare for the exciting plant hunting tour.

Stay overnight in Chengdu.

Meals:

Day 2: Chengdu –Mt. Wawu Shan

Leaving Chengdu we will drive south across the Chengdu Plain making tour to Mt. Wawu Shan via the city of Meishan, which is with a record of 278 species of birds. Today we will stay in a hotel located on the halfway to the top.

Stay overnight on Mt. Wawu Shan.

Meals: (B/L)

Day 3: Mt. Wawu Shan

We will take cable cars to top of Mt. Wawu Shan. On the summit we will find Gray-hooded and Fulvous parrotbills and Sichuan Treecreeper. Lower down, the mountain was alive with the endemic Emei Liocichla, Golden Parrotbills, the scarce Emei Leaf-Warbler, and unforgettable Lady Amherst's Pheasants.

Stay overnight on Mt. Wawu Shan.

Meals: (B/L)

Day 4: Rilong Town – Mt. Balang Shan Pass – Rilong Town

Today we drive up to Balang Shan Pass itself, which gives us a chance to explore the high pastoral flora. Here we have a chance to find the hardier alpiners. Then we drive back to Rilong for the night.

Stay overnight in Rilong.

Meals: (B/L)

Day 5: Rilong Town – Haizigou Valley – Laoniui Yuanzi

Today we spend 7 hours on horse to Laoniui Yuanzi, our campsite. On the way you may explore *Habenaria glaucifolia*, Orchidaceae (*Cypripedium flavum*, *Cypripedium tibeticum*) as well as some other alpine floras.

Stay overnight at Laoniui Yuanzi.

Meals: (B/L)

Day 6: Laoniui Yuanzi – Dahaizi Lake – Huahaizi Lake

Today we head to Dahaizi Lake and Huahaizi Lake. The two lakes are typical alpine lakes. Here you can see flocks of yaks and horses drinking water by the lakes.

Stay overnight at the Laoniui Yuanzi campsite.

Meals: (B/L)

Day 7: Laoniui Yuanzi – Rilong Town

Today we return to Rilong and it gives us another chance to explore the beautiful landscape at Mt. Siguniang and its rich floras.

Stay overnight at Rilong Town.

Meals: (B/L)

Day 8: Rilong Town – Hongyuan Town

We head north today up a gorge in Qionglai Range. At Mt. Yanggong Shan Pass to discover an endemic purple *Meconopsis horridula* growing on the meadow nearby.

Stay overnight at Hongyuan Town.

Meals: (B/L)

Day 9: Hongyuan – Ruo'ergai

We now enter the great grasslands of Eastern Tibet, which is the most beautiful part in this journey. We cross the great grassland to the town of Ruo'ergai.

Stay overnight at Ruo'ergai.

Meals: (B/L)

Day 10: Ruo'ergai – Jiuzhaigou

Heading southeast from Ruo'ergai in the morning we cross a pass and leave the grasslands. By evening we arrive at Jiuzhaigou Valle

Stay overnight at Jiuzhaigou.

Meals: (B/L)

Day 11: Jiuzhaigou Valley

Today we tour one of most China's hottest scenic spot, Jiuzhaigou Valley. Jiuzhaigou Valley is a great masterpiece of nature having dreamlike scenery and abundant natural resources such as calc-sinter lake groups, waterfalls, and other waterscapes.

Stay overnight at Jiuzhaigou.

Meals: (B/L)

Day 12: Jiuzhaigou – Huanglong

Leaving Jiuzhaigou Valley we go onto the 4,000m pass that takes us into Huanglong. At Pass of Xueshanliang we explore the hill slope nearby to search Meconopsis.

Stay overnight at Huanglong.

Meals: (B/L)

Day 13: Huanglong

Today we experience China's growing park system. The great thing is that the woodlands remain ungrazed allowing species to flourish particularly orchids such as *Phaius delavayi* and *Cypripedium* spp.

Stay overnight at Huanglong.

Meals: (B/L)

Day 14: Huanglong – Chengdu

Today we return to Chengdu, ending this great journey of Plant Hunting in Sichuan.

Stay overnight at Chengdu.

Meals: (B/L)

Day 15: Chengdu -

Depart Chengdu.

Meals: (B)

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