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

China Memorable Honeymoon Tour

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Tour Code: CET-HM04

Length: 21 days and 20 nights

Cities Visited/Stayed: Beijing, Kunming, Dali, Lijiang, Shangri-la, Sanya, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Shanghai

Highlight Attractions: Forbidden City, Great Wall, The Stone Forest, Dali Ancient Town, Jade Dragon Snow Mountain (Yulong Xue Shan), The Ancient Town of Lijiang, Songzanlin Monastery, Dadonghai Beach, Wuzhizhou Coral Island, West Lake, Wuzhen Town, Humble Administrator's Garden(Zhuozhengyuan), Yu Yuan Garden, The Bund

Experience & Features: Tibetan Family Visit, Sands, Sea, Sunshine in Sanya

This sweet journey is especially designed for those who want to go on their honeymoon in China. You can experience our unexpected gifts, deluxe hotel room and quality service during the tour. Begin our tour from Beijing, enjoy a welcome ceremony, witness and climb the magnificent ancient construction of the Great Wall, get a brief impression of this big capital. Then we come to the largest city of China-Shanghai, which will amaze you by its modern atmosphere and traditional culture and art. The West Lake in Hangzhou is sure to impress you deeply and bring your faith in love. The ancient capital city Xi'an is really a Chinese history book and you'll be shocked by its rich cultural deposits. Also included a trip to 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

Welcome to Beijing, our guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel. A high standard honeymoon room is ready for you. Besides, you will be welcomed by an interesting Chinese ceremony to you. And you can put on traditional Chinese wedding dresses and take photos. The rest of the day is free at leisure.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

Meals:

Day 2: Beijing

After breakfast, we will visit the **[Temple of Heaven]**, which is a complex of buildings, gardens, and pathways. And its organization indicates relationship between Earth and heaven. Then we will head for **[Tian'anmen Square]**--one of the largest city squares in the world. It is located on the central axis of old Beijing. Monument to the People's Heroes stands in the center of Tian'anmen Square. Next 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. There you will see that the best ancient Chinese architectural styles are well preserved. You can choose some emperor's dresses and have pictures there. Later the day is on your own to explore more about this city.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 3: Beijing

The Great Wall of China is one of the greatest sights in the world. The longest wall in the world, it is an awe-inspiring feat of ancient defensive architecture. Chairman Mao once said that: "Until you reach the Great Wall, you're no hero." Figuratively this means 'to get over difficulties before reaching a goal'. So today our goal is to get to the top of Jinshanling Great Wall which is the less developed and commercial section of the Great Wall. **[Jinshanling Great Wall]** is a little dangerous to climb because it winds up and down the precipitous ranges, but as a reward, splendid views are available. Later you can try the crispy and tasty Peking duck dinner, and we highly recommend a typical dinner for you at one famous restaurant.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 4: Beijing-Kunming

This morning we will go to visit the **[Summer Palace]**--one of China's architectural masterpieces. When you go there, you will find that the beauty of Summer Palace is beyond imagination. The pavilions, kiosks, terraces, bridges, dikes, corridors are delicately crafted and placed, well displaying the thousands year old Chinese landscape gardening. Profound philosophical and aesthetic tradition can be reflected in this scenic spot. After lunch we will drive to the airport for a pm flight to Kunming. 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 Kunming.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 5: Kunming-Dali

Today we will head for the **[Stone Forest]**. They are magnificent stone masterpieces with various strange and steep intricate formations. The countless labyrinthine vistas make Stone Forest (Shi Lin in Chinese) worthy of the fame as the "First Wonder of the World" The local saying: 'It is a waste of time without being in the Stone Forest while visiting Kunming' indicates that you really cannot miss Stone Forest in your trip to Yunnan. Later this afternoon we will drive to Kunming Train Station to catch an overnight train to Dali after dinner.

Stay overnight on train.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 6: Dali

You will be picked up by your guide at Dali Train Station in the morning, and be transferred to your hotel in the Old Town. Dali is famous for romantic themes: wind, flower, snow and moonlights. Since ancient it has been regarded as a love cradle. You are free to arrange the rest of your time in the morning. After lunch, we will set out to visit a typical sight of Dali—the **[Three Pagoda Temple]**, consisting of three ancient independent pagodas forming a symmetrical triangle. We will enjoy a walk along the **[Dali Ancient Town]** which 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. Traditional marble artworks, like pencil vases, striped screen, and a variety of woven handicrafts of fine straw are laid chockablock on both sides of the street to be appreciated and purchased. Its grand city wall, traditional Bai houses and marvelous scenery have been attracted many visitors.

Stay overnight in Dali Old Town.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 7: Dali-Lijiang

This morning we will depart for Lijiang by private car, van or bus after lunch. It will be a 3.5 hours to get there 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 8: Lijiang

Lijiang is an ancient town with unique architectural styles and people there still stick to their original way of living. Today we will visit **[Jade Dragon Snow-capped Mountain]** first. The Jade Dragon Snow Mountain is a snow-capped mountain and the southernmost mountain with snowcapped all year round in the Northern Hemisphere. The Jade Snow Mountain range is a nice vacationing spot with great potential for snow sightseeing, mountaineering, explorations and scientific investigation. A legend goes that sunlight is hard to penetrate the cloud, only at special moment that about one meter's sunlight appear on top of the mountain, and people who are shined by the light can have an undying affection. This miracle may not happen, but the beauty of this ancient town is real. We **[take cables to climb the mountain]** and be intoxicated in the picturesque scenery. Later the day we will spend time walking around the **[ancient town]**, as time passes by softly there, you will enjoy the life in this fairyland.

Stay overnight in Lijiang.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 9: Lijiang-Shangri-la

We will depart for Shangri-la by private car, van or bus after breakfast. It will take a long time before we get there. You will have a lunch stop on the half way. The fantastic scenery along the way is available to you. You will arrive in Zhongdian ("Shangri-la") before dinner time.

Stay overnight in Shangri-la.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 10: Shangri-la

Having the same meaning with "utopia," the word "Shangri-la" was first used in 1933, coined by the English author James Hilton in his novel "Lost Horizon." Shangri-la was a legendary paradise, featured with towering snow-capped mountains, lush forests, vast gorges and idyllic lakes. A visit to **[Songzanlin Monastery]**, a spiritual hub for people to discover the mystery and traditions of Tibetan Buddhism, is a famous Tibetan style Buddhist temple in China. Tourists are attracted to this scenic spot because 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 also visit the **[old part of the town]** and a **[Tibetan family]**. You will have many things to appreciate such as Tibetan houses built in distinctive religious styles influenced by Buddhism, and 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 to visit the local market because you can have a better knowledge of the local people's daily life.

Stay overnight in Shangri-la.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 11: Shangri-la-Kunming-Sanya

We will take a morning flight back to Kunming. You can visit Kunming by yourself. In the evening, we will take a flight to Sanya. Upon your arrival, our guide will welcome you and transfer you to the hotel. You can stay in a high standard room with sea view. And special gifts have been prepared in your room for you.

Stay overnight in Sanya.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 12: Sanya

After breakfast, we will drive to **[Dadonghai Beach]**, one of Sanya's cleanest beaches, and it is about 3 km from the center of the city and just off the main road. Water sports are very popular there, and you can dive into the sea under the guidance of professional coach. It will be interesting if you leave your footprint on the seabed and touch lovely fishes. There are numerous small restaurants and bars serving up tasty snacks and drinks. Afterwards, we will drive to the **[Li Minority custom park]**, where you put on minority wedding dresses and experience minority collectivity marriage ceremony. The peaceful and warm scenery are available to you since the sun sets and the crowds disperse. You can also plant a tree together to pray for everlasting love.

Stay overnight in Sanya.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 13: Sanya

This morning we will pay a visit to **[Tianya Haijiao]** with the meaning of "End of the Earth and the Corner of the Sea". After you get there you will see the Chinese characters for 'Tianya Haijiao' (end of the world) and 'Nantian Yizhu' (the huge rock that emerges from the sea, making a 'corner') are engraved on three of the biggest rocks that sit along the coast. There is a romantic Romeo and Juliet story about these two stones. In ancient times, two young lovers eloped when their parents against of their marriage. Unfortunately, agents who sent by their parents followed them to Hainan province. Facing the sea, they had no way to escape. They were so sad that they just held each other when they jumped into the sea. Suddenly, there was a thunderstorm. They were hit by lightning and changed into two stones, with the agents turned into many smaller stones around. Now people regard these two stones as symbols of eternal and faithful love. Because of this beautiful and romantic story many young lovers choose this place for their wedding ceremony. Later the day we will drive to a luxury hot spring holiday hotel in **Yalong Bay**, and we will enjoy a leisure afternoon **[bathing in the private hot spring with your beloved]**.

Stay overnight in Sanya.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 14: Sanya

You can enjoy a walk in the nearby forest after a leisurely breakfast, and pick a lovely flower and wear it on your sweetheart's head, which means she is a married woman in local tradition. Next we will move to **[Wuzhizhou Island]**. It is a tropical island with some excellent scuba diving available around the spectacular coral reefs. This place is well known locally as a gorgeous microcosm because the white beaches, palm trees, sunshine and wonderful sea life including sea urchin, starfish and sea horse are really attractive. This spot is generally acknowledged as the best place for scuba diving on the entire island. You will embrace a great afternoon there.

Stay overnight in Sanya.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 15: Sanya-Hangzhou

This morning is free at leisure. Then we will take a flight to Hangzhou. Upon your arrival in Hangzhou, our guide will meet you and transfer you to the hotel.

Stay overnight in Hangzhou.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 16: Hangzhou

After breakfast, let's go to visit the **[Lingyin Monastery]** and **[Feilai Peak]** which are the famous sites in Hangzhou. We will firstly visit the Lingyin Monastery, a famous ancient temple in China, in front of which there are Feilai Peak, Cold Spring, Longhong Cave and precious rock cave arts and queer and varied natural caves and gullies. **[Enjoying Tea at Dragon Well]** is also included.

Since there are many of romance legends happened at the **[West Lake]**, it is a poetic place where lovers are eager to go. West Lake is the most renowned scenic spot of Hangzhou, noted for the scenic beauty that blends naturally with many famous historical and cultural sites. You will have a wonderful experience by sitting in a boat wandering on the river, and enjoying the beautiful scenery while listening to the guide telling you a romantic love story of two young persons in ancient time. We will **[View Fish at Flower Pond]** and **[Leifeng Pagoda]** which are near the Lake. Later, we will enjoy a walk on the **[Hefang Street]**.

Stay overnight in Hangzhou.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 17: Hangzhou

Today we will drive to **[Wuzhen]**, an old water town dating back one thousand years ago. Wuzhen displays its two-thousand-year history in its ancient stone bridges floating above the mild water, its stone pathways between the mottled walls and its delicate wood carvings. Also, setting it apart from other towns, it gives a unique experience through its profound cultural background. Besides, there are huddles of locals gathering in a square happily playing chess, old grannies pushing cabbages in rickety wooden carts. Just enjoy yourself in exploring the town by wandering on the street, which will make you feel like back in ancient time. Then we will drive back to Hangzhou.

Stay overnight in Hangzhou.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 18: Hangzhou-Suzhou

After breakfast, we will go to Suzhou and you will be transferred to the hotel. The rest of the day is on your own to explore the city.

Stay overnight in Suzhou.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 19: Suzhou

Today let's go to visit the **[Humble Administrator's Garden]**. It is the largest private garden in Suzhou, as well as one of the four most famous classic gardens in China. There is typical example of the art of horticulture south of Yangtze River as well as a treasure house containing arts of architecture, calligraphy, carving, painting, and bonsai.

The **[Silk Factory]** is always a must place for the visitors as Suzhou is "the City of silk". Visitors will have the chance to see the real cocoons. And you can also see how local people reel, weave and print, which are interesting and the fabrics are beautiful as well.

[Panmen Gate] with a long history of more than 2,500 years is Suzhou's oldest and the most completely preserved part of the ruins of the ancient city of Suzhou.

After lunch we will take a short cruise in **[the Grand Canal]** which was founded in about 600 BC. The Grand Canal is the world's longest man-made waterway, being 1,800 kilometers long. The great location that the city affords helped Suzhou become a prosperous trading area and the silk industry is especially developed here.

Afterwards, we will go to take a look at the **[Huqiu Pagoda]** in distance. The 36-metre-tall Huqiu (Tiger Hill) Pagoda stands outside the Lümen Gate to the north west of Suzhou. It is said that the King of the State of Wu, Fu Chai, He Lü's son and successor, buried his father along with 3,000 swords here. There is also a legend said

that on the third day after the burial, a white tiger appeared to guard the tomb, hence the name of the hill. After our visit, we will come back to Shanghai, and then the one-day Suzhou tour ends.

Stay overnight in a hotel near Taihu Lake.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 20: Suzhou-Shanghai

Today let's go to visit **[Yuyuan Garden]** after breakfast. You will find more delicate handicrafts and tasty Chinese snacks inside the garden. Next we will pay a visit to the **[Jade Buddha Temple]**, an elegant structure famous for its Buddha statue which is carved of solid white jade and decorated by jewels. You will have your lunch in a romantic Shanghai restaurant. After lunch our guide takes you to the **[Outer Bund]**, where you can appreciate both the modern and the traditions at the same time. Later we will take a walk on the **[Nanjing Road]**, the most prosperous commercial street. You will find out that lots of world famous brands setting along the street. And you will enjoy a good shopping time there.

Stay overnight in Shanghai.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 21: Shanghai-Departure

This morning is on your own to relax until you are ready to be transferred to the airport for departure.

Meals: (B)

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