



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

Mysterious Southwestern China Discovery

<http://www.chinaexpeditiontours.com/china-tours/mysterious-southwestern-china-discovery.html>

Tour Code: CET-CBLET-1

Length: 20 days and 19 nights

Cities Visited/Stayed: (Hong Kong), Chengdu, Jiuzhaigou, Kunming, Dali, Lijiang, Shangri-la, Guiyang, Beijing

Highlight Attractions: The Stone Forest, Dali Ancient Town, Jade Dragon Snow Mountain (Yulong Xue Shan),The Ancient Town of Lijiang, Songzanlin Monastery, Huangguoshu Scenic Zone, Forbidden City, Great Wall

Experience &Features: Panda in Chengdu, Bai Family Visit, Naxi Family Visit, Hiking in the Tiger Leaping Gorge, Tibetan Family Visit

With unique and picturesque scenery, Southwestern China is a mysterious destination for many visitors. This discovery tour will unveil its mystery and leave you an unforgettable journey. Enjoy natural beauties best demonstrated in the Jiuzhaigou Scenic Area. 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. Then we come to Guiyang, where you will be amazed at the grand Huangguoshu Waterfall. The last destination is Beijing. You can witness and climb the magnificent ancient construction of the Great Wall and get a brief impression of this big capital. Welcome to discover mysterious Southwestern China with us.

Itinerary

Day 1: Hong Kong-Chengdu

Take a flight from Hong Kong to Chengdu. Arrive in Chengdu, our guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel.

Stay overnight in Chengdu.

Meals:

Day 2: Chengdu-Jiuzhaigou

Today we will drive to Chengdu Shuangliu Airport to take a flight to Jiuhuang airport in Jiuzhaigou area. Upon arrival, we will be picked up and taken to Muni scenic area to see the **[Zaga Waterfall]**. Marvelous pictures can be taken from there. It will take about two hours in hiking along that area. Afterwards, we will drive to Jiuzhaigou, check into hotel and the rest of the day will be free to you.

Stay overnight at Jiuzhaigou.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 3: Jiuzhaigou

After breakfast, we will go to **[Jiuzhaigou Scenic Area]**. We will visit the **[Shuzheng Valley]**, **[Rize Valley]** and **[Zechawa Valley]** that take a "Y" shape, in the Minshan Mountain Range. Inhabited by Tibetans, the nine villages and alpine lakes, affectionately called "Ham", are like reflecting mirrors or crystal jade blocks inlaid in Snow Mountains and forests. At the end of Zechawa Valley is the Chang (Long) Lake and the end of Rize Valley are virgin forests. From south to north, both Valleys stretch and meet at Nuorilang. The drop between the two valleys and Shuzheng Valley is over 1,000 meters (about 3,281feet), with 114 lakes lying downward in an echelon manner, on which are 17 waterfalls, 11 rip currents and 5 travertine beaches, formulating alpine lake clusters and travertine spots that are rarely seen in China and even in the world. We will enjoy a wonderful time in the natural beauties best demonstrated in its lakes, waterfalls, beaches, water currents, snow peaks, and virgin forests and spend time in taking photos.

Stay overnight at Jiuzhaigou.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 4: Jiuzhaigou-Huanglong Scenic Area-Chuanzhusi Town

This morning we will drive to **[Huanglong (Yellow Dragon) Scenic Area]**, which is neighboring the Jiuzhaigou Scenic Area. The special character of the area extends over 700 square kilometers (about 172,974acres) resulting from formations of talpatate and gives a special color to ponds and beaches. With a background of high mountains, snow covered peaks, valleys, waterfalls, lakes and forests, these talpatate scenes are quite spectacular. The scenic area provides a variety of unique and wild scenery such as the Huanglong (Yellow Dragon) Ravine, at the foot of the Xuebao Peak in the Minshan Mountain. In the sunshine, the ravine looks like a golden dragon winding its way through the forest. Later this afternoon we will drive to Chuanzhusi Town.

Stay overnight at Chuanzhusi Town.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 5: Jiuzhaigou-Chengdu

After breakfast, we will drive to the airport for a flight back to Chengdu city.

Taking a walk to Tianfu Square to see Chairman Mao's marble statue, to go to People's Park, having a sip of Chinese green tea in the tea house there are all nice options. What does still exist here in abundance, is a great street life. Markets and street hawkers fill the streets dealing in everything, giving you an impression of little bazaar, providing from snakes and snails to fortunes and foot scrubs. A hotpot dinner will let you know what real Sichuan spicy food is. Sichuan brocade, embroidery and lacquer ware are famous souvenirs.

Stay overnight in Chengdu.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 6: Chengdu-Kunming

Let's go to see China's animal ambassador--Pandas in **[Chengdu Panda Breeding and Researching Base]** in the morning.

In the afternoon, we will catch a flight to Kunming city. Upon arrival, we will be met and transferred to the hotel. If time permits, we suggest you that pay a visit to the Green Lake Park (It's 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. In November and December every winter, a huge flock of red-beaked gulls migrate here from Siberia. In winter and spring, Kunming residents flock to the Cuihu Park to feed red-beaked gulls. There are tens of thousands of them which have descended upon the lake. This lovable scene, in which man, birds and nature mingle in such harmony, has kept occurring over the last ten years.

Stay overnight in Kunming.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 7: Kunming-Dali

Today we will take a whole 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 will drive to Kunming Train Station to catch an overnight train to Dali after dinner.

Stay overnight on train.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 8: Dali

You will be 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 on your own.

After lunch, we will set out to visit a typical sight of Dali-the **[Three Pagoda Temple]**. Three Pagodas are made of three ancient independent pagodas forming a symmetrical triangle. This is unique in China. And they are one of the most significant and majestic wonders in Dali and look magnificent. Then we will continue to visit a **[local Bai Minority Family]** for the close look of the local daily life. Their and their traditional way of life and finished handicrafts will surely impress you.

Stay overnight in Dali Old Town.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 9: Dali-Lijiang

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

Stay overnight in Lijiang.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 10: Lijiang

Lijiang is an ancient town with 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. 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 we will also organize a **[Naxi Minority family visit]** for you in the afternoon.

Stay overnight in Lijiang.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 11: Lijiang-Tiger Leaping Gorge

After breakfast, we will depart for Tiger Leaping Gorge by private car, van or bus. You'll have lunch at Qiaotou Town on the way before trekking. Head on to Tiger Leaping Gorge and go straight to our first guest house.

Stay overnight at Tiger Leaping Gorge.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 12: 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. As described in legend, a hunted tiger made his escape to the other side in a single bound. The whole day will be over three hours walk.

Stay overnight in Tiger Leaping Gorge.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 13: Tiger Leaping Gorge-Shangri-la

Walk out from the Tiger Leaping Gorge before lunch time. After lunch in Qiaotou Town, 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 14: Shangri-la

We will go to visit **[Songzanlin Monastery]** today. It is a spiritual hub for people to discover the mystery and traditions of Tibetan Buddhism; besides it is known as 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. Followed is a visit to the **[old part of the town]**, including a **[Tibetan family visiting]**. 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 will be on your own to walk around. We suggest you get a feeling of local people's daily life by visit the local market.

Stay overnight in Shangri-la.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 15: Shangri-la-Kunming-Guiyang

This morning we will catch a flight back to Kunming. Then catch another flight to Guiyang in the afternoon or in the evening. Situated in southwest China, Guiyang has a population of about 3.5 million, of which 65% is Han and the rest a mixture of minorities such as Miao, Bouyei, Dong, Yi, Shui, Hui, Gelao, Zhuang, Yao, Bai, Tujia, etc. The most populous minority ethnic group is the Miao, and less populous are the Buyi, the Dong, and the Tujia. With beautiful scenery, pleasant climate and abundant tourist resources, it is a developing tourist resort of China. Upon arrival, your guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel. The rest of the day will be leisure at relax.

Stay overnight in Guiyang.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 16: Guiyang-Huangguoshu-Guiyang

After breakfast, we will drive to the **[Huangguoshu Waterfall]**. World famous Huangguoshu Waterfall reaches a width of 81meters (about 265.7feet) with a drop of 74meters (about 243feet). Behind the Fall, lies the 134-meter-long (about 0.1miles long) Shuilian-dong (the Water Curtain Cave) where one can watch the grand fall inside which makes you feel like you are in a fairyland. The view from this amazing spot is particularly stirring at sunset. Xiniu Tan, the pond into which the waterfall pours, is accessible. Standing by the pond, tourists can be closer to the natural spectacle. In addition to the Huangguoshu, there are over ten waterfalls and water-eroded caves along the Baishuihe River, Spotting in the scenic zone, are other falls with distinct features and charm respectively. After visiting the scenic zone, one would feel as if he has visited all the falls in the world. Later the day we will drive back to Guiyang.

Stay overnight in Guiyang.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 17: Guiyang-Beijing

We are going to have a visit to the **[Qianling Park]** today. It is located on Qianling Mountain, northwest of Guiyang. Qianling Mountain situated in Guiyang's northwestern corner provides a vast comprehensive garden for the city. As one of the noted attractions on the Guizhou plateau, it boasts clear water, green mountains, tranquil forests and old temples. There are gregarious macaques and flocks of birds and more than 500 energetic and enchanting macaques living in the mountain in the park and adding to the features of the park. There is a "holy fountain" up the mountain whose water is so clean that local people consider it coming from the heaven. The flowing steams from the fountain and the mist surrounding the forest make it one of the greatest eight scenic spots in Guiyang. This evening we will leave Guiyang for a flight to Beijing.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 18: Beijing

After breakfast, we will go to the **[Temple of Heaven]**. It is a complex of buildings, gardens, and pathways and its organization indicates relationship between Earth and heaven. Not far away, we will 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 will go to the **[Forbidden City]**, imperial palaces for the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties. The city contains a courtyard that can hold 100,000 people and 800 ceremonial buildings with 9,999 rooms. Best ancient Chinese architectural styles are well preserved here and showing 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

There is a famous saying that "You are not a hero unless you climb on the Great Wall." This morning we drive to the **[Jinshanling Great Wall]**, the less developed and commercial section of the Great Wall. This historic construction is somewhat dangerous to climb because it winds up and down the precipitous ranges, but as a reward, splendid views are available.

It is said that a visit to Beijing isn't complete without trying the crispy and tasty Peking duck dinner, so we highly recommend a featured dinner for you at one famous restaurant.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

Meals: (B, L)

Day 20: Beijing-Departure

This morning we will go to visit the **[Summer Palace]**, one of China's architectural masterpieces. It is not easy to imagine the beauty of Summer Palace. 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 you will be transferred to the airport to catch a flight for departure. Our service will end at the airport of Beijing.

Meals: (B, L)

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

Website: ChinaExpeditionTours.com

Tel: 86-773-5817222, 5817255

Fax: 86-773-5829185