



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**

## China Ancient Town Exploration Tour

<http://www.chinaexpeditiontours.com/china-tours/china-ancient-town-exploration-tour.html>

**Tour Code:** CET-AT01

**Length:** 25 days and 24 nights

**Cities Visited/Stayed:** Beijing, Shanghai, Huangshan Mountain, Wuyuan, Jingdezhen, Kunming, Dali, Lijiang, Shangri-la, Guilin, (Hong Kong)

**Highlight Attractions:** Temple of Heaven, Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City, Great Wall, Summer Palace, Yu Yuan Garden, The Bund, Hongcun Village, Jingdezhen Ancient Street, The Ancient Town of Lijiang, Jade Dragon Snow Mountain (Yulong Xue Shan ), Li River, Terraced Rice Paddies at Longji

**Experience & Features:** Wuyuan Countryside Scenery, Ancient villages and towns near Shanghai and Huangshan, Porcelain and china town, Bai Minority Family Visit, Tibetan Family Visit, Longsheng Minority Villages

China has a long history, brilliant civilization and profound culture. To discover the ancient culture and construction, you can come and follow us in this tour to unveil the mystery. We begin our tour in Beijing, to 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. One day tour to the beautiful water village and graceful ancient town near Shanghai will leave you a deep impression. The Hongcun Village shows you well-preserved ancient buildings and natural sceneries, just indulge yourself in this "village in the Chinese painting". Also we can't miss the ancient county of Wuyuan-the most beautiful village in China. The unique-built houses remain almost unchanged over the last century. Those ancient towns in Yunnan province surprise you by great ancient building style and exquisite art and handicrafts by local people. We go to Longsheng, to admire the spectacular rice terrace fields, to explore more at local villages. Our tour ends in 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

Arrive in Beijing, our guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 2: Beijing

After breakfast, we go to pay a visit to the [**Temple of Heaven**], which is a complex of ancient buildings, gardens, pathways and its organization indicates relationship between Earth and heaven. Then, 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 go to the [**Forbidden City**] – the imperial palace 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 an imposing view. Later the day is on your own to explore more about this city.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 3: Beijing

There is a famous saying goes "one cannot be a hero unless he climbs on the Great Wall." This morning we drive to the [**Jinshanling Great Wall**], the most original and less commercial section of the Wall. This historic construction is somewhat a challenge to the climbers as 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**, so we will recommend a dinner with Peking duck for you at one famous restaurant.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 4: Beijing-Shanghai

This morning we go to visit the [**Summer Palace**] -- one of China's architectural masterpieces. The beauty of the Summer Palace is deliberated. 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 we drive to the airport for a pm flight to Shanghai. Upon arrival, be met by the guide and transferred to the hotel. The rest of the day is on your own to relax.

Stay overnight in Shanghai.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 5: Shanghai

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast, and we go to visit the **[Yuyuan Garden]**, where you find more delicate handicrafts and tasty Chinese snacks. Today's tour also includes a visit to the **[Jade Buddha Temple]**, an elegant structure famous for its Buddha statue which is carved of a complete piece of solid white jade and decorated by jewels. Lunch is arranged at a characteristic Shanghai restaurant.

After lunch our guide takes you to the **[Outer Bund]**, for a grand view of Shanghai and you may marvel at how modern this metropolis is while still containing its old traditions. Enjoy a walk on the **[Nanjing Road]**, the most prosperous commercial street. You can find lots of world famous brands setting along the street and enjoy a good time in shopping.

Stay overnight in Shanghai.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 6: Shanghai-Zhujiajiao Ancient Town-Zhouzhuang-Shanghai

This morning we drive to **[Zhujiajiao Ancient Town]**. With a long history, this ancient town was a bazaar in Song and Yuan Dynasties. The crystal water runs through the town with 39 bridges connecting the nine old streets, forming a graceful water village scene. The north street still keeps its style of Ming and Qing Dynasties, displaying a picture of prosperous ancient commerce background in front of you. Local snacks are delicate and delicious, you can choose and try.

After lunch, we continue to **[Zhouzhuang]** -- one of the most famous water towns in China, only 30 kilometers (18 miles) southeast of Suzhou. Zhouzhuang is noted for its profound cultural background, the well preserved ancient residential houses, the elegant watery views and the strong local colored traditions and customs. It abounds with rivers and lakes. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon walking around. Stone bridges and overhanging towers span the waterways to provide free passage for the local people. The murmuring streams under small bridges and dwelling quarters with delicate courtyards are the distinct features of Zhouzhuang, now rarely seen in the whole of East China.

Drive back to Shanghai after the visit to Zhouzhuang.

Stay overnight in Shanghai.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 7: Shanghai-Huangshan

This morning is on your own to relax. After lunch we go to the airport for a flight to Huangshan. Upon arrival, be met and transferred to the hotel in the city, then we go to visit the **[Tunxi Ancient Street]** located in the center of Tunxi district, where the municipality of Huangshan is based in. Starting in the west from Zhenhai Bridge, a stone arch bridge crossing the river which was built in Ming Dynasty, and ending up in the east with the tablet of memorial archways, it added up to 1500 meters long and the sides of the street are laid with slab stones. Being well preserved, there are shops row upon row, with buildings simple and elegant. It is a commercial street only for pedestrians, with the building style of Ming and Qing dynasties. The merchants from the Anhui, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, and Fujian provinces jostle each other in a crowd that resembles the picture 'Upper River during Qing Ming Festival'. Whether you are wandering along the old bridge, visiting the fish beside the river, finding shoots of bamboo on the slope, or standing under a tree and listening to the birds whistle, it is easy to rest and attain mental tranquility by getting back to the nature.

Stay overnight in Huangshan.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 8: Huangshan Mountain

Early this morning we **[take cable to visit the Huangshan Mountain]**, enjoy the spectacular view along the way to the top. Mt. Huangshan is characterized by the four wonders, namely, odd-shaped pines, grotesque rock formation, seas of clouds and crystal-clear hot springs. It is said that you won't want to visit any other mountains after seeing *Wu Yue* (the Five Great China Mountains) but you won't wish to see even *Wu Yue* after returning from Mt. Huangshan. This saying may give you some idea of the beauty and uniqueness of Mt. Huangshan. Explore scenic spots on the mountain and enjoy spectacular view.

Stay overnight in Huangshan.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 9: Huangshan Mountain-Hongcun Village

Today we **[take cable down the mountain]** and drive to **[Hongcun Village]** which is located at the foot of the southwest side of Mt. Huangshan. The village now boasts 158 dwelling houses dating back to the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, nearly 140 of which are still in good shape. Hongcun Village is a unique, buffalo-shaped ancient village in the ancient style. The water system in the village is really an unparalleled part of the village construction arts in ancient China. The village features nice scenery -- simple

but elegant, a fine mixture of old houses, green hills and clear creeks, and enjoys the name "a village in the Chinese painting". Spend some time walking along the old paths.

Stay overnight at a local inn in Hongcun Village.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 10: Hongcun Village-Wuyuan

This morning we can have a leisurely walk in the town, and then we depart to **[Wuyuan Ancient County]**. Located in Jiangxi province, Wuyuan County enjoys the reputation as "the most beautiful village in China". The unique-built houses remain almost unchanged over the last century. People still keep their traditions and ways of living, which make this county seem like isolated from the outside world. Walking on stone bridges and watching yellow waves of rape flowers among farmers' cottages, you may feel like in a nice paradise. Wuyuan is also home to many famous scholars in China. We pay a visit to **[Likeng]**, a thousand year old village which has been well preserved and the local life there is interesting to discover.

Stay at a local family in Likeng.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 11: Hongcun Village-Jingdezhen

Enjoy a Chinese breakfast made by local hospitable hostess, and then we depart Likeng to **[another ancient village]**. It takes more than one hour on the bumpy road. Upon arrival, we walk along the stone-path to see more ancient buildings, and get firsthand view of the local life by visiting a local market. Lunch is at a local family, this afternoon we depart and drive to Jingdezhen -- a town famous as "The Chinaware Capital". Upon arrival, be met and transferred to the hotel. The rest of the day is on your own. We suggest that you **pay a visit to the local porcelain market** in the center square, where you can have a look of various porcelains and may purchase some.

Stay overnight in Jingdezhen.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 12: Jingdezhen-Nanchang

Jingdezhen's white glazed porcelain was known as the "false jade ware" in the Sui and Tang dynasties. In the Ming Dynasty, Jingdezhen became one of the four famous towns in China. As long as 2000 years ago, in the Han Dynasty, some ancient kilns for pottery were built here. Today we pay a visit to the **[Jingdezhen Ancient Folk Kiln Museum]**. There are rich cultural deposit of porcelain from Wudai Dynasty to Ming

Dynasty (907-1644 AD), which covers an area of more than 400 thousands square meters. Jingdezhen is the pilgrimage place of porcelain historiography pursuer, the porcelain industrial arts fans and the tourists all in the world. The Jingdezhen Ancient Folk Kiln Museum also protects about 20 locations of the relics of valuable kilns and porcelain factories in the important history periods of Song, Yuan and Ming dynasties. You can watch different procedures of making porcelain done by professional workers, or you may try yourself to learn to mould a vase. Have a great time there.

After the visit, we take our van/car/bus going to Nanchang City (about 3 hour drive), the capital of Jiangxi Province.

Stay overnight in Nanchang.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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### **Day 13: Nanchang-Kunming**

After breakfast, we leave Nanchang for a flight to Kunming.

Upon arrival, be met and transferred to the hotel. If time permits, we suggest you go to the **Green Lake Park** (Cuihu Gongyuan) - 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.

Stay overnight in Kunming.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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### **Day 14: Kongming-Dali**

Let's have a 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 drive to Kunming Train Station to catch an overnight train to Dali.

Stay overnight on train.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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### **Day 15: Dali**

You are 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 your own.

After lunch, we set out to visit a typical sight of Dali-the **[Three Pagoda Temple]**. As its name implies, Three Pagodas are made of three ancient independent pagodas forming a symmetrical triangle. This is unique in China. Enjoy a walk along the old street in **[Dali Ancient Town]**. 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 the 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 Dali City layout was uniform, with 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 gives us a different feeling from any other Chinese city. Then we continue to [visit a local Bai Minority Family] for the first hand experience of the local daily life. Their traditional way of life and finished handicrafts will surely impress you.

Stay overnight in Dali Old Town.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 16: Dali-Lijiang**

Today we depart for Lijiang by private van/car/bus after lunch. It is roughly a 3.5 hours 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. We will arrive in Lijiang by dinner time.

Stay overnight in Lijiang.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 17: Lijiang**

Lijiang is the ideal destination for nature lovers and anyone interested in ancient people groups and their customs. This morning we 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. We **[take cables to climb the mountain]** and be intoxicated in the picturesque scenery. And we also organize 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 with 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. You can get the beautiful picture that "every house is

surrounded by the rivers and the drooping willows", so it is highly spoken by the architects of China and abroad.

Stay overnight in Lijiang.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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### **Day 18: Lijiang-Shangri-la**

Depart Lijiang for Shangri-la by private van/car/bus after breakfast. It will be a long drive, but the scenery all the way is fantastic. On the way, we will stop to view the **First Bend of the Yangtze River** and the **Tiger Leaping Gorge**. We also have a lunch stop on the half way. We will arrive in Shangri-la by dinner time.

Stay overnight in Shangri-la.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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### **Day 19: Shangri-la**

Let's go to visit [**Songzanlin Monastery**] -- a famous Tibetan style Buddhist temple in China and a spiritual hub for people to discover the mystery and traditions of Tibetan Buddhism. 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. Visit to the [**old part of the town**] and a [**Tibetan family**] are included in today's tour as well. 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 is on your own to walk around. We suggest you get a feeling of local people's daily life by visiting the local market.

Stay overnight in Shangri-la.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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### **Day 20: Shangri-la-Kunming-Guilin**

Take a morning flight back to Kunming. In the late afternoon, catch another flight from Kunming to Guilin.

With beautiful scenery, pleasant climate and abundant tourist resources, Guilin is a popular tourist resort in China. Upon arrival, 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 Guilin.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 21: Guilin-Ping' an

Today we go to Longji, a minority area with magnificent terraced rice paddies. The **[Longji Terraced Rice Paddies]** in Ping'an Zhuang minority village are located in Longsheng County where you may have a chance to take some wonderful pictures of minority people wearing exquisite costumes. Located southeast of Longsheng, the rice terraces 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 limited arable land and water resources in the mountainous area. Before the Terraced Rice Paddies, we will stop to visit **[Huangluo Red Yao minority village]**, where women 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 Ping' an Village.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 22: Ping' an-Kunming

The morning time is free for you to explore this lovely and mysterious Zhuang village yourself. After lunch we leave the village and drive to the local market to see daily life of people and have interesting discovery. Then we drive to Guilin city (about 2 hour drive).

Stay overnight in Guilin.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 23: Guilin-Yangshuo

This morning we embark the boat for the **[Li River cruise]**. Cruising downstream with a pleasant breeze greeting, you can sit on cushion comfortably or enjoy the open-air viewing platform. Bring lots of films or be sure the memory card in your digital camera is with a large capacity, because this is a photographer's dreamland, where you are able to capture the dramatic landscapes that Chinese artists have been painting for centuries. Lunch will be served onboard. Disembark at Yangshuo Town and walk to the **West Street**, which has received countless foreigners from all over the world and reputed as "Global Village in China". Today, the 600 meters long street is over 300 cafes, restaurants, hotels art crafts and tourist stores, foreign language clubs, internet centers and Kungfu schools.

This afternoon you are free at leisure. You can enjoy a coffee time in the West Street, or walk around the small **Yangshuo town**.

Stay overnight in Yangshuo.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 24: Yangshuo-Guilin

In the morning, we drive back to Guilin city, spend the rest of the day in Guilin to discover its shining scenic spots that make the city unique and especially beautiful. The [**Elephant Trunk Hill**] is the symbol of Guilin, standing in the Li River and looks like an elephant drinking water from the river. The [**Reed Flute Cave**] is 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 may recommend **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)

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## Day 25: Guilin-Hong Kong-Departure

Today is on your own to relax and until you are transferred to the airport for a flight to Hong Kong to continue your tour or for departure.

Our service ends at Guilin airport.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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