



GUEST ITINERARY

CURATED CHINA JOURNEY  
Dragon Discover







Chongqing

5 Days 4 Nights

## Mountain City Heritage & Wulong Karst

### BEFORE YOU GO

#### Key Travel Prep

-  Please book your own international flights.
-  Travel accident insurance is included. We recommend supplemental medical and evacuation coverage for international travel.
-  Please arrange your own mobile data plan before departure.
-  Check visa requirements for your destination before booking.
-  Bring any personal prescriptions needed.
-  Please inform us of any dietary needs, allergies, or restrictions when booking. Chongqing cuisine is famously spicy — non-spicy versions can be arranged on request.

See the full "Prepare for Travel" section later in Before Booking.

## Overview

**Five days built around Chongqing's stilthouse-lane heritage and the UNESCO karst country two hours south.**

Mountain City Trail walks, an aerial ride across the Yangtze on the city's last commuter cableway, a Two-Rivers night cruise past Hongya Cave, sugar-painting and Shu-embroidery demos in the restored Shibati district, a hands-on hotpot base workshop before dinner, and a full day inside Wulong Karst to walk the Three Natural Bridges and the Longshui Gorge fissure. The pace is built around restorative walking and cultural texture rather than landmark-checking.

## Trip Snapshot

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### Accommodation

4 nights in boutique hotels — 3 in central Chongqing, 1 near the Wulong Karst park. 4-star equivalent throughout.

### Airport Transfers

Private airport or station transfers in Chongqing on arrival and departure.

### Guide & Transport

Bilingual guide and private vehicle for 5 days. Private group, no mixed joiners. Vehicle scaled to your party size.

### Meals

4 breakfasts, 1 Shancheng private-kitchen lunch, 1 Chongqing hotpot dinner from a base you blend yourself.

### Signature Experiences

Two-Rivers night cruise, sugar painting, Shu embroidery, tea ceremony, hotpot-base workshop, and Wulong Karst day.

### Trip Style

Restorative walking pace. Mountain-city texture by day, hotpot and river lights by night, UNESCO karst as the finale.

## Where You'll Stay

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**4-Star Equivalent**

### **Central Chongqing Boutique Hotels**

3 Nights

Boutique properties in central Chongqing, within walking or short-drive reach of Jiefangbei, Hongya Cave, and the Yangtze waterfront. Modern rooms, reliable service.

**4-Star Equivalent**

### **Wulong Scenic-Area Hotel**

1 Night

Boutique hotel near the Wulong Karst park, chosen for a short transfer to the Three Natural Bridges entrance. Cooler mountain air and a slower karst-day evening.

# Itinerary

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## Day 1 — Arrival · Two-Rivers Night Cruise

Your driver meets you at **Chongqing Jiangbei International Airport** or the city's main railway station — a private business vehicle takes you to your downtown hotel for check-in and time to recover from the journey.

Later in the afternoon, your guide runs a short welcome session over tea: the shape of the five days ahead, what to expect from Chongqing's vertical geography, and a primer on the food and pace of the trip.

As the city lights come on, the day closes with a **Two-Rivers Night Cruise** — a 60-minute boat ride where the Yangtze and Jialing rivers meet at Chaotianmen. **Hongya Cave** lights up on the Jialing bank, the **Qiansimen Bridge** glows above, and the stacked skyline behind them is the clearest introduction to how this mountain city actually sits on the water. Dinner is at your own arrangement after the cruise — your guide points you to a few options close to the hotel.

## Day 2 — Mountain City Trail · Stilthouse Heritage · Eling Park

 Shancheng Trail

Eling Second Factory

Liziba Station

+5 more

After breakfast, the day opens on the **Shancheng Trail** (\*Shancheng Budao\*) — Chongqing's Mountain City Trail, a stone-stair walking path that threads through cliffside neighbourhoods above the Yangtze. The route passes old stilthouse homes, doorstep tea tables, and the layered upper-and-lower city architecture that makes Chongqing physically unlike anywhere else in China. Your guide reads the geography as you go: why the houses are built on stilts, how the stairs replaced streets, and what the old mountain-city life looked like before the high-rises.

Nearby, a short visit to the **Air-Raid Shelter Museum** steps into one of the repurposed wartime tunnels that honeycomb the hillsides — a layer of Chongqing's history most travelers never see.


Lunch is a **Shancheng private-kitchen lunch** — a home-style meal of Chongqing dishes cooked in one of the restored courtyard kitchens along the trail. Small room, family recipes, and the kind of local food that does not appear on any tourist menu.

The afternoon moves to **Eling Second Factory** (\*Eling Erchang\*) — a decommissioned wartime printing plant reborn as Chongqing's premier creative park. The old industrial buildings now house studios, design shops, and rooftop terraces with panoramic views over the Yangtze.


From Eling, a short walk leads to **Liziba Station** (\*Liziba\*) — the famous spot where Chongqing's Line 2 monorail cuts directly through the sixth floor of an inhabited apartment block. After watching the spectacle from the platform, the route continues to **Kuixing Tower** (\*Kuixing Lou\*), a stacked cliffside pavilion where the view opens over the river bend.

As evening falls, you walk across the **Qiansimen Bridge** for the lit-up view of Hongya Cave from above, then drop down into **Jiefangbei Square** (\*Jiefangbei\*) — the city's historic heart, a 1940s liberation column now ringed by glass towers. Dinner is at your own arrangement in the Jiefangbei district.

## Day 3 — Shibati Crafts · Yangtze Cableway · Hotpot Night

 Shibati Traditional Quarter

 Chongqing Hotpot

 Yangtze Cableway

+5 more

The morning opens at **Shibati Traditional Quarter** (\*Shibati\*) — Chongqing's restored 18 Steps district, a stilthouse neighbourhood between the upper and lower city that now houses a concentrated set of intangible-heritage workshops. Your guide walks you through four traditions in sequence: **Yangtze boatmen chants** (\*chuanjiang haozi\*) performed by an old Jialing river-worker, **Chongqing storytelling** (\*Chongqing pingshu\*) in the old sing-speak style, a hands-on **sugar-painting demo** (\*tangchua\*) where molten sugar is poured onto a cold slab into animal shapes, and a **Shu-embroidery session** (\*Shuxiu\*) with one of Sichuan's four famous embroidery traditions — fine silk, double-sided stitching.

Around midday, the route climbs up to the **Yangtze Cableway** (\*Changjiang Suodao\*) — Chongqing's 1,166-metre cross-river cable car, the city's last working aerial commuter line and its best skyline view. The ride takes about four minutes, with the full vertical city stacked behind you as the car crosses above the river. Lunch is at your own arrangement on the south bank, where your guide points you to one of the riverfront local eateries.

The afternoon shifts to **Longmenhao Old Street** (\*Longmenhao\*) — a Republican-era riverside quarter with restored consulate buildings and quiet teahouses. A **Chongqing tea ceremony** inside one of the teahouses walks through the local brewing rituals, and a short bamboo-weaving demo closes the session.

As evening falls, the group moves to a local hotpot kitchen for the **hotpot-base workshop** — a hands-on session blending the beef-tallow broth with Sichuan peppercorns, dried chillies, and aromatics under the chef's guidance. The base you make is then used for your own **Chongqing Hotpot** dinner at the same venue — tableside cooking with meats, vegetables, and noodles dropped into the bubbling broth. Chongqing's signature meal, made from scratch.

## Day 4 — Wulong Karst · Three Natural Bridges · Longshui Gorge

 Three Natural Bridges

Longshui Gorge

Wulong Karst

After breakfast and checkout, your driver takes you south to **Wulong Karst** (\*Wulong Kasite\*) — the UNESCO World Heritage limestone landscape about 2.5 hours from central Chongqing. The drive climbs out of the river valley and into layered karst country, with the air steadily cooling as the city falls behind.

The morning opens at the **Three Natural Bridges** (\*Tiansheng Sanqiao\*) — three enormous natural limestone arches carved by an underground river, each spanning a deep sinkhole canyon. An elevator drops you into the canyon floor, then a boardwalk leads through the arches with the cliff walls closing overhead. This is the Wulong Karst's signature formation and one of the most dramatic short walks in China's world-heritage inventory.

Lunch is at your own arrangement near the park entrance — your guide points you to the farmhouse restaurants where mountain vegetables, smoked pork, and corn-and-potato country dishes replace the fiery flavours of the city.

The afternoon continues at **Longshui Gorge** (\*Longshuixia Difeng\*) — a narrow slot canyon inside the same park, where boardwalks follow a stream between cliff walls that sometimes close to only a few metres apart. The route is gradual and well-built, with seated rest points along the way, and the air inside the gorge is noticeably cooler.

In the evening, the group checks into the Wulong scenic-area hotel. Dinner is at your own arrangement at the hotel or in the nearby village, followed by an early night.

## **Day 5 — Morning Stroll & Departure**

A final breakfast at the hotel, then a gentle morning at your own pace in Wulong — a stroll through the hotel grounds or the nearby village, clean mountain air, and a slower goodbye to the karst country.

Around midday, the drive back to Chongqing — about 2.5 hours on the expressway, with the city's vertical skyline reappearing as you descend into the river valley.

In the afternoon, your driver takes you to Chongqing Jiangbei International Airport or the main railway station for your onward journey. Your guide is available by phone for any last-minute help with transport or directions.

## Before Booking

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### ✓ What's Included

**Transport** — Private airport or station transfers plus daily ground transportation throughout the journey, including the round-trip drive to Wulong.

**Guide** — Professional bilingual guide for the full 5-day route.

**Accommodation** — 4 nights in boutique hotels: 3 nights in central Chongqing, 1 night near the Wulong Karst scenic area. 4-star equivalent throughout.

**Meals** — Daily breakfast at the hotel, one Shancheng private-kitchen lunch, and one Chongqing hotpot dinner cooked from a base you blend yourself.

**Entrance Fees** — All scheduled sites including the Yangtze & Jialing night cruise, Shancheng Trail, the Air-Raid Shelter Museum, Eling Second Factory, Kuixing Tower, Shibati Traditional Quarter, Yangtze Cableway, Longmenhao Old Street, Three Natural Bridges, and Longshui Gorge.

**Experiences** — Two-Rivers Night Cruise, Shancheng private-kitchen experience, sugar-painting demo, Shu-embroidery session, Chongqing tea ceremony, and hotpot-base workshop.

**Insurance** — Travel accident insurance included for the full journey.

**Pricing Promise** — Everything in the itinerary is included in the tour price. Optional packages and room choices, if any, are shown clearly before payment. No hidden on-trip charges.


### + Booking Options

**Single-Room Supplement** — A single room is available for the full 4 nights at an additional charge. Select when booking.


No paid activity packages apply to this route. Everything in the itinerary is included in the tour price.


### Prepare for Travel


 Please book your own international flights.

 Travel accident insurance is included. We recommend supplemental medical and evacuation coverage for international travel.

 Please arrange your own mobile data plan before departure.

 Check visa requirements for your destination before booking.

 Bring any personal prescriptions needed.

 Please inform us of any dietary needs, allergies, or restrictions when booking. Chongqing cuisine is famously spicy — non-spicy versions can be arranged on request.

🏠 Most scheduled venues accept international credit cards. For smaller shops, please have local cash or a local mobile payment app ready.

🏞️ Gentle walking pace overall. The Mountain City Trail and the Wulong Karst day involve stone stairs and uneven paths; comfortable walking shoes are essential.

🌤️ Chongqing has long humid summers and mild winters. Light layers and rain protection are useful year-round; Wulong is a few degrees cooler than the city.

## ? FAQ

### **Where does the tour start and end?**

Starts and ends in Chongqing. Private airport or station transfers are included on arrival and departure.

### **How do we get around during the tour?**

By private vehicle with a dedicated driver for the full 5 days. A bilingual guide travels with you throughout. Days 4 and 5 include the round-trip drive to Wulong Karst — about 2.5 hours each way on the expressway.

### **How physically demanding is the tour?**

Gentle pace overall. The heaviest walking days are the Mountain City Trail in Chongqing (stone stairs, roughly 2 hours at your own pace) and the Wulong Karst day (boardwalks and gradual slopes at Three Natural Bridges and Longshui Gorge, about 4 hours of easy walking with plenty of seated rest stops). Comfortable walking shoes are essential.

### **What does the hotpot-base workshop involve?**

A hands-on session at a local hotpot kitchen where you blend the beef-tallow broth base with Sichuan peppercorns, dried chillies, and aromatics under the chef's guidance. The base you make is then used for your own Chongqing hotpot dinner at the same venue — tableside cooking with meats, vegetables, and noodles dropped into the bubbling broth.

### **What heritage experiences are included in Shibati?**

The morning at Shibati Traditional Quarter (*Shibati*) includes live encounters with four intangible-heritage traditions: Yangtze boatmen chants (*chuanjiang haozi*), Chongqing storytelling (*Chongqing pingshu*), a sugar-painting demo (*tangchua*) where molten sugar is poured into animal shapes, and a Shu-embroidery session (*Shuxiu*) with one of Sichuan's four famous embroidery traditions.

### **What is the Two-Rivers Night Cruise like?**

A 60-minute evening boat ride where the Yangtze and Jialing rivers meet at Chaotianmen, with the Hongya Cave stilthouse complex lit up on the Jialing bank and the Qiansimen and other bridges strung with lights overhead. The cruise is the best way to take in the full scale of Chongqing's vertical skyline in one arc.

### **What meals are included?**

Daily breakfast at the hotel (4 breakfasts), a Shancheng private-kitchen lunch on Day 2, and a Chongqing hotpot dinner on Day 3 using the base you blend in the workshop. Other lunches and dinners are at your own arrangement so you can follow your guide's recommendations to local favourites — noodle shops, street snacks, riverfront restaurants.

### **Should I book pre/post-tour accommodation?**

Day 1 is arrival day with a late-afternoon night cruise, so arrivals before mid-afternoon work best. Day 5 is departure

— the morning includes a gentle Wulong stroll followed by the drive back to Chongqing, so aim for a flight after 19:00 from Chongqing. We can advise based on your flight plan.

### Can I fly a drone during the tour?

China requires all drone operators (including foreign visitors) to register with the CAAC before flying. Central Chongqing is a no-fly zone; Wulong Karst has seasonal and site-specific restrictions. Inform your guide in advance if you plan to bring a drone.

### What is the cancellation policy?

Our cancellation and refund policy is tiered based on how far in advance you cancel. Full details at [Terms & Conditions](#).

## Local Names

### **Chongqing** chohng-CHING

China's vertical mountain city — monorails through apartment blocks, stilthouse cliffs, and hotpot born on the Yangtze docks

### **Wulong** woo-LOHNG

Wulong Karst — UNESCO World Heritage limestone country two hours south of Chongqing

### **Tiansheng Sanqiao** tyen-shung sahn-CHEE-ow

Three natural limestone arches carved by an underground river — Wulong's signature formation

### **Longshuixia Difeng** lohng-shway-shah DEE-fung

A narrow slot canyon inside the Wulong park — boardwalks follow a stream between cliff walls

### **Hongyadong** hohng-YAH-dohng

The 11-storey cliff-face stilthouse complex that lights up like a Miyazaki film at night

### **Shibati** shih-bah-TEE

Restored stilthouse quarter where intangible-heritage workshops still run

### **Changjiang Suodao** chahng-jyahng SWOH-dow

The city's 1,166-metre cross-river cable car and best skyline view

### **Liziba** lee-zuh-BAH

Liziba Station — the spot where Line 2 cuts straight through the sixth floor of an apartment block

### **Shancheng Budao** shahn-CHUNG boo-DOW

Shancheng Trail — stone-stair walking paths through Chongqing's cliffside neighbourhoods

### **Jiefangbei** jee-eh-fahng-BAY

The 1940s liberation column at the heart of Chongqing's glass-and-neon downtown