



CURATED CHINA JOURNEY
Dragon Discover

GUEST ITINERARY

Guilin & Jinxiu

7 Days 6 Nights

Karst Rivers & Yao Wellness

BEFORE YOU GO

Key Travel Prep

-  Please book your own international flights or domestic transport to Guilin.
-  Travel accident insurance is included. We still recommend supplemental medical and emergency-evacuation coverage for international travel.
-  Please arrange your own mobile data plan before departure.

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

-  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. Yao herbal dishes use local wild vegetables and medicinal ingredients — flag any sensitivities in advance.

Overview

Seven days across two Guangxi landscapes that do not belong to each other — Li River karst, then Yao mountain wellness in Jinxiu.

The first half follows the painted karst of the Li River. A three-star cruise past Nine Horses Mural Hill and the Yellow Cloth Shoal reflection printed on the 20-yuan note. A bamboo raft down the quieter Yulong River. Zhang Yimou's *Impression Liu Sanjie* performed on the river at night. A morning cycling the Ten Miles Gallery past Moon Hill, followed by a tea-therapy and still-photography session in the Yangshuo countryside. The second half turns inland to the Dayao Mountains of Jinxiu — the self-styled World Yao Capital — where a boat threads the canyon walls of Shengtang Lake, a Yao longevity banquet comes with fire-walking and sword-climbing folk traditions, and the night closes with a national-level intangible-heritage Yao herbal foot bath. The route ends back in Guilin with Elephant Trunk Hill and the Ming-dynasty Jingjiang Princes' Palace before a free departure morning.

Trip Snapshot

Accommodation

6 nights at boutique hotels across Guilin, Yangshuo, and Jinxiu — three distinct settings in one week.

Airport Transfers

Private airport and railway-station transfers in Guilin on arrival and departure.

Guide & Transport

Bilingual guide and private vehicle for 7 days. Li River cruise, Yulong bamboo raft, and Shengtang Lake boat included.

Meals

6 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 5 dinners included. Li River fish, Yangshuo farm cooking, and a Yao longevity feast in Jinxiu.

Signature Experiences

Impression Liu Sanjie, Ten Miles Gallery cycling, Yao Pan Wang culture experience, and a national-heritage Yao herbal foot bath.

Trip Style

Unhurried karst-river pacing followed by quiet Yao mountain wellness. Gentle walking, cruises, and cycling — no hiking.

Where You'll Stay

4-Star Equivalent

Guilin Boutique Hotel

2 Nights

A centrally-located boutique property in Guilin for the arrival night and the Day 6 return night — close to the riverfront, walkable to Elephant Trunk Hill, and convenient for the airport transfer on Day 7.

4-Star Equivalent

Yangshuo Riverside Boutique

2 Nights

A boutique property in Yangshuo for the karst-country nights, within reach of the Ten Miles Gallery cycling route and the Yulong River bamboo-raft landings.

4-Star Equivalent

Jinxiu Mountain Boutique

2 Nights

A boutique property in Jinxiu town, a short drive from the Shengtang Lake scenic area and the Yao cultural venues that shape the second half of the trip.

Itinerary

Day 1 — Arrival in Guilin & Wellness Welcome

Fly or take the high-speed rail into **Guilin** — the karst-peak city at the heart of northern Guangxi. Your guide meets you at the airport or station with a welcome sign and a private vehicle, then takes you into the city to check in at the hotel. From here, everything is handled: directions, timing, and the pace of the week ahead.

The rest of the afternoon is yours to settle in. Walk the riverfront if you're up for it, or simply rest after the flight.

The evening opens with a **wellness-style welcome dinner** — a Guilin take on seasonal, organic cooking, built around local river fish, mountain vegetables, and the region's gentler herbal traditions. A calm first meal before the bigger landscapes begin tomorrow.

Day 2 — Li River Cruise to Yangshuo & Impression Liu Sanjie

 Li River  Yellow Cloth Shoal  Impression Liu Sanjie +2 more

After breakfast, board a **three-star cruise boat on the Li River** for the classic Guilin-to-Yangshuo leg — about four hours threading one of China's most painted landscapes, with limestone peaks rising straight out of the water on both sides. Your guide points out **Nine Horses Mural Hill** (*Jiuma Huashan*), a cliff face where mineral streaks resolve into nine running horses if you look long enough, and **Yellow Cloth Shoal** (*Huangbu Daoying*) — the seven-peak reflection printed on the back of the **20-yuan banknote**.

Lunch on board is a **Li River fish wellness meal** — a local speciality of fresh river fish with seasonal vegetables.

The boat docks in **Yangshuo** in the afternoon. From here, switch to a traditional **bamboo raft on the Yulong River** — a quieter tributary where non-motorised rafts drift past rice paddies, stone bridges, and smaller karst peaks you can almost reach out and touch.

Dinner is a local wellness-themed meal in Yangshuo before the evening's main event: **Impression Liu Sanjie**, Zhang Yimou's outdoor performance on the Li River itself — 600 performers, 12 karst peaks as backdrop, and the river as stage. The show tells the story of the Zhuang folk singer Liu Sanjie through music, light, and choreography on the water.

Day 3 — Ten Miles Gallery & Yangshuo Wellness

 Ten Miles Gallery  Moon Hill  tea-therapy and meditation-photography session

The morning starts with the most enjoyable way to take in Yangshuo's countryside: a flat cycling ride along the **Ten Miles Gallery** — a ten-kilometre rural route winding past karst peaks, bamboo groves, and rice fields. The ride passes **Moon Hill**, a natural limestone arch with a waxing-moon-shaped hole through the ridge, and loops back through farming villages where daily life happens at its own pace.

Lunch is a **farm-style wellness meal** in a Yangshuo private kitchen — wild-ingredient salads, mountain vegetables, and light seasonal dishes.

The afternoon slows right down with a **tea-therapy and meditation-photography session** in the countryside. Guided tea tasting is paired with quiet, unposed portrait photography in the karst landscape — a combination designed to help you decompress from the travel rhythm of the first two days. Dinner is a light local evening meal back in Yangshuo.

Day 4 — Yangshuo to Jinxiu & Shengtang Lake Canyon

 Shengtang Lake

Dayao Mountains

 Yao longevity feast

+2 more

This morning the road turns inland. A scenic drive takes you from Yangshuo into the **Dayao Mountains** of central Guangxi — forested ridges, river valleys, and terraced hillsides — to **Jinxiu Yao Autonomous County**, the self-styled **World Yao Capital** and China's first Yao autonomous county.

Lunch en route is a **farmhouse wellness meal** at a family table along the way.

In the afternoon, enter the **Shengtang Lake** scenic area. A local boat takes you through the narrow emerald canyon where cliffs rise directly from the water and primeval forest clings to the slopes. Locals call this stretch the 'Little Three Gorges' for a reason — the lake is calm enough to mirror the cliffs back at themselves, and the air sits cool and green after the Li River's summer heat.

The evening settles into a **Yao longevity feast** — a Jinxiu banquet of mountain dishes and fermented specialties served with a Yao folk performance that includes **sword-climbing** (*shang dao shan*) and **fire-walking** (*guo huo hai*), two ceremonial demonstrations from the region's deeper folk traditions.

Day 5 — Yao Pan Wang Culture & Herbal Foot Bath

 Jinxiu Yao-style wellness meal

 Yao Pan Wang culture experience

Yao herbal foot bath

A slower day built around Yao heritage. The morning is a **Yao Pan Wang culture experience** — Pan Wang (*Panwang*) is the ancestral figure at the centre of Yao identity, and the Pan Wang traditions at Jinxiu are on the autonomous-region intangible-heritage list. The session introduces Yao music, embroidery, and ceremonial texture through local practitioners rather than a museum display.

Lunch is a **Jinxiu Yao-style wellness meal**, heavy on the mountain vegetables and wild herbs that define local home cooking.

The afternoon is deliberately open — time to wander the town's edges, sit by the river, or simply rest. Jinxiu's air and pace are a clean break from the busier karst-river days earlier in the week.

The evening closes with a **Yao herbal foot bath** — the Yao people's traditional medicinal bathing is one of seven Jinxiu practices listed on China's **national intangible cultural heritage** register. A mix of local medicinal plants is simmered into a dark herbal brew, then poured into a wooden tub for a thirty-minute soak aimed at relieving travel fatigue and damp-weather stiffness. A light evening meal is on your own after the treatment.

Day 6 — Back to Guilin & City Landmarks



Elephant Trunk Hill

Jingjiang Princes' Palace

+2 more

After breakfast, drive back from the Dayao Mountains to **Guilin** city — the scenery shifts from forest ridges to karst-studded lowlands and farmland along the way. Lunch on the way is at your own pace.

The afternoon covers Guilin's two defining city landmarks. **Elephant Trunk Hill** (*Xiangbi Shan*) is the city's symbol — a limestone hill on the Li River shaped like an elephant drinking from the water, with the Water-Moon Cave between its legs. From there, continue to the **Jingjiang Princes' Palace** (*Jingjiang Wangcheng*) — a Ming-dynasty princely city built in 1372, **34 years before the Forbidden City** in Beijing, wrapped around the base of Solitary Beauty Peak (*Duxiu Feng*).

Dinner back in the city is a **Guilin herbal-cuisine wellness banquet** (*yaoshan*), pairing seasonal ingredients with the Guilin-style use of medicinal herbs in everyday cooking — a calm closing meal before the final night at the hotel.

Day 7 — Departure from Guilin

A final breakfast at the hotel, then the morning is yours. Walk the riverfront, pick up souvenirs, or simply rest before your journey home.

When your departure time arrives, your guide meets you for a private transfer to **Guilin Liangjiang International Airport** or the **Guilin Railway Station** in time for your onward flight or train.

Before Booking

✓ What's Included

Transport — Private airport or railway-station transfers on arrival and departure, plus daily ground transportation by private vehicle sized to the group. Covers Guilin, Yangshuo, and the road transfer to and from Jinxiu.

Guide — Professional bilingual guide for the full 7-day journey.

Accommodation — 6 nights at boutique hotels across Guilin (Days 1 and 6), Yangshuo (Days 2–3), and Jinxiu (Days 4–5).

Meals — 6 breakfasts (Days 2–7), 3 lunches (Days 2–4), and 5 dinners (Days 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6). Highlights include a Li River fish lunch on the cruise, Yangshuo farm cooking, a Yao longevity feast in Jinxiu, and a Guilin herbal-cuisine wellness banquet to close.

Entrance Fees — All scheduled sites, including the Li River three-star cruise, the Yulong River bamboo raft, Shengtang Lake with boat ride, Elephant Trunk Hill, and the Jingjiang Princes' Palace.

Experiences — Ten Miles Gallery cycling past Moon Hill, a tea-therapy and meditation-photography session in the Yangshuo countryside, Zhang Yimou's Impression Liu Sanjie performance, Yao Pan Wang culture experience, and a national-level intangible-heritage Yao herbal foot bath.

Insurance — Travel accident insurance included for the duration of the tour.

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

Everything in the itinerary is included in the tour price. No paid booking options apply to this route.

Prepare for Travel

 Please book your own international flights or domestic transport to Guilin.

 Travel accident insurance is included. We still recommend supplemental medical and emergency-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. Yao herbal dishes use local wild vegetables and medicinal ingredients — flag any sensitivities in advance.

 Most scheduled venues accept international credit cards. For smaller shops and rural stops around Jinxiu, please have local cash or a local mobile payment app ready.

 Gentle pace overall. The Ten Miles Gallery cycle is a flat 10-km ride on rented bikes, and the Shengtang Lake boardwalk involves light walking on stone paths — no strenuous hiking.

 Guangxi is subtropical. Summers are hot and humid with afternoon thunderstorms; winters are mild and damp. Bring light layers, rain protection year-round, and a warm layer for the Jinxiu mountains in winter.

? FAQ

Where does the tour start and end?

Starts and ends in Guilin. Private airport and railway-station transfers are included on arrival and departure.

How do we get around during the tour?

All travel is by private vehicle with a dedicated bilingual guide for the full 7 days, including the Guilin–Yangshuo and Yangshuo–Jinxiu road transfers. The Li River three-star cruise, Yulong River bamboo raft, and Shengtang Lake boat are part of the itinerary and covered by the entrance fees.

How physically demanding is this tour?

Gentle pace overall. The hardest active moment is a flat 10-km cycle along the Ten Miles Gallery past Moon Hill, and the Shengtang Lake boardwalk involves light walking on stone paths. Cruises, rafts, and boat rides do the rest of the work. Suitable for families with children aged 5 and up.

What is Jinxiu, and why is it worth the drive?

Jinxiu is China's first Yao autonomous county and the densest concentration of Yao cultural branches anywhere — five different Yao subgroups share the Dayao Mountains. The 'World Yao Capital' designation reflects that Jinxiu is the reference point for Yao music, medicine, embroidery, and ceremonies. The Shengtang Lake canyon and a national-level intangible-heritage herbal foot bath are two standouts most travellers never hear about.

What is the Yao herbal foot bath?

Yao guofa yaoyu — Yao traditional medicinal bathing — is listed on China's national intangible cultural heritage register. A selection of local medicinal plants is simmered into a dark herbal brew, then poured into a wooden soaking tub. The Jinxiu session is a foot-bath version of the same tradition, aimed at relieving travel fatigue and damp-weather stiffness. It lasts about 30 minutes and is part of the scheduled Day 5 evening programme.

Is Impression Liu Sanjie an outdoor show? What if it rains?

Yes — the show uses the Li River itself as stage, with the Yangshuo karst peaks as backdrop. Performances run year-round but may be cancelled or rescheduled in bad weather. If the Day 2 performance is cancelled, your guide will work with the venue on alternative options that evening.

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](#).

Should I book pre/post-tour accommodation?

Day 1 collects you in Guilin in the afternoon or evening and checks you into the hotel, so arriving the same morning is fine for most flights. Day 7 is a free morning with an afternoon transfer to the airport or station — an afternoon or evening departure gives you the most flexibility. Your guide can advise based on your itinerary.

Can I fly a drone during the tour?

China requires all drone operators (including foreign visitors) to register with the CAAC before flying. The Li River scenic corridor, the Yangshuo karst peaks, and the Jingjiang Princes' Palace all have restricted zones. Inform your guide in advance if you plan to bring a drone.

Are airport transfers included?

Yes. Private transfers from Guilin Liangjiang International Airport or Guilin Railway Station are included on Day 1, and the matching drop-off is included on Day 7.

Local Names

Lijiang LEE jee-AHNG

The Li River — 83 km of limestone peaks between Guilin and Yangshuo

Yangshuo yahng-SHOWH

The karst-peak river town south of Guilin — cycling, bamboo rafts, and the Impression Liu Sanjie show

Yulong He yoo-LONG

The quieter Yangshuo tributary — 45 km of bamboo rafting past karst peaks and rice fields

Yueliang Shan yweh-lee-AHNG shahn

Moon Hill — a natural arch shaped like a waxing moon

Xiangbi Shan shee-AHNG-bee shahn

Elephant Trunk Hill — Guilin's city symbol on the Li River

Jingjiang Wangcheng jing-jee-AHNG wahng-chung

A princely city built 34 years before the Forbidden City, wrapped around Solitary Beauty Peak

Shengtang Hu shung-TAHNG hoo

A narrow emerald lake in Jinxiu — boats thread a canyon of cliffs and primeval forest

Dayao Shan dah-YOW shahn

The sacred range of the Yao people — five Yao branches share its forests and terraces

Jinxiu jin-SHYOH

The 'World Yao Capital' — China's first Yao autonomous county

Pan Wang pahn wahng

The mythical first ancestor at the centre of Yao identity and ceremony