



GUEST ITINERARY

CURATED CHINA JOURNEY
Dragon Discover


Guilin


5 Days 4 Nights


Karst Rivers & Terrace Wellness


BEFORE YOU GO


Key Travel Prep


 Please book your own international flights. Guilin Liangjiang International Airport (KWL) and Guilin West Railway Station are both served by the tour transfer.

 Travel accident insurance is included. We recommend supplemental medical and 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. Meals lean wellness-focused, with Li River fish, organic vegetables, and Zhuang village cooking as the day's highlights.

Overview

Five days through Guilin's karst country, designed around the rivers, rice terraces, and village rhythms that make this landscape world-famous.

A Three-Star cruise traces the Li River between Guilin and Yangshuo, drifting past Nine Horses Mural Hill and the Yellow Cloth Shoal printed on the 20-yuan banknote. Traditional bamboo rafts carry you down the quieter Yulong River in the afternoon. Yangshuo's flat Ten Miles Gallery cycling route winds past Moon Hill's natural limestone arch, and a wellness afternoon layers tea therapy with a Zen body-tapping session that loosens the travel fatigue out of your shoulders and back. The route climbs to the Longji Rice Terraces — seven-hundred-year-old Zhuang and Yao rice steps carved into mountain ridges — for a night at a traditional stilt-house homestay, a hands-on afternoon of glutinous rice pounding, oil-tea making, and bamboo-tube rice cooking, and a Zhuang fire-pit banquet under the rafters. The journey closes back in Guilin with Elephant Trunk Hill and the Ming-dynasty Jingjiang Princes' Palace before an evening return home.

Trip Snapshot

Accommodation

Boutique 4-star-equivalent in Guilin and Yangshuo. One standout night at a Zhuang stilt-house homestay inside Longji.

Airport Transfers

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

Guide & Transport

Bilingual guide and private vehicle for 5 days, with Zhuang instructors at Longji. Your private group, no mixed joiners.

Meals

Daily breakfast plus 8 meals. Li River fish lunch, Yangshuo pastoral kitchen, Longji farmhouse, Zhuang fire-pit banquet.

Signature Experiences

Li River cruise, Yulong bamboo raft, Ten Miles cycling, tea therapy, Zen body-tapping, Zhuang crafts, Impression Liu Sanjie.

Trip Style

Karst rivers, terraced mountains, village crafts at a restorative pace. A night in a Zhuang stilt house at Longji.

Where You'll Stay

4-Star Equivalent

Guilin & Yangshuo Boutique Hotels

3 Nights

Hand-picked 4-star-equivalent boutique properties in central Guilin and around Yangshuo — modern rooms, clean design, walking reach of the riverside streets.

Heritage Stay

Longji Zhuang Stilt-House Homestay

1 Night

Sleep inside the terraces. Traditional Zhuang stilt-house — wooden floors, plank walls, veranda onto the rice steps. Open the door at dawn and the valley is right there.

Itinerary

Day 1 — Arrival in Guilin & Wellness Welcome

Your guide meets you at arrivals at **Guilin Liangjiang International Airport** or **Guilin Railway Station** — a private car is waiting. From here, everything is handled.

After settling into your city-centre boutique hotel, the afternoon is yours to recover from the flight and walk the riverside at your own pace. Guilin is built around the Li River, and the karst peaks that made this landscape world-famous begin right in the city.

The day closes with a **wellness welcome dinner** — the Guilin kitchen leans toward clean, slow cooking built on local ingredients. Expect **white ginkgo stewed duck** (*bai guo dun lao ya*), **Li River steamed fish** (*Lijiang qing zheng yu*), and organic seasonal vegetables. Your guide walks through the four days ahead over tea and answers any questions before you head back to the hotel to rest.

Day 2 — Li River Cruise & Yulong Bamboo Rafting

 Nine Horses Mural Hill

 Li River Cruise

Yulong River Bamboo Raft

Impression Liu Sanjie

+2 more

After breakfast, a private car takes you to the cruise pier for the morning's main event — a three-star **Li River Cruise** from Guilin down to Yangshuo. The boat drifts slowly past the most-photographed stretch of the river: **Nine Horses Mural Hill** (*Jiu Ma Hua Shan*), where centuries of weathering have resolved the cliff face into the shapes of nine running horses, and the **Yellow Cloth Shoal** (*Huang Bu Dao Ying*) — the exact bend printed on the back of the 20-yuan banknote. Karst peaks pass on both banks for the better part of four hours.

Lunch on arrival in Yangshuo is a **Li River fish wellness meal** — the river fish is the signature of this stretch, cooked simply with ginger and spring onion to keep the flavour clean.

The afternoon trades the larger boat for a traditional **Yulong River Bamboo Raft** (*Yulong He*) drift. Yulong is the quieter sister of the Li — two rafters and a poler per boat, with karst peaks, small stone bridges, and pastoral villages passing on both sides. The pace is unhurried and meditative.

After a Yangshuo wellness dinner, the evening closes with front-row seats at **Impression Liu Sanjie** (*Yinxiang Liu Sanjie*) — Zhang Yimou's original Impression show. The Li River itself is the stage and twelve floodlit karst peaks are the backdrop; six hundred local performers in minority costume move across the water to choreographed light. It is still the largest outdoor stage in the world. The car returns you to the Yangshuo hotel afterward.

Day 3 — Ten Miles Gallery Cycling & Wellness Afternoon

 Ten Miles Gallery

Moon Hill

 Tea Therapy

Zen Body-Tapping

After breakfast, a short drive brings you to the start of the **Ten Miles Gallery** (*Shili Hualang*) — Yangshuo's signature cycling corridor. The route is flat, easy, and paved; the riding is gentle rather than athletic. Karst peaks line the road,

rice fields spread out on either side, and the route passes beneath **Moon Hill** (*Yueliang Shan*) — a natural limestone arch where a perfect moon-shaped hole cuts straight through the ridge. Your guide rides alongside and points out the photo stops.

Lunch is a **pastoral private-kitchen meal** — light, seasonal, and built from mountain-gathered ingredients.

The afternoon shifts into a slower register. A guided **Tea Therapy** (*cha liao*) session opens with a local tea master leading a slow tasting of Guangxi's wellness-leaning teas — pu'er, Liubao, and a mountain herb blend — each poured through several infusions with the properties of each explained as you drink. That flows into a **Zen Body-Tapping** (*chan pai*) practice: the instructor guides rhythmic open-palm tapping along the arms, shoulders, back, and legs, drawing on traditional Chinese meridian-tapping technique. The goal is to loosen the travel fatigue out of your muscles and warm the body through gentle percussion rather than massage — relaxing, unhurried, and something you can keep practising after the trip.

Dinner is an **organic Yangshuo kitchen** meal before the car returns you to the hotel for an early night.

Day 4 — Longji Rice Terraces & Zhuang Village Crafts

 Longji Rice Terraces

 Zhuang Fire-Pit Banquet

 Zhuang Village Crafts

+2 more


After breakfast, a private car leaves Yangshuo for the **Longji Rice Terraces** (*Longji Titian*) — roughly a three-hour drive north into the ridge country of Longsheng. The road climbs steadily; by late morning the valley opens onto seven-hundred-year-old terraces carved into the mountain slopes, first shaped by Zhuang and Yao farmers in the Yuan dynasty and still farmed today.

Lunch is a **Longji farmhouse meal** — vegetables and rice from the surrounding terraces, cooked over a wood fire.

The afternoon is a hands-on **Zhuang Village Crafts** session with a local family. With a village instructor leading each stage, you take turns **pounding glutinous rice** into **ciba rice cakes** (*da ci ba*) in a wooden mortar, learn to **make oil tea** (*da you cha*) — the Zhuang and Yao stir-frying a tea brew that anchors every household meal — and **cook bamboo-tube rice** (*zhutong fan*) in fresh-cut bamboo over open flame. The instructors explain how each dish fits into Zhuang daily life, and you eat what you have just made.

As dusk falls, dinner is a **Zhuang Fire-Pit Banquet** (*zhuang xiang huotang yan*) — the village long table sets up around the open hearth, with smoked meats, mountain vegetables, and rice wine served under the rafters while village performers bring out traditional Zhuang songs and dances. You stay overnight inside the terraces at a traditional **Zhuang Stilt-House Homestay** (*diaojiaolou*) — wooden floors, a veranda onto the rice steps, and the village quieting down outside your door.

Day 5 — Longji to Guilin & City Landmarks

 Elephant Trunk Hill

Jingjiang Princes' Palace

+3 more

Dawn over the Longji terraces is the quietest moment of the trip — the ridges lit in soft light before the village wakes. After a farmhouse breakfast, the private car starts the return to Guilin.

Lunch in Guilin is a light wellness meal before the afternoon's city sights. A guided walk around **Elephant Trunk Hill** (*Xiangbi Shan*) — Guilin's city symbol, a limestone hill shaped like an elephant lowering its trunk to drink from the Li River. Water Moon Cave runs between the trunk and body of the elephant, and at certain angles the cave and its reflection form a complete moon on the water.

The afternoon closes with a walk through the **Jingjiang Princes' Palace** (*Jingjiang Wang Cheng*) — a Ming-dynasty princely city built between 1372 and 1392, older than the Forbidden City in Beijing. Fourteen princes across twelve generations lived inside these walls over the 257 years of the Ming dynasty. Today the site also serves as a campus of Guangxi Normal University, and the climb up **Solitary Beauty Peak** at its centre gives a panorama of the entire old city.

Timed to your flight or train, the private car takes you to **Guilin Liangjiang Airport** or **Guilin Station** to close out the five-day journey.

Before Booking

✓ What's Included

Transport — Private airport or railway-station transfers on arrival and departure, plus daily ground transportation by private vehicle across Guilin, Yangshuo, and Longji.

Guide — Professional bilingual guide for the full 5-day journey, with local Zhuang instructors at Longji for the rice pounding, oil-tea, and bamboo-rice workshop.

Accommodation — 4 nights at 4-star-equivalent or above throughout Guilin and Yangshuo, with one night at a traditional Zhuang stilt-house homestay inside the Longji Rice Terraces.

Meals — Daily breakfast plus 8 included meals — Li River fish wellness lunch, Yangshuo pastoral private kitchen, Longji farmhouse lunch, and a Zhuang fire-pit banquet at the terrace village.

Entrance Fees — All scheduled sites, including the Li River cruise, Impression Liu Sanjie performance, Yulong River bamboo rafting, Longji Rice Terraces, Elephant Trunk Hill, and Jingjiang Princes' Palace.

Experiences — Li River Three-Star cruise past the 20-yuan scenery, Yulong River bamboo rafting, Ten Miles Gallery cycling past Moon Hill, a tea therapy and Zen body-tapping wellness afternoon, hands-on Zhuang village crafts (glutinous rice pounding, oil-tea making, bamboo-tube rice), and front-row seats at the Impression Liu Sanjie evening show.


Insurance — Travel accident insurance included for every guest 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


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. Guilin Liangjiang International Airport (KWL) and Guilin West Railway Station are both served by the tour transfer.

 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. Meals lean wellness-focused, with Li River fish, organic vegetables, and Zhuang village cooking as the day's highlights.

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

🚲 Gentle pace overall. The Ten Miles Gallery cycling is flat and unhurried; the Longji terrace village has stone steps between levels, so comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

🌤️ Guilin is subtropical — warm and humid most of the year, cool and damp in winter. Light layers and a rain shell are useful year-round; Longji mornings can be noticeably cooler than the lowland.

? FAQ

Where does the tour start and end?

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

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](#).

Can I fly a drone during the tour?

China requires all drone operators (including foreign visitors) to register with the CAAC before flying. Many heritage sites and scenic areas are no-fly zones, and Longji in particular has drone restrictions over the terraces. Inform your guide in advance if you plan to bring a drone.

Should I book pre/post-tour accommodation?

If your flight arrives early on Day 1, early check-in is usually available at the Guilin hotel. If departing late on Day 5, we can adjust the drop-off timing or hold your luggage. For stays beyond the tour dates, we can recommend nearby hotels in Guilin or Yangshuo.

How physically demanding is the tour?

Gentle overall. The Ten Miles Gallery cycling on Day 3 uses a flat route with easy bikes. Longji is the most active day — the village is built into a steep hillside, so expect stone steps between levels. No summit hikes or long climbs are required; your guide can arrange a sedan chair at Longji if preferred.

What is staying in a Zhuang stilt-house homestay actually like?

Traditional wooden-frame construction with plank floors, simple furnishings, and a veranda onto the terraces. Rooms are ensuite with hot water and Wi-Fi; the building itself is the experience. Expect farmhouse-style breakfast and a dinner around the fire pit rather than a hotel restaurant. Dress in layers — mornings at altitude are cooler than the lowland.

What does the tea therapy and Zen body-tapping afternoon include?

A slow Yangshuo wellness pairing. A local tea host leads a tasting of several Guangxi wellness teas and explains the properties of each — pu'er, Liubao, a mountain herb blend — while you sit through unhurried infusions. The Zen body-tapping (*chan pai*) session follows: a guided practice of rhythmic open-palm tapping along the arms, shoulders, back, and legs that draws on traditional Chinese meridian-tapping techniques to loosen travel fatigue, warm the muscles, and ease stiffness from long rides. No experience needed — the instructor leads every stage, and it can be done in normal clothes.

Will I be able to see the rice terraces year-round?

The terraces look very different by season — flooded mirrors in late spring, green growth through summer, golden harvest in autumn, and snow-dusted ridges in winter. All seasons are striking; your guide can brief you on what the terraces will look like for your travel dates so you know what to expect.

What meals are included and what style of cooking?

Daily breakfast plus 8 main meals across the 5 days. Highlights include a Guilin welcome dinner of white ginkgo stewed duck and Li River steamed fish, a Li River fish lunch on Day 2, organic pastoral kitchens in Yangshuo, Longji farmhouse cooking with a Zhuang fire-pit banquet, and Guilin rice-noodle breakfasts at the hotel. Meals lean wellness-focused — fresh, seasonal, and light.

Local Names

Guilin gway-LIN

The karst-peak city on the Li River — the landscape printed on the 20-yuan note

Lijiang LEE-jyahng

The Li River — Guilin to Yangshuo karst scenery that defines the region

Yangshuo yahng-SHWOH

The karst-peak river town — best-known cycling, bamboo-raft, and rock-climbing base in south China

Yulong He yoo-LOHNG huh

The Yulong River — the quieter sister of the Li, where traditional bamboo rafts still run

Yueliang Shan YWEH-lyahng shahn

Yangshuo's natural limestone arch — a perfect moon-shaped hole through the ridge

Shili Hualang SHIH-lee hwah-LAHNG

The signature Yangshuo cycling corridor — karst peaks and rice fields along a flat ten-kilometre route

Yinxiang Liu Sanjie yin-SHAHNG LYOH sahn-JYEH

Impression Liu Sanjie — the original Impression show on the Li River, with twelve karst peaks as the backdrop

Longji Titian lohng-JEE TEE-tyen

The Dragon's Backbone Terraces — 700-year-old rice steps carved into steep mountain ridges

Diaojiaolou dyow-jyow-LOH

Zhuang and Yao traditional wooden stilt houses — the village construction you stay in at Longji

Xiangbi Shan shahng-BEE shahn

Guilin's city symbol — a limestone hill shaped like an elephant drinking from the Li River

Jingjiang Wang Cheng jing-jyahng WAHNG-chung

The Ming princely city older than the Forbidden City — 14 princes across 12 generations lived here

Chan Pai chahn PIE

The Day 3 afternoon session — rhythmic open-palm tapping along meridian lines to loosen travel fatigue

Kangyang kahng-YAHNG

The Chinese term for restorative health travel — the thread behind this tour's tea therapy, Zen body-tapping, and wellness-leaning meals