

8-Day Zhangjiajie, Furong, Fenghuang, and Shanghai Tour

Trip overview

Unveil the stunning contrast between China's futuristic urban marvels and its timeless, mystical hinterlands on this meticulously crafted 8-day journey. Beginning in the dazzling global hub of Shanghai, you will traverse deep into the cultural heart of Hunan province. Witness the ethereal beauty of Furong Town cascading over towering waterfalls, step into a living watercolor painting in the riverfront alleyways of Fenghuang Ancient Town, and experience the ultra-modern efficiency of China's high-speed rail network. Seamlessly blending colonial history, vibrant ethnic minority traditions, breathtaking illuminated nightscapes, and curated boutique hospitality, this tour offers an immersive exploration designed for travelers seeking both sophisticated luxury and authentic cultural depth.

- **Durations:** 8 Days
- **Destinations:** Shanghai - Zhangjiajie - Fenghuang - Changsha
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://asiachinatour.com/8-day-shanghai-to-changsha-tour/>

Itinerary

Day 1: Shanghai Arrival

Welcome to Shanghai! Your dedicated private guide will be warmly greeting you right at the airport arrivals hall, holding a customized name signage. Step into your premium, smoke-free private vehicle where a professional local driver awaits to escort your group. Sit back, relax, and enjoy a seamless, stress-free transfer as we escort you to your hotel. Your unforgettable China journey begins with an effortless and comfortable introduction to this dazzling metropolis.

Expert Tips for Your Arrival Day

To make your arrival day as smooth as possible, we highly recommend keeping your schedule flexible depending on your landing time; a gentle, self-paced stroll around the hotel neighborhood or The Bund is excellent for staying awake and overcoming jet lag if you arrive early, whereas checking in for a full night's rest is the best strategy if your flight lands late. Please ensure your flight arrival details are submitted accurately in advance so your private guide can monitor your

real-time status for a zero-stress pickup at either Pudong (PVG) or Hongqiao (SHA) airports, and feel free to ask your guide for assistance right at the terminal if you need to purchase a local Chinese SIM card or set up mobile data to stay instantly connected throughout your vacation.

Day 2: Shanghai – Zhujiajiao Water Town Exploration

Immerse yourself in the timeless charm of Zhujiajiao, an ancient water town that offers a captivating glimpse into traditional Chinese river village life. Wandering through the town's scenic network of winding canals, you will encounter centuries-old stone bridges and remarkably well-preserved Ming and Qing dynasty architecture, creating a stunning visual backdrop at every turn. Experience the serene atmosphere of this "Venice of Shanghai" as you stroll along its narrow flagstone lanes and vibrant traditional marketplaces.

Expert Tips for Your Water Town Day

To experience the true tranquility of Zhujiajiao, we highly recommend scheduling your departure from downtown Shanghai early in the morning to arrive before the peak midday tour groups block the narrow alleyways. Opting for a traditional wooden gondola boat ride is the best way to photograph the historic standard architecture from the water, but be sure to agree on the route and price with the oarsman beforehand or have your private guide secure the official tickets at the pier. Finally, while walking across the iconic Fangsheng Bridge, wear comfortable, non-slip walking shoes, as the ancient stone steps can be steep and become slick when wet.

Day 3: Shanghai City Highlights & Flight to Zhangjiajie

Begin your morning with a nostalgic stroll along the iconic Bund, where you can admire the historic colonial-era architecture while learning about the city's glamorous and turbulent past. Next, transition from the modern bustle to the serene pavilions, rockeries, and lush greenery of Yuyuan Garden, a masterpiece of traditional Ming Dynasty design. In the afternoon, ascend to the observation deck of the Shanghai Tower—the tallest skyscraper in China—for unparalleled, 360-degree panoramic views of the sprawling urban skyline. Conclude your day with a seamless, private transfer to the airport managed by your guide and driver for your evening flight to the magical peaks of Zhangjiajie.

Expert Tips for Your Departure and Transit Day

To optimize this fast-paced transit day, we highly recommend packing a small daypack with your essentials and leaving your heavy luggage securely in the trunk of your private vehicle after morning check-out. Timing is crucial for the Shanghai Tower visit; scheduling your ascent for the late afternoon allows you to catch the golden hour or early sunset over the Huangpu River, but be prepared for security checkpoints that strictly prohibit lighters, pocket knives, and professional drone equipment. Finally, your evening flight lands at Zhangjiajie Hehua Airport (DYG), which is nestled closer to the city center rather than the national park area; since mountain temperatures drop significantly at night compared to coastal Shanghai, keep a windbreaker or light jacket easily accessible in your carry-on for an immediate, comfortable arrival.

Day 4: Zhangjiajie National Forest Park – Step Into the Avatar World

Embark on an unforgettable exploration of the world-famous Zhangjiajie National Forest Park, where you will wander through a surreal landscape of thousands of towering sandstone pillars piercing the sky. Stand in awe before the iconic Avatar Hallelujah Mountain, the real-life inspiration for the floating peaks in the movie *Avatar*. Your day of adventure includes an exhilarating ride up the cliffside on the Bailong Elevator—the world's tallest outdoor glass elevator—to reach the Yuanjiajie summit. After traversing narrow mountain ridges to witness majestic natural stone bridges, you will descend via the Tianzi Mountain cable car, gliding smoothly over deep gorges, jagged pinnacles, and lush, primitive forests.

Expert Tips for Your Avatar Mountain Exploration

To maximize your comfort and bypass the notorious lines at this bucket-list park, we highly recommend departing your hotel by 7:30 AM to catch the earliest park shuttle and avoid up to two hours of waiting at the Bailong Elevator entrance. Because the mountain paths involve substantial walking across uneven stone steps and grated metal eco-trails, wearing broken-in, high-traction hiking shoes is absolute baseline necessity. Additionally, keep all snacks, water bottles, and shiny objects securely zipped inside your backpack, as the wild macaques roaming the Yuanjiajie and Tianzi Mountain viewing platforms are highly aggressive and will boldly snatch bags right out of tourists' hands if they spot food.

Day 5: Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon Glass Bridge & 72 Wonder Tower

Spend your day experiencing the dramatic architectural marvels and natural depths of the Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon. Your adventure begins at the world-famous Grand Canyon Glass Bridge, a daring glass-bottomed structure suspended a breathtaking 300 meters above the canyon floor. Walking across its 430-meter span offers a thrilling, unobstructed view straight down into the misty chasm, sure to send an exhilarating shiver down your spine. After braving the heights, descend into the canyon itself to hike through a majestic landscape of winding streams, hidden caves, and lush, primitive forests. As dusk falls, transition to the vibrant, neon-lit energy of the 72 Wonder Tower. This spectacular 109-meter-tall stilt building, inspired by local Tujia legends, comes alive at night as an architectural wonder that completely redefines the mountain skyline.

Expert Tips for Your Canyon and Glass Bridge Day

To ensure admission onto the Glass Bridge, your passport details must perfectly match your tour booking, as the park enforces strict real-time biometric security checks at the main gates. For your safety and to prevent scratching the specialized structural glass panels, travelers are strictly prohibited from wearing high heels or carrying spiked trekking poles across the bridge; furthermore, large cameras, bulky backpacks, and metal thermos bottles are not allowed on the deck and must be checked into the canyon storage lockers beforehand. When transitioning to the 72 Wonder Tower in the evening, the brilliant architectural light show officially starts around 7:30 PM, making it the absolute prime window to position yourself in the central courtyard for panoramic night photography before the complex fills with diners and live street performers.

Day 6: Tianmen Mountain & Transit to Furong Waterfall Town

Conclude your Zhangjiajie adventure with a morning ascent of Tianmen Mountain, the crown jewel of the region's peaks. As the highest summit in the area, it offers a thrilling alpine experience complete with the world's longest mountain cable car ride, cliff-hanging glass skywalks, and the

colossal natural stone archway known as Heaven's Gate. Following a local lunch, a scenic two-hour private drive transfers your group to Furong Town. This spectacular, 2,000-year-old ancient town is uniquely built directly atop a massive cascading waterfall. Divided by the rushing waters, the village features picturesque Tujia-style stilt houses clinging to the cliffs on one side and the majestic historic Yuwang Palace on the other. You will check into your hotel here to admire the magnificent, brilliantly illuminated night views as the entire waterfall and ancient architecture light up after dark.

Expert Tips for Your Mountain Departure and Waterfall Night Day

Tianmen Mountain utilizes a strict timed-entry ticketing system with three distinct routes (A, B, and C) combining different sequences of cable cars, express escalators, and shuttle buses; we highly recommend finalizing your route preference with your guide the day before to synchronize your morning departure and avoid chaotic crowds at the downtown cable car station. While exploring the cliffside glass skywalks, a small nominal fee is charged locally for mandatory red shoe covers to protect the glass transparency, and travelers with severe vertigo may want to utilize the parallel solid concrete cliff paths instead. Upon arriving in Furong Town for the evening, the absolute best vantage point for photographing the illuminated waterfalls is from the riverside paths near the pier or the viewing terraces of Yuwang Palace; ensure your camera gear is protected with a light rain sleeve or micro-fiber cloth, as the mist rising from the illuminated falls can create a heavy dampness in the immediate air.

Day 7: Fenghuang — The Soul of the Ancient Water Town

Leave Furong Town behind for a 1.5-hour journey to Fenghuang, where time seems to stand still. Bordered by green mountains and built along the banks of the Tuo River, this ancient town preserves a centuries-old way of life. Wander through its narrow alleys with your expert guide to admire the Hongqiao Art Building, Wanshou Palace, and Chongde Hall, gaining a deeper understanding of the local minority cultures.

But the real magic happens when night falls. Fenghuang ignites into a vibrant celebration of light and sound. Gliding along the Tuo River on a evening boat cruise, you'll witness a spectacular contrast where ancient illuminated wooden houses meet a buzzing modern nightlife—an unforgettable sensory experience.

Expert Tips:

To truly capture the magic of Fenghuang, we recommend scheduling your Tuojiang River cruise at dusk—this timing allows you to witness the town's breathtaking transition into a sea of glowing lights while beating the heavier late-night crowds. For the best panoramic photography, keep your camera ready during the "blue hour" (roughly 15 to 30 minutes after sunset) and look for vantage points near the illuminated bridges. Since the town's charm lies in its winding, centuries-old cobblestone alleys, wearing comfortable, non-slip walking shoes is essential for today's exploration. Lastly, as the riverside temperature can drop slightly after dark and the nightlife is exceptionally vibrant, bringing a lightweight jacket and letting your guide know your preferred pace will ensure a perfectly tailored and comfortable evening.

Day 8: Fenghuang to Changsha — Departure

Bid farewell to the ancient water town as you board a modern high-speed train for a scenic 2-hour ride from Fenghuang back to Changsha. Upon arrival, you will seamlessly connect to Changsha Huanghua International Airport for your homeward bound flight, carrying unforgettable memories of your journey.

Expert Tips:

To ensure a stress-free departure, we recommend arriving at the railway station 45 minutes prior to boarding and choosing a flight that departs at least 4 hours after your train's arrival in Changsha. If you wish to extend your Asian adventure to other destinations or customize this itinerary further, simply let your personal travel consultant know when submitting your inquiry—we are dedicated to crafting your perfect journey.

Booking Policy

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation by Customer

- Cancellation received before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 20% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 40% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 70% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

Children Policy

The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults.

- For infant (<04 years old): Free of Charge
- 04 - 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate
- 04 - 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
- Above 11 years old with extra bed: 100% adult rate

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