

4 Days Guilin Longsheng Yangshuo Essence Tour

Trip overview

Experience the very best of Southern China's "karst capital" on this **comprehensive 4-day highlights tour**. Perfect for those with limited time who don't want to miss a single iconic view, this itinerary seamlessly connects the ethnic wonders of the mountains with the poetic serenity of the rivers. You will journey from the emerald-green, winding stairs of the **Longji Rice Terraces** to the world-famous scenery of the **Li River**.

This tour is designed to be immersive yet balanced. You will witness the unique "long-hair" culture of the **Yao people**, cruise through the landscape that inspired the 20-yuan banknote, and drift down the tranquil **Yulong River** on a traditional bamboo raft. With a private guide to navigate the crowds and share the legends behind the limestone peaks, you'll discover why Guilin has been praised for centuries as having the "finest scenery under heaven."

- **Durations:** 4 Days
- **Destinations:** Guilin - Yangshuo
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://asiachinatour.com/guilin-longsheng-yangshuo-tour-4-days/>

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Guilin – The Gateway to Karst Wonder

Welcome to Guilin, a city where urban life and nature intertwine so seamlessly that it feels more like a charming, laid-back town than a bustling metropolis. Surrounded by emerald-green mountains and winding rivers, Guilin's unique geography creates a breathtaking first impression. Upon your arrival, your private guide will meet you and provide a smooth transfer to your hotel.

After checking in, the rest of the day is yours to enjoy at your own pace. Whether you choose to stroll along the scenic shores of the **Two Rivers and Four Lakes** area, explore the local shops and street food on **East-West Alley (Zhongshan Road)**, or simply relax and soak in the mountain views from a riverside café, you will quickly find that Guilin's charm lies in its slow and inviting rhythm.

Accommodations: Overnight in Guilin

Expert Travel Advice for Today:

For your first evening, a walk around Cedar Lake and Banyan Lake is highly recommended; the illuminated Sun and Moon Pagodas are just a short distance from most downtown hotels and offer a stunning introduction to the city's nightscape. If you are feeling peckish after your journey, don't miss trying a bowl of authentic 'Guilin Rice Noodles' (Mifen) at a local eatery—it is the city's most beloved soul food and is both delicious and budget-friendly. Since you have free time, your guide can provide a map and mark out the best walking routes to ensure you don't miss the hidden parks and stone bridges that make the city center so photogenic. Most shops and restaurants in the center stay open until 10:00 PM, giving you plenty of time to explore safely on your own.

Day 2: Guilin to Longsheng – The Dragon's Backbone & Yao Hospitality

After a hearty breakfast, we set off for the magnificent **Longji (Dragon's Backbone) Rice Terraces**. While the traditional mountain roads can take up to 4 hours, we utilize the **modern highway to shorten your travel time to just 2 hours**, giving you more time to immerse yourself in the scenery. These terraces are a marvel of agricultural engineering, rising from the river valley to the mountain peaks in a series of dramatic, winding stairs.

Upon arrival, you can choose a vigorous hike up the stone paths to appreciate the scale of the fields, or opt for a convenient **electric buggy** to whisk you to the top viewing platforms for a panoramic view of the "rolling mountains." A true highlight of the day is an **authentic lunch hosted by a local Yao family**. You will be invited into their traditional wooden home to savor home-cooked ethnic specialties and learn about their unique "long-hair" culture firsthand. After a full day of mountain air and cultural discovery, you will be driven back to the comfort of your hotel in Guilin by early evening.

Accommodations: Overnight in Guilin

Expert Travel Advice for Today:

The weather at the Longji Rice Terraces can be significantly cooler and mistier than in downtown Guilin, so we recommend bringing a light jacket or sweater even in the summer months. For the Yao family lunch, it is a wonderful opportunity to try 'Bamboo Rice'—rice and mountain water cooked inside a fresh bamboo tube over an open fire—which offers a unique, smoky fragrance you won't find in city restaurants. If you choose to hike to the viewpoints, ensure you wear sturdy sneakers or hiking shoes with good grip, as the ancient stone steps can be slippery when damp. While the electric buggy is a great time-saver, the walk down from the viewpoints provides the best opportunities for close-up photos of the seasonal crops and local farmers. Finally, remember to charge your camera or phone fully, as the sweeping vistas of the 'Dragon's Backbone' are among the most photographed landscapes in China.

Day 3: Guilin to Yangshuo – A Masterpiece on the Li River

Today, you will experience why CNN has consistently ranked the **Li River** as one of the world's top 15 rivers for travelers. This winding waterway serves as a natural gallery, where every bend reveals a new scene of towering limestone peaks, lush bamboo groves, and grazing water buffalo. The river's beauty shifts with the seasons—from the mysterious "misty rain" of spring to the crisp, mirrored reflections of autumn—offering a unique perspective every day of the year.

To ensure your journey is as comfortable as it is scenic, we have arranged a **4-star luxury cruise**, the highest standard available on the river. Compared to standard boats, the 4-star cruise offers modern facilities, spacious observation decks, and a much-improved **buffet lunch** featuring both Chinese and Western options. After approximately four hours of drifting through this "living scroll" of Chinese landscape painting, you will disembark in the vibrant town of **Yangshuo**, where the enchanting evening atmosphere awaits.

Accommodations: Overnight in Yangshuo

Expert Travel Advice for Today:

For the best panoramic views and photo opportunities, we recommend spending plenty of time on the outdoor observation deck of the 4-star boat, especially as you pass the 'Yellow Cloth Reflection' (the scenery on the 20 Yuan banknote) and the famous 'Nine Horse Fresco Hill.' Since the sun can be quite strong reflecting off the water, even on cloudy days, it is wise to wear a hat and apply sunscreen before the cruise begins. While the buffet lunch on the 4-star boat is generous, you might want to save a little room for Yangshuo's famous 'Beer Fish' for dinner later tonight. Upon arrival at the Yangshuo pier, there is a short walk through the local market to reach your transfer vehicle; your guide will assist with your luggage and help you navigate the bustling stalls. Lastly, keep your 20 Yuan banknote handy to compare the real-life scenery with the image on the bill—it's a classic Guilin travel tradition!

Day 4: Yangshuo to Guilin – Rural Rhythms & Local Life

On your final day, we escape the typical tourist paths to discover the authentic heart of the Guangxi countryside. We will drive through **hidden villages** where few travelers ever venture, offering a rare glimpse into the timeless rhythms of rural China. Here, the landscape is dotted with farmers tending to their emerald paddy fields and water buffaloes wandering along the muddy paths—a scene that has remained largely unchanged for centuries.

The adventure continues as we cross the Li River using a **traditional local ferry**, followed by a ride on a **farmer's tractor-taxi** to reach a bustling town market on the opposite bank. This is not a tourist market, but a vibrant social hub where locals trade fresh produce, handmade tools, and daily necessities. It is the perfect opportunity to witness the genuine lifestyle of the region before we begin our journey back to the city. In the afternoon, your private guide and driver will provide a comfortable transfer to the airport, ensuring a smooth and hassle-free departure for your onward flight.

Accommodations: Departure (No Overnight Stay)

Expert Travel Advice for Today:

The visit to the local market is a sensory delight and a fantastic opportunity for candid photography; however, we recommend wearing closed-toe walking shoes as the market floors and village paths can be uneven or muddy. Since you will be visiting a non-tourist area, it is helpful to carry some small change in RMB if you wish to buy fresh seasonal fruit or a local snack from the street vendors, as international credit cards are rarely accepted in these rural settings. Your guide will be invaluable today in helping translate and explaining the various unique products you'll see at the stalls—don't hesitate to ask about the different types of medicinal herbs or local spices on display. For the afternoon airport transfer, we suggest having your flight details and passport easily accessible to ensure a swift check-in. Finally, as this is the conclusion of your Guilin journey, take a moment to enjoy the final views of the karst peaks from your car

window—they are a beautiful parting gift from this magical corner of China!

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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