

China: A week without walls (6 days)



Departs anytime (2018 -19)



Please note: This itinerary can be modified in any way to best suit your school's particular aims, learning objectives and budget. Please contact us detailing any changes you'd like to make.

This 6-day trip in Southern China is designed specifically for students wanting to explore China's rural beauty and colourful ethnic minority culture, as an alternative to the mainstream destinations more commonly frequented by visitors to China.

This fast moving, activity- rich trip will entail travel to enchanting Guilin and into the mountains of Longsheng to view the beautiful terraced 'Dragons Back' rice field vistas cascading in swirls down into endless valleys. It will further include a cruise of the beautiful Lijiang River and finally an excursion to Yangshuo.

Other activities will include a hands-on cooking class, a bamboo raft river journey, a fun & physical cycling activity as well as the chance to try our hands at the Chinese art of calligraphy. As the trip is intended to foster interaction between us and our Chinese contemporaries, it will also feature time spent in a remote village where we will work alongside local villagers in an agricultural project designed to foster cross cultural awareness and understanding.

All programs and activities described in the itinerary are explicitly designed to promote Asian literacy. Most importantly, this trip is intended to be a highly enjoyable and memorable introduction to a country that will continue to thrive for decades to come.



Billy Penfold
Director

Day 1 & 2

Arrive China (Guilin – Longsheng)



Our journey awaits as we land in Guilin International Airport and head directly to the Longsheng mountains.

Guilin was China's first city to develop tourism after 1949. For decades, children's textbooks proclaimed, "Guilin's landscape is the best under heaven" and the darling of Chinese cinema.

This afternoon we will be going to a village nestled on a scenic mountainside to get terrific views of the Longsheng (Longji) terraced rice fields, one of the two most beautiful terraced rice fields in all of China. According to the historical records, the fields were first constructed in the Yuan Dynasty by the Zhuang and Yao minority tribes, whose lifestyles have changed little over the centuries. Amongst the numerous villages in the

vicinity, we will see old wells, covered bridges and handmade irrigation systems.

Day 2



Guilin – Longsheng (community service activity)

Guilin is a fantastic base to from which to explore this peaceful region of China with a high percentage of English-speaking locals and rich ethnic minority culture. Today we will enjoy a light hiking activity to explore a unique cobblestone village that is over 600 years old.

While in the mountains we will spend half a day working alongside local families assisting them with farming responsibilities include pressing oil tea or planting vegetables, hoeing garden beds, planting or harvesting rice depending on the season and crop rotation. We will try some of the local delicacies unique to this region and learn of the traditional costumes the

various ethnic groups wear during colourful festivals. (1 breakfast, 2 lunches, 2 dinners) **Flight details to be advised**

Day 3

Guilin – Yangshuo



This morning we wake up to spectacular views and depart Longsheng for our journey back to Guilin city in time to board a boat for a cruise on the Li River. The Li River and surroundings are famous for their beautiful karst landscape backdrop and are depicted in many famous images and art of China, some of which are featured in the country's currency. Our slow boat journey will allow us to view a variety of the region's most scenic areas including the Ox Gorge, the famous sites of the Elephant Trunk Hill and Pagoda Hill. Arriving in Yangshuo, we bus out to the ancient village of Fuli and learn of the famed Chinese art of fan making - which we will try our hand at guided by an expert.

(breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 4

Yangshuo



This morning we visit the region's celebrated *Silver Cave*, containing some of the largest and most impressive caverns in the area famed for odd-shaped karst formations. Following this we will take in a Chinese cooking lesson designed to give us an appreciation for the spicy flavours of this region's tingling and sometimes tongue-numbing dishes. This very hands-on lesson will undoubtedly leave us with skills to impress family and friends back home, as well as allow students to enjoy their own cooking.

The afternoon's activities include a scenic bamboo rafting trip along the Yulong River, while enjoying spectacular mountain backdrops and pastoral scenes. Time will be spent visiting a local farm nestled amongst the beautiful

rock formations where we will meet the local family and learn about daily life in rural China. Tonight, we will be strolling down Yangshuo's own Pedestrian Street. (breakfast, lunch)

Day 5 Yangshuo



After breakfast we take a bike ride through peaceful surroundings led by our tour leader. Here, we will see age-old farming techniques still in use and learn the skills of cormorant fishing, a method first put into use over 1,000 years ago. Traditionally, a fisherman sits on a small boat with a light and then uses a cormorant bird to dive down and catch fish in its beak returning it to the fi. Later we take part in a pleasurable Tai Chi session to learn the drills and patterns of this relaxing and often demanding discipline popular throughout China.

This evening we take in a performance of Yangshuo's famous Impressions Light Show. Lasting over an hour the show utilises the natural surroundings to create a spectacular outdoor theatre as it employs natural props including the Yangshuo's celebrated river the 'twelve mountains' backdrop. Stories and legends are re-enacted staged by hundreds of performing dancers using a combination of ribbons, fireworks, rowboats, lively music and laser lights. Tonight, we stroll along the popular West Street. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 6 Depart Yangshuo ✈️ Home



Travelling a short distance out of the city we will enjoy a bicycle ride exploring rural communities along one of the riverbanks. On the return ride back towards town, we stop to take part in a Chinese calligraphy class.

Chinese calligraphy is a traditional form of writing characters from the Chinese language using a brush and ink. We will spend a couple of hours learning how to grind the ink, hold the brush and be shown several painting styles and brush techniques. We will keep our completed artworks and then head to Guilin airport for our flight back home. (breakfast) **Flight details to be advised**

Summary

Grading

Easy; Students will be required to be in good health to get the most out of this trip while any one of reasonable fitness will be able to take part. There are no real physical difficulties however students will be expected to walk every day, particularly during the community project component of the trip. You will also be expected to be able to ride a bike and be able to participate in a light hiking activity. It will be necessary for you to carry your own luggage throughout the trip but only for short distances.

Accommodation

Student accommodation is on a twin/triple share basis. Teacher accommodation is on a single room basis. Hotels hold a 3-star equivalent rating.

Transport

Modern air-conditioned bus, boat, train, plane.

Group Size

Minimum group size 20 students & 2 staff members travelling *free of charge*.

▲ [Smaller group sizes can be quoted upon application](#)

Your Tour Leader

Your tour leader is probably the person who most influences the success of your trip. Thus, Student Educational Adventures employs our own team of meticulously trained student dedicated, local tour leaders - not foreigners, imported at your students' expense with no language skills or insight into your host culture.

These nationals are not only the best folk to show you their country. They are your teachers, translators and an enthusiastic purveyor of authentic experiences. They are there to facilitate your immersion into new cultures and are the bridge between you and the world of education and new experiences.

Your tour leader is always with your students throughout your trip and is thoroughly versed in safety protocols and duty of care responsibilities. This ranges from assisting in the most basic of health and safety measures to ensuring that teachers & students are always safe during our trips. All have been chosen because of their ability to deal with the needs and unique issues associated with escorting young people through this wonderful and at times, most foreign of regions.

What makes us safer than other companies?

We are by your side throughout your trip - Unlike travel companies that advocate student lead trips and who are dependent on foreign call centres should any issues arise; our staff are people with a thorough knowledge of their county and will connect you quickly to the best medical care across Asia and will serve as professional interpreters to local medical staff.

Our local tour leaders and on-the-ground staff can respond immediately to any crisis, with real-time information, detailed knowledge of local emergency and medical services, and the agency to act swiftly.

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Inclusions

- All accommodation, transport, activities, entrance costs and other programs as describe in itinerary
- Student Educational Adventures tour leader throughout the trip & additional specialist guides as required
- Meals (along with drinking water) as listed in the daily itinerary
- Pre-departure support, briefings & planning meetings for students and parents
- 24/7 in-country support

Exclusions

- International flight to/from China
- Community service costs in Longsheng
- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- China Visa