

# *Independent China - Guilin & Yangshao*

4 day independent tour – 5V

## **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS**

This 3 night package in Guilin and Yangshao includes airport transfers and private day tours. Add this 5V package to other cities, travelling via China's famous high-speed trains, to build your very own independent tour of China.

We recommend Shanghai to Beijing to Xi'an to Chengdu all by high-speed train then flying onto Guilin or Hong Kong before returning home or travelling onwards in Asia.

## **ITINERARY**

### **Day 1 – Arrive Guilin**

On arrival in Guilin airport, you will be met and transferred to the **Guilin Shangri-la Hotel** for overnight.

### **Day 2 – Guilin touring**

In the morning take a cruise on the Li River with a simple lunch on board. In the afternoon transfer to the **Yangshao Resort** for 2 nights. (B,L)

### **Day 3 – Yangshao**

Enjoy today at leisure. Optional tours are available to pre-book (extra cost) including a bicycle tour, cookery class or river cruise in the evening or by bamboo raft. (B)

### **Day 4 – Depart Yangshao**

Transfer to Guilin airport for your onward flight. (B)

**Meals:** B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

**This is a set tour itinerary, if you have booked any pre/post or optional tour arrangements please refer to your separate vouchers and final documents.**

## TOUR NOTES

### Pre/Post Tour information

Our independent tours are designed to give you total flexibility and control of your own trip to China. We also offer similar packages to Shanghai, Xi'an, Chengdu and Beijing and the option of flying in between or travelling by amazing high-speed trains.

### Time difference

GMT +7 hours (summer) +8 hours (winter)

### Tour inclusions

- Private air conditioned transport throughout
- Accommodation and sightseeing as detailed including entrance fees
- Services of an experienced local guide
- Road taxes, parking fees and fuel surcharges.

### Tour exclusions

- International flights, upgrades and airport transfers in the UK
- Insurance
- Items of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, tips & gratuities, video camera fees at monuments
- The required Chinese visa – details will be provided at time of booking
- Anything not detailed on the itinerary.

### Dining inclusions

The majority of meals are likely to be Chinese rather than international. Vegetarians can be catered for but the food is quite different from which you are likely to be used to. Larger city hotels provide international cuisine as well as Chinese, but presentation and taste may vary from western standards.

### Accommodation

Occasionally we may need to substitute one or more of the hotels with that of a similar standard.

### Journey times

China is a vast country and journey times between destinations can sometimes be long and traffic can be considerable.

### Group size

This is a private tour which departs daily

### Electricity

The electricity supply in China is 220 volts, most hotels have a two pin round sockets so we recommend a travel adaptor set.

### Language

Mandarin Chinese is the official language and it may help to learn a couple of phrases before you travel. There is a keen interest in English so you may find people keen to practice with you but it is more widely spoken in the cities.

### Visa requirements

A Chinese Visa is required for all British passport holders and most other nationalities and **MUST** be obtained before your arrival in China. A full 10 year passport is required and must be valid for 6 months beyond your departure date from China, with at least two blank pages. We recommend processing your visa directly with 'CIBT' who will obtain all visas in person, and return your passport to you (with visa) by registered post. Contact them on [www.cibtvisas.co.uk/virginholidays](http://www.cibtvisas.co.uk/virginholidays) or 0207 963 3873.

### Currency

In China the basic unit of currency is the Yuan. There is no limit to the amount of foreign currency you can bring into China although it must be declared at point of entry. Traveller's cheques may be difficult to change. There are plenty of banks and ATMs, but you see less once you head out of the cities, so make sure you have enough to cover your drinks and ad-hoc item bills. You may want to carry small amounts of local currency for tips and to buy souvenirs from vendors too! Please note: Not all smaller hotels and shops can accept credit cards.

### Tipping

It is customary to tip in China. 10% is usual in hotel restaurants and a guide for drivers would be \$3USD and tour guides \$5USD each per guest per day.

### What to pack

- Lightweight, cotton clothes. Smart casual is acceptable in hotels
- A light sweater or fleece for early mornings and evenings and air-conditioning can be cool in restaurants
- Comfortable, sturdy footwear
- Casual clothing and sandals for dinner and relaxing at your hotel
- Sun cream, sunglasses and hat
- Camera and/or video camera with spare batteries and memory cards
- Swimming attire for an occasional swim
- Binoculars
- Mosquito repellent and spray
- Handy wipes, antiseptic hand gel and bottled water where possible
- Low denominations of local currency – handy for ad-hoc tipping!

\*\*Don't forget domestic flight baggage allowance is 20kgs!

### What to expect

A tour in China is an adventure, we recommend you are of a reasonable fitness level as touring often involves long walks and uneven surfaces. Our tours provide the opportunity to see some of the local crafts and industries of China that reflect Chinese culture, these visits form part of the tour, but do not feel obliged to purchase anything unless you want to.

### Recommended vaccinations

We advise you to discuss your individual requirements for China with your GP at least 6-8 weeks prior to travel.