

## 14 days Nature Paradise Trip

**Code:** LCT-BXZGS-14D-01

**Duration:** 14 Days

**Attractions:** Mutianyu Great Wall, Forbidden City, Terracotta Warriors Museum, City Wall, Yuanjiajie National Forest Park, Glass Bridge, Li River Cruise, Terraces, West Street, Shanghai World Financial Center, Yuyuan Garden

**Overview:** China is a great country with a long history and stunning natural views. In this long trip, you will be able to learn about the Chinese history in Beijing, Xian, and Shanghai, covering times dating back to Xia Dynasty to new China foundation, whilst enjoy the most amazing natural scene in Zhangjiajie and Guilin by walking on the breathtaking glass bridge over the Grand Canyon and ride a cruise on the Li River.

### Highlights:

1. Skip the line and access the hidden halls of Forbidden City;
2. Take cable car up and toboggan down the Great Wall while see the beautiful scene;
3. Get close look at Terracotta Figurines and Weapons, learn about the world's eighth wonder;
4. Go inside the Yuanjiajie National Forest Park and observe the rare animals and herbs;
5. Ride the steepest escalator and challenge yourselves by walking on the hanging Glass Bridge;
6. Aboard the Cruise and have a leisure time on Li River, enjoy the picturesque views;
7. Access the local Rice Field Terraces and see the local minority life;
8. Climb on the World Financial Center and have a view of modern Shanghai.

### Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Beijing

Pick up from Beijing airport and rest. Explore on your own in the rest of this day.

Day 2: Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City, Jingshan Park, Hutong Walking Tour

09:00 a.m: Your private guide will meet you at hotel and prepare for this amazing day tour.

09:30-10:30: Walk on the world's largest city square - **Tian'anmen Square** and learn about how

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the great historical events happened here drove the progress of China society.

10:45 - 13:00p.m: Just a few mins drive, you will arrive at the world-famous **Forbidden City**. Follow your guide, the grand and splendid palace will unveil its mystery and tell more stories of old times.

13:00 - 14:00p.m: During this time of period, you are free to choose your lunch at your own expense. Your guide will be happy to help you order.

14:00 - 15:00p.m: After lunch, **Jingshan Park** will be waiting for you. Adjacent to the great palace, you will find the imperial park that can provide a superb perspective for picture shooting of the whole palace.

15:20 - 16:30 p.m: Wrap up this day tour by walking in the **old Hutongs** where local Beijingers lived a few decades ago.

17:00 p.m: Day tour ends and get back to hotel for rest.

#### Day 2: Mutianyu Great Wall, Bird Nest and Water Cube

07:30 a.m: Start at an early time and drive to Huairou district for the Great Wall.

09:00 - 12:30 p.m: Recently exploited, **Mutianyu Great Wall** has got the better views yet less crowds. Take a cable car up will save you a lot of energy whilst ride a toboggan down would bring you lots of fun! You are recommended to have 1-2 hours hiking.

12:30 - 13:30 p.m: Have lunch at a local farmer's house where the traditional northern staples are available.

15:00 - 16:00 p.m: Come back to city and visit the **Bird Nest and Water Cube**. Built for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, these two structures made a great function then. Later, they become National Stadium and Swimming Center separately. It's not available for visiting inside, but you can take some photos outside.

16:30 p.m: Drop off at hotel and finish this day trip.

#### Day 4: Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, Take flight (CA1359, 18:35 - 21:30) to Zhangjiajie

09:00 a.m: Pack your luggage and bring them with you when commencing this day trip.

09:30 - 12:00 a.m: Head for **Temple of Heaven** first. Instead of an imperial ritual place, it becomes

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an local park now. You will find many locals doing morning exercise and children playing everywhere. You are most welcome to join them if interested.

12:00 - 13:00 p.m: Have fun in a local restaurant.

12:20 - 14:00 p.m: Your last site in Beijing is **Summer Palace**, a summer resort for imperials to hide from the heat. You will find it a great place to relax and enjoy yourself.

14:00 - 15:30 p.m: Do a little shopping in Wangfujing Area by yourself.

16:30 p.m: Drop off at Beijing airport and take flight to Zhangjiajie.

21:30 p.m: Zhangjiajie airport pick up and hotel drop off.

Day 5: Bailong Elevator, Yuanjiajie, Tianzi Mountain

09:00 a.m: Greeted by Zhangjiajie local guide, you will start this exploration tour.

09:10 - 13:00 p.m: you will make your way to **Zhangjiajie National Forest Park** to start today's adventure. Explore beautiful scenery during your ride to **Bailong Elevator** made of see-through glass before using it to ascend to Yuanjiajie Mountain. Venture from Yuanjiajie's summit with a 2.5-hour hike into the Pillar of Southern Sky, an inspiration for Hallelujah Mountains in the movie, Avatar. From there, you will proceed to the Platform of Forgetfulness to admire nearby peak-views before walking across the First Bridge Under Heaven.

13:00 - 14:00 p.m: Lunch at the local restaurant will be available at your own expense.

14:10 - 17:00 p.m: Park shuttle bus will take you to visit **Tianzi Mountain** where Imperial Writing Brush Peaks, Xihai Stone Forest, and other incredible views and scenery await. Your activities for the day will conclude a trip by Tianzi cable car before being transferred back to your hotel.

Day 6: Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon, Glass Bridge, Baofeng Lake, fly to Xian by MU2432, 23:55-01:35

09:00 a.m: Meet your guide and start the tour.

09:20- 12:00 p.m: You will enjoy a morning view of the **Grand Canyon** completed with aesthetically pleasing cliffs, caves, streams, and lakes. Take time to observe flora and fauna of this natural museum of the northern temperate zone. Slide down to the bottom of the hill where you

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have the opportunity to cross a half-mile **Glass Bridge**, which is built between two mountains of Zhangjiajie Grand canyon, it is 375meters long and 6meters wide, with a height of 300meters from bottoms.

12:00 - 13:00 p.m: Have lunch at a local restaurant.

13:20 - 16:00 p.m: Visit **Baofeng Lake**. It is the only water-themed scenic spot in Zhangjiajie. Surrounded by mountains, Baofeng Lake will impart a different travel experience for you since you have visited a lot of mountains.

17:00 p.m: Come back to hotel for rest.

22:00 p.m: Drop you off at Zhangjiajie airport, you will take flight to Xian.

Day 7: Pick up airport, Terracotta Warriors Museum

01:35 a.m: Airport pick up upon your arrival and Xian hotel drop off. Your Xian local driver will hold a welcome sign with your name on it at the baggage area and wait for you.

13:00 a.m: Greeted by Xian local guide, you will start Xian trip right away.

13:50 - 16:30 p.m: Have a close scrutiny of **Terracotta Warriors and Horses**. Listed as a significant world heritage site, it has attracted tons of visitors every day. People are amazed by its large size, grand formation, small details as each soldier's facial expression, and various kinds of relics and antiques excavated there. At the mean time, many people find it shocking when it comes to the huge cost that this mausoleum has incurred. No matter how you feel about this, Terracotta Warriors and Horses Site is still a human wonder.

17:00 p.m: Hotel drop off for rest.

Day 8: Shaanxi History Museum, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, City Wall, Muslim Quarter

09:00 a.m: Meet your guide again and enjoy the city tour.

09:10-11:30 a.m: Head for **Shaanxi History Museum**. As the largest comprehensive museum in northwest China, this museum has draw a lot of attention by its unique design appearances, contained cultural treasures, and its grand formation. It would be sufficient enough to learn the whole Chinese history in this museum.

11:30 - 12:30 p.m: Have a authentic local lunch.

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12:40 - 14:00 p.m: Have a stroll in **Big Wild Goose Pagoda** (Da Ci'en temple). Built in Tang Dynasty as a designated place for Buddhism scriptures, this pagoda was famous due to a great monk - Xuan Zang. In fact, you can see a giant sculpture of Xuan Zang right in front of the pagoda. You may also enjoy a splendid fountain show there.

14:20 - 16:00 p.m: Climb on the **City Wall** and enjoy a bird-eye view of city center. Standing there for over 600 years, City Wall was a part of defense system of Xian. It has lost its original function now, instead, it becomes a great place for locals to relax. You are recommended to rent a bike and ride on the bumpy road. Please be noted that biking is not included.

16:10 - 17:00 p.m: Wander in the **Muslim Quarter**. People say Xian is a food paradise, but where would you find the core center of this paradise? Well, it's Muslim Quarter. A variety of local food are available there, along with stores selling souvenirs and local cultural artifacts.

17:30 p.m: Hotel drop off for rest.

Day 9: Hanyangling Museum, take flight to Guilin by MU2307 (18:30 - 20:40)

Have a leisure self-time in the morning.

13:00 - 16:00 p.m: Head for **Hanyangling Museum**, AKA Jingdi's Tomb. This is a Han Dynasty mausoleum, one it's said to be greatly underrated. It's also the only museum built underground. You will need to follow your guide and go inside the tomb to appreciate the excavations.

16:30 p.m: drop off at Xian airport to take flight to Guilin.

20:40 p.m: Guilin airport pick up and Guilin hotel drop off.

Day 10: Li River Cruise, West Street

09:00 a.m: Meet your Guilin local guide and start for this trip.

09:20 - 13:00 p.m: Coming to Guilin, **Li River Cruise** is an activity you simply can't miss. Surrounded by the stretching mountains in both sides, Li River is meandering through slowly and quietly. You will aboard the ship prepared for you and enjoy the picturesque natural views. With the swimming ducks, napping fisherman on the bank, and buffaloes eating green grass, you will feel like wandering in the fairyland. The ship will lead you to Yangshuo.

14:30- 16:00p.m: Disembarking the ship, you will find yourselves into a splendid picture.

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Brooks are gurgling on the ground. Verdurous trees are erecting on both sides and dancing with the wind. Birds are singing. Mountains are fading into distance. Being in such a relaxing and picturesque place, you can ride a bike going down the paths. With the guidance of our representative, you can also learn some facts and history of Yangshuo.

16:00 - 17:00 p.m: Wander in West Street. West Street is a street featured with western style. It's an unique cultural symbol in Yangshuo. Because of its existence, every foreigners feel welcomed and like home. As the first western-style street, West Street has been a model for other tourist cities to clone from. Coming here, you will see various kinds of western stores and shops selling traditional Chinese decorates like small embroidery pouch, Chinese knots, and lucky bag.

17:00 p.m: After the tour, you will be transferred back to Guilin hotel to prepare for another amazing day.

#### Day 11: Longji Terraces

07:30 a.m: Meet your tour guide and head for Longji Terraces Rice Fields.

09:30 a.m - 15:00 p.m: Enjoy the amazing natural views of Longji Terraces and taste the authentic Zhuang nationality food. Situated about 27 kilometers southeast of Longsheng County, there is a vast region of rice terraces stretching layer upon layer. It is Longji Rice Terraces (Dragon Backbone's Rice Terraces), an grand terrace in China! Since the construction in Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), the terrace was completed till the early Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). It represents a great accomplishment of profound wisdom and strenuous labor of minority people in South China. With the passage of four different seasons, the terrace shows people various kinds of sceneries, displaying a grandeur of great nature. In spring, with the irrigation, the terrace presents a picture of chains or ribbons hung on the hillsides. With the coming of Summer, massive green shadows upon the terrace from the heaven. With the commencement of Autumn, ripened millet blends the stems, giving people hope of harvest. In winter, the whole terrace is covered with white snow like a playful dragon.

Wondering in the terrace, one can not only enjoy the natural beauty, but also experience the unique culture of ethnic minorities. There are several minorities, including Zhuang, Miao and Yao. One can visit their wooden buildings, learn their beautiful dances and appreciate their costumes and

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Longji tea.

17:00 p.m: Guilin Hotel drop off at the tour end.

Day 12: Reed Flute Cave, Elephant Trunk Hill, Fly to Shanghai by CZ3251 (16:25 - 18:50).

09:00 a.m: Greeted by your tour guide and head for the most famous site in Guilin city - Reed Flute Cave.

09:20 - 12:00 p.m: Visit **Reed Flute Cave**. This name came from the fact that Reed grows near the cave, which is said can be made into flute. Coming into the Reed Flute Cave area, you will see the luxuriant flowers and trees immediately. On the left, there is a pond surrounded by the restaurants, shops, tea houses, pavilions and bridges. Inside the cave, you will be intoxicated by the various stalactites, stalagmites and columns. Under the shower of different lights, all the stones are bizarre and motley.

12:00 - 13:00 p.m: Have a typical Guilin lunch at a local restaurant at your own expense.

13:20 - 14:00 p.m: Your last site in Guilin would be **Elephant Trunk Hill**. From the name, you can guess what you will be looking at. As the city symbol, Elephant Trunk Hill is the typical representation to Guilin mountains and water. Coming inside the site, you will see some stone carvings of elephants. Keep moving, the hill looks like an elephant trunk will come into your eyes. On the hill, all the rivers and views are right in front of you. There are small Love Island, standing tower, drifting rafts waiting for guests and sea eagle ready for catching fish.

14:30 p.m: By now, your Guilin tour draws a conclusion. Your driver will take you to Guilin airport for the flight (CZ3251, 16:25 - 18:50) to Shanghai.

18:50 p.m: Met by your Shanghai driver in Shanghai PVG airport, you will be transferred to Shanghai hotel for a good rest.

Day 13: Shanghai Museum, Yuyuan Garden, Huangpu River Cruise, the Bund.

09: 00 a.m: Greeted by your tour guide at your hotel lobby, you will set out for Shanghai Museum.

09:20 - 12:00 p.m: As one of the renown ancient art museums, **Shanghai Museum** has collected

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about 140,000 cultural relics. There are 10 classes of relics displayed now. To appreciate the most spectacular relics in such a limited time period, our tour guides will introduce to you some of the historic ones. You will see ceremonious wares like battle-axe and tripod, daily necessities in ancient life like pottery and porcelain, calligraphy works like Oracle, and various jade ornaments.

12:00 - 13:00 p.m: Lunch at your own arrangements under the recommendations of our tour guide.

13:00 - 14:30 p.m: After lunch, you will visit the **Yuyuan Garden**. Dating back to 400 years ago, Yuyuan Garden was a private garden. It was built as most of the classic Jiangnan gardens. You will see Yu Linglong - a unique stone listed as one of the 3 famous stones in Jiangnan. The other two refers to Guan Yunfeng in Liu Garden of Suzhou and Zhou Yunfeng in Zhusu Garden of Hangzhou. Our guide will also brief you about the local gourmet you will run into.

14:50 - 15:20 p.m: Our guide will take you to “climb” the **Shanghai World Financial Center**. With the height of 492m, Shanghai World Financial Center is ranked as the 3rd tallest tower in the world. You will view all city standing on the tower.

15:40-16:40 p.m: Visit the **Bund**. Located at the west bank of Huangpu River in Shanghai, the Bund was originally a pathway for boatmen and hard laborers; while nowadays, the Bund becomes the most characteristic view and the most recognized symbol in the city with rich cultural connotations for hundreds of years. For the Europeans, it was like the Wall Street in the east, where prosperous trading was proceeded and massive fortunes were made and lost. In the opposite side of the Bund, it faces other marks of Shanghai City - Oriental Pearl TV Tower and Jinmao Tower. Therefore, it is a must in your tour in Shanghai.

17:00 p.m: Your tour comes to an end by now, you will be transferred back to your hotel.

Recommended activity: Huangpu River Cruise

In the evening, you are suggested to enjoy the Huangpu River Cruise. All the Shanghai essences are unfolded along the Huangpu River. Taking this cruise will be the most memorable experience for you! You will take a 3-floor cruise ship built as a typical ancient Chinese boat with two magnificent dragon heads standing upright on the stem. Under the explanation of the guide, you will enjoy the mild wind, smell the unique water, and view the colorful buildings aside the river, while listening the old Shanghai stories.

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Day 14 Departure from Shanghai

Hotel-airport transfer & see you off. A nice journey home! Your driver will pick you up 3 hours before your flight and transfer to airport.

**What's Important:**

What's included: Air-conditioned vehicles with experienced driver.

Licensed Chinese- English bilingual speaking tour guide.

Entrance fee for sites mentioned, including cable car up and toboggan down the Great Wall.

Bottled water.

Economic class air tickets listed above.

What's not included: Meals

Personal expenses or private entertainment items in sites.

Tips or gratuities for guide and driver if we did a good job(recommended)

Accommodations

What to take: smile and a relaxing heart.

**Good to know:**

1. Please follow your tour guide very closely. The road names in Zhangjiajie changes very frequently, only locals can discern. You can't even trust your e-map.
2. Coming to Zhangjiajie, your primary is to appreciate the cloudy mountains. Please check the weather condition in advance.
3. Book your hotel in advance. It's better to book 4-5 star hotels, where service quality is guaranteed.
4. When you order meals in Zhangjiajie, do not order dishes with no specific price. Do not order so-called rare animal meat.
5. Be cautious about the girls who call themselves from Tu Nationality. They may get too

enthusiastic and take you for pictures and press you to pay.

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6. When you take cabs on your own, be cautious about the taxis providing the service only with 10 RMB! That's fraud.
7. As our customer, your time is very valuable to us. We will never take you to any factories or the shops for shopping.
8. For lunch, we will take you to a nice local restaurant, where you can enjoy the local food with a fair price. Please inform us about your food preferences in case you have any allergies.
9. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours. If you want a tour with a duration exceeding the working period of our tour guide and driver, we need to charge you for your extra hours with the standard of 100 RMB per hour.
10. The tour we provide you are based on days, not the hours. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours. In case you only need our service for over 6 hours yet less than 8 hours in one day, we will consider it a day tour.
11. Please be aware that your itinerary is changeable anytime. Whenever you want to adjust it, we will help you with that.
12. What we provide are high-quality private tours, you will be only with your families or friends. There are no other people joining your tour.
13. Wheelchairs are accessible, please advise prior to your trip in case you need any.
14. Please advise in advance in case you want to enjoy the Acrobatic show or Kungfu Show.
15. Please advise prior to your trip if you want to do some activities such as painting, calligraphy, exercising Tai Chi, watching opera, paper cutting, etc..

## **FAQ**

1. I saw there are different cruises on Li River?

Re: Yes, there are different-sized cruises on Li River due to the regulation problems. However, don't worry, we provide the 4 -star big cruise at least.

In case you want to visit Li River on your own, please do not hire the small boats that only goes part of the Li River. It's cheap but is privately arranged with no safety guarantee. You must book tickets for big cruise that lasts for 4 hours covering the whole Li River.

2. Does my tour guide aboard the cruise with us?

Re: No, your personal tour guide will not accompany you to the cruise. There are professional tour guide on the ship, who will explain to you. If you do want to invite your tour guide on the cruise, you need to pay for his/her cruise ticket. I don't suggest this.

3. When would the cruise end?

Re: The cruise ends around 14:00 p.m..

4. I may need to arrange dinner reservation, when does the tour end each day?

Re: The tour ends around 17:30, which will leave you plenty of time enjoying your dinner.

5. What kind of car will I have?

Re: It depends on your group size. For group size of 1-2 people, you will be offered with a sedan car. For group size of 3-4 people, you will enjoy a van with 7-seat. While 14-17-seat van will be in service if there are 5-8 of you. When your tour group size is larger, 33-seat coach or bigger will be offered.

6. Can you help me booking the flight tickets?

Re: Sure, we can help you to book all the train tickets or flight tickets. This is one of our service features. After booking the tickets, your paper train tickets would be expressed to your Beijing hotel before you can use.

7. Can I confirm this is a private tour?

Re: Yes, this is a private tour just for your group. No other people will join you.

8. Can the tour guide accompany us to have dinner and help us order?

Re: The working time for the tour guide and driver are 8-9 hours. If you finished your tour rather early, our tour guide can certainly help you until you get to dinner. Otherwise, you will need to pay extra for their overtime work.

9. Is there anything we should be aware of in Longji Terraces?

Re: I. Please be aware that Longji Terraces are located in a minority residences, please be respectful to their culture and customs.

II. When you are interested in some performances in the village, please check with your guide if they charge or free.

III. When you hike on your own, you may encounter some local people offering bag carriage service. Please settle the price first before accepting their help.

IV. Best time to visit: 15 days after the lunar April 15<sup>th</sup> and 15 days after the Mid-Autumn holiday when local people starts irrigate the rice fields.

#### **Download Tour Information**

The following PDF has contained all the information you need to know for this trip. Please click to download.

#### **Book Now**

All booking will be confirmed within 24 hours.

#### **Cancellation policy:**

No less than 2 weeks, you will lose your deposit;

Within 7 days - 13 days, loss of 50% of your payment or just the deposit.

Within 6 days, loss of full payment or just the deposit.

Please bear in mind that your deposit is still available for your next trip with us. You may also offer this deposit to someone else as their tour deposit with us.