



Peregrine Travel Group

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Travel to Guilin

Guilin regarded in China as the country's most picturesque city, is situated in the northeast of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on the west bank of the Li River. Its name means "forest of Sweet Osmanthus", owing to the large number of fragrant Sweet Osmanthus trees located in the city. The stunning landscape in which the city is situated has a kind of magic that is all its own. The strangely shaped hills, or karsts, with the verdant vegetation ranging from bamboo to conifers together with wonderful caves make Guilin such an attraction for tourists. Belonging to the subtropical region, Guilin enjoys a mild climate with sufficient rainfall. Built in the Qin Dynasty, Guilin is also an important cultural city with a history encompassing more than 2000 years. This city has a population of 4,760,000, including many ethnic minorities represented here that include the Zhuang, Yao, Hui, Miao, Mulao, Maonan and Dong enrich the cultural life of the city. Each minority has its own unique customs and festivals and this means that they are much more abundant here than in many other places elsewhere in China. Travelers can enjoy these pageants at the Li River Folk Customs Center. Among the mountains and rivers there is an art kingdom of perfect match of nature and culture, that is, Guilin Yuzi Sculpture Park, a large-scale of modern sculptures and grottos art park. A great number of works shown in the park are created by famous artists around the world. Whether you come for the natural beauty of its scenery or for the cultural appreciation of the ethnic minorities, you will be pleasantly surprised by what Guilin has to offer.

Reed Flute Cave & Fubo Hill

Reed Flute Cave (Ludi Yan) contains some of the most extraordinary underground scenery in all of China. It's located on the northwest outskirts of Guilin, 5 kilometers away from the downtown area. The natural rock formations in the cave make up several scenes including "Primitive Forest", "Crystal Palace", and "Flower and Fruit Mountain". The multi-colored lighting in the caves adds an extra effect to the already impressive rock formations. About 2 kilometers (1.24 miles) from Elephant Trunk Hill and above the western bank of Li River Scenery, there towers Fubo Hill, another of Guilin's wonderfully scenic spots. It reaches the height of 213 meters (698.8 feet) and emerges 62 meters (203.4 feet) above the water. Half of it stands in the river and the other half of it on land. Since the galloping water is always blocked here and eddied, the hill is considered to have the power of subduing waves. Moreover, it was on this hill that a temple in commemoration of General Fubo was built in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), which gave rise to the name Fubo Hill.



Reed Flute Cave



Fubo Hill

Longsheng Terraced Fields

The Longji Terraces are located in Longsheng County about 2 hours from Guilin. Longsheng county is in northeastern Guangxi province, situated in a densely forested area of over 2400 square kilometers and has a population of only 160 000 people. In this county there are numerous terraced fields, of which the terraced Fields in Longji village show a picture of great momentum and imposing beauty. The terraced fields are built along the slope winding from the riverside up to the mountain top, the highest part being 880m in elevation while the lowest part 380m in elevation. The coiling line that starts from the mountain foot to up to the mountain top divides the mountain into layers of water glittering in the sun in spring, layers of green rice shoots in summer, layers of golden rice in fall, and layers of silvery frost in winter. This ingenious construction makes best use of the scarce arable land and water resources in the mountainous area. There are about 66 square kilometers terraced fields in southeast of Longsheng. The terraced fields were mostly built during the Ming Dynasty about 500 years ago.



The Lijiang River Cruise

The Lijiang River is the highlight and climax of any journey to Guilin. The 54 km waterway of the twisty Lijiang River between Zhujiang Pier and Yangshuo cuts between thousands of picturesque peaks. Hanyu vividly described the enchanting beauty of the Lijiang River in his poem: "The River looks like a blue silk ribbon, and the mountains resemble emerald hairpins." His words vividly captured the scenery between Guilin and Yangshuo as you sail along this 83 kilometers long Lijiang River. Along the boat ride one of the first points of interest is the pagoda-capped Elephant Trunk Hill, long used as the symbol of Guilin. A little further downstream, the Pagoda Hill can be seen. Its hexagonal pagoda is called Longevity Buddha Pagoda which dates back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Then a series of beautiful scenes come into view, such as the Yearning-for-Husband's-Return Rock resembling a woman carrying her baby waiting for the return of her husband, the Crown Crag Hill with a big water eroded cave which has various stalactites, stone pillars and rocks, the Picture Hill showing naturally-shaped images of nine horses in different positions, the Yellow Cloth Beach with the most beautiful water reflection of surrounding peaks, and many more. Finally the boat ride brings you to the colorful market town of Yangshuo.



Yangshuo

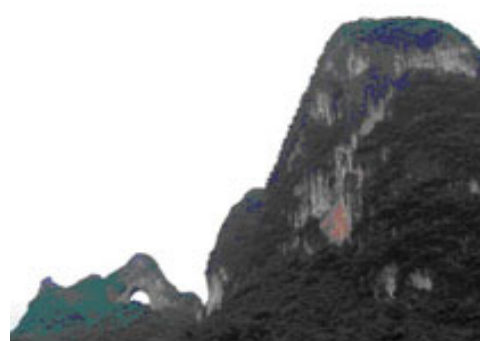
Yangshuo lies in the northeast of Guangxi Province and to the southeast of Guilin City. The special geography gives it breath-taking beauty while over 1,400 years of history bless it with a deep traditional culture. The famous Li River traverses the county and brings it the most beautiful scenery. Along the extremely pure river, thousands of hills stand in different poses and with different expressions, such as Moon Hill, Mural Hill and Schoolboy Hill. As the old saying goes, "Guilin's scenery is the most beautiful in the world, Yangshuo's scenery is far more superior to that of Guilin's". The atmosphere in Yangshuo is a unique one. The streets are usually filled with Westerners and most of the shops, restaurants, hotels, and bars are designed to cater to them.



Yulong River



Baisha Town



Moon Hill

Yangshuo West Street

West Street is the oldest street in Yangshuo with a history of more than 1,400 years. Situated at the center of Yangshuo County, West Street has become, since the 1980's, a window of eastern and western culture and the biggest 'foreign language center' in China. West Street is the most prosperous district in Yangshuo, and, each year, approximately 100,000 foreigners come here on their travels or to attend advanced studies. Visitors are attracted to by its unique mix of cultures.



Night Optional Tour

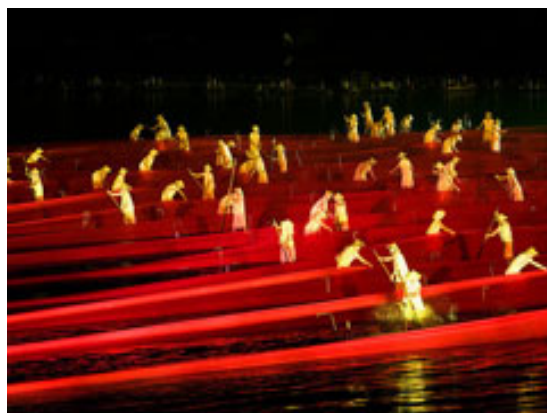
Cormorant Fishing

Cormorant fishing is unique in China. This way of fishing has been in existence for hundreds of years already. The birds do fishing much better at night than in the day time. People sometimes see lights on bamboo rafts in the river. They belong to the fishermen who use cormorants to fish to make extra income. It is a rare opportunity to get a close look at the cormorant fishing and we often wonder how these birds can fish for people. To get your answer you can drift along a bamboo raft aboard a local boat, so that you can watch the performance clearly. With a command from the fisherman, the well trained cormorants will dive into water to find fish and catch them. They are so good at diving that they can go under water for quite a long time. When they succeed in getting any fish, they will proudly swim back to the raft and show off to the fisherman. The fisherman usually award one or two very small fish to encourage them. Of course, the birds also swallow the small fish they catch. Sometimes they do get big carps that weigh 3-4 pounds. With the straw or rope tied around their necks, they would not swallow these big fish they catch. To some extent, this is quite unfair to the birds. The poor but interesting birds work for man, not for themselves!



Impression — Hill Song Show of Liu San Jie (Third Sister Liu)

Liu San Jie is a love story about a woman named Liu San Jie, which means "third sister Liu". Her voice was so beautiful that it moved everyone who heard it. Born in the town of Liuzhou and working on the family farm with her two sisters, the legend is that a warlord falls in love with San Jie but she is already in love with a man from her village. The warlord does not accept this and kidnaps her, but Liu San Jie's lover and friends from the village set out to rescue her and the couple escapes, living happily ever after. This is a non-traditional beyond-stage performance. The stage setting is Nature, namely Li River and the surrounding beautiful landscape of Yangshuo. The stage for the performance is composed of a two-kilometer-long water area with twelve mountains as the background. It is the largest natural theater in the world. "The theatre is in Nature. The show changes with the four seasons and differs on sunny or rainy days. Here, human creation accounts for only half, with the other half being in the hands of Nature" This is a major production with a cast of 500 singers, dancers, bamboo boats and cormorants bids. However, the stand out performer is definitely the background scenery. The lighting of the karsts peaks is truly amazing.



Yuzi Sculpture Park

Guilin Yuzi Sculpture Park, founded in 1996, is a large-scale international park of land art projects mainly engaged in cavern art and contemporary sculpture. It is located in the unique and unspoiled natural surroundings of Guilin. With the joined efforts of global eminent artists, it is to be built as a living museum and leave a fine cultural heritage for future generations. It is a world heritage in progress shared and possessed by the world. The overall construction of Guilin Yuzi Sculpture Park is predicted to be 30 years and divided into 2 phases. The first phase is programmed as a 10-year project based on the existing geographical features. It takes the International Sculpture Park as the main body, surrounded by living&working area, art village, art salon, teaching & demonstrating art, open air theater and spiritual center. The second phase will focus on the cavern art project, which is the most distinguishing feature in Guilin Yuzi Sculpture Park. Since 1997, Guilin Yuzi Sculpture Park have held 8 International Sculpture Symposia with 114 artists of 25 countries involved and created 114 outdoor monumental sculptures. In October 2002, Guilin Yuzi Paradise launched the first International Sculpture Awards, in which 'Art Collection' Magazine and 'Sculpture' Magazine are the co-organizers. These awards are expected to help the emerging artists, to popularize excellent works of established artists and to promote art and culture exchange on a global scale. By exhibiting the outstanding works artists hope to enrich people's cultural life, infuse art and culture elements into the society, and thus fulfill the in-depth significance of cultural construction.



Reserve early with Peregrine Travel Group for your Guilin Tour

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Peregrine Travel's Upcoming Groups:
Chinese New Year Hong Kong January 2009
7-Day Tour, 10-Day & 15 Day Tours (incl. China)

Lt. Governor John Garamendi California
Delegation China Trip February 18-28, 2009

Taiwan Global Sourcing Fair April 2009

Mechanical Components& Materials Technology
Show, Japan June 24-27, 2009

Yiwu Trade Fair July 2009

Testimonials:

Susan, our tour guide was most helpful. She helped with everything. She felt like part of the family. I was most impressed by the overall pace of my tour. P.B. & D. L.

All great. Awesome experience. A. D.

I want to tell my friends that they must visit China . I learned so much from the trip. It completely changed my mind about China and the people. Can't wait to come back again with my family. J. W.