3-Week Must-See Places China Tour Including Holy Tibet

Trip overview

This ultimate 21-day grand China itinerary is meticulously crafted for travelers seeking the perfect balance of imperial history, breathtaking natural wonders, and deep cultural immersion. Over three unforgettable weeks, you will journey from China's historic north to its futuristic east, unlocking the country's most iconic treasures at a comfortable, family-friendly pace.

Your adventure begins in **Beijing** and **Xi'an**, where you will walk the Great Wall, explore the Forbidden City, and stand face-to-face with the Terracotta Army. Next, fly into the mystical highlands of **Tibet** to acclimate gracefully while exploring the sacred Potala Palace and the turquoise waters of Yamdrok Lake. From the roof of the world, descend into **Chengdu** to meet the giant pandas and marvel at the massive Leshan Giant Buddha.

The journey then takes an exhilarating turn into China's natural paradises: walk between the otherworldly floating pillars of **Yuanjiajie in Zhangjiajie** (the real-life inspiration for *Avatar*), test your courage on the Grand Canyon Glass Bridge, and cruise down the poetic, mist-shrouded **Li River in Guilin and Yangshuo**. Finally, transition from rural serenity to the dazzling neon lights and historic colonial charm of **Shanghai**. Complete with premium private transfers, expert local guiding, and seamless internal flights and high-speed rail connections, this tour delivers a stress-free, lifetime experience across China's most spectacular landscapes.

- **Durations:** 21 Days
- **Destinations:** Beijing - Xi'an - Lhasa (Tibet) - Chengdu - Zhangjiajie - Guilin - Shanghai
- **Tour inquiry:** https://www.asiachinatour.com/3-week-china-tour-including-tibet/

Itinerary

Day 1: Welcome to Beijing — Touchdown in the Capital & Private Hotel Transfer

Welcome to China! Your unforgettable expedition into the heart of the Middle Kingdom begins the moment you touch down at Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) or the futuristic Beijing Daxing International Airport (PKX). As you clear customs and step into the arrival hall, your

dedicated private English-speaking guide and professional driver will be waiting to greet your family with a warm welcome. They will handle all of your heavy luggage and escort you to your private, air-conditioned executive vehicle for a smooth, scenic transfer directly to your downtown hotel. Along the drive, your guide will introduce you to the city's stunning blend of ancient imperial history and soaring modern architecture. Once at the hotel, your guide will personally manage your check-in registration, leaving you completely free to unpack, unwind, and rest after your flight.

Meals: No meals included today

Expert Journey Insights:
*Welcome to the perfect start of your vacation! To ensure a completely stress-free arrival, our operations desk tracks your international flight status in real-time so your driver is staged perfectly at the gate. Today is designed to be completely open and self-paced so your family can recover from jet lag and adjust to the local time zone. Over the coming days, we will guide you through Beijing's **10 must-see attractions**, balancing iconic imperial wonders with vibrant cultural discoveries!*

Day 2: Imperial Beijing — Smart Crowd-Avoiding Forbidden City Exploration & The Sacred Temple of Heaven

Fuel up with a delicious breakfast before stepping directly into China's imperial golden age. Your private guide and driver will escort you to the world's largest palace complex: the legendary Forbidden City. Sprawling across 73 hectares (180 acres), this massive sovereign sanctuary boasts nearly 600 years of dynastic history, housing over 980 beautifully preserved buildings and more than 8,700 rooms. To ensure your family isn't overwhelmed by the masses, your expert guide will lead you along a curated, crowd-avoiding path, guiding you to magnificent, secluded courtyards that standard tour groups overlook. Stand exactly where emperors once stood as your guide shares captivating, kid-friendly stories of court intrigue, hidden treasures, and daily royal life.

After working up an appetite, take a seat at a handpicked local restaurant to enjoy an authentic, multi-course Chinese lunch featuring regional specialties. In the afternoon, journey to the magnificent Temple of Heaven, an extraordinary UNESCO World Heritage Site. Children will love exploring the vast, park-like grounds where local residents gather to practice tai chi. Marvel at the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests—a stunning, three-tiered wooden masterpiece built completely without a single nail. Here, your guide will reveal how Ming and Qing emperors performed solemn rituals to pray for prosperous harvests, offering your family a profound, unforgettable look into ancient Chinese spiritual traditions.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:
The Forbidden City can feel massive for little feet, but our specialized route focuses on high-impact areas with plenty of open space to move around comfortably away from the largest tour groups. The Temple of Heaven grounds are beautifully flat, shady, and open, making it the perfect afternoon spot for kids to stretch their legs while experiencing living local culture.

Day 3: The Great Wall Expedition & Living History — Mutianyu Cable Cars & Private Hutong Family Visit

Start your morning with a hearty breakfast before heading out on a scenic drive toward the majestic rugged mountains north of the city. Today, your family will conquer one of the absolute pinnacles of your China journey: the world-renowned **Mutianyu Great Wall**. Known for its breathtaking watchtowers and lush, rolling green hills, Mutianyu offers some of the most striking panoramic vistas in all of China. To maximize your family's time and preserve the kids' energy, we include a smooth, scenic **round-trip cable car ride**, gliding you effortlessly up the steep mountainside straight to the top of the ramparts. Spend your morning walking leisurely along the ancient pathways, touching the hand-carved stone bricks that stood as the northern shield of China's imperial past.

After descending the mountain, enjoy a classic country-style lunch before heading back into downtown Beijing to discover its true, living heartbeat: the historic **Hutongs**. These labyrinthine networks of narrow alleys and traditional courtyard houses (*siheyuan*) represent centuries of local neighborhood culture. Going far beyond standard tourist walking paths, your private guide will escort your family inside a private courtyard home to **visit a local family** that has inhabited this very space for generations. Sit down over warm cups of tea, converse directly with your hosts about daily life in old Beijing, and look through family photo albums for an unforgettably authentic connection to the local people.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:
This day beautifully contrasts the monumental scale of China's empires with the intimate warmth of its people. Mutianyu is highly recommended for families because it is significantly less crowded than other sections and features fully restored, wide pathways that are safe and easy for children to walk. The private household visit in the Hutongs is consistently praised by our guests as an eye-opening, deeply moving cultural exchange that kids remember for a lifetime!

Day 4: Royal Lake Sanctuaries & High-Speed Transit — The Summer Palace to Historic Xi'an

Indulge in breakfast before spending your morning exploring the pinnacle of imperial landscape design: the magnificent **Summer Palace**. Serving as the pristine lakeside retreat for Qing Dynasty royalty, this exceptionally preserved UNESCO World Heritage site seamlessly blends traditional pavilions, ornate temples, and classical arched bridges. Stroll lazily along the famous Long Corridor, marveling at thousands of hand-painted traditional scenes, while looking out over the shimmering waters of Kunming Lake toward Longevity Hill. The layout beautifully showcases the absolute height of ancient Chinese garden aesthetics, offering a peaceful, scenic final memory of Beijing.

Following a delicious local lunch, your private driver will escort you to the modern high-speed rail terminal. Board a sleek, state-of-the-art **bullet train** for an incredibly smooth, comfortable ride to Xi'an. Traveling a vast distance of 1,209 kilometers (751 miles) in just over 4 hours, your family can relax in spacious seats, watch the changing rural landscapes speed by, or enjoy onboard refreshments. Upon pulling into the station in Xi'an—the legendary starting point of the ancient Silk Road—your new local private guide and driver will be waiting at the arrival gates to greet you and transfer you directly to your downtown hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:
The Summer Palace offers a completely different, much more relaxed vibe than the Forbidden

City, with vast open water and beautiful weeping willows. Riding China's high-speed rail is a massive hit with kids—it is incredibly punctual, smooth enough to balance a coin on the window sill, and beats the hassle of airport security lines by a mile!

Day 5: Xi'an's Unearthed Wonders — Exclusive Conservation Lab Access & The Big Wild Goose Pagoda

Enjoy a relaxing, scenic one-hour morning drive in your private vehicle as your guide introduces the thrilling story of China's first emperor. Upon arrival at the world-renowned Terracotta Warriors Museum, you will skip the long, tiring entrance walk by boarding a premium shuttle tram straight to the main pavilions. Step inside the three massive excavation pits to witness the staggering, silent military force of Emperor Qin Shi Huang. Your guide will decode the incredible craftsmanship of these 2,200-year-old clay sentinels, revealing how each face was uniquely modeled after a real soldier and detailing the vibrant, colorful paint that originally coated them.

Going far beyond the standard tourist viewing platforms, we take your family behind the scenes. You will get up close with the very first reconstructed warriors, learn the painstakingly detailed stories of their modern restoration, and enter the active **Conservation Laboratory** to handle real Qin Dynasty artifacts. After a wonderful local lunch, head back into town to visit the magnificent Big Wild Goose Pagoda. Built during the Tang Dynasty to house sacred Buddhist scriptures brought back from India along the Silk Road, this grand, multi-tiered brick masterpiece offers a beautiful, peaceful look into Xi'an's golden age.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:
Most tourists walk nearly a mile just to get from the ticket gate to the pits, but our pre-arranged tram transfers keep your family fresh and energized. The absolute highlight of this day is the Conservation Lab experience—getting to touch pieces of history and seeing the restoration work up close is a phenomenal, deeply memorable experience for both adults and children.

Day 6: Flight to the Roof of the World — Welcome to Lhasa & Restful Altitude Acclimatization

Enjoy breakfast in Xi'an before your private driver transfers your family to the airport for your flight to Lhasa. As you fly over the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas and touch down in the spiritual heart of Tibet, your dedicated local Tibetan guide and professional driver will be waiting outside the arrivals terminal to greet you with a warm welcome and traditional white silk *khata* scarves. Relax inside your private, climate-controlled vehicle on the scenic drive into the city, where pristine mountain rivers wind past ancient hillside villages. Upon arriving at your hotel, your guide will handle all check-in procedures and luggage delivery directly to your room, leaving you completely free to unpack, unwind, and settle into your high-altitude oasis for a peaceful evening of rest.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:
Welcome to the beautiful plateau! Today is intentionally kept open and free of any physical sightseeing to give your body the best possible start to your Tibetan adventure. Rest is the most important element of arriving on the Roof of the World, so we highly recommend staying well-

hydrated, avoiding strenuous exercise or showers on your first night, and enjoying a quiet evening at your own relaxed pace in the comfort of your hotel room.

Day 7: Sacred Lhasa — Royal Garden Palaces, Monastic Universities & The Lively Monastic Debates

Savor a premium breakfast before your private chauffeur and expert Tibetan scholar-guide escort you to **Norbulingka**. Explore this elite summer palace estate at a relaxed pace, admiring the architectural masterpieces, gilded murals, and manicured botanicals that served as the private sanctuary for Tibet's spiritual leaders. Continue via luxury vehicle to the base of the Gambo Utse mountain to enter **Drepung Monastery**. Your guide will navigate you through the intricate labyrinth of this historic monastic university, providing deep historical insights into its political, cultural, and spiritual influence over the plateau for centuries.

After a curated lunch showcasing fine regional cuisine, proceed to the prestigious **Sera Monastery**. Your family will enjoy exclusive, front-row positioning along the perimeter of the ancient courtyard to observe the captivating afternoon theological debates. Your private guide will quietly translate the philosophical structure of the arguments, explaining the complex symbolic gestures, sweeping movements, and percussive hand-slaps that monastic scholars use to test scriptural accuracy and philosophical logic.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

VIP Operator Insights:
To keep your family completely fresh and comfortable as you continue to acclimate, today's routes are fully optimized to avoid steep uphill trekking. Your private vehicle remains fully stocked with chilled premium water and backup supplemental oxygen systems. The debate sessions at Sera Monastery are an exclusive living custom that takes place within strict daily time windows, and our guides schedule your afternoon arrival perfectly to guarantee an unhurried, optimal viewing experience.

Day 8: Lhasa's Crowning Jewels — The Majestic Potala Palace and the Sacred Paths of Barkhor Street

A magnificent breakfast prepares you for an unforgettable exploration of Lhasa's most legendary historical sites. Begin your morning at the breathtaking **Potala Palace**, the iconic winter residence of the Dalai Lamas that rises grandly above the valley floor. Because this world-famous landmark attracts visitors from across the globe, your private guide will strategically escort your family to handpicked, secret viewing areas. Here, away from the bustling crowds, you can capture perfect, unobstructed panoramic photographs of the white and red palaces against the deep blue sky. Step inside the grand fortress to wander through thousands of historic rooms, gilded burial stupas, and jewel-encrusted prayer halls while learning about Tibet's grand dynastic history.

Following a lovely local lunch, immerse yourself in the authentic daily rhythm of Tibetan life with a visit to the sacred **Jokhang Temple**. Considered the spiritual heart of Tibet, this ancient temple houses the precious Jowo Shakyamuni Buddha statue, brought to Lhasa in the seventh century. Afterward, step directly out into the vibrant energy of **Barkhor Street**, the circular marketplace surrounding the temple complex. Walk alongside devout pilgrims traveling in a traditional clockwise direction, watching as they spin ornate copper prayer wheels and perform meditative prostrations. Explore the bustling streets filled with aromatic sweet tea houses, traditional

restaurants, and colorful market stalls selling authentic handicrafts.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:
Climbing the historic stone steps of the Potala Palace can be physically demanding, but our guides handle the pace beautifully with plenty of built-in rest stops to keep children and parents comfortable. Joining the pilgrims on their evening walk around Barkhor Street is a deeply moving cultural experience that beautifully shows the spiritual devotion defining daily life on the plateau.

Day 9: The Turquoise Sacred Waters — Scenic Drive to Yamdrok Lake & Lakeside Alpine Picnic

Embark on a breathtaking day journey into Tibet's dramatic wilderness after a hearty breakfast. Your private vehicle winds upward through the spectacular, sweeping switchbacks of Kambala Pass, reaching an elevation of 4,794 meters where you will catch your first unforgettable glimpse of **Yamdrok Lake**. Stretching out like a massive, glittering turquoise ribbon, this holy alpine lake contrasts brilliantly against the surrounding snow-capped mountain crests and endless green grasslands. Descend gracefully to the shoreline to stand right at the edge of these sacred waters, listening to the gentle alpine breeze and learning about the profound spiritual legends that make this lake a revered place of pilgrimage.

If the alpine weather permits, your professional guide and driver will set up a beautiful, relaxing **lakeside picnic lunch**. Savor freshly prepared local delicacies, warm teas, and snacks right by the water's edge, giving your family ample time to soak in the tranquil, spiritual energy of this natural wonder. Spend a peaceful afternoon exploring the quiet shores, taking incredible photographs of the pristine landscape, and meeting local herders before your private vehicle transports you smoothly back to your comfortable Lhasa hotel for a relaxing evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:
The drive over the mountain pass reveals some of the most spectacular natural photography angles in all of Asia, making it a true highlight for both avid photographers and children. Because mountain weather at high elevations can change quickly, our team always prepares a wonderful backup indoor dining experience featuring panoramic views of the water just in case the winds pick up.

Day 10: Farewell to the Roof of the World — Flight from Lhasa to Vibrant Chengdu

Enjoy your final breakfast in the high-altitude capital of Lhasa and take a few moments to soak in your last morning views of the beautiful Tibetan valley. At the designated time, your dedicated local Tibetan guide and private driver will meet you in the hotel lobby to assist with check-out and luggage loading. Relax inside your private, comfortable vehicle on the smooth, scenic drive to Lhasa Gonggar Airport, where your guide will escort you right to the departure terminal security gate to ensure a completely seamless check-in process. Board your short and comfortable two-hour domestic flight, soaring back over the snow-capped Himalayan ranges and descending into the lush, green Sichuan basin as you touch down in Chengdu.

Upon your afternoon arrival at Chengdu Shuangliu or Tianfu International Airport, your professional local Chengdu guide and private driver will be waiting outside the baggage claim area with a personalized welcome sign. Relax as you are chauffeured directly through the city to your centrally located hotel, where your guide will manage all check-in details for you. After settling into your room, your family is completely free to spend the evening exploring Chengdu's lively streets, sampling famous local snacks, or relaxing at your own leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:
Traveling from Lhasa back to Chengdu involves a significant drop in altitude from over 3,600 meters down to just 500 meters. You will likely notice an immediate and refreshing increase in energy levels and deeper breathing as you step off the plane into the thicker, oxygen-rich air of the Sichuan basin, making it a very comfortable transition for the whole family.

Day 11: Chengdu's Beloved Icons — Giant Panda Encounters and the Happiest Local Park Culture

Enjoy an early breakfast before heading out for a magical morning with China's most celebrated national treasure. Your private guide and driver will escort your family to the world-renowned Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. Home to roughly 200 giant pandas, including playful adults and adorable tiny cubs, this elite sanctuary features beautifully recreated natural bamboo forests that mirror the animals' wild habitats. Walk along the misty, shaded pathways to watch these fluffy balls of fun munching on fresh green bamboo, climbing wooden platforms, and tumbling together in the morning air, providing endless delight for children and parents alike.

After a fantastic local lunch featuring mild or savory authentic Sichuan dishes, dive straight into the heart of Chengdu's famous local lifestyle. Head into a bustling city park to experience firsthand why Chengdu is consistently voted the single happiest city in China in annual urban surveys. Wander under the shade of historic willow trees to watch local Chengduers gathering leisurely to sip warm jasmine tea from bamboo chairs, engage in lively games of mahjong, and perform synchronized square dancing. The joyful, unhurried energy of the park is entirely infectious, offering your family a beautiful opportunity to sit back, relax, and live like a local.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:
Pandas are morning creatures that love to eat and play when the air is cool, before taking long afternoon naps as the sun gets high. Our team coordinates an early morning departure from your hotel to ensure your family arrives exactly when the pandas are at their most active and playful. Visiting the park in the afternoon offers a perfect, slow-paced contrast that lets children observe authentic local games and colorful community dancing in a completely safe, wide-open environment.

Day 12: The Monumental Leshan Giant Buddha — Scenic River Cruise, Cliffside Walkways & Leshan Food Safari

After a relaxing morning breakfast, leave the city behind as you embark on a scenic two-hour private drive south to Leshan, where the Min, Qingyi, and Dadu rivers converge. Here, you will witness one of the most awe-inspiring sights in all of Asia: the legendary Leshan Giant Buddha.

Carved directly into the red sandstone cliffs during the Tang Dynasty, this massive stone statue has sat watching over the rushing waters for over 1,200 years. To fully appreciate its mind-boggling scale, you will experience the Buddha from two unique perspectives. First, board a sightseeing cruise to enjoy a stunning panoramic view of the entire 71-meter-tall figure from the water. Afterward, take to the cliffside stone walkways to stand directly next to his massive head and walk down beside his colossal toes.

Beyond this monumental historic marvel, Leshan is widely celebrated across China as an absolute food paradise. In the afternoon, dive headfirst into the city's vibrant and flavorful culinary scene. Savor a feast of famous local dishes that are packed with flavor, including crispy, honey-glazed sweet-skinned duck, rich and aromatic Qiaojiao Beef Soup Pot, and customizable Sichuan skewers. It is a sensory journey that will satisfy both adventurous foodies and families looking for comforting, delicious local meals. After your culinary exploration, relax in your private vehicle on the smooth drive back to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:
Today combining a river cruise with the cliffside walking paths gives you the absolute best of both worlds. The boat cruise offers a spectacular, unobstructed view of the Buddha's entire 71-meter frame for family photos, while the walking path lets you stand right by his massive feet. Leshan's local food is legendary throughout China, and your guide can easily customize the spice levels of your lunch so that children can enjoy mild, delicious local specialties like the sweet-skinned duck and savory beef soup.

Day 13: Journey into the Avatar Realms — Flight to Zhangjiajie & The Soaring Heights of Tianmen Mountain

Catch an early morning domestic flight from Chengdu to Zhangjiajie, trading the lush Sichuan basin for the jaw-dropping, otherworldly sandstone pillars of Hunan Province. Upon touchdown, your private local guide and driver will greet you at the arrival hall and whisk you directly into an exhilarating afternoon exploration of **Tianmen Mountain**. Your adventure begins on the world's longest passenger cableway, gliding over miles of rolling green valleys and ascending straight into the clouds. Walk along the cliff-hanging wooden pathways suspended hundreds of feet in the air, and test your family's courage on the famous cliffside glass skywalk, where a clear glass floor reveals the staggering drop beneath your feet.

The true highlight of the afternoon is witnessing the majestic **Tianmen Cave**, also known as Heaven's Door. This massive, naturally formed water-eroded hole punches right through the sheer cliff face, creating a towering, mystical portal that seems to touch the sky. You can marvel at this spectacular geological wonder after a smooth mountain escalator or cable car ride, standing right beneath the opening to look out over the sweeping, misty mountain ranges below. After a thrilling introduction to Zhangjiajie's wild landscapes, descend the mountain and relax as your private driver transfers you to your hotel for a peaceful evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:
Tianmen Mountain is the perfect way to kick off your Zhangjiajie adventure because the high-speed cableway and cliffside escalators handle most of the vertical climbing for you, keeping the journey highly comfortable for children. If anyone in the family is a bit nervous about heights, the glass skywalk has a solid rock path running right alongside it so they can easily skip the

transparent sections while still enjoying the incredible panoramic views.

Day 14: The Surreal World of Avatar — Bailong Elevator Ascent, Yuanjiajie Pillars & Tianzi Mountain Vistas

Wake up surrounded by the crisp mountain air and step into a real-world fairy tale as you enter the crown jewel of Hunan Province: Zhangjiajie National Forest Park. Your morning adventure kicks off with a thrilling ride on the Bailong Elevator, a towering engineering marvel built right against a sheer cliff face. Recognized as the world's tallest outdoor elevator, it whisks your family up to the mountain peaks in just under two minutes, offering spectacular, sweeping views through its glass walls as you shoot past the stone pillars. Once at the top, you will step onto the forest walkways of Yuanjiajie to stand face-to-face with the legendary Avatar Hallelujah Mountain. This massive, solitary column of quartzite sandstone rises dramatically from the misty canyon floor and served as the direct inspiration for the floating mountains in the Hollywood blockbuster movie *Avatar*.

After enjoying a delicious local lunch, spend your afternoon exploring the sweeping panoramic vistas of Tianzi Mountain. This area offers some of the most striking landscapes in the entire park, where thousands of jagged, narrow stone peaks pierce the sky like giant stone needles. As the mist drifts between the crags, your guide will help you spot unique rock formations that resemble human figures, ancient warriors, galloping horses, and mythical creatures. Walking along these scenic high-altitude paths feels like stepping inside a traditional Chinese scroll painting. At the end of a breathtaking day of exploration, ride the scenic cableway down the mountain and relax as your private driver escorts you back to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:
Utilizing the Bailong Elevator to ascend and the mountain cableways to descend cuts out hours of strenuous uphill hiking, making this iconic park highly accessible for children and older family members. The viewing platforms directly opposite the Hallelujah Mountain are incredibly popular, so your private guide will strategically time your walking route to find the most peaceful overlooks for your family photos.

Day 15: Walking in the Clouds & Serene Waters — The Grand Canyon Glass Bridge and Baofeng Lake Cruise

Prepare for an absolute highlight of your adventure today as you head out after breakfast to the spectacular Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon, home to one of the most famous modern architectural wonders in the world. Today, you will test your courage by walking across the world’s longest and highest glass-bottomed bridge. Suspended high above the lush green canyon floor, this transparent pathway offers a heart-pumping, bird's-eye view of the sheer cliffs, rushing rivers, and dense forests below. Walking across the clear panels feels like floating on air, providing an incredible rush of excitement and unmatched panoramic views of the raw, untouched wilderness surrounding you.

In the afternoon, transition from the high-altitude thrills to a state of complete tranquility at the beautiful **Baofeng Lake**. Nestled quietly inside the mountain range, this crystal-clear alpine reservoir is bordered by towering, emerald-green stone peaks that rise straight out of the water. Board a traditional wooden boat to cruise along the glassy waters, listening to the peaceful

sounds of splashing waterfalls and the sweet, melodic folk songs performed by local Tujia minority singers along the banks. The calm atmosphere and breathtaking reflection of the mountains on the water provide a peaceful, relaxing end to your adventure-filled journey.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:
The Grand Canyon Glass Bridge is built with state-of-the-art safety glass that is incredibly sturdy, so even the most cautious travelers can feel completely secure walking across. To protect the glass panels from scratches, the park provides special soft shoe covers for everyone to wear, which kids usually find quite fun. The afternoon boat ride on Baofeng Lake is incredibly gentle and requires no walking at all, making it a perfect, low-fatigue way to wind down and enjoy the scenery.

Day 16: From Sandstone Heights to Subterranean Splendors — Scenic Rail Journey to Guilin & The Reed Flute Cave

Watch the landscape seamlessly transform through your panoramic window as you leave the rugged stone pillars of Zhangjiajie behind on an early-morning high-speed train heading south to Guilin. If you prefer a more leisurely morning pace, we can easily customize your route with a mid-morning transfer to the vibrant city of Changsha, where you can connect smoothly to your onward train to Guilin. Whichever path you choose, your private local guide and driver will be waiting at the arrival terminal to whisk you directly into a magical afternoon discovery.

Head straight to the magnificent **Reed Flute Cave**, an immense natural limestone cavern nestled just outside the city center. Known as "Nature's Art Palace," this ancient underground wonderland is packed with thousands of spectacular stalactites, stalagmites, and stone pillars sculpted by flowing water over millions of years. As you walk along the paved pathways, you will be mesmerized by the brilliant, colorful light displays that illuminate the intricate mineral formations, casting perfect, glassy reflections across the cave's still underground lakes. It is a stunning, mystical introduction to Guilin's world-famous karst landscapes. After your cave exploration, check in to your hotel and enjoy a peaceful evening by the river.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:
The direct high-speed train from Zhangjiajie to Guilin is highly convenient but leaves early in the morning, which is why we offer the flexible transfer option through Changsha for families who prefer to sleep in a bit. The Reed Flute Cave is cool, damp, and completely paved, making it a very easy walk with minimal steps that is highly comfortable for children and seniors alike. We recommend bringing a light sweater or jacket for your cave visit, as the temperature inside remains a refreshing and constant 18°C year-round.

Day 17: The Dragon's Backbone — Majestic Longji Rice Terraces and Ping'an Zhuang Cultural Hike

Travel deep into the scenic mountain landscapes of Longsheng County today to marvel at one of the most breathtaking agricultural engineering feats in human history. The magnificent Longji Rice Terraces, meaning "Dragon's Backbone," ribbon dramatically across rolling hillsides, offering a spectacular year-round canvas that shifts beautifully from glassy water-filled mirrors in spring to

lush green waves in summer and golden oceans during the autumn harvest. As the morning mountain mist clears, your private guide will lead you on a scenic 1.5-hour hike through the heart of **Ping'an Zhuang Village**. Walking past the ancient, tiered fields provides an incredible look at how local farmers have sculpted these steep mountainsides for centuries.

Wandering through the village itself offers a rare glimpse into the preserved traditions and ethnic heritage of the local Zhuang and Yao minority communities. You will stroll along narrow cobblestone pathways lined with traditional wooden stilt houses, seeing local artisans at work and perhaps catching a glimpse of the famous Yao women known for their exceptionally long, glossy hair. After an unforgettable hike, sit down for a delicious lunch featuring unique regional specialties, including rice cooked over an open flame inside fresh bamboo tubes. Conclude your day of cultural immersion with a relaxing private drive back to your hotel in the late afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:
The hiking paths in the Ping'an terraced area are mostly paved with local flagstones and well-constructed stairs, making the 1.5-hour walk very manageable for travelers with a moderate level of fitness. If any member of your family prefers to skip the uphill walking, local sedan chairs can be easily hired at the village entrance to carry them up to the highest panoramic viewpoints comfortably. Because the mountain air can be quite crisp and weather patterns can change quickly, we highly recommend bringing a light windproof jacket and wearing walking shoes with excellent grip.

Day 18: Living Shanshui Paintings — The Iconic Li River Cruise and Immersion in Yangshuo's Rural Culture

Step aboard a comfortable cruise ship after breakfast to embark on what is universally celebrated as the crown jewel of China's natural scenery. As you sail smoothly along the winding Li River from Guilin to Yangshuo, you will find yourself completely enveloped by a dreamlike landscape of towering limestone karst mountains, weeping bamboo groves, and grazing water buffalo. The dramatic river bends reveal stunning mist-shrouded peaks that look exactly like a classical Chinese ink wash painting brought to life. Be sure to head up to the open-air viewing deck to capture unforgettable photos against iconic backdrops, including the exact landscape featured on the famous 20-yuan banknote.

Disembarking in the charming town of Yangshuo in the afternoon, your private guide will lead you away from the tourist paths into a peaceful, traditional farming village tucked away in the countryside. Here, you will step straight into the authentic rhythms of local life by visiting a bustling village market, testing your communication skills alongside your guide as you interact with local growers selling fresh seasonal produce. To truly connect with the region's heritage, you will join a local family in their courtyard to learn the delicate art of writing traditional Chinese calligraphy couplets on red paper. This deep, interactive cultural exchange provides a wonderful and personal way to round out an unforgettable day of exploration.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:
The Li River cruise takes approximately four hours, and a buffet or set-menu lunch is served right on board the vessel so you can dine comfortably without missing any of the passing scenery. The boat ride is exceptionally smooth with no waves or rough currents, making it an entirely pleasant and relaxing experience for anyone prone to motion sickness. For the afternoon village visit, we

recommend having some small cash bills on hand if you want to try buying local fruits, which is a fantastic, interactive way for children to practice greeting the friendly local vendors.

Day 19: From Riverside Serenity to Futuristic Skylines — Lazy Morning in Yangshuo & Flight to Shanghai

Wake up to the gentle sounds of nature and spend a blissful morning fully unwinding in your peaceful riverside resort nestled right beside the Li River. Today is designed for absolute relaxation, allowing you to enjoy a lovely, slow-paced day in the countryside before transitioning to China's most vibrant mega-city. Savor a long breakfast on the outdoor terrace, stroll through the nearby orchards, or simply find a cozy spot with a view of the karst peaks to read a book and soak in the tranquil atmosphere. This restful intermission offers the perfect opportunity to recharge after days of active exploring.

Late in the afternoon, bid a fond farewell to the rural beauty of Guilin as your private driver transfers you to the airport for your direct flight to Shanghai. The contrast could not be more dramatic as you touch down in China's dazzling economic heart, where historic European architecture meets towering futuristic skyscrapers. Upon arrival, your local Shanghai driver and guide will welcome you at the gate and escort you to your hotel in a comfortable private vehicle. Check in and get your first glimpses of this glittering, neon-lit metropolis, ready for the metropolitan adventures ahead.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:
We intentionally schedule your flight to Shanghai for the late afternoon so that you do not have to rush through check-out and can enjoy a full, unhurried half-day at your resort. The flight from Guilin to Shanghai takes roughly two and a half hours, and a light meal or snack is typically served on board depending on the airline carrier. After arriving in Shanghai, the private drive from the airport to your downtown hotel takes about one hour, giving you time to settle in comfortably before a good night's rest.

Day 20: A Tale of Two Eras — The Colonial Grandeur of The Bund and The Ming Dynasty Artistry of Yu Garden

Immerse yourself in the captivating contrasts of China's ultimate metropolis today as you set out after breakfast to explore where Shanghai's storied past meets its soaring future. Your morning begins with a stroll along the iconic waterfront promenade known as **The Bund**. Standing here, you will be flanked by a spectacular row of grand, 19th-century colonial stone buildings on one side, while the futuristic, neon-lit skyscrapers of Pudong rise dramatically across the Huangpu River on the other. Your knowledgeable local guide will bring this historic harborfront to life, sharing fascinating stories about the old trading houses, hidden banks, and legendary characters that shaped Shanghai into an international financial hub.

After a delicious lunch featuring authentic local Shanghai dim sum, you will step backward through time into the peaceful corridors of the 16th-century **Yu Garden**. Built during the Ming Dynasty as a private sanctuary for a wealthy government official, this masterfully designed landscape beautifully combines traditional Chinese architecture with classical art. Wander past elaborate dragon-scaled walls, cross zigzagging stone bridges spanning carp-filled ponds, and admire the intricate rockeries and lakeside pavilions that have been perfectly preserved for hundreds of years. It offers

a wonderfully peaceful glimpse into ancient China right in the center of the bustling modern city.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:
Exploring the historic corridors of Yu Garden involves walking along uneven stone pathways and over low bridges, so wearing comfortable walking shoes is highly recommended for your excursion today. The garden is located right next to the bustling Yu Garden Bazaar, which is a fantastic and lively spot where your family can hunt for traditional souvenirs like hand-painted fans and silk. Your guide will be right there to help you navigate the market and find the absolute best local snacks, including the famous steaming Shanghai soup dumplings.

Day 21: Bid Farewell to China — Smooth Private Airport Transfer and Onward Journey Home

Savor your final breakfast in the glittering metropolis of Shanghai and take an unhurried morning to pack your bags, collect your unique souvenirs, or enjoy a quiet stroll around the hotel neighborhood. When it is time to depart, your dedicated private tour guide and driver will meet you in the hotel lobby to assist with your luggage and escort you to the international airport. Traveling in a comfortable, private vehicle ensures a smooth and stress-free ride directly to your terminal. As you check in for your flight home, you will look back on three unforgettable weeks filled with giant pandas, mystical mountains, ancient palaces, and rich cultural encounters. We wish you a safe journey home and warmly welcome your family back to explore even more hidden corners of China in the future.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:
Our operations team coordinates your hotel departure time precisely around your international flight schedule to guarantee you arrive at the airport with plenty of time to clear security and complete any duty-free shopping or tax refunds. International airlines typically open their check-in counters three hours before departure, and your private guide will walk your family directly to the correct desk to assist with the check-in process. If your flight leaves late in the evening, please let our team know in advance so we can look into arranging a late check-out at your hotel to keep your final day completely relaxed.

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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