

8 Days Chengdu Chongqing Zhangjiajie Tour: Panda, Cyberpunk & Avatar

Trip overview

Embark on an epic 8-day journey through the most captivating landscapes and cultural hubs of Southwest China. Connecting three world-class destinations via seamless high-speed bullet trains, this tour combines relaxed local living, jaw-dropping futuristic architecture, and otherworldly natural wonders.

Begin in **Chengdu**, the kingdom of the Giant Panda, where you'll meet beloved national treasures, explore ancient Shu civilization relics at **Sanxingdui Museum**, and soak up the leisurely teahouse vibe along **Jinli Old Street**. Ride the bullet train to **Chongqing**, China's famed "8D Mountain City," to witness monorails passing through buildings at **Liziba**, savor authentic Sichuan Hot Pot, marvel at **Hongya Cave's** glowing nightscape, and descend into the UNESCO World Heritage canyon of **Wulong Karst**.

Finally, speed across to **Zhangjiajie**, where fantasy becomes reality. Soar up **Bailong Elevator** to view the real-life Avatar Hallelujah Mountains in **Yuanjiajie**, take in the sea of clouds from **Tianzi Mountain**, challenge your courage on the **Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon Glass Bridge**, and ascend the world's longest cableway to **Tianmen Cave (Heaven's Gate)**. Accompanied by expert local private guides and flexible pacing, this is the ultimate Southwest China adventure.

- **Durations:** 8 Days
- **Destinations:** Chengdu - Chongqing - Zhangjiajie
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://www.asiachinatour.com/8-days-chengdu-chongqing-and-zhangjiajie-tour/>

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Chengdu — Welcome to the Capital of Pandas

Welcome to **Chengdu**, the vibrant capital of Sichuan Province and the legendary home of the giant panda! Upon your arrival at **Chengdu Tianfu International Airport (TFU)**, **Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport (CTU)**, or **Chengdu East Railway Station**, your private local

guide and driver will greet you at the arrival hall for a smooth transfer to your hotel in downtown **Chengdu**.

After checking in, enjoy the remainder of the day at your leisure to relax and recover from your journey. You can take a leisurely stroll through nearby historic lanes like **Kuanzhai Alley** (*Broad and Narrow Alleys*) or **Jinli Ancient Street**. In the evening, immerse yourself in Chengdu's famed relaxed lifestyle by sampling an authentic **Sichuan Hot Pot** dinner or attending a traditional **Sichuan Opera** performance featuring the mesmerizing art of face-changing (*Bian Lian*).

Meals: / (Self-arranged)

Accommodation: Hotel in Chengdu Downtown

Expert Arrival Insights:

Chengdu is a major transportation hub in Southwest China with excellent high-speed rail connectivity to Chongqing (1.5-2 hours), Xi'an (3-4 hours), Guiyang (3.5-4.5 hours), and Kunming (6-6.5 hours). If arriving at Tianfu International Airport, note that the highway drive into downtown Chengdu takes approximately 60 to 75 minutes, whereas transfers from Shuangliu International Airport take around 30 to 45 minutes.

Day 2: Chengdu Classic Highlights — Giant Pandas, Sanxingdui Relics & Jinli Old Street

Begin your morning at the **Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding**, the world's premier conservation center for giant pandas and red pandas. Arrive early to catch the pandas at their most active hours as they forage on fresh bamboo and play in outdoor enclosures. In autumn, visit the panda nurseries to catch a rare glimpse of newborn giant panda cubs, and explore the **Panda Museum** for fascinating conservation insights.

In the afternoon, journey to the **Sanxingdui Museum** in Guanghan to discover one of the 20th century's greatest archaeological discoveries. Marvel at 3,000-to-5,000-year-old relics of the ancient Shu Kingdom, including the towering **Bronze Sacred Tree**, the enigmatic **Vertical-eyed Mask**, and the magnificent **Gold Scepter**. Return to downtown **Chengdu** to end your day with a leisurely stroll down **Jinli Old Street**, an 1,800-year-old stone-paved promenade lined with traditional Shu architecture, folk craft stalls, and local street delicacies like *Guokui* (Sichuan crispy meat pie) and sweet sticky rice cake.

*Alternative Peak-Season Itinerary (Plan B): Due to high demand and strict daily ticketing caps at the Sanxingdui Museum during peak travel seasons, an alternative downtown cultural tour may be arranged: **Chengdu Giant Panda Base** ? **Chengdu Museum** ? **Kuanzhai Alley** (*Broad and Narrow Alleys*) ? **People's Park** (*Renmin Park*).*

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Chengdu Downtown

Expert Journey Insights:

*Giant pandas are most active during the cooler morning hours between 08:00 and 10:00 when they are fed bamboo outdoors; by midday, they typically retreat to air-conditioned indoor quarters to sleep. For the afternoon visit to **Sanxingdui Museum**, advance ticket reservation with full passport details is mandatory due to strict visitor quotas.*

Day 3: High-Speed Train to Chongqing — 8D Cyberpunk City, Hot Pot & Glowing Skylines

Board a morning high-speed train from **Chengdu** for a smooth journey through the Sichuan Basin to **Chongqing**, China's legendary "3D Mountain City." Upon arrival at **Chongqing West Railway Station** or **Chongqing North Railway Station**, meet your local guide and driver for a private transfer into the city's surreal urban core.

Begin your city exploration at **Liziba Metro Station** to witness the world-famous monorail glide directly through a 19-story residential complex. Next, head to **Kuixing Building** (*Kuixinglou*) to experience Chongqing's mind-bending "8D" architecture, where an open-air public square at ground level suddenly reveals a sheer 22-story drop to the street below! Continue to **Jiefangbei** (*Liberation Monument*), the historic heart of the city and prime photo spot, before gathering for an authentic, fiery Sichuan **Chongqing Hot Pot** dinner. Conclude your night at **Hongya Cave** (*Hongyadong*), walking across **Qiansimen Jialing River Bridge** to capture panoramic photos of illuminated stilted buildings (*Diaojiailou*) reflected on the **Jialing River**.

Meals: Breakfast, Group Dinner (Hot Pot)

Accommodation: Hotel in Chongqing Downtown

Expert Journey Insights:

Today's high-speed train transit between Chengdu and Chongqing takes under two hours, making it an effortless intercity connection. In the evening, walking onto Qiansimen Bridge offers the single best vantage point for photographing the gold lights of Hongyadong against the Jialing River skyline; carrying a light jacket or windbreaker is recommended as river breezes can be chilly on the bridge at night.

Day 4: UNESCO World Heritage Karst Wonders — Wulong Three Natural Bridges Day Trip

Depart **Chongqing** after breakfast for a scenic 2.5-hour drive into the karst mountains of Wulong County to explore **Wulong Karst National Geological Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage natural wonder. Renowned for its towering limestone formations and dramatic sinkholes (*tiankeng*), this cinematic gorge famously served as a primary filming location for Michael Bay's *Transformers: Age of Extinction*.

Begin your exploration at the suspended **Wulong Glass Observation Deck**, stepping out over a transparent glass platform hovering 280 meters above the canyon floor for a dizzying aerial panorama. Next, ride the glass sightseeing elevator deep down the cliff face to the canyon floor to walk among the **Three Natural Bridges**:

Tianlong Bridge (*Heavenly Dragon Bridge*): The most imposing, double-arched limestone giant housing the ancient **Tianfu Official Post** (*Tianfu Guanyi*), a restored Tang/Ming-style courtyard nestled in the shadows of the canyon.

Qinglong Bridge (*Azure Dragon Bridge*): Famous for its towering, graceful arch framing lush green mountain foliage and cascading waterfalls.

Heilong Bridge (*Black Dragon Bridge*): A dark, misty cavern arch where subterranean streams wind beneath a high stone vault.

After completing your valley walk, return to downtown **Chongqing** in the late afternoon for an evening at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Chongqing Downtown

Expert Journey Insights:

Today's tour in Wulong Karst involves walking down steep stone staircases and along damp canyon floor pathways; wearing sturdy, non-slip hiking or walking shoes is essential. The interior gorge maintains a cool, humid microclimate with occasional water dripping from overhangs, so keeping a light waterproof shell jacket and a wide-angle lens for your camera will ensure you comfortably capture the sheer scale of the towering stone bridges.

Day 5: High-Speed Rail to Zhangjiajie — Gateway to the Avatar World

Board a morning high-speed train from **Chongqing** across the rolling karst mountainscapes of Southwest China to **Zhangjiajie**, the world-famous natural inspiration for the floating Hallelujah Mountains in James Cameron's *Avatar*.

Upon arrival at **Zhangjiajie West Railway Station**, your private local guide and driver will greet you at the exit for a smooth transfer to your hotel in **Wulingyuan** or downtown **Zhangjiajie**. After checking in, enjoy the remainder of the day at your leisure to rest up for tomorrow's alpine adventures, explore local Tujia night markets, or sample authentic Hunan specialties like cured mountain pork and spicy stir-fried delicacies.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Wulingyuan or Zhangjiajie Downtown

Expert Journey Insights:

The direct high-speed train link between Chongqing and Zhangjiajie takes roughly 2.5 hours, making intercity travel fast and comfortable. If your hotel is located in the Wulingyuan Scenic Area (the main access hub for Zhangjiajie National Forest Park), the drive from Zhangjiajie West Railway Station takes about 30 to 40 minutes, giving you plenty of afternoon time to relax or stroll around Wulingyuan Town.

Day 6: Zhangjiajie National Forest Park — Avatar Hallelujah Mountain & Tianzi Mountain Wonders

Spend a full day exploring the fairytale landscapes of **Zhangjiajie National Forest Park**, the crown jewel of the UNESCO World Heritage **Wulingyuan Scenic Area**. Home to over 3,000 towering quartz-sandstone pillars, this surreal terrain inspired the floating mountains in James Cameron's *Avatar*.

Begin your ascent aboard the glass **Bailong Elevator** (*Hundred Dragons Elevator*), the world's tallest outdoor lift, soaring 326 meters up a sheer vertical cliff face in under 90 seconds. Step out into **Yuanjiajie Scenic Area** to walk along cliffside plank trails framing panoramic viewpoints of the legendary **Avatar Hallelujah Mountain** (*Southern Sky Column*) and the towering **First Bridge Under Heaven** (*Tianxia Diyiqiao*).

In the afternoon, transfer by scenic shuttle to **Tianzi Mountain** (*Monarch of the Peaks*), rising 1,262 meters above sea level. Named after historic Tujia hero Xiang Dakun, Tianzi Mountain is famous for its ethereal sea of clouds and dramatic rock formations. Take in panoramic vistas from **Dianjiangtai Platform** overlooking the **West Sea Peaks** (*Xihai Stone Forest*), marvel at the brush-like stone spires of **Imperial Writing Brush Peaks** (*Yubi Feng*), and visit **He Long Park** to ascend **Tianzige Pavilion** for an unrivaled 360-degree panorama across the vast forest of sandstone peaks below.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Wulingyuan or Zhangjiajie Downtown

Expert Park Insights:

During peak travel months, park guides may optimize your route sequence (e.g., visiting Tianzi Mountain in the morning and Yuanjiajie in the afternoon) to beat queue congestion at the Bailong Elevator and cable car stations. Comfortable, non-slip walking shoes are essential as trails involve flat stone pathways, cliffside walkways, and periodic steps.

Day 7: Thrills & Tranquility — Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon Glass Bridge & Baofeng Lake Cruise

Depart **Wulingyuan** in the morning for a 90-minute scenic drive to **Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon** (*Yuntaikan*), home to lush rainforest gorge views, cascading waterfalls, and world-record engineering marvels.

Step out onto the famous **Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon Glass Bridge** (*Yuntiandu*), a fully transparent, glass-bottomed walkway suspended 300 meters above the canyon floor between two sheer cliff faces. Thrill-seekers can opt to test their nerve with the world's highest commercial bungee jump (optional activity), while others enjoy the sensation of walking on air amidst drifting valley mists. After crossing the glass bridge, descend into the canyon for a scenic walk past crystal streams and hidden waterfalls.

In the afternoon, head to **Baofeng Lake** (*Lake Baofeng*), a pristine alpine basin cradled by emerald karst peaks. Board a traditional wooden boat for a relaxing cruise across calm, emerald waters while enjoying live folk songs performed by local Tujia singers in floating wooden pavilions. Return to your hotel in **Zhangjiajie** for an evening of rest.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Wulingyuan or Zhangjiajie Downtown

Expert Destination Insights:

High-value personal belongings, metal tripods, and thermos flasks are restricted on the Glass Bridge to protect the glass panels; soft shoe covers are provided at the entrance. Combining the high-adrenaline glass walkway in the morning with a serene Baofeng Lake boat cruise in the afternoon offers the perfect balance of thrill and relaxation.

Day 8: Tianmen Mountain Ascent & Grand Tour Departure

Begin your final morning in **Zhangjiajie** with an unforgettable journey up **Tianmen Mountain** (*Heaven's Gate Mountain*), revered locally as the soul of the region. Board the world-renowned **Tianmen Mountain Cable Car**—one of the longest alpine ropeways on earth spanning 7,455 meters—for a breathtaking 30-minute aerial ride straight from downtown **Zhangjiajie** over urban rooftops, mountain forests, and the 99 dramatic hairpin turns of the **Avenue toward Heaven**.

At the summit, visit the peaceful **Tianmen Temple**, a serene Qing Dynasty Buddhist sanctuary nestled in dense alpine vegetation. Test your bravery along the **Tianmen Glass Skywalk**, stepping out onto transparent glass walkways clinging to vertical cliff faces 1,430 meters above the valley floor, followed by a stroll along the 1.6-kilometer **Cliff-Hanging Walkway**. Next, ride the internal mountain escalators down to **Tianmen Cave** (*Heaven's Door*), a massive natural water-eroded karst arch towering 131 meters high.

Descend the mountain via scenic cable car to conclude your 8-day Chengdu, Chongqing, and Zhangjiajie tour. Your private guide and driver will transfer you to Zhangjiajie Hehua International Airport or Zhangjiajie West Railway Station for your onward departure flight or high-speed train connection.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Tips:

To ensure a relaxed departure, your private guide coordinates real-time cable car queue management and adjusts mountain route flows to match your flight or high-speed train schedule.

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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