7 Days Guilin Longsheng Xingping Yangshuo Photography Tour

Trip overview

Unlock the ethereal beauty of Southern China on this **7-day immersive photography expedition** through Guilin, Longsheng, and Yangshuo. Designed specifically for landscape enthusiasts and cultural storytellers, this tour focuses on capturing the "perfect light" at the region's most iconic locations. From the rhythmic curves of the **Longji Rice Terraces** during sunrise to the dramatic limestone karsts reflecting in the mirror-like waters of the **Li River**, every stop is timed for peak visual impact.

You will journey into the heart of **Xingping** to photograph the traditional **cormorant fishermen** against the backdrop of the 20-yuan banknote scenery. Beyond the landscapes, this tour offers intimate access to the local **Yao and Zhuang ethnic minorities**, providing a rich tapestry of portrait opportunities within their ancient wooden villages. Whether you are a professional or an aspiring hobbyist, this tour provides the scouting, local knowledge, and logistical support needed to bring home a portfolio of world-class images from China's most poetic province.

- **Durations:** 7 Days
- **Destinations:** Guilin - Longsheng - Yangshuo
- **Tour inquiry:** https://www.asiachinatour.com/guilin-longsheng-xingping-yangshuo-photography-tour-7-days/

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Guilin – The Living Chinese Scroll

Since ancient times, Guilin's ethereal karst landscapes have served as the quintessential muse for Chinese poets and painters. Today, the city remains a captivating blend of ancient tradition and modern chic. Upon your arrival at the airport or railway station, your private guide will meet you and provide a comfortable transfer to your hotel.

After checking in and taking some time to refresh, your photography journey begins with a relaxed evening stroll through the heart of the city. You will visit **Cedar Lake** and **Banyan Lake**, where the

illuminated **Sun and Moon Pagodas** cast vibrant reflections across the water. This area offers an ideal opportunity to capture the transition from the "blue hour" to the sparkling night views of downtown Guilin, setting the stage for the week of visual discovery ahead.

Accommodations: Overnight in Guilin

Expert Travel Advice for Today:
For your first evening in Guilin, we recommend bringing a tripod for the Sun and Moon Pagodas, as the long exposure will allow you to capture the silky texture of the water and the brilliant glow of the copper and silver structures. If you are arriving after a long flight, this gentle walk is the perfect way to adjust to the local time while scouting for unique architectural angles. Please keep in mind that the pagoda lights are typically turned off around 10:00 PM, so aiming for an early evening shoot will provide the best balance of ambient and artificial light. We also suggest testing your remote shutter release tonight to ensure everything is ready for the more demanding sunrise shoots later in the itinerary. Finally, don't hesitate to ask your guide for a local 'Guilin Rice Noodles' shop recommendation nearby for an authentic first taste of the city's culinary culture.

Day 2: Guilin to Longsheng – The Dragon's Backbone & Ethnic Portraits

Today, we journey to the magnificent **Longji (Dragon's Backbone) Rice Terraces**, a landscape sculpted over centuries by the hands of the Zhuang and Yao people. The terraces offer two peak photographic windows: from late May to early June, the paddies are flooded, turning the mountains into a thousand shattered mirrors reflecting the sky; from late September to late October, the landscape transforms into a golden "quilt" of ripening grain.

Your base for the night is the authentic **Ping'an Zhuang Village**, perched high on the mountain slope. As we ascend through the winding stone paths, you will encounter the **Red Yao women**, famous for their vibrant red traditional costumes and their floor-length hair coiled into intricate crowns. Your guide will assist you in finding the most iconic viewing platforms to capture the **sunset** as it bathes the undulating fields in warm light. We will also facilitate personal introductions with the Yao women, providing you with a respectful and professional opportunity to photograph their unique cultural heritage and "long-hair" traditions.

Accommodations: Overnight in Longsheng

Expert Travel Advice for Today:
For the rice terraces, a polarizing filter is an essential tool to manage reflections off the water-filled paddies and to enhance the vibrant greens or golds of the crops. Since we will be staying overnight in a mountain village, we recommend packing a smaller 'overnight bag' as the steep stone steps can make large, heavy suitcases difficult to transport to the hotel. We also suggest using a mid-range zoom lens (such as a 24-70mm) for the portraits of the Yao women, allowing you to capture both the fine details of their embroidery and the surrounding village environment. For the sunset shoot, arrive at the viewing platform at least 45 minutes early to secure the best tripod position, as these spots are popular among local photography enthusiasts. Lastly, be prepared for a slightly cooler evening in the mountains—a light fleece or windbreaker will keep you comfortable while you wait for the perfect twilight shot.

Day 3: Longsheng to Xingping – Sunrise Over the Terraces & Cuiping Sunset

Rise before dawn to capture the breathtaking **sunrise over the Longji Rice Terraces**. As the first rays of light pierce the mountain mist, you will experience the serene morning atmosphere of the village, a perfect time for capturing the stillness of the landscape. After breakfast, we will embark on a scenic hike down to **Guzhuang Village**. This hidden gem is renowned for its well-preserved traditional stilted houses and authentic Zhuang culture, offering a much more peaceful and "original" photographic environment than the more visited areas.

In the afternoon, we will drive toward the picturesque west bank of the Li River. En route to our destination near **Xingping**, we will stop at **Cuiping (Wuzhi Hill)**. A short but rewarding climb leads you to a spectacular vantage point, perfect for capturing the **sunset**. From here, you can photograph the Li River as it meanders through the vast countryside, with hundreds of limestone karst peaks silhouetted against the glowing evening sky. We will then proceed to a quiet village by the river to settle in for the night.

Accommodations: Overnight in Xingping

Expert Travel Advice for Today:
The sunrise at Longji often features a layer of low-hanging mist; we recommend using a graduated neutral density (GND) filter to balance the bright sky with the darker foreground of the terraces. During the hike to Guzhuang Village, keep your camera accessible with a versatile lens, as you may encounter farmers working the fields in the soft morning light. For the sunset at Cuiping, a wide-angle lens is essential to capture the grand scale of the river's bend and the surrounding peak forest. Please note that the path up Cuiping Hill involves some uneven steps, so a headlamp or flashlight is highly recommended for a safe descent after the sun goes down. Finally, as Xingping is famous for its dark night skies, if the weather is clear, this is an excellent opportunity to try some astrophotography with the karst silhouettes in the foreground.

Day 4: Xingping – Iconic Peaks & The Fisherman's Twilight

Today focuses on two of the most celebrated photography locations in all of China. We begin with a very early pre-dawn departure to **Xianggong Hill**. After a 30-minute hike to the summit, you will be rewarded with a spectacular bird’s-eye view of the **Li River's "First Bend."** As the sun rises, the interplay of shifting light, floating mountain fog, and the massive karst formations creates an otherworldly landscape that has inspired generations of landscape photographers. After capturing the morning glow, we will head to the historic **Xingping Old Town** to check into your hotel and enjoy some midday relaxation.

As the "golden hour" approaches, we prepare for the most classic shot of the journey: the **Cormorant Fisherman session**. Against the iconic backdrop of the **Yellow Cloth Reflection**—the exact scenery featured on the **20 Yuan banknote**—you will photograph a local fisherman on his traditional bamboo raft. With his lanterns glowing in the deepening twilight and his cormorants perched by his side, you will have the opportunity to capture both still and motion shots of this ancient tradition, creating images that are both timeless and quintessentially Guilin.

Accommodations: Overnight in Xingping

Expert Travel Advice for Today:
The summit of Xianggong Hill can be popular with photographers, so arriving well before first light is essential to secure a prime spot for your tripod on the multi-level viewing platforms. A telephoto lens (70-200mm or similar) is surprisingly useful here for picking out individual karst peaks emerging from the morning mist. For the evening fisherman shoot, we will arrange for the fisherman to use his gas lantern, which provides a warm, atmospheric light perfect for 'blue hour'

photography. We recommend using a fast aperture lens (f/2.8 or wider) and increasing your ISO slightly to capture the detail in the fisherman’s face and the texture of the cormorants' feathers without blurring the movement of the raft. Lastly, since the 20 Yuan banknote location is a riverbank area, wearing waterproof sandals or boots will allow you more freedom to find the perfect low-angle reflection shot near the water's edge.

Day 5: Xingping to Yangshuo – Timeless Towns & Yulong River Idyll

We begin our day by stepping back in time in **Shazi Ancient Town**, a hidden gem with over a thousand years of history. Once a thriving commercial hub of northern Guangxi, the town still preserves its magnificent stone-paved streets, historic pawnshops, ancient temples, and weathered stone bridges. The morning light filtering through the canopy of gnarled, centuries-old banyan trees creates a masterpiece of light and shadow, perfect for capturing the soulful essence of "Old China" and the quiet dignity of the local life that continues within these historic walls.

In the afternoon, we transition to the breathtaking pastoral landscapes of the **Yulong River valley** . Often referred to as the "Little Li River," the Yulong offers a more intimate and serene photographic experience. As we ramble along the ancient stone paths, you will be surrounded by majestic karst peaks, lush paddy fields, and fragrant orchards. This is the perfect time to capture authentic rural scenes: water buffaloes tilling the soil, ducks gliding through emerald waters, and traditional bamboo rafts drifting slowly downstream through the heart of this living landscape painting.

Accommodations: Overnight in Yangshuo

Expert Travel Advice for Today:
In Shazi Ancient Town, the best shots are often found in the details; we recommend using a prime lens with a wide aperture (f/1.8 or f/2.8) to capture the textures of the ancient brickwork and the portraits of local elders against a beautifully blurred background. For the Yulong River portion of the day, a circular polarizer is highly recommended to cut through the water's surface glare and saturate the deep greens of the surrounding vegetation. If you wish to photograph the water buffaloes or farmers at work, always maintain a respectful distance and ask your guide to help facilitate a friendly greeting first. Since we will be walking through orchards and riverside paths, lightweight and breathable clothing is best, and a bit of insect repellent will ensure you can focus entirely on your composition rather than the local midges. Finally, keep an eye out for the ancient stone bridges over the Yulong—they provide excellent leading lines for classic landscape compositions.

Day 6: Yangshuo – The "Full Moon" Bridge & Countryside Freedom

Today’s focus is the exquisite **Fuli Bridge**, a hidden architectural treasure located on the upper reaches of the Yulong River. With a history spanning over 500 years, this ancient single-arch stone bridge is a masterpiece of symmetry. When the water is calm, the reflection of the arch creates a perfect circle, resembling a brilliant full moon resting on the emerald river. From the crest of the bridge, you will have a breathtaking panoramic view of the surrounding pastoral landscape—a harmonious tapestry of verdant farmland, mist-wrapped hills, and traditional village life.

The morning is dedicated to capturing this iconic structure from multiple angles and exploring the tranquil riverside trails nearby. In the afternoon, the schedule is yours to define. With your private

guide and driver at your disposal, you have the flexibility to return to a favorite spot for better light, venture deeper into the Yangshuo backroads to discover hidden karst caves, or simply relax at a riverside café and soak in the atmosphere of China's most beautiful countryside.

Accommodations: Overnight in Yangshuo

Expert Travel Advice for Today:
To capture the perfect 'full moon' reflection at Fuli Bridge, we recommend arriving as early as possible when the water is most likely to be still and undisturbed by rafts. A wide-angle lens is essential to encompass both the bridge and its reflection in a single frame, while a tripod will help you achieve the sharpest possible image in the soft morning light. If you have a neutral density (ND) filter, you can use a longer exposure to smooth the water surface further, creating a dreamlike, mirror-effect. For your free afternoon, consider asking your guide to take you to a local 'Moon Hill' viewpoint or a hidden village market for some candid street photography. As this is your final full day in the countryside, it's also a great time to review your shots with your guide, who can suggest any last-minute locations that align with your specific photographic interests.

Day 7: Yangshuo back to Guilin & Departure

It is time to say goodbye to the poetic landscapes of Guangxi. Depending on your flight schedule, you may enjoy a final morning of "free shooting" around your hotel, capturing the last lingering mists over the Yangshuo peaks or the quiet morning routines of the local villagers. These final, spontaneous moments often yield some of the most personal and cherished images of the trip.

At the appointed time, your private guide and driver will escort you on a comfortable drive back to Guilin. As you journey toward the airport or railway station for your departure, you can review the incredible collection of images you've captured—from the mirrored terraces of Longsheng to the flickering lanterns of the Li River fishermen. Your photography expedition concludes here, but the stunning visual stories you've documented will serve as a timeless record of your journey through China's most beautiful landscapes.

Accommodations: Departure (No Overnight Stay)

Expert Travel Advice for Today:
For your departure day, we recommend keeping your camera and one versatile lens in your carry-on bag rather than packing them deep in your checked luggage, just in case you spot one last 'perfect frame' during the drive back to Guilin. Please ensure all your lithium camera batteries are in your carry-on luggage, as Chinese aviation regulations strictly prohibit them in checked bags. If you have time at the airport, it is a good opportunity to double-check that your memory cards are securely stored and backed up if possible. We suggest arriving at the airport at least two hours before your domestic flight to allow for a relaxed check-in process. We wish you a safe journey to your next destination and hope your photographs bring the magic of Guilin back to life every time you view them!

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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