



INSIDER'S SOUTHERN CHINA
PARADISE IN THE ANCIENT VILLAGES OF GUIXHOU &
THE SUBLIME BEAUTY OF GUILIN'S LI RIVER &
HANGZHOU'S WEST LAKE



 **Commonwealth
Club Travel**

October 14-26, 2017

SHANGHAI • KAILI • ZHAOXING • TANGAN • LONGSHENG • GUILIN
HANGZHOU • SHANGHAI



Dear Commonwealth Club of California Members and Friends,

You are invited to join us on an insider's exploration of the beauty of Southern China.

Set in a spectacular karst limestone landscape of dramatic gorges and canyons with terraced hillsides and enchanting vistas, the landlocked **Guizhou** province has remained relatively isolated from the rest of China due to its mountainous terrain. Southeast Guizhou is home to 38 minority groups, with Miao, Dong, and Yao people being the most substantial populations. The area is ideal for experiencing the splendidly distinct folk customs, all against a backdrop of spectacular hillsides.

In **Guilin**, explore the exquisite landscapes of mountains and waters that have inspired Chinese artists for centuries. Take a cruise on the **Li River cruise** and stay at the **Li An Lodge**, a boutique hotel created by a Chinese American photographer with accommodations as artistic and refined as the surrounding view.

The **West Lake** is an inspiring synthesis of modernity and nature in China. Ultra-chic **Hangzhou** sits on the Lake's east side while the other shores tie to the natural rhythms of the old dynasties.

While exploring China's natural and cultural heritage, you will also discover the country's **culinary delights**. China cannot be understood in its true dimensions without delving into its marvelous cuisine.

The trip starts and ends in Shanghai where pre and post extension tours are available to customize your experience. For more information, contact us at (415) 597-6720 or travel@commonwealthclub.org. You may also fax the reservation form to (415) 597-6729.

Join us!

Kristina Nemeth, Director of Travel
The Commonwealth Club

PRE-TOUR EXTENSIONS

*Customize Your Own China Experience **



THE ANCIENT CITIES OF BEIJING & XIAN

October 10-15, 2017

See some of imperial China's most magnificent sites on the Beijing & Xian extension. Marvel at the architecture and the dynastic culture of the Ming and Qing emperors in Beijing, and learn why China remains the world's

oldest continuous civilization. Travel down the winding, ancient Beijing alleys by pedicab. Traverse rugged mountains on the serpentine course of the Great Wall, the most enduring symbol of China.

Travel Dates for Beijing Extension

October 10	• Depart the U.S. for Beijing
October 11	• Arrive Beijing
October 12	• Beijing
October 13	• Beijing
October 14	• Beijing - Xian
October 15	• Xian - Shanghai to join the tour

Extension Tour \$ 2,150

Single Supplement \$ 790

CHENGDE IMPERIAL RESORT

October 11-15, 2017

Spend three days experiencing the grandeur of the Qing Imperial Resort at Chengde, where Qing imperial power and minority politics played out, Tibetan lamas founded their monasteries, Manchus pursued their hunting traditions and Southern

garden aesthetics were realized to their most opulent level. As a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site with a history of more than 300 years, this is one of the great cultural landmarks in all of China.



Travel Dates for Chengde Extension

October 11	• Depart the U.S. for Beijing
October 12	• Arrive Beijing
October 13	• Beijing - Chengde
October 14	• Chengde
October 15	• Chengde - Shanghai to join the tour

Extension Tour \$ 1,650

Single Supplement \$ 690

* Extension tours require a minimum of two passengers



Yao Woman

INSIDER'S SOUTHERN CHINA

ITINERARY

October 14-15 • U.S.–Shanghai

Depart from the U.S. for your trip to China. Cross the international dateline and arrive in Shanghai the next day. The rest of the day is at leisure. (meals aloft)

• *Accommodations at the Marriott City Center near the historic Bund*

October 16 • Shanghai–Guiyang–Kaili

Fly from Shanghai to Guiyang. Upon arrival, transfer to Kaili by coach. After checking into your hotel, tour the nearby village and explore the local market square. (b,d)

• *Accommodations at Grand Metro Park Hotel*

October 17 • Kaili

Visit the minority villages of Jidao, Datang, and Paika to immerse yourself in traditional Chinese cultures. In the afternoon, visit Taiyanggu, a Dong & Miao Minority Costume Museum. Meet Ms. Yang Jian-hong, director and owner of the first private museum in the region. Enjoy a private guided tour of the stunning costumes she has collected, many over one hundred years old. She is launching a reproduction effort by hiring local minority women to preserve the traditional handicraft technique.

Return to Kaili for the evening. (b,l)

October 18 • Kaili–Zhaoxing

In the morning, drive to Yangjia. Tour Gaoyao village and take a short walk to the summit of the hill for a bird's-eye view of the rice terraces and the distant villages.

Drive to Rongjiang and take in the picturesque countryside. Have lunch in

Rongjiang at a local restaurant.

Continue on to Huanggang to visit the Huanggang Dong Village. 300 households live in this ancient village with 800 years history. There are 5 drum towers and exquisite traditional architecture all around. The village is one of the best-preserved Dong villages in the region.

Drive to Zhaoxing, with the most spectacular ancient rice terraces surrounding the village. Check into your hotel. Enjoy a village tour with dinner at a local restaurant. (b,l,d)

• *Accommodations at Zhaoxing Indigo Lodge (2 nights)*

October 19 • Zhaoxing

In the morning, drive up to Tangan Village. Go on a hiking tour of Tanganzai through rice terraces to Xiage Village. For a more rigorous hike, one can walk back to Zhaoxing or those looking for a leisurely experience can take the bus back. Lunch is at a local restaurant in Zhaoxing.

In the afternoon, wander Jitang Village, Dengjiang Village and Nongbang Village. Meet the locals, visit their homes, buy clothes and hand-made fabrics from local women and play with the children. (b,l,d)

October 20-21 • Zhaoxing–Longsheng

Take the high-speed train to Quilin where we'll travel by coach to Longsheng along the beautiful river and scenic mountains. Longsheng is famous for rice terraces cut into precipitous hills that farmers have cultivated since the Yuan dynasty (13th ADE). Skeins of luscious



Fisherman on the Li River

green rice plants create remarkable views throughout the valley. Longsheng is the home of Yao and Zhuang minorities who both continue to don colorful dress and carry on their traditions. Hike the rice terraces and explore the village markets and delightful craft shops. (b,l,d)

- *Accommodations at Li An Lodge (2 nights). Li An Lodge is a boutique inn created by an American-Chinese artist. The lodge is a work of art itself, using Vietnamese hardwoods and the owner's art collection in every room. Situated above the rice terraces with a commanding view of the valley, there is a moderate uphill hike to reach the lodge (30 -50 minutes walk.) Your luggage will be carried separately, and if you require assistance for the hike, your guide can negotiate the price of a rickshaw ride.*

October 22 • Longsheng–Guilin

Continue to explore the paths and life of Longsheng until early afternoon. Then, drive to Guilin, world famous for its spectacular karst limestone formations, vertical mountains thrust up from the seabed some 300 million years ago. Eroded over the millennia by water and winds, these picturesque mountains, have provided inspiration for countless Chinese artists. (b,l,d)

- *Accommodations at the Shangri-La Hotel Guilin by the Li River (2 nights)*

October 23 • Guilin (Li River Cruise)

This morning, cruise down the Li River, winding past Mural Hill, Folded Brocade Hill, Crescent Moon Hill, and

many more. The cruise navigates some of the region's most stunning karst formations.

Then take a ride to Liugong & Mushang villages, a gorgeous agricultural valley surrounded by distant karst scenery. Walk into the fields to enjoy another experience of rural China.

In the evening explore lively Xijie (West Street) filled with restaurants, shops, and local inns. Xijie is a home away from home for numerous Westerners and so exudes a cosmopolitan air as well as an invitation for a rollicking good time. After dinner on your own, enjoy Zhang Yi-mo's show "Impressions of Sister Liu." Zhang is a world famous film director and was the creator of the 2008 Summer Olympics Opening Ceremony in Beijing.

After the show, transfer back to your hotel in Guilin. (b,l)

October 24 • Guilin–Hangzhou

In the morning fly to the ancient city Hangzhou, one of the most elegant and beautiful cities in China today.

Tour the elegant Qing dynasty Guo Zhuang Garden and stop by the charming Quyuanfenghe Park.

Tour the grand architectural compound of the Qing dynasty merchant, Hu Xueyan. Countless courtyards lead from one to another, culminating in a grand garden with monumental rockeries and idyllic pavilions.

Dinner is at 7 Longjing Restaurant



West Lake, Hangzhou

where you will enjoy authentic Hangzhou cuisine. (b,l,d)

- *Accommodations at the Shangri-La Hotel by the West Lake (1 night)*

October 25 • **Hangzhou**

Enjoy a gentle hike up Gushan Hill by the West Lake. Traditional architecture, landscape gardens, pavilions and museums line up the hillside with a bird's-eye view of the West Lake and Hangzhou City.

Visit the National Silk Museum and learn the evolution of the ancient Chinese silk art, the process of cultivation, production and refinement.

At lunch time, visit the Meijiawu Tea Plantation and meet tea farmers who continue the ancient art of longjing tea cultivation. Enjoy lunch at the tea farmer's home.

In the afternoon, tour Lingyin Temple, one of the earliest grand Chan Buddhist temples remaining in China today.

Take a boat ride on West Lake and tour the charming gardens on the isles.

In the late afternoon, take the high-speed train to Shanghai, a fun fifty-minute ride! (b,l)

- *Accommodations at the Marriott City Center near the historic Bund*

October 26 • **Shanghai - U.S.**

Transfer to the Shanghai airport for your flight home. Arrive in the U.S. on the same day, or continue on with your post-tour extension. (b, meals aloft)



POST TOUR EXTENSIONS

Customize Your Own China Experience



SHANGHAI - CHINA'S FUTURE

October 26-28, 2017

Stay a bit longer in Shanghai to explore the cosmopolitan wonders that make this city a crossroads between its gilded future and ancient past. Wandering the old French Concession and the modern Pudong district along the Bund, provides a window into China's dynamic future.

Travel Dates for Shanghai Extension

October 26 • Shanghai
October 27 • Shanghai
October 28 • Shanghai - US

Extension Tour \$ 1,050
Single Supplement \$ 495

HUANG MOUNTAINS & HUIZHOU CULTURE

October 26-30, 2017

Explore Huixhou villages and China's crown jewel, the Huangshan Mountains - granite precipices are above cloud level and offer intriguing natural lights as well as the famed Sea of Clouds phenomena.



Travel Dates for Huang Mountains & Huizhou Culture Extension

October 26 • Shanghai - Tunxi
October 27 • Huizhou Villages
October 28 • Huangshan
October 29 • Huangshan - Shanghai
October 30 • Shanghai - US

Extension Tour \$ 1,950
Single Supplement \$ 795



YANGZI RIVER CRUISE

October 26-30, 2017

Experience one of the most scenic journeys through China with a cruise down the Yangzi River. Visit the pandas at Chongqing zoo in their expansive natural enclosures.

Embark for a three day cruise down the Yangzi River, where you will be surrounded by valleys and mountains carved by the rushing waters.

Each day there are special excursions on shore culminating in a visit to the Three Gorges Dam at Sandouping, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world!

Travel Dates for Yangzi River Cruise Extension

October 26 • Shanghai - Chongqing
October 27 • Yangzi River Cruise
October 28 • Yangzi River Cruise
October 29 • Yichang - Shanghai
October 30 • Shanghai - US

Extension Tour \$ 2,250
Single Supplement \$ 890

THE DELIGHTS OF HONG KONG

October 26-29, 2017

With a magical skyline as a backdrop, there is no end to the fascination of this self-styled World City. Museums, nightlife, extraordinary cuisine, endless shopping—life here is like no other place on Earth! Take the tram to Victoria Peak to enjoy panoramic views of Kowloon and the surrounding islands.



Travel Dates for Hong Kong Extension

October 26 • Shanghai - Hong Kong
October 27 • Hong Kong
October 28 • Hong Kong
October 29 • Hong Kong - Shanghai

Extension Tour \$ 2,350
Single Supplement \$ 795



FABULOUS DINING

Savor China's Exquisite Regional Cuisines



China today arguably produces some of the finest cuisine in the world. Given the country's stratospheric economic rise and the emergence of a fun-loving middle class, fine dining experiences are prized in Chinese



society more than ever. A good time in China means nothing if not "to eat well."

The enjoyment of good food will prove to be one of this tour's recurring themes. Every Chinese region defines itself by its cuisine, which means the best way of experiencing China is through tasting its food. Since your tour passes through much of the country, you'll have many opportunities to discover each province's culinary specialties and given the creativity of Chinese chefs, it is unlikely you'll eat any dish twice! Here are just some of the splendid eating establishments that you will enjoy on your trip:

§ **KAILI** - The cuisine of China developed to offer health benefits as well as flavorful experiences and Kaili food is no exception. Their hot and sour soup is renown for its fortifying properties and depth of flavor. Restaurants in the Guizhou province use spicy chili peppers, lending warmth to the body. The large scale of rice cultivation offers many dishes featuring this staple along with the fish that reside in

the paddies! Country cooking offers home style meals of the Dong and Miao cultures!



§ **GUILIN** - The cuisine of this region is a combination of the familiar Cantonese and Hunanese. Speciality dishes often

feature local crops, like taro, and fish from the local Li River, in a dizzying array of culinary techniques. Guilin offers food that is coveted across China. At *Zuoan* you will indulge in dishes inspired by the local love of bold colors and an artistic presentation that compliments the complexity of the dishes.



§ **HANGZHOU** - Hangzhou natives consider their cuisine to be fresh, tender, and with a mellow fragrance. Tea is an important part of Hangzhou culture and is often used in braising meats. At *7 Longjing Road* you will find a variety of comforting dishes utilizing local ingredients including their praised varieties of bamboo shoots.

§ **SHANGHAI** - One doesn't often hear of food being "drunken," but in Shanghai you will commonly find fish, crab and chicken that is pickled, steamed or stir fried in wine and spirits. Characterized as light, mellow, and slightly sweeter than other provincial fare, Shanghai food exemplifies elegance and

delicacy over all else. At *Ding Tai Feng* you will taste some of the city's unique styles of dim sum and at *Dingxiang Garden Restaurant* you will be delighted by the balanced flavors as well as the attractive presentation of ingredients



carefully crafted with an aim towards harmonizing color and shape.

Tour Cost

• Rates are per person and do not include international air:

Main Tour, Double Occupancy **\$5,545**

Single Supplement **\$1,490**

Pre- and Post-Tour Extensions

Beijing & Xian Pre-Tour Extension	\$ 2,150	Single Supplement	\$ 790
Chengde Imperial Resort Pre-Tour Extension	\$ 1,650	Single Supplement	\$ 690
Shanghai-China's Future Post-Tour Extension	\$ 1,050	Single Supplement	\$ 495
Huang Mountains/Huizhou Culture Post-Tour Ext	\$ 1,950	Single Supplement	\$ 795
Yangzi River Cruise Post-Tour Extension	\$ 2,250	Single Supplement	\$ 890
Hong Kong Post-Tour Extension	\$ 2,350	Single Supplement	\$ 795

Round-trip International Air is available through AirTreks. For pricing, please contact AirTreks directly at 415-977-7136 or at china-advocates@airtreks.com.

Private Airport Transfers upon arrival and departure in Shanghai are recommended and available through China Advocates. Call 1-888-333-2585 or email info@china-advocates.com.

Main Tour Includes: • Double occupancy accommodations • All meals listed in itinerary • All sightseeing, entertainment, cultural activities and meals listed in itinerary • Educational lecture program • Airport arrival/departure transfers • Chinese airport taxes • All air and ground transportation within China • English-speaking local tour guides • China Advocates' National Tour Director and gratuities to local guides and drivers on main tour (with a minimum of 10 participants)

Not Included: • Domestic U.S. and international airfare • Gratuities to China Advocates' National Tour Director • Gratuities on extensions • Airport portage • Visa and passport processing fees • Meals not included in the tour • Optional activities not included in the tour • Excess baggage charges • Travel insurance • Items of a personal nature

Tour Reservation Form

The Commonwealth Club

Insider's Southern China, October 14-26, 2017

We require membership in the Commonwealth Club to travel with us. Please check one of the following options:

- I am a current member of the Commonwealth Club.
 Please use the credit card information below to sign me up or renew my membership.
 I will visit www.commonwealthclub.org/membership to sign up for a membership.

Enclosed is a deposit for \$ _____ (\$700 per person) to hold _____ place(s). Please make checks payable to *China Advocates* and mail to the Commonwealth Club Travel at the address below.

Final payment is due on July 16, 2017.

Passport Name/s _____ Birth date _____

Passport Name/s _____ Birth date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home/Office _____ Cell _____

Email 1 _____ Email 2 _____

Optional Extensions: Beijing & Xian Pre-Tour Ext Chengde Imperial Resort Pre-Tour Ext
 Yangzi River Cruise Post-Tour Ext Shanghai-China's Future Post-Tour Ext
 Huang Mountains/Huizhou Culture Post-Tour Ext Hong Kong Post-Tour Ext

Accommodations: Single Double
 I need assistance securing a roommate. I understand that if a roommate cannot be secured for me, I agree to pay the single supplement fee(s).

Bed Request: One Bed Two Beds Smoking Nonsmoking

I/we understand that, by signing below, I/we acknowledge that the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure has been read and accepted.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Credit Card Number for Deposit: _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV Code _____ (*Payments accepted by credit card or check.*)

Signature _____ Date _____

Please fax, email, or mail Reservation Form, with deposit, to:

Commonwealth Club

P.O. Box 194210 • San Francisco, CA • 94119

tel: 415-597-6720 • fax: 415-597-6729 • email: travel@commonwealth.org

TERMS & CONDITIONS

TRAVEL IN CHINA: The schedule will be demanding with moderate physical activity. Travel in China requires good physical condition and health (special needs must be arranged for in advance and may result in additional costs), a spirit of adventure, a flexible attitude, and a sense of humor. The itinerary is subject to change and modification. Every effort will be made to carry out the program as planned, but alterations may still occur. Participants should be aware that no refunds will be made as a result of unforeseen changes, modifications, or delays.

Some aspects of this tour may not be appropriate for travelers with health concerns or disabilities. Tourist travel in China can be extremely strenuous and may be especially debilitating to someone in poor health. Tours often involve walking long distances and up steep hills. China lacks handicap-accessible facilities. Please consult with China Advocates if you have any special needs or concerns.

ELIGIBILITY: Membership in the Commonwealth Club is required to travel on this tour. People who live outside of the Bay Area may purchase a national membership. To learn more about membership types, please visit www.commonwealthclub.org/membership or call (415) 597-6720.

RESERVATIONS: Bookings are subject to the terms and conditions mentioned in these sections. A contract has been entered into as soon as your booking is received and accepted. **To confirm the reservation, a deposit of \$700 per person is required. Final payment is due at 90 days prior to departure and can be paid by check.**

GROUP AIR: A recommended group flight is available through AirTreks. This flight will include airport transfers on both arrival and departure. This flight is subject to availability and prices may vary depending on time of purchase.

AIR: Airline cancellations and penalties are based on each carrier and ticket. Be sure to review these policies before purchasing air tickets via AirTreks. China Advocates, Inc. and The Commonwealth Club are not responsible for any penalties incurred due to airline schedule changes or cancellations.

CANCELLATIONS: *No cancellation is valid until it is received in writing by the office of China Advocates.* Cancellation penalties are based on the date of receipt of written notice and are as follows: **91 or more days prior to departure, a cancellation fee of \$500 per person is retained; 90-46 days prior to departure, \$1,500 per person; 45-31 days prior to departure, \$2,500 per person; 30-0 days prior to departure, no refund is made.**

Cancellation penalties for additional hotel nights, hotel and cruise ship room upgrades, tour extensions, and any special arrangements, are as follows: **50-31 days prior to departure, 25% of cost is retained; 30-0 days prior to departure, no refund is made.**

RESPONSIBILITIES: China Advocates, Inc. and The Commonwealth Club act only as agents for the various carriers for which tickets are provided and assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any train, vessel, carriage, aircraft, motor vehicle or other conveyance, which may be used either wholly or in part, in

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the performance of their duty to the passenger. Neither will they be responsible for any act, error, or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, which may be occasioned by any defect in any vehicles, or through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or for any hotel proprietor, hotel service or restaurant, or for any other person engaged in carrying out the purpose for which tickets or coupons are issued. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, also to decline to accept or retain any passengers as members for the tours. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded. Refunds for unused carrier tickets may be only in accordance with the regulations of the carrier (CST 2064278-40). Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. All legal questions will be settled within the jurisdiction of the County of Nevada City, California.

VISA: To obtain a Chinese visa, a passport is required that is valid for at least six months beyond the duration of the tour. Travelers are responsible for their own visas.

Trip cancellation insurance is highly recommended and available. You will receive travel insurance information once you are confirmed on the program.

Itinerary is subject to modification.

Prices are subject to change without notice.