

SECRETS OF SOUTHERN CHINA – SMALL GROUP GUIDED TOURS

8-days / 7-nights easy to moderate cycling from Hong Kong to Zhaoqing & Yangshou to Guilin
Optional 7-day / 6-night extension to Xian & Beijing



Cycling in China has been a passion of ours for many years. We appreciate the importance of a well-chosen route far away as possible from the maddening crowds and busy roads. We appreciate the value of well-maintained bikes suitable for the terrain; carefully selected accommodation with a focus on traditional Chinese food with regional variations. And we appreciate the knowledge and experience of helpful professional guides backed up by an air-conditioned support vehicle at all times.

Our 8-day program combines cycling with exploration by bus to avoid the crowded city areas and to get a little further off the beaten track. Our itinerary offers stunning scenery and the tranquil beauty of rural China. Parts of the route are a little hilly, as we wind our way along the back roads but we have allowed ample time for this and for sightseeing and to explore pagodas, villages and other highlights.

Cycle past rice paddies and market gardens, through rural villages where schoolchildren still rush out to meet the strangers on two wheels. Relax and you will feel at one with local villagers on your bike.

We travel by express train from Hong Kong into Guangdong Province, collect our bikes and cycle through the ever-changing scenery of southern China. We travel through the region of the Yoa people, visit a UNESCO listed national park and refreshing waterfall, ancient monasteries. We see spectacular karst rock formations – as depicted in traditional Chinese art - including some of the most beautiful along the Li River near Guilin.

Our hotels are carefully selected, mostly good quality 3 or 4-stars and all our rooms have ensuite bathroom facilities. This tour is organized as a guided small group tour with a minimum of 2 people travelling and for larger private groups of 4 – 8 or more guests there are considerable savings.

Departs: **Daily** all year-round from Hong Kong (except first week of May & October)

8-day cost for 8 people: From **\$2210** per person (twin share) Single room supplement \$405

7-day Beijing/Xian extension: From **\$1895** per person (twin share) Single room supplement \$580

8-day cost for 2 people: From **\$4245** per person (twin share) Single room supplement \$405

7-day Beijing/Xian extension: From **\$3140** per person (twin share) Single room supplement \$425

Tour Includes: Accommodation in carefully selected hotels, most meals as listed in the itinerary, guided cycling with support vehicle and sightseeing, luggage transfers, multi-geared bicycle hire and helmet. catamaran from Hong Kong to Gaoming, sightseeing and entry fees as shown in the itinerary, river boat ride, internal transfers, train transfer from Guilin to Shenzhen and Kowloon in Hong Kong.

Extending your stay: We also offer a 7-day / 6-night extension to the cities of Xian & Beijing, which includes flights from Guilin to Xian, a train ride (soft sleeper) Xian to Beijing and a visit to the Terra Cotta Warriors, Qianling Emperor's tombs, Great Mosque of the Silk Road, Tian An Men Square and the Great Wall of China.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested Southern China itinerary:

Day 1 Hong Kong / Zhaoqing

cycling distance @ 40km

Meet at the Ferry Terminal in Hong Kong early to depart by catamaran up the pearl River estuary to Gaoming where you will be fitted with a bike for a ride through rural countryside to Zhaoqing. Overnight in a 3-star hotel (Lunch & Dinner included - LD).

Day 2 Zhaoqing / Longshan

cycling distance @ 45km

We leave town by bus then cycle to Longshan, known as *Little Guilin*, because of the dramatic karst rock formations. The cycling distance is 45km (on quiet roads with little traffic. There are two hill climbs and an undulating route. Overnight in Longshan (BLD)

Day 3 Longshan / Wuzhou

cycling distance @ 40km

In the morning we visit Double Dragon Cave before our ride to Wuzhou. The terrain is again undulating through beautiful and peaceful countryside with one hill climb. We join the bus after lunch to avoid busier roads closer to the town of Wuzhou. After check-in there is free time to explore the old town of Wuzhou. (BLD)

Day 4 Wuzhou / Yangshuo

cycling distance @ 25km

We travel by bus in the morning to Yangshuo, a scenic journey of @ 3 hours or so with stops enroute. After lunch in a small town called Shangzi, we ride to magical Yangshuo where we stay for 2-nights. (BLD)

Day 5 Yangshuo

cycling distance @ 30km

This is the countryside often seen in Chinese painting, a landscape we explore by bicycle, with dramatic towering limestone peaks, lush bamboo and rainforests, the emerald green Li River and many spectacular caves and rock formations including Moon Hill. (BLD)

Day 6 Yangshuo / Guilin

cycling distance @ 40km

After breakfast we cycle to Xingping and board a motorised bamboo raft for a scenic cruise upstream on the tranquil Li River to Guilin. Transfer to a centrally located 4-star hotel, followed by a farewell dinner (BLD)

Day 7 Guilin / Shenzhen

Free day

Today is a free day to explore Guilin at your leisure by bicycle or on foot (lunch at own arrangement). Tonight there is a farewell dinner at a local city restaurant – a chance to sample Guilin's "Three Treasures" and to say goodbye to your guide. (BD)

Day 8 Shenzhen / Hong Kong

Transfer after breakfast to Guilin North Station for the train ride to Shenzhen. Walk across the border into Lowu and take the metro train to Kowloon in central Hong Kong. (B)

Optional extension to include Xian and Beijing:

Alternative Day 8 Guilin / Xian

Explore Guilin until the afternoon transfer to the airport for the flight to Xian (@ 1.5 hours). You will be met in Xian airport and transferred to a centrally located 4-star hotel close to the city walls, Drum Tower and Mosque, starting point of the famed **Silk Road**. Perhaps take a wander to the street markets nearby after dinner. (BD)

Day 9 Xian/Terra Cotta Warriors / Xian

Transfer by coach to the site of the tomb of Emperor Qin to see the world-famous army of Terra Cotta Warriors. We spend the morning exploring this archaeological site, which is still being excavated, then have lunch in the museum restaurant before returning to Xian. In the afternoon we head to Xian's bustling Muslim quarter, lined with market and food stalls, and an opportunity to visit the spectacular and exquisitely colourful Great Mosque. Dinner is in a local restaurant – perhaps choose Muslim specialities. (BLD)

Day 10 Xian

Today's highlight is an unusual one not often offered to overseas tourists. We tour Qianling, the tomb of the Tang Emperor Gaozong and Empress Wuzetian. Located on the summit of Liangshan, the mausoleum rivals the pyramids of Egypt and it managed to escape the tomb robbers over the centuries to retained its treasures.

We can wander among the impressive array of stone statues, including winged horses, ostriches and rose finches, many placed at the front of the tomb to protect it. In the afternoon return to Xian and visit dynamic Wild Goose Pagoda, a 64-metre tall Buddhist pagoda built in classic Chinese architectural style.

For dinner tonight perhaps feast on a traditional banquet of *Jiaozi* including steamed dumplings. (BLD)

Day 11 Xian / Beijing

After breakfast discover Shaanxi province's imperial history at the Shaanxi History Museum. Lunch is at your own arrangements and the afternoon is free for you to go shopping or perhaps to climb Xian's ancient city walls - built to protect the capital from invaders and reflect on Xian's importance as a capital – with views over the city. Evening transfer to the train station for the overnight 'soft sleeper' train ride to Beijing. (BD)

Day 12 Beijing

Arrive in Beijing and transfer to a centrally located 4-star hotel. We visit Tiananmen Square and spend time exploring the treasures of the Emperor's Imperial Palace, the magnificent Forbidden City. (BLD)

Day 13 Beijing / Great Wall Huang Mutianyu / Beijing

Today is devoted to the Great Wall of China at Mutianyu. Walk along the wall, take in the views, and marvel at the enormity of the construction of this futile defence against the Mongol hords to the north. (BLD)

Day 15 Beijing

free day

A day to explore the China's capital. Early morning visit to the Temple of Heaven, and visit the Summer Palace with a boat ride on Lake Kunming. Then free time for last minute shopping or just to relax. (B)

Day 15 Beijing

Tour ends after breakfast. (B) Airport or station transfers are available if required at extra cost – ask for details.



Outdoor Travel offers many small group guided or self-guided inn-to-inn cycling tours in many areas of the UK or Europe, Japan, Vietnam, South Africa, Canada, the USA or in several areas of New Zealand.

Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations

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