



桂林中青旅国际旅游有限公司特色旅游部

**China Expedition Tours, A Division of CYTS International Tours Co., Ltd. Guilin**

## China Storybook Landscape Photography Tour

<http://www.chinaexpeditiontours.com/china-tours/china-storybook-landscape-photography-tour.html>

**Tour Code:** CET-PG01

**Length:** 33 days and 32 nights

**Cities Visited/Stayed:** Shanghai, Guilin, Xi'an, Kunming, Dali, Lijiang, Shangri-la, Chengdu, Jiuzhaigou, Tibet, Beijing

**Highlight Attractions:** Yu Yuan Garden, The Bund, Terraced Rice Paddies at Longji, Li River, Yangshuo, Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum, The Stone Forest, Dali Ancient Town, Jade Dragon Snow Mountain (Yulong Xue Shan), The Ancient Town of Lijiang, Songzanlin Monastery, Potala Palace, Forbidden City, Great Wall, Summer Palace

**Experience & Features:** Old Part of Shanghai, Picturesque Li River Cruise, Beautiful Yunnan, Fairyland-like Jiuzhaigou, Mysterious Tibet, Fancy 798 Photography Art Studio

This tour brings marvelous sceneries in southwest China and offers you lots of opportunities to take great photos. With wonderful landscapes and unfamiliar subjects for your camera lens to feast on, a foreign setting makes your photography tour much more exciting. We begin our tour in Shanghai, which will amaze you by its modern atmosphere and traditional culture and art. Then you will marvel at the magnificent Terrace field in Longsheng, experience a cruise on the world-wide famous Li River through stunning karst landscapes in Guilin. The ancient capital city Xi'an is really a Chinese history book, from which you read all the vicissitudes of this nation's civilization. Then we go to Kunming. The natural sceneries and local minority costumes will add luster to your photographing. How can we miss the heaven-like Jiuzhaigou, there you may be amazed at the splendid water color and wandering for a great time. The highlights of this tour lies on the way to Lhasa in Tibet. Spectacular and fascinating snow-capped Peaks, glaciers, high mountains, wide rivers, unique highland lakes, geothermal springs, vast pastoral areas, magnificent monasteries, and brilliant religious monasteries would run into your camera lens. No time for hesitation, you are warmly welcomed to embrace this memorable tour in China.

### Itinerary

#### Day 1: Shanghai

Our guide will greet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel on your arrival.

Stay overnight in Shanghai.

**Meals:**

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## Day 2: Shanghai

You can enjoy a leisurely breakfast, and then we go to visit the **[Yuyuan Garden]**; it is not only a famous classical garden in south China, but also a major historic and cultural site under state protection. And our second stop is **[Jade Buddha Temple]**, a graceful structure noted for its Buddha statue which is carved from solid white jade and decorated by jewels. Lunch is arranged in a characteristic Shanghai restaurant. Our guide will take you to the **[Outer Bund]** for a grand view of Shanghai. The Outer Bund will make you have the impression that Shanghai is a mixture of both modern and traditions. Having a walk on **[Nanjing Road]** will enable you to purchase lots of international famous brands in this most prosperous commercial street in Shanghai.

Stay overnight in Shanghai.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 3: Shanghai-Guilin

This morning we will go for a stroll on **[Hengshan road]**, where you can take photos and have coffee at one excellent bar. After lunch we drive to the airport for a pm flight to Guilin. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to the hotel.

Stay overnight in Guilin.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 4: Guilin-Longsheng

What waits for you today is Longji, a minority area with magnificent terraced rice paddies. The **[Longji Terraces]** are located in Longsheng County. You may have a chance to take some wonderful pictures of minority people wearing exquisite costumes along the way. When looking afar, rice terraces which are built into the hillsides look like great chains or ribbons as they wind from the foot to the top of the hill. This ingenious project makes full use of the scarce arable land and water resources in the mountainous area. **[Huangluo Red Yao minority village]** is also in our list, and women there all keep their hair to a length of more than one meter. You will be surely marveling at their characteristic red costumes and unique beauty.

Stay overnight in Longsheng.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 5: Longsheng-Guilin**

We will drive to the Longsheng town early this morning. Visiting the local market is a good way to have interesting discovery about daily life of local people. Then we drive to Guilin city. Upon arrival, you are transferred to the hotel; you can enjoy a leisurely afternoon.

Stay overnight in Guilin.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 6: Guilin-Yangshuo**

**[Li River cruise]** is waiting for you today! Cruising downstream with a pleasant breeze greeting, you can sit on cushion comfortably or enjoy the open-air viewing platform. This is a perfect place for you to capture the dramatic landscapes that Chinese artists have been painting for centuries, so make sure that your digital camera have enough capacity. You can enjoy Li River picturesque scenery until you arrive in Yangshuo. Lunch will be served onboard. After a walk on the West Street that reputed as "Earth Village in China", you will find that there are over 300 cafes, restaurants, hotels art crafts and tourist stores, foreign language clubs, internet centers and Kungfu schools in this 600 meters long street. This afternoon you are free at leisure, you can enjoy a coffee time at the West Street, and walking around the small Yangshuo town is also a good alternative.

Stay overnight in Yangshuo.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 7: Yangshuo-Guilin**

There are many shining scenic spots that make the Guilin city unique and beautiful, and we will drive back to Guilin city to discover them after breakfast. The **[Elephant Trunk Hill]** looks like an elephant drinking water from the river and it is the symbol of Guilin, so it is a must for many visitors. We will move to **[Reed Flute Cave]**, one of the most spectacular caves displaying karst geographical formation in various shapes. After the visit, we will continue to the nearby **[South China Sea Pearl Museum]**, where we can learn some knowledge of pearls and have the chance to purchase real sea pearl at competitive prices. A cruise in the city's central area on a water system will absolutely give you a deep impression of Guilin, and we suggest you to experience it after dinner.

Stay overnight in Guilin.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 8: Guilin-Xi'an

Today we drive to the airport for an am flight to Xi'an after breakfast. Xi'an with a long history has served as a capital for thirteen dynasties such as the famous and important Western Zhou, Qin, Western Han, Sui and Tang dynasties, spanning over 1120 years. Besides, it was the oriental cultural center of the Silk Road. When you arrival in Xi'an, you will be met and transferred to the hotel. You can spend the rest of day to explore this ancient city. Today we drive to the airport for an am flight to Xi'an after breakfast. Xi'an with a long history has served as a capital for thirteen dynasties such as the famous and important Western Zhou, Qin, Western Han, Sui and Tang dynasties, spanning over 1120 years. Besides, it was the oriental cultural center of the Silk Road. When you arrival in Xi'an, you will be met and transferred to the hotel. You can spend the rest of day to explore this ancient city.

Stay overnight in Xi'an.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 9: Xi'an

Xi'an, a city with a history of more than 3,000 years, has abundant collection of archaeological relies to express its profound history. This morning we go to visit [**Banpo Museum**], a place where you can see lots of precious unearthed cultural relics and artworks, indicating the prehistoric civilization. [**Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses Museum**] with a location in east of Xi'an city is famous throughout the world for life-sized terra-cotta warriors and horses. Magnificent structure of Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum can be shown from the three pits of the terra-cotta warriors and horses that have been excavated. Later this evening you may choose local special Dumpling Dinner and the Tang Dynasty Music and Dance Show.

Stay overnight in Xi'an.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 10: Xi'an-Kunming

This morning we will go to visit the ancient [**City Wall**] and the [**Provincial Museum**]. There is a striking Tang-Dynasty style pavilion and a large collection of 113,000 historic and cultural artifacts unearthed in Shaanxi. [**Big Wild Goose Pagoda**] is also included in our list; it is one of the most distinctive and outstanding landmarks, possibly is the most beautiful building remains in Xi'an today. And then we take a pm flight to Kunming.

Stay overnight in Kunming.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 11: Kunming-Dali**

Today we go to visit [**Stone Forest**]. Those magnificent stone masterpieces are in various strange and steep intricate formations, and it is the countless complicated vistas make Stone Forest (Shi Lin in Chinese) won the name of "First Wonder of the World". It is a waste of time if you do not visit the Stone Forest while visiting Kunming. Later this afternoon we will drive to Kunming Train Station to catch an overnight train to Dali after dinner.

Stay overnight on train.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 12: Dali**

You will be picked up by your guide at Dali Train Station in the morning and be transferred to your hotel in the Old Town. The rest time in the morning is at your own disposal. After lunch, we set out to visit a typical sight of Dali-the [**Three Pagoda Temple**]. Three ancient independent pagodas makes up of this scenic spot, forming a symmetrical triangle, which is distinct in China. And they are one of the most significant and majestic wonders in Dali and look magnificent. [**Dali ancient Town**] is our second stop. The city layout is five main streets from south to north and eight main streets from east to west. Meanwhile, marketplaces were neatly arranged within the city, which has remained unchanged in modern times. Traditional Bai ethnic minority folk houses can be seen everywhere, which give us a different feeling from any other Chinese city. Besides, walking on the cobble-paved streets around Bai ethnic minority traditional folk houses would be very impressive. The grey-green roof tiles, peculiar workshops, temples, schools and churches with an antique flavor would be a precious part of our memory. You can enjoy a free walk to take some photos.

Stay overnight in Dali Old Town.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 13: Dali-Lijiang**

This morning we will leave for Lijiang by private car, van or bus after lunch. The drive journey lasts roughly 3.5 hours. The beautiful scenery on the way will enable you to relax while also take some photos. You will arrive in Lijiang before dinner time.

Stay overnight in Lijiang.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 14: Lijiang

Regarded as the Venice of the Orient with its dizzying array of water canals, quaint bridges and cobble-stoned streets, Lijiang was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997. You can explore the ethnic charm, historical milieu and architectural landscape of the Old Town of Lijiang. This morning we go to the **[Jade Dragon Snow-capped Mountain]**. After you get there, you will find a fabulous picture composed of skyscraping snow-capped peaks and its reflections in interlaced rivers flowing under the old town. Viewed afar, the snow-capped range resembles a silver dragon with snow curling up its middle. You will see rich forest, herb and animal resources thriving on the mountain and a giant tram cart up here is the highest in China. We will take cables to climb the mountain and it is believed that you will be absorbed in the distinct scenery.

Stay overnight in Lijiang.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 15: Lijiang-Shangri-la

We will depart for Shangri-la by private car, van or bus after breakfast. Since it is a long drive, you will have a lunch stop on the half way. You will find out that the scenery along the way is fantastic. You will arrive in Shangri-la before dinner time.

Stay overnight in Shangri-la.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 16: Shangri-la

**[Songzanlin Monastery]**--a spiritual hub for people to discover the mystery and traditions of Tibetan Buddhism, so today we will visit this famous Tibetan style Buddhist temple in China. This scenic spot is attractive to tourists because they can enjoy the view and will be lucky to take photos of girls wearing exquisite Tibetan costumes holding perfectly white fluffy lambs against the imposing mountains and blue sky. And then we will move to the **[old part of the town]**; a **[Tibetan family visiting]** is included as well. In Tibet, you can not only see the houses built in distinctive religious styles influenced by Buddhism but also can taste Tibetan specialties of yak butter tea, local yogurt and Tibetan barley. This afternoon is on your own to walk around. Visiting the local market is a good way to make you get to know more about local people's daily life.

Stay overnight in Shangri-la.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 17: Shangri-la

Today we will have the opportunity to visit [**Bitahai Lake**] which lies in the east of Shangri-La County of Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and we drive 32 kilometers from Zhongdian County to there to enjoy a feast of sceneries. And it is widely recognized as "A Pearl on the Plateau" and the most attractive lake in Shangri-La. As the highest lake in Yunnan Province, it is over 3500 meters (about 3828 yards) above sea level. Bitahai Lake is well-known for its peaceful water and intoxicating scenery with mountains embracing it and forests encompassing it. The surrounding mountains are also full of azaleas, so you can see those bloom flowers in late spring and early summer each year. The wind carries the petals down into the lake and the fish rise to the top, vying with each other to eat them. These petals are slightly poisonous and the fish become lethargic and slothfully, intoxicated by the flower's chemicals. This is an enchanting scene, known to the locals as "fish drunk by azalea". You are required to either walk or ride a horse around the lake to take photos to preserve the delicate, natural harmony of the area.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 18: Shangri-la-Kunming-Chengdu

You take a morning flight back to Kunming, and another flight followed from Kunming to Chengdu. Upon arrival, your guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel. The rest of the day is free at leisure. Sampling the famous Sichuan cuisine will be a good choice for you. You can get to know more about the local culture by shopping and having tea at a teahouse because they afford you a deeper understanding of Chengdu.

Stay overnight in Chengdu.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 19: Chengdu-Jiuzhaigou

Today we drive to Chengdu Shuangliu airport to take a flight to Jiuhuang airport in [Jiuzhaigou area]. We will immediately [**take a coach to Muni scenic area to see the Zaga Waterfall**] upon arrival, and you will discover marvelous pictures can be taken from there. It takes you about two hours to hike along that area. Afterwards, we will drive to Jiuzhaigou; we check in hotel and relax.

Stay overnight at Jiuzhaigou.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 20: Jiuzhaigou

**[Jiuzhaigou Scenic Area]** is waiting for us today! We will visit the **[Shuzheng Valley]**, **[Rize Valley]** and **[Zechawa Valley]**. Shuzheng Valley is considered as the epitome of Jiuzhaigou, which covers 40 various lakes. Since Shuzheng Lakes locates at the entrance place, so you'll appreciate these dream-like views first. Then we head for Rize Valley which is the most attractive part of Jiuzhaigou. There are 18 separated amazing lakes and the Nuorilang Waterfall are in this valley. Zechawa Valley has not only seasonal lakes, but also snow-capped peaks because it enjoys the highest altitude during your Jiuzhaigou tour. Lakes, waterfalls, beaches, water currents, snow peaks, virgin forests are the best manifestations of natural beauties that you can enjoy.

Stay overnight at Jiuzhaigou.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 21: Jiuzhaigou-Chengdu

Today we will drive to the airport for a flight to Chengdu city in the morning. Upon arrival, the rest of the day is free on your own to explore this leisure city of China. We take a walk to Tianfu Square to see Chairman Mao's marble statue, and then we go to People's Park, or we will have a sip of Chinese green tea in the tea house where there are many nice alternatives. Markets and street hawkers fill the streets dealing in everything make the street full of life. The products are beyond your imagination, ranging from snakes and snails to fortunes and foot scrubs. A hotpot dinner will make you know what real Sichuan spicy food is. Sichuan brocade, embroidery and lacquer ware are famous souvenirs.

Stay overnight in Chengdu.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 22: Chengdu-Linzhi-Bomi

Early this morning we will drive to the airport for a flight to Linzhi. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to visit the huge **[cypress forest]**, one cypress tree is more than 2600 years old. We will go to **[Nulang forest]** to take photos in summer time. The boundless forest will make you linger on and unwilling to leave. Later we drive to Bomi.

Stay overnight in Bomi.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 23: Bomi-Ranwu

What waits for us is the **[Ranwu Lake]**-the headstream of one branch of Yaluzangbu River. North of the lake is ancient glaciers which spread their way to the bank of the lake. Green grassland and colorful azalea flowers

as well as boscaje can be seen there. On top of the mountain is rolling snow peaks that never melt all the year round. It is believed that the picturesque scenery will remove your tiredness away. You can enjoy a great time to take photos. Later we drive back to stay at one hotel in Ranwu.

Stay overnight in Ranwu.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 24: Ranwu-Midui Glacier-Bomi**

We will take photos of the sunrise in Ranwu Lake early this morning. Then we drive to **[Midui Glacier]**. There are two waterfalls which are divided by a primitive forest. The Midui village is beautiful and mysterious with its rural scenery. The most beautiful and fabulous scenes of Chuangzang highway lie along the way from Ranwu to Bomi. We will stop several times halfway for you to take photos.

Stay overnight at Bomi.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 25: Bomi- Namjag Barwa -Bayi Town**

This morning, let's drive to the **[Namjag Barwa]** to appreciate the magnificent snowy peaks! Namjag Barwa is considered as the Saint Girl Peak of Tibet due to its highest peak in Lizhi District. You will surely be shocked by what you see here. Then drive to Bayi Town.

Stay overnight in at Bayi Town.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## **Day 26: Bayi Town-Basongcuo-Lhasa**

We will drive to Lhasa this morning, but on the way we will get off and pay a visit to **[Basongcuo Lake]** which has the reputation as small Swiss in Tibet. The lake is about 12 kilometers (about 39 370feet) long with an area of more than 6 thousand Mu (about 988 acre). Snowy mountains are reflected in the crystal water. There are Buddhist sculptures on the island in the middle of the lake. Afterwards, we drive to Lhasa. You can spend the rest of the day to explore the city.

Stay overnight in Lhasa.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 27: Lhasa

A visit of [**Potala Palace**] is waiting for us this morning. The Potala Palace was originally built by King Songtsen Gampo 1,300 years ago in Tang Dynasty (618-907AD); and Potala is the name of the place, which means residence of the Goddess of Mercy in Tibetan language. White Palace (administration building) and the Red Palace (religious building) makes up of this palace, covering an area of more than 130, 000 square meters (about 32 acre). Tourists are attracted to come to this grand site to appreciate complicated architectures, dedicated atmosphere and exquisite artworks. After lunch, we visit the [**Sera Monastery**]-one of three most famous monasteries in Lhasa. Afterwards, we will pay a visit to the [Norbulingka Park]-the Summer Place of Dalai Lamas, where they handle political affairs and hold festival celebrations.

Stay overnight in Lhasa.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 28: Lhasa-Namucuo

After breakfast, we will drive to heaven lake--[**Namucuo**] with a location in Dangxiong town; this scenic spot and the sky naturally compose a massive painting. Those grotesque rocks and caves make the scenery so special and fantastic. The stretching Tanggula Snowy Mountain and those colorful long narrow flags along with the charming Namucuo Lake display an astonishing picture in front of you. A hot spring bath is available to you when we pass the Yangbajin area (you'd better to take your swimming suit along, because it's really expensive to buy it at the site). You can just enjoy yourself by the bright sky with diamond like stars.

Stay overnight at Namucuo.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 29: Namucuo-Lhasa

Early this morning we go and [**watch the sunrise**] at Namucuo, and we drive back to Lhasa city. This morning we visit the [**Jokhang Temple**], the ultimate pilgrimage destination for dedicated Pilgrims. [**Jokhang Temple**] not only displays architectural styles of the Tang Dynasty and but also holds the mysterious legends. The flourishing [**bazaar of Barkhor Street**] is also a must-see place for the tourists. Barkhor Street which locates in the old area of Lhasa City is an ancient style street full of stalls of exquisite articles, and you may be amazed at delicate handicrafts and be happy to purchase some. Next we will continue to the [**Tibet Carpet Factory**], one of the remarkable enterprises in Tibet mainly producing traditional Tibetan Carpet which are hand-made, in beautiful pictures and excellent quality. Those elegant and colorful carpets are nice decorations

since every item is unique. Here you can purchase them at competitive prices with various choices. You will have your dinner in your hotel.

Stay overnight in Lhasa.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 30: Lhasa-Beijing

You can enjoy a leisurely breakfast this morning, and you can spend your morning time to walk around and take photos of local minority and the exotic buildings. After lunch, we go to the airport for a flight to Beijing --the capital of China. The rest of the day is for you to relax and prepare for the next day's tour. Your trip to Beijing will be perfected by trying the crispy and tasty Peking duck dinner, therefore, we highly recommend a featured dinner for you at one famous restaurant—Quanjudu.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 31: Beijing

After breakfast, let's pay a visit to the **[Temple of Heaven]**, which is a complex of buildings, gardens, and pathways. Its organization indicates relationship between Earth and heaven. **[Tian'anmen Square]** with a location in the central axis of old Beijing is one of the largest city squares in the world; we will visit it first in this morning. Then we go to the **[Forbidden City]**--Imperial palaces for the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties. There are 800 ceremonial buildings, 9,999 rooms, and a courtyard that can hold 100,000 people in the city. The well- preserved ancient Chinese architectural styles here can provide you an imposing view. Later the day, we will drive to the **[798 Photography Art Studio]**. You can look around, admire those photos in the studio, or talk to artists, and enjoy yourself on those wonderful photos.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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## Day 32: Beijing

"He who has never been to the Great Wall is not a true man" is a famous saying in China. This morning we will drive to the **[Jinshanling Great Wall]**, the less developed and commercial section of the Wall. Even though this historic construction is a little dangerous to climb because it winds up and down the precipitous ranges, the splendid views will make your journey worth it. You can enjoy taking fabulous pictures of the imposing Great Wall.

Stay overnight in Beijing.

**Meals:** (B, L)

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### **Day 33: Beijing-Departure**

**[Summer Palace]**, one of China's architectural masterpieces is waiting for us today, and the beauty of the Summer Palace is very impressive. The pavilions, kiosks, terraces, bridges, dikes, corridors are delicately crafted and placed, well displaying the thousand-year old Chinese landscape gardening. Profound philosophical and aesthetic traditions of Chinese are contained in this scenic spot. Our tour ends after a farewell lunch. You can arrange your time as your own until you are ready to be transferred to the next destination or for your departure.

**Meals:** (B, L)



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