



Guilin Yangsuo Yulong River

GUILIN TRIP PLANNER

China Highlights, Discovery Your Way (Since 1959)!

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Contents

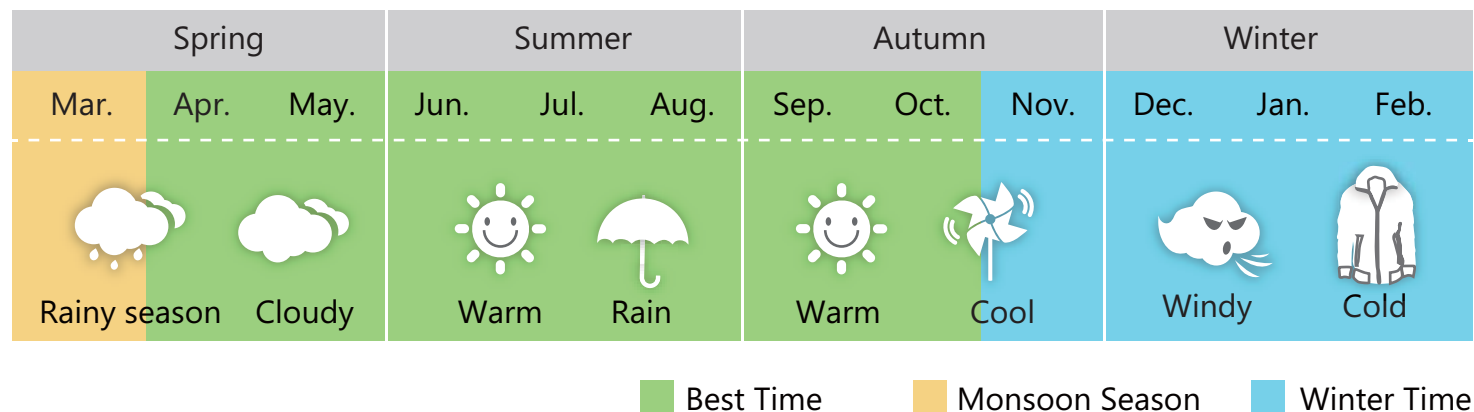


Guilin Li River

- When to Go
 - Seasonal Weather and What to Pack
- How to Get to Guilin
- Where to Stay in Guilin
- What to See in Guilin
 - The Classic Guilin Itinerary
- Dining in Guilin
 - Best Local Restaurants
 - Shopping in Guilin
 - Nightlife in Guilin
- Practical Advice
 - Transportation in Guilin
 - Money Exchange
 - Visa Extension
 - Business Hours
 - Tipping
 - Toilets
 - Electricity
 - Communications
 - Learn Some Chinese
 - Tourist Traps
 - Security
 - Medical Emergency
 - Useful Phone Numbers

When to Go

When to go largely depends on one's vacation time, budget, weather preferences, and whether you consider high prices and crowds worth overcoming to see Guilin during festival time.



Best Time to Visit: April – October

Low Travel Cost Season: November–February. Winter in Guilin is typically cold and damp, but can be dry and even warm.

High Travel Cost Season: April–May, September–October. These months in Guilin have the most comfortable weather and the most beautiful scenery.

Least Desirable Travel Periods: Spring Festival (in late January or early to mid-February), Labor Day holiday (1–3 May) and National Day holiday (1–7 October). Millions of Chinese are on the move during the three holidays.

Seasonal Weather and What to Pack

Guilin is a city located in the north of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, which enjoys a subtropical monsoon climate.

March–May: Spring is the beginning of the rainy season (April to July) in Guilin. The weather is humid and it can still be cold. Prepare warm coats and sweaters in your pack. Light rain coat or umbrella is also necessary.

June–August: Guilin's summer is hot and wet. T-shirts and shorts are enough. Take an umbrella in case of rain. Sunglasses, hat, long sleeve shirt, and sun cream may be needed to protect you from the burning sun.

September – November: Autumn in Guilin is pleasantly mild and dry. Be mindful of the big difference in temperature between day and night. Prepare a jacket, sweaters, long shirts and pants. Locals consider the weather dry enough to require lip balm.

December–February: Guilin winters rarely have snow, except on the high mountains, like Longsheng, but it feels very cold with the dampness. It's alternately damp and chilly or warm/cool and dry. A down jacket or overcoat, along with thermal underwear, is needed on many days for protection against the cold.

@ More on [Guilin weather and seasonal things to do](#)

How to Get to Guilin

Guilin Liangjiang International Airport has plenty of domestic flights from most main cities in China. If Guilin is your first destination in the mainland of China, then you can choose Hong Kong or Guangzhou as a nearby transfer airport. There is one direct flight from Hong Kong to Guilin every afternoon.

- ◆ **Airport:** Guilin Liangjiang International Airport
- ◆ **Airport Code:** KWL
- ◆ **Chinese name:** 桂林两江国际机场
- ◆ **Location:** The airport is 30 km west of downtown Guilin
- ◆ **Address:** Liangjiang Town, Lingui County, Guilin City
- ◆ **Chinese address:** 桂林市临桂县两江镇
- ◆ **Airport Inquiries:** 86- 0773-3808888

@ More on [Guilin Transportation](#)

Where to Stay in Guilin

When choosing a hotel, consider the hotel's (star) rating, price, and location. First choose the area where you want to stay. Then compare the prices and ratings for that area.

As a long-standing Guilin-based tour operator, China Highlights offers the best hotel booking service. Below are some recommended hotels in Guilin.

Best Five-Star Hotels:

- ◆ Guilin Shangri-la Hotel
Ranked #2 on Trip Advisor
- ◆ GLY Royal Palace
Ranked #3 on Trip Advisor
- ◆ Lijiang Waterfall Hotel
Ranked #5 on Trip Advisor
- ◆ Guilin Sheraton Hotel
Ranked #7 on Trip Advisor

Best Four-Star Hotels:

- ◆ Guilin Bravo Hotel
Ranked #6 on Trip Advisor
- ◆ Guilin Park Hotel
Ranked #17 on Trip Advisor
- ◆ Grand Link Hotel Guilin
Ranked #31 on Trip Advisor

Best Budget Hotels:

- ◆ Guilin Eva Inn
Ranked #14 on Trip Advisor
- ◆ Guilin Sapphire Hotel
Ranked #19 on Trip Advisor

Best Boutique Hotels:

- ◆ Jing Guan Ming Lou Holiday Hotel
Ranked #8 on Trip Advisor

@ More [Guilin Hotels](#)



Guilin Shangri-la Hotel



GLY Royal Palace



Lijiang Waterfall Hotel



Guilin Sheraton Hotel

What to See in Guilin

Guilin is famous for its natural scenery. The highlights here are the hills, rivers, and caves of the stunning karst landscape, and the ethnic culture in Longsheng. There are hundreds of attractions in Guilin. The most famous attractions in Guilin are the Li River, Yangshuo and the Longji Terraced Fields.

@ More [Guilin attraction](#)

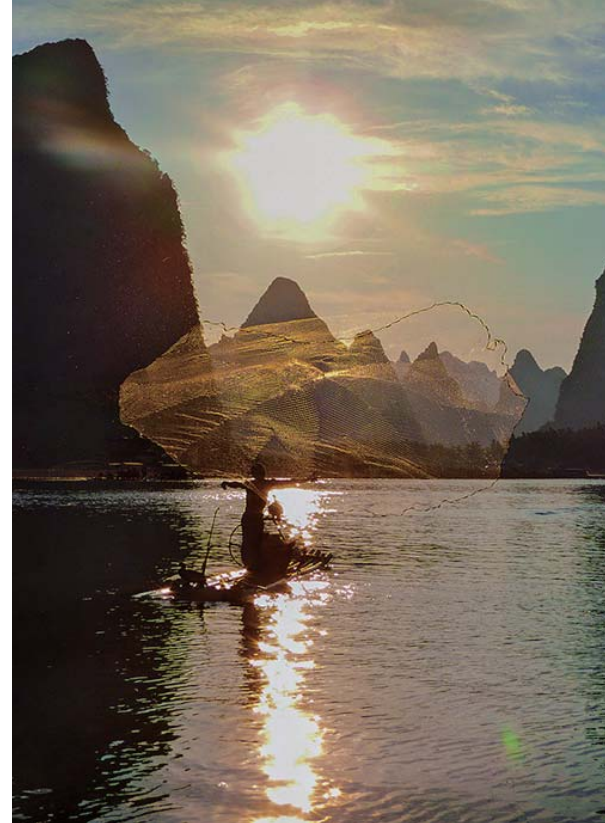
The Classic Guilin Itinerary

Three days are enough if you only want to see the karst landscapes. A recommended itinerary is as follows:

- ◆ **Day 1:** Sightseeing in Guilin
- ◆ **Day 2:** Li River cruise to Yangshuo
- ◆ **Day 3:** Yangshuo's countryside



Guilin City in the evening



Guilin Yangshuo fishing



The terrace of Longsheng

If you want to explore the ethnic culture in Longsheng as well, you will need a day or two more.

China Highlights' travel experts are glad to help you tailor-made a Guilin tour based on your special interests and requirements, or see our [Guilin tours](#).

- @
- ◆ [Li River Cruises](#)
 - ◆ [Longji Terraced Field Tours](#)
 - ◆ [Yangshuo Tours](#)
 - ◆ [Hiking Tours](#)
 - ◆ [Photography Tours](#)
 - ◆ [Day Tours](#)

Dining in Guilin

Guilin cuisine is characterized by its sour and spicy taste. There is a moderate use of spices, particularly chili. The common cooking methods of Guilin cuisine are stir-frying and steaming. Fresh natural ingredients are used in Guilin dishes, including some wild plants and animals which are rarely eaten in the West. Western food is also available in Guilin. It's not hard to find Western restaurants in the popular tourist areas of Guilin and Yangshuo.

Some local Chinese restaurants and most Western restaurants have English menus. If you have special dietary requirements, it's advisable to get e.g. your guide or hotel staff to write them down in Chinese.



Guilin Rice noodles



oil tea

Best Local Restaurants

Chunji Roast Goose Restaurant

- ◆ **Chinese name:** 椿记烧鹅
- ◆ **Opening hours:** 10am– 9:30 pm
- ◆ **Address:** 2 Zhongshan Middle Road, Xiufeng District
- ◆ **Chinese address:** 秀峰区中山中路2号
- ◆ **Telephone:** 0773- 2806188, 0773- 2856188



McFound Restaurant

- ◆ **Chinese name:** 麦香坊餐厅
- ◆ **Opening hours:** 10:30 am – 10 pm
- ◆ **Address:** 7 Xinyi Road, Xiufeng District
- ◆ **Chinese address:** 秀峰区信义路7号
- ◆ **Telephone:** 0773 – 2858866



Guilin Congee City

- ◆ **Chinese name:** 桂林粥城
- ◆ **Opening hours:** 24 hours
- ◆ **Address:** 3 North Shanhu Road, Xiufeng District
- ◆ **Chinese address:** 秀峰区杉湖北路3号
- ◆ **Telephone:** 0773-2828172



Best Western Restaurants

Rosemary Café

- ◆ **Chinese name:** 迷迭香餐厅
- ◆ **Opening hours:** 10:30 am – 11:30 pm
- ◆ **Address:** 1-1 Yiren Road, Xiufeng District
- ◆ **Chinese address:** 秀峰区依仁路1-1号
- ◆ **Telephone:** 0773-2810063



Left Bank Restaurant

- ◆ **Chinese name:** 左岸餐厅
- ◆ **Opening hours:** 11:30 am – 11:30 pm
- ◆ **Address:** Zhengyang Pedestrian Street, Xiufeng District
- ◆ **Chinese address:** 正阳步行街体育馆旁二楼
- ◆ **Telephone:** 0773-2882259



American Grill and Pizza

- ◆ **Chinese name:** 佐格西餐厅
- ◆ **Opening hours:** 11:00 am – 9 pm
- ◆ **Address:** Unit D3, Shangshui Street, 15 Binjiang Road
- ◆ **Chinese address:** 滨江路15号尚水街D3门面
- ◆ **Telephone:** 0773-8999922



@ More popular [restaurants recommended by China Highlights](#)

Shopping in Guilin

Big department stores in the city center and many convenience stores will meet your daily shopping demands. At night the night market in Xicheng Road sells all kind of souvenirs. Remember to bargain when shopping at the night market.

@ More on [Guilin Shopping](#)



Zhengyang Pedestrian Street

Nightlife in Guilin

Nightlife in Guilin is colorful and relaxed. You can visit the night market in the downtown or have beer in a bar on the pedestrian street. Walking along the lakes or taking a lake cruise at night is popular. If you're going to stay in Yangshuo overnight, then the Impression show is a must-see.

@ More on [Guilin Nightlife](#)



Night Cruise on the Two Rivers and Four Lakes

Practical Advice

Transportation in Guilin

Most attractions in downtown can be reached by public buses. For some in the suburbs, you should take a taxi. There are many buses to Yangshuo and Longsheng every day from Guilin Bus Station and Guilin Railway Station.

China Highlights offers private chauffeured transport as a more comfortable and convenient alternative to public transportation. Our private tours come with a private vehicle and driver suited to your group size, and an English-speaking tour guide for all your communication needs.

@ More on [Guilin Transportation](#)



Guilin Liangjiang
International Airport



Li River cruise ship



Two Rivers Four
Lakes cruise boats

Money Exchange

In Guilin most hotels, shops and restaurants only accept yuan. A few tourist shops and restaurants accept US dollars. The Bank of China is the only bank providing currency exchange, with branches at the airport and on the main streets of Guilin. Some hotels also exchange currency, but the rate is a little worse than the Bank of China.

Visa Extension

If you want to extend your visa in Guilin, you should go to the foreign section of the Guilin Public Security Entry and Exit Bureau for visa extension. Thirty-day tourist visa (L) extensions are usually issued.

The Guilin Public Security Entry and Exit Bureau

- ◆ **Chinese name:** 桂林出入境管理处
- ◆ **Address:** 16 Shijiayuan Road, Qixing District
- ◆ **Chinese address:** 七星区施家园路16号
- ◆ **Telephone:** 0773-5829930
- ◆ **Working Hours:** 8:30am–12pm, 2:30pm–5:30pm, weekdays

Business Hours

Chinese government establishments work eight hours a day, five days a week. Business hours are generally set between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm. Most shops and restaurants are individual businesses. They work more than eight hours a day including weekends, many opening and closing late. Most banks also work mornings on weekends.

Tipping

Tipping is an issue among travelers to China since it is not a part of the culture. We suggest you tip in the following situations as an acceptable politeness as well as bonuses for service providers.

- ◆ When a bell boy delivery your luggage to your room
- ◆ When your private driver finishes his service
- ◆ When your tour guide finishes his/her work
- ◆ When dining at a large expensive hotel or other exclusive restaurant

Toilets

Toilets in hotels and airports are usually well kept Western ones. Most public toilets are free and only provide squatting stalls (and urinals). Always carry your own toilet paper.

Electricity

Electricity in China is 240 volts, alternating at 50 Hz. Some hotels can provide adaptors for guests, but it's better to bring one by oneself.

Communications

Internet: Most hotel rooms offer Wi-Fi or an internet cable for your laptop. Guilin Airport and a number of cafés and restaurants also provide free Wi-Fi.

China Highlights offers [Portable Wi-fi Rental](#) so that you can surf the internet anytime and anywhere while traveling in China.

Telephone: China's country code is (00)86 and Guilin's code is (0)773

Making a phone call from China to your home country: Dial 00 + your country code + the usual phone number (less the opening 0).

Making a long distance phone call within China:

- ◆ **Landline Call:** Dial area code + local phone number
- ◆ **Cell Call:** Dial 0 + cell phone number (if in the same province drop the opening 0)

China Highlights offers Cell Phone Rental to help you keep in touch (and save money on local offers).

Learn Some Chinese

When in Guilin, it's really helpful and practical to learn some Chinese phrases since English is not widely spoken.

Local Customs


Smoking: Smoking in public is very common in China, and Guilin is no exception. Most hotels provide non-smoking rooms. Now more and more restaurants and stores are becoming non-smoking ones.

Spitting: Spitting can still be seen regularly, though in some public areas there is a fine for offenders.

Lines: The Chinese are learning to be patient and stand in line, but sometimes you still find people jumping the queue. Politely let them know that you are waiting in line and they will probably give way to save face.

Crossing the Road: It is difficult to cross the street in China for those who are new to China. People in China cross the street anywhere they want, not necessarily on the zebra crossings. We recommend visitors cross the street on the zebra crossing when the green light is on, because the drivers usually slow down there, though not necessarily stop. If there is no traffic light on the street, then try to join the flow of people. More people are more likely to get the traffic to stop and force a crossing.

Tourist Traps

Visitors can more easily be cheated in a foreign city. Note some tourist traps help you to avoid them. [Click here to see how to avoid tourist traps.](#) 

Security

Most foreign travelers feel very safe when traveling in Guilin, but occasionally theft occurs. Take care of your valuables when touring. Keep your passport with you all times (a money belt or zipped pocket is safer) and keep a copy of your passport separately in case of loss. If you lose something or are the victim of a crime, you should dial 110 to call the police immediately.

Medical Emergency

The People's Hospital is the only hospital which has a "foreign medical qualification".

Hospital: Guilin People's Hospital

◆ **Chinese name:** 桂林市人民医院

◆ **Address:** 12 Wenming Road

◆ **Chinese address:** 桂林市文明路12号

◆ **Telephone:** 86-0773-2820816

◆ **Ambulance:** 120

Useful Phone Numbers

◆ **Police:** 110

◆ **Fire:** 119

◆ **Hospital:** 120

◆ **Traffic Accident:** 122

◆ **Weather:** 121