

David Harradine **Photography & Training**

2008 China Photo Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Sunday September 21 - Melbourne to Beijing

CX134	21/9	MEL-HKG	CATHAY PACIFIC	07:40/15:05
CX312	21/9	HKG-PEK	CATHAY PACIFIC	16:45/20:00

On arrival in Beijing we will be transferred to our hotel.

ACCOMMODATION Marriott Hotel

Day 2 Monday September 22 - Beijing

Average temperatures in September 13 c – 27 c

Breakfast at hotel.

Sightseeing: Temple of Heaven, Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square.

Today we visit the biggest central square in the world - Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the largest and best-preserved imperial palace complex, as well as the largest sacrificial complex in the world - the Temple of Heaven.

Evening: Welcome Dinner - Peking Duck.

ACCOMMODATION Marriot Hotel

Day 3 Tuesday September 23 - Beijing

Breakfast at hotel.

Morning: Free time.

Afternoon: Drive to Simatai Great Wall to view sunset via cable car.

About 120 kilometers from Beijing, the Great Wall at Simatai has 35 beacon towers and it is the only part of the Great Wall that still has the original appearance of the Ming Dynasty.

ACCOMMODATION Inn at Simatai

Day 4 Wednesday September 24 - Beijing

Morning: View sunrise at Simatai Great Wall on foot.

Afternoon: Drive back to Beijing for Hutongs Tour and lunch.

The history of hutongs, "water well", can be traced back to Yuan Dynasty (1271 - 1368) when Beijing was the capital. After the establishment of Yuan authority, the nobles and heroes were awarded pieces of land as feudal estates where they actively built houses and courtyards that were arranged in order around water wells.

Evening: Acrobats Show.

Chinese acrobatics is one of the oldest performing arts tracing back to Neolithic times. It is believed that acrobatics grew out of labour and self-defence skills which people practised and demonstrated in their leisure time.

ACCOMMODATION Marriott Hotel

Day 5 Thursday September 25 - Beijing/Guilin

Breakfast at hotel.

Afternoon: Transfer to airport for flight to Guilin (schedules TBA).

In Chinese, Guilin literally means "Forest of Osmanthus". The use of the flowers are varied, sun dried they are used to make herbal teas or used in local cooking as flavorings. Guilin is surrounded by green mountains, crystal clear waters, unique caves and beautiful stones and the many restaurants and cafes around the superb city lake give it a European feel.

City tour, including Elephant Trunk Hill and Fubu Hill.

The shape of Elephant Trunk Hill is just like a huge elephant drinking water from the river with its trunk. Water Moon Cave is between the trunk and the legs and the inverted reflection of the cave in water plus the part above forms a full moon.

Fubu Hill reaches 213 meters and emerges 62 meters above the water. Since the galloping water is always blocked here, the hill is considered to have the power of subduing waves. Natural scenery of rocks and stalactites as well as artificial cloister and pavilions compose the fantastic and unique sight of the hill.

Evening: Free time.

ACCOMMODATION Park Hotel

Day 6 Friday September 26 - Guilin

Average temperatures in September 21 c – 32 c

Breakfast at hotel.

Morning: Reed Flute Cave Tour.

Reed Flute Cave got its name from the verdant reeds growing outside it, with which people make flutes. Inside this water-eroded cave is a spectacular world of various stalactites, stone pillars and rock formations created by carbonate deposition. Illuminated by colored lighting, the fantastic spectacle is found in many variations along this 240-meter-long cave.

Afternoon: Photoshop Lightroom workshop to view, discuss, improve and manage our images so far.

Evening: View the Gold and Silver Pagodas on the lake.

ACCOMMODATION Park Hotel

Day 7 Saturday September 27 - Guilin/Yangshuo

Breakfast at hotel.

Morning: Depart 9am for Li River Cruise.

The Li River cruise from Guilin to Yangshuo provides breathtaking scenery. Stunning karst peaks tower over the river and we pass tranquil farming and fishing villages. The unique and magical beauty of this region has inspired artists and poets for centuries. Lunch will be served on the boat before our arrival in Yangshuo.

Afternoon: Arrive at Yangshuo approx. 4:30pm.

Evening: Dinner in West Street Yangshuo.

West Street is the street that locals call the 'Global Village'. There are not only many foreign tourists, but also quite a number of foreign residents managing cafés and restaurants. The exotic flavours, combined with the traditional culture, make the West Street world famous.

ACCOMMODATION Paradise Hotel

Day 8 Sunday September 28 - Yangshuo

Average temperatures in September 19 c – 29 c

Morning: Depart Yangshuo at 4:00AM for drive to Xingping for private boat tour to Yangti to view sunrise and cormorant fishing. Boxed breakfast provided by hotel.

Located 27 km from Yangshuo, Xingping is an ancient town with a history of more than 1300 years. Apart from the well-preserved Ming Dynasty architectures, which dominate the town, and fine wood carving dating back to more than five hundred years, Xingping boasts some of the best natural scenery around the area.

Afternoon: Back to Xingping for lunch and free time to explore town, then back to Yangshuo.

Evening: Free time.

ACCOMMODATION Paradise Hotel

Day 9 Monday September 29 - Yangshuo

Breakfast at hotel.

Yangshuo is surrounded by towering limestone karsts which give it a breath-taking beauty while over 1,400 years of history endow it with a deep traditional culture. The diverse ethnic minorities enrich it with special folk cultures represented by their various festivals. Streets in Yangshuo are kept in the original style, presenting the simple and primitive atmosphere of the ancient town.

Morning: Free time.

Afternoon: Photoshop Lightroom workshop to view, discuss, improve and manage our images so far.

Evening: Impression Lui San Jie Performance.

This is a non-traditional beyond-stage performance. Famous Chinese film director Zhang Yimou together with artist groups from minor ethnic groups in Guilin has jointly produced the show. The stage setting is Nature, namely Li River and the surrounding beautiful landscape of Yangshuo. Some 600 performers including fishermen and young singers mainly from the five villages along the river take part in the show.

ACCOMMODATION Paradise Hotel

Day 10 Tuesday September 30 - Yangshuo/Guilin

Morning: Up early for drive to Banyan Tree in Yangshuo to view sunrise then back to hotel for breakfast.

The Banyan Tree is 17 meters high, 7 meters around the trunk, and covers an area of 1000 square meters. Enduring wind and rain for thousands of years it has beautifully twisted roots and gnarled branches. A scene from the famous movie Liusanjie was filmed here.

Afternoon: Travel by road to Guilin for tour of Seven Star Park.

Seven Star Park covers an area of more than 120 hectares. The park is endowed with elegant mountains, clear water, miraculous stone forest, deep and serene valleys, plentiful animals and plants and valued cultural relics. The main sights contain Flower Bridge, Putuo Mountain, Seven Stars Cave, Camel Hill, Crescent Mountain, Guihai Stele Forest and Light of China Square.

Evening: Free time.

ACCOMMODATION Park Hotel

Day 11 Wednesday October 1 - Guilin

Average temperatures in October 16 c – 27 c

Breakfast at hotel.

Morning and Afternoon: Free time.

Evening: Transfer to Guilin airport for flight to Hong Hong.

KA701 01/10 GUILIN-HKG 21:25 – 22:55

ACCOMMODATION Metropark Kowloon Hotel

Day 12 Thursday October 2 - Hong Kong

Average temperatures in October 23 c – 29 c

Breakfast at hotel.

Morning: Full day Lantau Island tour.

Tsing Yi Lookout, Po Lin Monastery and lunch, bronze Buddha, cable car to Ngong Ping village. Lantau Island is the largest island in Hong Kong. We visit the famous Po Lin Monastery and enjoy a vegetarian lunch prepared by the monks. View the world's tallest seated, outdoor bronze Buddha sitting atop 268 steps. We take a stunning 5.7-km cable car ride up a mountainside to Ngong Ping Village - the 25-minute journey offers breath-taking panoramic views encompassing the airport, South China Sea, lush mountains and valleys, and the awe-inspiring Giant Buddha statue.

Evening: Free time.

ACCOMMODATION Metropark Kowloon Hotel

Day 13 Friday October 3 - Hong Kong

Breakfast at hotel.

Morning: Victoria Peak Tour plus one way by the Peak Tram.

High above Hong Kong Island on the 'back of the Dragon', Victoria Peak Hong Kong's premier visitor attraction, providing magnificent harbour and city views. The best way to get to the top is via the Peak Tram, a funicular railway that carves a steep 373-metre swathe up the lush mountainside. The tram has been in operation since 1888.

Afternoon: Photoshop Lightroom workshop to present and discuss our final selection of images.

Evening: Farewell Dinner: Bauhinia Dinner Cruise.

A luxuriously built restaurant cruiser which sails along the Victoria Harbour. We will be treated to a fabulous buffet dinner complemented by the spectacular night view of the harbour.

ACCOMMODATION Metropark Kowloon Hotel

Day 14 Saturday October 4 - Hong Kong/Exit flight

Breakfast at hotel.

Morning: Free time and late checkout.

Afternoon: Transfer to airport for exit flight to Melbourne.

CX315 4/10 HKG-MEL CATHAY PACIFIC 19:15 - 06:20 +1
Arrive Melbourne 06:20 Sunday October 5 2008