

Welcome to Guangxi

Embark on a Journey of Discovery
through Liuzhou, Guilin,
and Yangshuo

October 31st – November 4th, 2024

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bci promoting
international friendship
through bonsai



**13th Liuzhou Viewing Stone Festival &
the 1st BCI International Landscape Bonsai Invitational Convention**
Register at www.bonsai-bci.com/liuzhou

Guangxi's unique geographical features and natural beauty make it an ideal place for viewing stones and landscape bonsai. The region's karst topography and abundant river systems provide a rich source of rare stones, each with distinct shapes and patterns highly valued by collectors. Additionally, the lush vegetation and varied terrain offer endless inspiration for creating intricate and beautiful bonsai landscapes. The integration of these natural elements into the art of bonsai highlights the deep connection between Guangxi's environment and its cultural heritage, making it a central hub for enthusiasts and artists alike.

Overview of the Tour

Join us for an unforgettable journey through the heart of Guangxi, exploring the rich cultural heritage and stunning natural beauty of Liuzhou, Guilin, and Yangshuo. This tour is part of the **13th Liuzhou Viewing Stone Festival & the 1st BCI International Landscape Bonsai Invitational Convention**, bringing together enthusiasts and artists from around the world to celebrate the art of viewing stones and landscape bonsai. The convention and tour run from October 31 to November 4, 2024, featuring a blend of exhibitions, demonstrations, and scenic excursions.



Highlights of the Tour

Liuzhou: Discover the industrial and cultural hub of Guangxi, known for its rare stones and dynamic urban landscape. Enjoy a boat trip along the scenic Liu River and explore Longtan Park. Liuzhou's rich deposits of unique and beautiful stones have made it a key destination for viewing stones, and its diverse natural landscapes inspire stunning landscape bonsai creations.

Guilin: Renowned for its breathtaking karst landscape, Guilin is a must-visit destination. The tour includes a visit to the iconic Elephant Trunk Hill, where you can marvel at the natural beauty and cultural heritage of this scenic area. Guilin's picturesque scenery has inspired artists and poets for centuries, making it a highlight of the tour.

Yangshuo: Nestled along the banks of the Li River, Yangshuo is famed for its outdoor adventures and vibrant cultural scene. Experience the stunning views of the Li River and the charm of West Street.

By connecting these beautiful locations, the tour not only highlights Guangxi's scenic wonders but also emphasizes Liuzhou's significance as a destination for viewing stones and landscape bonsai. Enjoy the rich interplay of natural beauty and artistic tradition in this unique region of China.



Liuzhou: The Heart of Guangxi

Liuzhou, located in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of southern China, is a vibrant city known for its rich cultural heritage and breathtaking natural beauty. As a major industrial center, Liuzhou offers a fascinating blend of traditional charm and modern dynamism. Stroll through the city to explore ancient temples, bustling markets, and scenic riverside parks. Liuzhou's diverse culinary scene is a delight, offering everything from local specialties to international cuisine.

Geography and Climate

Nestled on the banks of the winding Liu River, Liuzhou is surrounded by picturesque karst mountains and lush green hills. The city enjoys a subtropical monsoon climate, characterized by mild winters and hot, humid summers, making it a comfortable destination year-round.

History

With a history dating back over 2,100 years, Liuzhou has been an important cultural and commercial center since ancient times. The city

served as a significant military and administrative hub during various dynasties, including the Tang, Song, and Ming. Its rich historical heritage is reflected in numerous ancient buildings, traditional gardens, and cultural relics.

Culture

Liuzhou is famous for its rare stones and is recognized as the "Capital of Rare Stones in China," making it a key destination for viewing stone and landscape bonsai conventions. The city boasts a vibrant cultural scene, deeply rooted in the traditions of the Zhuang, Miao, and Dong ethnic groups. Festivals such as the Dragon Boat Festival and the Zhuang Singing Festival are celebrated with great enthusiasm, showcasing traditional music, dance, and folk art. The city is also known for its colorful minority costumes and lively local markets.

Cuisine

Liuzhou is famous for its distinctive cuisine, which combines flavors from various ethnic traditions. A must-try dish is Luosifen (river snail rice noodles), known for its unique and pungent flavor. Other local specialties include Niubie (fried beef with wild herbs), Shuiyoudui (oil pile), and various river fish dishes. The city's bustling night markets offer a delightful culinary adventure for visitors.



Industry

Liuzhou is a major industrial hub in Guangxi, with a diverse economy that includes automotive manufacturing, machinery, metallurgy, and chemical industries. Its robust industrial base has earned it the nickname “The Detroit of China.”

Key Attractions

Lotus Cave Science Museum: This museum offers a fascinating glimpse into prehistoric times, showcasing artifacts and fossils from the Paleolithic era. It provides valuable insights into early human history and the development of ancient civilizations in the region.

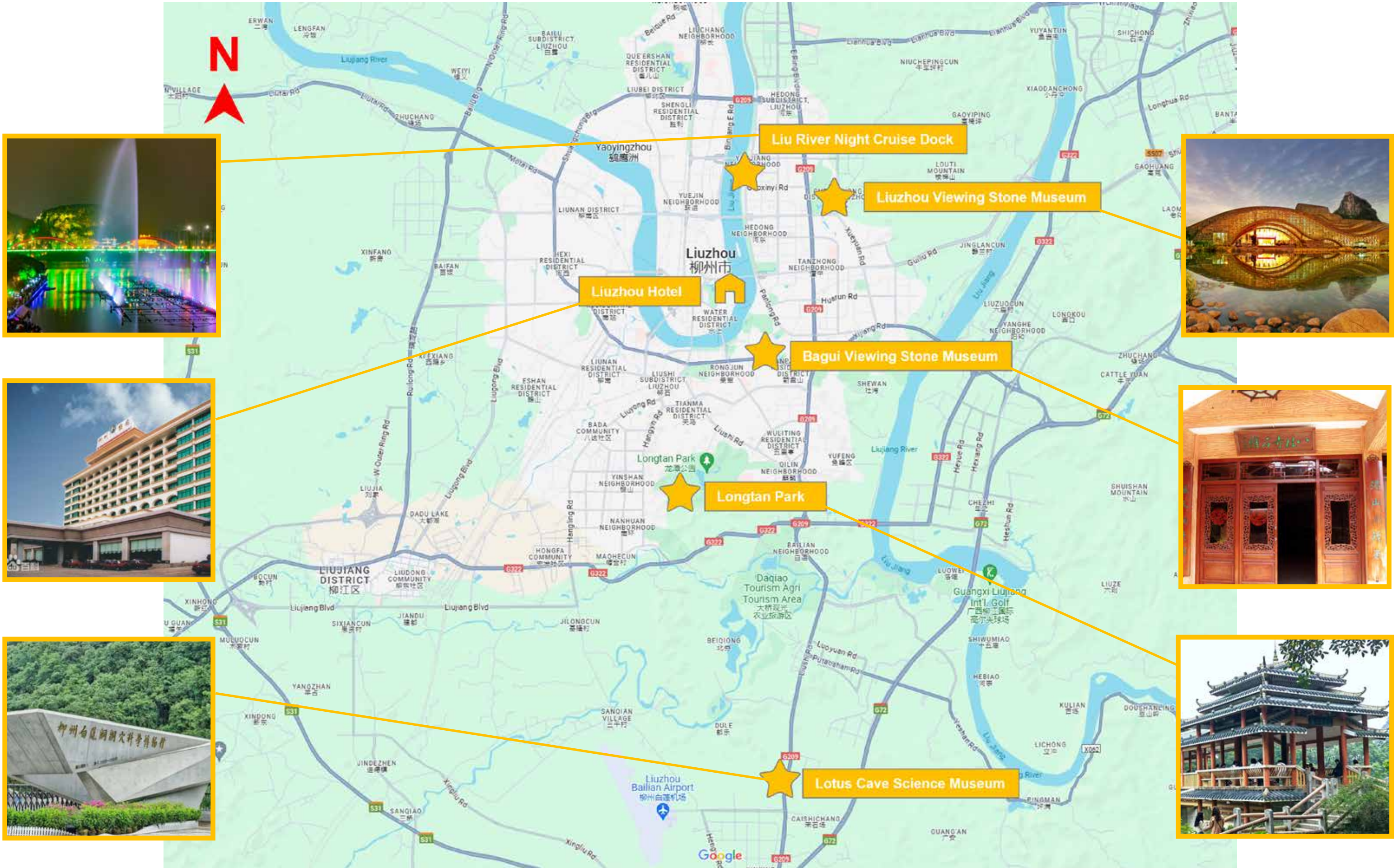


Longtan Park (Dalongtan Scenic Area): A picturesque scenic spot featuring karst natural landscapes, highlighting the ethnic customs culture of the south, and integrating subtropical karst plant science and landscape.



Liu River: The lifeblood of Liuzhou, the Liu River winds through the city, offering scenic views and a peaceful ambiance. A boat trip along the Liu River allows visitors to experience the beauty of the river's clear waters, lush banks, and the vibrant cityscape from a unique perspective.





Guilin: The Finest Mountains and Rivers Under Heaven

Guilin, a picturesque city located in the northeastern part of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, is renowned for its spectacular setting among the jagged-peak limestone karsts that surround it. Often described as possessing “the finest mountains and rivers under heaven,” Guilin has been a source of inspiration for poets and artists for centuries. The city’s unique geography, characterized by dramatic limestone peaks and serene water bodies, offers an enchanting escape for nature lovers and adventure seekers alike.

Geography and Climate

Guilin lies on the west bank of the Li River and is surrounded by mountains. The region enjoys a subtropical climate with mild winters and

hot, humid summers. The best time to visit is in the spring and autumn when the weather is pleasant, and the natural scenery is at its most vibrant.

History and Culture

Guilin’s history dates back over 2,200 years to the Qin Dynasty (221–207 BC), with a rich cultural tapestry woven from the influences of various dynasties. The city has served as a significant cultural and political center throughout its history. Its name, which means “Forest of Sweet Osmanthus,” comes from the abundant fragrant osmanthus trees found in the area.

Cuisine

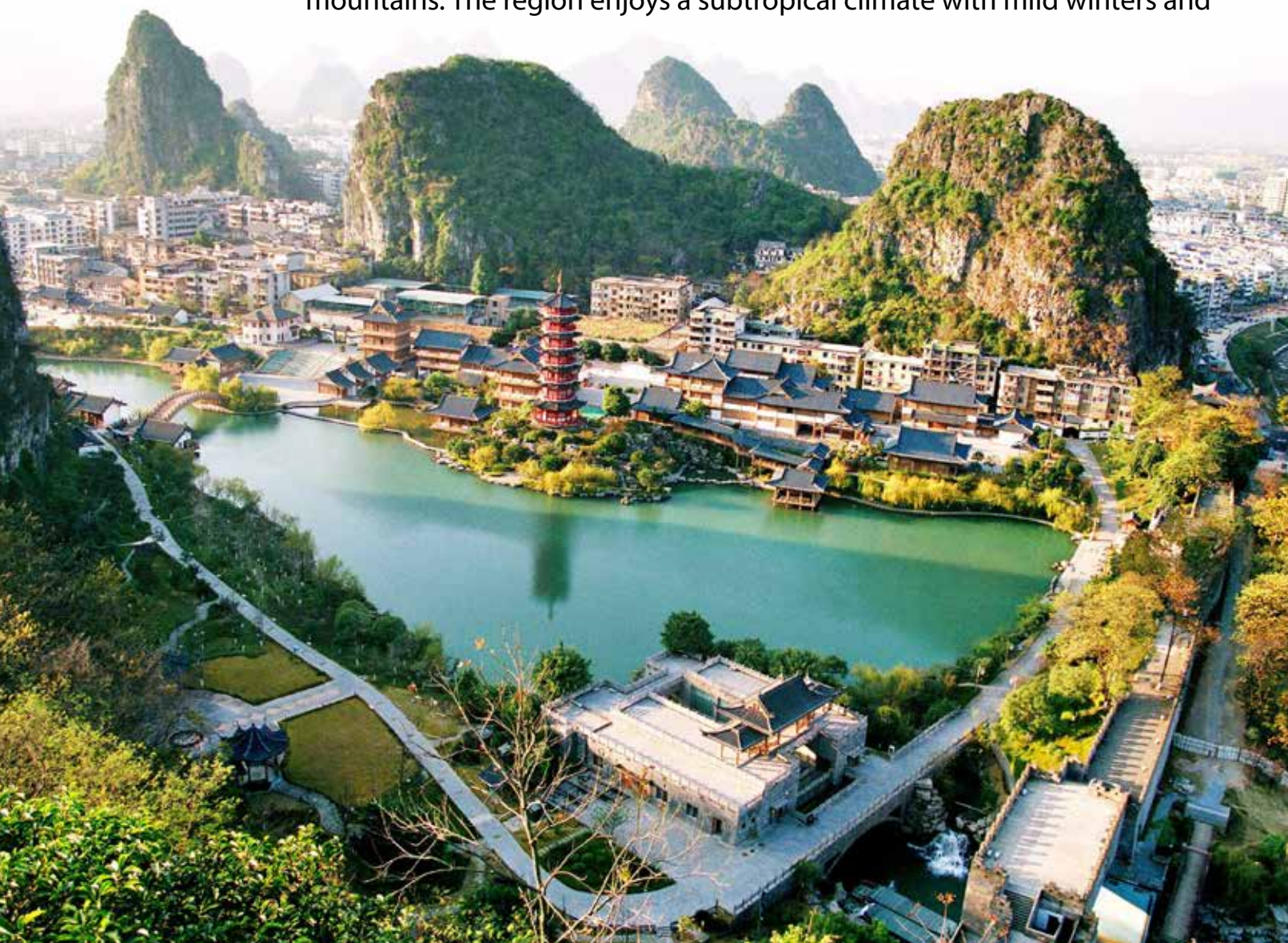
Guilin is also famous for its unique culinary offerings. One of the most famous dishes is Guilin Rice Noodles, a staple enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. The city’s cuisine is known for its bold flavors and the use of fresh, local ingredients.



Key Attractions

Elephant Trunk Hill: Elephant Trunk Hill is the emblem of Guilin, situated at the confluence of the Li River and Taohua River. This iconic natural formation resembles an elephant dipping its trunk into the water, creating a captivating sight that has inspired countless legends and artistic works. The semi-round cave situated between the “trunk” and the “body” of the elephant is called Water Moon Cave, offering picturesque views of the river through its arch.

Puxian Pagoda: Puxian Pagoda is a 16.3-meter-high solid brick pagoda with Tibetan style, first built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 AD). Located at the peak of Elephant Trunk Hill, the construction of Puxian Pagoda coincides with the fact that Puxian is depicted riding an elephant.



Yangshuo: A Picturesque Paradise

Yangshuo, a county located in the northeastern part of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, is a picturesque town renowned for its stunning karst mountain landscapes, clear rivers, and vibrant cultural scene. Nestled on the banks of the Li River, Yangshuo is a top destination for travelers seeking natural beauty and outdoor adventures.

Geography and Scenic Beauty

Yangshuo is famed for its dramatic karst peaks and tranquil countryside. The town is surrounded by a unique landscape of limestone hills, lush greenery, and winding rivers, making it a paradise for nature lovers and photographers. The area offers numerous outdoor activities such as rock climbing, cycling, hiking, and bamboo rafting, providing visitors with endless opportunities to explore its scenic beauty.



History

The establishment of the county dates back over 1,400 years. In the 1980s, the county became popular with foreign visitors engaging in backpacker tourism, and organized tours began by the late 1990s. At that time, domestic tourists represented only a small fraction of the county's visitors, but they outnumbered foreign tourists by 2005. Today, the county is a resort destination for both domestic and foreign travelers and has become one of China's gold-ticket draws.

Cuisine

Yangshuo is renowned for its delicious and diverse cuisine. The local food scene is a blend of traditional Guangxi flavors and international influences. Must-try dishes include Beer Fish, made with fresh fish from the Li River cooked in a savory beer sauce, and Yangshuo Niang, a unique traditional food with stuffing. The bustling West Street, also known as "Foreigner Street," offers a variety of dining options, from local delicacies to Western cuisine, catering to all tastes.

Key Attractions

Xingping Town: One of the oldest towns along the river, Xingping is renowned for its well-preserved architecture and charming, narrow streets. The town offers stunning views of the river and surrounding mountains, especially from the scenic viewpoint known as the "20-Yuan Note View" due to its depiction on the Chinese currency.

West Street (Xi Jie): Known as the heart of Yangshuo, West Street is the oldest street in the town, dating back over 1,400 years. It is a lively and bustling area filled with shops, cafes, and restaurants, offering a mix of traditional and modern experiences.



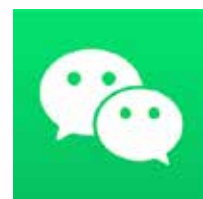
Travel Tips & Practical Information

Pre-Download Essential Smartphone Apps

When traveling in China, it's important to be aware that Google services, including Google Maps and Google Wallet, may not be available unless you have a VPN. To ensure a safe and convenient journey, we suggest downloading the following apps before your trip:

Payment Apps (MUST HAVE):

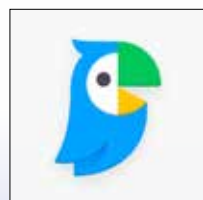
Setting up these apps will allow you to experience the convenience of cashless payment in China. These apps provide easy registration for international visitors and accept various types of debit and credit cards.



Alipay: Alipay is a widely used mobile payment app in China that allows you to pay for everything, from shopping and dining to transportation and attractions.

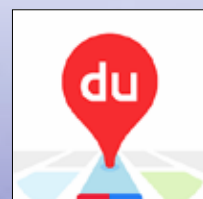
WeChat Pay: Integrated with the popular WeChat messaging app, this payment system is also commonly accepted across China.

Translation Apps:



Install translation apps such as **Naver Papago** and **DeepL** on your phone. These apps support translation between multiple languages, including Chinese and English. They also offer a camera translation feature for signs and menus.

Navigation Apps:



Baidu Map and **Gaode Map** are the recommended apps for navigation. These apps are widely used in China and provide detailed maps, public transportation routes, and traffic updates.

Travel Apps:

Install these apps for online travel booking and ride-hailing. Payment within these apps is connected to Alipay and WeChat Pay.

Ctrip (Trip.com): Useful for booking flights, trains, hotels, and tours within China.

DiDi: The equivalent of Uber & Lyft in China, DiDi is a convenient app for hailing taxis and ride-sharing services.

Packing Reminder

Comfortable Clothing and Shoes: Bring lightweight, breathable clothing for daytime activities and a light jacket for cooler evenings. Comfortable walking shoes are essential for exploring scenic areas and city streets.

Rain Gear: Pack an umbrella or a lightweight raincoat, as the weather can be unpredictable, especially in mountainous regions.

Sun Protection: Use sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat to protect yourself from the sun, particularly during outdoor tours.

Travel Adapters: China uses Type A, C, and I power outlets. Ensure you have a universal travel adapter to charge your electronic devices.

Personal Medication: Bring any necessary medications, as well as a basic first aid kit for minor ailments. Medications are also available at pharmacies in cities along the route.

Local Emergency Numbers

110 for police

120 for medical emergencies



Convention Ticket Pricing:

\$350 for non-BCI members

\$310 for BCI members

Note: Prices include lunches, dinners, lodging and tour costs from October 31 to November 4, 2024. Register on the BCI website at <https://www.bonsai-bci.com/liuzhou>.

For any questions or inquiries regarding the convention, registration, or travel advice, please feel free to reach out to Oscar NG via email or WhatsApp.

Email: oscar.ng@pck.com.cn

WhatsApp +852 51671350
or search this QR code

