



Culture Week



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📍 China - Guilin

Come face to face with China and say ni hao! This introductory week is the first step towards a great experience in a new country.

It is designed so that you can begin to understand the Chinese ways of doing things. It is a fun filled week that is dedicated to getting to know China and some of its cultural aspects first hand. You will also get time to meet the local people, bond with fellow participants, taste the local cuisine and become familiar with the Chinese customs.



Program Description

Given its objective – learning about traditional, rural Chinese culture, it is appropriate that this week takes place in Guilin's rural Fengyan village. There are many opportunities to immerse yourself in the culture with visits to local villages, a Confucius temple and a Guan Gong temple, local fairs and some amazing natural scenery sites.

Whilst it has the longest written history in the world, and despite its staggering economic performance and entry onto the world stage, as heralded by the Beijing Olympics, China remains an enigma to many.

Of all Asian countries, it is perhaps the least understood. This program takes you beyond the headlines that appear in the Western press, away from politics, away from the big cities and the normal tourist attractions.

It takes you into the traditional lives of the rural communities. It helps you to understand their culture and everyday activities. It takes you beyond hearing about the issues of 'face' and 'guanxi' to a real understanding of what they mean. You will visit an old traditional house – but also understand its deep significance within the land reforms.

You will go to the Confucius temple, not just to look, but to understand what it meant and how it felt to be the number one scholar in the Emperor's examinations and you will experience the route through the temple that only he could travel.

You will learn how to make dumplings, taste oil tea, and learn the rudiments of the language, practice calligraphy, as well as some of the rituals. Through a range of activities: learning sessions, visits, sightseeing and hands-on practical cooking/craft sessions, you will gain a deeper appreciation for what China gave, and continues to give, to the world.

But we also focus on developing a practical understanding of everyday China, beyond its cultural roots. It is the ideal start point for anyone visiting China.

It is a programme developed and delivered by Chinese people after careful research into what westerners really want to know. You will be with both Chinese and Westerners; discussing cultural differences not in an academic sense but in reality.

There is only one rule: if you want to know anything - ask!

Program Duration & Availability

Min duration (weeks): 1
Max duration (weeks): 1

Aims & Objectives

- Give you a real insight into authentic Chinese culture
- Get you to feel comfortable in your new surroundings
- Help you learn phrases and understand the culture you will be engaging with

Schedule

Monday

Your day begins with a a tour of Fengyan village and its ancient house. Fengyan, a Yao People village with more than 400 hundred-years history and has some houses with 150+ years, traditional Yao's house. After that you will go to climb a mountain in the village where you can see sea of persimmon trees. In the afternoon you will have a Chinese language lesson and a session about Chinese philosophies on life and local taboos. During the evening you can learn how to play Mahjong, Chinese chess or watch a Chinese movie.

Tuesday

In the morning you will visit a local family and learn how to make oil tea, which is called Chinese coffee, then enjoy a traditional breakfast of Yao people. A Taichi lesson starts your day. After that you'll take part in a culture session focusing on Chinese festivals. Then there is a visit to Hongyan village during the late afternoon, we will climb mountains and do some bamboo rafting in the village. During the evening you can learn how to play Mahjong, Chinese chess or watch a Chinese movie.

Wednesday

Here we dive into Chinese lesson, where you will learn how to buy and bargain in Chinese right after breakfast, then we will go to Lianhua town. While there, you will explore the town and do some shopping in local market with the Chinese you just learned! A Chinese food culture session is due after lunch where we will discuss the diversity of Chinese food. After that you will try to make dumplings or Baozi, and learn how to cook some Chinese food.

Thursday

We begin with a Chinese songs lesson in the morning, followed by a Chinese Calligraphy lesson. In the afternoon we will take our learning outside as we visit the Confucius and Guangdong temples and walk along the Cha river. Also, you will visit Gongcheng YAO People's Museum and learn the history/culture, folk of it. After the visiting you will have free time and can go to supermarket for shopping. During the evening you can have a self-organized BBQ in the center.

Friday

After your another Chinese language lesson we'll take part in some Chinese paper crafting! Today's afternoon is quite free, for you to relax, or to prepare for any weekend excursions you may like to take part in!

This schedule can be changed and/or amended depending on weather conditions, local conditions and unforeseen circumstances.

Starting Dates

During 2019

This program starts every week.

During 2020

This program starts every week.

Participant Criteria & Requirements

Minimum age:	-
Maximum age:	-
Minimum English level:	Basic
CRB required:	On Signup
Passport copy required:	No
Resume copy required:	No
Required qualification:	None

Additional Requirements

There are no specific requirements for this program.

Additional Equipment

- Good shoes for the mountain walks