

# Guilin Travel Guide book



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# Guilin Overview

Guilin  
Travel Guide  
book

Guilin, located in the south of China, is labeled as "the rural side of China". Enjoying the praise of "the finest scenery under heaven", Guilin is one of the top destinations in any China Tour.

## Need to Know

**City name:** Guilin(桂林)

**Time zone:** UTC +8

**Area code:** 0773

**City districts:** 6 districts, 1 county-level city, 8 counties and 2 autonomous counties

**Electricity:** 220V/50Hz

**Population:** 5.34 million

**Zip code:** 541000

Xiufeng District	Diecai District	Xiangshan District
Qixing District	Yanshan District	Lingui District
Yangshuo County	Lingchuan County	Quanzhou County
Xingan County	Yongfu County	Guanyang County
Ziyuan County	Pingle County	Lipu County-level City
Longsheng Multinational Autonomous County	Gongcheng Yao Autonomous County	

### Main railway stations:

Guilin (South) Railway Station, Guilin North Railway Station, Guilin West Railway Station

**Main airports:** Guilin Liangjiang International Airport

**Taxi fare:** There is a 9 yuan charge for the first 3km and 1.9 yuan per kilometer thereafter. From 11 pm to 6 am, the initial charge rises to 11 yuan and 2 yuan per additional kilometer thereafter.

## Emergency contacts

**Fire:** 119

**Police:** 110

**Medical emergency:** 120

**Traffic accident:** 122

**Guilin tourist information hotline :**0773 - 2800318

**Guilin tourist complaint hotline:** 0773 – 2800315

## Guilin

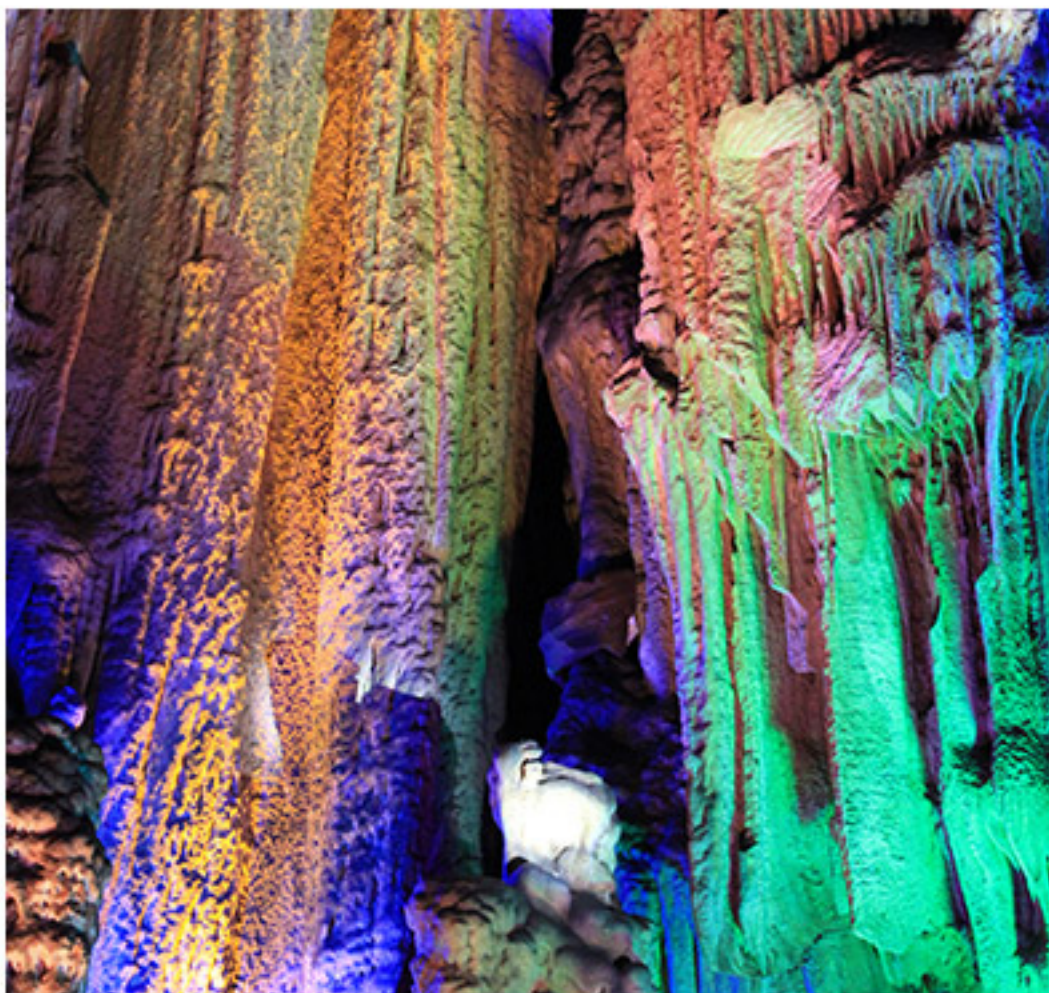
### 1. Li River (漓江)

Li River Scenic Area is the biggest and the most enchanting Karst tourist site of the world. Li River, highlight of sightseeing during any Guilin tour, originates from Mao'er Mountain, its most picturesque section is the part flowing through Guilin to Yangshuo. Taking a Li River Cruise in Guilin is must-do in your trip here.

### 2. Elephant Trunk Hill (象鼻山)

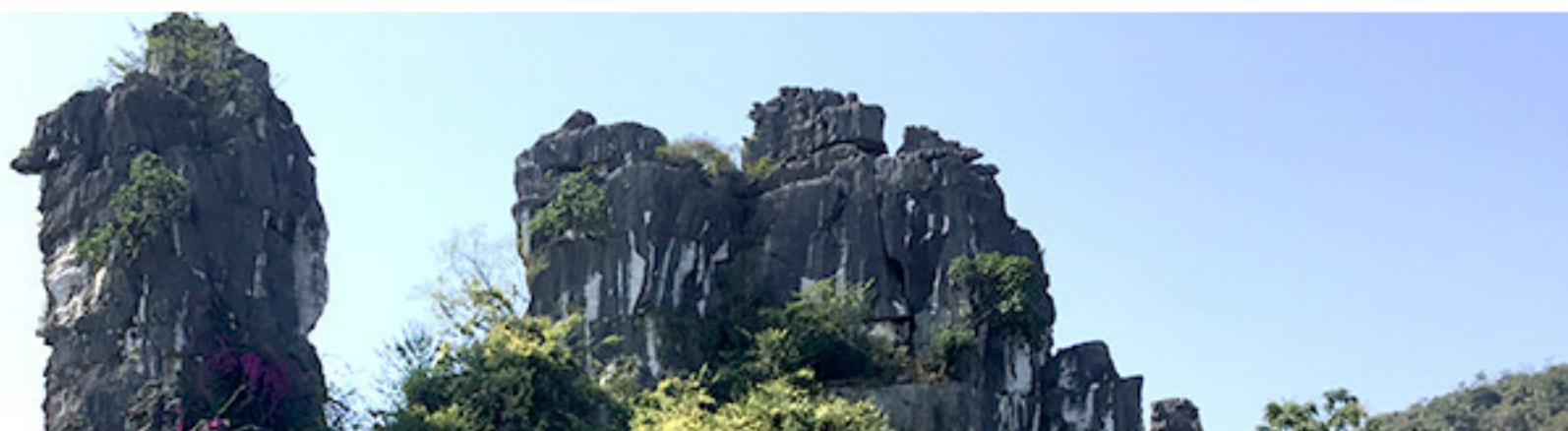
Elephant Trunk Hill is the symbol of Guilin City. It looks like a giant elephant standing at the conjunction of the Li River and Peach Blossom River and drinking water with its trunk, hence the name. It is the masterpiece of karst landscape. There are also many historic inscriptions on the hills. The hole formed by its body and trunk are named Shuiyue Cave.





### 3. Reed Flute Cave (芦笛岩)

Reed Flute Cave, is a famous karst cave with various majestic stalactites and stalagmites. The cave offers fantastic karst landscapes and rural sceneries. The stalactites and stalagmites are in different shapes such as pillars, curtains, birds, plants, tigers and so on, making it a forest of stones.



### 4. Seven Star Park (七星公园)

Covering an area of 134 hectares, Seven Star Park is the biggest park with the best natural environment in Guilin. Seven Star park named after the deep mountain, it brings the Camel Peak, Putuo Mountain, Seven Star Cave, Crescent Hill and Guilin Forest of Steles, etc., is a must visit place for tourist.



## 5. Two River & Four Lakes scenic area(两江四湖)

Two Rivers and Four Lakes scenic area refers to the round-the-city water system composed of Lijiang River, Peach Blossom River, Ronghu Lake, Shanhu Lake, Guihu Lake and Wooden Dragon Lake. It is a project integrating all the highlights of Guilin scenery. The Sun and Moon Twin Towers, new landmark of Guilin, is located in the heart of Shanhu Lake and regarded as the tallest underwater tower in the world.



## 6. Guilin Yao Mountain (桂林尧山)

Yao Mountain lies in the east of Guilin, 12 km from the downtown. The highest peak is 903.3 meters high and is the highest hill in Guilin. Yao Mountain is well-known for changeable and colorful four seasons' landscape, which was listed as one of the best places to visit among Guilin landscapes.

## 7. Daxu Ancient Town (大圩古镇)

Daxu Ancient Town, built in 200 A.D, is located on the east bank of Li River, 23km from Guilin. It is regarded as one of the Four Ancient Towns with country fairs in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The cobbled streets, Wanshou Bridge (Longevity Bridge), ancient buildings and the century-old docks are worth seeing.



## 8. Longji Rice Terrace (龙脊梯田)

Longji Rice Terrace in Longsheng County is a very special site that considered the best of its kind, attracted people with its creative layout, well-toned figure, extraordinary size and alternative beauties in different seasons. With a history of more than 700 years, the area is still being used for growing premium quality rice by Yao and Zhuang villagers. It's a Guilin must-see.



# Yangshuo

## 1. Yangshuo West Street (阳朔西街)

The most amazing section of Yangshuo is its West Street, about 1000 meters long, popularly known as "Foreigner's Street". This over-thousand-year history street now has mingled with west style harmoniously with proper western catered restaurants and bars to be found at every twenty steps along the pedestrian.



## 2. Yangshuo Yulong River 遇龙河

Yulong River, about 43km in length, is stretching from Yulong Bridge in Baisha Town, to Gongnong Bridge near the Big Banyan Tree. Local people use bamboo rafts as daily transportation up and down the river between their houses, markets, and rice paddies. Sitting on the reclining chair on the raft, you can enjoy an all-around view of the river and hills.





### 3. Yangshuo Moon Hill 月亮山

Moon Hill is a great limestone peak with a naturally created moon-shaped cavern passing through just below its summit. Moon Hill is not only an incredibly beautiful arch, it is certainly also one of the most interesting crags in the area. The Moon Hill Scenic Area is a perfect climbing spot: Moon Hill Hole, Cavel Peak, Chuanyan Peak, and Butterfly Spring are famous that they are classic climbing lines.



### 4. Yangshuo Big Banyan Tree 大榕树公园

The Big Banyan Tree is located approximately 7.5km south of Yangshuo. It is said to have a history of nearly 1,400 years and has survived centuries of wind and rain. The Big Banyan Tree is now 17 meters high, 7.1 meters around the main trunk, and spans an area of 1000 square meters. As a major tourist attraction, the enormous Banyan is famous for its age and towering beauty.

# Things to do in Guilin

## Outdoor activities

### 1. Take a cruise on Li River 漓江游轮

Li River is the symbolic landmark of Guilin, taking a cruise on Li River is definitely the top one thing to do in Guilin. The most extraordinary part is from Guilin to Yangshuo, while the rolling hills around and jade green river join together and kindly offer their enchanting beauty. And it's incredible that you could enjoy indifferent view for both sunny or rainy days, since sceneries along Li River show unbelievable charm with the mist in the rain.

### 2. Hiking along the Li River 漓江徒步

With the pleasant weather condition, gorgeous landscape as well the colorful ethnic customs, it is a good choice to explore Guilin on your foot. Hiking is the most interesting way to enjoy the beauty of the Li River, which combines sightseeing and physical exercise together. It offers the great opportunity to discover the most essence Yangdi-Xingping part on your own feet.

### 3. Yangshuo countryside biking tour 阳朔骑行

Yangshuo enjoys the fame of the best view in Guilin, while sceneries of Guilin rank the top in the world, it is considered to be a must-visit place during your trip in Guilin. Cycling in Yangshuo is one of the coolest travel methods. Renting a bike, cycling with friends or lover inside the countryside, the hills and rivers accompanying with you.

### 4. Camping in countryside of Yangshuo 阳朔露营

With a good natural condition, the countryside of Yangshuo is a perfect place for camping. It is suitable for people who like outdoor activities or student group. It is possible to find some professional camping site in Yangshuo, which offer comfortable service to your camping trip. Or you can prepare your own tent and find an open space among hills and nearby river to meet your camping trip.

## 5. Rock Climbing in Yangshuo 阳朔攀岩

Yangshuo and even the whole Guilin features typical karst landform, which is an ideal place to do rock climbing with the challenging topography and appealing vista around. Jinmao Cave, Moon Hill, Big Banyan Tree, Tongmen Hill and Muzhi Hill are the best bases for the rock climbing. If you also like rock climbing or you hope to challenge yourself, it is worth including into your Guilin tour plan.

## 6. Bamboo Rafting on the Yulong River 遇龙河竹排

Experiencing the Rafting on the Yulong River is exciting and interesting for all tourists. You will find everything natural and original and feel that you are far from the city crowds when you are on the bamboo raft. Rafting along Yulong River, you will not only see the essence of the beautiful natural view, you could also find ancient villages, various old stone bridges as well as quaint watermill.

## 7. Li River Helicopter Tours 漓江直升机之旅

The classic ways to enjoy the beauty of Li River are to take a cruise or take a bamboo rafting. Li River helicopter tour is a special experience in your Guilin tour. Viewing the Li River in the sky rather than on a cruise ship, you may get a unique Guilin memory from the other traditional travelers. Helicopter Li River essence tour will bring you a quite different experience of your Guilin tour.



## 8. Plan a day trip for Longji Rice Terraces (龙脊梯田)

Longji Rice Terrace in Longsheng County is a very special site that considered the best of its kind, attracted people with its creative layout, well-toned figure, extraordinary size and alternative beauties in different seasons. The ethnic culture of Yao and Zhuang minority may be another reason for you to pay a visit.

## 9. Capture the natural art of Reed Flute Cave (芦笛岩)

Guilin is never lack of beautiful karst caves. Among all kinds of caves in Guilin, Reed Flute Cave enjoys the highest reputation. Visit Reed Flute Cave must be one of the top things to do in Guilin, the countless stalactites, stalagmites, stone columns, curtains and flowers in fantastic shapes and colors create a majestic fairyland for you to appreciate the designable artwork from the mother nature.

## 10. Go shopping along pedestrian streets (步行街)

West Street in Yangshuo is widely welcomed by tourists and every tourist will pay a visit during a trip in Guilin. Numerous restaurants, characteristic souvenirs and kinds of bars, make West Street the busiest area in Yangshuo, especially at night. For pedestrian streets in downtown Guilin, you could go to Zhengyang Pedestrian Street or Xicheng Pedestrian Street.

## 1. Experience the Two Rivers and Four Lakes Cruise

Two Rivers and Four Lakes may give you the best experience of night view in Guilin, which is the name card of Guilin, represents the symbolic natural sceneries in Guilin. Two Rivers and Four Lakes Night Cruise tour connected the most beautiful scenic areas, it has already become an unmissable activity for domestic or overseas tourists.



## 2. Watch the splendid show of Impression Liu Sanjie

The show of Impression Liu Sanjie is a large-scale landscape performance by Li River, which is regarded as one highlight of Yangshuo tour. The biggest difference from other show is that the scenes of the show are combined with natural view, light as well as water and hills. The show is original, but stunning.



## 3. Take a stroll along Guilin Night Market

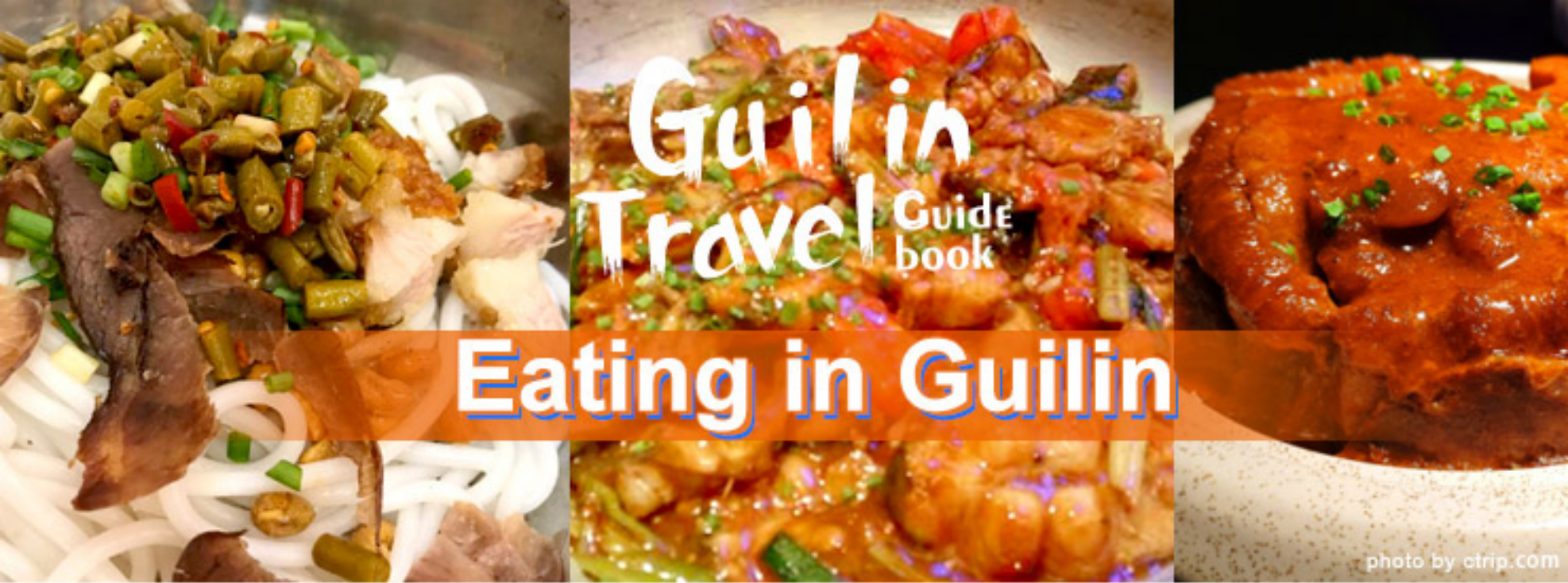
Guilin night market is situated at Xichenglu Pedestrian Street. Take a stroll along this shopping street is one of the top things to do at night in Guilin. At nightfall, you will see lots of red tents lining in three long rows, selling various kinds of minority headgear, handicrafts, local specialties and snacks.



## 4. Drink at a bar of West Street

West Street in Yangshuo is well-know and regarded as the center of Yangshuo county, where there are various shops, restaurants, bars, inns and hotels, etc. for tourism, making it the busiest area in Yangshuo, especially at night. It's so relaxing to have a drink in a bar after a tiring sightseeing activity in daytime.





## 1. Guilin Rice Noodles (桂林米粉)

Guilin Rice Noodles is a famous local food in Guilin. It is cheap and delicious, with its particular smell and taste. Guilin Rice Noodles were first invented in Qin Dynasty (221 B.C.). Till now, it has a history more than 2,200 years. Today Guilin rice noodles is a must-try dish for tourists in Guilin. Eateries of authentic rice noodles can be found everywhere in Guilin.

Recommended restaurants:

Lao Dong Jiang Rice Noodles(老东江米粉): No.6 Shijiayuan Road, Qixing District, Guilin

Minggui Rice Noodles(明桂米粉): No. 54, Zhengyang Road, Xiufeng District, Guilin

Chongshan Rice Noodles(崇善米粉): No. 38, Yiren Road, Xiufeng District, Guilin

## 2. Yangshuo Beer Fish (阳朔啤酒鱼)

Yangshuo Beer Fish is one of the most famous local dishes that are popular with people in China. The fresh fish cooked with beer will cause you a good appetite. When traveling in Yangshuo, if you miss to enjoy the beer fish, you may miss a chance to experience the very local Yangshuo eating culture.

Recommended restaurants:

Liujie Beer Fish (刘姐啤酒鱼): Building E, Food Street, Sunshine 100 West Street, Yangshuo County, Guilin City

Xie Da Jie Beer Fish (谢大姐啤酒鱼): Guanlian Road (opposite the Yangshuo Middle School), Yangshuo County, Guilin City

## 3. Lipu Taro Looped Meat(荔浦芋扣肉)

With the best taro that picked up in Lipu County (104 km south of Guilin), Lipu Taro Looped Meat is a famous traditional dish of Guilin. Made by Lipu taro and streaky pork, it is always served in a traditional Guilin banquet during the festivals and normal occasions such as weddings.

Recommended restaurants:

Xiao Nan Guo Restaurants (小南国): No. 3, Wenming Road, Xiangshan District, Guilin City

Liujie Beer Fish (刘姐啤酒鱼): Building E, Food Street, Sunshine 100 West Street, Yangshuo County, Guilin City



#### 4. Ginkgo stewed with Old Duck (白果炖老鸭)

Ginkgo stewed with Old Duck is definitely one of the most famous dishes in Guilin, and it often appears on family dinner. This traditional tonic dish adopts Guilin's local specialty ginkgo, sliced old duck, ham slices and some other various ingredients. Stewing cooking makes the soup palatable and nutritious.

Recommended restaurants:

Chun Ji Company(椿记烧鹅): No. 2, Zhongshan Middle Road, Xiufeng District, Guilin City

Xiao Nan Guo Restaurants(小南国): No. 3, Wenming Road, Xiangshan District, Guilin City

#### 5. Roast Goose(烧鹅)

Roast goose is a must-eat specialty dish in Guilin. Choose high-quality tender goose, after scalding, drying, pickling, and finally hanging in the oven or fire to roast. With Crispy skin, juicy flavorsome meat and special dipping sauce, Roast goose is tasty, tender, and fragrant.

Recommended restaurants:

Chun Ji Company(椿记烧鹅): No. 2, Zhongshan Middle Road, Xiufeng District, Guilin City

#### 6. Guilin Field Snail (桂林田螺)

Guilin Field Snail is a very local characteristics snack in Guilin. You can find this snack at street vending, or any lower or higher-level restaurants. Guilin Field Snail is short and round with sharp and hard tail. The meat of the snail is firm and big. Stuffed Field Snail is also a specialty of Yangshuo. It is not only delicious, but also good for aiding digestion.

Recommended restaurants:

Chun Ji Company(椿记烧鹅): No. 2, Zhongshan Middle Road, Xiufeng District, Guilin City

Guike Restaurant(桂客膳房): 1st Floor, Baili Business Hotel, No. 2 Jiefang East Road, Guilin (near Liberation Bridge)

#### 7. Oil Tea(油茶)

Oil tea is a distinctive flavor of Guilin and one of the recommended foods for people traveling in Guilin. The oil tea in Guilin uses old leaves of black tea as main material. While drinking oil tea, Guilin people usually order a variety of delicious dishes and snacks such as stir-fried vegetables, fried rice, fried noodles, and small pumpkin cakes.

Recommended restaurants:

Chuanjia Oil Tea(船家油茶店): No. 37, Shijiayuan Road, Qixing District, Guilin



## 1. Where to shop

Niko Niko Do Plaza, Dream Island Department Store and Guilin Department Store along the Zhongshan Road are all-around commerce mansions when tourists can buy good quality cosmetic, clothes, shoes, and bags.

**Zhengyang Pedestrian Street (正阳步行街)** is the best-known street for tourists to go shopping in Guilin downtown area. This street is 666 meters long and surrounded by restaurants, hotels, theatres, stadiums, commercial facilities and scenic spots.

**Xicheng Lu Pedestrian Street (西城路步行街)** is famous for its night market. The night market which starts every evening from 7:00 pm till midnight is a good place to buy small souvenirs and have a good taste of the local snacks.

**Wa Yao International Tourism Commodity Wholesale Market(瓦窑国际旅游工艺品批发城)** is the largest wholesale and retail market of arts and handicrafts in Southwest China. It is a market for all generations with various goods range from commodities to special goods such as antiques.

Besides shopping in Guilin city, the West Street(西街) in Yangshuo is also another shopping paradise for tourists as well as locals. The street is filled with all kinds of souvenirs, hotel restaurant, café and bar.

## 2. What to buy

### Guilin Local Specialties

**Sanhua Liquor, Chili Sauce and Fermented Bean Curd** are three treasures of Guilin, and they are also the representative local specialties of Guilin.

### Landscape painting

The beautiful scenery of Guilin has attracted countless tourists, and **Guilin landscape paintings** present you the highlights of Guilin natural beauty.

### Yangshuo painted Fan

**Yangshuo painted fans** are the most popular souvenir with tourists at home and abroad. The fan is a kind of hand products with fine material and exquisite technics, decorating with painted Guilin landscapes, birds, flowers, insects and traditional Chinese girls.

### Ethical Finery

Guilin is a multi-ethnic city and each minority has its own finery. Tourists can buy them in Pedestrian Street. It is the perfect gift for your female friends.

## 1. How to get to Guilin

There are rarely or simply none flights fly directly to Guilin from either USA or UK etc, the common routes are most international flights will make a stopover in Beijing International Airport, Shanghai Pudong International Airport or Hong Kong International Airport. Hence, we suggest you fly to those entry cities first and spend a few days there. Then you can book flight or train ticket to Guilin.

From - To	By Air		By Train	
	Frequency	Duration	Frequency	Duration
Beijing-Guilin	9	3.1 hrs	6	8-28 hrs
Shanghai-Guilin	13	2.5 hrs	6	9-24 hrs
HK-Guilin	2	1.5 hrs	1	3 hrs

## 2. Trains from Guilin to

### High speed trains from Guilin West Railway Station to

Destination	Frequency	Duration	Price (CNY) for a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Seat
HK West Kowloon	2	3 hrs	379
Chengdu East	10	6.5-7.5 hrs	402
Kunming South	2	4.5 hrs	371.5
Guangzhou South	31	2.5-3 hrs	164
Shenzhen North	3	3-3.5 hrs	238.5
Chongqing West	19	4.5-5 hrs	4.5-5 hrs

### High speed trains from Guilin North Railway Station to

Destination	Frequency	Duration	Price (CNY) for a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Seat
Xian North	1	10.5 hrs	692
Changsha South	16	3-3.5 hrs	179.5
Wuhan	8	4-5 hrs	343.5



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