



China Villages of the Southwest Hiking

11 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

MT•SOBEK™
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

➤ China Villages of the Southwest Hiking

Far from the crowded streets of modern Beijing, the ethnically and culturally diverse people of southern China embrace a traditional, bucolic way of life. On this epic MT Sobek adventure you'll hike and bike across exquisite mist-covered mountains, green valleys, bamboo groves, and intricate rice terraces. Overnight in two local homes, visit Miao and Dong villages in Guizhou, hike along rice paddies of Guangxi, explore the dramatic karst peaks of Yangshuo, learn the art of Chinese cooking — and still have enough time to take a relaxing bamboo raft along the Yulong River!

Details

Arrive: Guiyang, China

Depart: Guilin, China

Duration: 11 Days

Group Size: 2-14 Guests

Minimum Age: 10 Years Old

Activity Level:



Testimonials

"Spectacular scenery, great hiking, and fascinating conversations with villagers, often in their homes. This trip exceeded our expectations!"

Anne H.

"Beautiful, incredibly interesting trip of a lifetime."

Jan S.

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Why Take This Trip With Us?

REASON #01

MT Sobek has been crafting unique adventures in less-traveled corners of China since 1980.

REASON #02

Our expert team of local guides offer deep and compelling immersion into Chinese culture.

REASON #03

Adventurers looking to blend active daily pursuits with cultural touring will love this exclusive MT Sobek journey through China.

What to Expect



ACTIVITIES

Moderate daily hikes up to 3 hours per day with cultural touring by private van. Also enjoy biking, bamboo rafting, and a cooking class.



LODGING

Comfortable and simple accommodations in small towns, plus two nights at the beautiful boutique Li-An Lodge in Guilin.



CLIMATE

Spring daytime average is 87°F; spring nighttime average is 69°F. Fall temperatures are 5-10°F cooler. Rain is always possible.

Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

A graduate of English from Guizhou Normal University, Shiau is a true champion. He has been awarded the title of "Best Tour Guide in Guizhou" on multiple occasions since 1999, and has even been nominated as the "Best Tour Guide in China." He looks forward to leading your MT Sobek adventure in the villages of southwest China and showing you his homeland.

Shiau

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Itinerary

DAY 1

ARRIVE IN SOUTH CHINA

Travel to Guiyang, check into the hotel, then drive to Jichang Old Han Village. (To participate in this activity, arrive in Guiyang before 2pm.) Home to descendants of 14th-century troops who came from Nanjing, the village's residents still dress in traditional Han costume and specialize in a local art called "Ground Opera." After enjoying a private performance of this amateur opera, meet the villagers and learn how the handmade opera masks are produced. Back in Guiyang, explore the buzzing night market on your own.

Meals: D

DAY 2

TAKE A SCENIC DRIVE TO KAILI

Start your day with a drive to Shidong Village, then hike through green paddy fields to Xiaohu Village. Here there's an enchanting maze of old wooden houses, and you can watch artisans make traditional silver ornaments. Afterwards drive to Kaili, the capital of the Miao and Dong Minority Autonomous Region. Kaili is the center of Miao minority culture, hosting more than 120 local festivals every year. The Miao people — the largest ethnic group in the region — are known for arts and crafts, including jewelry, embroidery, brocade, batik, and paper cutting.

Activity: 3 hours/3 miles hiking with 325' elevation gain & 985' elevation loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 3

VISIT TRADITIONAL MIAO VILLAGES

Visit several ethnic villages today, starting with Man Dong, home to 300 Miao families. The Miao are known for their varied, colorful and elaborate costumes. Next up is Shi Qiao Village, known for the traditional paper-making that sustains most resident families. Visit the Gejia people, a subgroup of the Miao, and see their handmade batik clothes. Then take an easy hike through their tropical village and see villagers in their local dress. In the afternoon, transfer to Chong'an to see the millhouses and an incense-making demonstration before returning to Kaili.

Activity: 2.5–3 hours/2-3 miles hiking with 650' elevation gain and 985' elevation loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

ENJOY VILLAGE HIKES & A HOMESTAY

This morning, transfer to Kaijue Village and begin hiking toward Xijiang Long-Skirt Miao Village, the largest Miao village in China. After lunch in Xijiang Village, continue hiking through layers of rice paddy fields to Baibi Village,

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another Miao community. From here, drive to Leishan, the center of the Miao people. The evening highlight: staying overnight in a local family's house in Paika Village, famous for its bamboo lusheng pipes. Your host family has made lusheng pipes for generations — and you'll make your own and learn how to play it!

Activity: 3 hours/3 miles hiking with 650' elevation gain & 985' elevation loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

HIKE A MOUNTAIN ROUTE TO TAOJIANG

Today you drive to Datang, aptly known as Short Skirt Miao Village for the women's uniquely short skirts (about 4-8"). From there, hike through the mountains to Taojiang, exploring a variety of plants and wildlife on the way. You'll also have scenic views of Mt. Leigong (7,182'). This hike is the longest of the trip (5 to 6 hours) but can be adjusted to 2 to 3 hours, if the group prefers. After the hike, drive to Rongjiang, the center of the Dong people, for an overnight stay.

Activity: 5-6 hours/6 miles hiking with 985' elevation gain & 1,500' elevation loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

EXPLORE MIAO & DONG VILLAGES

Transfer to Congjiang and visit Baisha Miao Village, a major Miao village where they still retain the living customs and dress codes of the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. Drive to small Tang'an Dong Village, where typical wooden houses are surrounded by rice paddies and the local Dong people maintain a traditional lifestyle. From here, start hiking towards the largest Dong village, Zhaoxing, known for its historical architecture, including picturesque wind and rain bridges, and elaborate, pagoda-like drum towers that are dramatically lit at night.

Activity: 2-3 hours/2.5 miles hiking with 985' elevation gain

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

SEE THE GUANGXI RICE TERRACES

Return to Tang'an Dong Village on a dramatic descending hike and see an old drum tower and a 900-year old water well. Time permitting, visit the Dong Museum in Zhaoxing as well. Transfer to the high-speed train station for our rail journey to Guilin. Once in Guangxi, visit the stunning terraced paddy fields for which Longsheng is famous — they rise up to 3,000 feet and represent an amazing feat of farm engineering. The most impressive views are in the autumn harvest season and early spring, before the rice is planted.

Activity: 2 hours/3.5 miles hiking with 985' elevation loss

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Meals: B, L, D

DAY 8

FOLLOW ANCIENT TRAILS AROUND LONGSHENG

Hike around the spectacular rice terraces of Longsheng today, following the trails used by the locals to reach their fields. These terraced slopes were built over 600 years ago and connect several Zhuang and Yao minority villages. (As an interesting side note, Yao women grow their hair to more than six feet long.) The fascinating scenery is well worth the hike, and you'll see how the terraces earned their nickname of "the Dragon's Backbone" — the summit resembles a dragon's spine, while the terraces give the impression of scales.

Activity: 2.5-4.5 hours/2-4 miles hiking with 985' elevation gain & 1,650' elevation loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 9

ENTER PICTURESQUE YANGSHUO

Leaving Longsheng, hike along easy trails that traverse terraced slopes. As you stroll, pass villagers and their wooden hillside houses, and see locals farming in the fields. After lunch, transfer to Yangshuo, a picturesque and sleepy city surrounded by stunning karst peaks. In the evening, enjoy free time to explore the shops and restaurants along the oldest street in Yangshuo, West Street — which dates back 1,400 years!

Activity: 2.5 hours walking

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 10

TAKE A COOKING CLASS & BAMBOO RAFT ON THE YULONG RIVER

A lovely day is in store! Take a morning hike up to Moon Hill for a bird's-eye view of the surrounding jagged peaks. Return to Yangshuo for an authentic Chinese cooking class in a beautiful riverside setting. During the class, learn how to create four or five local specialties, including an appetizer, a vegetarian dish, and usually a fish and chicken dish. After your self-prepared lunch, you have the option of bicycling through the nearby villages or relaxing on a bamboo raft ride on the incredibly serene Yulong River.

Activity: 1.5 hours/1.5 miles hiking; 2 hours biking/6 miles with 200' elevation gain & loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 11

DEPART FOR GUILIN

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After breakfast, bid farewell to this magical land as you transfer from Yangshuo to Guilin Airport for your flight to Beijing or beyond.

Meals: B

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Dates

Apr 15 - 25, 2021

Jun 10 - 20, 2021

Aug 12 - 22, 2021

For full terms and conditions please visit www.mtsobek.com/terms. Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

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Pricing

2021

\$ 4,895 per person

Additional Cost

\$ 950 Single Supplement

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert leadership from experienced adventure guides
- Accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- Meals as noted in the daily itinerary
- Potable water and snacks throughout
- 1 glass of wine or beer at dinner
- All tips and gratuities for support staff with the exception of your lead adventure guide(s)
- All necessary biking gear
- All group entrance fees, activities, and ground transportation
- Arrival and departure airport transfers

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, any airport taxes, or excess baggage charges
- Optional tips to your lead adventure guides
- Personal expenses such as medical immunizations, phone calls, laundry, or souvenirs
- Optional travel protection

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At Mountain Travel Sobek, we believe life is an adventure and adventure is life.

As the originators, innovators and leaders in adventure travel for more than five decades, we passionately create, craft and share indelible, transformative journeys to the world's most memorable places. Our more than 200 unique and once-in-a-lifetime trips are designed to inspire and exhilarate, enliven and excite--opening eyes and minds through profoundly personal connections with nature and culture.

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Awards



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