

INFORMATION PACK

# GUANGXI

## *Bike Journey*

*The Magical Land of  
Ten Thousand Peaks*

1 - 9 July 2022



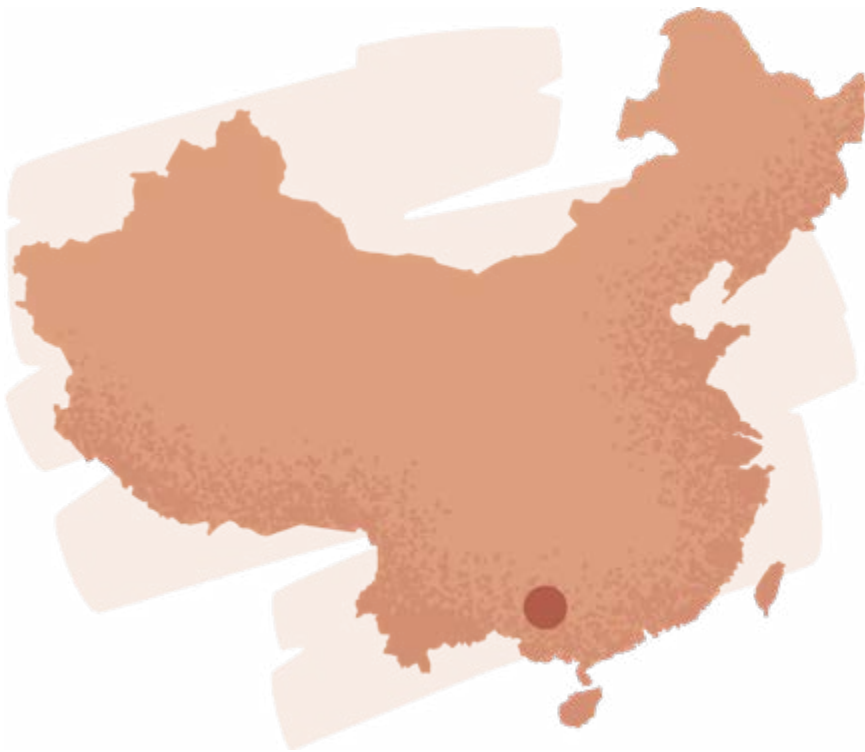
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## *Introduction* **Guangxi**

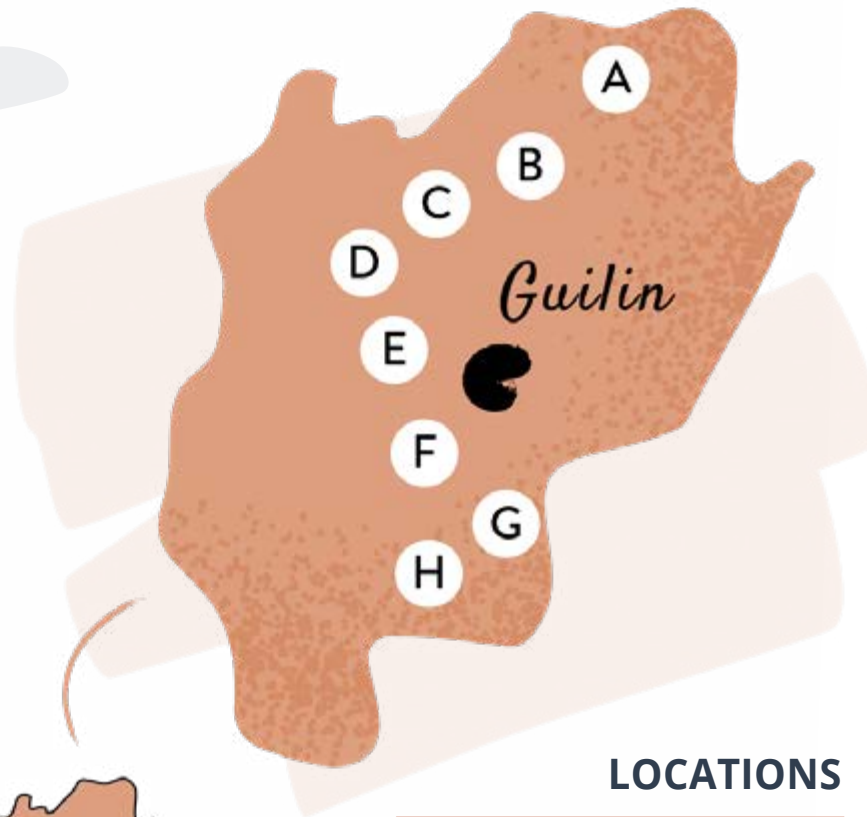


Guangxi feels like something straight out of a fairy tale. Lush rice terraces, meandering rivers, breathtaking karst mountains, and remote minority villages make this a destination like no other. Yangshou is a mecca for domestic and international outdoor enthusiasts alike, who use it as a base camp for exploring the vibrant countryside surrounding this travel-friendly town. Since its rise to popularity as a backpacker haven in the 1980s, Yangshuo has remained one of China's top tourism draws ever since. The surrounding Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region is less-known, but equally spectacular and home to 11 different ethnic minorities and 16 beautiful rivers.

Guangxi offers something for everyone, be they foodies, thrill seekers, budding anthropologists, or nature enthusiasts. There is something otherworldly about the magical waters of Yangshuo giving a oneness with the land that keeps us coming back to explore again and again. Cycling past limestone peaks on a dusty mountain trail, seeing our reflection in the mirror-like Li river, adventurously tucking into a plate of spicy local fish, or simply viewing the moon through our guesthouse window, this land of ten thousand peaks will cast a spell on you.

Join us on our Guangxi Bike Journey.

# Guangxi Bike Journey Map & Details



## DEPARTURE DATE

1<sup>st</sup> July, 2022  
(Friday)

## RETURN DATE

9<sup>th</sup> July, 2022  
(Saturday)

## PRICE

RMB 10,200  
(does not include airfare)

## LOCATIONS

Bajiaozhai	A
Chetian	B
Longsheng Hot Springs	C
Pingan	D
Shiertan	E
Wutong & Daxu	F
Xingping	G
Yulong	H

## SIGN-UP PROCESS

To express your interest and reserve your space, please email [travel@thehutong.com](mailto:travel@thehutong.com).

Our team will provide a registration form to complete, give updated travel information, and answer any questions you may have.



# Bike Journey Itinerary

## DAY 1: July 1

### Bajiaozhai

After arriving in Guilin and some quick introductions we hit the ground running with a transfer to the north of Guilin (2.5 hrs) to the UNESCO Heritage Bajiaozhai National Park, famed for its unique red sandstone karst formations. Once here we'll hike up to the Buddhist temples on the highest peak for incredible views overlooking the neighboring provinces of Guangxi and Hunan.

After a wander through these working temples and watching locals make offerings and wishes at these shrines, we return to our local hotel to set up the bikes (time permitting). Dinner tonight will feature a local feast featuring regional specialties. Over dinner we'll go over the tour and answer questions you may have.

## DAY 2 // 70km

### Bajiaozhai – Chetian 八角寨 — 车田

Up into the mountains. For the first few kilometres we ride out through tiny villages on quiet roads. The undulating terrain is set to a backdrop of forest and farmland, where you'll see locals tending rice fields and livestock. We take a sharp ascent up where things flatten out before descending into a wider valley to our lunch stop in Guali village.

After lunch, a steady climb takes us to the village of Baotian, with a descent through forests, narrow gullies and a ravine. We'll pass numerous wooden houses built on the mountainsides which are nestled amongst rice terraces, fruit orchards and wild forest. We then have a short ride out of Chetian town towards our accommodation; a quiet basic guesthouse in a secluded valley with spectacular rock formations and waterfalls, ideal for walks and swimming.

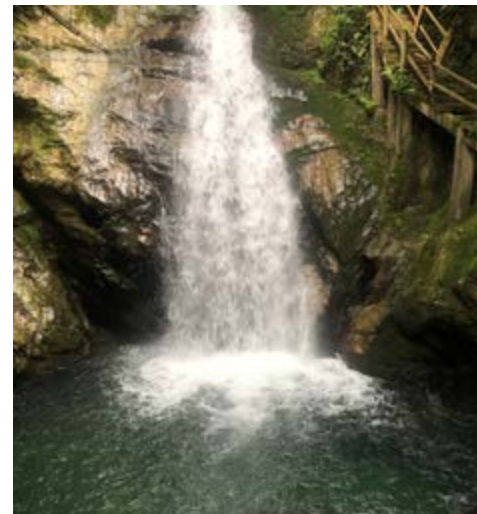


## DAY 3 // 40km

### Longsheng Hot Springs 车田 — 大唐湾

A spectacular ride with passes and descents, and plenty of time to stop and visit the many ancient villages en route. This area is inhabited by Dong, Miao and Yao people and their villages see very few tourists. Locals are sure to welcome you with a smile and take pride in showing you their homes – it's not uncommon to be invited in for a nice cup of tea!

After a second climb, it's a long gentle downhill to Longsheng Hot Springs. Well known in the local area, this is the perfect location to relax and soak your muscles after the day's ride. A family-run guesthouse with an outdoor natural hot spring is where we'll stay, and there's a great hike along the gorge to a local Miao village for those with some energy left.



## DAY 4 // 65km

### Pingan 大唐湾 — 平安

We continue along the Xun river, an area that formed part of the Long March and served as Mao Zedong's secret hideout for many years. This is where much of the region's produce ends up before being traded to places all over China.

There is a vast array of goods for sale, exotic and sometimes strange, but always colourful and fascinating. We arrive in Pingan (a village in the Longsheng rice terraces) in time to sit back and enjoy the sunset views from the terrace of our traditional Zhuang guesthouse.





## DAY 5 // 60km

*Shiertan*

平安—十二滩

A short hike up to the viewpoints surrounding the village in the morning, where you can see cascading rice terraces snake across ridgelines. Built over 600 years ago by the local Zhuang and Yao people, the Dragon's Backbone Longji rice terraces are an incredible feat of irrigation and agriculture.

We'll return to the saddle for a fantastic switchback ride back down the mountainside, followed by lots of quiet sealed roads undulating through pine and bamboo forests, passing villages tucked away in the hills. There's the opportunity for a sometimes thrilling, sometimes serene, rubber raft ride directly to our riverside hotel, where we'll settle in for the evening with a chance to explore the area on foot or try ping pong, before a banquet of tasty local dishes.



## DAY 6 // 30km

*Wutong & Daxu*

十二滩—刘三姐茶园

A morning of completely flat cycling! After lunch, we transfer to Daxu, a Ming-era village that retains some of its centuries-old architecture and was once a notable trading town along the Li River. Daxu is a fine example of what old world China once was, with cobblestone lanes, a 400-year-old stone arch bridge and locals still living in wooden dwellings roofed in classic black tiles. With plenty of time to wander down the old streets to the riverside bustle, we'll pop our heads into some old courtyard houses.

There are antiques and curios on offer by the hawkers along the old main laneway, who offer Mao's Little Red Book and other communist paraphernalia, as well as many of the weird and wonderful herbs and remedies.



## DAY 7 // 65km

*Xingping*

大许—兴评

With cobble stone roads to begin with, we'll be on and off cycle paths along the Li River through more bamboo forests. We'll pass by several villages, including a Hui village with its own mosque – a rarity in Southern China, with a legacy of population movement forced through past conflicts.

At Caoping, we stop for lunch before climbing to take in the finest scenery under heaven - karst mountains overhanging the river. We take a hilly route following the Li, glimpsing these spectacular mountains and crossing the river by ferry, before a flat run into Xingping, an old port village, where our guesthouse gives views over the town.

Xingping is famed for the scenes on the 20 yuan note, and despite the occasional crowds, it's an fascinating place to wander around, with some spectacular lookouts and swimming spots too.

## DAY 8 // 45km

*Dragon River Valley*

兴评—玉龙河

Our last day is a real highlight. We'll cross the Li River by ferry and make our way back into the hills high above. Snaking our way through fruit orchards and tiny villages we head to Baisha, a small town famed for its stone work and bustling market. The morning features some longer climbs before a downhill into Baisha.

After lunch at the 400 year old Fuli Bridge, we cycle through small villages, pomelo groves and rice fields. The final section of the day's ride is through the stunning Dragon River Valley where we take dirt trails through rice fields surrounded with mountains before settling in a local farmer's village at one of the most charming hotels of the tour. Weather permitting we'll eat under the stars and enjoy a beer by the pool!

## Travel Day: July 9

*Depart Guangxi*

Sign off on the bike ride of a lifetime, sharing your stories with new friends. Flights depart out of Guilin for Beijing, or anywhere else your travel plans may take you.



## *Important Information*

# Fitness, Attitude & Difficulty

You don't need to be a Tour de France caliber rider to complete this ride. It is a physically challenging ride, and we recommend that you do some training before you join us. Riding around your city is a good start, but try and find some time to ride up a hill or two, and change gears. As long as you're in good shape, stay healthy, eat well and get enough sleep, you shouldn't have a problem riding every day and making it to each day's destination. We've built the itinerary specifically to ensure everyone is fully capable of succeeding.

Parts of our ride will take us to elevations beyond 5,000 feet (over 1,000 meters). This isn't terribly high, but it means there are some serious hills – be ready and keep this in mind when training. Guilin, our starting and ending

point, is just above sea level; your toughest days will see an overall elevation gain over more than 1,000 meters, which should give you an idea of the hills involved. All in all, it's a fun ride, but fitness will be an asset.

The Hutong's Guangxi Bike Journey is just that – a journey on a bicycle. It's not a race or a competition, but an opportunity to move at just the right speed through beautiful villages, say “hello” to locals, stop for an impromptu pineapple snack stop, or sneak off into the rainforest for a look at ancient tea trees. It is by no means an easy journey – while some might enjoy an “All Downhill” bike trip, we at The Hutong think that the wonderfully fresh meals and expansive scenery are enjoyed best when earned with a tough uphill.





### *Serendipity*

Hutong trip leaders travel regularly to destinations to develop relationships with local contacts so we can provide the most authentic cultural experiences possible. As such, trip itineraries are subject to change, pending the discovery of an even better activity or destination. Itineraries may also be subject to change due to weather, traffic, or government policies.

### *Safety*

The Hutong requires all riders to wear helmets. Your guides are trained in first aid and bicycle safety, but it is your responsibility to ensure you ride safely. For more information on safe cycling, we will provide our Bicycle Safety Guidelines before the departure date.



### *Meals & Snacks*

The Hutong will organize three meals a day, including plenty of snacks along the way. Most breakfasts are rice noodles, accompanied by a variety of local spices and pickled vegetables. Lunches and dinners are at local homes and restaurants and are invariably fresh, colorful, and can be spicy. In the lead up to the trip, we'll ask about any food allergies or dietary preferences. If you can't eat spicy foods, our Hutong guides will make every effort to accommodate you.

While we will provide some snacks, we recommend that participants bring along comfort foods to their own liking as well, e.g. energy bars and gels. We'll also provide fresh fruit that we can get along the route.



### *People*

Guangxi has a population of 56 million, including over 20 million who identify as ethnic minorities. Along our route you'll meet many of our awesome local partners who'll happily talk to you about their cultures and traditions, meaning we're all sure to learn something and have some great conversations along the way.

### *Hydration*

We bring plenty of clean, bottled water along for the ride, and make sure to provide lots of rehydration stops. We also include sugary drinks at meal times for a bit of an extra boost, as well as plenty of cold beer when the day's riding is done. We do not provide energy drinks or sports drinks.



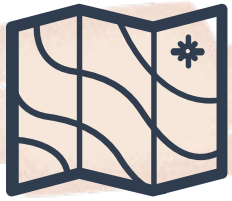
### *Accommodation*

Part of the adventure of going to Northern Yunnan is staying in guesthouses in the beautiful old towns of the Tea Horse Road. Nights 1-6 will be spent in clean, comfortable guesthouse accommodation with private Western-style ensuite bathrooms, and the final night in a hotel.

Larger family-style rooms are also available upon request.







### *Guides*

Our Guangxi Bike Journey comes fully-equipped with English-speaking guides who are familiar with the terrain and extremely knowledgeable about the area's culture, industry, and history. We also work very closely with amazing local guides who know and love the area; they help to provide all kinds of wonderful experiences.



### *Weather*

July is a good (if wet) month to visit Guangxi. Expect hot weather with sunny blue skies, but a lot of precipitation. You'll need to be prepared for rainfall and heat: daytime highs typically reach 33°C, with nighttime lows of 25°C.

### *Flights*

The Hutong will recommend flights, and can help purchase tickets upon request, though we find it's often easiest for participants to book on their own. If we do help you purchase your ticket, we will not mark up flights. Please let us know your preference. If you have to cancel your flight or change your schedule, the terms and fees of the final booking will ultimately be the responsibility of the traveler.



### *Arrival & Departure*

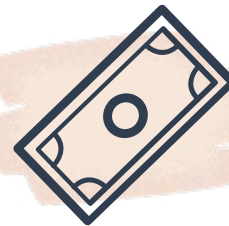
This trip will begin and end in Guilin. We will arrange pick-up and drop-off service for you at Guilin Liangjiang International Airport. If you are arriving by train we may also be able to help with transfer.



### *Health & Covid-19*

We recommend that you visit a travel medical doctor or consult with the CDC and ask about the following vaccinations: typhoid, polio, tetanus and hepatitis A.

A COVID-19 test may be required prior to trip departure depending on current travel guidelines. We'll notify you in advance of the trip if this is the case.



### *Money & Extra Expenses*

ATMs are plentiful in Guilin and Yangshuo, but hard to find in the smaller villages and towns. In most places you won't need money, except for snacks or drinks. There will be several stops along the way with local keepsakes for sale, in which case you may wish to have a little bit of money; no more than a few hundred RMB should be sufficient, unless you'd like to stock your tea collection (in which case, you can spend as much as you like). Of course, you can always pay with Wechat or Alipay, too.

“

*The Guangxi Bike Journey was spectacular. Incredible landscapes, beautiful villages and the roads and the paths were really comfortable and the mountain bikes were very comfortable. Thank you for one of the best experiences on the road of my life.*

”

**Ugo**

2020 trip participant







## *The Hutong* **A Bit About Us**

The Hutong creates unforgettable travel experiences throughout China for students from international schools and for people of all ages from around the world. Since 2009, we have been running educational, and adult travel, programs to off-the-beaten-track destinations across China. From the rainforests of southern Yunnan to the grasslands of the Mongolian steppe, all of our programs are meticulously researched and planned to optimize cultural exchange and to offer fun, innovative, and immersive experiences.

As well as being a licensed travel operator across Greater China, The Hutong is at heart a transformative education company. We partner with leading schools to build programs that incorporate learning objectives and life skills, all the while maintaining absolute professionalism and an impeccable safety record. From our team of international educators to our travel specialists, each and every Hutonger shares a passion for providing exceptional learning experiences.

Hutong programs engage with global issues and leave participants with broadened horizons, a renewed sense of their strengths and abilities, and incredible memories. No matter where we go, we aim to make a positive impact on the communities we visit and on the groups we lead.





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