

NZCFS EXPLORE CHINA- THE SOUTHEAST 2019 TOUR

March 21st to April 10th, 2019
Estimated all-inclusive cost \$8250

This itinerary offers a range of experiences in a compact tour, designed to better explore one region –the south-east –with efficient travel itinerary that captures the best cities modern and old, sites of historical and cultural significance, ethnic minority groups, beautiful ancient villages, breath taking scenic wonderlands, and a brief connection to Rewi Alley.

It will be a tour of local experiences, enjoying the tea culture, tasting the cuisine typical of the area. A reasonable level of walking fitness is required to participate in all the activities.

FULL ITINERARY

March 9, depart Auckland

Day 1

Guangzhou, arrive early morning. Visit Shamian Island and stroll along the riverside. An important port on the Pearl River, stroll past the defence systems built during the opium war, and around the British and French enclaves. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon, or visit the Museum of the Han dynasty Nanyue King for some ancient history. Later enjoy a night cruise on the Pearl River, stay in Guangzhou.

Day 2

Visit the Sun Yatsen Memorial Hall. Chinese name Sun Zhongshan, he was the founder of the republic in China following the defeat of the Qing dynasty, with a long history of struggle presented here. The Chen Clan Ancestral Hall provides a contrast with Qing dynasty architecture and houses the Guangdong Folk Arts Museum, visit the very exotic Traditional Chinese Medicine market. Take evening flight to Xiamen.



Day 3

A leisurely start to the day, visit Gulangyu Island and Xiamen University or Nanputuo temple.

Day 4

Bus to Yongding county (3 hours) to see the Hakka roundhouses. Visit the Gaobei Tulou Cluster, Hongkeng, and Hakka Cultural Village. Stay in Yongding

**Day 5**

Visit the Nanxi cluster of roundhouses, then after lunch travel to Changting by bus (3 hours). Changting is a county that Rewi Alley stayed in for several months in the late 1930s when he was setting up cooperatives all around China. He claimed that Changting is one of two most beautiful old towns in China, and it has retained its appeal. Stay in Changting

**Day 6**

Visit the very picturesque village of Dingwuling, where an old Gungho cooperative is still making woven articles for daily use. Spend more time in Changting, visit Rewi's old lodgings, and office (still a Gung Ho office) and stroll the old town for night views. Stay in Changting.

Day 7

Bus to Wuyishan (6 hours) Light walking in Ancient Tea Plantation Area called "dahongpao" & Crystal Water Curtain in Wuyi Mountain. Enjoy Zhang Yimou's evening show 'Impressions of Dahongpao' presenting the tea culture. Stay in Wuyishan

**Day 8**

Enjoy walking in the Wuyi mountain area, up Tianyou peak if able. Spend 100 minutes drifting on a bamboo raft. Stay in Wuyishan

Day 9

Take Bullet train to Nanchang, capital of Jiangxi province (2 hours – arrive late morning). In the afternoon take a walking tour around some central city highlights, including Bayi square. Stay in Nanchang.

Day 10

More sites in Nanchang, including Haihunhou exhibition displaying a marvellous collection of artefacts uncovered from the Han dynasty tomb of the Marquis of Haihun, Tengwang pavilion, Deng Xiaoping museum, stay in Nanchang



Day 11

This morning we will take a bus up Lushan mountain (2.5 hours). Lushan National Park is a spectacular collection of peaks and valleys, forest and waterfalls. It is also the historic setting for the Lushan Conference in August 1959, where top leaders set the course for China. This afternoon, walk the flower park path, the brocade valley and the Meilu villa. Stay in Lushan.

Day 12 A whole day further exploring the scenic wonders and historic sites. Stay in Lushan

Day 13

Bus to Jingdezhen (2.5 hours). In the afternoon visit the old kiln to see the pottery being made, walk in porcelain street where even the lampposts are blue ceramic. Stay in Jingdezhen.



Day 14

A visit to Fuliang Ancient Government, then by bus to Wuyuan Town (1.5 hours) in the afternoon. Visit 800 year old Rainbow Bridge, the 'most beautiful covered bridge in China'. Stay in Wuyuan



Day 15

We will spend the whole day exploring sites in and around Wuyuan, considered the most beautiful countryside in China, with its ancient Hui culture and architecture – Likeng Ancient Village, Jiangwan Town, Xiaoqi village, stay in Wuyuan.

Day 16

Visit the Huangling area of Wuyuan before taking a bullet train to Hangzhou (2hrs 40mins).

Day 17

Enjoy the beautiful West Lake. Hangzhou is at the southern end of the Grand Canal (c. 1400 years old), visit the Grand Canal Museum, cross the Grand Canal, visit the Silk Museum. Grand.

**Day 18**

Bus to Wuzhen Water Village (1.5 hrs), glide on the waterways in a punt, wander the extensive canal-side pathways and bridges in the west side, stay in the village.

Day 19

Explore the eastern part of the village, take the bus to Shanghai (1.5 to 2 hrs)

Day 20

To be arranged, or free time.

Day 21

Depart for New Zealand

April 11

Arrive in New Zealand

For more information or to express your interest please email tours@nzdfs.org.nz