

China, together

City lights. River days. Mountain terraces.

17 calendar days / 15 hotel nights / 7 adults

Depart Vancouver March 5, 6, 12 or 13, 2027.

Working route

Vancouver > Shenzhen > Guangzhou > Guilin > Yangshuo > Longji > Chengdu > Vancouver

Shenzhen first gives the simplest onward route on the ground. Guangzhou first remains a flight-driven alternative. Neither is confirmed cheapest: compare complete multi-city tickets for seven, including the Chengdu return, bags and connections.

Base	Stay	What we are here for
Shenzhen	3 nights	Technology & waterfront
Guangzhou	4 nights	Food & family roots
Guilin	1 night	Cruise gateway
Yangshuo	3 nights	River-view mornings
Longji	1 night	Mountainside terraces
Chengdu	3 nights	Pandas & the spa finale

The updates, built into the plan

A full Guangzhou day is reserved for the family village visit. The village is still unknown. The full spa day moves to Chengdu. The proper Guilin-to-Yangshuo Li River cruise is a required highlight; rafting is removed. Longji keeps its mountain overnight and Yangshuo keeps three nights.

One former Shenzhen night becomes a Guilin night before the cruise. Adding the family day brings the plan to 17 days / 15 hotel nights. Hotel target: under CAD \$200 per room per night where practical; default four rooms for 2 + 2 + 2 + 1 adults.

Choose flights before fixing the calendar

Depart Vancouver / Day 1	Planned return / Day 17
Fri, March 5	Sun, March 21
Sat, March 6	Mon, March 22
Fri, March 12	Sun, March 28
Sat, March 13	Mon, March 29

These are tentative calendar pairings. The plan assumes arrival in China on Day 2. A late-night outbound departure or a connection can shift arrival to Day 3; the return can also change dates. Reconcile the actual flights before committing to hotel nights.

Compare these two complete tickets

A. Shenzhen first: Vancouver (YVR) > Shenzhen (SZX), then Chengdu > Vancouver. Check Hainan for the outbound route, plus suitable connections. Onward route: Shenzhen > Guangzhou > Guilin.

B. Guangzhou first: Vancouver (YVR) > Guangzhou (CAN), then Chengdu > Vancouver. Check China Southern and suitable connections. Air Canada's announced Guangzhou nonstop begins May 4, 2027, so it does not solve this March trip. Onward route: Guangzhou > Shenzhen > Guilin, possibly via Guangzhou South.

Exact March operation, seven-seat availability and comparable open-jaw fares have not been verified. Do not assume a nonstop runs on all four proposed departure or return dates. Check the arrival and departure airports printed on each ticket.

Guangzhou-first day order

Days	Plan
2-5	Guangzhou: arrival, food / heritage, family village on Day 4, Shamian / Pearl River. Four nights.
6-8	Shenzhen: transfer, technology day, waterfront day. Three nights.
9	Train to Guilin, with the station and any connection confirmed. One night.

Days 10-17 are identical in both options. Hotel nights become Guangzhou 1-4 and Shenzhen 5-7; all remaining hotel-night numbers stay the same. The website arrival-city selector shows this alternate day-by-day version.

Arrival and the technology city

Day 1: Vancouver > Shenzhen

The journey begins | Sleep: Overnight flight

Transport: Vancouver (YVR) > Shenzhen (SZX), nonstop if available or a suitable connection.

Morning: Finish packing and check travel documents.

Midday: Travel to Vancouver airport according to your selected flight time.

Evening: Depart for China; the flight schedule sets today's timing.

Night: Overnight flight. The working plan assumes arrival on Day 2.

Compare departures March 5, 6, 12 and 13. Late-night flights can change the local arrival date; reconcile the full calendar before reserving hotels.

Walking: Travel day

Day 2: Shenzhen

Land, settle in, take it slowly | Sleep: Shenzhen · night 1 of 3

Transport: Airport arrival and private minibus: Shenzhen airport > hotel.

Morning: Arrival and immigration, depending on flight timing.

Midday: Check in or leave luggage at the hotel; have an easy lunch.

Evening: Short neighbourhood walk or nearby shopping if everyone feels like it.

Night: Relaxed dinner and time to settle in.

For a dawn landing, request guaranteed early check-in or price the previous night. That extra room night is outside the 15-night allowance.

Walking: Light / optional

Day 3: Shenzhen

Inside the technology district | Sleep: Shenzhen · night 2 of 3

Morning: Start late and explore Huaqiangbei electronics markets, ideally with a guide.

Midday: Lunch and more browsing; focus on a few buildings and agree on a meeting point.

Evening: Visit an official DJI or Huawei shop after checking the branch, or take a hotel break.

Night: Dinner and an optional short skyline walk.

Factory visits, robotaxis and specific demonstrations are not assumed to be available.

Walking: Moderate / indoors

The bay, then Cantonese food

Day 4: Shenzhen

The bay, cafés & a slower afternoon | Sleep: Shenzhen · night 3 of 3

Morning: Explore Shenzhen Bay or Talent Park at a comfortable pace.

Midday: Leisurely lunch and cafés.

Evening: Shopping, another electronics visit or free time at the hotel.

Night: Group dinner and a relaxed evening.

Drone delivery is a bonus only after confirming a working location, ordering access and conditions.

Walking: Flexible / short waterfront sections

Day 5: Shenzhen > Guangzhou

An easy move to our next city | Sleep: Guangzhou · night 1 of 4

Transport: High-speed train: Shenzhen North > Guangzhou South, then hotel transfer. Allow about 2.5-3.5 hours hotel to hotel.

Morning: Breakfast, checkout and transfer to the railway station.

Midday: Train journey, lunch and hotel check-in.

Evening: Short neighbourhood walk or nearby shopping if everyone feels like it.

Night: Cantonese dinner and an easy evening.

Keep fixed attractions for the full days.

Walking: Light / optional

Day 6: Guangzhou

Dim sum & Guangzhou's old lanes | Sleep: Guangzhou · night 2 of 4

Morning: Leisurely dim sum breakfast, followed by Chen Clan Academy.

Midday: Explore Yongqing Fang and the Xiguan lanes with lunch and snack stops.

Evening: Hotel break or café time.

Night: Roast meats or claypot rice dinner.

Walking: Moderate, with café breaks

Family roots and the river gateway

Day 7: Guangzhou

A day for family roots | Sleep: Guangzhou · night 3 of 4

Transport: Private minibus: Guangzhou hotel > family village > hotel. Route and timing to confirm once the village is identified.

Morning: Travel to the village where a traveller's parents grew up. Let the family guide the priorities.

Midday: Village visit and lunch; allow time for family places, stories and visits arranged by the family.

Evening: Return to Guangzhou at a comfortable time.

Night: Easy dinner near the hotel, with no fixed evening event.

Village not identified yet. Reserve the whole day, but do not quote a drive time or book a non-refundable vehicle until the Chinese name or map pin is known. Reorder Guangzhou days to suit family availability.

Walking: Flexible / family-led

Day 8: Guangzhou

Shamian & the Pearl River after dark | Sleep: Guangzhou · night 4 of 4

Morning: Unhurried walk around Shamian.

Midday: Lunch, then shopping or a hotel break.

Evening: Dinner near the river and views of the Canton Tower skyline.

Night: Pearl River evening cruise.

A tower ascent is optional if visibility is good; there is no need to add it to the cruise.

Walking: Light to moderate

Day 9: Guangzhou > Guilin

Position for tomorrow's river cruise | Sleep: Guilin · 1 night

Transport: High-speed train: Guangzhou South > Guilin. Confirm Guilin / Guilin North / Guilin West station before arranging pickup.

Morning: Breakfast, checkout and departure for the station.

Midday: Train journey and lunch around the selected timetable.

Evening: Check into central Guilin. Take a short lakeside or neighbourhood walk if arrival timing allows.

Night: Dinner, confirm cruise documents and the morning pier pickup, then sleep early.

This overnight makes the classic cruise practical. Piers are outside central Guilin; avoid trying to arrive by long-distance train on the cruise morning.

Walking: Travel day

The Li River and Yangshuo

Day 10: Guilin > Yangshuo

The Li River cruise - a trip highlight | Sleep: Yangshuo · night 1 of 3

Transport: Private transfer: Guilin hotel > confirmed pier. Large sightseeing vessel: Guilin-area pier > Yangshuo. Private transfer: arrival pier > scenic hotel.

Morning: Transfer early to the pier on your ticket. Board the booked Li River sightseeing cruise; prefer a 4-star vessel with indoor seating and outdoor viewing space.

Midday: Cruise between karst mountains toward Yangshuo. Allow roughly 4-5 hours on the water as a planning estimate; confirm lunch inclusions.

Evening: Disembark, collect or meet your transferred luggage, and check into the river-view hotel.

Night: Dinner at the hotel and enjoy the view.

A fixed priority on a proper sightseeing vessel. The official classic route runs from Mopanshan / Zhujiang piers toward Yangshuo; exact sailing, duration and landing pier depend on the ticket and river conditions. Confirm secure luggage handling separately. If suspended, contact the operator immediately and use the remaining Yangshuo stay to replan.

Walking: Mostly seated cruise / boarding steps

Day 11: Yangshuo

The Yulong countryside, on land | Sleep: Yangshuo · night 2 of 3

Transport: Private vehicle for village stops and anyone preferring shorter walks.

Morning: Breakfast with a view, then a relaxed walk beside the Yulong River and nearby villages.

Midday: Countryside lunch. Optional cycling only for those who want it, with a driver-supported alternative.

Evening: Return to the hotel for downtime and river views.

Night: Local dinner and a relaxed evening together.

Keep the pace flexible; the river cruise already provides the main on-water experience.

Walking: Gentle countryside walk

Day 12: Yangshuo

River-view mornings & time to wander | Sleep: Yangshuo · night 3 of 3

Morning: Slow breakfast and time enjoying your room view. Choose a short Xingping visit, a cooking class or hotel relaxation.

Midday: Leisurely lunch and free time. Use this day to adjust plans if weather disrupted the cruise.

Evening: Hotel break and early dinner.

Night: Optional Impression Liu Sanjie performance, subject to weather and operation.

The full Li River cruise covers the main river scenery, so a separate local boat outing is not added. Xianggong Hill can replace another outing for those comfortable with stairs.

Walking: Flexible

The stepped mountainsides

Day 13: Yangshuo > Longji

A mountain village night | Sleep: Longji · 1 night

Transport: Private minibus: Yangshuo > Longji accommodation in Jinkeng / Dazhai. Allow approximately 3-4 hours or more, plus stops and final access.

Morning: Breakfast, checkout and drive toward Longji.

Midday: Lunch and hotel check-in, allowing for village transport and luggage assistance.

Evening: Visit a terrace viewpoint; use the Jinkeng cable car to Golden Buddha Peak if operating and practical.

Night: Dinner at the accommodation and a quiet mountain evening.

Choose one terrace area. March fields may be bare or sparsely planted, and mist can obscure views. Confirm remaining steps, heating and the drop-off-to-room route.

Walking: Village access and viewpoints may involve steps

Day 14: Longji > Chengdu

One more mountain view, then Sichuan | Sleep: Chengdu · night 1 of 3

Transport: Private minibus: Longji > Guilin airport (KWL). Suitable afternoon/evening nonstop flight to Chengdu if operating, then hotel transfer.

Morning: Breakfast and a short nearby terrace view if time and visibility allow; prioritize an unhurried departure.

Midday: Drive toward Guilin airport, allowing roughly 2.5-3.5 hours from the actual hotel/access point, then the airline's check-in buffer.

Evening: Fly to Chengdu and transfer to the Chunxi Road / Taikoo Li area.

Night: Easy dinner and rest.

Choose a flight that leaves enough time after the mountain transfer. If no suitable direct flight operates, shorten the morning visit or add a travel night; do not squeeze a tight connection into the plan.

Walking: Travel day / optional short viewpoint

Pandas and the spa finale

Day 15: Chengdu

Pandas, tea & a Sichuan evening | Sleep: Chengdu · night 2 of 3

Transport: Private minibus or two cars: hotel / Chengdu Panda Base; other city transfers as needed.

Morning: Visit Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding at opening. Allow approximately 3-4 hours.

Midday: Lunch, followed by a hotel rest.

Evening: Optional tea at People's Park, then an early hotpot dinner with mild and spicy broth options.

Night: Optional face-changing performance if the group has energy.

Current March opening is 7:30 a.m.; recheck for 2027. Reserve with passport details and bring original passports. Keep the afternoon optional after the previous travel day.

Walking: Moderate; internal shuttle available

Day 16: Chengdu

The full spa finale | Sleep: Chengdu · night 3 of 3

Transport: Private minibus or two cars: hotel / selected Chengdu spa.

Morning: Breakfast, then arrive at the spa in the late morning.

Midday: Bathing, steam rooms and a substantial lunch.

Evening: Massages, billiards and lounging; use the cold plunge if a working facility is confirmed.

Night: Dinner, then return to the hotel to pack and sleep.

Venue to select in Chengdu. Ask the hotel to verify bathing pools, cold plunge, steam, billiards, proper meals, seven massage appointments and the full price. Swap with the panda day if useful for a weekday spa visit, keeping both experiences.

Walking: Relaxation day

Day 17: Chengdu > Vancouver

Home, with a camera full of China | Sleep: Home / flight timing dependent

Transport: Private airport transfer, then Chengdu > Vancouver, nonstop if operating on the date or with a suitable connection.

Morning: Breakfast and checkout around the selected flight.

Midday: Transfer to the airport printed on the ticket and complete check-in.

Evening: Fly home; the actual timetable determines today's timing.

Night: Arrive in Vancouver, usually on the same local calendar date as departure from China.

Do not assume the nonstop return operates every day. Compare the whole multi-city fare for all seven, including bags and connection times.

Walking: Travel day

The journeys to arrange

Flight: Vancouver > Shenzhen

Day 1 > 2 | Compare YVR > SZX with Hainan on March 5, 6, 12 or 13. Exact fares, seven-seat availability and schedules are unverified.

Minibus: Shenzhen airport > hotel

Day 2 | Seven passengers plus driver and everyone's luggage. Confirm local arrival date and early check-in.

Train: Shenzhen > Guangzhou

Day 5 | Fast Guangzhou South-Shenzhen North corridor; allow about 2.5-3.5 hours hotel to hotel.

Minibus: Guangzhou > family village > Guangzhou

Day 7 | Whole day reserved. Village name / map pin unknown; confirm before arranging hours, price and stops.

Train: Guangzhou > Guilin

Day 9 | Choose a direct high-speed train; confirm the exact Guilin station for pickup.

Cruise: Guilin-area pier > Yangshuo

Day 10 | Required Li River sightseeing cruise; prefer a 4-star vessel. Confirm pier, seven seats, indoor seating, lunch, luggage handling and transfers.

Minibus: Yangshuo > Longji

Day 13 | Approximately 3-4+ hours. Specify the hotel, final village access, steps and luggage help.

Minibus: Longji > Guilin airport

Day 14 | Allow roughly 2.5-3.5 hours from the actual hotel/access point, plus the airline check-in buffer.

Flight: Guilin > Chengdu

Day 14 | Prefer a suitable afternoon/evening nonstop. Confirm operation before locking the mountain night.

Flight: Chengdu > Vancouver

Day 17 | Price the return with the outbound flight. Nonstop only if operating on the chosen date; connections may change the calendar.

Transfers: Station, airport, cruise & sightseeing transfers

Throughout | All pickup/drop-off points, Panda Base outing, Chengdu spa transfer and Yangshuo countryside vehicle.

Book the long-haul flights and a viable Day 14 Guilin-Chengdu flight before committing to non-refundable hotel nights. The mountain transfer must fit the flight. Train tickets currently have a 15-day presale window including travel day; an advance agent request is not an issued ticket.

Fifteen hotel nights

City	Hotel nights	Check in / out	Area / room brief
Shenzhen	1-3	Day 2 / Day 5	Futian for a central base
Guangzhou	4-7	Day 5 / Day 9	Yuexiu / Beijing Road; review once the village is located
Guilin	8	Day 9 / Day 10	Central Guilin, with a confirmed morning pier transfer
Yangshuo	9-11	Day 10 / Day 13	Li River / Fuli for broad river-and-peak views
Longji	12	Day 13 / Day 14	Jinkeng / Dazhai; confirm access and heating
Chengdu	13-15	Day 14 / Day 17	Chunxi Road / Taikoo Li

Hotel night 1 is the first night in China on Day 2. Day 1 is the flight; the final hotel night is Day 16. A guaranteed room after a dawn landing may require buying the previous night, which is extra. The Guangzhou-first option swaps only the first two city stays.

The Yangshuo room is part of the experience

Request wide windows with a clear river-and-karst view. Start with Yangshuo Lijiang Fuhai Riverside Resort in Fuli; compare Li River Resort and Yangshuo Mountain Retreat. These are a shortlist, not confirmed rates or room views. Fuli and the Yulong River areas are different settings, so compare the exact location and room category.

Ask for a recent video from the bed and sitting area of every room category quoted. Confirm four rooms, adult occupancy, beds, heating, access steps and total tax-inclusive price. A destination photograph is not evidence of a specific room view. Outdoor swimming is not assumed in March.

City stays and the Longji overnight

For Shenzhen, start around Futian. For Guangzhou, start around Yuexiu / Beijing Road, then review access once the village is identified. Choose central Guilin for one practical pre-cruise night. In Chengdu, Chunxi Road / Taikoo Li makes food and city wandering convenient.

At Longji, choose one area around Jinkeng / Dazhai. Prioritize manageable access, heating, remaining steps, luggage assistance and a useful terrace view. Ask the hotel for the exact drop-off-to-room route and a plan for larger bags. The cable car reduces some climbing; it does not guarantee step-free access.

Accommodation planning allowance

Four rooms: 12 non-Yangshuo nights at CAD \$100-150 plus 3 Yangshuo nights at CAD \$150-200 = **CAD \$6,600-9,600 for the group**. These are budget assumptions, not live quotes. CAD \$200 for every room on every hotel night would total CAD \$12,000, before any extra early-check-in night.

Protect the reasons for the trip

Required: the Li River cruise, Day 10

Book the full-size sightseeing vessel from the Guilin-area Mopanshan / Zhujiang pier toward Yangshuo, preferably 4-star. Allow roughly 4-5 hours on the water as a planning estimate. Confirm the actual pier, boarding time, landing pier, seven indoor seats, lunch and steps. Ask separately about baggage: either carry it under the operator's policy or have it securely transferred and met at the Yangshuo hotel. River conditions can alter operation; keep Day 12 available to help replan if sailing is suspended.

Required: the family village day

The whole of Day 7 is held for the family visit (Day 4 if Guangzhou first). The village is not identified. Ask relatives for Chinese characters, county/district, an address, an old document or a map pin. Do not substitute a tourist village. Arrange the driver's final route and price only when the location is known. Reorder the Guangzhou days to suit family availability.

Required: Longji and pandas

Longji is about dramatic terraced mountainsides. March is not a promise of green rice or water-filled fields; mist can hide views. Prioritize the afternoon on Day 13, because the Day 14 flight may limit the morning. Confirm village transport and cable-car operation. For pandas on Day 15, reserve with passport details and bring original passports. Current March opening is 7:30 a.m.; recheck for 2027. The internal shuttle can reduce walking.

Required: the full Chengdu spa day, Day 16

The venue is still to select. Ask the hotel concierge to find one that meets the complete brief: massages for seven, substantial lunch and dinner, bathing pools, a working cold plunge, steam rooms, billiards and space to lounge together. Confirm water temperature, facilities available in each gender-separated area, shared family spaces, attire, seven treatment times, total price and what the package includes. Do not assume a swimming pool or cold plunge from the word "spa".

Optional extras to book only if wanted

Huaqiangbei guide; Pearl River evening cruise; Yangshuo cooking class; Impression Liu Sanjie if operating; Chengdu face-changing show. Leave room for breaks. Seven adults plus a driver and luggage need a suitably sized minibus; obtain seat and luggage-area photos before paying.

The final checks

Entry, payments and practical preparation

The official Canadian ordinary-passport visa-free policy checked for this plan ends December 31, 2026. March 2027 is not covered by that stated end date. Confirm an official extension or arrange the appropriate visa; check each traveller's passport separately. Arrange travel insurance and test payment, mobile-data and translation tools before departure.

Pack layers, a rain jacket, grippy shoes and a warm layer for Longji. Keep Chinese hotel addresses, passport copies and booking confirmations available offline. Use a small overnight bag in Longji after confirming a secure larger-luggage plan.

Sources supporting the plan

[Entry / visa guidance](#)

[China Southern: Vancouver / Guangzhou](#)

[Hainan Airlines: Vancouver / Shenzhen](#)

[Air Canada: Guangzhou service begins May 2027](#)

[Official Li River cruise overview](#)

[Official Li River cruise routes](#)

[Chengdu Panda Base tickets](#)

[Longji / Jinkeng access](#)

[China Railway 12306](#)

[Canada travel advice: China](#)

[Yangshuo Fuhai room shortlist](#)

[Li River Resort rooms](#)

[Yangshuo Mountain Retreat room example](#)

This is a planning itinerary, not a reservation. The key dependencies are the long-haul flight calendar, a workable Day 14 flight after Longji, the village location, the exact river-view room and a Chengdu spa that confirms the full facility brief.

Prepared for seven family travellers from Vancouver. Updated 19 October 2026. The website includes both arrival-city options, all days expanded by default, a country-wide route map, photo gallery and device-local booking checklist.