

Wild China Garden Tour

October 2016



Guangzhou, Dali, Lijiang, Kunming, Yunnan, Yellow Mountain, Guilin, Li River, Wuhan, Wuzhen & a 5 star Yangtze River Cruise.

Tour conducted by
Brian Sams & China Travel Service
(07) 46 968033

Email: briansams@live.com.au
www.wattletreehorticulture.com.au





This tour to China, departing in October 2016, is designed to be a little bit different. We will get off the tourist trail to visit the lesser seen side of China. We have called the tour the Wild China tour as we plan to visit areas of natural scenery, some of the rural areas of China as well as some very interesting gardens. The tour starts in the south of the country in old Canton province before time in the wild Yunnan province. We have included a Yangtze River cruise, a trip to the famous Yellow Mountain, the Li River area and the beautiful water town of Wuzhen. We will once again use the experience of China Travel Service to show us the best of each area as we have done on previous tours. Meals, flights, boat cruises, all entries, tipping, visa fees, hotels and a private coach with an experienced English speaking guide in China are all included. Hotels and meals will be 4 star or higher.

Who is Brian Sams??

Brian Sams is a Toowoomba based horticulturist involved in teaching horticulture, leading garden tours and presenting weekly gardening news for WIN TV and gardening talkback on Radio 4GR. Brian has been leading garden tours overseas and within Australia since 2006. Why? He loves it! He has visited China in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012 and twice in 2014.

Day 1 Monday 10th October Australia to Guangzhou (D)

Depart from either Brisbane, Sydney or Melbourne International airports for Guangzhou, China flying with China Southern CZ382 (0955/1655 – Brisbane flight). When we arrive we will transfer to our hotel. Dinner will be in the hotel tonight.

Hotel: Landmark Canton or similar 4 star hotel

Day 2 Tuesday 11th October Guangzhou (BL)

Today we will venture into the Pearl city to visit the well renowned Southern China Botanical gardens and a lovely small garden call Qinghuiyuan (pictured right). As we tour the city we will see how it has rapidly transformed into a commercial & tourist hub.

Day 3 Wednesday 12th October Guangzhou to Lijiang (BLD)

Some free time this morning before we head to the airport to fly to Lijiang CZ3487 (1225/1655). This is where the wild part of the tour starts in the rural Yunnan province.

Hotel: Hexi Hotel or similar 4 star hotel

Day 4 Thursday 13th October Lijiang (BL)

Today we will have a very scenic day visiting the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain National park. We will take a chairlift to Yak meadow station and the on to the Baisha village to see their famous frescos and other local highlights. Later you have the option of attending the Lijiang Impressions Show.

Day 5 Friday 14th October Lijiang to Dali (BLD)

First stop will be to the interesting Black Dragon Pool Park, and walk in the old town area before we drive through hills to arrive in Dali. Dali is famed as an ancient city that was a gateway to the Silk Road. It looks to be a fascinating old town.

Hotel: Landscape Hotel or similar 4 star hotel

Day 6 Saturday 15th October Dali to Kunming (BLD)

After breakfast we will visit the old town in Dali, the Bai Village and the wonderful Three Pagodas of the Chongsheng temple. After lunch we will drive the rural highway to Kunming. Farms, spectacular mountains & old villages will be some of the highlights of the journey.

Hotel: Jinjiang Hotel or similar 4 star hotel

Day 7 Sunday 16th October Kunming (BL)

The stone forest is one of the most amazing formation of limestone castes you will see anywhere. It covers an area of 400 square kilometers – we will visit one of the most scenic spots and allow some time for getting lost in the stone forest. We will also visit the flower market and the dragon gate in the Western Hills Park. This evening you have the option of seeing the Yunnan Impressions show

Day 8 Monday 17th October Kunming to Guilin (BLD)

After checking out of the hotel we will visit the World Horticultural expo site. Unlike many such expo sites this one has been well maintained and has a great collection of gardens and colour. After lunch we will fly to Guilin.

Hotel: Bravo Hotel or similar 4 star hotel



Private tour : small friendly groups

Day 9 Tuesday 18th October Guilin (BL)

Today is a full day excursion to Longshan to see the famous rice paddies woven into the hillsides and the spectacular mountains and valleys of the area. Later visit the Zhuang and Yao minority hill tribe villages, then we will visit the Reed Flute cave. Return to Guilin for a free evening.

Day 10 Wednesday 19th October Guilin to Yangshou (BLD)

After breakfast we will cruise on the picturesque River Li towards Yangshou. Upon arrival we will have some free time in the famous local market. Tonight you may decide to see the optional Water Show Impressions. It is well worth seeing.

Hotel : New Century Hotel or similar 4 star hotel

Day 11 Thursday 20th October Yangshou to Chongqing (BLD)

This morning we will take the short flight to the amazing metropolis of Chongqing. We will have time to visit the zoo to see the Pandas among other animals. We will also have some sightseeing of the town hall and city square as time permits. In the afternoon we will board our Yangtze River cruise. We plan to cruise 5 star using the Victoria Cruise line (or similar).

Day 12 Friday 21st October Yangtze River Cruise (BLD)

Cruise the Yangtze. A range of stops and options for excursions will be available. Meals are a choice of Chinese or Western cuisine.

Day 13 Saturday 22nd October Yangtze River Cruise (BLD)

Cruise the Yangtze. A range of stops and options for excursions will be available. Meals are a choice of Chinese or Western cuisine.

Day 14 Sunday 23rd October Cruise to Yichang to Wuhan (BLD)

Cruise to the 3 Gorges dam for a close up look at this amazing engineering feat. Upon arrival in Yichang we will board our coach for our drive across the Yangtze delta to Wuhan.

Hotel : Best Western Mayflowers Hotel Wuhan or similar 4 star hotel

Day 15 Monday 24th October Wuhan (BL)

This morning our tour will include the Wuhan botanical gardens, the iconic Yellow crane tower and the new Wuhan Museum. We hope to time our visit to coincide with a musical performance that is said to be well worth seeing! We will have some free time in the afternoon and a free evening.

Day 16 Tuesday 25th October Wuhan to Tunxi (BLD)

Depart Wuhan this morning for the Yellow Mountain area (see front cover). We will travel via coach to Tunxi city and visit the old Tunxi street area before checking into our hotel where we will have dinner tonight.

Hotel : Huangshan Xin'an Country Villa Hotel or similar 4 star hotel

Day 17 Wednesday 26th October Yellow Mountain (B,D)

This morning we will leave our large luggage behind, taking only an overnight bag as we ascend the Yellow Mountain by Cable car. We will see the main features of this spectacular part of the world and you will have the option of going on a walking trail tour in the afternoon. Today lunch is at your own expense. Tonight we will stay on the mountain.

Hotel : Beihai Hotel or similar 4 star hotel

Day 18 Thursday 27th October Yellow Mountain – Wuzhen (BLD)

We will have an early morning start to undertake a sunrise viewing tour – a must see when visiting the Yellow Mountain. Later in the morning we will descend to Tunxi and then board our coach to drive to Wuzhen. This is a beautiful small well preserved water town. Our hotel is a lovely place with a few nice surprises.... After we have checked in we will have a brief walking tour orientation of the town.

Hotel : Water Fair Inn Hotel or similar 4 star hotel

Day 19 Friday 28th October Wuzhen (BD)

A longer walking tour will be available to explore this old village. The choice for transportation in Wuzhen is either walking or canal boat!. If you do want to ride the canal boat (at your own expense) that option is available and recommended. The rest of the day is free for exploration. Tonight our farewell dinner will be in the hotel restaurant.

Day 20 Saturday 29th October Wuzhen – Hangzhou to Australia (B and in flight)

Free time this morning to relax or explore. After check out we will travel via coach to Hangzhou airport to transfer to Guangzhou CZ3512 (1625/1825) and then fly home to Australia CZ381 (2110/0830+1 Brisbane flight)

Day 21 Sunday 30th October – Arrive home (B in flight)

Arrive in Brisbane. (Or other ports as arranged)



Quality matters!

- ⇒ Good well located hotels
- ⇒ Experienced tour guide and tour company
- ⇒ The food will be safe, diverse and interesting to make sure we enjoy the local cuisine in the various provinces of China. We have also left some free dinners for those craving western options!
- ⇒ We always seem to have a wonderful, friendly & fun group to travel with!

Pricing details—tour Code WAT1627

Full tour price—(fully inclusive see below for details)	\$6995
Deposit pp (deductible from tour prices above)	\$750
Single supplement - if you wish to twin share please let us know and we will put you in contact with others who are keen to share.	\$1400
Please note that the full tour price includes international air travel at a special rate negotiated by China Travel Service with China Southern airlines. Departure at this price is available from Brisbane, Sydney or Melbourne. If you wish to use other airlines or arrangements please discuss and we will advise prices and options.	

Important dates

Deposit – as soon as possible to secure place on tour

Final payment 70 days before departure - 1/8/16

The full tour prices include:

- All transport—international and internal air, cruise, air-conditioned coach, chairlifts etc.
- Quality hotels in good locations—First class or superior first class (4 star or above)
- All tipping for national guides, drivers and portorage
- Entry to all sightseeing and gardens as detailed in itinerary
- Quality meals listed in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- English speaking guide for all tour in China.
- Chinese visas—we will help you to apply on line
- Australian garden guide – Brian Sams
- Taxes where appropriate (but subject to change based on prevailing rates)
- Airport transfers (for whole group only in China)

The tour price excludes:

- All items not stated as included
- Tipping for Yangtze River cruise (allow \$40) - this has to be paid directly to cruise operator
- Travel insurance—recommended for all travelers.

General notes:

- tour prices subject to change dependent on currency fluctuations, taxes and fuel surcharges applicable by carrier
- gardens and attractions may be subject to change due to operational considerations.
- prices based on cash, direct debit or cheque payment. Use of credit cards will incur extra fees
- Optional stopover details and flight details other than those listed may be arranged—please talk to Brian Sams to discuss.
- Please complete booking form at time of deposit with full names as per passport.
 - If the booking is cancelled :
 - up to 60 days prior to departure cancellation charge AU\$350 per person will be levied.
 - between 46 - 59 days prior to departure 25% cancellation charge of total payment per person will be levied.
 - between 36 - 45 days prior to departure 50% cancellation charge of total payment per person will be levied.
 - between 10 - 35 days prior to departure 70% cancellation charge of total payment per person will be levied.
 - 9 days or under prior to departure, no refund will be made.
- Any permitted refunds will attract cancellation penalties inclusive of GST. Refunds take approximately 12 weeks. No refund applies once journey has commenced.
- For full terms and conditions please refer to China Travel Service or visit <http://www.chinatravel.com.au/about/legal>



Wattle Tree Garden Tours
Brian Sams
Phone: (07) 46 968033
Mobile: 0415 707 312
briansams@live.com.au

China Travel Service
L/N 2TA001849
David Hu
(02) 93720045



www.wattletreehorticulture.com.au