

NZCFS Ice & Tropics Tour 2020



February 12th - March 4th

Duration: 21 Days

Dates to be confirmed

Immediately after the two golden weeks of Spring Festival holidays, NZCFS will go to Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, to enjoy the ice and lantern festival. After three days retreat to the far south, Hainan Island, Guangxi and Hong Kong.

Full Itinerary:

Day 1

Arrive in Harbin, Heilongjiang province (flight)

- Depart from New Zealand on 12/2, arriving in Harbin on 13/2 (to be confirmed)
- Transfer to the hotel, rest and city activities depending on the arrival time

Day 2

- Bus to Sun Island to see the Sun Island International Snow Sculpture Art Expo
- Siberian Tiger Park
- Around 16:00, move to visit the Ice and Snow World--an interesting site that operates each night and features illuminated sculptures and replicas of full size buildings made from blocks of ice.



Day 3

- St. Sofia Church: largest Orthodox Church in the Far East
- Free walk along the Central Street to know more about Harbin's history, culture and Russian influenced architecture, then visit Stalin Park alongside the frozen Songhua River.
- Late afternoon, we will transfer Zhaolin Park to watch the Ice Lantern Art Fair.



Day 4

Fly to Sanya 5-6 hours and check into hotel. *Those not taking the Harbin Ice Festival option will join us here for the rest of the tour.*

Day 5 to Day 8

Activities in Sanya. Some days we will have time to relax on the white sand, sipping coconuts under the palms.

Day 5

- Visit Binglanggu Li & Miao Cultural Heritage Park(2-3hrs): With rich intangible cultural heritages and tropical landscapes, it is acclaimed as a living fossil that manifests fully the culture of Hainan Island.
- Visit Yanuoda Rainforest

Day 6

- Whole day exploring Yalong Bay Tropic Paradise Forest Park and enjoy the beach



Day 7

- Whole day exploring Nanshan Culture Tourism Zone for Nanshan Buddhism Monastery, 108-metre (354 ft) statue of the bodhisattva Guanyin, Vegetarian food, etc.

Day 8

- Deer Turning Head Park (Luhuitou Park)
–located on the top of the hill

with 275m above sea level, having a bird-eye view of the whole city, may enjoy sunrise here.

- Sanya Romance Park: a large theme park with Li and Miao Minorities villages, Old Street, Snacks Square, the highlight is an indoor performance, lasting about 1 hour.

Day 9

Fly Sanya to Guilin (12:45-14:15, to be confirmed). We will spend the next 9 days exploring the scenic beauty and ethnic minority cultures of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

- City activities depending on arrival time:
- Reed Flute Cave
- Elephant Trunk Hill
- Jinjiang Ming dynasty Palace, Solitary Beauty Peak.

Day 10

Guilin – Yangshuo cruise down Li River

- Check out after breakfast, 30 minutes' drive to the cruise pier and boat
- Boarding at 9:20am.
- 14:30 arrive in Yangshuo, free afternoon in West Street

Evening show –Zhang Yimou's famous show on water "Impression of Liusanjie"



Day 11

- A day of flexible activities. Fuli Ancient Town for free wandering and having a look how to make fans. Or flexible activities like coach for some scenic spots or cycling on the country roads through the paddy fields

Days 12 to 16

We will do a circuit by coach from Yangshuo to Longji to Sanjiang to Liuzhou and back to Guilin.

Day 12

- Yangshuo to Longji (Dragon Backbone) Terraced field (3hrs) by coach)
- Transfer to scenic area shuttle bus, walk to Ping'an village and stay overnight in a Zhuang minority Villa



Day 13

Longji--Sanjiang

- More exploration in the village, transferring back to the tourist center of the Terraced Field and catch our coach to Sanjiang county, Liuzhou city(1.5hrs)
- Visiting Chengyang Bazhai Scenic Area. There are several ancient villages of the Dong minority and green hills and trees around the villages. Besides the villages, you can also see the famous Chengyang Bridge and other attractions and enjoy the performances of local minorities and join their activities.

Day 14

Sanjing--Liuzhou (coach)

- Transferring to Shuanglong Gully Scenic Area (2hrs). There are 400 hectares of primitive forest in this scenic area and several waterfalls. The two streams in the gully of

the forest are like two dragons, hence called Shuanglong (Two-Dragon) Gully Scenic Area.(2-3hrs)

Continue to Liuzhou to check in the hotel (2hrs)

Day 15

Activities in Liuzhou

- Rock Museum, the largest museum of strange rocks in China> A fantastic collection of different rock types and structures, like a sculpture arts exhibition , of great interest for the geologists as well.
- Temple & Tomb of Liu Zongyuan, was built in memory of Liu Zongyuan, a great scholar in the Tang dynasty. The East City Gate in this park is a good place for you to appreciate the scenery of Liujiang River. Five-Star Pedestrian Street, is the center of Liuzhou's entertainment, shopping, and culture.



Day 16

Liuzhou—Guilin (coach)

- Early start to Zhongdu Ancient Town (2hrs). The ancient city gates, walls, and stores still well preserved(1h)
- Xiaoqiao National Karst Geopark. It's regarded as the epitome and the natural geological museum of China's karst landform.(2-3hrs)

Continue to Guilin to check in the hotel (2hrs)

Day 17

Guilin--Hongkong(bullet train)

- Free morning in Guilin or some city activities
- Bullet train to Hongkong(13:38-16:54)
- Transferring to the hotel and free till dinner
- The Peak Tower, having an bird's eye view of Victoria Harbor

Day 18

Activities in Hongkong

- Visit the Lantau Island. When we arrive, we take Ngong Ping Cable. Car connects Tung Chung and Ngong Ping.
- Visit Polin Monastery which is known as the "Buddhist Kingdom in the South", Po Lin Monastery is the most popular Buddhist temple in HK,
- Ngong Ping Village

Day 19

Hongkong--Macao—Hongkong by ferry or on new bridge

- Visit Ruins of Saint Paul Church, which refer to the façade of what was originally the Church of Mater Dei built in 1602-1640 and the ruins of St. Paul's College.
- Visit Mount Fortress and Senado Square.
- Visit Largo do Senado, Macau Tower & Colina da Penha

Back to Hongkong, or stay overnight depending on international flight to New Zealand from Hong Kong Airport.

Day 20

Depart for New Zealand

Key Highlights:

- Harbin: Ice and Lantern Festival, Snow sculptures, Siberian Tiger Park, St Sophia, the frozen Songhua River
- Hainan Island: tropical forests, minority cultures, white sands and coconut palms.
- Guangxi: the beauty of Guilin and Yangshuo, Longji terraced hillsides,, Liuzhou karst landscapes and 'strange rock museum'.
- Hong Kong: Explore Hong Kong and Macao

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To find out more, or to join this tour, email Dave Bromwich on tours@nzcfs.org.nz