



China Accommodation Li River



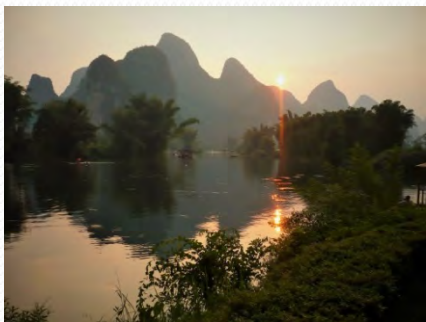
Yangshuo Mountain Retreat, Yangshuo ★★★★★+ (out of 5 stars)

From the hotel's website: The Retreat was originally conceived as a simple eco lodge. As we grew in popularity, we found it necessary to continually upgrade accommodation, adding wifi and even a pizza oven! But guest rooms have remained simple as when we began: no telephone, no TV, and locally made bamboo furniture. We've stayed true to the authenticity of our original concept, like making our own beds and offering a simple farm-to-table menu with a few western favorites. Our restaurant now has great wines too, but we remain the only certified sustainable Yangshuo hotel where guests from around the world can experience the beauty and serenity of Yangshuo Guilin.

Our verdict: We arrived just in time for the sunset. It was absolutely beautiful. All the staff is very friendly and helpful. Dinner was very good and well presented. The basic room and the ensuite bathroom were small but functional. Breakfast (from breakfast menu) on the river bank was lovely. Mountain Retreat is definitely a good choice, not luxury but very charming retreat. Good value for money. We would stay there again.

Price indicator: 58-123 USD/night/room including breakfast - depending on room and season

Location: 10 **room:** 6 **sleep quality:** 8 **food:** 8 **service:** 8 **cleanliness:** 7 **value:** 9 **Total:** 8,0
scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect



Yangshuo, south east of Guilin, was introduced by 'Lonely Planet' in 1980, it greets an increasing number of Chinese and overseas visitors annually. The Li River finds its way to this breathtaking scenery. The region is regarded as one of the most beautiful areas in China and the local scenery is the essence of Guilin. It is also the starting point for an unforgettable Li River cruise. Please contact us for more information.





China Accommodation Li River



Li An Lodge, Longsheng County



From the hotel's website: Sitting on top of a mountain, bordering a local village and overlooking magnificent rice terraces, Li-An Lodge is an entirely wood structure implementing the Chinese traditional building technique of tongue and groove without a single nail. The lodge was created by Keren Su, a renowned photographer, painter and adventurous world traveler, who discovered this enchanted location during a photography trip in 1997. It took him 8 years to design and finish this one-of-a-kind lodge, where Chinese tradition meets modern luxury.

Our verdict: Li An Lodge has an absolutely stunning location above a little village in the middle of the most spectacular rice terrace we have seen. It is the last big house of the village. The rooms are small but very nicely decorated. From our room we could not enjoy the view, it was in the back of the house. The ambiance of the Lodge is fantastic. Staff is friendly and helpful. Breakfast was ok. Dinner was tasty. We think it is a good place to stay if you are in Longsheng County, but a bit overpriced for local standards.

Price indicator: 270-400 USD/night/room incl. breakfast - depending on room and season

Location: 10 room: 8 sleep quality: 8 food: 7 service: 8 cleanliness: 8 value: 7 Total: 8,0
scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect



These are the most amazing rice terraces in China, the Dragon's Backbone. The terraced rice fields of Longji received their name because the rice terraces resemble a dragon's scale, while the summit of the mountain range looks like the backbone of the dragon. As well as its amazing scenery, Longji is also the area to experience China's ethnic minority cultures like the unique Zhuang and the Yao nationalities.





China Accommodation Guilin



eco rating

Sheraton Hotel, Guilin



(out of 5 stars)



The Sheraton is located just 50 m from Li River in the city centre. Just a stone's throw away from Central Square, Zhengyang Pedestrian Street and Shangshui Food Street, the hotel features a fitness centre and outdoor pool. All rooms come with free wired internet. The modern rooms are fitted with a flat-screen satellite TV, minibar and tea/coffee-making facilities. Ironing facilities and a personal safe. Cathay Restaurant serves a selection of Chinese dishes while Atrium Coffee Shop specializes in Western cuisine. Riviera Mediterranean Restaurant features a variety of Italian dishes.

Our verdict: The location of the hotel is brilliant. Very close to the river and the town centre. Even the hotel is an older style Sheraton the reception area and lobby area are nicely decorated and look very welcoming. The room we had was comfortable with a view to the pool area. Food in the restaurant was okay but not very special. Breakfast buffet was good but like a war zone with lots of tourists fighting for an empty table. Staff had difficulties to turn over the tables. Hotel was okay, but below the normal Sheraton standard.

Price indicator: 80-250 USD/night/room incl. breakfast - depending on room and season

Location: 8 room: 7 sleep quality: 7 food: 7 service: 7 cleanliness: 8 value: 8 Total: 7,4

scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect



Guilin is considered to be the pearl of China's thriving tourist industry. The natural beauty and historic treasures and the stunning landscape in which the city is situated has a kind of magic. The strangely shaped hills or karsts, with the verdant vegetation ranging from bamboos to conifers together with crystal clear waters and wonderful caves make the city such an appealing destination. Our tour was organized by our travel partner Travel China Guide.





China Accommodation Beijing



Novotel Xinqiao, Beijing

★★★+ (out of 5 stars)

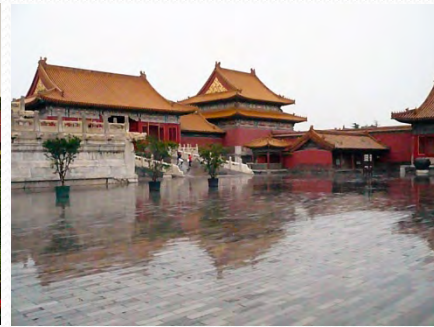
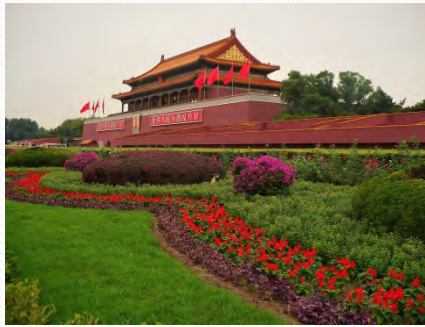
From the hotel's own website: Novotel Xinqiao has a long history since 1954 and hosted numerous prominent and global leaders. Centrally located within walking distance to the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and Wangfujing shopping area. Unique to this hotel of 700 guestrooms, is the hot spring water from 1,400 meters underground and supplied to all guestrooms and spa. Utopia Chinese restaurant is famous for its authentic Peking roast duck.

(we visited the hotel in 2010 and as far as we know it has been renovated and upgraded since then)

Our verdict: The location is very central with the Metro station in front of the hotel. The Novotel is clean as all hotels of the Accor Hotel group are. Unfortunately our room was facing the very busy street and was very noisy. We love a firm bed and had some in China before but this bed was too hard for us. Breakfast buffet was good but service to clean the tables could be better. We enjoyed our dinner at the hotel's Chinese restaurant.

Price indicator: 110-170 USD/night/room - depending on room and season

Location: 5 room: 7 sleep quality: 5 food: 8 service: 7 cleanliness: 8 value: 8 Total: 6,9
scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect



Apart from the major sightseeing attractions China's capital has to offer (Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven, Forbidden City etc.), it is always worth to book a private guided tour to the most interesting places outside the polluted city. We decided to visit the Great Wall at Mutianyu. In the evening we recommend one of the fantastic acrobatic shows in town.





China Accommodation Shanghai



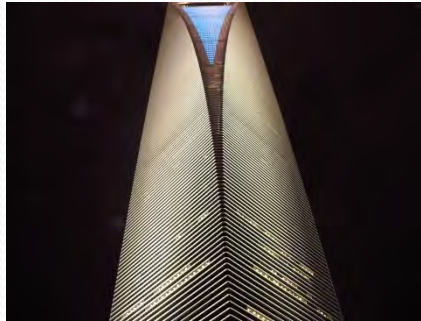
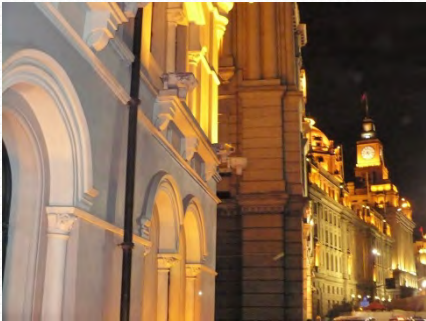
2
eco rating

Pullman Skyway Hotel, Shanghai ★★★★★+ (out of 5 stars)
From the hotel's own website: Pullman Shanghai Skyway is a 52 floors landmark building located in downtown. Its 309 rooms and suites start from 48 m² and have free WIFI access. This business hotel is near XinTianDi, TianZiFang and the main shopping and sightseeing areas. Its brand new dining space Gingembre 15, is located at garden level and it has a terrace surrounded by a pond. The Pullman Executive Floor offers a uniquely exclusive experience. Privileged check-in/out, breakfast and refreshments, computers for working, the Lounge for relaxing...

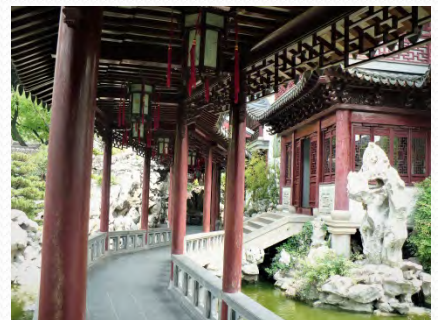
Our verdict: This is a great business hotel in the center of the town. Modern, elegant lobby and reception area. We stayed twice at this hotel. For our first stay we had been upgraded to a very well equipped suite (113m²) on the 41. floor with executive floor services. The view was breathtaking. During our second visit two weeks later we stayed in the 19th floor in an even better suite. Breakfast buffet was good and abundant.

Price indicator: 130-170 USD/night/room - depending on room and season

Location: 8 room: 10 sleep quality: 8 food: 9 service: 8 cleanliness: 8 value: 8 Total: 8,4
scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect



Shanghai, "The Pearl of the Orient", with over 23 million inhabitants is always worth a visit. Covering 7,000 km², Shanghai is much more than an urban jungle. The city is made up of districts, some of which, historic or idyllic, remain a gateway that opens wide onto a past that has not yet completely gone. Shanghai is definitely worth to stay a bid longer.





China Accommodation Suzhou



3
eco rating

Garden Hotel, Suzhou

★★★★+ (out of 5 stars)

From the hotel's own website: Starting from 1952, the Garden Hotel was appointed the residence for state guests by the Government, serving hundreds of national and international leaders. Garden Hotel occupies an historic walled garden compound covering 48,000 square meters of traditional Suzhou gardens. The luxury hotel offers 235 rooms, including presidential suites, deluxe suites, standard suites and standard rooms, housed in elegantly styled heritage villas and contemporary wings. A range of restaurants and lounges offer the finest Chinese and western cuisines.

Our verdict: Garden Hotel is a very stylish hotel located close to the center of Old Town, Suzhou. The beautiful garden surrounding the hotel grounds are a tranquil oasis to relax and enjoy. Our room was big in size, elegant and equipped with everything we needed. We can not say something about the food at the hotel because we had been invited for dinner and breakfast by local friends outside the hotel.

Price indicator: 130-330 USD/night/room - depending on room and season

Location: 8 room: 9 sleep quality: 9 food: n/a service: 8 cleanliness: 8 value: 8 Total: 8,3
scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect

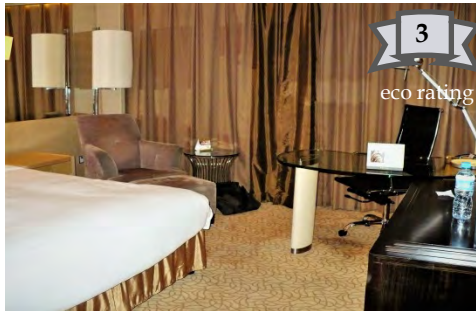


Suzhou has long been a heaven for scholars, artists, and skilled craftsmen, and this is still the case today. In its many beautiful gardens and courtyard parks, Suzhou's ancient heritage is present. Walking through the wonderful water town and visiting the classical gardens in the downtown area, you will truly know the charm of a 'paradise on earth'.





China Accommodation Suzhou



Sofitel Galaxy, Nanjing

★★★★★ (out of 5 stars)

From the hotel's own website: Experience the art de vivre at a Nanjing luxury hotel blending Chinese elegant design and a French touch. Sofitel Nanjing Galaxy rises over the city in a 48-storey tower located in the heart of the business and entertainment district. 68 beautifully designed rooms and suites all 36 square meters or bigger. All rooms are equipped with plasma TV, free plug-and-play broadband and a safety box large enough to store a laptop computer. Enjoy views at the top of the city and high-end design in the luxury hotel suites of Sofitel Nanjing Galaxy.

Our verdict: Our room was spacious and elegant, exceptionally clean, quiet and with a spectacular view of the city. Sofitel Galaxy is nicely decorated throughout. All design elements work well together and make it an appealing place. Staff is polite and helpful, and most speak quite good English. The location of the hotel is very convenient. We were able to reach restaurants, temples, museums and stores by taxi or by foot easily.

Price indicator: 75-130 USD/night/room - depending on room and season

Location: 7 room: 9 sleep quality: 8 food: 8 service: 8 cleanliness: 8 value: 8 Total: 8,0
scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect



SGH Travel Ltd
5a Sykes Avenue
OREWA 0931
NEW ZEALAND
ph 006494262067 mob 0064 21 1158292
mail info@sghtravel.com web www.sghtravel.com



Nanjing is located on the south bank of the Yangtze River and is one of the most delightful destinations in China. It is known as the capital city of six or ten dynasties in ancient Chinese history, it has an exceptional cultural heritage. We had time to visit the Mausoleum of Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang (Ming Dynasty), the Confucius Temple, parts of the old town and the impressive gardens around the Mausoleum of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen. We took the high-speed train back to Shanghai.

