Secrets of Jiangxi: From Pottery to Ancient Villages
How *wild* is WildChina?

*What do we really mean by wild?*

*Here’s what the Oxford English Dictionary says:*
wild (adj)

1. (place) uninhabited; inhospitable

Yes we go beyond the tourist circuit, but equally we love dining in world-class restaurants and drifting to sleep beneath Egyptian cotton sheets.

2. (people) not civilized; primitive

We help you see more closely: the monk texting friends between prayers, the Guilin rice farmer selling honey online. You’ll rethink what civilized truly means.

3. lacking discipline or restraint

Most travel companies stick to the same itinerary - we build in flexibility for those wild and wonderful moments that make travel in China so special.

4. very enthusiastic or excited

Absolutely! The passion of our guides is contagious, whether it’s Lao Wang sharing the secrets of taichi or explorer Jeff Fuchs on his favorite tea.
## A Quick Summary

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Your Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Jingdezhen

Thursday Sep 24, 2020

First Stop: Jingdezhen

Known as the “Porcelain City”, Jingdezhen was the designated source for all porcelain goods in the Imperial household for over 900 years. It has a history of porcelain making dating back near two millennia. The majority of the world’s fine Chinese ceramics dating from that time can be traced to Jingdezhen’s workshops. Though it doesn’t at first glance look like a “porcelain city,” and the ancient wood-fired kilns and manual wheels have been replaced with more modern appliances, Jingdezhen nonetheless remains a major source of ceramic goods found around the world.

Your Journey Begins

Today is the day, the start of your WildChina adventure. Step off the plane in Jingdezhen and meet your local WildChina guide in the airport arrivals hall. They’ll be waiting to welcome you and will have your private vehicle on standby, ready to whisk you off to your hotel for check in.

Tao Xi Chuan Art District

Start off with a leisurely stroll through Tao Xi Chuan Art District. Situated in an old ceramics factory, the revived Tao Xi Chuan Art District is now brimming with shops, cafes, and boutique hotels that make this area a bustling art mecca. With restored brick facades, you’ll find people doing photoshoots and students at the most prestigious ceramics university in China selling their recent creations.
Caroline Cheng's Pottery Workshop

Caroline Cheng is an award-winning artist and curator. She is the owner and executive director of the Pottery Workshop, a center to educate and promote the art of handmade ceramics, with branches in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Jingdezhen, and Dali. The British Museum describes Caroline Cheng as "A tireless promoter of ceramic fine art." They go on to say that "Cheng continues to lecture, give demonstrations, curate exhibitions, and create her own work - work that combines political messages with vibrant and original imagery." Today, we'll visit Cheng's space in Jingdezhen and, if she's available, chat with her in person.

An Evening to Yourself

Spend the remainder of the evening at your leisure resting up for your journey ahead. If you'd like to head out, your guide will be happy to recommend their favorite local spots.

Meals included: lunch
Day 2: Jingdezhen

Friday Sep 25, 2020

The Ancient Kiln

Begin by learning the craft named after the country, porcelain (also known as China), at the Ancient Kiln. Since the 1200s, the Ancient Kiln made China’s iconic porcelain for the imperial court. Nowadays, you can find classically trained pottery masters making porcelain in the traditional manner and pass by the huge kilns that were once used to make the emperor’s prized possession. You’ll have the opportunity to purchase some of the most authentic porcelain money can buy.

Ceramic Folklore Museum

Next, step back in time and see tradition in action at the Ceramic Folklore Museum. The Ceramic Folklore museum is like a living timeline of the history of porcelain. Delicately preserved fine china show the evolution of porcelain style and technique that varied from dynasty to dynasty. Visitors will see porcelain archaeology in action as well as a showcase of pottery that’s survived the ages.

Pottery Workshop

After lunch at a local Jiangxi-style restaurant, get your hands dirty at a contemporary ceramics studio with a hands-on pottery workshop. A stop by a contemporary ceramics studio will also let you become master of your own pottery wheel. Mold your creations with the precious local clay that made this region famous as the wheel spins under your hands. After it’s time to fire your creation, you can step into the next room and paint your own designs on the brilliant white porcelain.
**Dig into the Imperial Kiln**

After, witness ceramic excavation at the Imperial Kiln. Several feet below the earth’s surface, the Imperial Kiln is undergoing an archaeological excavation. Shards and remnants of the porcelain made in this giant kiln are still being found and archaeologists are using this opportunity to document the history of China’s porcelain culture. From the viewing hall, you can try to spot your own discoveries in the digging site below.

**Hike up to the Dragon Pavilion**

After, stretch your legs with a leisurely hike to the Dragon Pavilion overlooking the city. Originally built during the Tang Dynasty, the structure features red bricks with upturned roofs in the classical Chinese style. Back in the day, officials supervised the production of porcelain wares for the imperial court from the top of this pavilion.

*Meals included:* breakfast and lunch
Day 3: Jingdezhen

Saturday Morning Porcelain Market

Wake up early and join the bustling Saturday morning porcelain market where students and locals from all over Jingdezhen come to showcase and sell their wares. Here, you’ll find everything from traditional pottery made by old masters to contemporary designs made by students at the leading ceramics university in China. You can even buy ceramic jewelry, mugs, and tea sets to take home as souvenirs.

Hike Gaoling Mountain

After, hike the slopes of Gaoling Mountain, where the original kaolin clay was excavated from the clay mines by industrious men. You can find life-size replicas of these workers performing the various labors needed to extract the clay from the inside of the mountain. A worthwhile hike in-and-of-itself, tracing these ancient clay supply lines makes for a history lesson out in the great outdoors.

Stroll Through Dongbu Village

At the base of Gaoling Mountain is the centuries-old Dongbu Village (and your lunch). The village was once a major hub for the trade of the kaolin clay used to make porcelain in the city of Jingdezhen. This quaint little village is now home to a small museum where you can find artifacts of the tools used to mine for porcelain as well as scaled-down replicas of the trading routes taken to trade the clay.

Meals included: breakfast and lunch
**Wuyuan Village**

Secluded in the mountains and only accessible by cable car, Wuyuan Village features well-preserved Hui architecture and colorful tapestries of drying chili peppers and chrysanthemum flowers hanging atop roofs. Although a walk through Wuyuan and its courtyard homes is a step back in time, the village is most famous for its ornate tapestries. As the word has spread about Wuyuan’s hidden beauty, more and more local guesthouses and small coffee shops have sprung up in the village.

**Huangling Village**

Built on a hillside, houses in Huangling Village have a unique characteristic “U” shape. In the autumn of each year, villagers dry colorful crops on their terraces in order to preserve their year’s produce. “Dry Crops In Autumn” has become a typical symbol of local culture, and it represents a comfortable and slow lifestyle. In recent years, the beauty of this scene in Huangling has attracted more and more visitors. We’ll walk down the cobbled paths in the village and you’ll see ancient residences and exquisite wood carvings that embody the long history and meet residents practicing their ancient style of crop preservation.

**Transfer to Airport**

Your WildChina guide and private chauffeur will escort you to the airport and help you check in to your departure flight.

*Meals included:* breakfast and lunch
Your Accommodations

Tao Xichuan International Trade Hotel

Tao Xichuan International Trade Hotel is a 4-star boutique hotel located in Ceramic Art Avenue, a development project situated within a series of old state-owned factories close to the center of the city. This hotel has a ceramics theme and you'll find contemporary art installations throughout. The rooms here are spacious and modern, and the staff is helpful. There's a breakfast buffet in the hotel and restaurants within walking distance.

Address: No.150 Xin Chang West Road, Tao Xi Chuan Culture District, Zhushan, Jingdezhen 333000 江西省 景德镇市 新厂西路150号陶溪川创意园区内

Phone: 0798-8736666
Your Quotation

Price Includes

• Domestic flights and relevant taxes
• All on-ground transfers with in-transport refreshments
• Services of a WildChina English-speaking guide, as noted in the itinerary
• All accommodation costs, based on double-occupancy, as noted in the itinerary
• All admission fees and expenses, as noted in the itinerary
• All meals, as noted in the itinerary, and drinking water.
• Airport transfers to/from international flights at the start and end of your trip, as listed in the itinerary

Price Excludes

• Medical insurance
• Travel insurance
• Alcohol and meals not included in the itinerary
• Expenses of a personal nature (e.g. mini bar, personal telecommunications, laundry, etc.)
• Excursions and activities not included in the itinerary
• Discretionary gratuities for guides and drivers