Article published on November 29th 2011 | Destinations

There are plenty of things to see and do in this vibrant city so you need to get out of whichever one of the hotels in Guilin and explore. Once you have exhausted the parks, pagodas and aquariums and are looking for something a bit more adventurous you couldnâ€™t get off to a better start than cruising down the river with its spectacular scenery, or heading for a live show.

Guilin Shangri-La Park

Despite its tacky name, the Shangri-La Park is full of the most beautiful scenery which appears as if it has been lifted straight off a Ming vase. A short boat trip around Butterfly Lake is the best way to take it all in at a leisurely pace, and performances on the shore of song and dance to traditional music lends extra atmosphere to the experience.

Butterfly Cave

This amazing cave runs through the core of a mountain and is packed with exquisite and colourful rock formations from giant crystals to stalagmites and stalactites. The cave derives its name from one of the butterfly-shaped formations. You emerge from the cave straight onto a rope bridge that connects with a neighbouring mountain and makes for some great photo opportunities.

The whole area is famous for its butterflies, both natural ones and manmade ones such as the lake.

Dreaming on Li River Show

This is a really thought provoking and well-presented eveningâ€™s entertainment on the river. It comprises dance and music to a blend of traditional rhythms and dialects representative of the ethnic populations of the area.

Article Source:
http://www.articleside.com/destinations-articles/guilin-things-to-do.htm - Article Side

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Article Keywords:
guilin hotels,guilin hotel,guilin tours attractions destinations things to do,explore guilin city getting around,guilin shopping markets malls centres,guilin shangri la park butterfly cave rreaming on li river show

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