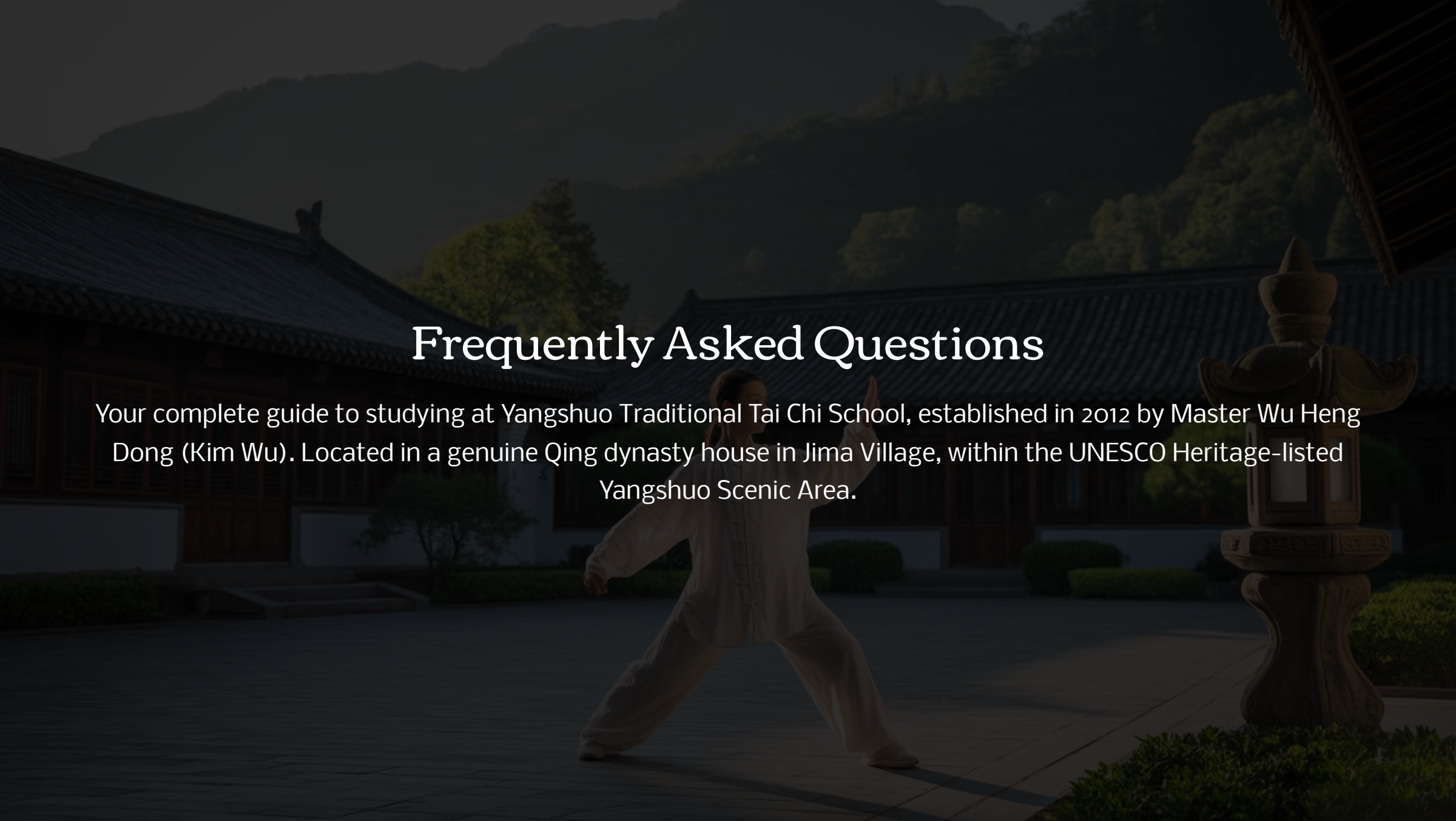


A person in white Tai Chi attire is performing a pose in a traditional Chinese courtyard. The background features a traditional Chinese building with a tiled roof and a mountain range in the distance. A stone lantern is visible on the right side of the frame.

Frequently Asked Questions

Your complete guide to studying at Yangshuo Traditional Tai Chi School, established in 2012 by Master Wu Heng Dong (Kim Wu). Located in a genuine Qing dynasty house in Jima Village, within the UNESCO Heritage-listed Yangshuo Scenic Area.

Q - Do I get my own room?

Yes – you get your **own private room with private bathroom**. No dorms, no strangers snoring next to you, just you, your practice, and maybe a mosquito or two who didn't get the memo.

Your room is simple but cozy, in rustic Chinese style. Think of it as: *"not a 5-star hotel, but definitely a 5-star Tai Chi retreat."*

Bed & Furniture A real bed (not a wooden board, we promise), plus a desk, chairs, shelves, and sometimes even a little balcony for sunset tea.	Climate Control Air conditioning & heating keeps you cool in summer and warm in winter. One button push = instant comfort.	Private Bathroom Western-style toilet, hot shower with overhead "rain" mode, wall-mounted hair dryer, and heating lamps.
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Bathroom Features

- **Western-style toilet** (two flush buttons – choose your adventure 💧💧)
- **Hot shower** with overhead "rain" mode and hand shower
- **Wall-mounted hair dryer** (so you don't need to Tai Chi-fan your hair dry)
- **Heating lamps** to make you feel like a dumpling in a warm steamer
- **Electric water heater** for hot water (flip the switch and give it a few minutes)

Included Amenities

- Shower gel, shampoo, toothbrush + toothpaste
- Fresh towels (so you can pack lighter)
- Bottles of water and a kettle for tea
- Universal outlets + USB ports (220V)



- ☐ Each room has its own key and lock. Your space = your sanctuary. Wall art, carpets, and that unmistakable peaceful "you're-in-China" feeling complete the experience.
- (Sorry, no room service latte – this is a Tai Chi school, not Starbucks 😊)

Q - Is this a Hotel or a School?

Not really–this is a **traditional Tai Chi school, established in 2012 and housed in a genuine Qing dynasty house in Jima Village**, which also offers accommodations. It's not a hotel that simply provides Tai Chi classes.



Master Kim does his best to provide many "Western comforts"–air conditioning, Western toilets, Wi-Fi, and normal beds–but at the end of the day, this is a training school, not a holiday resort.

That means life here is simple, and part of the experience is adapting to that simplicity. Meals are shared, cleaning is kept practical (once a week), and the atmosphere is more like a big family than hotel service.

What NOT to Expect

- Bellboy service
- Room service
- Someone to bring you a cappuccino at breakfast
- Hotel-style amenities

You'll probably be disappointed (and Master Kim will definitely be confused 😊)

What TO Expect

- Living alongside fellow students
- Sharing the daily rhythm of the school
- A big family atmosphere
- Freedom from having everything "done for you"

Think of your stay as a chance to experience authentic training life

Think of your stay as a unique chance to live, train, and eat alongside fellow students, sharing the daily rhythm of this historic school, and perhaps even enjoying the freedom that comes with not having everything "done for you."

Q - Is there a community room?

Yes! On the second floor we have the **community room** – think of it as the school's version of Netflix, but with more tea and less binge-watching.



Tea Table

For Master Kim's evening ceremonies (and your daily caffeine fix).



Pool Table

Perfect for practicing "Tai Chi with a cue stick."



Table Tennis

Train your lightning reflexes outside of push hands.

More Community Features

- **Big book closet** filled with all sorts of reading material (and no overdue fees)
- **Local treasures** from Master Kim's hometown: real cinnamon sticks, local teas, and small-batch herbal balm
- **School merchandise:** t-shirts, Tai Chi clothes, and shoes

The shelves hide treasures like herbal balm (think Tiger Balm's wise cousin – pure, strong, and no mass production).



So yes, there's life after training – whether you want to sip, read, play, or just hang out. Stylish, practical, and guaranteed conversation starters back home.

Q - Can I do laundry?

Yes, absolutely. Each floor has its own washing machine, and **washing powder is free to use**. Considering the warm training conditions (and the humidity), being able to wash your clothes regularly is a real blessing.

01

Load Your Clothes

Open the lid and put in your clothes. (Don't overfill—half to two-thirds full works best.)

02

Add Detergent

Add washing powder into the detergent compartment.

03

Power On

Press the red button (电源 / Power) to turn on the machine.

04

Choose Program

- 标准 = Standard wash (good for everyday laundry)
- 快洗 = Quick wash (shorter cycle, light laundry)
- 强洗 = Heavy wash (for sweaty training clothes, towels, etc.)
- 漂洗 = Rinse only
- 脱水 = Spin only

05

Start the Cycle

Press the  button (启动/暂停 / Start/Pause) to begin.

06

Hang to Dry

Wait until the cycle finishes, then hang your clothes on the drying lines.

✔ **Tip:** Quick-dry sportswear is perfect for the local humidity—it dries much faster than heavy cotton.

Drying lines are available near the machines or close to the rooms, so your clothes can air-dry naturally. So yes, you can keep your training clothes fresh without needing to pack half your wardrobe from home.

Q - Is there WiFi in the school?

Yes, there is– **but** let's set expectations straight.

School Wi-Fi

You can connect to any of the school networks: **taichio1**, **taichio2**, or **taichio3** with the password **taichi123**. Simple enough.

The problem? The Wi-Fi signal is... let's say "shy." Thick walls, weak coverage, and plenty of interference mean it's not exactly Netflix-ready.



⊗ Internet Restrictions in China

China has strict internet controls: many foreign websites and apps like Google, YouTube, WhatsApp, Gmail, etc., are blocked. To access those, you'll need a **VPN that actually works in China** (spoiler: free ones don't). Paid services like Surfshark, ExpressVPN, or CyberGhost sometimes work—but it's a constant cat-and-mouse game.



eSIM Solution

In recent years, phones that support **eSIM** (a digital SIM you install via QR code) have made life much easier. Instead of relying on school Wi-Fi or battling with VPNs, you can use an international eSIM.



Recommended Provider

Our favorite: **Hutchison (3)** eSIMs (look for the red "3" logo). Get one that covers **China, Hong Kong, and Macao**. We've used these for 3 years—they work well, don't cost much.



Easy Installation

Can be installed easily with the **Mobimatter app**. Plans range from 10 days to a full year.



Pro Tips for eSIM Setup

- Make sure your phone supports eSIM before buying
- When installing, use another device (tablet/laptop/phone) to scan the QR code
- After setup: turn off your home SIM, close Wi-Fi and VPN, and turn on roaming for the eSIM
- Mobimatter even has a handy widget to track your data right from your home screen

So yes—there's Wi-Fi in the school. But if you want smooth internet without the constant Wi-Fi/VPN juggling act, eSIM is the way to go.

Q - What type of Tai Chi training will I get?

At the Yangshuo Traditional Tai Chi School, established by Master Wu Heng Dong (Kim Wu), our primary focus is **Chen Style Tai Chi**. This ancient and powerful style, often considered the "original flavor," is characterized by its dynamic spirals, graceful soft flowing movements, and occasional explosive bursts of power, making you feel like a blend of philosopher and kung fu master.

While Master Kim is renowned as a Chen Style master, the school embraces a comprehensive approach to internal martial arts. Beyond Chen Style, we proudly offer a diverse curriculum to enrich your training journey:

Chen Style Foundation

The core curriculum focuses on authentic Chen Style forms and principles

Southern Style Shaolin Gong Fu

For the adventurous: a taste of traditional Southern style Shaolin to spice things up and broaden your martial arts horizons

Yang Style & Sword

Explore the popular Yang Style 24 and the fluid Yang Style 42 Sword for variety and broader understanding



Tai Chi Qi Gong

Delve into fundamental exercises that open up your breath, enhance balance, and cultivate internal energy (and yes, it involves graceful arm movements you can proudly call training!)

Pushing Hands

Test your balance and sensitivity, discovering how surprisingly difficult it is to stay calm while your partner challenges your stability

Weapons Training

Master the staff, straight sword, broad sword, and even the elegant fan. Nothing says "deadly grace" like snapping open a fan in slow motion

- ✔ Master Wu Heng Dong is known for his exceptional ability to guide students who already practice other styles, ensuring you'll never feel out of place. Beginners receive patient and thorough instruction, experienced practitioners gain new depth, and everyone learns something valuable – often more than they expected.

So while the foundation here is undeniably Chen Style, the atmosphere is open, flexible, and rich with diverse training opportunities.

Q - What can I do inside the school?

More than you'd expect! The school isn't just about stretching and slow punching – it's also a little cultural playground.



Chinese Language Classes

Learn to say more than "xièxiè" and "nǐ hǎo." You'll be amazed how far "Wǒ yào miàn" (I want noodles) can take you.

Insider tip: Download **Pleco** or **Baidu Translate** before class – makes life much easier.



Calligraphy Lessons

Discover the art of brush and ink. At first, your characters may look like drunken stick figures, but don't worry – practice brings beauty.

Insider tip: Wear something you don't mind splattering with ink. It happens.



Fan Painting

Paint your own martial-arts fan. Warning: if you paint a dragon, you're legally required to wave it dramatically at least once. Fan will be provided by the teacher.

Insider tip: Fans fold – test yours *after* the paint dries.



Tuina Massage

The perfect fix for sore training muscles. It can be intense, but you'll float out feeling reborn.

Insider tip: Drink warm water afterwards – it helps flush out toxins.



Movie Nights with Master Kim

Expect kung fu classics, Chinese dramas, or something surprising.

Insider tip: No popcorn provided, but peanuts or sunflower seeds work just fine.



Chinese Instrument Lessons

Try your hand at guzheng, erhu, or flute. You might sound like a dying goose at first, but everyone claps anyway.

Insider tip: Ask someone to record your first attempt – comedy gold.



Cooking & Dumpling Making

Hands-on, fun, and edible. No shame in eating your practice pieces.

Insider tip: Don't wear black – flour has a way of finding you.

Q - What's the weather like?

Understanding Yangshuo's weather will help you pack smart and train comfortably throughout the year.



Packing tip: Remember, training outdoors in nature is part of the experience—so dress wisely, and let the weather train your patience as much as your Tai Chi.

Each season offers its own unique training experience, from the meditative mists of spring to the challenging heat of summer. Embrace the natural rhythms and let the weather become part of your Tai Chi journey.

Q - Do you have Vegan / Vegetarian food?

Yes... and no. Let me explain.

For Vegetarians

Life is pretty good here. The dining room has a big round table that usually holds 8 - 10 different dishes. Think of it like a culinary carousel– the table spins, and you just pick what you like and skip what you don't. On any given day you might find dishes with broccoli, tofu, lotus root, pickled cucumber, eggplant, potatoes, or pak choi.

For Vegans

Things get a little trickier. Most dishes are cooked the traditional Chinese way, which usually means soy, oil, and sometimes a dash of mystery. If you're a *strict* vegan, you'll probably find it challenging, but not impossible.



Breakfast

Our beloved "kitchen momma" whips up Chinese porridge, eggs, and sometimes fruit. In the fridge you'll find milk, yogurt, cereals, and oats. Instant coffee makes an occasional appearance (usually with milk). For hot water, there's an electric kettle waiting for you.



Lunch & Dinner

Freshly cooked meals with around 10 dishes, laid out on the big round table. Take as much as you like–just don't waste food, the cook takes that personally.



Special Requests

Sometimes you can ask Master Kim for something different, but keep it reasonable–it has to work for the whole group.

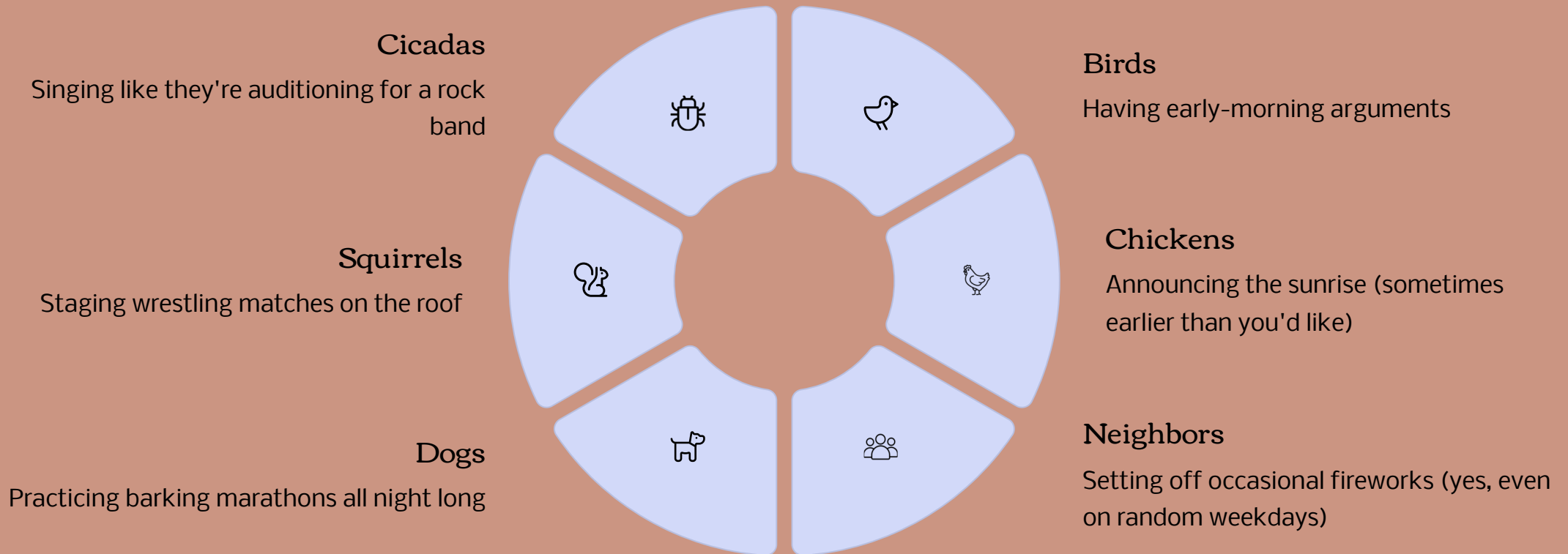
- ❑ Rice lovers, rejoice: there's always a rice cooker ready for you. And while chopsticks are the standard, no one will judge you for grabbing a fork or spoon.

One last thing: don't expect salt, pepper, ketchup, or other condiments on the table. The Chinese kitchen does just fine without them. Oh, and no seating drama–there's no "pecking order." Sit anywhere you like, spin the table, and enjoy.

Q - Is it quiet around the school?

Mostly yes – but let's keep it real.

Jima is still very much a **village**, surrounded by rice fields, hills, and nature. On some nights it's wonderfully calm, with only the crickets to keep you company. On other nights... well, nature and neighbors have their own plans.



It's not predictable – one night is pure silence, another is a village symphony. But in general, the surroundings are **peaceful and calm**, and most students get used to the sounds quickly. Some even find it part of the charm of living in rural China.

✅ **Pro tip:** If you're a very light sleeper, bring earplugs – just in case the squirrels throw an all-night party.

Q - Bugs, moquitos and other critters?

Oh yes. Welcome to Yangshuo, where you won't just meet Tai Chi masters – you'll also meet the local insect population .

Mosquitoes

Think of them as overly curious neighbors who want to know *everything* about you... especially your blood type. They're most active in the hot and humid months (spring through early autumn). In summer, it's practically a mosquito festival, so pack repellent unless you want to be the main attraction.

Geckos

These little wall-climbers are basically the unpaid security staff of your room. They look like tiny dinosaurs, but don't worry – they only eat bugs. Some students even give them names.

Other Crawlers

Ants, spiders, and mystery bugs sometimes make an appearance. They're harmless, but they like to remind you that this is *not* a five-star hotel in Shanghai – it's a Tai Chi school in rural China. Nature comes included, free of charge.

How to Keep the Peace

- Bring mosquito spray or buy the local heavy-duty stuff (Chinese brands mean business)
- In summer, long sleeves in the evening are your best friend
- Close your windows at night unless you'd like extra visitors
- Keep your room tidy, and let the geckos do their night shift
- Optional: practice Tai Chi patience if a bug wanders into your bathroom

Side Note: Master Kim has a collection of local mosquito repellents and treatments if you need them. And in the community room, you'll find a treasure chest of leftover sprays and lotions from past students – perfect if you like to experiment or forgot your own.

So yes, you'll meet a few critters – but most are harmless, and after a few days you might even find the geckos kind of cute.

Q - What if I get sick?

First of all – don't panic. You're in good hands here. Master Kim has prepared for this with a special box in the community room boldly labeled **"Doctor Yourself"**  .



Self-Care Essentials

Inside you'll find the essentials:

- Band-aids for when your sword form meets your shin
- Muscle cream for when enthusiasm outruns flexibility
- Remedies for upset stomachs (yes, even after that questionable street snack)
- Rehydration salts for when the Yangshuo heat gets the best of you



Local Doctors

Local doctors are on call and can even make a **house call** to the Tai Chi school.



Treatment Options

You can choose from **Western medicine** or **Traditional Chinese Medicine** (acupuncture, herbs, etc.).



Hospital & Dental

Yangshuo has a clean, reliable **hospital**, and private **dental clinics** are easy to find if your tooth decides to rebel.

Safety Tips

- If you're taking regular medication, bring enough supply for your stay and a note with details (name, dosage, what it's for)
- Always travel with **good medical insurance** that covers China – better safe than sorry
- Make sure your **vaccinations are up to date** before traveling

In short: from minor cuts to bigger worries, we've got you covered. So relax, train hard, and let the healing energy flow – whether it comes from Master Kim's magic box, a doctor's visit, or a well-placed acupuncture needle.

Q - Is it safe? What about language and etiquette?

The short answer: **Yes, it's very safe.**

Jima Village, located within the UNESCO Heritage-listed Yangshuo Scenic Area, is one of the safest places you'll probably ever live. People are kind, helpful, and often go out of their way to make sure you're okay. Sometimes literally—they might walk you all the way to the place you asked for, just to help you find it.



Safety

- Theft is practically unheard of here. In fact, it's more common that locals chase you down to return money or belongings you accidentally left behind.
- Even at night, it's calm and safe. Just use common sense and keep a normal eye on your things.
- The roads are... well, *creative*. Don't be surprised to see scooters without lights, or a grandma balancing a **two-meter gas bottle** on her bike.



Language

- Master Kim speaks **"Chinglish"** (half Chinese, half English, full of charm).
- The other staff don't speak English, but they communicate with **hands, feet, and big smiles**.
- On the street, English is hit or miss, but many locals will quickly grab their phone and open a translator app.

Learn a few basics:

- **Xiè xiè (谢谢)** = thank you
- **Méiyǒu (没有)** = not available / doesn't exist

⚠ Local Etiquette & School Rules

- This is a Tai Chi school, not a hotel. So don't ask staff to serve you coffee like you're at Starbucks—it's slightly painful for Master Kim 😊
- If you're **not eating** at the school, let Master Kim know.
- If you **can't make it to class**, let Master Kim know too.
- If you ever feel unwell (say you swallowed tap water while brushing your teeth), Master Kim has ways to help.

Dining Room Etiquette

- Clean up after yourself
- Bring your bowl to the sink
- Toss your trash (no need to separate)
- Leave chopsticks in the sink

Other Basics

- No smoking in the rooms 🚭
- Save water and electricity 💡💧
- Respect the calm environment 🧘

In short: be polite, be relaxed, and enjoy the laid-back rhythm of village life.

Q - Can I rent a car, motorbike, scooter, or bike?

Cars and motorbikes? **Nope.** To drive those in China you need a **Chinese driver's license**, and even an international license won't help you here. So unless you plan on settling down and taking the local driving test, that's off the table.

What You CAN Rent

But don't worry—there's good news. You *can* rent an **electric scooter** or a **bicycle**, and there are several rental places close to the school. Prices are pretty friendly:

- **Scooters:** around 30 - 40 yuan per day
- **Bicycles:** around 20 yuan per day

And if you rent for several days, you can often bargain for a better deal.



→ Scooter Survival Tips

They're all electric, so you'll need to **charge them**. Ask the school if there's a free spot to park and plug in.

→ Battery Watch

Keep a close eye on your battery—rental scooters are famous for running out of power at the most inconvenient moments (usually halfway up a hill).

→ Safety First

Always ride carefully. Chinese traffic can sometimes feel like a live-action video game—best played on "easy mode." 🚦

So, while you won't be cruising around in a car or motorcycle, a scooter or bike is more than enough to explore the beautiful surroundings and get a taste of local life.

Q - Is there a bank close to the school?

Well... "close" is relative. The nearest bank is about **3.3 km away in Yangshuo**—the **Bank of China**. It's foreigner-friendly, and most international cards will work there if you need to withdraw cash.



Cash is Old School

In China, cash is almost a collector's item these days. Nearly everyone pays with their phone.



QR Code Everything

Hotels, restaurants, supermarkets, street vendors, taxi drivers—you name it—all use **QR codes** for payment. Blue code = **Alipay**, green code = **WeChat Pay**.



Easy Setup

Both apps are quite easy to set up and can be linked to a **Mastercard, Visa, UnionPay**, or other major cards.

Skril Card Recommendation

No credit card? No problem. We recommend getting a **Skrill card**. It's a prepaid Mastercard you can top up from your regular bank account. You'll get a physical card, but you can also use the **virtual card** instantly after registering and loading funds.

The best part? You decide how much money goes on it—so there's no overdraft, no surprise bills, just safe, controlled spending.

Tip: Install Alipay or WeChat Pay before you arrive, link your card, and you'll breeze through daily life here.

Q - What can I do outside the school?

Yangshuo and the surrounding area, part of the UNESCO Heritage-listed Yangshuo Scenic Area and located at the entrance to the famous Yulong scenic area, are a paradise of rivers, mountains, caves, and cultural shows. Here's your adventure menu:



Bamboo Rafting on Yulong River

Glide gently downriver, steered by a local with a long pole.

Insider tip: Bring flip-flops – your feet will probably get wet.



Li River Cruise

See the iconic landscape on the 20 yuan note.

Insider tip: Go early morning for the mist, or late afternoon for golden light.



Butterfly Caves

Mix of caves, views, and quirky performances.

Insider tip: Wear good shoes – it's slippery inside.

West Street Shopping

Souvenirs, snacks, bars, and lots of neon lights.

Insider tip: Bargain politely – it's expected.

Ruyi Mountain

Panoramic views via cable car or glass bridge.

Insider tip: Don't look down if you're afraid of heights.

Xingping Ancient Town

Cobblestones, old houses, and postcard-perfect scenes.

Insider tip: Best visited on weekdays – weekends get crowded.

Cultural Experiences

- **Liu Sanjie Light Show:** Outdoor spectacle with the river as the stage
- **Shangri-La Cultural Park:** Traditional costumes, music, and folk culture
- **Tea Ceremony:** A calm, meditative ritual with beautiful costumes
- **Moon Hill:** A natural arch with stunning views
- **Lipu Market:** Loud, colorful, and full of unforgettable smells

