



THE APPEAL OF YUNNAN

THE EXTENSION ITINERARY

JULY 31 – AUGUST 4

(DRAFT ITINERARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Yunnan is China's most beautiful province. Located far from the coasts where so much tumultuous change took place in the 20th century, it quietly preserved China's richest accumulation of ethnic minority groups with distinct local cultures. The best restored and protected old cities in China are in Yunnan, including not only the cities of Dali, Lijiang, and Shangrila, but also smaller towns such as Weishan and Xizhou. Traveling in Yunnan you have a unique chance to experience life in old Chinese houses and historical towns.

The mountainous north is carved into deep canyons by three of the world's mightiest rivers, the Mekhong, the Yangtse, and the Irrawaddy. The views are spectacular, especially at Tiger Leaping Gorge, where the flow of the entire Yangtse river funnels through a towering rock gorge just a few tens of meters wide. Yunnan is especially pleasant in the summer when the cool air of the high altitudes contrasts with the hot cities of the plains.



Yunnan area

The rich tapestry of ethnic groups results in a variety of languages, costumes, and cuisine that makes travel in Yunnan a daily adventure. There are many opportunities to experience local dance and music, from small programs in restored houses and traditional theaters in Dali and Lijiang, to the vast "Impressions Lijiang," China's most dramatic ethnic show, choreographed by the man who later produced the Beijing Olympics, with a cast of hundreds. Apart from what you see and hear, there are also good things to taste and eat, including local specialties such as the old-style "brick tea" which once traveled the silk road from southern Yunnan to Mongolia and Tibet, to Yunnan hams, yak and goat cheese, and super-hot "Crossing the Bridge" noodles.

Day 1 – Sunday, July 31 - Hong Kong and arrival in Lijiang

Fly from Hong Kong to the Lijiang Airport

The Linden Centre representative will meet you at the airport and escort them to the Conifer Inn in Shuhe Old City.

You will have lunch along the stream in Shuhe Village and peruse some of the antique shops that line the cobbled-stone lanes. A short 5 minute-ride will take you to the quaint village of Baisha, where we will visit the local temple, renowned for its Ming frescoes. Baisha is nestled in the shadows of the 18,360 foot Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, one of China's most revered peaks. Dinner will be held in a local Naxi home and will include a lecture on the history of the Naxi people.



Shuhe Village



The village of Baisha

Day 2 – Monday, August 1 - Lijiang Old City

After a delicious breakfast buffet at the hotel, we will explore the old city of Lijiang. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of China's most picturesque destinations. You will be enchanted by the winding pathways along pristine canals. The day will be spent walking the city and will include visits to the Dongba Museum to meet with a traditional Naxi spiritual leader and the stunning Black Dragon Pool park. Dinner will be held along one of the canals.

Day 3 – Tuesday, August 2 - Travel to Dali Valley

After breakfast, you will head due south over the 9,000 foot Songgui pass to the shores of Lake Er and Xizhou. A stop will be made in one the largest Bai ethnic village, Zhoucheng, where we will trace the traditional indigo tie-dyeing process from the soaking of the indigo leaves, drawing of designs, knot tying, to the dyeing of fabric and the opening of the cloth. We will all have a chance to try our hands at creating our own textile.

After checking in to the Linden Centre, we will take a short walk to view the grand architectural remnants that still exist in Xizhou. Xizhou, which was known as the Cambridge of the East because of its intellectual history, was the base of Huazhong University and Yale-in-China during WWII. We will visit the old classrooms, which are now housed in the Temple of Great Mercy complex. We will also be hosted at the home of the village elder, Mr. Dong Cheng-han, who will share stories of Xizhou since 1949.



Lake Er

Dinner will be at the Centre followed by a movie in the Centre's screening room.

Day 4 – Wednesday, August 3 - A Walk in the Azure Mountains

After breakfast, we will drive 20 km to the fabled Dali Old Town.

We will walk the old streets, many of which are now filled with boutiques and cafes, before picking up a picnic lunch and taking the gondola up the Path of the Clouds. This 12 kilometer flat path winds its way at 8,600 feet along the Azure Mountains. The path allows for incredible views of the Dali Valley and the 14,000 mountain peaks above. (These activities may be switched due to weather-we may choose to do hiking in the morning and Old Town in the afternoon).



Linden Centre at night

Dinner will be at the Centre and will be followed by a traditional Bai music performance in the complex.

Day 5 – Thursday, August 4 - Transfer to Dali Airport for connecting flights home

The Centre will send you to the airport and ensure that you smoothly board your flight back to Kunming and home.

Important Information:

The price for the extension is \$1,750 per person (double occupancy - based on 20 people participating)

This includes the flight from Hong Kong to Lijiang (via Kunming), all ground transport within Yunnan, lodging in Lijiang (2 nights) and Linden Centre in Xizhou (2 nights), all meals, guides throughout, the special activities and programming arranged by Linden crew as described above, and the flight from Dali to Kunming.

Single supplement will be about \$50/night

Flights to the U.S. information: Kunming is the sole international airport in Yunnan, but most of its flights are to Asian cities – don't think they offer any direct routes to the US. Depending on folks' final destinations, flying from Kunming via Shanghai, Hong Kong, or other Asian capitals will be necessary.

VISA issue - Be aware that traveling from Hong Kong (last stop on the main portion of YaleGALE) back to mainland China may be considered a second entry into the country so that you may need to apply for a multiple entry visa. I am awaiting more information about this.

Note that we are pricing in US\$ here, although our costs are in Chinese currency. If the current trend of the strengthening yuan continues, we might have to adjust the price accordingly.