



**Yunnan**  
**Capital: Kunming**  
**Population: 40.4 million**  
**Area: 394,000 sq km**

## Yunnan: Eternal Spring at Jade-Dragon-Snow- Mountain (10 Days/ 9 Nights)



**'South of the Clouds'** - this is what Yunnan means literally. The province in China's very South-West offers mild climate all year round, with an extended rainy season in summer. This contributes to a unique biological diversity: Rough mountains at the border to Tibet turn into lush tropical forests in the South. Also culturally Yunnan is one of the most diverse of China's provinces with more than 25 ethnic minorities. Explore old Bai-town Dali, UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site Lijiang and Tibetan culture in the area of mystic Shangri-La - a name that dates back to 1939 when British author James Hilton described the beautiful scenery in his novel. Hike the Tiger-Leaping-Gorge, bargain on local markets, be enchanted by the colourfully traditional costumes and enjoy the **eternal spring at Jade-Dragon-Snow-Mountain**.

### Day 1, Stone Forest Excursion

#### Flight Shanghai (Hongqiao) - Kunming

##### **Morning Flight**

Meet & Greet at the airport. Drive direct from the airport to the East via an excellent highway to the renowned Stone Forest - a World Heritage Site. (85 Km) Expect about 2 hours drive.

This vast area is an amazing assembly of bizarre rock formations and has been a very popular destination for tourists. To get most out of this beautiful setting without being disturbed by too many tourists, we recommend to walk the less busy parts called "Wai Shi Lin" with exotic pillars reaching out of small meadows and narrow foot paths. An ideal place to rest and in case you are well prepared, enjoy your home made pick-nick.



By late afternoon head back for the Capital City of Yunnan Province, Kunming. Check in at your hotel.

Free time to enjoy Kunming by night. If time allows or you are not too tired from this unexpected load of fresh air at an altitude of some 1900 m, we suggest you to visit the older part of the city located around the so-called Cui Hu, a small lake. - Guanghua Street still retains the charm of the older city life, although most of the really old buildings do not exist any more. Especially around Jiang Wu Tang and Yunnan University you will find small shops and food stalls that cater students and locals alike. On the way you could also visit for the Yuan Tong Temple.

Night at Kai Wah Hotel, Kunming or similar

### Day 2, Kunming to Dali

Breakfast or Breakfast Box

Private airport transfer

#### Flight Kunming - Dali

##### **Morning Flight**

Meet & Greet at the airport.

Dali is located on the West side of 'Ear Lake' = 'Er Hu' at the foot of Cang Mountain at an altitude of about 2000 m, while the mountain range reaches up to 4719 m. The old city of Dali is especially popular because of its relaxed and laid-back atmosphere—which is quite something in China. Private transfer to your hotel and check-in (subject to early room availability).

Today your destination will be Cangshan Mountain.

Pass by Dali's most famous site: the Three Pagodas (SanTaSi) situated about 1 km northwest of the old town.



They date back to Tang dynasty in the 10th century. Unfortunately, the Pagodas are enclosed structures and thus can not be entered. The place around the pagodas itself is a mere souvenir shopping area, that's why we encourage our guests to enjoy the view from afar: Take the chairlift near the Three Pagodas up to Cangshan (around 20 minutes) to visit ZhongHe Temple. Two restaurants invite you for lunch on the Mountain - one not far from the Temple & one on the mountain peak. After lunch, you have the option for a 12 km hike along the mountain slopes to the South, taking the Gantong Cable car at the end of the hike back to the valley Dali (please note, the cable car stops operating at 6 pm).



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If you look for a less demanding hike, you could hike from your lunch place to the North, to Taoxi Stream, from where you have views over the City of Dali with the Three Pagodas and into a scenic valley. You would return to the chair-lift and back to Dali. Your driver will wait you at the exit of Cable car (or the Chair Lift).

Transfer back to your hotel

Free evening to discover the old town

Night at Lan Lin Ge Hotel, Dali or similar

## Day 3, Dali to Lijiang

Breakfast

Drive to Xizhou where an interested market takes place every morning. From hardware to traditional artwork everything can be found there - but of course bargaining is mandatory.

In Xizhou's old town lots of streets and buildings show signs of former wealth but also remnants of the Cultural Revolution can be found. Then continue your drive to Lijiang after lunch. The road rises further and further until you reach Lijiang late afternoon. The city is situated in a beautiful valley at an altitude of 2400 m.

Evenings in Lijiang are never boring: Restaurants and little Cafes offer a wide selection of delicious dishes.

During evenings Naxi people gather for a dance on the Market Square. You are invited to join in!

Night at San He Hotel, Lijiang or similar



## Day 4, Yufeng & Baisha

Breakfast

Today your first destination is Yu Hu Village, where you could visit Joseph Rocks House. Then continue to YuFeng Si, Jade Peak Temple, situated at the foot of famous Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. This small monastery was established in 1756. Nowadays its main attraction is the beautiful Wanduo Shancha - a big Camellia Tree, which will bloom - if in season - with thousands of Camellias.

Afterwards you walk downhill for couple of hours all the way to Baisha - former capital of the Naxi Kingdom. When visiting Baisha's Taoist Temple you might run into famous Dr. Ho who offers medical teas and herbs.

**Alternatively, and against extra cost,** visit Zhang Yi Mou's show "Impression Lijiang", featuring local performers on a natural stage with Yu Long Xue Shan as backdrop in an impressive play. The show begins at 13:30. Do avoid paying the expensive entrance fee into the park as well as for the show, make a pre-arranged booking.



Later in the afternoon there is time to explore Dayan, Lijiang's Old Town. Spread around a central square, the Old Town is criss-crossed by canals and narrow streets. It is surrounded by mountains which keep cold winds off and provide fresh spring water.

Night at San He Hotel, Lijiang or similar

## Day 5, Black Dragon Pool

Visit the Old Town and the Vegetable Market BEFORE breakfast. At this time of day you are able to hear your own footsteps resound on the cobbled street and you see Naxi Woman in their traditional dress.

Breakfast

In the afternoon visit Black Dragon Pool Park, situated on the Northern edge of town. A nice walk leads around the pool, where graceful bridges and a small Pagoda enhance makes it an excellent place to stay and relax. On a clear day you get an amazing view of 5.598 m high Jade Dragon Snow Mountain - Lijiang's most impressive landmark and probably the most popular photo shoot of Yunnan province.

Night at San He Hotel, Lijiang or similar



## Day 6, Tiger Leaping Gorge Excursion

Breakfast

Leave Lijiang not later than 9 am and drive along Jade Dragon Snow Mountain area, crossing mountain passes of far more than 3.000 m altitude. If the weather is sunny and clear, this trip (around 100 Km)

offers breathtakingly beautiful views. Expect about 2 ½ hours drive. After reaching Qiao Tou (Bridge Head), the starting off point for the Tiger-Leaping-Gorge, transport mode changes: Make sure to start your hike not later than 11:00 a. m. Enter the hike at Kilometer marker 194, just a few hundred meters after the ticket booth. The first two hours expect a gently rising road which leads to a small Naxi Village. This makes an excellent lunch stop before you continue with slight climbing until you reach the most strenuous part of the 28 bends (2.670 m). Do not rush yourself, take your time and after about another two hours to three hours you will have mastered to reach the highest point of this arduous hike. - A quite steep part leads down for about an hour until the path levels and you can walk comfortably enjoying the breathtaking views of the valley and 4.000 m high mountains on the opposite side until you reach the Tea Horse Guesthouse, your stop for the night. Expect about 6 hours of hiking for this day.

Night at Tea Horse Guesthouse







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## **Day 7, Tiger Leaping Gorge to Shangri-La**

After enjoying the panoramic view during breakfast you continue your hike. Continue on a nice and flat path to Half-Way-Guesthouse, a nice stop for a coffee break. You will need about 2 hours for this first part. After your break continue gently following a small water system and a final short climb before you walk downhill all the way to Tina's Guesthouse, right on the road side. The total hiking time for this day should be around 4 hours. Make sure to reach Tina's Guesthouse between 12:00 and 13:00.

Have lunch here before meeting your driver with your luggage. Your drive this afternoon leads you further up to Tibetan heights until you reach legendary Shangri-La.

The road follows Yulong Mountains passing by Baishui-Terraces. Take your time for this journey through one of China's most beautiful landscapes.

The scenery is changing very fast, dramatic wild water rivers and rough cliffs. Your destination Shangri-La, or Zhongdian or Gyalthang Zhong is situated on a vast highland with an altitude of 3.280 m.

It is said that James Hilton's classic „Lost Horizon“ was inspired by this region. The Tibetan name (Gyalthang) means „Place of Luck“.

Night at Gyalthang Dzong Hotel, Shangri-La (Zhongdian)



## **Day 8, Shangri La, Day Excursion**

Breakfast

Today: Slow down. First visit Buddhist Song Zan Lin Temple. Several hundred monks live in this 300-year-old monastery complex. From here continue to Napahai, a lake surrounded by vast grasslands. If you would like to do horseback riding, take the opportunity here. Further towards the Tibetan border you visit a little village which is famous for its pottery. Head back to Zhongdian. The afternoon is left to your own disposal. You might want to do some shopping: The old city offers many interesting Tibetan souvenirs.

Every evening Tibetans dance on the market square in the old AND new part of the city. Why not join them?

**Alternatively and if the weather promises excellent views, visit ShiKa Mountain by cable car, a half day tour.**

Night at Gyalthang Dzong Hotel, Shangri-La (Zhongdian)



## **Day 9, Pudacuo National Park**

Breakfast

Today you will visit Pudacuo National Park

Depart after your breakfast drive around 1 hour to the National Park, where you would change into a Shuttle bus. First stop would be Shudu Lake, enjoy a nice hike on a wooden boardwalk (2.7km). Then catch the next bus available. Continue to Militang, where you could have your lunch there or bring your own lunch box with you. The last visit today would be Bitu Lake. Your bus will stop near the boat pier, a short walk only to the boat. Take the boat across the lake, and hike the left part (2.1 km) until you reach the last parking stop. Alternatively you can hike the whole part of also about 4.2 km expect 2 hours hike, if no boat is operating. The shuttle bus will take you back to the park exit. Your driver will wait for you at the parking space. Transfer back to your hotel.

Night at Gyalthang Zhong Hotel, Shangri-La (Zhongdian) or similar



## **Day 10, Zhongdian to Shanghai**

Breakfast

Private car transfer to the airport

**Flight Zhongdian – Shanghai (Stop over in Kunming)  
Morning Flight**

**If you decide to travel with The Last Frontiers\* we will be happy to provide an extensive personalized package, including:**

- ✓ Personal briefing
- ✓ Tips and hints on travelling in China
- ✓ Map of the region
- ✓ Addresslist in both English and Chinese
- ✓ Restaurant recommendations



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**We have been working with our local partners for many years and know them as being reliable and professional. The hotels we chose for you are personally tested and approved by The Last Frontiers. Should problems occur during your trip, we are here for you in our office in Shanghai.**

## Tour includes:

- + Domestic tickets
- + Airport transfers as specified
- + Accommodation as stated including breakfast
- + Private car and guide throughout the tour (guide to Great Wall is not included)

## Tour excludes:

- Entrance fees
- All meals not mentioned in the itinerary or marked as optional or suggested
- Personal expenses (laundry, telephone calls, drinks, tip...)
- Personnel insurances (health, third party, cancellation, luggage...)
- Any services not mentioned in the itinerary



## Price on request

For an exact quote we need to know **travel dates, names of all travelers** as per passport and **birth date of children below the age of 12.**

## Important Remarks

This proposal has been prepared based on or experience and knowledge of the current situation locally. **No** bookings have been made yet. In case of your confirmation to go ahead and to book hotels, flights and other services, we will request those from our partners as per itinerary. Should hotels and flights not be available, we will endeavor to book services of similar quality. However, slight changes to our proposal above may be unavoidable.

## Passports & Visas

When traveling, you must be in possession of valid papers. To avoid any risk, passports shall be **valid for min another 6 months** on the day of your return to your home. In case, Visas are required, The Last Frontiers\* would be delighted to support you organizing the visas. Please note however, that The Last Frontiers\* can not be held responsible for information on visa or immigration regulations, or in case visas are not obtained or visas are not accepted by local Authorities. In case, you plan to come back to China, please check, that you are in possession of documentation to be able to reenter China (visa & entry permit).

## Payment

Invoices payable prior to departure or latest one week after Invoice Date. China Trips payable to our accounts in China or Cash RMB. **Credit Cards welcome (conditions apply)**. International services payable in US\$ or Euro to our accounts in Hongkong or Germany. Cheques accepted (surcharges apply).

## Cancellation

**Cancellation fees apply, if you change or cancel the trip (or parts of the trip) after your verbal or written confirmation.** We will attempt to reduce cancellation fees to a minimum and will calculate cancellation fees according to our actually incurred costs and time spent on your case. **In any case, cancellation fees as per Confirmation Sheet apply.**

## Force Majeure

Compensation payments do not apply, where performance is prevented by risk of war or threat of war, riot, civil strife, industrial dispute, terrorist activity, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, adverse weather conditions, technical problems with transport, closure or congestion of airports or ports, cancellations or changes of schedules by scheduled airlines and similar events beyond The Last Frontiers' control.

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