

Unique Yunnan 10 Days

~~\$2,000.00~~ **\$1,800.00**

Dali, Lijiang, Shangri-La, Kunming

Extensions available to: Nepal, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, and Hong Kong!

Tour Highlights:

- Visit Dali city and explore the ancient streets and markets of the **Old Town Quarter**, and the famous **Three Pagodas** of Chongsheng Temple.
- **Explore Lijiang** and its stunning natural surroundings, home to the Nakhi ethnic group, and once a prominent stop on the ancient **Southern Silk Road**
- Get up close to the 16 peaks of **Jade Dragon Snow Mountain**, set in a dramatic geological park.
- Discover Zhongdian – now known as **Shangri-La**, and see **Ganden Sumtsenling Tibetan monastery**, set in one of the hidden corners of the world, and the largest Tibetan monastery in Yunnan.
- See **Kunming**, the capital of **Yunnan province**, which is home to many China's 55 ethnic minorities.
- Experience the poetically-named **Tiger Leaping Gorge**, and the incomparable UNESCO-listed **Limestone Forest**.

This is a **small group tour** that takes you from the by now well-known cities of China. Bordered to the south by Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar, and to the West by Tibet, lies Yunnan province. Long considered a wild borderland of exotic animals and populated by communities that resisted integration into the rising and falling empires of the 'Middle Kingdom', Yunnan remains a land of myth and of legend. Home to the cities Kunming, Dali, Lijiang, and 'Shangri-La', Yunnan is perhaps China's most ethnically-diverse province, with more than 25 groups represented. From ancient towns and grand old temples, to limestone 'forests', soaring mountains and deep gorges, to indigenous crafts and unique food, you will absorb the many marvels of nature and culture on this tour.

In stock

Categories: Asia, China Tags: China, Dali, Kunming, Lijiang, Shangri-La, Yunnan

Dates (minimum 4 passengers/departure)

2018			Land Only Per Person
04 Apr	06 Sep Last 2018 Departure!	17 Oct	From \$2,000 \$1,800 Land Only

Package Inclusions:

- Internal airfares (operated by a local carrier)
- 9 nights hotel accommodation (twin share)
- Daily meals as indicated (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Coach transportation
- Entrance fees to scenic attractions
- English speaking tour guide(s)

Package Exclusions:

- Tipping prepaid in Australia: \$140
- China visa application fees
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenditure and anything not stated

Price Guide:

- **Single Supplement:** \$599
- **Early Arrival/Stay Behind/Stopover Surcharge:** From \$250 (subject to availability and applicable fare difference)
- **Pre/Post-Tour Accommodation (including breakfast):** From \$150/twin room/night
- **Child Price:** Same as adult

^ International long haul sectors only.

All prices, itineraries, airlines, hotels and cruise ships are subject to availability and change without prior notice. Nexus Holidays reserves the right to provide substitutes of similar standard and adjust the itinerary as we see fit to ensure the smooth running of the tour. Passengers must remain with the tour group at all times and must not deviate from the set itinerary. The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule, please refer to the day by day itinerary for the time spent on land. Please check all information before booking. By booking, you accept all **Booking Conditions**.

Impression Lijiang

Impression Lijiang is a cultural show which demonstrating the traditions and lifestyle of local Naxi, Yi, and Bai ethnic groups of the area. It is the second outdoor production of famous film director Zhang Yimou, and is performed at an open-air performance at the foot of Yulong Xueshan (Jade Dragon Snow Mountain), about 3500 meters above sea level. The performance stage is specially designed to showcase the mountain as the best backdrop of the show. More than 500 local people from ten ethnic groups have been selected from over 16 towns and villages nearby to take part in the performances for tourists, which include folk songs, dances, and rituals.

Hotel Accommodation

Dali	Zhong He Fang Jiu Dian Hotel or similar	★★★★★ local rating
Lijiang	Guangfang Hotel Lijiang Garden Villa or similar	★★★★★ local rating
Shangri-la	Hilton Garden Inn Shangri-la or similar	★★★★★ local rating
Kunming	Kunming Kai Wah Plaza International or similar	★★★★★ local rating

Important Information – Visiting Yunnan

While many ethnic minorities and the abundance of unique natural attractions help make this province rich and colourful, Yunnan is one of the more remote and underdeveloped parts of China and the cities here cannot be compared to mega-cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, or Chengdu, with their luxury hotels, fine restaurants and well-built roads. A journey to Yunnan is a unique experience which should be approached with an open mind and a willingness to embrace the unique cultures and traditional lifestyles of the various ethnic minorities who populate this land.

Day 1: Dali

Arrive in Dali City.

Day 2: Dali (B, L)

Today, you will be taken on a boat tour of **Erhai Lake** (reputed to be shaped like a Buddha's ear), followed by a visit to **Chongsheng Temple**. This landmark temple is famous for its three pagodas, the central and tallest tower was built around 1200 years ago. Next, embark on a tour of the **Dali's Old Town**, visiting the **South Gate** of old town castle. Exploring the popular **Foreigner Street and Peoples Road**, both ideal locations to purchase souvenirs and local crafts (such as metalwork and tie-died cloth) or antiques.

Day 3: Dali 🚗 Lijiang (B, L)

Today we drive to **Lijiang**, stopping on the way for a meal. Lijiang was once an important stop on the 'Tea Horse Caravan Trail', that transported Yunnan-grown tea into India, and brought back Buddhist texts and pilgrims along this 'Southern Silk Road'. On arrival, we visit the renowned **Old Town**, a 600-year-old town featuring stone walls, grey-tiled roofs, doors and windows carved with dragon and phoenix patterns, and also beautiful gardens. The distinctive architecture of the local Nakhi people combines influences from Tibet and Ming-era China with their own flourishes, and the wooden decorations carved by the local Bai craftsmen. You may find carved window frames available for sale. Optional activity (at your own expense): Visit a local tie-dye workshop and try your hand at this traditional craft.

Day 4: Lijiang (B, L)

From your hotel in Lijiang, you will visit **Jade Dragon Snow Mountain** (Yu Long Xue Shan). In the vicinity of the mountain are a number of natural attractions, such as **Whitewater (Baishui) River** in **Blue Moon Valley**. This geopark region boasts blue pools, coloured by copper ions in the water, and semi-circular 'yak baths' formed by the mineral-rich glacial waters (with some human assistance). Yaks really can be seen 'bathing' in the pools. You will also visit **Dry Sea Meadow**, a pasture formed in the bed of a dried-up lake, and an ideal place to view the dramatic Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. In the afternoon, see the dramatic large-scale outdoor performance **Impression Lijiang**, devised by famous director Zhang Yimou, and starring 500 of the local Yi, Bai, and Nakhi minority peoples. This concludes the day's activities.

Day 5: Lijiang (B, L)

This morning, we visit **Baisha (White Sand) Village**, which is famous for the Ming-era murals inside **Dabaoji Palace**. These painted frescoes depict a combination of esoteric Buddhist deities, historical figures such as Guru Rinpoche (the founder of Tibetan Buddhism) Daoist sages, and everyday people going about their daily lives. Unfortunately, they were damaged during the cultural revolution, but the murals remain a unique fusion of Nakhi, Han Chinese, Tibetan, and Bai painting styles and subject matter. You will also visit a local embroidery school and have an opportunity to purchase some local crafts. After refreshments we return to Lijiang.

Day 6: Lijiang 🚗 Shangri-la (B, L)

Drive to '**Shangri-la**' (formerly Zhongdian, and called Gyalthang in Tibetan) this morning, and visit one of the deepest and most dramatic gorges in the world, **Tiger Leaping Gorge**. Legend has it that a tiger escaped capture by leaping across at the narrowest point, which is 25 metres across! Arrive at Shangri-la, (renamed in reference to the hidden paradise from James Hilton's novel 'The Lost Horizon'), and be transferred to your hotel for free time at leisure (and to acclimatise to the high altitude). This distinctive town is populated by Tibetans, Han Chinese, Bai, Nakhi, and Hui (Chinese Muslims). You may visit a Tibetan family (at your own expense) and taste Tibetan specialities of yak butter

tea, local yogurt, and Tibetan barley.

Day 7: Shangri-la (B, L, D)

Today we visit **Shika Snow Mountain**. Shika refers to the red deer, an auspicious animal in Buddhism. One of the eight sacred snow-capped mountains, Shika provides amazing views of the surrounding area. You may see Tibetan houses, sheep and cattle. Visit **Yala Qingbo Meadow** and see profusions of flowers in the spring and summer months.

Afterwards, we visit **Ganden Sumtsenling Temple**. Commissioned by the 5th Dalai Lama in 1679, and based on the Potala Palace in Lhasa. The temple and monastery were severely damaged in during the cultural revolution and then rebuilt from 1981 to 1983. It is is the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Yunnan – more than 1500 monks gather in the mail prayer hall on ceremonial occasions.

Day 8: Shangri-La (B, L)

Today we visit the **White Water Terraces**, located at the base of Haba Snow Mountain, and covering an area of around three square kilometers. This scenic area with its terraced pools formed by calcium carbonate in the water, is reminiscent of Pamukkale in Turkey, and is significant in the spiritual beliefs of the Nakhi people. Round off the day by exploring **Zhongdian Old Town**. You may find Tibetan silver jewellery, Yi lacquer ware, or other local crafts for sale.

Day 9: Shangri-La ✈ Kunming (L, D)

After arrival in Kunming, you'll be transferred to the **Stone Forest** – one of the most popular tourist attractions in Yunnan. This is a huge (500 sq. KM) collection of limestone 'trees', 'mushrooms', and other dramatic shapes, that were formed by erosion over a period of 270 million years. Experience **sampling Pu'er tea**. Pu'er tea is a speciality of Yunnan and is named after a town in the province's south. It is made from broad-leafed tea varieties which are roasted in a hot pan, then moistened and blended and pressed into hard discs to develop flavour through fermentation. It is usually sold labelled with a production date and location, and is sought out and enjoyed by connoisseurs like a good wine or aged scotch.

Day 10: Kunming

Enjoy the day at leisure before departing Kunming. The trip may be over, but the experiences and memories will certainly last a lifetime.

Pictured: A temple guardian in Kunming's Western Hills.