

Journey Idea to China

Pure Yunnan
15 Days



Prepared for
Steppes Travel Clients

QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

DAY

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Fly London Heathrow / Beijing (overnight) |
| 2 | Fly Beijing / Kunming |
| 3 | Kunming |
| 4 | Kunming |
| 5 | Kunming |
| 6 | Fly Kunming / Dali |
| 7 | Dali |
| 8 | Drive Dali / Lijiang |
| 9 | Lijiang |
| 10 | Lijiang |
| 11 | Drive Lijiang / Zhongdian |
| 12 | Zhongdian |
| 13 | Zhongdian |
| 14 | Fly Zhongdian / Kunming / Beijing |
| 15 | Fly Beijing / London Heathrow |

DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY

DAY

1

London / Beijing

This afternoon depart London Heathrow on the British Airways flight to Beijing, flying overnight.

2

Beijing / Kunming

On arrival in Beijing connect with the onward flight to Kunming. In Kunming you will be met and taken to your hotel.

3

Kunming

The morning is at leisure.



Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province, has a history of more than 2400 years and owes its importance to the fact that it was the gateway to the celebrated Silk Road that facilitated trade with Tibet, Sichuan, Myanmar and India. Today the city is the political, economical and cultural centre of Yunnan and the provincial centre for transport, science and technology.

This afternoon begin your sightseeing programme in the city. Visit the Yunnan Provincial Museum which will give you a good overview of the culture and history of the area. Yunnan is home to nearly a third of China's minority groups. Also see the Yuantong Monastery, a Tang monastery with a history of over 1,200 years, is seated at the southern foot of Luofengshan Hill. The structure embodies the essence of the Tang architectural style. According to relevant records, a temple called Putuoluo Temple was once built on the present site by the Meng royal family of Nanzhao Kingdom in the Tang Dynasty. A giant Yuantong Hall was built in the monetary in the Yuan Dynasty, and it went through several renovations in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. It is the largest Buddhist monastery in Kunming.

Overnight at the Camelia Hotel or Kunming Hotel or Green Lake Hotel. (Breakfast).

4

Kunming

Today travel to see the Stone Forest, Shilin. En route stop to see the flower market. Kunming is known as the city of eternal spring and the variety of plants grown here is wide. Shilin covers an area of 80 hectares and consists of some wonderful rock formations created from the limestone that is found in the area. It is possible to walk in amongst the rocks along narrow passages. Nearby is the village of Qixing inhabited by the Sani branch of the Yi people and it may be possible to view their way of life. Continue on to see another less visited village, Weigui, also Yi. It is sometimes not possible to visit these villages so an alternative will be provided if this is the case. You will return to Kunming in the afternoon. (Breakfast).



5

Kunming

Spend the morning and the early afternoon sightseeing. You will travel outside the city to see some of the outlying points of interest. Drive to an area near Lake Dian. You will visit Dragon



Gate. The Dragon Gate offers spectacular views of the lake and is reached by ascending over 300 winding stone steps. The last part of the walk involves passing through a number of corridors and paths cut into the rock face by a Taoist Monk and his assistants in the early 19th and late 18th centuries. You will also see the Bamboo Temple which dates back to the Tang Dynasty. It is noted for the 500 bodhisattvas carved in the 19th century by the Sichuanese master sculptor Li Guangxi. Almost fifty percent of the population is non-Han, the predominant group in the country and a visit to the Yunnan Minorities Museum will enlighten you further as to the ethnic make up of the region. (Breakfast).

6

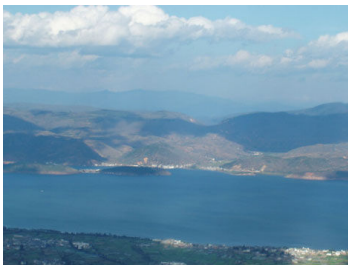


Kunming / Dali

After breakfast you will be taken to the airport for the flight to Dali. On arrival you will be met and taken to your hotel.

In the afternoon visit a local Bai village which will give you the opportunity to meet some of the minority people. The main minority group in the area is the Bai whose women wear tunics with multi-coloured aprons, braided ribbons and intricate hats. You will spend time in one of their villages where you can view their handiwork and costumes. Also, see the 3 Pagodas some of the oldest in this part of China. There will be time to walk in Dali town on your return. It is not large and has two of its city gates intact. Many of the local shops sell the local tie-dye textiles. (Breakfast).

7



Dali

This morning drive to the small towns of Xizhou and Shaping located near Erhai Lake. Although it may not be market day a stroll through the streets looking at daily life and the architecture makes for a pleasant morning.

Travel south of Dali and spend the afternoon walking to the Gantong Temple in the Cangshan Mountains. Built in the Tang Dynasty it is still the largest temple in the Cangshan. If time allows, drive to see Zhonghe Temple. (Breakfast).

8

Dali / Lijiang

The morning is at leisure. You could hire a bicycle and ride around town or go the Erhai lake shore.

In the afternoon drive to Lijiang. On arrival check in to your hotel. (Breakfast).

9

Lijiang

Lijiang has existed for at least 800 years and has its own Tibeto Burman language with a unique pictographic script and its own unique music. Women run the market and businesses and inherit property through the youngest daughter and men are gardeners, musicians and child rearers. Lijiang was at one end of Tibet's trading route and had trading ties with far flung cities of Burma, Tibet and India.

Begin your full days sightseeing after breakfast. Begin with a walk to the old town and see the market. It is a relatively small town with the older section consisting of narrow cobbled streets



that seems lost in a time warp. The minority peoples here are the Naxi, a matriarchal ethnic group. The town is dominated by the Jade Dragons Mountains which can often be seen reflected in the waters of the Black Dragon Pool, an idyllic spot which has a three story pagoda and an arched marble bridge nearby. A picturesque spot from which to take that iconic photograph. A visit to the Dongba Research Institute or the Naxi Cultural Museum will help give you a better understanding of the Naxi people.

This afternoon visit the Yufeng Monastery and Baisha Village. The Yufeng Temple which is a small lamasery dating back to 1756 is most well-known for the 10,000 blossom Camellia tree. You will also see the Dabaoji Hall in the village of Baisha that contains some of the best preserved frescoes dating from the 15th and 16th centuries painted by Tibetans, Naxi, Bai and Han artists. (Breakfast).

10

Lijiang

The full day is at leisure. (Breakfast).

11



Lijiang / Zhongdian (Shangrila)

After breakfast depart for Zhongdian, a full day drive, stopping to see the Tiger Leaping Gorge en route. The gorge is one of the deepest and most stunning in the world. This is where the Yangtze River is forced through a relatively small crack in the mountains resulting in tremendous downward erosion.

On arrival in Zhongdian check in to your hotel. (Breakfast).

12



Zhongdian (Shangrila)

The morning is at leisure.

In the afternoon visit the Sumsanling Monastery town of Ganden Sumsanling where at least 600 Buddhist monks spend their time engrossed in Buddhist learning away from their families and homes. Built in the 17th Century by the 5th Dalai Lama, the monastery with numerous chapels, woodcarving and paintings is like living museum of Tibetan culture. Parts of the monastery are being reconstructed and there is a regeneration of the religious spirit.

Zhongdian or Diqing or Shangrila, as the Chinese have now renamed it, is like many towns in China where Han Chinese and minority groups coexist. There is the new modern section and the old traditional section. The latter is a network of narrow streets where old wooden and stone buildings stand. In the centre is a large square where older men and women come each afternoon to perform traditional dance. There are some very attractive restaurants serving both western and Tibetan cuisine and dinner will be provided for you in one such restaurant. (Breakfast).

13

Zhongdian (Shangrila)

The full day is at leisure

OR



After an early breakfast walk to Rutapo Hill and its Yak grazing meadows from where one can have a 360 degree view of the valley. Continue to the sacred hill of Ringa and the Dabao Temple of the Five Wisdom Buddhas. Take a circumambulation walk of Ringa Hill with picnic lunch and walk back to the hotel. A total of about 6 hours walking today. (Breakfast).

14

Zhongdian (Shangrila) / Beijing

The morning is at leisure.

In the afternoon you will be taken to the airport for the flights to Beijing via Kunming. On arrival you will be met and taken to your hotel. (Breakfast).

15

This morning you will be taken to the airport for the flight to London Heathrow, arriving in London later the same afternoon. (Breakfast).

TRIP PRICE

4* hotels - Price from £2,175.00 per person + flight taxes

5* hotels - Price from £3,185.00 per person + flight taxes

£50.00 per person - Supplement for walking option on Day 13

The rates quoted are subject to the availability of all services, currency fluctuations, written confirmation and Steppes Travels terms and conditions.

The price includes - Return flights from London in Economy Class, accommodation in twin/double room, private transfers & transportation (air-conditioned car, internal flights in Economy Class), private sightseeing programme with English speaking guide and entrance fees to tourist sites, meals as indicated.

The price excludes - Visas, travel insurance, meals unless indicated, early check in or late check out at hotels, camera/video fees at museum/sites, items of a personal nature, gratuities.

Please note that the above is only a suggested journey, allowing in-depth visits to the highlights of the country and the chance to explore the wide range of possibilities this fascinating country has to offer. We have a separate list of escorted tours and specialise in tailoring individual itineraries to your particular interests and requirements. This journey idea serves more as a general guide on what there is to see and do, as well as a guide on price.

Why Travel with Steppes?

Steppes Travel was founded in 1989 with the objective of creating a travel company where service and knowledge are of the highest priority. We aim to design itineraries and include the highlights of any country, whilst taking travellers off the beaten track to see lesser known, interesting places not frequented by large numbers of tourists. We offer individuals the ability to travel safely in remote areas, with the knowledge that we have travelled there before.

Financial Protection

Steppes Travel is a fully bonded tour operator that complies with the Civil Aviation Authority bonding conditions of the UK. This fully guarantees your money in the unlikely event of us going out of business before you start your holiday. Our ATOL number is 6945 and we have full insurance to cover the financial failure of an airline. In addition, all accommodation-only bookings (such as hotels, lodges and boats) which are not covered by the ATOL regulations are financially protected with all payments being held in a separate trust account until the date of departure. This is in accordance with the Package Travel Regulations Act 1992.

Specialist Knowledge

We demand and employ only a very high calibre of staff. All of our specialists have a wealth of travel experience and have travelled, and continue to travel, extensively throughout their regions of specialisation. You can therefore rely on their first hand knowledge and expertise. Some have been with us for more than ten years. They will tell you about those intimate, friendly hotels and introduce you to our charismatic guides - those little extra qualities that make your holiday both unique and special.

A Tailor-made Journey

After an initial discussion with you, one of our specialists will create a unique itinerary for your trip, designed around your own interests, preferred style of accommodation and the pace at which you like to travel. This will be fine tuned until you are completely satisfied with it. Throughout this whole process, you will be dealt with by the same specialist and you are welcome to call them at any time.

24 hour Emergency Service

We have an emergency service so that we can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Recognition

More than 65% of our business is achieved through recommendations, referrals and repeat bookings. This, for us, is the highest endorsement we could have. In addition, our 20 years of experience in this specialist travel sector confirms our expertise.

Please contact Steppes Travel on 01285 880 980 or visit our website www.steppestravel.co.uk for further information.

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