



A Journey along the Ancient Trade Routes of Yunnan

This trip beckons those seeking to explore the **lesser traveled borderlands** of southwestern China -- Yunnan Province – with its **multiple of cultures** whose customs and traditions survive by their remoteness; and whose vibrant natural wonders are indeed blessed by the gods.



Brief Itinerary: 14 days in country

1. **Arrive in Kunming**, capital of Yunnan called the city of “Eternal Spring.” Visit Green Lake and the flower market. Dinner in a traditional style. (D)
2. **Fly to Dali**, day hike in the mountains, and visit Xihou town, a vital trade center beside Erhai Lake (*photo upper right*). Welcome to a Bai merchant’s stone home with its elegant courtyard. Walk through the walled city of Dali, soaking up the ancient history. (BLD)
3. **Weishan and Dali**: Drive to an old tea trading town where family-run shops of basket weavers, tofu makers, cobblers, horse tack sellers hawk their wares. (BLD)
4. **Weibaoshan and Dali**: Hike (optional) to Weibaoshan Mountain, a Taoist pilgrimage area and one of the thirteen Chinese Daoist holy mountains. Picnic and return to. (BL)
5. **A Scenic Drive to Yunlong**, through beautiful countryside on untamed dirt roads. Dine on local specialties and overnight in a simple, clean guest house. (BLD)
6. **Yunlong**: Drive to a nearby old salt trade village beside an enormous 280° meander in the Mekong River. Visit a Taoist priest's home, and see where salt known for its curative properties is produced. (BLD)
7. **Travel to Shaxi** through the stunning Laojushan Mountains to Shaxi, dating back 2400 years. (BL)
8. **Shaxi and to Lijiang**: Enjoy a morning walk through the weekly Shaxi market (on Fridays) then drive through lush green rice fields and quiet traditional villages. Take in ancient grottos where carvings depict early life scenes. Arrive in Lijiang (*right*) and explore the city on foot. (BL)
9. **Lijiang**: Rise early and walk the back alleys and along small canals where traditions still linger. Head to the village where the accomplished botanist, writer, and explorer Joseph Rock was based from 1922-49. After





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lunch, make an (optional) 3-4 hr pilgrimage to a Buddhist temple and cave. Return to Lijiang and enjoy a Naxi musical performance (optional). (BLD)

- 10. **Tiger Leaping Gorge and Gyalthang (Shangrila):** Drive to the famous gorge so narrow that a tiger is said to have leapt across it to escape being caught. The sides of the gorge rise some 10,000' above the rapids. Take in the views of Jade Dragon Mountain and Mt Haba before continuing north to Gyalthang in Tibetan, now called Shangrila with its chalet-like villages. (BL)
- 11. **Gyalthang (Shangrila):** Visit Ganden Sumsanling (*lower right*). Built in the 17th century by the 5th Dalai Lama, the monastery is a living museum of Tibetan culture. Visit the old town, once a center for caravans on their way to Lhasa (*right*). Visit Ringha temple of the Five Wisdom Buddhas where local people pray to leave their problems behind. Enjoy tea in a Tibetan family home and return for dinner in the old town. (BLD)
- 12 & 13. **Gyalthang:** Take a half day trek through alpine terrain or snap pictures in the local market. Wander through town where street dancers often perform. Take an (optional) cooking class. One day: drive north on the road toward Tibet and where you can see the Yangtze -Mekong Divide. See how the craftspeople make black pottery and lathe-turned wooden bowls. Farewell dinner. (BLD)



- 14. **Depart for Home:** Fly to Kunming and connect to your departure flight. (B)

Trip Price (2014)

6-8 persons	\$5,890 per person	\$550 single supplement
9-12 persons	\$5,690 per person	\$550 single supplement

Plus Estimated Airfare: Kunming/Dali @US\$ 240, Shangrila/Kunming @US\$ 240 per person

The cost is inclusive of:

- Accommodations (on room sharing basis) in guest houses, boutique and 3-4 star hotels
- All breakfasts and meals as indicated in the itinerary (12 lunches and 8 dinners)
- Transportation in a good private bus
- Sightseeing as per the itinerary (subject to weather or road conditions and government rulings).
- English speaking guides
- All entry fees and permits to areas in the itinerary as mentioned
- 4 bottles of mineral water per day

The cost does not include:

- Drinks, mineral water and other drinks at meals and hotels, meals not included, laundry, phone calls, portorage of camera equipment and personal baggage.
- Gratuities for guides and driver.
- Photo fees at different locations if any
- Entry into areas not on the route
- International airfare to and from Kunming
- Trip cancellation and medical evacuation insurance