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8 days Yunnan highlights tour

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Kunming
Dali
Lijiang
Shangri-la

Embark on a Yunnan tour through Kunming, Dali, Lijiang, and Shangri-la. See Kunming's Stone Forest, Dali's ancient city and Erhai Lake, Lijiang's Naxi culture and Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, Tiger Leaping Gorge, ending in the mystical Shangri-la.

Type
Private
Duration
8 days
Theme
Culture and Heritage, Natural scenery, Overland, Winter getaways
Trip code
YE-03
Price
From £ 875 per person
£ 795
you save £ 80 (10%)

Itinerary

Explore the wonders of Yunnan with our Yunnan highlights tour, taking you through Kunming, Dali, Lijiang, and Shangri-la. This Yunnan tour is designed to give you a taste of Yunnan's stunning scenery, fascinating cultures, and ancient sights. Start in Kunming, the "City of Spring," and marvel at the unique Stone Forest. In Dali, walk through the Dali ancient city, see the beautiful Erhai Lake. Lijiang awaits next, offering a peek into the local Naxi culture and the breathtaking Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Then continue travel to Shangri-la via Tiger Leaping Gorge, end your adventure in the magical Shangri-la, a haven of Tibetan culture and natural beauty.

Day 01 :
Arrive Kunming



Upon arrival at Kunming airport or railway station, to be met and assisted to your hotel by Kunming local tour guide. Rest of the day is on your own. you can choose to walk around this city or stay in the hotel for retire.

Day 02 :

Kunming Lunan Stone Forest Tour (B)

In the morning, drive for about 1-1.5 hours to reach the **Lunan Stone Forest**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site covering 400 sq. kilometers, known for its spectacular limestone formations resembling a forest of stone. Spend the entire morning immersing yourself in this stunning natural wonder by visiting the Greater Stone Forest with its towering spires and intricate caves. Afterward, return to downtown Kunming to visit **Yuantong Temple**, one of China's most prestigious Buddhist sites with over 1,200 years of history. It boasts unique architecture, with a main hall set below the entrance, and offers a tranquil setting complete with detailed sculptures and a lotus pond. If time allows, pay a visit **Green Lake Park**, a beautiful emerald oasis in Kunming.

In the evening, you may enjoy the grand dance musical 'Dynamic Yunnan' which has been an outstanding innovation on the Chinese stage in recent years directed by Yang Liping. Primitive, unsophisticated folk dances and a fresh artistic concept converge in the program, giving audiences a unique 'Yunnan Impression'. 62 drums and 120 masks of strong ethnic characteristics are incorporated in the performance. (Fee is on your own).

Day 03 :

Bullet train to Dali - Dali City Tour (B)

Today you will take an early morning bullet train to Dali. Upon arrival, Your local guide will meet you at the Dali Railway Station and assist you to the hotel. Visit the Erhai Lake Park, the Three Pagoda Temple and the Dali Old Town. The **Erhai Lake** is a famous plateau lake in Dali with an altitude of 1,972 m. (6,470 ft.). Due to less pollution, the water is very blue and peaceful that it is long been known as Pearl at the Plateau. You can explore Erhai Lake with a local sightseeing bus, or consider taking a boat or cycling tour around the lake (additional fee is required). Then move to the **Three Pagoda Temple**, regarded as the cultural symbol of Dali Ancient town and is a typical architectural style of the Tang Dynasty. Afterwards stroll around Dali Ancient town to feel the atmosphere of the town. Then return to your hotel for the evening.

Day 04 :

Drive to Lijiang - Lijiang Sightseeing (B)

After breakfast at hotel, drive about 3 hours to Lijiang, one of the most famous ancient town in China. On the way, visit the **Yan's Compound of Bai Minority in Xizhou**, a local market and the **tie-dyeing in Zhoucheng**. Upon arrival in Lijiang, you will be assisted to check in the local hotel in old town. Afternoon visit the **Square Street of the Lijiang Old Town** which is in the center of the town. Four streets stretch out in four directions and stores are standing one by one. You will find various kinds of goods or snacks on the street.

Day 05 :

Lijiang Jade Dragon Snow Mountain Tour (B)

Spend much of your time today on enjoying the natural scenery and rich local culture in Lijiang. First head to the **Jade Dragon Snow Mountain**, a 5,596 m. (18,539 ft.) glacier made up of 13 magnificent peaks. Ride a cable car up to a high grassland meadow, where you can witness the 13 peaks lively in distance. As you descend the mountain, Every step will reveal a breath-taking view.

Afterward, head to **Baisha Village**, an ancient settlement of Naxi culture where you can explore the local architectures. The village is noted for the Mural painted during the Ming Dynasty, blending with the artistic styles of the Naxi, Tibet and Bai minority. Spend some time to visit one local family in the village, learn about their ancient culture that still in practice today.

In the late afternoon, drive back to Lijiang ancient town to visit the **Black Dragon Pools** on the northern edge of town. Enjoy an amazing view of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain in distance and explore traditional stone buildings and bridges here, this park is also one of the best places to take photos in China. Next, drive back to the hotel and prepare for the next day.

Day 06 :

Lijiang - Tiger Leaping Gorge - Drive to Shangri-la (B)

Today, you will have a 4-hour drive from Lijiang to Shangri-La, the fairyland in the northwest of Yunnan province. Stop at Stone Drum Town, where you will see the **First Bend of the Yangtze River** and enjoy a spectacular view as the Yangtze River forms a sudden V-shaped bend here.

Next, visit **Tiger Leaping Gorge**, one of the deepest and most beautiful gorges in China. The water current is very fast here, as the river is flanked by high peaks, steep cliffs, and jagged rocks. Then, continue driving to Shangri-La. Upon arrival, settle into a local hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to explore this ancient Tibetan town on your own.

Day 07 :

Sightseeing around Shangri-la (B)

Start the tour today by visiting the **Ganden Sumtseling Monastery**. Also known as Guihua Monastery, it is the biggest Tibetan Buddhist Temple in Yunnan. The monastery is built imitating the layout of the Polata Palace in Lhasa and hence came the alias 'the little Potala Palace'. Afterwards visit the tranquil Shudu lake & Bitu Lake in **Pudacuo National Park**. The Shudu Lake is beautiful because the plants around the lake are lush and the wild animals are various.

Then you will pay a **visit to one of the local Tibetan families** to get close to the local people's lives and try some Tibetan home-made yak butter tea there.

Later afternoon visit **Shangri-la Tibetan Ancient Town**, climb up to the top of Guishan Hill, you will see the largest Prayer Wheel of the world and have a panoramic view of Shangri-la county. After that, drive back to your hotel and prepare for the next day.

Day 08 :

Shangri-La Departure (B)

Spend your free time discovering Shangri-la on your own until your driver takes you to the airport or train station for your onward journey.

For your departure, consider the high-speed train to places like Lijiang and Kunming, or opt for a direct flight to cities including Kunming, Chengdu, Lhasa, Chongqing, among others.

Prices

Period

2 Persons

3 Persons

4-6 Persons

Nov. to Mar.

Regular price £ 1,178 £ 990 £ 875

Sale price £ 1,071 £ 900 £ 795

Apr. to Oct.

Regular price £ 1,221 £ 1,063 £ 935

Sale price £ 1,110 £ 966 £ 850

Inclusions

Tour notes:

Please note prices are based in CNY.

General inclusions:

2 bottles of mineral water provided daily.

All required government taxes and fees.

Your selection of 3, 4 or 5 Stars hotel (shared twin room, private bathroom and daily breakfast)

All entrance tickets as noted in the tour's itinerary.

Guide fluent in English, Chinese or Japanese that is certified by the state tourism build and from the local community. (If your native language is not listed please let us know, we are certain we can assist your needs.)

Airport and/or train station pick-up and drop-off.

All domestic flight and train tickets. Economy-class for flights and soft sleeper / seat for train tickets.

Transportation will be provided via a comfortable and clean car, minivan or tourist bus depending upon the groups size.

General exclusions:

Personal expenses such as laundry, drinks, internet access, fax, telephone calls etc.

Tips for your guide and driver.

Flight and/or railway ticket(s) to the first city of the tour and departure from the last city of the tour.

Meals not specified in the itinerary.

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