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Kunming
Jianshui
Yuanyang
Kunming

This Yunnan tour offers a blend of historical exploration in Jianshui Ancient Town and a visual feast at the magnificent Yuanyang Rice Terraces. It's an ideal choice for photography enthusiasts, best to visit between NOV and APR for great photos

Type

Private

Duration

7 days

Theme

Natural scenery, Photography, Winter getaways

Trip code

YE-01

Price

From \$ ~~760~~ per person

\$ 691

you save \$ 69 (10%)

Itinerary

Jianshui Ancient Town, with a history spanning 1,200 years, is renowned for its well-preserved ancient architecture, featuring traditional Chinese courtyard homes and temples. In Jianshui, you will have the opportunity to explore the famous Zhu Family Garden, a large and exquisite traditional residence, and the Confucius Temple, which stands as one of the largest Confucian temples in China.

The Yuanyang Rice Terraces, carved into the steep slopes of the Ailao Mountains by the skilled Hani people in Yunnan, have thrived for over a millennium. These terraces, a testament to sustainable farming, offer breathtaking views during planting and harvest seasons when they're filled with water or covered in lush green rice. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, they're a magnet for photographers and cultural explorers. Visit between November and April for the most photogenic experience, as the paddies transform into a golden, shimmering landscape under the morning and sunset light, showcasing a vivid array of colors for stunning photographs.

Day 01 :

Arrive Kunming

Embark on a photography tour to the captivating Yuanyang Rice Terraces, an area known for its breathtaking landscapes and the rich cultural heritage of the Hani ethnic group in Yunnan province. Your journey commences in Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan, often referred to as "the City of Eternal Spring" due to its delightful climate and year-round floral beauty.

Upon your arrival at Kunming's airport or railway station, your local guide and driver will be there to welcome you. They will accompany you to your downtown hotel. You have the rest of the day at your leisure to explore the city. Your knowledgeable local guide will be more than happy to offer suggestions for places to visit and activities to enjoy during your free time.

Day 02 :

Drive to Jianshui - Visit the Stone Forest and Jianshui Ancient City (B)

After breakfast, embark on a 5-hour drive to Jianshui, a renowned historical and cultural city with 1200 year history in China. Along the way, make a stop to marvel at the **Stone Forest** in Lunan, it is a vast natural wonder spanning 400 square kilometers (about 98,842 acres). It features towering stone pillars that resemble trees, creating a stone forest-like landscape. Spend the morning immersing yourself in this stunning natural wonder by visiting the Greater Stone Forest with its towering spires and intricate caves. Then continue on to Jianshui.

In Jianshui, you'll be arranged to visit the third largest **Confucius Temple** in China. This temple, boasting a traditional Chinese architectural style, has a history spanning over 700 years. What sets it apart is its unique representation of the cultural blend between the Han people and other ethnic groups from South Yunnan.

Afterward, explore **Jianshui old town**, where you can admire well-preserved ancient buildings and gain insight into the daily lives of the local residents. Don't miss the Chaoyang Gateway Arch, a distinctive landmark that graces the city of Jianshui.

Day 03 :

Jianshui Sightseeing - Drive to Yuanyang

Begin your morning with a visit to **Zhu's Family Garden**, a prime example of opulent residential homes from ancient China. Explore a labyrinth of courtyards adorned with exquisitely designed pavilions featuring steep ridges, painted crossbeams, and intricately decorated ceilings.

Following your visit, journey to **Tuanshan Village**, the sole intact cultural village from the Qing Dynasty in Yunnan. This village offers a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture and traditions of the Yi ethnic minority, who have called this village home for centuries.

In the afternoon, have a 3 to 4-hour drive to Yuanyang, renowned for its breathtaking rice terraces. It's important to note that the best time to see the terraces in their full glory is from January to March. Today you will stop at **Tiger Mouth Village** to capture the mesmerizing sunset. Be sure to have your camera at the ready to capture the terraces, which appear as if they were painted by an artist.

Day 04 :

Yuanyang Sightseeing

This morning, enjoy the splendid **sunrise at Duoyishu**, where the ever-changing reflections and shadows on the colorful water create a visually stunning experience. Afterwards, proceed to **a local market in Shengcun** where you can observe local ethnic people dressed in their traditional clothing and experience their way of life.

Following lunch, drive to the **Jingkou Hani Ethnic Village**, known for its distinctive mushroom-like houses. Take a leisurely stroll in the village and learn about the culture and history of the Hani Minority by visiting a Hani Showroom within the village. If you're up for it, you can consider a 1-3 hour walk through the rice terraces.

End the day with a visit to the **Bada Scenic Area**, where the sunset is truly breathtaking as the ever-changing colors make you feel like you're in a magical kingdom.

Day 05 :

Drive Back to Kunming

Continue your journey today with a trek to some local villages, allowing you to capture more spectacular views of the Hani terraced fields, which are renowned for their magnificent and extensive landscapes. Explore areas like **old Hani village Azheke** and **Huangcaoling market** to witness the grandeur of these terraced fields.

After returning to Kunming, the rest of the day is yours to freely explore and enjoy the city at your leisure.

Day 06 :

Kunming City Tour

Today, you have a full day to explore Kunming. After breakfast, start by strolling through the **Flowers and Birds Market** in downtown Kunming. It's a popular local market where you can find a variety of items, including flowers, birds, fish, and other small animals. This lively market provides a glimpse into daily life and culture of Kunming.

Following, proceed to the renowned Taoist temple, the **Golden Temple**. The temple is known for its exquisite Heavenly Gates, adorned with intricately painted pillars and beautifully carved beams and rafters.

In the afternoon, dedicate the remaining day to exploring **West Hill and the Dragon Gate**. These hills run along the western shore of Dianchi Lake, stretching about 40 kilometers from north to south. The hills' landscape resembles a reclining maiden with her long hair flowing into the lake, creating a picturesque scene.

In the evening, you have the option to return to your hotel for rest or enjoy the **Dynamic Yunnan Show** (admission fee at your own expense).

Day 07 :

Departure from Kunming



Bid farewell to your guide this morning as they pick you up from your hotel and drive you to the airport or train station for your departure. If you have any specific requirements for your tour, please don't hesitate to inform us. We are experienced in creating customized trips and are prepared to help you should you wish to extend your stay in China.

Prices

Period

2 Persons

3 Persons

4-6 Persons

Nov. to Mar.

Regular price\$ 1,155\$ 957\$ 805

Sale price \$ 1,050\$ 870\$ 732

Apr. to Oct.

Regular price\$ 1,109\$ 912\$ 760

Sale price \$ 1,009\$ 829\$ 691

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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