



Yunnan Highlands Local Culture 11-Day Tour (CIT004)
Kunming 昆明 – Stone Forest 石林 – Jiuxiang Caverns 九乡溶洞群 – Dali 大理 –
Lijiang 丽江 – Xianggelila (Shangri-La) 香格里拉

Note: *The Chinese names listed in the itinerary are written with the simplified characters used in Mainland China.*

Day 1: U.S.A. – Hong Kong

Today you will take a flight to China's "Pearl of the Orient"—**Hong Kong**.

Day 2: Hong Kong – Kunming

After arriving in **Hong Kong**, you will take a connecting flight to **Kunming**. There you will be greeted at the airport by CIT's professional bilingual tour guide and escorted to the hotel where you will be staying overnight.

Kunming Accommodations: **Weilong Hotel** 威龙饭店 (4-Star) or equivalent <http://www.wlhotel.com.cn/>

Day 3: Kunming – Shilin (Stone Forest) – Jiuxiang Caverns – Kunming

Kunming, called the "Spring City" or the "City of Eternal Spring" because its weather is mild throughout the year, is the capital of Yunnan Province. Among its approximately 7 million inhabitants, there are members of many ethnic groups: the majority Han, as well as numerous minority groups like the Bai, Ni, Dai, Hani, and Naxi. First you will visit a place famous for its natural scenery: the **Shilin** ("Stone Forest") **Scenic Area**, which takes its name from the limestone pillars that rise like giant trees over the landscape, creating a truly strange and unique sight. The tallest of these pillars rises to a height of 30 meters. You can stroll along footpaths through the "forest" and enjoy the famous sights in the area, which include **Lion Pavilion**, **Sword Peak Pond**, **Lotus Peak**, and **Sea of Romance**. From Shilin you will proceed to **Jiuxiang**, a "key national scenic area" whose main feature is a cluster of limestone caverns. Among other striking sights, the caves feature a spectacular waterfall that produces a sound like thunder. After touring the caves, you will return to Kunming for a dinner of "**mushroom hot pot**," a famous local dish.

Day 3 Attractions:

Shilin Scenic Area (石林风景区, Shílín Fēngjǐngqū)

Lion Pavilion (狮子亭, Shīzi Tíng)

Sword Peak Pond (剑峰池, Jiànfēng Chí)

Lotus Peak (莲花峰, Liánhuā Fēng)

Sea of Romance (爱情海, Àiqíng Hǎi)

...and other famous sights

Jiuxiang Caverns (九乡溶洞群, Jiǔxiāng Róngdòng Qún)

Special Arrangements: authentic Yunnan cuisine—**mushroom hot pot** (菌菇火锅, jùngū huǒguō)

Day 4: Kunming – Dali

Kunming is China's largest producer of fresh flowers, so after breakfast, you will head to Kunming's traditional **Fresh Flower Market**, where you will be overwhelmed by a fantastic array of flowers and flower arrangements. If you'd like, you can buy dried flower handicrafts as a souvenir of your visit. Next, you will tour **Grand View Tower**, located in **Grand View Park**, whose gates feature an engraving of a famous poem written during the Qing Dynasty that is believed to be the longest "antithetical couplet" ever written. Admire the view of the many boats dotting the waters of **Lake Dian**, to the south of the park, against the backdrop of the nearby **Western Hills**. Afterward, you will travel to **Singing Phoenix Hill** to visit **Golden Temple**, a well-preserved Taoist temple made of bronze that is the largest such temple in China. Then you will head to **Dali** to tour **Dali Old Town**, originally built in 1382; along the way, you will stop to take in the imposing sight of **Chongsheng Temple's three towering pagodas**. You will have some free time to experience all the sights of the ancient city of Dali, including **Foreigner Street**, with its distinctive blend of Eastern and Western, ancient and modern.

Day 4 Attractions:

Fresh Flower Market (鲜花市场, Xiānhuā Shìchǎng)

Grand View Park (大观公园, Dàguān Gōngyuán)



Grand View Tower (大观楼, Dàguān Lóu)

view of **Lake Dian (滇池, Diānchí) and the Western Hills (西山, Xī Shān)**

Golden Temple Park (金殿公园, Jīndiàn Gōngyuán)

Singing Phoenix Hill (鸣凤山, Míngfèng Shān)

Golden Temple (金殿, Jīndiàn)

view of **Three Pagodas (崇圣三塔, Chóngshèng Sāntǎ)**

Dali Old Town (大理古城, Dàlǐ Gǔchéng)

Foreigner Street (洋人街, Yáng rén Jiē)

Dali Accommodations: Asia Star Hotel Dali Yunnan 大理亚星酒店 (5-Star) or equivalent

<http://www.asiastargroup.com/index.htm>

Day 5: Dali

After breakfast, you will head to the docks at **Lake Er (sometimes called Erhai Lake)**, the second-largest lake in Yunnan Province, to take a boat trip. Shaped like an ear, from which it takes its name, the lake has an elevation of 1,972 meters above sea level and covers an area of 251 square kilometers. Lake Er and **Cang Mountain** (“Jade Green Mountain”), which rises on one side of the lake, combine to form a harmonious “mountain-and-water” (shānshuǐ) scene. You will visit **Erhai Park** on the south side of the lake to admire the view. We have also arranged for you to stop in **Xizhou**, a lakeside town famous for its architecture, to tour the traditional **family estate of the Yan clan** and see a “**Three Courses of Tea**” **song and dance show**, traditionally performed by the Bai ethnic group as a way of welcoming guests. Afterward, you will ride up Cang Mountain on a chairlift to enjoy a distant view of the lake, spread beneath you like a crescent moon.

Day 5 Attractions:

Lake Er / Erhai Lake (洱海, Ěrhǎi / 洱海湖, Ěrhǎi Hú)

Erhai Park (洱海公园, Ěrhǎi Gōngyuán)

Xizhou (喜州, Xīzhōu)

family estate of the Yan clan (严家大院, Yán Jiā Dàyuàn)

Cang Mountain (苍山, Cāngshān)

Special Arrangements: boat tour of Erhai Lake, “Three Courses of Tea” song and dance show (三道茶歌舞秀表演, Sāndào Chá Gēwǔxiù Biǎoyǎn), chairlift ride up Cang Mountain

Day 6: Dali – Lijiang

Today you will take a tour bus to the “Switzerland of the Far East”: **Lijiang**, which literally means “beautiful river.” First you will head to **Wangu Pavilion**, located on **Lion Hill**, where a stunning view of picturesque Lijiang will be laid out before your eyes. Slowly scan the sea of trees around you; to the north you can see the thirteen peaks of **Jade Dragon Snow Mountain**, and to the east you can see **Lijiang Old Town** and the palatial spread of the **Mu Family Mansion (or Mu Palace)**, which was modeled upon the Forbidden City by Governor Mu of the Ming Dynasty; together they create a spectacular sight. Next, you will visit the mansion itself, whose complex of buildings is an architectural masterpiece. Later you will have free time to explore the shops, restaurants, cafes, and bars that line the charming streets of **Dayan**, the most popular “old town” area of Lijiang.

Day 6 Attractions:

Lion Hill (狮子山, Shīzi Shān)

Wangu Pavilion (万古楼, Wàngǔ Lóu)

view of **Jade Dragon Snow Mountain (玉龙雪山, Yùlóngxuě Shān)**

view of **Lijiang Old Town (丽江古城, Lǐjiāng Gǔchéng)**

Mu Family Mansion / Mu Palace (木王府, Mù Wángfǔ or 木府, Mùfǔ)

Dayan Town (大研镇, Dà yán Zhèn)

Lijiang Accommodations: Yunnan Aviation Sightseeing Hotel Lijiang 云南航空丽江观光酒店 (4-Star) or equivalent <http://www.lj-ggjd.com/>



Day 7: Lijiang

After breakfast, you will proceed to **Jade Dragon Snow Mountain**, which rises like a tower over the Jinsha River in the northwestern part of Lijiang. Its main peak has a height of 5,596 meters above sea level and is snow-capped throughout the year. Your trip to the mountain will take you across **Dry Sea Meadow**, a vast open part of Lijiang Valley, to reach the best position from which to admire its peaks. Then you will take a gondola up the mountain and walk through an unspoiled forest for ten minutes or so. Suddenly a broad, beautiful field will appear before you: **Cloud Fir Meadow**. After taking time to stroll along the path and absorb the magnificence of the scene before and around you, you will head back down the mountain and stop to admire the falls at **White Water River**, where you can get up close and personal with a group of trained yaks. Then you will visit **Jade Water Village**, whose beauty people have described by saying that the pure “jade water” of its pools and streams extends all the way up to the top of the mountain. The Naxi people, whose ancestral homeland is Lijiang, believe the area to have special fēngshuǐ (Chinese geomancy) characteristics. Afterward, you will return to **Dayan**, which also features a strong Naxi cultural influence, for more relaxed leisure time; one visit is insufficient to fully explore and appreciate this expansive old town area.

Day 7 Attractions:

Jade Dragon Snow Mountain Scenic Area (玉龙雪山风景区, Yùlóng Xuěshān Fēngjǐng Qū)

Dry Sea Meadow (甘海子, Gānhǎizi)

Cloud Fir Meadow (云杉坪, Yúnsān Píng)

White Water River (白水河, Báishuǐ Hé)

Jade Water Village (玉水山寨, Yùshuǐ Shānzhài)

Dayan Town (大研镇, Dà yán Zhèn)

Special Arrangements: gondola (cable car) ride up Jade Dragon Snow Mountain

Day 8: Lijiang – Xianggelila (Shangri-La)

After breakfast you will begin your journey to **Xiānggélīlā** (the Mandarin equivalent of “Shangri-La”), located in a mountain basin at an elevation of over 3,300 meters above sea level. It combines snowy mountains, canyons, prairies, lakes, unspoiled forests, and ethnic culture into one stunning scene. Along the way, you will enjoy a view of the headwaters of the mighty **Chang Jiang** (the **Yangtze River**)—here, it is actually called the **Jinsha River**—and stop at the world-famous **Tiger Leaping Gorge**, which will thrill you as you travel along the gorge and come to an extremely narrow stretch where the water roils thunderously. After you arrive at Xianggelila, you will take a tour of the **Songzanlin Monastery**, the capital of Tibetan Buddhism in Yunnan Province, where 700 Tibetan monks reside.

Day 8 Attractions:

view of the **Chang Jiang/Jinsha River** (长江, Cháng Jiāng / 金沙江, Jīnshā Jiāng)

Tiger Leaping Gorge (虎跳峡, Hǔtiào Xiá)

Songzanlin Monastery (松赞林寺, Sōngzànlín Sì)

Xianggelila Accommodations: **Holy Palace Hotel – Shangri-la** 龙凤祥 (4-Star) or equivalent

<http://www.ynlfx.com/>

Day 9: Xianggelila

After breakfast you will visit **Pudacuo National Park**. Among the many lakes in the area, the most beautiful is **Bita Lake** (“Emerald Pagoda Lake”), whose water has an emerald-like quality throughout the year. From there, you will head to **Shudu Lake**, whose crystal-clear water is replete with fish swimming peacefully to and fro. Surrounding the lake is forest growth thick enough to screen out the sun and sky, and adjacent to the lake there is still a pasture for cows and sheep, giving the area the appeal of traditional Tibetan life. Afterward, you will tour the **Xiagei Tibetan Culture Village**, a classical Tibetan-style village nestled between mountain and stream, where the atmosphere of folk traditions is strong. The **Xiagei Cultural Eco-Tourism Village**, a “village within a village,” is also located here. More than twenty Tibetan families live here, keeping their traditional culture intact. Here you can enjoy sights representative of Tibetan Buddhism such as Buddha statues, pillars inscribed with Buddhist scripture, water-powered prayer wheels, bronze prayer wheels, and even sheepskin prayer wheels, each of them unique. Your dinner will feature authentic **Tibetan-style food**. Afterward, you will have free time to stroll along the streets of **Zhongdian Old Town**, where you can buy unique local souvenirs and soak up the area’s distinctive culture, a combination of Tibetan and Naxi influences.



Day 9 Attractions:

Pudacuo National Park (普达措景区, Pǔdácùò Jǐngqū)

Bitá Lake (碧塔海, Bìtǎ Hǎi)

Shudu Lake (属都湖, Shǔdū Hú)

Xiagei Tibetan Culture Village (霞给藏族文化村, Xiágěi Zàngzú Wénhuà Cūn)

Xiagei Cultural Eco-Tourism Village (迪庆霞给藏族文化生态旅游村, Déqìng Xiágěi Zàngzú Wénhuà Shēngtài Lǚyóu Cūn)

Zhongdian Old Town (中甸古镇, Zhōngdiàn Gǔzhèn)

Special Arrangements: authentic **Tibetan-style meal**

Day 10: Xianggelila – Kunming

Today you will take a flight back to **Kunming**. There you will visit **Yuantong Temple**, the oldest and largest Buddhist temple in Kunming, which boasts spectacular sights like the **Yuantong Treasure Hall** and the **Octagonal Pavilion**. The temple contains halls devoted to all three major branches of Buddhism. Over Yuantong Temple's 1,200-year history, artists have inscribed its many jagged mountain rocks with expressions of praise for the temple.

Day 10 Attractions:

Yuantong Temple (圆通寺, Yuántōng Sì)

Yuantong Treasure Hall (圆通宝殿, Yuántōng Bǎodiàn)

Octagonal Pavilion (八角亭, Bājiǎo Tíng)

Kunming Accommodations: **Weilong Hotel** 威龙饭店 (4-Star) or equivalent <http://www.wlhotel.com.cn/>

Day 11: Kunming – Hong Kong

Today you will wrap up your tour by taking a flight to **Hong Kong**, where you can catch a connecting flight to the U.S.A. and home, sweet home.

2011 Prices and Departure Dates

Departure Saturday	From SFO/LAX					
	Land Only	Air Ticket & Land	Single Occupancy	Fuel Surcharge	Taxes & Fees	Total Price*
10/1,15,29	\$1,599	\$2,199	add \$380	\$260	\$100	\$2,559
11/12	\$1,399	\$1,899	add \$350	\$260	\$100	\$2,259

2012 Prices and Departure Dates

Departure Saturday	From SFO/LAX					
	Land Only	Air Ticket & Land	Single Occupancy	Fuel Surcharge	Taxes & Fees	Total Price*
2/25	\$1,499	\$1,999	add \$350	\$360	\$100	\$2,459
3/10,24	\$1,599	\$2,099	add \$380	\$360	\$100	\$2,559
4/7,21	\$1,599	\$2,099	add \$380	\$360	\$100	\$2,559
5/5,19	\$1,599	\$2,199	add \$380	\$360	\$100	\$2,659
6/2,23	\$1,599	\$2,399	add \$380	\$360	\$100	\$2,859



7/7,21	\$1,599	\$2,399	add \$380	\$360	\$100	\$2,859
8/4,18	\$1,599	\$2,299	add \$380	\$360	\$100	\$2,759
9/1,15	\$1,599	\$2,299	add \$380	\$360	\$100	\$2,759
10/6,20	\$1,599	\$2,199	add \$380	\$360	\$100	\$2,659
11/3	\$1,399	\$1,899	add \$350	\$360	\$100	\$2,359

* "Total price" includes **air ticket, fuel surcharge, taxes and fees, land transportation, meals** (with some exceptions on international arrival and departure days), **hotels, tour guides, complimentary accident insurance, and all of the attractions listed on the itinerary** (including the "special arrangements") but does NOT include the **additional charge for single occupancy**; the base price per traveler assumes that hotel rooms are shared by two people.

Please read the "Standard Booking Notice" on our website's [Booking page](#) before making your tour reservations.

Charges for children: Children 11 years and under who share a room with two adults and do not ask for an extra bed will be charged the listed child fare or 75% of the regular adult price; if they need an extra bed in the same room with two adults, the cost will be 90% of the regular adult price. Children 12 and older will be charged at the regular adult price.

Airfare: Prices listed are for departures from Los Angeles (LAX) and San Francisco (SFO), based on Air China (CA) V Class. For New York (JFK) departures, the additional tour fare is \$100; fuel surcharge, taxes and fees are as listed. Fuel surcharge and taxes are associated with airlines and are subject to change at any time without prior notice. For departure gateways other than Los Angeles (LAX), San Francisco (SFO), and New York (JFK), please add appropriate USA domestic add-on fare (certain exclusions may apply):

Eastern Time Zone: add \$350, **Central Time Zone:** add \$350, **Mountain Time Zone:** add \$250, **Pacific Time Zone:** add \$100

China International Travel CA, Inc. cancellation policy: Notice of cancellation must be received by fax or mail; verbal notice only will not be considered sufficient. Please contact CIT to confirm that we have received your cancellation notice. A cancellation fee will be charged according to the following criteria:

- 60 or more days prior to departure: \$200 per person will be assessed.
- 45-59 days prior to departure: \$300 per person will be assessed.
- 30-44 days prior to departure: \$400 per person will be assessed.
- 15-29 days prior to departure: \$500 per person will be assessed.
- 3-14 days prior to departure: \$1000 per person will be assessed.
- Less than 3 days or nonappearance: 100% of total charge.

If tickets for any form of transportation (including, but not limited to, airline, cruise, or train) have already been issued or final confirmation has been received at time of cancellation, an additional penalty will be assessed in accordance with the policies of the company providing the transportation.

We strongly suggest that our clients consider purchasing cancellation insurance to prevent the loss of your tour investment in the event of illness, accident, or some other unforeseeable circumstance that might prevent you from going on the tour. Please see our website's [Booking page](#) for more information about the insurance policies we sell from USI Affinity, a trusted travel insurance company.