

Sample Day to Day Itinerary – Boundless Yunnan

Day 01: Kunming

Fly to Kunming from any major city in mainland China, or directly from Hong Kong. Kunming is the capital and largest city of Yunnan Province. As one of the mildest climate in China, Kunming is well known as “City of Eternal Spring”. Upon arrival, you’ll be met by our guide and transferred to hotel. Then, we’ll have a walking tour of the city, starting from Green Lake Park, one of the major parks and is predominately a lake surrounded by greenery. It is sometimes described as a “Jade in Kunming”. You can always see locals doing exercise, Taiji, walking, and feeding the red-beaked sea gulls. The welcome dinner features the most famous Yunnanese food, including “Over the Bridge Rice Noodles”. Why called “Over The Bridge”? You’ll find out on the trip.

Included: d

Overnight in Hotel

Accommodation Types

3 Option: Chahua Hotel or similar*

4 Option: Junyun Hotel or similar*

5 Option: Green Lake Hotel or similar*

Day 02: Kunming to Dali

This morning we take an early flight to Dali, an ancient capital of the Bai Kingdom of Nanzhao. After breakfast in the hotel, transfer to Zhoucheng Village which is famous for its hand-made Tie Dye traditions; wander around in the Zhoucheng’s local market. Visit Xizhou Village, an ancient Bai village, which is well-known for its delicate Bai style architecture with thousands years of history. Afterwards, we return to Dali Ancient Town and walk around the ancient town to discover some hidden corners.

Included: b, l

Overnight in Hotel

Accommodation Types

3 Option: Landscape Hotel or similar*

4 Option: Gurong Hotel or similar*

Boutique Option: The Linden Centre

Day 03: Dali

Today we drive to Mt. Cangshan, a mountain noted for its very rich, diverse flora, first scientifically documented by Pierre Jean Marie Delavay in 1882. Take the chairlift up Zhonghe Peak and visit the temple. Return to Dali ancient town, walk around the town to discover some hidden corners.

Included: b, l

Overnight in Hotel

Accommodation Types: Same Above

Day 04: Dali to Lijiang

Today is a long-driving day, with visits to three important sites on the Tea & Horse Caravan Trail—Shibaoshan, Shaxi & Lijiang. The first one is Shibaoshan Grottoes, containing the 1300



year-old Buddhist rock carvings preserved as evidence of the spread of Mahayana Buddhism into Yunnan from Tibet. Then we drive to the second site Shaxi for lunch and have a walk around town. Shaxi is a historical trading town on the ancient tea route that reached the height of its prosperity during the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368–1912). If we happen to visit the town on Friday, we can still see the well kept market tradition. Then we continue driving to Lijiang ancient town, that has a history dating back 800 years, another influential town on the tea road. Arrive in Lijiang in the evening; explore the ancient town by yourself.

Included: b, l

Overnight in Hotel

Accommodation Types

3 Option: Sanhe Hotel or similar*

Boutique Option: Zen Garden or similar

Luxury Option: Banyan Tree Lijiang

Day 05: Lijiang

Compared to Shaxi, Lijiang is much busier due to its fame as a “UNESCO World Heritage”. To avoid the crowds and see its genuine look, we get up early in the morning and walk on the cobblestone street, observe the town’s waterways and bridges which are a scientific urban planning and traditional Naxi architecture. After breakfast, walk to the local market, where we find the freshest and best local products. Don’t miss the Dongba Culture Museum in the home of the Naxi people. Dongba is the religion, culture and script of Naxi people. The Dongba is the religion, culture and script of Naxi people. The museum has more than 10,000 Dongba cultural relics and various other historical artifacts. We can either walk or bike to Black Dragon Pool, where the museum is located. In the late afternoon, we learn more about Dongba culture by learning Dongba script and making Dongba Script T-shirts. Dinner is arranged in a local courtyard for authentic Naxi food.

Included: b, l

Overnight in Hotel

Accommodation Types: Same above

Day 06: Tiger Leaping Gorge

Locally known as Golden Sands River, Tiger Leaping Gorge is a canyon on the Yangtze River. The name and legend behind this famously deep canyon says that a tiger made the 25 meter wide leap at this point to escape from a hunter. Visitors to this beautiful canyon can marvel at the site and wonder for themselves if there is any truth behind the tale.

Included: b, sl, d

Overnight in guesthouse

Accommodation Types:

Guesthouse Option: Tea & Horse Guesthouse

Day 07: Tiger Leaping Gorge –Shangri-La

Continue hiking in Tiger Leaping Gorge before transferring to Baishuitai. The lovely terraces in the region were formed by fresh mountain water trickling down from Haba



Mountain over millions of years slowly leaving the limestone terraces we see today. It is at this site that the Naxi believe that their oldest Shaman, Dingbashiluo, first practiced and preached the Dongba religion. We then drive to Shangri-La. Shangri-La was formally named Zhongdian but renamed in 2001 after the fiction "Lost Horizon". The county is home to Tibetan people, also a gate way to Tibet.

Included: b, sl

Overnight in hotel

Accommodation Types

3 Option: Noah Guesthouse*

Boutique Option: Songtsam Shangri-La

Luxury Option: Banyan Tree Ringha

Day 08: Shangri-La

Songtsam Monastery, the largest Tibetan Buddhist Monastery in Yunnan province, also referred to as "Little Potala Palace". It belongs to the Yellow Hat sect of Tibetan Buddhism of the Gelukpa order of the Dalai Lama. We walk following the local Tibetan's pilgrimage trail around Songtsam Monastery.

Included: b, sl

Overnight in hotel

Accommodation Types: Same Above

Day 09: Shangri-La

Visit Nixi Tibetan village, where the villagers are specialized in hand-making black pottery for decades. Visit local workshop and make your own pottery. Free time to wander around the ancient town.

Included: b, l

Overnight in hotel

Accommodation Types: Same Above

Day 10: Shangri-La

Mountain Shika, one main holy mountain here, we hike up the mountain about 4 hours and walk down or take cable.

Included: b, l

Overnight in hotel

Accommodation Types: Same Above

Day 11: Shangri-La

After an intensive hike, we have a relaxing morning in Shangri-La to wander around the old town and visit a small but well-reserved Tibetan Buddhist Temple – Cheng'en Temple. This is followed by a visit to a Tibetan family in that village. Farewell dinner.

Included: b,l

Overnight in hotel

Accommodation Types: Same Above

Day 12: Shangri-La

Transfer to the airport and take a flight back home. End of Service.