

## Upper Mekong Songtsam Tour (8 days on site)

Lijiang - Shuhe - Laojun Shan - Tacheng - Cizhong -  
Meili Mountain / Deqin - Benzilan - Shangri La



### Day 1 : Arrival in Lijiang - Shuhe ~ 50mn transfer. Altitude 2000m.

Arrival at Lijiang's airport or railway station. Welcoming by your English-speaking driver/guide (they will have a board with your name), and go discover Lijiang Old Town and its morning market (according to your arrival time), then head towards the very beautiful Black Dragon Pond, with the mountains in the background reflecting in the clear water. If you feel like to you can also visit the Dongba Museum so as to immerse yourself into the Naxi Dongba Culture, with 2500 identified exhibits and relics, coming directly from this ethnic minority. Transfer and check in at the Bivou 4\* hotel, which is located in Shuhe, a quiet old village away from the sometimes over-frequented streets of Lijiang, without being too far from there though (6km). We suggest you keep some free time to stroll in the heart of Shuhe old village. Don't be afraid to get away from the center and go discover the hillside small streets with their vegetable gardens and the shady park (just behind the hotel) where the small rivers mingle with ponds, the water is particularly clear there. Dinner at your expense and overnight in Shuhe.



### Day 2 : Lijiang - Laojun Shan - Tacheng (B ; L ; D) ~ 5 hours drive. Altitude : 2000 m.

Breakfast and departure at 08.30 am. Road towards Tacheng's isolated region. During the journey, short stop at Shigu village, where you will see the first curve of the Yangtse River. Lunch, and detour in the Liming area to discover the exceptional Laojun Shan National Park, with its huge karstic peaks accessible by cable car. This protected area make this park the second most impressive in China for its biodiversity and cultural richness. We can advise you to go down on foot if you have enough time (3km on steps and prepared paths). Continuation on the road and arrival in Tacheng. Check in at the superb Songtsam Tacheng Lodge hotel 5\*. Dinner included at the hotel restaurant. Overnight in Tacheng.



**Day 3 : Tacheng - Cizhong** (B ; L ; D) ~ 4h drive. Altitude 2200 m.

Breakfast and short transfer to Baima Natural Reserve to observe the Yunnan Golden Monkey in its natural environment, a protected species. Back to the hotel and visit some Naxi Minorities villages on the way, as well as the small town close to the hotel, nicely surrounded by vineyards, and also producing an excellent traditional hotel! After breakfast at the hotel, go on towards the Mekong valley and the stunning small village of Cizhong, inhabited by catholic tibetan people. Discover the village over the river, its vineyards and its church. First built by French missionaries from Paris foreign missions society in 1867, it was destroyed and burnt during the Tibetan Revolt in 1905. It was rebuild in the heart of Cizhong Village. Dinner included at the hotel. Overnight at Cizhong Songtsam Lodge 5\*.



**Day 4 : Cizhong – Meili Mountain**(B ; L ; D) ~ 3h drive. Altitude 3300 m.

After breakfast, early departure on the road along the Mekong River towards Mingyong glacier, located below the Kawa Karpo summit and the Meili mountains. You will reach there with a local shuffle. A beautiful walk is waiting for you, during which you will meet lots of tibetan pilgrims, up to a local temple and to the glacier (about 3 hours walk back and forth). A picnic will be arranged for your lunch. Then continuation and check in at Meili Songtsam Lodge 5\*, isolated and facing the high summit. Dinner included at the hotel and overnight in the heart of the mountains, for an authentic nature shower!



**Day 5 : Meili – Benzilan (B ; L ; D) ~ 2h30 drive. Altitude 2300 m.**

Beautiful sunrise over the Meili mountains and the first sun rays come shine over the Kawa Karpo snowed slopes. Then road towards Benzilan through the three passes of the White Horse mountains. Crossings at more than 4000 meters! On the way you will enjoy very beautiful viewpoints on the mountain, then over the Yangtse River. Stop at a local small nunnery. Lunch. In Benzilan, visit Dongzhulin Tibetan Monastery, located above the Yangtse River. It is a very popular place for local people, reknown to have hosted many "living buddhas". In Benzilan, you might have the chance to discover a woodcarved pottery workshop in a big and beautiful tibetan house, if the owner is available when you arrive there. Check in at your lodge, well located in a very tiny protected quiet valley with a very special micro climate. Dinner and overnight at the charming Songtsam Benzilan Lodge.



**Day 6 : Benzilan - Shangri La (B ; L ; D) ~ 2h30 drive. Altitude 3200 m.**

Breakfast and continuation of the road with a stop at Nixi village and its pottery craftspeople, the region's black soil is very famous for its properties. Lunch on the way, then explore the tibetan countryside before arriving in Shangrila, on the shores of Lake Napa the fauna and flora reserve of the valley. Check in at your lodge late afternoon, at the foot of Songzanlin Monastery, away from the city. Dinner and overnight at Songtsam Lugu Lodge 5\*.

**Day 7 : Shangri La (B ; L ; D)**

Today, you will visit Shangrila, to start with the impressive Songzanlin tibetan monastery. For lunch, you will have the opportunity to visit a tibetan family, discover the place where they live, try some yak butter tea, tsampa and of course the famous yak butter cheese, all of which are local specialties and the basis of daily food. Stroll to the local market with stalls full of local products such as yak cheese and the numerous varieties of mushrooms freshly harvested, then stroll through the old city, notably to the Bai Ji Si temple with nice views over the surroundings and the Shika mountains. Get to Da Gui Shang small temple, facing a giant tibetan prayer wheel dominating the city. Back to your lodge to enjoy quietly the end of this day. Dinner on site and overnight at Songtsam Lugu Lodge.



**Day 8 : Shangri La / departure (B) ~ 30mn transfer.**

Quiet breakfast and last few moments free until the time of your transfer towards the airport for your flight back or the following of your trip. End of the Songtsam Tour, above the mountain of Northern Yunnan along the Mekong river.

Note : Your room will have to be freed before noon. Your luggage can be kept at the hotel.

End of our services. Our team wish you a nice way back home with beautiful memories in mind!

## Our hotels selection for your Yunnan tour :

### **Shuhe / Lijiang** : The Bivou Lijiang 4\* (charming hotel)

Very beautiful accomodation opened in the late 2012 by a team from Singapore people who fell in love with that region. Stunning fusion between local Naxi architecture, contemporary design and modern comfort, with view on a quiet countryside on one side and on Shuhe old village on the other side, in the heart of Lijiang Valley.



### **Tacheng** : Tacheng Songtsam Lodge 5\* (charming hotel)

Wonderful small hotel completely lost in the deepest part of Yunnan. Seeing such a comfort, service and food in this remote and enchanting environment is a real pleasure! Beautiful view from the hotel balconies over the terrace fields.



### **Cizhong** : Cizhong Songtsam Lodge 5\* (charming hotel)

Hotel opened on 2013 october 1st, the rooms and the service quality will keep up with the other hotels from the group in Northern Yunnan. Located slightly in the back of Cizhong charming village, located above the Mekong.



**Meili Mountain** : Meili Songtsam Lodge 5\* (charming hotel)

Simply magical view on the Meili Mountains from the bar, the restaurant and of course from your room, for an unforgettable sunrise over the mountains. Breakfast and coffee everyday at the hotel bar, the dinner is included on site at the hotel restaurant.



**Benzilan** : Songtsam Benzilan Lodge (charming hotel)

Superb charming tibetan address, located close to Dongzhulin monastery, at the bottom of a quiet small valley with view on the Yangtse Gorge. Good restaurant, very warm welcome and beautiful local art decoration.



**Shangri La** : Shangri La Songtsam Lodge 4\* (charming hotel)

Very nice tibetan charming hotel, located two steps away from Songzanlin great monastery and at the gates of a tibetan village. Good restaurant, nice local art decoration.



# YUNNAN MAP





Our presence both in China and in France guarantees you the mastering of your tour from A to Z, without intermediary and for the best price available! We provide you with our extensive network onsite and our agency's reactivity, as well as secured payment through our French agency, so you can travel with us feeling safe!

### **Our presence onsite in China**

- Receptive local agency in Kunming, China, since 2007
- 1 only contact person all through your tour's conceiving phase and until your way back from China.
- Direct booking for all our services across China.
- Trustworthy and respectful relationships with our various partners all around China
- Constant improvement mindset for the creation of itineraries every time more astonishing and authentic.
- Availability and reactivity on site, 24/24
- Local French Speaking guides with experience and chosen for their skills.
- 11 travel experts often on the roads seeking for new and authentic destinations
- Knowledge of "the ground" that allows us to offer itineraries that suit your needs, in an exclusive and original way.

### **Our agency in China**

China Roads 219 Chuncheng Road Kunming Yunnan CHINA

Telephone : (0086) 159-49379-177

Website : [www.China-Roads.fr](http://www.China-Roads.fr) & [www.Yunnan-Roads.fr](http://www.Yunnan-Roads.fr) & [www.Tibet-Roads.fr](http://www.Tibet-Roads.fr)

### **Guarantees offered by our French Agency**

- Pay the tour to our agency in France by wire transfer or bank card (Visa, Mastercard and Amex) through our secure website, avoiding you some expensive transfer costs towards China where the usual extra charge is generally 4% to 5% of the tour price for a bank card payment to China.
- Our agency is registered by Atout France, as a guarantee for our professionalism
- HISCOX civil responsibility insurance
- IATA agreement allowing us to include international flights at a negotiated rate
- Financial guarantee registered by the APST that guarantees you full refund of the already paid amounts in case of failure from our team, otherwise your tour will be taken in charge in the same conditions as those agreed with our agency

### **Our agencies in France (Dinan, Paris, Nice)**

VOYAGEOS, 19 rue Chateaubriand 22100 Dinan FRANCE

Phone : 09-83-07-44-60 ou 06-40-27-64-22 / weekdays from-13h then 14-19h

VOYAGEOS, 50 rue de la Justine, 75020 Paris FRANCE (appointment only)

Phone : 06-63-78-72-03 / weekdays from 9-17h

VOYAGEOS, 26 Bld Maréchal Joffre, 06310 Beaulieu-sur-Mer FRANCE (appointment only)

Phone : 07-87-67-02-27 / weekdays from 9-17h

### **Associative involment**

. 3€ per traveler to 3 charities :

- Couleurs de Chine : sponsorship for the scolarization of young girls in northern Guangxi
- Lab Dra Khampa : help for development and child scolarization in Dzongar (West Sichuan)
- Enfants du Mékong : Scolarization of kids in northern Yunnan
- + 1 treeplanted by traveler with the Yves Rocher foundation "Let's plant for Earth"

### **"Housemade" itineraries - Genuine comments from travelers.**

Our tours, and generally speaking all the contents we create are the result of a long research and more than 10 years experience. But they are regularly, not to say constantly, copied particularly by one of our competitor agency based in China. Don't be surprised, but just know how to recognize the copy from the original!

We don't publish fake comments from travelers like this has sadly become regular practice in the Internet. All the comments you will find on forums or on our websites are guaranteed genuine! Here are some feedbacks from our travelers here : [Comments from travelers in China](#)

**RATES.** Private tour on a 2, 4, 6 travelers basis in double/twin rooms :

**Private tour on a 6 travelers basis – Flights not included - :** 14035 RMB per person, that is 1799€ per person

**Private tour on a 4 travelers basis – Flights not included - :** 11240 RMB per person, that is 1441€ per person

**Private tour on a 6 travelers basis – Flights not included - :** 10555 RMB per person, that is 1353€ per person

- On a 6 travelers basis, you will enjoy the service of an English - Speaking guide plus a driver (2 people).
- Extra fee will apply during the high season (July 1st - August 25th), and during the May and October golden weeks and the Chinese New Year, rates on demand.

Exchange rate : 1€ = 7,80 RMB

- *Deposit on booking of 50% of the tour amount, by wire transfer or bank card in France*

- *Balance 3 weeks before arrival, again by wire transfer or bank card in France*

**This rate includes :**

- ▶ Charming hotels with breakfast included everyday on site
- ▶ English-speaking driver and guide from day 1 to 7. On a 6 travelers basis, English speaking guide + driver
- ▶ Transfer in private vehicle with local non English speaking driver on day 8
- ▶ Full board from day 2 to 7
- ▶ Entries on site for visits mentioned in the program.
- ▶ Payment by bank card in France so you can benefit from the travel insurance included with your bank card service
- ▶ Guarantees from our French travel agency (professional insurance, guarantee for the transferred funds)
- ▶ 24/7 assistance from our Kunming Agency

**This rate doesn't include :**

- ▶ Flights or train to and from Yunnan (we can offer you a rate on demand)
- ▶ Meals and drinks not included in the program on day 1 and 8, to take according to your wishes and the recommendations from your guide
- ▶ Distant Chinese Visa application (our agency can offer it for 140€ per person)
- ▶ Tips (you can count 120RMB/day total for the guide-driver)
- ▶ Personal expenses

This itinerary is subject to slight modifications due to schedule changes or cancellation from airline companies, to guides and hotels' availabilities or to bad weather conditions.



In China : Yunnan Roads, 219 Chuncheng Road, Kunming, Yunnan, China

In France : Voyages, 19 rue Chateaubriand 22100 Dinan

