

Yunnan Experience

8 days | Starts/Ends: Kunming



Home to many of China's ethnically diverse minority peoples, Kunming & the Stone Forest, delightful Dali, UNESCO-listed Lijiang and the awesome Tiger Leaping Gorge. Yunnan Province offers an uncommon Chinese experience.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Kunming - Western Hills, Dragon Gate Grotto, Stone Forest
- Dali - Lake Er Hai
- Ancient temples and local villages en route
- Butterfly Springs and Three Pagodas
- Lijiang - UNESCO-listed Dayan Old Town, Naxi Music Show, Tiger Leaping Gorge - trekking/walking
- Yulong Xue Shan (Jade Dragon Snow Mountain)
- Yufeng Si Monastery

What's Included

- 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 6 dinners
- 5 nights 3 star hotels
- 1 overnight train: Kunming - Dali (hard sleeper cabin)
- 1 overnight train: Lijiang - Kunming (soft sleeper cabin)
- Lijiang - Naxi Music show

- Jade Dragon Snow Mountain (chairlift ride)
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 and day 8
- Excursions and touring of Kunming, Dali and Lijiang
- English speaking specialist guides at local sights
- All relevant transfers and transportation
- Entrance fees to all included sites

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Kunming

Kunming - Welcome to Yunnan Province and the start of your holiday! Enjoy an arrival transfer to our hotel. With it's remote southern location, frontiers that rub shoulders with neighbouring Tibet, Burma, Laos and Vietnam and shielded from the rest of China by the jagged mountainous provinces of Sichuan and Guizhou, Yunnan Province has always sat at arms length from the rest of the motherland. Within this single province, unmatched anywhere else in China for its scope of history, landscape and peoples, there is an awesome diversity of geography,

climate and nationalities, making it one of the country's most colourful provinces. In Yunnan, there are 28 recognized ethnic groups, more than any other province in China. Comprising 25% of the population, the indigenous list includes the Naxi, Wa, Dai and Bai, Jingpo, Nu and other ethnic groups, in addition to a host of ethnic groups shared with other provinces or adjoining foreign neighbours. For a different side to China, you can't go wrong with Yunnan Province, where you'll see and experience a different side to that of the country's far east, west or north. The attractive provincial capital, Kunming, earned the province it's name, thanks to it's mild climate. Yunnan literally means 'South of the Clouds'.

Situated at an elevation of 2000m above sea level on the fertile Yunnan plateau, making a reference to it's mild climate, Kunming is known as the City of Eternal Spring. Subtropical Kunming is skirted by mountain ranges to the north, east, and west, whilst to the south lies a large lake called Dianchi. Whilst Kunming's climate is usually very mild, thus allowing the city to live up to its name, there are sometimes cold winds in winter, chilly days in spring and heavy rains in summer.

Kunming has a history spanning more than 3,000 years. It is known to have been a small settlement as early as 109 B.C., trading in

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salt, silver, gold, silk and lumber. Through the eighth to the 13th centuries, it was the secondary capital of a small kingdom in the region, before falling to the Mongols in 1374. A small group of Mongols still exists at Tonghai, about 75 miles south of Kunming.

In the early 20th century it became an important rail hub when the French constructed the rail link between Vietnam and China, and during WW II it was one end of the Burma Road built by the Allies as a supply route for it's forces. Some 16km from Kunming are the Western Hills (which rise to 2,500m) and Dragon Gate, a series of winding steps, tunnels and statue-filled grottoes leading up to a lookout point, which is also served by a chair-lift. The views from the top extend over Lake Dian, which provides for Kunming's well-irrigated surrounding lands. Dianchi, also known as Kunming Lake, covers 130 square miles and was formed by a geological fault in the central Yunnan Plateau. It has long been famous for its fish. Indeed, Marco Polo praised the variety and bounty of catches in his 13th century account of his travels in theregion. Enjoy an excursion to the Western Hills and Dragon Gate. **Overnight - Kunming (D)**

Day 2 : Kunming

Kunming - Stone Forest - Kunming - Dali. Yunnan Province's premier natural attraction has to be Shilin, the Stone Forest, an exposed bed of limestone karst spires weathered and split into amazing clusters that take on the appearance of a petrified forest. At least 270 million years old, the dramatic scenery created compels one to explore and take a closer look. The sharp angles and delineations create a strong contrast of shadows just right for photography. Scattered through this strange landscape are natural and artificial ponds, tiny bridges and classical pavilions. The tallest stone pillar towers close to 100 feet. The most interesting natural sights are the Sword Peak Pond, Lotus Blossom Peak, Jade Lake in the Stone Forest and the Peak View Pavilion. Enjoy some time exploring at Shilin, before the journey continues to Qi Cai Yunnan en route back to Kunming. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B, L, D)**

Day 3 : Dali



Dali. All meals. Hello Dali! Picturesquely situated on Lake Erhai with a backdrop formed by the peaks of the 50km long Cang Shang range, Dali is a great place for some gentle-paced exploration and a little relaxation. With it's proximity to the legendary Silk Road, Dali's fortunes kickstarted when an aspiring 8th century prince named Piluage invited some rivals to dinner. Casting alight the tent they were in, he then set to establishing the Nanzhao Kingdom here, a realm that was later expanded to include large tracts of modern Burma, Thailand and Vietnam. Various overthrows ocured and a smaller kingdom was set up by the Bai people, until Kublai Khan and his Mongolian henchmen descended on the region in 1252, and imposed Chinese rule. This persisted until 1856 when there was a Muslim uprising and the town capital was declared an independent state. In 1873, a wholesale massacre of the Muslim population ocured and Dali was decimated, never to recover its former political position.

Muslims and Han Chinese remain today, though the majority of the regional population are Bai. Covering only about 4 sq km, much of Dali is contained by the remains of its Ming-dynasty walls. An earthquake did more or less flatten the town in 1925, though it was rebuilt in its former style. Sightseeing in Dali and surrounds includes a cruise on Lake Erhai, some orientation stops at some ancient temples and villages, a visit to Butterfly Spring - a popular spot surrounded by a marble ballustrade and overhung by an ancient tree that produces butterfly-like flowers and the famous Three Pagodas. Built when the region was a major Buddhist centre, Dali's distinctively tall pagodas remain upright, despite wars and earthquakes. The

largest of them - Qianxun tower dates back to 824 AD, some hundred years older than the two smaller octagonal pagodas behind, is 64m high, and is embellished with Buddhas made from local richly veined marble on each of its 16 levels. Whilst sealed (preventing entrance inside), in any case the pagodas are best seen from a distance to take in their sheer size. Back in Dali, enjoy some free time exploring the old section of the town. Most places of interest are on Fuxing Lu, though the narrow stone streets are good for a wander. The Dali Museum is worth a look, Yu'er Park is a nice peaceful spot for relaxation amongst the camellias and fruit trees, and if you feel like a spot of souvenir shopping, head to Huguo Lu. **Overnight - Dali (B, L, D)**

Days 4-5 : Tiger Leaping Gorge



Dali - Lijiang. Leaving Dali, you'll travel north by coach/bus to Lijiang. The seat of the Naxi minority peoples, Lijiang lies at 2,500 m in a fantasic mountain setting bordered to the north-west by Tibet. The Naxi are a matriarchal society descended from a race of Tibetan nomads who settled the region before the 10th century who bought with them what are considered the sturdiest horses in all of China and a shamanistic religion known as Dongba (there are still a handful of shamans in Lijiang). With a history spanning 1,300 years, Lijiang possesses rich architecture in what is coined it's 'Old Town'. An earthquake in 1996 caused considerable damage, but despite this concerted efforts have been made to painstakingly rebuilt it in the old style. The Old Town is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It possesses a network of ancient and narrow streets lined with small restaurants and eating houses in unique architectural styles, which are intersected by canals and a lively marketplace at Sifang, where one can

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buy locally produced handicrafts including embroidery, hand-beaten copper pots and wood carvings. Enjoy free time exploring Lijiang's Old Town, and this evening enjoy a performance of Naxi ancient music.

Dy - 5 Lijiang - Tiger Leaping Gorge - Lijiang. About 100km north of Lijiang is where the Yangtze River's upper reaches, the Jingsha Jiang channel with force through Tiger Leaping Gorge (Hutiao Xia). Some 16km long and up to 3000m deep, it is the world's deepest canyon. The gorge is so narrow at various points that legend has it a tiger once escaped pursuit by leaping across. Visiting the gorge, you'll have a chance to hike along a section of the stunning gorge and take in the dramatic, yet stark scenery. **Overnight - Lijiang (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

Day 6 : Jade Dragon Snow Mountain

Lijiang - Dali - Kunming. Excursion to the stunning Jade Dragon Snow Mountain; its landscape includes one of the southernmost glaciers in the modern world. Shanzidou, the main peak of the mountain at 18,000 feet above sea level, looks like a gigantic dragon clad in white snow all year round. Access to the mountain is provided by a cable lift to Dragon Spruce Meadow, halfway to the glacier peak. Visit also Yufengsi Monastery perched on a slope overlooking a plain. We travel overnight from Lijiang to Kunming. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

Day 7 : Kunming



Kunming. Excursion to Flower and Bird market. Rest of day free to enjoy Kunming your way. Perhaps pick up some locally hand-crafted souvenirs. **Overnight - Kunming (B, L, D)**

Day 8 : Kunming

Kunming. Hotel check-out and included onward transfer to airport.

Note: This itinerary is semi-independent in style. The twin city stay is arranged and operated exclusively for you on a departure date of your individual choosing. You travel by yourself (with local representation at various points) without joining a group. However, on occasion consolidation of travellers may occur during some sightseeing or transportation. Whilst a rating of 3-4 star hotels is given, accommodation can be upgraded at additional cost. Please ask(B)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Entrance Fees

Entry fees to most sites are not included, although reasonably priced. In China, we collect entrance fees on Day 2 of the tour (the amount is noted under exclusions on page one of this document). A comprehensive breakdown of the entrance fee total is provided upon arrival.

All funds collected in China for entrance fees and optional excursions, that you may wish to undertake are payable in local currency - Chinese Yuan (CNY).

Note: If you are over the age of 60 at time of travel (tours departing in 2020) a discounted or free entry to some sites may be possible. Entrance Fees will be collected in full on day 2, and your guide/s will attempt to get a discount at each site on your behalf. If a discount is obtained your guide will issue a refund at this time. Please make your guide aware if you are eligible at the pre departure meeting so that the discount can be requested throughout the tour.

Tipping Kitty

At the start of your group tour, we take a small tipping kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions) from all tour participants to cover tips throughout your holiday. This saves you the hassle of knowing when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage luggers, bus drivers, train conductors and other support staff throughout the tour.

This amount does not include a tip for your tour guide. For a job well done, we would suggest USD\$3 - 5 per person per day. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

If travelling on a short stay, private tour or a group tour with less than 6 participants we do not collect a tipping kitty and recommend the following amount to cover tips paid directly by you to bellhops, luggage handlers, your driver and local guide: CNY50/USD\$8 - per person per day of your tour.

Arrival Transfers

For tours starting in Beijing When arriving into Beijing Capital Airport and attending to immigration and customs formalities, please proceed to the arrival hall. If arriving to Beijing into Terminal 2, when exiting immigration to the arrivals hall, please turn right where our representative will be waiting. If arriving into Terminal 3 you will be met just outside the restricted area.

If you require a transfers from Daxing International Airport, this can be arranged at an additional fee, please speak with your reservations consultant for further details.

Please have your tour voucher handy and make it available to our representative who will be **waiting for you in the arrivals hall, holding a prominent On The Go Tours logo signboard**, ready to escort you to our awaiting transportation and onward to your tour start hotel.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (remember Beijing is a busy International Airport) after waiting 30 minutes in the arrival hall or your flight to China is delayed please call the emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher. Please do not leave the airport and travel to the hotel yourself. Please call the contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

Groups & Guides

Some of our group tours are sectors of a larger tour. Some travellers on your trip may only travel with you for part of your tour. It also

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might be that you end your holiday part way through a longer tour and others in the group continue on.

Guides: We believe the best way to see a country is through the eyes of a local and as such we only employ tour guides native to the country you are visiting. Our guides are passionate, caring, knowledgeable and fun, and by travelling with a local you get to see the wonders of the country through their eyes. Tour guides will remain with groups of 6 or more. Where groups are less than 6, travel between cities will be unescorted with transfers at either side of the airport/train station and a local guide will conduct the scheduled sightseeing in that city.

China Country Guide

Visas

China Visa

Visas are required by all visitors to China. It is essential that a tourist visa is procured prior to travel. We will provide you with an invoice/itinerary indicating that you are travelling to China on a pre-arranged holiday. The visa is valid for entry within 3 months, so you cannot apply any earlier. Please ensure your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of return from China.

If you're a resident of the UK and would like someone to handle your visa application for you then we recommend CIBTvisas. Please visit <http://www.cibtvisas.co.uk/onthego> for more information.

Visa for Hong Kong

Most Western visitors to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China do not require a tourist visa issued in advance of travel. Currently, UK nationals can stay up to 180 days. Nationals of Australia, Canada, Eire, most other EU countries, New Zealand and the US do not require a visa for a stay not exceeding 90 days, while holders of RSA passports can remain for up to 30 days. If entering Hong Kong from mainland China and returning to mainland China a multiple Chinese entry visa is required.

Visa for Tibet

Tibet - If travelling to Tibet, a Tibet Travel Permit is required. The permit will be arranged by our office in China. Please contact On The Go Tours prior to departure for the most up to date Tibetan entry information.

The information above is not applicable for the Beijing and Shanghai Visa Free Tours.

NOTE: Visa requirements are subject to change so please check with your embassy before booking your holiday.

Climate

In all, China has a great diversity of climates. To sum it up - China experiences hot summers in most parts of the country, very cold winters in the north and comfortable winters in the south! Sep-Oct is warm to hot and dry across the country. Nov-Mar is winter with very cool temps in the north, whilst mild in the south. If combining the north and south, you'll experience 2 distinct weather patterns. Apr-May - perfect in the north, if a little humid and rainy in the south. Jun-Aug can bring a few showers.

Health & Water

You should seek medical advice before travelling to China from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide it is recommended that you be vaccinated for Tetanus and Polio, if you haven't had a booster in the last ten years. Food and waterborne diseases are more common, so we recommend vaccinations for Typhoid (valid 3 years) and Hepatitis A (validity varies). There is a malarial risk in remote southern areas of China, so do check the current situation before travelling.

As tap water is not safe to drink in China, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available from hotels, shops and restaurants. Make sure bottled water is sealed.

Currency

The currency of China is the Chinese Yuan.

Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other major currencies can be exchanged in China. Exchange facilities are available at various bureau de changes and banks in major towns

have ATMs or it is possible to get some before you leave home. It's advisable to request bank notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases and gratuities.

Traveller's Cheques are not recommended as they're often difficult to exchange and incur high fees.

You could download a Currency Converter app to use during your travels.

Time & Voltage

China is 8 hours ahead of GMT. The country operates on one time zone, so clocks are set according to Beijing time, meaning, given the size of the country, sunrise and sunset can occur at peculiar times! Voltage is 220v, 50Hz AC. Chinese plugs come in many designs: 3-pronged angle pins as used in Australia; 3-pronged round pins as used in Hong Kong; 2-pronged flat pins as used in the USA; or 2 round narrow pins as used in Europe. To cover all bases, pack a travel adaptor!

Essential Packing

As light as possible! In China, most often portage is not available at railway stations and you will be required to carry your own luggage. Bags with wheels can be a hindrance when climbing several flights of stairs, though are a blessing when walking lengthy distances to reach our awaiting transportation. If travelling in early spring we recommend you pack warm clothes, layering works best this time of year.

- Food in China is very different and arguably better than your local takeaway! If you prefer western snack food, consider bringing a supply
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume, basic torch/ flash light & umbrella for sun or rain
- Comfortable closed in walking shoes for climbing the Great Wall
- DEET based mosquito repellent & antihistamine cream
- Chinese plugs come in many designs: 3 prong angle pins similar, though smaller than those used in Australia; 2 prong flat pins (type

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A) or 2 round pins, European style (type C). To cover all bases, pack a travel adaptor!

- Two spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Plastic poncho to go over your jacket. Whilst site-seeing, you can be in the rain for an extended period and even a rain jacket can get soaked. You can purchase a cheap one locally, but we suggest taking one from home of a better quality that doesn't rip easily

PLEASE NOTE:

- If your tour includes an internal flight, that most airlines have a 20kg baggage limit.
- As of July 2019, the Shanghai government has introduced a new policy for the purpose of environment protection, whereby all hotels will no longer supply disposable items such as slippers, shower caps, tooth brush/paste, body lotion, combs, nail files etc. Currently, these items are provided in Xian, Beijing, Luoyang etc, but this policy will be rolled out eventually throughout the rest of China also. Items that may still be provided by hotels (should they choose) are shampoo, conditioner and soap. With this in mind, please ensure you pack any necessities needed for your holiday.

Toilets/Washrooms

Public toilets, when found, are usually 'squats' - holes in the ground with footrests at either side and often don't possess a door! The custom is to wash with water from a jug or little pipe attached to the toilet using your left hand. Doesn't appeal? Here are some hints!

- Time yourself with the accommodations you are staying at
- If you are out and about, find the nearest hotel, restaurant, fast food outlet, or toilets at tourist attractions, which all tend to have Western style facilities
- Ask your tour guide to make a stop
- Pack a roll of toilet paper and anti-bacterial wipes for your own comfort

Media Restrictions

There are restrictions on all media, including social media and free press throughout China. Whilst on holiday, you will have limited or no access to social media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Google Plus

- so no Google Maps and no Play Store. To bypass the firewall, you could look at downloading a VPN, which is much easier to do this before you go to China.

WeChat:

Communication between the group and Tour Guide or Adventure Leader is best via the app: WeChat. Please install this App prior to your holiday as it is hard to do download the app once you have arrived in China. If you opt to open the WeChat account prior to arrival and it requests that you have to be contacted by someone already on WeChat before opening your account, don't worry, this can be done locally with your guide (just have the app downloaded ready to finalise opening your account locally).

There is also limited international calling options, so please check with your local provider before leaving home, to source the best roaming or online options to keep in regular contact with family and friends during your travels.

Travelling By Train

Fast and efficient, China's first rail lines were laid in the 19th century, and today, the government continues to invest heavily in this crucial mode of transport which connects many parts of the country. When travelling during the day, 'soft' seats, that is to say 'upholstered' seats are provided.

For overnight travel on "Signature" tours, clients are accommodated in 'soft class' sleeper cabins. Aboard each wagon are 9 compartments that comprise 4 bunks per compartment. Four people of mixed sex share one compartment. On occasion, dependent upon group size, you may be sharing with local people on the overnight journey, though sometimes dependent upon how the Chinese Railways Booking Office configure the bookings, the cabin may be filled with four of our passengers.

For overnight travel on "Budget" tours, clients are accommodated in open 6 berth bunks. We try to get all of our travellers in the same compartment/seating area so that you can have fun getting to know each other better, playing games etc. It is possible to

upgrade to a four-berth soft sleeper on your trip, please contact us at time of booking for rates (upgrades are only possible if the open class ticket has not already been purchased).

A dining wagon serves reasonably priced Chinese food of the noodles and rice variety, along with snacks and drinks. A very simple menu is published in English. On the Beijing - Xi'an service, there is also a small bar serving drinks including alcohol. Each wagon offers a WC and hand basin facility. At one end, is a Chinese squat-style WC, whilst at the other end is a modern Western-style WC. Cabins are lockable from the inside and luggage is stowed in overhead compartments and under the bottom bunk. Bed linen and slippers are supplied, and often there is a TV mounted on the wall at the end of each bed that may even work. Most channels are broadcast in Mandarin, excluding one English Channel, which has little of interest on it!

Time Keeping

Punctuality is very important throughout the tour and you will usually be given a time to meet your tour leader and the rest of the group in reception. In the event that you miss the meeting time you will have to make your own way to where the group are, this will be at your own expense.

Delays can occur on the trips, although they are rare we recommend you do not book onward travel too close to the end of the tour to allow time for delays. We take no responsibility for any missed flights or additional expenses if the group arrives late to the departure city.

Porterage

In China most often porterage is not available at railway stations and you will be required to carry your own luggage. We recommend you pack as light as possible as there can be several flights of stairs and a lengthy walk to our awaiting transportation.

Shopping

China is a virtual Aladdin's Cave. Government-run Friendship Stores in almost all cities stock a range of fixed-price souvenirs and handicrafts and can offer a reasonable idea

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of what is acceptable in terms of quality and price. After a visit to the Friendship Store, visit private stores, craft shops and local department stores. However, the best shopping is often at public markets. If you see something you want, buy it when you see it - prices don't vary greatly, but selection can vary from location to location.

Top buys include silk products, embroidery, Chinese calligraphy and paintings, ceramics, jade and stone carvings, lacquer ware, Chinese tea, Cloisonne, Mao reproduction propaganda souvenirs such as the famous 'Red Book', caps and buttons, personalised ink seals and clothing of every kind. Markets in Beijing and Shanghai commonly sell top quality ski jackets and leisure attire by big name brands. Additionally, copied goods such as handbags, watches and shoes are available in plentiful supply in these markets. Ethnic crafts are a speciality in some regions including Xi'an and Kunming. If wishing to buy antiques, proceed with caution. It's highly likely that the antique will be a skilful reproduction. However, if it is the real deal, you'll need paperwork from the Chinese Administrative Department of Cultural Relics which must then accompany the article being exported.

On many of our tours we include some shop visits/stops, where you will learn about a product or craft and often these stops include demonstrations with the option to purchase items afterwards. Although these stops have been vetted, management or staff may change and if you feel that these stops are not to standard please inform your guide at this time so that this may be rectified immediately. Shopping stops are not for everyone so we don't include many, the stops chosen bring an element of education of local culture or tradition for those that usually don't like to shop. Depending on what side of the shopping fence you sit on, we offer this inclusion to cater to the majority, based on client feedback.

IMPORTANT: Set your budget and don't be swayed, remember the caveat – 'Let the buyer beware'. Any purchases made whilst on holiday with us, irrespective of whether the store is recommended by us or other,

are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with the product you are purchasing and the delivery arrangements (we would recommend you take away with you any purchases rather than rely on shipping services). On The Go cannot be held responsible or accountable for items bought in country or shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

Holidays & Events

China has many important National Holidays and events that are celebrated throughout the country. During these times (the lead up to them and afterwards) there can be delays to public transport, the roads can be much busier and many sites are a lot more crowded as the locals take this time to visit family, celebrate the holiday and experience the wonders and amazing places within their own country.

During this time you'll likely to encounter a celebratory atmosphere, but an additional level of patience, flexibility and understanding goes a long way so that you may enjoy your holiday.

As tourists, you will be generally be unaffected and your tour leader will do their best to plan around these events. Though when initially planning your holiday, if you prefer not to travel when sites are crowded or are concerned about delays, then travelling during these holidays is possibly not for you. Below several of the holidays and the approximate dates, more information: <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/china/2020>.

- 01 Jan - New Year (countrywide)
- 24-30 Jan - Chinese New Year (countrywide)
- 20 Mar-16 Apr - Peach Blossom Festival (Shanghai)
- 04-06 Apr - Tomb-Sweeping Day (countrywide)
- 19 Apr - Formula One World Championship (Shanghai)
- 1-3 May - Labor Day (countrywide)
- TBA Jun - Shanghai International Film Festival (Shanghai)
- 25-27 Jun - Dragon Boat Festival (countrywide)
- 25 Aug - Double Seventh Festival (countrywide)
- 1 Oct - Mid-Autumn Festival (countrywide)

- 1-8 Oct - National Day Holiday (countrywide)
- 25 Oct - Double Ninth Festival (Chongyang Festival, countrywide)
- 25 Dec -25 Feb 2021 - Harbin Ice Festival (Harbin)

It's Not Like Home!

Travel to far - flung corners of the earth involves lifestyles and conditions that are sometimes very different from what you are used to back home. You must come prepared to cope with unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned. With the greatest respect and in the interest of your ultimate enjoyment you must understand this. Things can and do change in foreign countries.

- Be prepared as locals smoke everywhere in China
- The Chinese don't have an awareness of personal space, be ready to have people standing very close to you, nudge you or even walk into you, they are not being rude, it's just a very different culture
- Many tourists report scams in Shanghai, so be friendly but careful. Never ever follow a stranger anywhere
- Spitting and snorting is common in China as they see the use of tissues as unhygienic.
- Some locals won't queue and will often walk straight to the front of a line with no awareness or care of what they have done wrong
- Always take some antiseptic hand gel or antibacterial hand wipes with you and BYO toilet paper as its rare in public toilets. Squat toilets are very common, they can be a novelty and are easy to use
- Chinese people are delighted if you make any attempt to speak Mandarin, even if it's only a couple of words

Yunnan Experience - 8 days

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