

A Private Journey to China



Prepared for
Mr I Harris & Miss J Wormleighton
4 April to 27 April 2010

QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

04/04/2010	Arrive Beijing
05/04/2010	Fly Beijing/Kunming
06/04/2010	Kunming
07/04/2010	Drive Kunming/Dali
08/04/2010	Dali
09/04/2010	Dali
10/04/2010	Drive Dali/Shaxi
11/04/2010	Drive Shaxi/Lijiang
12/04/2010	Lijiang
13/04/2010	Lijiang
14/04/2010	Drive Lijiang/Zhongdian (Ringha)
15/04/2010	Ringha
16/04/2010	Ringha
17/04/2010	Ringha
18/04/2010	Fly Zhongdian/Sanya
19/04/2010	Sanya
20/04/2010	Sanya
21/04/2010	Sanya
22/04/2010	Sanya
23/04/2010	Sanya
24/04/2010	Sanya
25/04/2010	Sanya
26/04/2010	Fly Sanya/Shanghai
27/04/2010	Fly Shanghai/London Heathrow

YOUR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

International flights have been booked independently of Steppes Travel

DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY

Sunday 4 April



Beijing

This morning you arrive in Beijing (BA039 at 09.30). You will be met as you exit from customs and transferred to your Hotel. An early check in has not been arranged.

DuGe is a designer courtyard boutique hotel in which traditional Chinese architecture frames sleek, lacquered contemporary furniture and rooms are illuminated by ornate, crystal chandeliers. Each themed suite and room is uniquely designed with its own matching and coordinated bath or shower room. Black paper-cuts adorn the courtyard-facing windows, wall-coverings and drapes are rich and luxurious. Colours are warm, bold and subtle by turn, and each suite creates a mood that is both welcoming and surprising.

The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Overnight at the DuGe Courtyard Hotel.

Monday 5 April

Beijing/Kunming

Enjoy a morning visit to the 798 Art District, an area of old factories and warehousing that has now been transformed into an area of art galleries and crafts.

Continue to the airport for the onward afternoon flight to Kunming (CZ6159 15:30-18:45). You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight at the 5 Green Lake Hotel in a Lake View Room (Breakfast).*

Tuesday 6 April



Kunming

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing including the Flower Market, and a visit to Shilin, the stone forest, located 125 kilometres from Kunming. It covers an area of 80 hectares and consists of some wonderful rock formations created from the limestone that is found in the area. Nearby are the Yi villages of Qixing & Weigui, inhabited by the Sani branch of the Yi people and it will be possible to view their way of life.

If time allows you may also visit the National Art Palace & The Yunnan Provincial Museum. Kunming is the capital of Yunnan Province and Yunnan is home to many of China's more than 55 minority peoples. The Yunnan Provincial Museum acts as an introduction to their ways of life. In addition, it has many fine bronzes of the Dian Kingdom depicting scenes of daily life and animals.

Overnight at the Green Lake Hotel in a Lake View Room (Breakfast).

Wednesday 7 April

Kunming/Dali

This morning depart for Dali by road, a journey of about 4.5 hours. On arrival check into your hotel.

This afternoon you will be introduced to Dali's Old Town. It is not large and has two of its city gates intact. Many of the local shops sell the local tie-dye textiles, a speciality of the region.

Overnight at the Gurong Hotel (Breakfast).

Thursday 8 April

Dali

Travel south of Dali this morning and spend time walking to the Gantong Temple in the Cangshan Mountains. Built in the Tang Dynasty it is still the largest temple in the Cangshan. If time allows, drive to see Zhonghe Temple.

In the afternoon take a boat trip on Lake Erhai, visiting the island with its pagodas.

Overnight at the Gurong Hotel (Breakfast).

Friday 9 April



Dali

This morning drive to the small towns of Xizhou and Shaping located near Erhai Lake. Although it may not be market day a stroll through the streets looking at daily life and the architecture makes for a pleasant morning. Also today see the Three Pagodas some of the oldest in this part of China.

The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Overnight at the Gurong Hotel (Breakfast).

Saturday 10 April

Dali/Shaxi

After breakfast you will depart for Weishan town. This small town has as many as 45 percent of the population coming from the local minority groups, mainly Bai, Yi and Hui. Spend time wandering in the town taking in the atmosphere and hopefully the local market.

Following your visit, continue to another small town, Shaxi. On arrival check in to your hotel, a simple inn but the best available for your overnight stay.

Overnight at the Laomadian Lodge (Breakfast, lunch).

Sunday 11 April



Shaxi/Lijiang

This morning explore Shaxi town. Just over 1000 years ago, Shaxi played an important role as a trading station on the Tea and Horse Caravan Road, an important branch of the Silk Road. This ancient trade route connected Tibet with Eastern China. Yunnan provided tea for Tibet and in return Tibet provided their famous breed of horse to Song Dynasty officials in eastern China, who were busy defending their territory from invaders from the north.

Shaxi retains its old cobble-stone alleyways and different minorities, including the Yi and Bai, still met every Friday during the Sideng Market when mountain villagers come down from the hills to trade their goods in town. The World Monuments Fund has listed Shaxi as one of the 100 most endangered sites in the world.

Following your visit continue northwards to Lijiang. On arrival check into your hotel.

Located just 15 minutes from the old town of Lijiang, with its many cobbled streets, winding canals and quaint bridges, Banyan Tree Lijiang is the perfect base from where to relax and explore this lovely part of the Yunnan province. You can enjoy the magical views of the towering Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Additional hotel

facilities include 6 spa treatment rooms, gym and yoga room.

Lijiang has existed for at least 800 years and has its own Tibeto Burman language with a unique pictographic script and its own unique music. Women run the market and businesses and inherit property through the youngest daughter and men are gardeners, musicians and child rearers. Lijiang was at one end of Tibet's trading route and had trading ties with far flung cities of Burma, Tibet and India.

Overnight at the Banyan Tree in a King Bed Spa Suite (Breakfast, lunch).

Monday 12 April



Lijiang

Begin your sightseeing after breakfast. Begin with a walk to the fascinating old town and see the market. It is a relatively small town with the older section consisting of narrow cobbled streets that seems lost in a time warp. The minority peoples here are the Naxi, a matriarchal ethnic group. The town is dominated by the Jade Dragons Mountains which can often be seen reflected in the waters of the Black Dragon Pool, an idyllic spot which has a three story pagoda and an arched marble bridge nearby. A picturesque spot from which to take that iconic photograph. A visit to the Dongba Naxi Cultural Museum will help give you a better understanding of the Naxi people.

The afternoon is at leisure.

Overnight at the Banyan Tree in a King Bed Spa Suite (Breakfast).

Tuesday 13 April

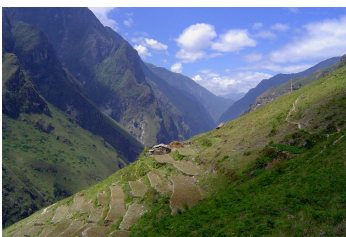
Lijiang

Today you will be taken into the countryside outside Lijiang and visit Yu Hu Village and the Yongfeng Monastery. The Yongfeng Temple which is a small lamasery dating back to 1756 is most well-known for the 10,000 blossom Camellia tree.

You will then journey by road or even on horse-back (this has the horses walking and being led by their local owners) over the mountains to Wenhai Lake, which is rarely visited. You will have a simple lunch at the Wenhai Eco-Lodge.

Overnight at the Banyan Tree in a King Bed Spa Suite (Breakfast, lunch).

Wednesday 14 April



Lijiang/ Zhongdian (Shangri-La)

After breakfast depart for Zhongdian, a full day drive, stopping to see the Tiger Leaping Gorge en route. The gorge is one of the deepest and most stunning in the world. This is where the Yangtse River is forced through a relatively small crack in the mountains resulting in tremendous downward erosion. On to arrival in Zhongdian check in to your hotel.

Banyan Tree Ringha is found in China's Yunnan Province, a mountainous area that has been designated as the official Shangri-La by the Chinese government and is part of Greater Tibet, both historically and culturally. At 3,200 metres above sea level, the setting is spectacular. In true Banyan Tree style, the resort architecture reflects the local Tibetan culture. All 32 spacious lodges and suites are traditional Tibetan farmhouses with intricate

woodcarvings, smoky fireplaces and wooden balconies that have valley or river views. Impressive pine pillars add enormous character to both the interior and exterior of each house. And of course, there is the heavenly Banyan Tree Spa.

Overnight at the Banyan Tree in a Tibetan Suite (Breakfast).

Thursday 15 April



Zhongdian (Shangrila)

The morning is at leisure.

In the afternoon visit the Sumsanling Monastery town of Ganden Sumsanling where at least 600 Buddhist monks spend their time engrossed in Buddhist learning away from their families and homes. Built in the 17th Century by the 5th Dalai Lama, the monastery with numerous chapels, woodcarving and paintings is like living museum of Tibetan culture. Parts of the monastery are being reconstructed and there is a regeneration of the religious spirit.

Zhongdian or Diqing or Shangrila, as the Chinese have now renamed it, is like many towns in China where Han Chinese and minority groups coexist. There is the new modern section and the old traditional section. The latter is a network of narrow streets where old wooden and stone buildings stand. In the centre is a large square where older men and women come each afternoon to perform traditional dance. There are some very attractive restaurants serving both western and Tibetan cuisine and dinner will be provided for you in one such restaurant.

Overnight at Banyan Tree in a Tibetan Suite (Breakfast, dinner - in a local restaurant).

Friday 16 April



Zhongdian (Shangrila)

After an early breakfast walk to Rutapo Hill and its Yak grazing meadows from where one can have a 360 degree view of the valley. Continue to the sacred hill of Ringha and the Dabao Temple of the Five Wisdom Buddhas. Take a circumambulation walk of Ringha Hill with picnic lunch and walk back to the hotel. A total of about 6 hours walking today.

Overnight at the Banyan Tree in a Tibetan Suite (Breakfast, lunch).

Saturday 17 April



Zhongdian (Shangrila)

Spend another day walking in the locality. Drive to Jisha village in habituated by Tibetans. Walk through taking in the local sites before departing for your trek to the Thousand Lake peak where you can see lakes and snow covered mountains. Return to village for afternoon tea with a Tibetan family.

Overnight at the Banyan Tree in a Tibetan Suite (Breakfast, lunch).

**Sunday 18 April -
Sunday 25 April**

Zhongdian (Shangrila)/Sanya

The early part of the morning is at leisure before you are collected from your hotel and transferred to the airport for the flights to Sanya via Kunming (MU5838 13.55-15.00/MU5745 16.25-19.20).

On arrival you will be met by a hotel representative and taken to



Monday 26 April

your hotel.

Boasting 49 lavish pool villas the Banyan Tree Sanya is nestled in the tropical lagoon landscape of the enchanting Sanya vacation resort. It features a spa and hydrotherapy development, signature dining outlets, and extensive conference facilities.

Overnight at the Banyan Tree in Pool Villa (Breakfast).

Sanya/Shanghai

This afternoon the hotel will provide you with a transfer to the airport for your flight to Shanghai (MU5464 16.25-19.20). On arrival you will be met taken to your hotel.

Overnight at the Ramada Pudong Airport Hotel (Breakfast).

Tuesday 27 April



Shanghai

This morning you depart Shanghai. No transfer has been booked but the hotel offers a minibus shuttle between the hotel and the terminal for the flight to London Heathrow, arriving in London later the same day (BA168 at 10.40). *(Breakfast).*

steppestravel
travel beyond the ordinary

TRIP PRICE

- Includes:** Accommodation in double rooms, private transfers (except on departure in Shanghai - shared transfer) & transportation (internal flights in First Class, air-conditioned car), meals as indicated, private sightseeing programme with English speaking guides (different in each city) and entrance fees to tourist sites.
- Excludes:** Visas, travel insurance, items of a personal nature, meals unless indicated, beverages at included meals, early check in or late check out at hotels, excess luggage charges, camera/video fees, gratuities.
- Notes:** **Currency** - Major credit cards, cash (major currencies) and Traveller's cheques (best to have American Express or Thomas Cook) are widely accepted. Some cities have ATM cash machines.
- The Chinese are now tolerant of western mistakes made by visitors. However, as a guideline, it is still not a good idea to shout at anyone. This causes them to lose face and is a major insult. It will also not achieve your goal. It is far better to be quiet but stern when trying to gain results to a problem. In addition, please do not place shoes on tables, chairs or bedding and do not embrace people, touch their heads or slap them on the back.
- Gratuities** - Tipping is not compulsory but is now accepted and expected. However, please do not feel obliged to tip guides or drivers if you feel the level of service has fallen below what you have expected. You may want to tip more for exceptional services. As a general rule I would suggest USD15 (or equivalent in local currency) per couple per day for the guide and USD8 per couple per day for the driver. It is not necessary to tip in the less expensive local restaurants but in the better local restaurants and hotels a service charge is sometimes included or if not you may want to round the bill up.
- You will be met on arrival in each city by representatives of the hotels. When arriving by air please claim your luggage and proceed to the exit where the person meeting you will be waiting for you with a signboard with your name on it.
- Please note that the internal flight schedules and itinerary may be subject to alteration due to unforeseen circumstances, local conditions or schedule changes. Whilst Steppes Travel will make every effort to provide the itinerary as presented this is sometimes not possible and your patience and understanding are requested if the itinerary should change.
- If for any reason you are not met on arrival in any of the cities, you should wait for up to one hour in case the person meeting you has been unavoidably delayed. If the person fails to appear please call the local contacts emergency number. If you are unable to make contact please take a taxi to the hotel listed in the itinerary. Please show the clerk at the reception desk your itinerary and check in. If they demand money please explain that your travel agent (see contacts sheet) will sort out the problem. If the hotel still demands some monetary guarantee please pay

and contact Steppes Travel as soon as possible. Please keep receipts (if possible) for all moneys demanded from you.

Please do not worry. This is a precautionary measure in the unlikely event that things do not work out as planned.

SteppesTravel
travel beyond the ordinary

YOUR CONSULTANT

Paul Craven

Asia, Country Director

paul@steppestravel.co.uk

Carole Williams

Asia, Sales Support

carole@steppestravel.co.uk

Tel: 01285 651010

Fax: 01285 885888

24/03/2010

steppestravel
travel beyond the ordinary

CONTACT DETAILS FOR CHINA:

In the event that you need assistance during your holiday please make direct contact with either the local office based in the country in which you are travelling, or the relevant hotel. All contact details are listed below. If you still need to speak to a member of Steppes Travel staff you can contact us during normal working hours (Monday-Friday 09.00hrs - 17.30hrs, Saturday 10.00 - 16.00hrs).

If you still require assistance out of office hours in an EMERGENCY situation, Steppes Travel can be contacted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please dial our office telephone number (+ 44 1285 651010) and your message will be passed to a member of staff who will return your call and provide the necessary assistance. THIS IS FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY.

Steppes Travel - Paul Craven

The Travel House
51 Castle Street
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 1QD England
Telephone: 01285 651010
Fax: 01285 885888

Local office looking after all ground arrangements - 04/04/2010 - 27/04/2010

Eastern Journeys

5th Floor
Anton Building
1 Anton Street
Wanchai
Hong Kong
Tel: (00 852) 2544 5488
Emergency Tel: (00 852) 6899 4195
Fax: (00 852) 2544 5489
Email: david@easternjourneys.com

In case of any difficulties please note the following:

Your guides in each city will give you their local mobile phone numbers.

In Beijing and Sanya, Richard can be contacted on (00 86) 1370 115 2539

In Yunnan, Jay, who is based in Kunming, can be reached on (00 86) 1370 872 7369

In Shanghai, Maggie & Fang can be contacted on (00 86) 1580 045 3835

BEIJING

Accommodation - 04/04/2010 - 05/04/2010

DuGe Courtyard Hotel

Qianyuanensi Hutong

No 26

Nanluoguxiang

Dongcheng District

Beijing 100009

Tel: (00 86) 10 64060686

Fax: (00 86) 10 64060628

YUNNAN

Accommodation - 05/04/2010 - 07/04/2010

Green Lake Hotel

6 South Cui Hu Road

Kunming 650031

Yunnan

Tel: (00 86) 871 5158888

Fax: (00 86) 871 5153286

Accommodation - 07/04/2010 - 10/04/2010

Gurong Hotel

59 Boai Road

Dali

Yunnan

Tel: (00 86) 871 5158888

Fax: (00 86) 872 2676988

Accommodation - 10/04/2010 - 11/04/2010

Laomadian Lodge

Sideng Street

Shaxi Old Town

Jianchuan 671302

Yunnan

Tel: (00 86) 872 4722666

Accommodation - 11/04/2010 - 14/04/2010

Banyan Tree - Lijiang

Banyan Tree Lijiang

P.O. Box 55

Lijiang 674100

Yunnan

Tel: (00 86) 888 533 1111

Fax: (00 86) 888 533 2222

Accommodation - 14/04/2010 - 18/04/2010

Banyan Tree - Ringha

Hong Po Village

Jian Tang Town

Shangri-La County

Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture

Yunnan 674400

Tel: (00 86) 887 828 8822

Fax: (00 86) 887 828 8911

SANYA

Accommodation - 18/04/2010 - 26/04/2010

Banyan Tree Sanya

Luhuitou Bay

6 Luling Road

Sanya

Hainan Province

Tel: (00 86 898) 8860 9988

Fax: (00 86) 898 88601188

SHANGHAI

Accommodation - 26/04/2010 - 27/04/2010

Ramada Pudong Airport Hotel

1100 Qi Hang Road

Shanghai

Tel: (00 86) 21 3849 4949

Fax: (00 86 21) 6885 2889

If you are dialling from within the country replace the figures in brackets with '0'.

Steppestravel
travel beyond the ordinary