

***Cycling in Kunming and from Dali to Shaxi and back***

***11 days***

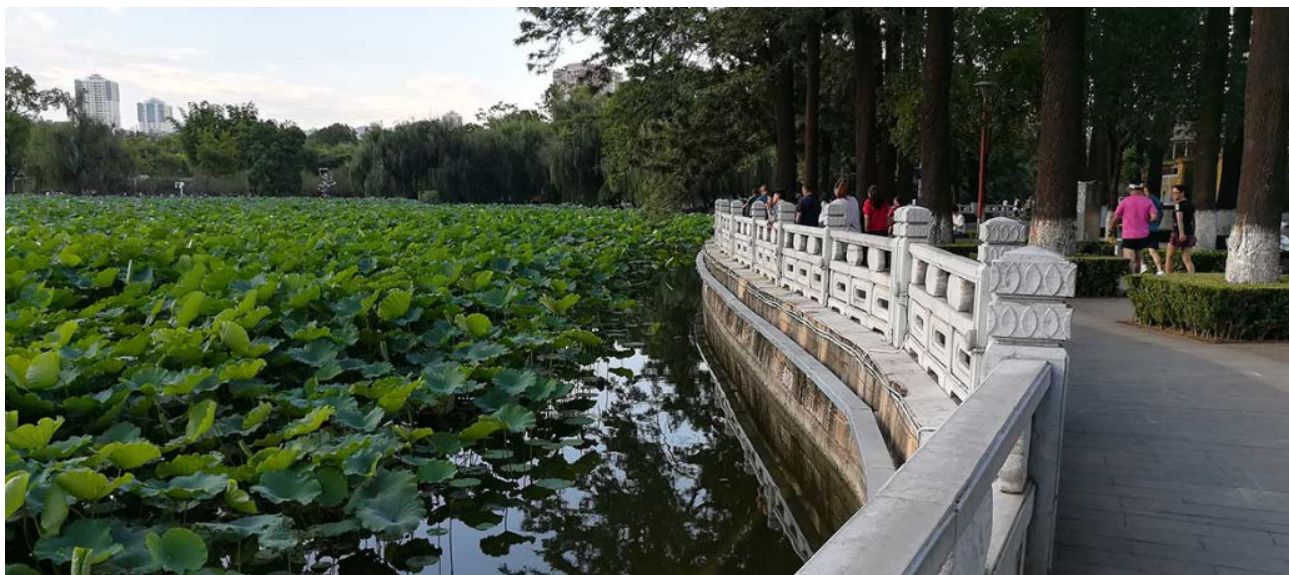
Kunming – Dianchi Lake – Kunyang – Dali – Erhai – Eryuan – Niujie – Shaxi – Heqing – Shuanglang

**Day 1 – Arrival in Kunming, China's spring pearl**

Arrival in Kunming, the "City of Eternal Spring" (flight reference to be specified). Upon arrival, you will be warmly greeted at the airport and transferred to your accommodation, ideally located near Cuihu Lake. The afternoon is free to stroll along its peaceful shores, watch the birds, or, for culture enthusiasts, visit Yuantong Temple, one of the city's oldest. In the evening, be swept away by *Dynamic Yunnan*, a spectacular show blending dance, music, and traditional costumes—a true sensory journey through Yunnan's ethnic cultures.

**Culinary tip:** don't miss the famous "crossing-the-bridge" noodles (*guoqiao mixian*), a comforting Yunnan specialty.

**Accommodation:** Upland International Youth Hostel



**Day 2 – Cycling around Dianchi Lake**

After a hearty breakfast, collect your bicycles in downtown Kunming near Haigeng Park, the perfect starting point to join the ecological trail along the east shore of Dianchi Lake. Over the course of about 45 km (3 to 4 hours of leisurely cycling), the scenery alternates between marshes, reeds, and wide-open horizons. Haigeng Wetland Park is a must—especially in winter, when it hosts thousands of migratory birds in a breathtaking natural spectacle. The route is mostly flat with a few gentle slopes, leading you to Kunyang. Settle into a friendly guesthouse in the heart of a local village, a perfect opportunity to enjoy Yunnanese hospitality.

**Culinary tip:** try a Yi-style grilled fish, fragrant with local herbs.

**Accommodation:** Yangyu Homestay

**Day 3 – Return to Kunming along the west shore**

After a gentle morning in Kunyang, cycle back towards Kunming, this time following the west shore of Dianchi Lake or opting for a more rural route. This 45 km ride (3 to 4 hours) offers alternating lakeside scenery, gentle hills, and peaceful villages. You pass through the ancient city of Jinning, birthplace of Zheng He, the greatest navigator of the Ming dynasty, and visit his memorial for a dive into China's maritime history. Arrive in Kunming in the afternoon, return the bikes, and enjoy free time to explore a local market or simply relax with a coffee near Cuihu Lake.

**Culinary tip:** try *Qi guo ji*, chicken steamed in a clay pot, a comforting winter specialty.

**Accommodation:** Upland International Youth Hostel



**Day 4 – Train to Dali and the charm of Xizhou**

In the morning, transfer to the station for the high-speed train C4302 (08:30–10:37) to Dali. Upon arrival, collect an e-bike and follow the ecological trail along the west shore of Erhai Lake. The views are superb—cultivated fields, fishermen at work, and mountains as a backdrop. Take a break in Dali Old Town to wander its market and admire the ancient city walls. Continue to Xizhou, famous for its beautiful traditional Bai mansions and tie-dye workshops. Settle into your rural guesthouse and soak up the peaceful village atmosphere.

**Culinary tip:** taste the Bai-style “Hai shao” fish, spicy and flavorful.

**Accommodation:** Jiyisi Guest House in Xizhou

#### **Day 5 – Between lake and hot springs**

Leave Xizhou at a leisurely pace to continue along the west shore of Erhai Lake. The e-bike makes the 30 km ride (2 to 3 hours) pleasant, even on the small slopes. Wetlands here provide a perfect habitat for migratory birds, and the Bai villages along the way invite short stops to observe daily life. Arrive in Eryuan in the afternoon and unwind in its hot springs—a perfect way to end the year in a serene, rejuvenating atmosphere.

**Culinary tip:** try “Ru shan” (milk cheese) and “Sheng pi” (raw pork skin), surprising and tasty local specialties.

**Accommodation:** Wuyuan Qijiantang Hot Spring Homestay



#### **Day 6 – Yi villages and pastoral landscapes**

To start a new day, hop on your bike and head north towards Niujie (30 km, 3 hours). The route follows rural roads lined with fields and gentle hills. Yi villages, with their low, colorful houses, punctuate the journey. You may meet locals in traditional dress, especially at local markets rich with colors, spices, and aromas. Arrive in Niujie in the afternoon and settle into a simple but welcoming guesthouse in a peaceful pastoral setting.

**Culinary tip:** warm up with a fragrant, generous local mushroom soup.

**Accommodation:** Yinlanxi Hot Spring Resort Hotel

#### **Day 7 – Shaxi, a preserved gem of the Tea Horse Road**

This morning, ride towards Shaxi on a rolling but manageable route (29 km, 2 to 3 hours). This historic village, once a key stop on the trade route linking Tibet and China, has retained its authentic charm. In the afternoon, explore its cobbled lanes, central square with its ancient theater stage, and preserved temples on foot or by bike. If time allows, hike to the Shibaoshan Buddhist grottoes, fine examples of Tang dynasty art.

**Culinary tip:** enjoy handmade flaky biscuits, perfect with a cup of local tea.

**Accommodation:** Aoding Courtyard

**Day 8 – Heqing and the art of Bai silversmithing**

Today, leave Shaxi and pedal south through forest roads and rural paths (40 km, about 3 hours). The scenery alternates between terraced rice paddies, green hills, and Bai hamlets. Arrive in Heqing, renowned for its handicrafts, especially silverware. Visit traditional workshops and discover unique handmade pieces.

**Culinary tip:** savor Yi-style grilled fish, spiced with chili and herbs.

**Accommodation:** Tianquan Lanyuan Inn



**Day 9 – Gentle descent to Shuanglang**

Continue south towards Shuanglang (45 km, 3 to 4 hours). The route descends gently to the northeast shore of Erhai Lake, where the light dances on the silver water. You may opt for a boat trip to Nanzhao Customs Island. In the late afternoon, settle into your lakeside accommodation, perfect for admiring the sunset.

**Culinary tip:** indulge in an Erhai Lake fish banquet, a feast of delicate flavors.

**Accommodation:** Dali Shihai Minsu

**Day 10 – Final ride and return to Kunming**

Last cycling stage: from Shuanglang to Xiaguan (55 km, about 4 hours) following the east shore's ecological trail. The ride is flat and pleasant, but a partial vehicle transfer is also possible. Return the bikes, then take the high-speed train C358 (17:50–20:05) to Kunming. Evening free for a final local dinner.

**Culinary tip:** end your adventure with a generous, convivial Yunnan hotpot.

**Accommodation:** Upland International Youth Hostel

**Day 11 – Departure from Kunming**

Free morning in Kunming for a stroll or some souvenir shopping. Transfer to the airport for your flight to your next destination. You leave with memories etched in your mind—shimmering rice terraces, welcoming villages, spicy flavors, and the warm smiles of Yunnan's people.

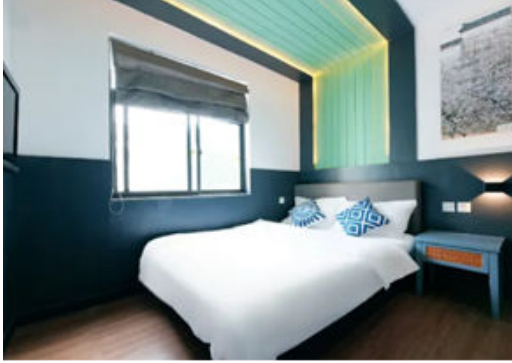
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**Our selection of hotels for your tour in Yunnan:**

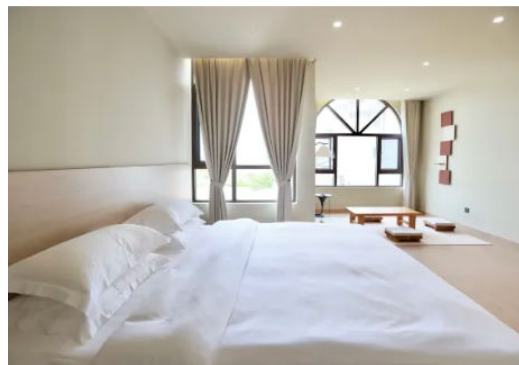
**Kunming: Upland International Youth Hostel**

Renovated in 2020, well located in the Cuihu Lake district. Comfort and amenities are fairly simple, but it offers good overall value for money and a warm atmosphere conducive to spontaneous encounters.



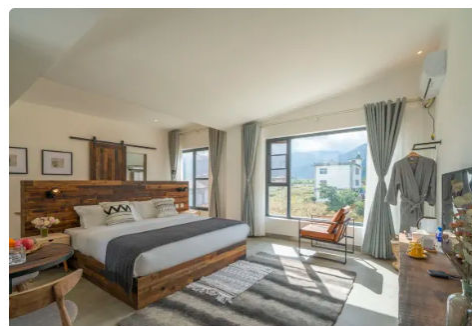
**Kunyang: Yangyu Homestay**

Nestled in Kunyang near the station, Yangyu Homestay combines comfort and authenticity for a peaceful stay in Yunnan. Its elegant, modern rooms offer a warm atmosphere—perfect for relaxing after a day of exploration. Enjoy attentive service, free Wi-Fi, and an intimate setting close to local attractions. Ideal for travelers seeking authenticity and simplicity, this guesthouse is a cozy escape into Yunnan culture. Book now for a memorable experience!



**Xizhou: Jiyisi Xiangyu Art Hotel**

The Jiyisi Xiangyu Art Hotel is the ideal place for travelers wishing to discover the Bai village of Dali, its culture, landscapes, and colors. Guests often report being highly satisfied with the quality of service, and the family-like, welcoming atmosphere suits all visitors.



**Eryuan: Wuyuan Qijiantang Hot Spring Homestay**

Relax at this charming Wuyuan homestay, where wellness and nature meet. Enjoy private hot springs, a peaceful setting surrounded by lush scenery, and comfortable accommodations in an elegant rustic style. Ideal for a romantic getaway or a relaxing break, this homestay combines authenticity with a gentle pace of life. A unique experience in the heart of Yunnan.



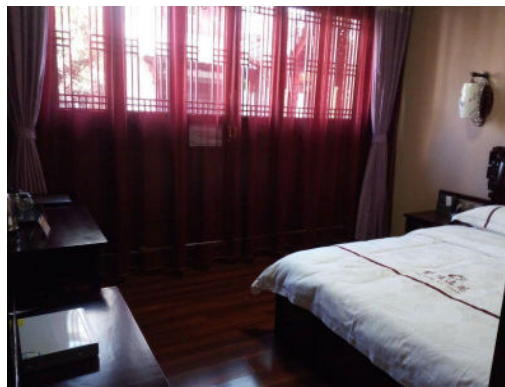
**Niujie: Yinlanxi Hot Spring Resort Hotel**

Treat yourself to a relaxing escape in this haven of peace with natural hot springs, nestled in the serene landscapes of Dali Eryuan. Elegant rooms, soothing thermal baths, and a tranquil atmosphere make it the perfect place to recharge. Enjoy attentive service and a charming setting between mountains and nature—a perfect retreat to disconnect and rejuvenate.



**Shaxi: Aoding Courtyard (boutique hotel)**

Pleasant hotel located 1 minute from Shaxi Old Town's central square, a former residence tastefully renovated by the former owners of the much-missed Laomadian Inn. Good breakfast and meals served at the hotel restaurant.



**Heqing: Tianquan Lanyuan Inn**

Nestled in the lush landscapes of Tianquan, this welcoming inn combines simplicity and rustic charm. Comfortable rooms, a peaceful atmosphere, and genuine hospitality make it an ideal haven for travelers seeking tranquility. Close to natural sites and hiking trails, it's the perfect address for a nature-connected getaway.



**Shuanglang: Shihai Homestay**

Located on the shores of Erhai Lake in Shuanglang, this charming guesthouse blends minimalist elegance with a serene natural setting. The tastefully decorated rooms offer soothing views over the turquoise waters, while the common areas invite relaxation. Perfect for travelers seeking peace and quiet, the inn offers warm hospitality just steps from Dali's iconic landscapes.





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#### **Our agency in China**

China Roads 1326 South Ring Road, Kunming, Yunnan, China. License: L-YN-00070

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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)

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

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VOYAGEOS, Marseille FRANCE (by appointment only)

Phone: +33 (0)7-77-45-18-50 / weekdays of 9-17h.

#### **Associative engagement**

€2 per traveler donated to 2 charities:

- Colors of China: Sponsorship for the schooling of girls in northern Guangxi
- Children of the Mekong: Schooling of children in Upper Yunnan

+ **planting a tree per traveler** with the Yves Rocher Foundation "Plantons pour la Planète"

#### **"Homemade" tours - authentic traveler feedbacks**

Our circuits, and more generally all the content we create and publish, are the result of extensive research and experience of more than 15 years. But they are regularly - not to say constantly - copied. Don't be surprised, but just recognize the copy of the original!

We do not post fake traveler reviews as this has unfortunately become common on the Internet. All comments on the forums and our sites are guaranteed authentic! Several testimonials from alumni of our travelers here: [Travel comments from China](http://Travel-comments-from-China)

**RATE - based on 2-4-6 travelers in 1-2-3 rooms - INCLUSIONS and EXCLUSIONS:**

**11 days Kunming – Dali – Shaxi Cycling tour, 2025-2026**

- RMB 1 000 RMB (EUR 1250) per person based on 2 travelers
- RMB 7 200 RMB (EUR 900) per person based on 4 travelers
- RMB 6 200 RMB (EUR 775) per person based on 6 travelers

Applied Exchange rate: €1 = ~ RMB 8

- Deposit on booking of 50% of travel expenses, by transfer or credit card

- Balance 3 weeks before departure, again by bank transfer or credit card

**This rate includes:**

- Accommodation in the mentioned hotels with breakfast (except when noted)
- All transfers by private vehicle as mentioned in the program
- Bicycle renting (100% mechanical, electric assisted bicycle available for a little extra)
- English-speaking bicycle guide from day 2 to day 10
- 24/7 assistance from our agency in Kunming, insurance and guarantees from our French agency

**This rate does not include:**

- Personal expenses and activities not explicitly mentioned in the program
- Meals & drinks
- Tips to the drivers and the tour guide
- Personal travel insurance and Chinese visa fees
- International and domestic flights (possibility to include them in our quotation)

Program subject to slight change due to schedule changes or cancelation of airlines,  
availability of guides and hotels or bad weather.



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

In France: Voyageos, 19 rue Chateaubriand 22100 Dinan

