

***"On the Roof of the World Route" – 14 Days / 13 Nights***

Kunming – Dali – Xizhou – Shaxi – Lijiang – Shuhe – Shangri-La – Tsetang – Gyantse – Shigatse – Lhasa

**DAY 1: Welcome to Yunnan, the Province of Eternal Spring**

Kunming Airport → Hotel - Duration: 1h transfer • Altitude: 1,890 m

Your plane lands in Kunming, nicknamed the 'City of Eternal Spring' for its mild climate all year round. At the terminal exit, your driver will be waiting for you with a sign with your name on it for a smooth transfer to the city center. The rest of the day is yours: take this opportunity to recover from your long journey, or set out on foot to stroll to Green Lake (Cuihu), where locals gather to sing, dance, and play music in the open air. Just a few minutes' walk away, the Yuantong Buddhist Temple invites you to a first moment of calm. Free dinner and overnight at [Grand Park Kunming](#). **Included services:** Private airport – hotel transfer



**DAY 2: In the Mineral Labyrinth of the Stone Forest**

Kunming → Stone Forest (Shilin) → Kunming - Duration: 3h30 drive • Altitude: 1,890 m

Meet at 9:00 AM with your French-speaking guide-driver to take the road towards Shilin and its famous Stone Forest, a spectacular labyrinth of karst peaks sculpted by 270 million years of erosion and classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site. A walk of about two hours leads you through narrow rocky passages, away from the paths most frequented by groups. Returning to Kunming, discover the Golden Temple, entirely built of gilded bronze, then free time to stroll in the city center. In the evening, enjoy the show 'Dynamic Yunnan', an enchanting staging of the dances and songs of Yunnan's minorities (no performance on Sundays). Free dinner and another night at [Grand Park Kunming](#). **Included services:** English Speaking guide, private transport, Stone Forest and Dynamic Yunnan show



**DAY 3: From Kunming to Xizhou, on the Shores of Erhai Lake**

Kunming → Dali (train D8664) → Xizhou - Duration: 2h15 train + 1h drive • Altitude: 1,980 m

After breakfast, transfer to Kunming railway station to board train D8664 (08:34 AM - 10:48 AM) heading to Dali. Upon your arrival, your guide and driver will welcome you to head to the old town, where you can have lunch freely before strolling through its alleys, which are still peaceful at this time. Next, visit the Three Pagodas of Chongsheng, a millennial emblem of Dali that reflects perfectly in Erhai Lake. Continuation to the Bai village of Xizhou, the cradle of the traditional architecture of this minority, where you will check in for the night. If time permits, explore the surrounding countryside by bicycle to Erhai Lake, or stroll on foot through the village and its old residences. Free dinner at the hotel restaurant and night at [The Linden Centre](#). **Included services:** Kunming – Dali train (2nd class), English Speaking guide, private transport, Three Pagodas



**DAY 4: On the Tea and Horse Road, to Shaxi**

Xizhou → Zhoucheng → Shibaoshan → Shaxi - Duration: 3h30 drive • Altitude: 2,050 m

In the morning, head to the Xizhou market on foot from your hotel for an immersion into local life. Continuation to the Bai village of Zhoucheng, the capital of tie-dye craftsmanship, where you will discover the ancestral know-how of indigo dyeing by meeting its inhabitants. Then drive to Shaxi, with a free lunch along the way. In the afternoon, discover the Shibaoshan mountains, a superb complex of Buddhist sculptures carved into the rock in the heart of temples imbued with serenity. A descent on foot along a mountain path (or by vehicle) leads you to the old town of Shaxi, a former major stopover on the caravan Route of Tea and Horses. Free dinner and night in the beautifully refurbished traditional ancient courtyard of [Shaxi Aoding Courtyard](#). **Included services:** English Speaking guide, private transport, Shibaoshan



**DAY 5: From Shaxi to Lijiang Valley, towards the Village of Shuhe**

Shaxi → Lijiang → Shuhe - Duration: 4h drive • Altitude: 2,400 m

Morning departure for Lijiang. Free lunch in the heart of the old town, a millennial Naxi city listed as a World Heritage site, whose lively and commercial alleys are perfect for a pleasant stroll to the Black Dragon Pond Park, famous for its iconic bridge offering a view of the Jade Dragon Mountain. Short transfer afterwards to Shuhe, a former stopover on the Tea and Horse Road that has become a peaceful alternative to Lijiang in the heart of the valley. Check-in at the amazing hotel, a successful fusion of traditional Naxi architecture and contemporary design: [The Bivou](#). **Included services:** English Speaking guide, private transport



#### **DAY 6: Immersion in Lijiang Valley**

Shuhe → Baisha → Yuhu → Shuhe - Duration: local visits • Altitude: 2,400 m

Day dedicated to exploring Lijiang Valley and its Naxi villages. First stop in Baisha, famous for its Ming Dynasty murals, exceptional testimonies of traditional Naxi medicine. Continuation to Yuhu, a peaceful village located at the foot of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, where numerous stops punctuate the walk to encounter the rural way of life around Lijiang. Returning to Shuhe at the end of the day, enjoy a quiet stroll through its bucolic and festive old town, between canals and traditional houses. Free dinner and another night at [The Bivou](#). **Included services:** English Speaking guide, private transport, Yuhu shuttle and Yuhu lake



**DAY 7: Towards Tibetan Yunnan, through the Tiger Leaping Gorge**

Shuhe → Shigu → Tiger Leaping Gorge → Shangri-La - Duration: 5h drive • Altitude: 3,200 m

Today, head for the Tibetan region of Shangri-La. First stop at the site of the First Bend of the Yangtze River, followed by a stroll in the small village of Shigu. Continuation to the Tiger Leaping Gorge, one of the deepest canyons in the world, where the Yangtze River squeezes between the peaks of Haba Snow Mountain (5,400 m) and Jade Dragon Snow Mountain (5,600 m): a round-trip walk of about 40 minutes takes you to the bottom of the gorge. Continue along a superb mountain road to Shangri-La. Upon arrival, check in at the charming guesthouse, just a few minutes' walk from the center of the old town: [Timeless Inn](#). **Included services:** English Speaking guide, private transport, Tiger Leaping Gorge



**DAY 8: Shangri-La, in the Heart of Tibetan Yunnan**

Shangri-La (local visits) – Altitude: 3,280 m

Day entirely dedicated to discovering Shangri-La and its region, starting with the Songzanlin Tibetan Monastery, nicknamed the 'Little Potala' of Yunnan and the largest Tibetan monastery in the province. Then stroll through the local market, where you can taste yak butter tea, tsampa, and yak cheese, the staples of the daily Tibetan diet. Free lunch. In the afternoon, head towards the surrounding Tibetan countryside – on the shores of Napa Lake or in the Ringha Valley, depending on current conditions, to be discussed with your guide. Free dinner and another night at [Timeless Inn](#). **Included services:** English Speaking guide, private transport, Songzanlin monastery



**DAY 9: Heading to Tibet, Flight to Lhasa and the Yarlung Valley**

Shangri-La (flight) → Lhasa-Gonggar → Tsetang - Duration: transfer + flight + 1h30 drive • Altitude: 3,550 m  
Morning transfer to Shangri-La airport to board the flight to Gonggar, Lhasa airport (flight MU5939, 09:10 AM - 11:25 AM, or MU5774, 01:00 PM - 03:00 PM, depending on availability). Upon your arrival on the Tibetan plateau, transfer to the city of Tsetang, in the heart of the Yarlung Valley, considered the cradle of Tibetan civilization. In the afternoon, discover Yumbulagang, a fortified sanctuary perched on a rocky peak and the legendary first palace of Tibet. Night at [Longma Hotel](#). **Included services:** Airport transfer, domestic flight Shangri-La – Lhasa (taxes included), English Speaking guide, private transport, Yumbulagang and Trandruk



**DAY 10: From Tsetang to Gyantse, via Samye Monastery and Yamdrok Lake**

Tsetang → Samye → Yamdrok → Gyantse - Duration: 7h drive • Altitude: 3,950 m

Morning departure to discover Samye Monastery, founded in 779, the first Buddhist monastery in Tibet, built according to a mandala plan and nestled in a natural setting of great serenity. Continue the journey towards Gyantse, driving alongside the superb Yamdrok Lake, one of Tibet's sacred lakes, whose turquoise waters contrast with the surrounding peaks – you will also spot a beautiful glacier along the way. Arrival in the late afternoon in Gyantse, a historic stopover town on the ancient trade route between India and Tibet. Check-in and night at [Yutuo Hotel](#). **Included services:** English Speaking guide, private transport, Samye Monastery



**DAY 11: Gyantse – Shigatse, between Fortresses and Tibetan Villages**

Gyantse → Shalu → Shigatse - Duration: 2h30 drive • Altitude: 3,900 m

The morning is dedicated to discovering the Pelkhor Monastery, famous for its Kumbum with ten thousand images, the ruins of the Zhongshan fortress overlooking the town, and the old town of Gyantse. Then drive to Shigatse, Tibet's second-largest city, with a stop along the way at the charming village of Shalu, known for its monastery with Chinese architectural influences. Night at [Shiga Yangcha Grand Hotel](#). **Included services:** English Speaking guide, private transport, Pelkhor Monastery



### **DAY 12: Shigatse – Lhasa, the Potala Unveils Itself**

Shigatse → Lhasa - Duration: 4h30 drive • Altitude: 3,900 m

In the morning, visit the Tashilhunpo Monastery (if it did not take place the day before), the traditional residence of the Panchen Lama, which houses the largest gilded bronze Buddha statue in the world, built in 1904 to the glory of the Future Buddha, Maitreya. Then drive to Lhasa. Upon arrival, discover the Sera Monastery. To close the day beautifully, take a walk in Nanshan Park, which offers a breathtaking view of the Potala Palace and an exceptional panorama over the entire city of Lhasa. Check-in for the next two nights at [Thangka Hotel](#). **Included services:** English Speaking guide, private transport, entrance tickets for Tashilhunpo and Sera Monasteries, Nanshan Park



**DAY 13: Lhasa, in the Footsteps of the Dalai Lama**

Lhasa (visiting) – Altitude: 3,650 m

Visit the Potala Palace in the morning, the most iconic monument in Lhasa, the former center of the Tibetan government and winter residence of the Dalai Lama, whose monumental architecture dominates the city from Marpori Hill. In the afternoon, discover the Jokhang Temple, built in 647 during the introduction of Buddhism to Tibet, considered the spiritual heart and most sacred place of Tibetan Buddhism. Visit a nunnery, then free time to stroll along the fascinating Barkhor Street, which encircles the Jokhang Temple to the rhythm of pilgrims making circumambulations. Another night at [Thangka Hotel](#). **Included services:** English Speaking guide, private transport, potala and jokhang

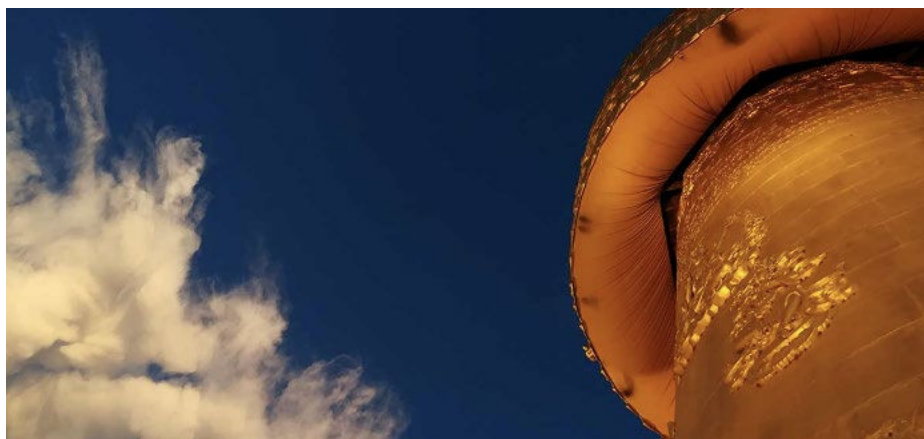


**DAY 14: Departure from Lhasa**

Lhasa → Lhasa-Gonggar Airport - Duration: transfer according to flight schedule

Depending on your flight schedule, transfer to Lhasa-Gonggar airport for your next destination. End of our services. We wish you a pleasant journey home, with wonderful memories to treasure!

**Included services:** Airport transfer



**Our hotel selection for your tour:**

**Kunming :** [Grand Park Kunming](#)

Ideally located in the center of Kunming, a stone's throw from Green Lake (Cuihu) and the eponymous park where locals gather every morning for tai chi. Comfortable hotel of high standing, a perfect starting and returning point for exploring the city on foot.



**Xizhou :** [The Linden Centre](#)

A traditional Bai residence from the early 20th century, carefully restored and organized around three inner courtyards. Located between Erhai Lake and the Cangshan Mountains, this unique place offers attentive service and rich cultural immersion activities.



**Shaxi :** [Shaxi Aoding Courtyard](#)

A one-minute walk from the central square of Shaxi's old town, this former traditional courtyard has been beautifully refurbished into elegant and spacious rooms with a peaceful garden.



**Shuhe :** [The Bivou](#)

Opened in late 2012 by a passionate team, this surprising accommodation successfully blends traditional Naxi architecture, contemporary design, and all modern comforts in the heart of Lijiang Valley.



**Shangri-La :** [Timeless Inn](#)

A warm, charming guesthouse located in the center of Shangri-La's old town, a few steps from its Tibetan alleys. Traditionally renovated building with a wonderful family and friendly atmosphere.



**Tsetang :** [Longma Hotel](#)

Behind an unassuming façade on Zedang's main street, Longma Hotel reveals a surprising inner courtyard, leading to thoughtfully designed rooms where curtains and carpets embrace Tibetan-inspired comfort. Scented bath products, a plush bed, complete silence. At breakfast, butter tea and a varied spread round out the experience, steps from Shannan's temples and shops.



**Gyantse :** [Yutuo Hotel](#)

At Yutuo Hotel, a warm welcome sets the tone from the moment you arrive: attentive staff, soft bedding, and well-chosen toiletries. Hot water comes quickly, the air is oxygen-enriched, and the central location makes it easy to reach restaurants and transport, for a practical stay at the foot of Mount Zongshan.



**Shigatse :** [Shiga Yangcha Grand Hotel \(Tashi Choeta\)](#)

A short walk from Tashilhunpo Monastery, Shiga Yangcha Grand Hotel stands out for its spacious, well-equipped rooms, its Tibetan-inflected restaurant served from breakfast onward, and a welcome well attuned to international travelers. Convenient parking, attentive service: a comfortable, authentic base for exploring Shigatse.



**Lhasa :** [Thangka Hotel](#)

Steps from Barkhor Street and the Jokhang Temple, Thangka Hotel blends authentic Tibetan décor with attentive staff. Rooms with oxygen diffusion help with acclimatization, and a hearty breakfast looks out over Lhasa's sacred rooftops: an ideal base for experiencing the holy city up close.





Your local agency for tailor-made or small-group tours

About us

Both a Chinese and French agency, China Roads offers you double peace of mind. Based in Yunnan since 2007, with offices in France (Dinan, Marseille, Nice) since 2013, we organize tailor-made journeys throughout China, focusing on authentic travel close to local people and cultures. More than just an agency, we are a network of local experts based in the field. Each travel advisor lives and travels in their province, ready to share hidden gems and craft a one-of-a-kind itinerary perfectly tailored to your wishes.



Our presence in China

With 13 Franco-Chinese travel advisors based in Kunming (Yunnan) and across the country's top destinations, our dual presence in China and France guarantees full support from start to finish for your journey.

- ✓ Local incoming agency established in Kunming, China, since 2007
✓ One dedicated contact person throughout all stages of your trip—before, during, and after your return
✓ Direct booking of all services throughout China
✓ Trusted, long-term partnerships across the country
✓ Ongoing improvement and creation of ever more authentic and inspiring itineraries
✓ Local availability and 24/7 assistance via a reachable contact number
✓ Experienced, multilingual speaking guides carefully selected for their skills
✓ 11 expert advisors traveling regularly to uncover still-authentic destinations

Our philosophy

Our goal is to help you discover China's great landmarks as well as "the other China"—its preserved villages, authentic markets, and genuine encounters, away from standardized tours.

Handcrafted itineraries

Our journeys are the result of nearly 20 years of field experience and continuous exploration. Often imitated but never equaled. Just like our travelers' reviews: 100% genuine, with no fake testimonials. The difference lies in sincerity.

Our guarantees... and your peace of mind

- ✓ Safety & Trust: Member of APST (France), secure online payment, professional liability insurance (HISCOX), Atout France registration, and IATA certification.
✓ Transparency: No intermediaries, no hidden fees, and the best local prices.
✓ Assistance: Pre-departure follow-up, on-the-ground support, and flexible arrangements once in China.

Responsible commitments

Traveling differently also means supporting local communities and protecting our planet:

Local impact: €2 per traveler donated to associations supporting children's education in Asia.



For the planet: One tree planted per traveler through the Plant for the Planet program by the Yves Rocher Foundation.



Planning a trip to China?

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Discover all our itineraries and travelers' reviews :
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**PRICING – « On the Roof of the World Route » – Price table by season and number of travellers**

Exchange rate applied: 1 € = ~ 7.7 RMB	From 1 Nov to 15 Mar	8 - 31 Oct 16 Mar - 30 June	From 1 Sept to 7 Oct	From July to August
<b>2 travellers</b>	25,400 RMB (€3,299)	25,200RMB (€3,273)	27,700 RMB (€3,597)	29,900 RMB (€3,883)
<b>4 travellers</b>	17,300 RMB (€2,247)	19,000 RMB(€2,468)	18,900 RMB (€2,455)	20,300 RMB (€2,636)
<b>6 travellers</b>	14,400 RMB (€1,870)	16,500 RMB(€2,143)	15,800 RMB (€2,052)	16,900 RMB (€2,195)
<b>8 travellers</b>	13,400 RMB (€1,740)	14,500RMB(€1,883)	14,600 RMB (€1,896)	15,600 RMB (€2,026)
<b>Single room</b>	3,900 RMB (€506)	4,000 RMB (€519)	4,200 RMB (€545)	4,700 RMB (€610)

Deposit upon booking of 50% of the travel costs, by bank transfer or credit card payment in France.

Balance 3 weeks before departure, also by bank transfer or credit card payment in France.

**This price includes**

- ✓ All mentioned hotels in double/twin room with breakfast
- ✓ All travel in a private air-conditioned vehicle with driver throughout the circuit
- ✓ French-speaking guide-driver from Day 2 to Day 13
- ✓ Kunming – Dali train (D8664, 2nd class) and domestic flight Shangri-La – Lhasa, taxes included
- ✓ Entrance tickets for all visits and activities mentioned in the program
- ✓ Permanent assistance from our team in Kunming + guarantees from our French agency

**This price does not include**

- X All meals (lunches and dinners), except breakfasts at hotels
- X Tips for guides and drivers
- X International flights to and from China
- X Personal travel insurance, Chinese visa fees and Tibet special permit
- X Personal expenses and activities not mentioned in the program

Program proposed by China Roads, subject to slight modifications due to schedule changes or cancellations by airlines, availability of guides and hotels, or poor weather conditions.

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

In France: Voyages, 19 rue Chateaubriand 22100 Dinan

