

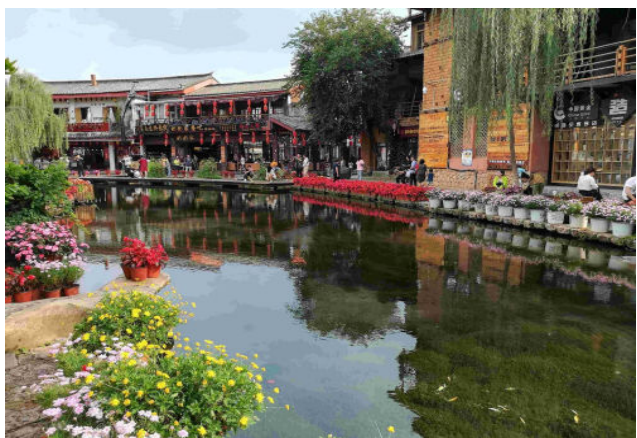
## Upper Mekong Songtsam Tour (8 days)

Lijiang - Shuhe - Laojun Shan - Tacheng - Cizhong -  
Meili Mountains - Benzilan - Shangri La / Ringha Valley



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

Arrival at Lijiang airport or railway station. Welcome by your English-speaking driver-guide (who will have a sign with your name on it), and set off to discover Lijiang's old town and its morning market (depending on your arrival time), then venture to the very pretty Black Dragon Pond Park with the mountains in the background reflected in the clear waters. And if you feel like it, a visit to the Dongba Museum will immerse you in the Naxi Dongba culture, with 2,500 items and relics directly from this ethnic minority. Transfer to the charming 4-star Hotel The Bivou, located in the peaceful old town of Shuhe, away from the sometimes busy roads of old Lijiang, but not far from it (6km). Don't forget to set aside some time to stroll through the heart of Shuhe's old town on foot. Don't be afraid to stray from the centre and venture into the hillside lanes lined with vegetable gardens and the shady park (behind The Bivou hotel) where rivers and ponds with particularly clear water mingle. Overnight in Shuhe.



### Day 2: Lijiang - Laojun Shan - Tacheng (PDJ) ~ 5 hours' drive. Altitude: 2000 m.

Breakfast and drive to the remote region of Tacheng. On the way, a short stop at the village of Shigu, site of the first bend in the Yangtze River. A diversion to the Liming area to discover the exceptional Laojun Shan National Park, with its immense karst mountains accessible by cable car. This protected area is China's second-largest park in terms of biodiversity and cultural richness. If you have time, we can advise you to walk back down the mountain (3km, on steps and prepared path). Continue your journey and arrive in Tacheng. Check-in at the superb Songtsam Tacheng Lodge 5\*. Overnight in Tacheng.



**Day 3: Tacheng - Cizhong (PDJ) ~ 4hrs drive. Altitude 2200 m.**

Breakfast and short transfer to the Baima nature reserve to observe the Yunnan golden monkey, a protected species, in the wild. Return to the hotel, with the possibility of visiting some Naxi minority villages along the way, as well as the village close to the hotel, which is beautifully surrounded by vineyards and also produces some very good traditional honey! This afternoon, you'll head for the Mekong valley and the astonishing village of Cizhong, populated by Catholic Tibetans. Discover the village overlooking the river, its vineyards and its church. Originally built by French missionaries from the Paris Foreign Missions Society in 1867, it was destroyed and burnt down during the Tibetan Revolt of 1905. It was rebuilt in the centre of the village of Cizhong. Overnight at the Cizhong Songtsam Lodge 5\*.



**Day 4: Cizhong - Meili Mountains (PDJ) ~ 3h drive. Altitude 3300 m.**

After breakfast, an early start on the road along the Mekong to the Mingyong glacier below the Kawa Karpo summit and the Meili mountains. You will reach the glacier by local shuttle bus. A beautiful hike awaits you along a path frequented by many Tibetan pilgrims, to a local temple and the glacier (around 3 hours' walk each way). Continue on to the isolated Meili Songtsam Lodge 5\*, facing the high peaks. Spend the night in the heart of the mountains for a real nature experience!





**Day 5: Meili - Benzilan (PDJ) ~ 2h drive. Altitude 2300 m.**

Superb sunrise over the Meili Mountains, with the first rays of sunlight licking the snow-covered slopes of Kawa Karpo. We then make our way to Benzilan via the three passes of the White Horse Mountains. Passages at an altitude of over 4,000 metres! On the way, there are some lovely views of the mountains and then the Yangtze River. Stop off at a small local nunnery. At Benzilan, we visit the Dongzhulin Tibetan monastery, situated high above the Yangtze. It is a popular spot for locals, known for housing several 'living Buddhas'. In Benzilan, you may be lucky enough to discover a wood pottery workshop, in a superb large Tibetan house, if the owner is available when you visit. Settle into your lodge, conveniently located in a tiny, protected and peaceful valley with a notorious micro-climate. Overnight at the charming Songtsam Benzilan Lodge.



**Day 6: Benzilan - Shangri La / Ringha Valley (PDJ) ~ 2h30 drive. Altitude 3200 m.**

Breakfast and onward journey, with a stop along the way in the village of Nixi to visit new potters, the black clay of the region being renowned for its quality. Arriving in Shangri La, we explore the Tibetan countryside, including the green Ringha valley, to discover the pretty Dao Bao Si temple. This temple is considered to be one of the 5 most important Tibetan monasteries in Yunnan. The place is peaceful and uncrowded, an ideal place for meditation. Settle into your lodge in the late afternoon, at the foot of the Songzanlin monastery, away from the town. Overnight at the Songtsam Lugu Lodge 5\*.





### **Jour 7 : Shangri La (PDJ ; DEJ)**

A day of sightseeing in Shangri La, starting with the impressive Songzanlin Tibetan monastery. For lunch, you'll have the opportunity to visit a Tibetan family, discover their habitat, taste yak butter tea, 'Tsampa' and of course yak butter cheese, all local specialties and staples of the daily diet. A stroll through the local market, with its stalls selling local produce such as yak cheese and its many species of freshly-picked mushrooms, followed by a walk through the narrow streets of the old town, in particular to the Bai Ji Si temple offering beautiful views of the Shangri La area and the Shika mountains. You will then pass the small Da Gui Shang temple, which faces a giant Tibetan prayer wheel overlooking the town. Return to your lodge to enjoy a peaceful end to the day. Overnight at Songtsam Lugu Lodge.



### **Day 8: Shangri La / departure (D-Day) ~ 30-minute transfer.**

A leisurely breakfast and a few moments at leisure until your transfer to the airport for your return or onward flight. End of the Songtsam tour, over the mountains of North Yunnan along the Mekong.

Note: Your room must be vacated by 12 noon. Your luggage can be stored at the hotel.

End of our services. Our teams wish you a pleasant journey home, filled with magical memories of Upper Yunnan!

## Our selection of hotels for your tour of Yunnan :

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

Beautiful accommodation opened at the end of 2012 by a team of Singaporeans who fell in love with the region. A stunning fusion of local Naxi architecture, contemporary design and modern comfort, overlooking tranquil countryside on one side and the old town of Shuhe on the other, in the heart of the Lijiang Valley.



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

A wonderful little hotel tucked away in the depths of Yunnan. What a delight to see such comfort, service and food in this remote and enchanting setting! Superb views of the terraced fields from the hotel balconies.





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

The hotel opened on 1 October 2013, and we are confident that the standard of rooms and service will be on a par with the group's other hotels in North Yunnan. Set back slightly from the lovely village of Cizhong, overlooking the Mekong River.



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

Absolutely magical views of the Meili mountains from the bar, restaurant and, of course, your room for a memorable sunrise over the mountains. Breakfast and coffee break every day in the hotel bar, dinner is included in the hotel restaurant.



**Benzilan** : Songtsam Benzilan Lodge 5\* (charming hotel)

A superb address full of Tibetan charm, situated not far from the Dongzhulin monastery, in the hollow of a quiet little valley with a view of the Yangtze gorges. A good restaurant, very welcoming and beautifully decorated with local art.

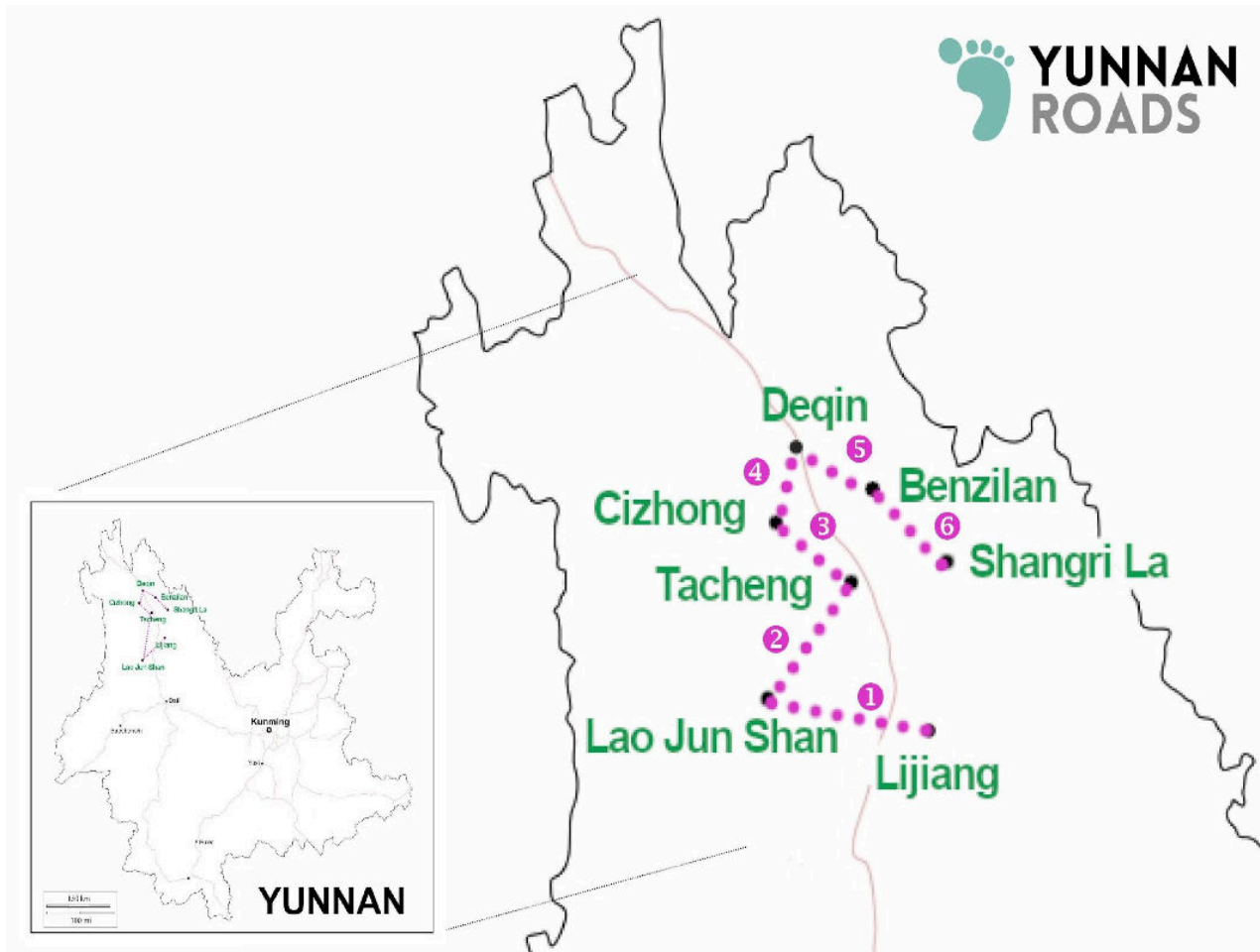


**Shangri La** : Shangri La Songtsam Lugu Lodge 4\* (charming hotel)

A superb address full of Tibetan charm, situated right next to the great Songzanlin monastery and at the gateway to a large Tibetan village. Good restaurant, beautifully decorated with local art.



## MAP OF YOUR STOPS IN YUNNAN







Our dual presence in China and France means you can take control of your trip from A to Z, with no intermediaries and at the lowest possible cost! We offer you the extensive local knowledge and responsiveness of our local agency, as well as the guarantees and ease of payment offered by our French agency, so you can travel with complete peace of mind!

### **Our presence on the ground in China**

- Local incoming agency based in Kunming, China, since 2007
- 1 single point of contact throughout the trip creation process, right up to your return from China
- Direct booking of all our services throughout China
- Relations based on trust and respect with our various partners throughout China
- Continuous improvement and the creation of ever more surprising and authentic itineraries
- On-site availability and responsiveness, with a 24-hour hotline
- Experienced French-speaking local guides selected for their skills
- 11 expert advisers, regularly travelling in search of destinations that are still authentic

### **Our agency in China**

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

Phone : (0086) 159-49379-177

Web site : [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)

### **The guarantees and advantages of our agency in France**

- Payment for your trip in France by simple bank transfer or credit card (Visa, Mastercard and AMEX) via our secure website, avoiding costly bank transfer fees to China or the usual surcharges of 4 to 5% of the price of the trip for credit card payment in China.
- Our agency is registered with Atout France, guaranteeing our professionalism.
- HISCOX professional liability insurance
- IATA accreditation so you can manage your international flights at negotiated rates
- Financial guarantee underwritten by the APST, guaranteeing you a full refund of sums already paid in the event of our defaulting, or else taking charge of your trip under the same conditions, which a 100% Chinese structure cannot offer.

### **Our branches in FRANCE (Dinan, Nice, Marseille)**

Paul (founder of the agency), at 19 rue Chateaubriand in Dinan

Telephone: 09-83-07-44-60 or 06-40-27-64-22 / weekdays from 9am to 7pm

Ingrid, travel consultant, in Beaulieu-sur-Mer (Nice) - by appointment only

Telephone: 07-87-67-02-27 / weekdays from 9am to 5pm

Daniel, travel consultant, in Marseille - by appointment only

Telephone: 07-77-45-18-50 / weekdays from 9am to 5pm

### **Involvement in associations**

#### **. 2€ per passenger donated to 2 charities :**

- Couleurs de Chine: sponsoring schooling for young girls in northern Guangxi
- Enfants du Mékong: schooling for children in Upper Yunnan

+ the planting of one tree per passenger with the Yves Rocher 'Plant for the Planet' foundation

### **Homemade' tours - Authentic traveller comments**

Our circuits, and more generally all the content we create and publish, are the fruit of almost 20 years' research and experience. But they are regularly copied. Don't be surprised, just know how to tell the copy from the original!

We do not publish fake traveller reviews, as has unfortunately become commonplace on the Internet. All the comments on our forums and websites are guaranteed to be genuine! Several testimonials from former travellers here: [Reviews of travelers China](#)

**RATES. Private tour based on 2, 4 or 6 travellers sharing a double/twin room:**

**Private tour based on 2 participants - Excluding flights - : 15760 RMB per person (2120 €)**

**Private tour based on 4 participants - Excluding flights - : 12945 RMB per person (1740 €)**

**Private tour based on 6 participants - Excluding flights - : 12770 RMB per person (1720 €)**

- Based on 6 participants, you will benefit from the services of an English-speaking guide and a driver (2 people).
- These special rates apply in February, March and November. A supplement applies for other periods and during the Chinese New Year, 01 May, October holidays, Christmas and New Year's Day - Please contact us.
- French-speaking guide supplement - Please contact us.

Exchange rate: 1€ = RMB 7.45

*- 50% deposit on booking, by bank transfer or credit card in France*

*- Balance 1 month before departure, again by bank transfer or credit card in France*

**This price includes :**

- ▶ Charming hotels with breakfast every day on site
- ▶ English-speaking guide/driver on days 1 to 7. Based on 6 participants, English-speaking guide + driver
- ▶ Transfer by private vehicle with non-English-speaking driver on day 8
- ▶ Fees for visits indicated in your programme
- ▶ Meals as mentioned (BD=Breakfast; L=Lunch; DIN=Dinner)
- ▶ Payment by credit card in France, to take advantage of your free travel insurance
- ▶ Guarantees from our French travel agency (professional insurance, deposit guarantee)
- ▶ 24/7 assistance from our own agency in Kunming

**This price does not include :**

- ▶ Flights or trains to Yunnan (prices on request)
- ▶ Chinese visa if required (simplified procedure with our partner <https://www.visa-connect.fr/>).  
Currently, French, Swiss, Belgian and other passports are exempt from visa requirements for stays of up to 29 nights in Yunnan.
- ▶ Meals and drinks, to be taken as you wish and as advised by your guide. A la carte dinners are available at Songtsam hotels.
- ▶ Tips
- ▶ Personal expenses insurance

Programme subject to slight modification due to changes in airline schedules or cancellations, availability of guides and hotels or bad weather.

In China : China Roads, 1326 South Ring Road, Kunming, Yunnan

In France : Voyageos, 19 street Chateaubriand 22100 Dinan



