



ACCESS CHINA TOURS



Group and Private Fine Touring in China and Asia

Exploring the Ethnic Art & Culture of Yunnan Province

*And Kicking Off the Inaugural
Denver-Kunming Sister Cities Art Exchange in Kunming*

A Denver Sister Cities tour supporting the first Denver-Kunming Art Exchange
and focusing on traditional minority group arts such as weaving, dying, ceramics and painting in the exotic areas of **Kunming, Dali, Xizhou and Shaxi**

12 Days / 10 Nights
October 30–November 10, 2018

Optional Beijing Add-on Tour Also Available



Tour Program Summary

Yunnan Province, located in Southwest China, stands distinctly apart from other regions of China. Within this single province—unmatched in the complexity and scope of its history, landscape and peoples—you will find a mix of geography, climates and nationalities that elsewhere it would take an entire continent to express. Yunnan, which translates to “South of the Clouds,” was traversed by the fabled Tea Horse Road, an important trading network that rivaled the importance of the Silk Road. Home to almost half of China's 54 minority groups, Yunnan offers a wide range of traditional culture, arts and dress.

This trip coincides with the [inaugural Denver-Kunming Art Exchange](#) which kicks off November 2, 2018, with an opening reception at a Kunming gallery. The exhibit's theme of “Women Artists of the American West” will feature acrylic paintings by women artists from the Denver-Boulder Metro area. Artists from Kunming will exhibit in Denver the following year.

Beginning with several days exploring beautiful, cosmopolitan Kunming (the “City of Eternal Spring”) and enjoying the Art Exchange festivities, this guided 12-day trip will take you to several cities and towns in Yunnan, including the ancient independent Kingdom of Dali and the magical Shaxi and Xizhou towns. You will meet with local artists and members of the Yi, Bai, Lisu and other ethnic minority groups. Learn about their traditional arts of textile dyeing, weaving, embroidery, wood carving, painting, dance, music, and cooking in select villages and explore art galleries and local attractions during your journey. You will also visit a tea plantation, enjoy pristine scenery with backdrops such as Erhai Lake, and have many opportunities to sample the wonderful local cuisines. Denver Sister City tours are known for providing travellers with unique experiences, and this off-the-beaten-path tour is bound to be one you will never forget!

Tour Daily Itinerary

Day 1 - Oct 30

➔ **Depart**

Depart the US on a transpacific flight to Kunming with connections.

Day 2 - Oct 31

➔ **Kunming**

Late afternoon/early evening arrival in Kunming where you will be met by an English speaking guide and driver and transferred to **Grand Park Hotel Kunming (Superior room)**. Evening free for you to adjust to the time zone and have dinner on your own.



Day 3 - Nov 1

Kunming

Western and Chinese buffet breakfast in hotel and a morning excursion to tour the UNESCO world heritage site **Stone Forest**, an amazing geological location. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon continue the journey to the autonomous county of the **Yi people** and visit the **Nuohei Shitou Village** to see and learn the traditional embroidery processes and local batik-making techniques. Also visit the **Cultural Museum** of the Yi minority people. Drive back to Kunming and hotel by early evening to partake in a Yunnan cuisine dinner. <B-L-D>

Day 4 - Nov 2

Kunming

Western and Chinese buffet breakfast in hotel. Morning tour of the **Yunnan Provincial Museum** lead by a docent to discuss its diverse art collection. After a **Yunnan cuisine lunch** in a restaurant, visit the **Kunming flower and bird market** near your hotel or spend the rest of the afternoon on your own. In the evening, attend the opening reception of the **Kunming-Denver Art Exchange** at the Wenlin Gallery. Food and drink at the reception. <B-L>

Day 5 - Nov 3

Kunming

Western and Chinese buffet breakfast in hotel, touring to **Dianchi Lake**, **Daguan Park** (where Denver's Red Rocks Gift is displayed), **West Hill**, and **Yuan Xiao Chen Art Gallery**, with **lunch** at a local restaurant. Late afternoon free for meetings or personal exploration of Kunming. Enjoy a **Bai cuisine dinner**. <B-L-D>

Day 6 - Nov 4

🚗 **Dali**

Breakfast in hotel. Excursion by vehicle through the subtropical hills of Yunnan to Dali (4.5 hours). Along the way visit **Yi Minority Ancient Town** and the **October Solar Calendar Culture Garden** in **Chu Xiong City** with **lunch** there. Arrive in **Dali** in late afternoon and check into Dali Gurong Hotel (standard room). Dinner on your own from a wide variety of Western and Asian restaurants near your hotel. <B-L>

Day 7 - Nov 5

Dali

After breakfast, a Bai minority guide will take you to the azure **Erhao Lake**, surrounded by mountains similar to Lake Tahoe. Enjoy a boat ride on the lake and see the sacred **Three Pagodas** which have stood for a millennia of earthquakes and invasions. **Lunch in local restaurant**. In the afternoon see **Zhang Family Garden**—the masterpiece of Bai architecture featuring paintings and wooden and stone carvings. Next tour **Dali Old Town** with its medieval alleys and lanes filled with traditional medicine and artwork shops including the **Dali Art Zone**. Dinner on your own. <B-L >



Day 8 - Nov 6

Xizhou

Breakfast in hotel. Transfer by vehicle to **Xizhou** (40 minutes), visit the local **morning market**, traditional **Xizhou Bai Nationality Residence and Yan Family Compound** and streetside galleries of local paintings. Visit the ethnic **Bai people in Zhoucheng Village** with the famous batik and embroidery workshop. Interact with the weavers through your guide who is fluent in the local dialects. If desired, learn to make a local snack food—Rushan—at your **Bai cuisine lunch**. Return to your boutique hotel, the **Linden Center** (standard room), a renovated former family manor house run by American expats and staffed by Han and minority staff. Enjoy a superb, **locally sourced dinner** at the hotel. The Linden Center has special cultural demonstrations including music, dance and weaving. <B-L-D >



Day 9 - Nov 7

Dali

Late breakfast in hotel, followed by touring Dali region sites including a **Tea Plantation**, then venture to the top of **Cangshan Hill** for a panoramic view of the valley. Return to the **Linden Center** in afternoon to observe local dance, music and weaving demonstrations. Enjoy another **locally sourced dinner** at the hotel. <B-D>



Day 10 - Nov 8

→ **Shaxi**

Breakfast in hotel. Transfer by vehicle to **Shaxi** (2 hours); visit the **Jianchuan Woodcarving Workshop**, take a walking tour of the **Shaxi Ancient Town** — another site that has maintained its centuries-old artistic and cultural traditions. See the ancient **Sideng Market**, the important trade point along the legendary Tea Horse Trail. Observe textile and embroidery techniques in local cottage industries, see the **Old Theater** and **Xingjiao Temple** displaying 20 pieces of precious ancient murals of the Ming Dynasty in its main hall, and enjoy a **Miao** cuisine lunch. Afternoon visit to the ancient **Shibaoshan Grottoes** dating from the 9th century. Return to Shaxi and check into the Landscape Hotel Shaxi (**Courtyard room**). Rest before enjoying another great locally sourced dinner . <B-L-D>



Day 11 - Nov 9

→ **Kunming**

Breakfast in hotel. Explore more villages on transfer back to Dali, then enjoy free time for your own exploration of **Dali Old Town**. Sample the exotic foods of the town on our own. Afternoon transfer to airport, flying **MU5771 (1655-1800)** back to Kunming. You will be met upon arrival by guide and driver and transferred to the nearby **Howard Johnson City of Flower Hotel (superior room)**.

Day 12 - Nov 10

→ **Return**

Breakfast in hotel. Self transfer on complimentary hotel shuttle bus to Kunming airport and fly back home with connections. Arrive in the US the same day.

Optional Beijing Extension

Day 13-Nov 10

Breakfast in hotel. Self transfer on complimentary hotel shuttle bus to Kunming airport and fly **China Eastern (9:00am -12:25pm)** direct to Beijing. Met by guide and driver at airport and transfer to the Grand Mercure Doncheng hotel. In the late afternoon free the Lama Temple, the largest functioning Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Beijing and home to the world's largest statue of Buddha carved from a single tree. The adjacent Confucius Temple displays millennia old stone stellae. Wander over to the Houhai Lake cafe and bar district and fine refreshments on your own.



Day 14/Nov 11 **Beijing** Western and Chinese buffet breakfast in hotel, then meet guide and driver in lobby to visit **Tiananmen Square**. Next see the 9,000-room **Forbidden City**, the exclusive home of Ming and Qing dynasty emperors and their concubines and eunuchs. Learn how to make dumplings in a local family's home and enjoy **lunch** with them. In the afternoon take a **Pedicab Hutong and Courtyard Tour** to explore the traditional neighborhoods of the city featuring traditional narrow alleys and courtyards. Finish the day at the **Temple of Heaven** (another UNESCO site) and see the **Hall of Prayer for Harvest**, the iconic architecture of ancient Beijing built of interlocking wood without the use of nails or adhesives. This evening enjoy Beijing's signature dish—**Peking Duck**—at **Hua's Restaurant**. <B-L-D>

Day 15 Nov 12 **Beijing** Breakfast in hotel, followed by an excursion to the **Great Wall at Mutianyu**, a remote and rugged section of the Wall with a round-trip gondola to the summit. Stop by a hill village for a **locally sourced lunch**. Return to the city in the afternoon and visit the enchanting **Summer Palace**—the hot weather refuge of Qing Dynasty emperors and their retinue—and enjoy a boat ride on tranquil **Kunming Lake**. On the way back to the hotel stop at the 2008 **Beijing Olympics Park** for an exterior view of the **Bird's Nest** and **Water Cube**, the site of dozens of world records. Evening is free and dinner is on your own. <B-L>

Day 16 Nov 13- **Depart** Have breakfast in hotel, transfer to airport, and fly back to USA. Arrive the same day

Deluxe and Character Hotels Selected for Your Tour



Grand Park Hotel Kunming



Gurong Hotel Dali



Linden Centre Dali



Shaxi Landscape Hotel



Howard Johnson City of Flower Hotel Kunming

Optional Beijing Extension Tour Hotel



Grand Mercure Beijing Dongcheng

Tour Prices, Inclusions and Exclusions*

Tour Land Cost:	\$2,450 USD per person double occupancy (10 or more persons) Includes a \$400 tax deductible donation to Denver Sister Cities
Single supplement:	\$750 for full 12-night tour (10+ persons)
Beijing Extension:	\$990 USD per person double occupancy (6=9 persons)
<i>(Includes flight</i>	\$850 USD per person double occupancy (10 or more persons)
<i>Kunming-Beijing)</i>	\$1050 USD per person double occupancy (4-5 persons)
Single supplement:	\$250 for 3 nights tour (6-9 persons), \$210 (10 or more persons)
International Air:	Denver-Kunming roundtrip typically starts at \$900 on selected carriers

What's Included in Tour Land Cost

- Luxury/deluxe hotel lodge accommodations, double occupancy with breakfast
- Coach-class air tickets on domestic air - Dali to Kunming
- All village entrance and textile demonstration fees and materials
- Arrival and departure transfers on tour dates and per itinerary
- Transfers and luggage handling (1 piece of 45 pounds per person)
- Pre-departure information packets
- All sightseeing, activities, and cultural events listed in the itinerary
- All lunches and dinners specified in the itinerary
- Service of a private English-speaking professional minority local tour guide in each city/region
- Private and clean vehicle with air-conditioning and a professional driver
- Cost of guide and driver meals and lodging
- All tour related domestic taxes within China

What's NOT Included in Tour Land Cost:

- International air
- Chinese visa processing (www.mychinavisa.com)
- Trip cancellation, baggage, accident, and medical insurance
- Gratuities for guides, drivers, and porters
- Items not listed and/or specified as included in the itinerary

** Prices are per person and subject to change.*

Trip Policies

Trip Deposit

A deposit in the amount of **\$600** is required at sign up. Please contact Joe Sinisi at Access China Tours to receive the initial form. Spaces will be held based on receipt of deposits.

Cancellation Policy

All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of receipt by Denver Sister Cities. Cancellation fees are as follows, plus any charges assessed by government agencies, land suppliers, cruise companies and airlines.

90 days or more prior to departure	\$300 per person
50 to 89 days prior to departure	\$600 per person
30 to 49 days prior to departure	\$900 per person
15 to 29 days prior to departure	\$1200 per person
14 days or less to departure	100% forfeiture of tour price per person

Denver Sister Cities will not grant partial refunds for any unused trip arrangements after the trip has commenced nor any refunds to participants who do not complete any portion of the itinerary. Any airline tickets issued are subject to the carrier's refund and cancellation policy. **We strongly recommend you purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance to protect your travel investment.**

Denver Sister Cities reserves the right to cancel the tour(s) due to insufficient booking (fewer than six participants). In this case, all money paid will be refunded in full and this will constitute full and final settlement for the clients if no alternative tour arrangements can be found. However, Denver Sister Cities will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by tour participants (e.g., non-refundable "advance purchase" air tickets, insurance & medical expenses, passport and visa expenses, etc.). If the tour is forced to be cancelled due to government's travel warnings, declared or undeclared wars, hostilities, civil disturbances, strike, riot, epidemic, and quarantines, Denver Sister Cities will refund all participants' payment less any irretrievable expenses and loss (visa fees, airline penalties, communication cost, and non-refundable booking cost, etc.)

Itinerary Changes

Denver Sister Cities has made all possible attempts to ensure the accuracy of tour itineraries. Circumstances beyond our control may occur. We reserve the right to change itineraries, sightseeing activities, and common carriers, and to substitute hotels when necessary. Service of a similar category and standard will be maintained if such changes are made. The Service Voucher in your last pre-departure packet will provide the operational itinerary summary, final transport and hotel information.

About Denver Sister Cities

Denver Sister Cities is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization supported by membership dues, City grants and public contributions. This trip is a fundraiser to help support Denver-Kunming Committee exchanges and projects. Your tax deductible portion of this trip is \$400.

Contacts

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