

8D YUNNAN DONGCHUAN RED SOIL, YUANYANG, LUOPING TOUR

TOUR CODE: KMG8G

Attractions

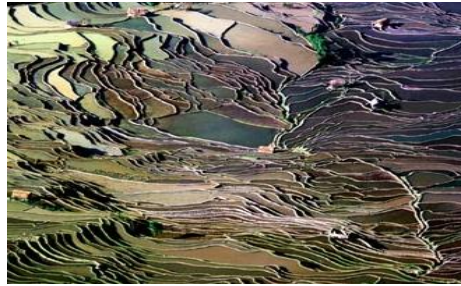
Dongchuan Red Soil



Dongchuan, a rural area in the Wumeng Mountainous area, about 180km north of Kunming, becomes very famous among Chinese photographers for its red soil.

The Dongchuan Red Soil is centralized around Huagou (means colorful valley) of Xintian Township, which is about 50km away from Dongchuan County seat. These locations are too small to have a name. Locals simply call it 109, 110...the number on the kilometer marker along the road. 109 is almost the highest point on the road, which branches to another small hamlet. All the 109 glorious vistas stretch to Guizhou and Sichuan. In Dongchuan, as the crow fly not more than 20 kilometers away, is barely visible from the valley far below.

Yuanyang Rice Terraces



The Yuanyang Rice Terraces (*Yuanyang Titian*) are a landscape masterpiece, not only in terms of aesthetic appeal, but also in terms of millennial functionality. Perfected over the course of a 1,300 years, the terraces produce as much as 300 kilograms of rice per Mu (approximately one sixth of an acre). This surprising productivity is achieved by means of an ingenious irrigation system which apportions just the right amount of water to each terrace, and is the result of ancient engineering techniques for which Hani farmers are renowned for.

Include Scenic :

A.Laohuzui(老虎嘴景区)

Includes Mengpin, Dongpu, A Mengkong, Baoshan Village about 6000MU.

B.Bada (坝达景区)

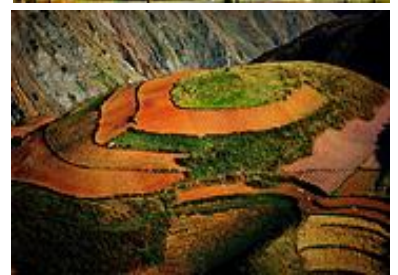
Includes Jingkou, Quan Fuzhuang, Mali Village, Zhulu about 14000MU.

C.Duoyi River Park (多依树景区)

Include Duoyishu, Aichun, Dawazhe Rice Terraces.

★The Colored Sand Forest (彩色沙林)

Luliang is famous for its rich colored Sand Forest. The International Sand Sculpture Festival is held at the end of March, right after the Chinese New Year, although accommodation is more costly then. One of the delights of a visit to Luliang is



having the opportunity to admire and buy sand art crafts. A sand painting is a distinctive object, which has artwork based on century-old traditions in the Boyi community.

Unlike the common beach sand, the Luliang Sand Forest is a combination of sand and stone that accumulate into projections and mounts. The reflection from the sunshine reproduces a magnificent view of its distinctive character, quite like the Stone Forest, but a finer version.

★**Jiulong Water Fall (九龙瀑布群, 含上行地軌車)**

The Jiulong (nine dragon)Waterfall consists of 10-tier waterfalls grouped compactly in a valley. They appear in different shapes, magnificent and beautiful. The biggest waterfall is 56 meters tall and 110 meters in width. In the dry seasons, the elegant waterfall hangs like a sliver chain in the sky.

The second biggest waterfall, called Lovers Waterfall is a deep pond. The other waterfalls also have their distinctive features. On the top of a hill, you can have a fantastic view of the ponds shoals and the waterfalls.

★**Duoyi River (多依河景区)** - This lies 33km southern of the county seat. Formed by the water from 5 underground springs, the 12km Duoyi River runs 40km to the southeast of Luoping Town. This clear river has more than 50 shoals formed by waterfalls. A bamboo raft on the river water, the bamboo groves, trees, houses and waterwheels on the both bands of the river present an idyllic setting.

★**Jinjifeng (金鸡峰林景区)** - the most famous spot to view the rapeseeds flower is Jinjifeng(Golden Chicken Peak). The Ticket office lies in Lingyi Temple halfway up to the mountaintop. But there is another ideal place just a few hundreds meters from Jinjishan towards town direction. Turn left when seeing the sign board, a knoll there is free for stepping onto. Many photographers get set up on the top to shoot the sunrise and sunset over the flowers sea.

★**Snail farms(螺蛳田景区) at NiuJie**

NiuJie is a few kilometers to the north of Luoping town. There are fewer farms present here. They are carved out of a shallow valley with gentle slopes. These farms do not look any different or attractive as one walks pass them on ground level. However, as soon as one gets higher up, following the road, the scenery changes.

The flowers are grown in a circular ring, following the contours of the slopes. As a result, from higher ground, these farms look like the rings of a snail's shell, akin to rice terraces in corkscrew patterns. It is rather amazing when one considers that the farms were created by the farmers as a response to the natural limitations of the land. Yet they are like a work of art, with an artist exquisitely drawing circular rings on the ground and then filling them up with splashes of shocking yellow.

★**The Tuanshan Village (团山村)**

Tuanshan Village, built in Qing Dynasty, is regarded as the Gem of Chinese Civil Houses. Visiting the village is like travelling back in time. Small, cobbled lanes and old women with bound feet leave you with impressions of timelessness, art and architecture. It has been enlisted by the World Monuments Fund (WMF) as one of the 100 Most Endangered Places for the year of 2006.

★**Jianshui Old Town (建水古城) & Zhu Family Garden(朱家花园)**

Jianshui Old Town, located in the south of Yunnan, or 220 kilometers away from Kunming, was referred to as Butou or Bashu in old times. A Huili City was established in the period of Tang Yuan He during the Nanzhao Dynasty(around 810 A.D), under the jurisdiction of Tonghai. Huili is a word from the old language of Yi minority which means a vast ocean .In Chinese, however, it is Jianshui.

Zhu Family Garden has almost 100 years of history. The arrangement of Zhu Family Garden shows the elegance of the whole architectural complex. With the upturned eaves, the vivid paintings and exquisite carvings on the roof beams, and the structure of the courtyard, they all help reflect how the Zhu Family's life was in the past.

Itinerary

Day 01: Singapore→Kunming (L/D)

Assemble at Singapore Changi Airport for our flight to Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province, also known as 'the City of Eternal Spring' for its pleasant climate and flowers blooming all year long.

Accommodation : Yihua Kunming Business Hotel or Similar★★★★



Day 02: Kunming ⇄ Dongchuan ⇄ Red Soil (B/L/D)

After breakfast, proceed to Dongchuan Red Soil.

Damakan, a viewpoint some 9km away from 109 along a bumpy dirt-track, is one of the photographers' favorites. Just when the sun is peeking out, the small village several hundred meters below starts to get busy and smoke starts rising from the farm-houses' smokestacks. As the farmers are starting their day, the photographers' morning shift is almost over.

After lunch, it is time for another shoot as the light turns warmer and brings out the best in Dongchuan's colours. All over the hills the photographers wander in search of an undiscovered view.

But at sunset, everybody gathers at 110, another nameless spot along the road. Among all the shooting spots, **Luoxia Gou** is the ultimate shot.

Accommodation : Hongtu Yinxiang Hotel(The Best of Local) or similar★★★★

Day 03 : Red Soil ⇄ Luliang ⇄ Luoping(B/L/D)

Scenic : ◎ Colored Sand Forest◎ Niuji Rice Terraces

After breakfast, proceed to Luliang to visit **Colored Sand Forest**. Next to **Luoping** is a small county in Yunnan located about 228 kilometers north east of Kunming. It is located close to the border of Yunnan with Guizhou and Guangxi provinces. The town is often overlooked by tourists passing through the region until recently. It has become a Mecca for photographers, who flock to this small county every early spring to capture the magnificent "sea of yellow" of blooming rapeseed flowers. The majestic photos in turn, draw more and more tourists to this beautiful rural photographic heaven.

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Accommodation : Duoyihe Hotel or similar ★★★

Day 04: Luoping (B/L/D)

Scenic : Jiulong Waterfall◎Duoyihe River ◎Waterwheels Garden Jiulong Waterfalls

Although it is less well known than its neighbor, Huangguoshu Waterfall in Guizhou, Jiulong is listed as one of China's biggest and most beautiful waterfalls. The biggest called Shenlong (Dragon) waterfall, is 56-meters-high and 112-meters-wide. Walk all the way to the upper valley, and you will discover that it is dotted by small pools and cascades.

Duoyi River Scenic Area(Includes the bamboo raft ride + 电瓶车)

Looking like a big gulf, **Duoyishu Scenic** is located in east of Yuanyang County, about 53 km from the county seat and 23 km from Xinjiezhèn. Covering Duoyishu Village, Aicun Village, Dawa Village and some other 10 ethnic villages, this area is the optimum place to view the blue terraced fields (about 700 ha.), sea of clouds, sunrise, sunset and the unique Hani and Yi people's mushroom-shaped houses. **Duoyishu** was once the major shooting places of the famous films -- *The Story of Yunnan* (1993) and *Cherries* (2007). It is a paradise of shutterbugs who enjoy taking the pictures of the beautiful sunrise.

Accommodation : Duoyihe Hotel or similar ★★★

Day 05: Luoping ⇄ Yuanyang

Scenic:Tiger Mouth rice terrace (老虎嘴梯田) @ Bada rice terrace (霸达梯田)

After breakfast, coach to Yuanyang.

Yuanyang's incredible rice terraces allows hikers to explore China's most beautiful and peaceful countryside with great freedom. In additions, one can discover one or two minority markets taking place in different villages every day. The most exciting encounter is to participate in one of the numerous local ethnic festivals such as Dragon Feast and Amatu Torch Festival.

Many people come here to photograph sunrise and sunset in rice terraces. Few show interest in hiking and local minorities. Even during the peak season, one can find peaceful and tranquil rice terraces and some famous viewpoints during the sunrise and sunset time.

Tiger Mouth Scenic

Located in the south (23km) of Yuanyang Old Town (Xinjiezhèn), the Tiger Mouth Area mainly consists of Mengpin Village, Dongfu Village, Amengkong Village, Baoshan Village and etc. The area covers 400 ha. rice terraces. The fields here are known as the most breathtaking fields of their kinds in Yuanyang area. Some viewing areas are built just for enjoying and photographing in the terraced fields. The sunrise and sea of clouds in Tiger Mouth (Laohuzui) are also very beautiful, and they enjoy the same reputation as the terraced fields themselves. And because many Yi ethnic people live in the villages of this area, the area has become a base for studying Yi culture and customs.

Bada Scenic

Bada Scenic Area is situated in 44km south of Yuanyang County, 14 km from Xinjiezhèn. It has more than 900 ha. terraced rice fields including Qingkou Village, Quanfu Village, Zhulu Village and some other villages. From the foot to the top of the mountain, the terraced fields can be crossed in more than 3,900 steps. The Bada terraced rice fields are bravura, spectacular and stereoscopic, which look beautiful in lines.

Accommodation : Yunti Hotel or similar★★★

Day06: Yuanyang ⇄ Jianshui (B/L/D)

Scenic: Duoyishu Rice Terraces Sunrise @ The Tuanshan Village

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The Tuanshan Village - Tuanshan Village, built in Qing Dynasty, is regarded as the Gem of Chinese Civil Houses. Visiting thr village is like travelling back in time. Small, cobbled lanes and old women with bound feet leave you with impressions of timelessness, art and architecture. It has been enlisted by the World Monuments Fund (WMF) as one of the 100 Most Endangered Places during 2006.

Jianshui Ancient Town is without any doubt the most beautiful city in South Yunnan. 210km away from Kunming and roughly located between the capital of Yunnan and Yuanyang, Jianshui may look at a first sight similar to any other Chinese town, with some modern buildings and busy streets. But Jianshui keeps a village atmosphere, with old streets and some traditional houses, located all around the city, and especially around the Chaoyang Gateway Arch in Jianshui Old Quarter.



Accommodation : Changyuan Hotel or similar★★★

Day 07 Jianshui 昆明 Kunming

Scenic: The Zhu Family Garden @ Jinma and Biji @ Pu-Er Tea Shop

The Zhu Family Garden

With a total area of 20k sqkm and a floor space of 5k sqkm, This grand complex is a typical local residence with distinctive features. As it was built by Zhu brothers in the late Qing Dynasty, it has the name "the Private Garden of the Zhu Family."

Jinma and Biji Fang, in the heart of the metropolis, provides an array of sights and activities that tantalize, and tempt the newcomer into booking an unplanned second night.

The area takes its name from the two gateways, Jinma and Biji, golden horse and jade rooster (or emerald chicken if you prefer), which stand imposingly in the centre of the square. We've never been given a satisfactory answer as to why they are the horse and rooster arches, as opposed to other animals.

Pu-Er Tea Shop

This is a Chinese specialty and is sometimes referred to as dark tea. Post-fermentation is a tea production style in which the tea leaves undergo a microbial fermentation process after they are dried and rolled. Those produced in Yunnan are generally named *Pu'er*, referring to the name of Pu'er county which used to be a trading post for dark tea during imperial China.

Accommodation : Yihua Kunming Business Hotel or Similar★★★★

Day 8: Kunming → Singapore (B)

Scenic: The Cuihu Lake @ Dongsu and Xisi

The Cuihu Lake, situated at the western foot of Wuhua Hill, is a scenically beautiful park inside the city. In winter and spring, Kunming residents flock to the Cuihu Park to feed red-beaked gulls - there are tens of thousands of them, which descend upon the lake. This lovable scene, in which man, birds, and nature mingle in such harmony, has kept occurring over the last ten years. The love that the Kunming people have for wildlife has added to the charms of the City of Spring.

Dongsu (East Temple) and Xisi (West Temple)

Standing along the Shulin and Dongsu Roads in the city are the Dongsu (East Temple) and Xisi (West Temple) Pagodas that were built in the Tang Dynasty (618-907).



Flight Detail :

Silk Air - Four departure date per week (MI): 2, 4, 5, 7

4, 7—D1 MI912 SINKMG 0820/1220, D8 MI913 KMG/SIN 1310/1715

2, 5—D1 MI916 SINKMG 1355/1755, D8 MI915 KMG/SIN 1855/2300

Remark:

1. If there are any discrepancies in the information between the English and Chinese Itineraries, please refer to the Chinese version.
2. We recommend the guest to purchase travel insurance before departure. If you have any queries, please contact our counter staffs.
3. The sequence of the itinerary is subjected to change in accordance to the arrangement based on the local agency.
4. Optional Tour: Foot Massage @RMB80/45Min, Yunnan Impression Show @RMB360/Pax.

Have A Nice Trip!