

## Tea trip in Sichuan, China

Chendu - Ya'an Tea Factory- Qionglai - Dayi- Mount Qingcheng- Dujiangyan - Chengdu 7 Days

### Day01 Chendu -Ya'an



Deep in the mountains of Southwestern China's Sichuan and Yunnan Province, The legendary "Tea and Horse Road" was once the trail Chinese tea and Tibetan horses were traded. It begins from Sichuan, runs along the eastern foothills of the Hengduan Mountains, a centre of tea production in China, crosses the Hengduan Mountains and deep canyons of several major rivers, such as the Yarlong, the Golden Sand (upper Yangtze), the Mekong, and the Salween, before finally reaching the Himalayas. Ya'an in Western Sichuan is long

acclaimed as the major **Pressed Tea Brick** (belongs to **aged Dark Tea**) production base for the Tibetans on the Tea and Horse Road since centuries ago. Dive to Ya'an for a trip to **local Museum(Tibetan Tea Museum)** with a lot of exhibits on the ancient Tea and Horse Caravan Route. Overnight in Ya'an.

### Day02 Ya'an Ya'an Tea Factory visit, Dark Tea, Sichuan,China

Today is all about the teas in around Ya'an area. When thinking of Dark Tea, most people think Pu'er, but a visit to Ya'an is surely a big surprise. Pu'er is actually a small sub-division of China's Dark Tea, a category that requires a secondary fermentation, also called a post-production process. Dark Tea is commonly known to have the function of aiding digestion and revitalizing energy, and it has been a daily drink of the Tibetans for over a thousand years. In comparison with Pu'er, Tibetan Dark Tea here in Ya'an is much less known to the outside world. This morning we shall unveil the mystery and introduce Sichuan's Tibetan Dark Tea at the 470-year-



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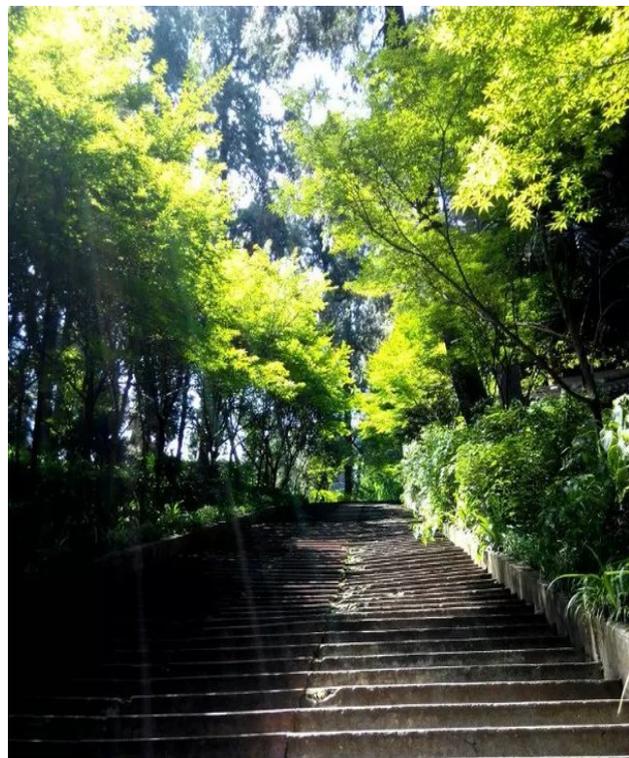
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old **Ya'an Tea Factory**. Walk in with factory staff to learn how the Dark Tea is processed and made. Sample the Tibetan Dark Tea that tastes good and has a lot of health benefits. Then we depart for a **Black Clay Pottery Workshop** in a Ya'an Suburb. Prevailed from late Ming Era, Yixing Teapots or Zhi Sha Hu (Purple Sand Tea pots) in Eastern China's Jiangsu Province, are considered by many as the ideal tool to brew teas. While here in Sichuan, the Black Clay Pottery is actually has much longer history than the Yixing Teapots and serve equally good for teas. The Black Clay Tea pots are of simplicity charm. The artists shall show us how to make a pot and how to use the teapot brewing different types of teas. In the afternoon we spend some good time at the campus of **Sichuan Agricultural University**, a premier academic organization for tea studies. Meet with one of their professor who shall give us **lecture** on Chinese Tea Culture and the tea cultivation in ancient and modern China. Overnight in Ya'an.

### **Day03 Ya'an-Qionglai Mengding Yellow Buds Tea and Mengding Ganlu(Green Tea), Tea making**

Our major activity for today is Mengding Mountain. According to the bible of tea, the book "The Classic of Tea" by Lu Yu, a Chinese Tang Dynasty writer, and many other historical materials, Mengding Mountain in Ya'an is the original place of cultivated teas with a history of more than two thousand years in tea planting, tea making and tea sipping art. Mengding teas are famous for its Tribute Teas called **Mengding Yellow Buds Tea (Yellow Tea) and Mengding Ganlu (Green Tea)**. We shall trek around the greenery of tea plantation and picking the delicate leaves from the bushes and get back to the home of a small-size producer who shall demonstrate the traditional crafting techniques in processing the newly picked tea leaves (real artisanal tea). Sample some Mengding artisanal Yellow and Green Teas at the tea producer's home on the mountain. Visit **Tea Culture Museum** in Mengdingshan mountain. In the afternoon we take some walking to explore some more tea gardens including the Emperor's Tribute Tea Garden and age-old building complex of Buddhist temples. Later of the day we travel to Qionglai (whose old name is Lin Qiong), one of Sichuan's historical town. Overnight in Qionglai.



### **Day04 Qionglai - Dayi : Jasmin flower Tea, Taoist Temple Tea, Sichuan, China**

Qionglai is nowadays noted for its high quality production of **Jasmine Tea/Flower Tea** and Green Tea. We head to the tea plantation of a local tea producer, walk through the fields and survey the terroir and the micro-climate it adheres. Getting back the factory, we will find out how this popular flower tea is made both by the traditional and modern technology. The factory tea technician shall share with us how to distinguish the tea quality and grades. After that we depart for Dayi, one of the origin place of China's indigenous

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Taoism. Travel to the **Singing Crane Mountain** area to find out some tea gardens where the native people have been making "**Taoist Temple Tea**" (green tea) connected with Taoist health-maintain thoughts for over a millennium. Proceed to our hotel at An Ren Ancient Town. Overnight at Dayi An Ren

#### Day05 Dayi – Mount Qingcheng : Sichuan Pipa Green Tea , Sichuan Tea Plantation

Travel in the Qionglai Mountain Range, one of the major natural habitat for the Giant Pandas. We trek up into a forest to see the **old wild tea plant of Pipa Cha**, which is a type of Green Tea. We walk through the cultivated tea bushes and have Pipa Cha with the local tea growers. Then we proceed through **JieZi Ancient Town** to the verdant **Qingcheng Shan** (Mount.Qingcheng), a UNESCO World Heritage site noted for its splendid Taoist culture and astonishing natural scenery. Overnight at Mount Qingcheng.



#### Day06 Mount.Qingcheng : Qingcheng Taoist Tea, Sichuan,China

In the morning we walk up the **Qingcheng Mountain** and visit Taoist Temples such as Tianshi Cave and Shangqing Palace. Learn the Taoist philosophy in particular the methods to maintain health. For sure we will drink "**Taoist Temple Tea**" and enjoy a Taoist vegetarian lunch on the mountain. In the afternoon we drive to the Taoist Temple Tea Garden to learn more of this unique tea and its culture. Sample some more "Taoist Temple Tea" at the tea garden. Transfer to our hotel in Dujiangyan City.

#### Day07 (March 22) Dujiangyan - Chengdu

Drive to Chengdu take flight to Shantou Jieyang airport.

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