

(MDD-004) Kunming-Chengjiang-Lufeng-Dali-Lijiang-Kunming (8 Days)



From the rarely preserved and non-mineralized soft tissues in Chengjiang of 530 million years ago, to the 130 dinosaur fossils of 45 species in Lufeng; from Shibaoshan Dali and Nanzhao Kingdom Buddhist Grottoes centuries ago, to the old towns of Lijiang and Dali, on-site explanations by specialists or expert guides uncovers the most

important archaeological sites in the region.

Day 1/Arrive in Kunming

Arrive in Kunming, meet your guide at the airport. Start our trip with Kunming City Museum highlighted by Dali Sutra Pillar, a 6.5 m-high, pagoda-like Song dynasty sculpture. Considered the first piece of its style overturning old Buddhist sculpture casting tradition, this octagonal pillar is of seven tiers covered in images of Buddha, guardian gods standing on subjugated demons and Tibetan and Chinese script. (D)

Day 2/Kunming-Chengjiang Fauna-Stone Forest-Kunming

Today, we will trace back to 530 million years ago with Chengjiang Fauna. The fauna, along with the Burgess Shale Fauna of west Canada and the Ediacaran Fauna of South Australia are titled the "Three faunas of the evolution of early life forms". The big discoveries include the most ancient chordates and lower vertebrates, protostomes, deuterostomes etc., giving more information on the origin and evolution of life, and providing evidences to "Cambrian Explosion". The Stone Forest, 80 hectares of karst limestone pillars in fantastic shapes that resemble a forest, was covered by water, and thus with marine life fossils today. It is also home to the Sani tribe, a branch of the Yi minority. (B,L,D)

Day 3/Kunming-World Dinosaur Valley-Dali (2100 meters)

Continue the Paleontologic exploration to World Dinosaur Valley. Lufeng dinosaur fossils, with 130 ones of 45 species unearthed, ranks 1st in the world. Here you can find the 83-meter long excavation site and about 60 dinosaur fossils. On site explanation will be arranged to give further information. Overland drive from Lufeng to Dali (4 hours). (B,L,D)

Day 4/Dali

Visit the Three Pagodas, followed by a cruise on the Erhai Lake. Then explore in the Dali Ancient Town with a history of 1,300 years, which is the home to Bai minority. The town, whose format is like a chess board with four gates guarding in different directions stands between Mountains and the Lake, a natural configuration that seems specially designed

for a good bountiful life. (B,L,D)

Day 5/Dali-Shibaoshan-Lijiang (2500 meters)

Overland drive 160 km, or 3.5 hours to Sideng Village in Jianchuan County. As a prosperous town on the old South China Silk Road that connects China with South Asia, Southeast Asia and West Asia, Sideng village was enlisted as one of the 101 World Monumental Constructions in late 2001 by World Monumental Fund. Traditional Bai houses line up to form the village a chessboard. The century-old Xingjiao Buddhist Temple and wooden theater worth a visit. Then proceed to Shibaoshan Mountains hidden in a remote mountain region. Apart from fine depictions of Buddhist deities and disciples, the grottoes at Stone Bell Temple are outstanding for their presentation of life under the Nanzhao Kingdom (748-902), a Persian businessman and woman genitals. (B,L,D)

Day 6/Lijiang

A gathering place of the Naxi minority, Lijiang Old Town is a mountain town of stone and tile laced with canals, which was listed as an UNESCO world heritage. Proceed to Dongba Culture Museum and the ancient town in the form of an official ink stone. Unlike most of the old towns in China, there is no city wall due to a superstitious belief of the local ruler whose family name is Mu (tree), when encircled by walls, would be Kun (besieged). Then visit the Baisha Frescos and the Former Residence of Joseph Rock. (B,L,D)

Day 7/Lijiang-Kunming

Proceed to Yak Meadow of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Then steeped in the show "Impression Lijiang" performed by 400 locals of 10 ethnic groups and 100 horses in an outdoor theatre against the backdrop of the snow mountain, and directed by Zhang Yimou, director of the 2008 Olympics Opening & Closing Ceremonies. Evening flight back to Kunming. (B,L,D)

Day 8/Depart from Kunming

Transfer to airport for the departure flight. Tour Ends. (B)

Attention: During the National Day Golden Week, the hotel fare in Yunnan will rise.