



KIPLING & CLARK
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KIPLING & CLARK itinerary | CHINA & YANGZI RIVER / 12 DAYS
Beijing – Yangzi River – Shanghai – Lijiang

DAY 1: BEIJING

Arrive Beijing’s Capital International Airport. After disembarking, please follow the signs to the Immigration. Our representative is NOT allowed in these areas.

After clearing immigration formalities, please take the escalator down to the Baggage Hall. Our representative will be waiting for you at the bottom of the escalator holding a Kipling & Clark sign, and will assist you in claiming your checked baggage. You will then be transferred to The Peninsula Palace, Beijing.

Remainder of the day at leisure.

The Peninsula
(One Grand Deluxe Room –
Palace Club Floor)
No meals

(Raffles Beijing Hotel also offered)

DAY 2: BEIJING

Today, enjoy a full day’s sightseeing.

This morning, head to Tiananmen Square for a stroll on the largest public plaza on earth. Lying in the center of Beijing, Tiananmen Square is thought of as the very heart of the city. The square, in spite of its past events, remains one of the most popular venues

in Beijing. Here, on any given day, thousands of visitors gather to walk, fly kites, or enjoy the view of the monuments that surround the square.

Proceed to the extraordinary Forbidden City. Center of the Chinese world for nearly 500 years, the imperial palace remains the most complete and best preserved collection of ancient buildings in China. Called the “Forbidden City” for the exclusive nature of the emperors who built and inhabited it, the palace is a vast complex of halls, pavilions, courtyards and walls. It was within these walls that 24 emperors of two dynasties, aided by their ministers, eunuch guards, concubines and servants, acted out the drama of ruling

imperial China from the early Ming Dynasty in 1420 to the fall of the Qing Dynasty in 1911. (Exclude the Hall of Supreme Harmony that is under renovation until the end of 2007).

Lunch will be served at the Royal Palace Restaurant.

This afternoon, visit the lively Hongqiao Market, a popular market for local shoppers and one of Beijing’s best places to buy Chinese pearls. Take a walk past the fresh and dried foods to the jewelers upstairs.

Continue on to visit the Temple

of Heaven, a perfection of Ming architecture and one of the symbols of Beijing. Built in 1420, this huge site (twice the size of the Forbidden City) follows a route traversed by past emperors and their entourages in splendid procession from which the commoner had to avert his eyes. The emperors came to the Temple of Heaven during the winter solstice to offer sacrifices to Heaven and pray for bountiful harvests – momentous occasions for which the temple’s beauty and simplicity provided a fitting background.

When the Mongols swept through China in the 13th century, they built their capital at Beijing (calling it Dadu) and left some residual influences that continue to be felt to this day. Among the most lasting of the Mongol legacy was the “hutong”, the winding alleyways that linked the city through a network of diverse neighborhoods, each area being spun like a web of interconnecting lanes that became the lifeblood of old Beijing. Meaning, “water well” in Mongolian, the hutong once numbered in the thousands. Today, under the onslaught of urban renewal, they are quickly disappearing. For what is often considered the best chance to experience the flavor and mood of Beijing past, hop into a traditional pedicab this afternoon and explore a



traditional Beijing neighborhood. Far removed from the glitz of Beijing's high-rise department stores and office towers, the quiet sounds of the neighborhood bring to life a Beijing that flourished under the omnipotent rule of dynasties past.

Dinner at Green Tea House.

*The Peninsula (One Grand Deluxe Room – Palace Club Floor)
Breakfast, Lunch*

DAY 3: BEIJING

Early this morning, you will be driven to the Great Wall at the Mutianyu site.

Rising from the wash of waves along China's Bohai Gulf in the east, riding the crest of rugged forest-mantled mountains in north China and running across the grassy steppe and desert waste of the far northwest, the Great Wall is the ultimate expression of China's past. Imposing and almost defying possibilities, this stunning structure literally defined a border between worlds far removed from each other. Its towering ramparts threw up a defense against the incursions marauding nomad hordes while within its walls flourished the light of East Asian civilization – imperial China.

Much has been written about the Great Wall and all it represents, but beyond the myth and legend there remains a remarkable landmark found nowhere else on earth. It is steeped in history and rich in meaning, a visual line that defined the frontiers of civilization and today, in spite of national borders and integrity, the Wall still commands the symbolic weight of its past – it is the most recognized symbol of China to people from around the world.

Its origins are much debated but it is tethered to the ladder of Chinese history born out of an age of conflict and reinforced as China evolved in its varying imperial stages. Today it has become a heritage landmark, a reminder to all of China's grand history and tradition – a beacon to all who walk upon it.

Enjoy time to walk and explore the ramparts and battlement towers that once stood at the vanguard of Chinese civilization. There is no better or more fitting way to remember a visit to Beijing than to walk along the wall of time that symbolizes the imperial majesty that is China.

Lunch at Commune on the Wall.

This afternoon, visit the Ming Tombs, lying 50 kilometers to the north of Beijing. Maintaining an imperial tradition that originated in the Zhou Dynasty (1066 B.C. – 221 B.C.), the Ming emperors selected the location and design of their tombs during their reign. The selection of sites (based on prevailing wind and water levels) ensured that only benevolent spirits inhabited the area. Of the 16 Ming Emperors, 13 are buried in this valley just north of Beijing.

Afterwards, visit the "Spirit Way", a 6.4 kilometer long road leading to the Ming Tombs. In ancient times, the Spirit Way was forbidden to all but the emperor's funeral cortege. A walk along the Avenue of Stone Statues will take you past twelve pairs of animals and six pairs of human figures standing guard among beautiful willow trees.

*The Peninsula (One Grand Deluxe Room – Palace Club Floor)
Breakfast, Lunch*

DAY: 4 BEIJING/ CHONGQING – ON BOARD THE YANGZI

This morning, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Chongqing.

Arrive Chongqing Airport, where you will be met and transferred to the Chongqing Pier to embark the M.S. East King for your cruise to Yichang.

After settling into your cabin and having dinner, the ship will set sail on its downstream course through the Three Gorges region. The total length of this cruise is 660 kilometers (402 miles) and is considered by most Chinese to represent the single most scenic area in all of China.

*Yangzi Explorer/Suite (newly introduced Yangzi luxury cruise vessel, April 2008)
Breakfast, Dinner*

DAY 5: WANXIAN

This morning, disembark in Wanxian for a shore excursion. Located 360 kilometers downstream from Chongqing, spreading out over both banks of the river, this mountain city is known as the gateway to the East Sichuan Basin.

The city received its name during the Ming Dynasty (1368 – 1644) and became a Foreign Treaty Port in 1902. The city is guarded by two nine-storied pagodas for good fortune and has ten free markets, which sell local produce and seasonal delicacies such as mountain mushrooms and live eels.

Enjoy a visit to a local kindergarten, the local market, a local museum and the resettlement community, before being transferred back to the ship.



A visit to a 'Migration Village' is a shore excursion that will provide a unique glimpse into one of China's remote communities. Gain insight, mingle with the locals and see how school children receive their early education. Gain a deeper understanding of the impact of the Three Gorges Dam Project on the local farm families - the relocation process, their feelings upon being informed of the program, compensation issues and their current livelihood.

After returning to the M.S. East King this afternoon, the ship will continue eastward towards the first of the Three Gorges, the mighty Qutang Gorge which marks the westernmost entrance into the gorges region.

*Yangzi Explorer/Suite
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 6: QUTANG GORGE/ WU GORGE/SHENNONG STREAM EXCURSION/ XILING GORGE

Early this morning your ship will enter the Qutang Gorge through the majestic Kui Men two imposing cliffs, which resemble a towering door into some otherworldly destination. So famous is this imposing scene that its image appears on the Chinese RMB 5.00 Yuan banknote.

Just 8 kilometers (6 miles) in length, the Qutang Gorge is the narrowest stretch of the river on your cruise itinerary, only 150 meters (485 feet) at its widest point. The banks are guarded by sheer cliffs soaring 1,200 meters (3,900 feet) in height while the river water gushes forward channeled along by the great force built up at the Kui Men which marks the western extremity of the gorge.

Once the ship has cleared the Qutang Gorge it has now entered the treacherous course of the Gorges region, which, without question, is one of the most famous geographic sights in China. Countless painters, poets, travelers and scholars have taken up brush and pen to describe – through painting, poetry and prose – the wondrous nature of this most scenic of landscapes.

The Wu Gorge is noted for the sheer, looming appearance of the numerous peaks, which mark this portion of the river. The cliff faces rise so sharply that legend relates that the "sun rarely penetrates to the river". The most famous of the peaks is the Shennu Peak (Goddess Peak) (also called the "Observing the Clouds Peak"), which is believed to represent the figure of the maiden Yao Ji, the 23rd daughter of the Queen Mother of the West. According to Chinese folklore, Yao Ji descended to earth when she was 18 and so loved the region of the Wu Gorge that she built a palace there. She also promised to guard travelers through the treacherous rapids and dangerous rock faces of the gorge by turning into the protective peak while her 12 handmaidens became the 12 sentinel peaks found throughout the gorge.

Once the ship has cleared the Wu Gorge it will arrive at Badong, a thriving River port that lies near the confluence of the Yangzi and one of its tributaries, the Shennong Xi.

You will disembark from the ship (at Badong) and will board local longboats poled by Tujia boatmen, the traditional mariners of the great junks, which once plied the waters of the Yangzi pulling the great trading junks through the dangerous passages, which marked the upstream voyage to Chongqing.

While many visitors to the Yangzi have heard of the Daning River excursion to view the Lesser Gorges, the Shennong Stream excursion is relatively new. This region of Hubei province has only been open to foreign travel in the last 15 years, allowing visitors fortunate to take part in the excursion to see a side of China rarely seen by either foreign travelers or Chinese citizens.

The Tujia are a minority people – they speak their own distinctive language although they have been greatly influenced by the majority Han culture and have a great wealth of traditions that tie them to the river. They are scattered, in pockets, along the course of the Yangzi (and its tributaries) in Hubei and Sichuan provinces.

It is sometimes suggested that the Tujia are the descendents of the ancient Ba culture, which flourished along this course of the Yangzi River over 3,000 years ago.

As you travel up the Shennong Xi you will learn (from your river guides) the traditions of the Tujia, which include their melodious folk songs. Singing was used as a means of communicating with different communities set back in the cavernous tributary valley when there were few accessible roads or footpaths between villages.

The scenery is unrivaled anywhere along the middle course of the River – crystalline waters, rich forest and towering rock formations – the original landscape little altered for thousands of years.

The Shennong region is home to several species of endangered flora and fauna including the elusive Golden Hair Monkey and many varieties of medicinal plants.

Your longboat will travel for



approximately two hours before beaching on a bend in the river and allowing you some time to explore the shore before returning to its confluence with the Yangzi. After arriving back at Badong, you will disembark from your long boat and return to the ship.

Continue your downstream passage where, this afternoon, the ship will begin its passage through the majestic Xiling Gorge, stopping during its course at the site of the Three Gorges Dam, currently the world's largest dam construction project.

The Xiling Gorge (the Three Gorges Dam sits in the first part of the Xiling Gorge) is the longest of the Gorges, measuring some 76 kilometers (47 miles) in length. One of the most memorable passages in the Xiling Gorge is through the Yellow Ox Gorge (Huangniu Xia) where the river widens and sweeps under the Huangling Temple. The temple stands amid groves of orange and pomelo trees (a variety of citrus related to the grapefruit).

This evening, the ship will arrive at Taiping Stream.

*Yangzi Explorer/Suite
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

DAY 7: DISEMBARK IN YICHANG/ THE THREE GORGES DAM PROJECT & YICHANG/SHANGHAI

This morning, you will disembark from the M.S. East King. You will be met by a representative of China International Travel Service, Yichang and transferred to the site of the Three Gorges Dam Project.

Arrive at the Three Gorges Dam Project site and embark on a tour of

the area – this tour will serve as a general introduction to the project site, which currently, is the world's largest engineering project.

The Three Gorges Dam Project was started in 1992 and will be completed and operational by 2009. The dam will be the largest dam on earth, generating 18,200 megawatts of hydroelectricity (almost 50% more than the world's current largest dam, the Itaipu Dam in Brazil and Paraguay). The dam will be 1.2 miles in length and measure 600 feet (185 meters) in height. The dam will have 26 generators that, once in operation, will generate enough clean energy to reduce China's reliance of highly polluting coal by up to 50 million tons annually. The dam will submerge 13 cities, 140 towns, 1,352 villages and over 600 industrial factories not to mention the more than 1,200 archeological projects and the 1.2 million people that will be resettled as a result of the flooding.

Your tour of the site will take in three areas:

The Model Room: a full model (reduced in size) of the entire project area including the dam, the ship locks, the ship elevator, generators, etc. provides visitors with a complete overview of the scale of this undertaking. A guide will give a comprehensive introduction to the project site taking the visitor step by step through the planned construction schedule.

Lookout: A tower lookout affords visitors with a bird's-eye view of the actual construction site allowing you to take in those areas pointed out in the model room.

Ship Lock and Ship Elevator: Buses are allowed to drive within close proximity of the actual dam allowing views of the ship lock and elevators.

After sightseeing and lunch, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Shanghai.

Arrive Shanghai Airport, where you will be met and transferred to the Four Seasons Hotel, Shanghai.

*Four Seasons Hotel
(One Premier Room)
Breakfast, Lunch*

DAY 8: SHANGHAI

Today, enjoy a full day's sightseeing.

This morning, you will visit the Shanghai Museum, known as one of the finest museums of ancient Chinese art. The current state-of-the-art building, located at People's Square, was opened in October 1996. Its rich and exceptionally high quality collection of bronzes and ceramics are celebrated around the world. In addition, the museum also features galleries containing calligraphy, paintings, jade, stone sculptures, Chinese seals, Chinese coins, Ming and Qing Dynasty furniture, and Chinese minority nationality art.

Take a walk through Shanghai's old Chinese quarter to the lovely Yu Yuan garden, a 16th century Ming Dynasty private garden and residence. Despite Shanghai's crowded lanes and teeming masses, the garden remains an oasis of tranquility. Its deceptive size, laid out with many corners and breezeways to give one the illusion of size, houses in exquisite harmony the essential elements of a Chinese garden – pavilions, water, vegetation, rock formations, and bridges. The Old Town refers to the original Chinese city that flourished in the Ming dynasty. The architecture of the area has been restored to the original Ming period style.



Lunch will be served at ZEN restaurant in Xiantianti.

This afternoon, head to the Jade Buddha Temple, which is situated in the northwest of the city and is one of two major Buddhist temples in the city of Shanghai. Currently an active place of worship, the temple was built to house two exquisite jade Buddha pieces brought from Burma. Both are of exceptional quality and artistic workmanship. Take a walk through the temple grounds and view the highlight – a six foot high seated Sakyamuni sculpture carved from one solid piece of white jade.

Conclude your day's sightseeing and proceed to The Bund. This waterfront area sweeping along the Huangpu River has become the center of Shanghai's foreign business establishment and the symbol of Shanghai's identity as a modern city. The name "bund" is derived from an Anglo-Indian term meaning "muddy embankment," but after the 1920's the area became a showcase for foreign enterprises, with impressive Western-style banks, trading houses, hotels, consulates, and clubs filling the shore, with promenade along the river. British, French, American, German, Japanese, and Russian facilities were built here, in styles ranging from Neo-Classical to Art Deco, giving the area a pronounced European flavor. Foreign enterprises and facilities were forced out after the Communist victory in 1949, and many of the buildings were occupied by government offices and banks. More recently many of the stately old buildings have been renovated in recognition of their status as historical and tourist sites.

This evening, enjoy a dazzling display of spectacular agility as you attend a

Chinese Acrobatic Show including round trip transfers.

Dinner at M on The Bund.

*Four Seasons Hotel
(One Premier Room)
Breakfast, Lunch*

DAY 9: SHANGHAI/ZHU-JIAJIAO/SHANGHAI

With natural scenery of little bridges spanning bubbling streams, the ancient river town of Zhujiajiao is built on top of crisscrossing waterways flowing from Dianshan Lake. The town, occupying an area of 47 square kilometers, has a simple and elegant Ming and Qing Dynasty architecture that is quintessentially southern Chinese. Nine long streets run along the rivers and a thousand buildings flank both sides. The quiet streets, paved with stone slabs, secluded alleyways and arched stone bridges all express the beauty of the water, said to be the soul of the town. Depart your hotel this morning for an excursion to charming Zhujiajiao (approximately 45 minutes drive). A walking tour of the town will take you through many exhibition halls that introduce the traditions and customs of life south of the Yangtze River.

Return to the city, where lunch will be served at the Big Fan Restaurant.

This afternoon, visit Shanghai's Xintiandi, an urban tourist attraction imbued with the city's historical and cultural legacies. With a site area of 30,000 square meters and a gross floor area of 60,000 square meters, Shanghai

Xintiandi features a multitude of specialist F&B, retail, entertainment, cultural, recreational, commercial and residential facilities in restored "Shikumen" houses - a special old form

of building architecture only found in Shanghai - as well as state-of-the-art new buildings, catering for both residents and visitors.

Conclude your day today with a visit to the Oriental Pearl TV Tower on Pudong. Situated within the Pudong Park in Lujiazui, Pudong New Area, Oriental Pearl TV Tower, with a giddy height of 468 meters, is the world's third tallest TV tower.

With a unique design composed of balls and columns, the tower has become Shanghai's newest landmark and a big magnet for tourists. The designers magically set the eleven beautiful spheres of various sizes up from the green grassland to the blue sky with two giant spheres shining like two rubies.

The Oriental Pearl Tower is a multi-functional establishment satisfying various needs in tourism, dining, shopping, entertainment and Audio & Video Broadcasting. It has already become one of the symbolic buildings and tourism resorts in Shanghai and is honored as one of the ten best views in Shanghai.

*Four Seasons Hotel
(One Premier Room)
Breakfast, Lunch*

DAY 10: SHANGHAI/LIJIANG

This morning, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Lijiang.

Arrive Lijiang Airport, where you will be met by a representative of China International Travel Service, Lijiang and transferred to the Banyan Tree Resort, Lijiang.

This afternoon, visit the Dongba Museum, a fine facility that exhibits



some fascinating examples of Naxi religious traditions as well as a series of old photographs of Lijiang's Old Town. The term Dongba refers to both the Shaman or wise man of Naxi society and the pictographic script that is a core element defining the literary culture of the Naxi. The shaman figure is one selected to be the keeper of secrets, the conduit to the world of nature. The script is one of the last examples of a pictographic script in use today. The Dongba script is used only by the Dongba shaman and is directly tied to the ancient belief system of the people.

Joseph Rock spent many years compiling a lexicon of Dongba script pictographs and their meaning. The photographs on view are drawn from both the collection of Joseph Rock as well as other old photographs that capture the vitality and charm of the Old Town in the early decades of the 20th century.

Enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town – Measuring two kilometers by two kilometers the rectangle enclosure of cobble lanes and stone and timber houses that make up the Old Town of Lijiang ranks among the most picturesque and memorable of city settings in all of China.

The Old Town (gazetted by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site) dates to the 13th century when the Mongol forces of Kublai Khan swept southward through Yunnan province as they set out to consolidate their control over China. The original capital of the Naxi kingdom at Baisha was moved to Dayan (today's Lijiang) and since that time has remained the most distinctive example of Naxi culture.

The best way to experience the charm of the Old Town is to get out and

walk it – the labyrinth of alleys, while seemingly confusing, all lead to the rectangular central square market that marks the center of the Old Town. Each day the square becomes a focal point of commerce with hawker stalls lining the perimeter selling local handicrafts, savory snack foods and assorted bric-a-brac. The stringent requirements of the UNESCO title will help insure that the Old Town is saved for future generations. While the surrounding “New City” of Lijiang continues to erect sparkling high-rise hotel and commercial buildings and the roads are widened into express highways the antiquated charm and idyllic setting of Lijiang's Old Town will remain the heart of all that is so special about this region.

The most beautiful setting in Lijiang is Black Dragon Pool Park (also called “Heilongtan”) a lush setting of weeping willows, pine, chestnut and many flowering ornamental trees. The setting is framed by mountains and centred on the Black Dragon Pool, a large pond fed by mountain springs the bubble up at the site. This verdant swath of parkland is further embellished by a series of ornate pavilions and bridges that complete this idyllic scene.

Time should be taken to walk the perimeter pathway that circles the main pond – this provides you with a pleasing overview of the entire park. Walking along the pathway also affords you with fine views of several exquisite structures brought the park in the 1970s and 1980s from Fuguosi, a magnificent Tibetan Tantric Temple that is located 30 kilometres (19 miles) west of Lijiang. The most impressive of these buildings is the Wufenglou (Five Phoenix Tower) that was transported in stages to the park from 1976 – 1979.

This stunning hall dates from the early 17th century and is an outstanding example of Ming architecture.

The park draws numerous visitors both local and from outside Lijiang and is often frequented by people who relax and enjoy a picnic lunch in one of the scenic pavilions that grace the park setting.

*Banyan Tree Resort
(One Garden Villa)
Breakfast, Lunch*

DAY 11: LIJIANG

Today, your sightseeing includes a visit to Longquan Village & Dragon Spring Ancestral Temple –Although next to Lijiang, Longquan is years removed in spirit and atmosphere. Where Baisha is commercial and sometimes overrun with tourists, Longquan is tranquil and relaxed, a typical Naxi settlement in tune with the cycle of the seasons. Dating back more than 500 years the stone houses, cobble lanes and bridges that grace the village are a reminder of what Lijiang must have been like centuries past. The Naxi, while welcoming and relaxed, go about their business leaving you, the visitor, free to wander and explore this charming link to another world and culture.

Continue on to visit Baisha Village & Baisha Murals – The village of Baisha (White Sand) lies on the vast plain that unfolds at the base of the Yuelongxueshan (Jade Dragon Snow Mountain). Visitors may find the village a bit of a quandary – past capital of the Naxi Kingdom before the Mongol invasions of the 13th century and site of the fascinating Baisha Murals it now appears to be nothing more than a sleepy village of mud packed and stone farm houses, dusty lanes and an annoying array of hawker stalls



eager to pounce upon the bus loads of Chinese tourists now flocking to the Lijiang region.

But suspend judgment and look beyond and around the obvious – Baisha is an important link to the historic integrity of the Naxi people and the Murals are – market withstanding – a worthwhile visit.

The murals once number more than 220 and date to the mid-16th century when the Naxi culture had fully absorbed and melded a variety of outside philosophical influences – Tantric Buddhist teachings from neighboring Tibet, Mahayana traditions from China and the teachings of Daoist texts also from China. Respect for certain aspects of each belief system was incorporated into the traditional animist beliefs of the Naxi. This unique rendering of faith was beautifully displayed in a series of exquisite murals that today number but a few housed in a lovely Ming period structure, the Babaoji Gong. Time, earthquakes and the destructive tendencies of the Cultural Revolution are responsible for the loss of the wondrous murals (save for the remaining pieces now on view).

The murals on view mix and represent the essential tenets of each belief system so that you have Daoist immortals, Mahayana Arhats, Tantric demons and Naxi Dongba all portrayed on a single canvas.

From here, you will have time to wander and explore the village beyond the market stalls and the Murals. You may be lucky and meet up with Dr. Ho, a colourful local character who has earned a place in Yunnan folklore. Now approaching 80 years of age, Dr. Ho is one of the last links to Joseph Rock the Austro-American botanist, doctor and adventurer who made Lijiang his home

from 1921 – 1949.

It was through Rock's colourful articles published in the National Geographic in the 1930s that Lijiang and the wondrous Naxi culture were introduced to the world. Dr. Ho was taught English and botany by Rock; in turn Dr. Ho guided Rock through the meadows of the Yuelongxue Shan where he (Rock) collected medicinal plants and wildflowers for his botanical research.

You will also visit the west of Lijiang to the "First Bend" in the Yangzi River, a major geographic landmark for all Chinese. The drive takes approximately 80 minutes and provides you with some wonderful opportunities to enjoy the vast panorama of northwest Yunnan. Leaving Lijiang pass Lashi Hai (Tiger Lake) a scenic lake dotted along its shoreline with some Naxi villages. The lake area is noted for its fine fruit orchards with the apples grown here regarded as the finest in Yunnan.

Climbing up to a pass at more than 2,600 metres (8,600 feet) you begin to descend along a switchback road to the valley of the Yangzi, which, in Yunnan, is called the Jinshajiang River (Golden Sands River). The unfolding vista is stunning as the rugged mountains guarding the watery ribbon of river unfold onto a patchwork quilt of farm fields planted in wheat, tobacco, sunflowers, corn and orchards of tangerines and pomegranates. The elevation here at 1,800 metres (5,900 + feet) favours a warm microclimate that allows for the production of subtropical fruits.

The "First Bend" marks the point where the Yangzi, after having flowed directly south from the high, icy plains of Tibet, turns sharply north for over 100 kilometres (60 miles) before turning east and continuing its course

into Sichuan province. The Chinese believe the "First Bend" is a significant spot as the two other great river systems which flow parallel with the Yangzi out of Tibet – the Mekong and the Salween Rivers – both flow out of China into Southeast Asia.

The evening highlight of any visit to Lijiang is to attend a performance by the "Ancient Naxi Music Ensemble" conducted by the indefatigable Xuan Ke, a local figure of great sincerity and love for his region. Xuan Ke was born into a prosperous Tibetan Naxi family who were traders. His father exposed him to a western education under the tutelage of a German governess and as a young man he showed great talent as a musician. He suffered, however, under the communist government serving over 25 years in prison for being labeled a foreign agent. Since his rehabilitation this remarkable man has devoted his life to the rediscovery of the ancient musical traditions of Lijiang. What makes this region so interesting to musicologists is that in addition to the folk traditions of the Naxi, Khampa Tibetan and other minority cultures is the ancient Han Chinese music dating to the Tang dynasty (618 – 907) that has been lost in other regions of China. Each evening, with his eclectic band of musicians many well into their 80s Xuan Ke introduces his rapt audience of Chinese and foreigners alike (in both Chinese and English narration) to these musical treasures.

Naxi Ancient Music has developed its own unique style and traits - the result of 500 hundred years of evolution. It originally included three parts - "Baisha Fine Music" (Baisha Xiyue), "Dongjing Music" (Dongjing Yinyue), and "Huangjing Music" (Huangjing Yinyue), the last of which has long



been lost in the river of time. Played on venerable Chinese musical instruments such as flute, shawm, Chinese lute, plectrum, and zither, Naxi Music has the power to cleanse the heart and relax the mind.

*Banyan Tree Resort
(One Garden Villa)
Breakfast, Lunch*

DAY 12: LIJIANG/KUNMING/HONG KONG

This morning, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Kunming.

Arrive Kunming Airport, where you will be met by a representative of China International Travel Service, Kunming, who will assist with your connect flight to Hong Kong.

Arrive Hong Kong's Chek Lap Kok International Airport for Hong Kong stopover, or onward flight back to the U.S.

Breakfast

— END OF SERVICES —



For more information or to book your customized journey, please contact:

KIPLING & CLARK
info@kiplingandclark.com

312.836.9071 or 1.800.354.3404

www.kiplingandclark.com