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Classic Shangri-La Tour - 8 Days

Immerse yourself in the dramatic alpine beauty and vibrant ethnic cultures of Southwest China on this 8-day Yunnan journey. Begin in the spring city of Kunming exploring the subterranean wonders of the Stone Forest before traveling by bullet train to the tranquil lakeside realms of Dali and ancient Naxi culture in Lijiang. Journey through the roaring chasm of Tiger Leaping Gorge to conclude in mythical Shangri-La among sacred Tibetan monasteries and pristine alpine wetlands.

Tour Highlights

UNESCO Natural & Cultural Wonders: Walk through the geological labyrinth of the **Stone Forest** and wander the cobblestone waterways of **Lijiang Ancient Town**.
Sacred Alpine Peaks & Gorges: Marvel at the glaciated peaks of **Jade Dragon Snow Mountain** and stand beside the raging rapids of **Tiger Leaping Gorge**.
Authentic Ethnic Heritage: Discover Bai courtyard architecture in **Xizhou**, ancient Naxi wall art in **Baisha Village**, and Tibetan traditions at **Ganden Songzanlin Monastery**.
Pristine Plateau Waters: Enjoy scenic strolls along the shores of **Erhai Lake** and explore the tranquil alpine lakes of **Pudacuo National Park**.
Seamless Scenic Travel: Experience effortless intercity travel featuring a rapid bullet train ride from Kunming to Dali and comfortable private vehicles through the highlands.

Date	Destinations	Attractions, Meals & Transport
1	Day 1 Arrival in Kunming	airport - hotel transfer in Kunming
2	Day 2 Kunming | The Stone Forest	breakfast, lunch Stone Forest The Stone Forest (UNESCO) is a typical Karst landscape formed some 270 million years ago. This geological wonder consists of limestone cliffs and peaks that have weathered into various shapes since their formation beneath the sea.
3	Day 3 Kunming to Dali by Bullet Train | Three Pagodas & Erhai Lake	hotel - train station transfer in Kunming; train station transfer in Dali breakfast, lunch Three Pagodas of Dali, Erhai Lake, Dali Old Town The Three Pagodas is the symbol of Dali City. Three Pagodas are made of three ancient independent pagodas forming a symmetrical triangle. The Erhai Lake is reputed as the pearl on plateau for its charming scenery, and it is one of the seven biggest fresh water lakes in China. Take a walking tour of the Dali Old Town to capture its charm with narrow cobbled streets and traditional stone architecture. **Good to Know:** One way bullet train from Kunming to Dali takes about two hours. There are direct flights from Kunming to Dali (about 50 minutes).

4	Day 4 Dali to Lijiang | Bai Village & Old Town of Lijiang	private transfer from Dali to Lijiang breakfast, lunch **Xizhou Town** In Xizhou Town, you will get an idea of what traditional Bai architecture really is. The asset of Xizhou are its well-preserved courtyards,which make the old town a living art museums.
5	Day 5 Lijiang | Jade Dragon Snow Mountain & Baisha Murals	breakfast, lunch **Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, Murals in Baisha Village, Old Town of Lijiang** The Jade Dragon Snow Mountain is a famous for a magnificent view of the glacieris. The snow-covered mountain resembles a jade dragon lying in the clouds, hence the name. The Baisha Village is one of the oldest towns in Lijiang as well as one of the earliest communities of the Naxi ethnic group. The 44 pieces of ancient murals there were carved in the early Ming Dynasty. The Old Town of Lijiang (UNESCO) is one of the best-preserved ancient towns in China and is famous for its distinctive Naxi culture and ancient buildings.
6	Day 6 Lijiang to Shangri-La | Tiger Leaping Gorge	private transfer from Lijiang to Shangri-la breakfast, lunch **Tiger Leaping Gorge** Located 60 kilometres north of Lijiang City, the Tiger Leaping Gorge is one of the deepest and most spectacular river canyons in the world. Following an ancient trek, you will enjoy a magnificent close-up view of sharp cliffs and roaring water.
7	Day 7 Shangri-La | Songzanlin Monastery & Pudacuo National Park	breakfast, lunch **Ganden Songzanlin Monastery , Pudacuo National Park** The Ganden Songzanlin Monastery is the largest Xizang Buddhism monastery in Yunnan province. Built in the 17th century, during the reign of the Fifth Dalai Lama, it is often called ' the Little Potala Palace'. The Pudacuo National Park is notable as the first national park in China to meet International Union for Conservation of Nature standards. It incorporates the Bita Lake and the Duhu Scenic Area, and holds the stunning view of three parallel rivers and dense deciduous forests.
8	Day 8 Shangri-La Departure	hotel - airport transfer in Shangri-la breakfast

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: How does altitude acclimatization work across this Yunnan itinerary?
A: The route follows a natural gradual ascent: starting from Kunming (approx. 1,890m), continuing through Dali (1,970m) and Lijiang (2,400m), before reaching Shangri-La (approx. 3,160m), providing ideal progressive acclimatization.

Q: Is hiking through Tiger Leaping Gorge strenuous?
A: This itinerary covers the classic Upper Tiger Leaping Gorge scenic area with well-paved trails, railed viewing platforms, and optional escalators, making it accessible and safe for general travelers.

Q: What should I pack for the varying climates between Kunming and Shangri-La?
A: Due to significant temperature drops at higher elevations and mountain areas like Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and Shangri-La, packing layered clothing—including a windproof, warm fleece or down jacket—is strongly recommended.

Q: Can warm clothing or oxygen be rented during the mountain excursions?
A: Yes, rental warm down coats and portable oxygen canisters are readily available at Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and Pudacuo National Park service centers.

Tour Includes :

- Private tour guide
- Private air-conditioned car or coach
- Land transfers between airport or train station and hotel
- First entrance tickets as listed
- Chinese lunch as listed
- Centrally located hotels with breakfast
- Domestic flight ticket with tax as listed
- Service charge & government taxes

Tour Excludes :

- International flight
- Personal expenses such as laundry, drinks, phone bills, optional activities
- Tips for guides and drivers
- China Visa
- Travel insurance

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