

ITINERARY  
**CHINA'S YUNNAN PROVINCE**  
*January 9 - 25, 2027*



*The lovely White-capped Redstart is a common bird along mountain streams in much of southeast China, including Yunnan.  
Photograph by guide Doug Gochfeld.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2027 Field Guides China's Yunnan Province tour:*

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

*These additional materials will be made available to those who register for the tour:*

- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

*Yunnan, China's most bird-diverse province, sits at the junction of three globally recognized biodiversity hotspots: Himalaya, Indo-Burma, and the Mountains of Southwest China. It is a historically overlooked region in western birding circles because of the lack of access, but now it is set up for truly phenomenal birdwatching through a wide range of elevations and habitats, and now even has some excellent bird-feeding stations. Beautiful scenery and surprisingly good accommodations and infrastructure add to the enjoyment of this region where the Himalayan and Southeast Asian avifaunas converge.*

China's southwestern-most province, Yunnan, was long neglected as a destination by traveling birders—for the excellent reason that you couldn't get there! Restrictions on access have been relaxed for over a decade now, so that some of the least disturbed areas near the Myanmar (formerly Burma) border can be visited. The avian delights of winter

in Yunnan in many ways surpass those of the more obvious spring months of March/April, with a host of wintering birds augmenting the mostly sedentary resident breeders.

Anyone susceptible to the allure of Thailand and the eastern Himalayas will look wistfully at the birding map of the region and wonder about the large blur linking them: at 394,000 square kms/152,000 square miles, Yunnan, China's eighth largest province, is nearly the size of huge California. However, west of the mighty Salween River, steadily improving infrastructure has made accessible a variety of habitats, from forests between 1,000-8,000 feet (300-2,400m) above sea level to paddies and scrub hosting winter visitors and migrants still on passage. This tour will follow an itinerary that has been planned to balance seeing a good variety of the province's ecozones and avian wonders, along with field time in some of the richest areas: the impressive Gaoligong Mountains, in history-burdened Tengchong, and in the border regions with Myanmar. After flying into Kunming, we will visit picturesque Lijiang, a World Heritage Site that is also home to the endemic Biet's Laughingthrush, and the near-endemic Yunnan Nuthatch. We will then cover several locations on the way west, towards the rich border region, and will conclude our tour with a search for the specialties of mysterious border forests.

Part of the charm of this scenically arresting, tucked-away, and culturally still authentic corner of the world is that it has only recently been discovered by western tourism, indeed, with most tourists there still being birders and bird photographers. Nonetheless, roads are far better than one might suppose, and our accommodations will be basic-but-comfortable to excellent throughout.



*Biet's Laughingthrush is endemic to a small region of southern China, including northern Yunnan. We should find them near Lijiang.*

*We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know, and we can help you find a better-fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.*

## Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Moderate amounts of walking (up to 5 miles per day), with a mix of roadsides, forest trails, and sitting in bird hides. In some cases, we will have moderate elevational change in a hike, since we will be in the hills and the mountains for some of the tour. We will also be doing some walking, but not strenuous walking,

at our higher elevations. *You should be prepared to sit for relatively long periods (perhaps up to a couple of hours) in relative silence while waiting for shy and skulking birds to come into feeding stations.*

- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We have a couple of long drives on this tour, and the roads in some places are winding. We get to around 8,500 feet (2500+ meters) in elevation for several nights. Participants should be able to step up (and step down) to get into and out of our vehicles. A couple of our lodgings will be fairly basic guesthouses, but these are clean and comfortable (and conveniently near the primary birding locations!).
- **PACE:** Most mornings will have an early breakfast (set for 5:30-6:30 a.m.), followed by a drive to the birding area. We will bird until lunch time, sometimes enjoying a picnic meal. Sometimes, we bird after lunch, but often use this afternoon time to continue traveling to our next destination. There are a couple of long (> 4-hour) drives.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures may range from the high 40s (F) at night in the highest latitudes, to potentially the 80s during the day in some of the lower elevations, though it is often very pleasant and in the 60s-70s. Thick pants, a fleece, and a light down jacket are usually sufficient for most people. Rain showers are always a possibility, and you will especially want to have sunglasses and sunblock at the high elevations, as the sunshine can be extremely harsh up here.
- **ELEVATION:** We reach elevations of up to 8,500 feet on this tour, and spend at least four nights at an elevation of about 7,500 feet.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant has an equal opportunity during our travel, we employ a seat rotation system on all tours. Participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver to the back of the vehicle on occasion. Those who experience motion sickness will need to bring adequate medication for the duration of the tour, as we are not able to reserve forward seats for medical conditions.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** We will endeavor to find indoor public toilets as frequently as possible, but participants should be prepared to make comfort stops in nature, as there are simply no other options (away from our lodgings) on some sections of this tour's route.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day, or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations (as we do often on this tour).

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities and fitness level, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with the guide.



*A scene from Lijiang, where we'll spend a couple of days of the tour. Photo by Björn Anderson / iGoTerra.com.*



## About the Birding Areas

**Lijiang**—Lijiang, a locally important and formerly isolated town originally inhabited almost exclusively by ethnically very distinct Nakhis (for nearly a thousand years), is a great base from which to launch some birding. While the attractive Black Dragon Pool park, a wooded enclave on the edge of the now rather denuded valley, is a popular tourist attraction in town, there are several good birding locations in the area, including a bird hide specifically designed for viewing the minutely range-restricted Biet's Laughingthrush. There are also relic pine forests on the hills around town, which can be home to the near-endemic Yunnan Nuthatch—the more patchily distributed, rare Giant Nuthatch was formerly also present but now seems to have disappeared. Other birds of interest include Spotted and Black-faced laughingthrushes, Brown-winged Parrotbill, Black-bibbed, Black-browed and Rufous-vented tits, Rufous-breasted Accentor, the lovely White-throated Redstart, Scaly and Chinese thrushes, Giant and Moustached (Western) laughingthrushes, Black-headed Sibia (whose far-carrying, melancholy song often dominates the dawn chorus), the local Spectacled Fulvetta, Hodgson's Treecreeper, Tibetan Serin, the *himalayana* subspecies of Red Crossbill, Nepal House-Martin, Bar-throated Minla, and Saswand, the distinctive local race of Eurasian Nutcracker.

**Gaoligong Mountains/Baihualing area**— The dramatic Gaoligong Mountains rise just to the west of the Salween (Nujiang) River bio-geographic divide, beckoning visiting birders. Bamboo, mature evergreen forest, overgrown stream gullies, and cultivation-edge scrub comprise the habitats available to us in the impressive Gaoligongshan. Before heading into the forest, we will, at least on one morning, give the birds a chance to come to us by waiting around on an east-facing vantage point. As the first rays of the sun hit the forest edge, things are likely to look hectic as new birds present themselves for extended viewing at close range; usually, many of them stick around, and we will be in no hurry to move on, preferring to make the most of this easy introduction to one of the great wilderness areas of continental Asia. During the course of our five days of birding in this magnificent range, we hope to encounter the likes of Crimson-breasted Woodpecker, Himalayan Bluetail (the blue-browed Himalayan form is now regarded as a valid species distinct from Red-flanked Bluetail), the superb Beautiful Sibia, the highly specialized and much sought Slender-billed Scimitar-Babbler, Chevron-breasted Babbler (Wedge-billed Wren-Babbler), and yet another shot at the monotypic Spotted Elachura (Wren-Babbler), and the fancy Fire-tailed Sunbird.

**Yingjiang and Nabang**— We'll thoroughly cover the surviving forests west of Yingjiang to the very border with Burma near the town of Nabang. We'll concentrate on the lower slopes, mainly birding between 1000-4500 feet (c300-1350m) in evergreen, mixed, and bamboo forest, but will also spend time in more open habitat along the river that forms the border

with Myanmar. Habitat in this area continues to be menaced by human activity. (The improved roads that allow us access mean that cash cropping is now increasingly viable, resulting in the loss of comparatively bird-friendly rice paddies to nearly birdless but profitable banana and pepper plantations.) Some poaching may continue to this day (despite the core area's supposed reserve status), and on the mammal front, we'll be lucky to see anything but squirrels—these, however, may include both the cute Five-striped and the impressive Black Giant squirrels. The forests that remain that we'll cover here still brim with birds, from the exquisite Collared Treepie and Red-tailed Laughingthrush to the furtive and tiny Black-throated Parrotbill, and ornate Rufous-faced Warbler. The list of potential rarities here is enough of a reason to visit: the magnificently weird Ibisbill, in its own monotypic family, has been seen sporadically along the river that forms the border between Yunnan and neighboring Myanmar, and a few pairs of the shy Spotted Elachura inhabit the dense undergrowth of the ridgetop ravines.

**Hongbenghe**—Perched right on the border with Myanmar, the small village of Hongbenghe provides an ideal base from which to explore a section of the Himalayan foothills that is seldom birded. With over 500 species recorded in the vicinity to date, it is one of the best birdwatching bases in all of China, yet until recent years, few birders ventured here. Within easy reach of the town are sprawling evergreen forests, paddies, and scrub, and within the past few years, a game changer for the already exciting birding here: bird viewing and photography hides. On the whole, the avifauna is reminiscent of northern Thailand's and northern Burma's, but many species which are rare or (for winter visitors) not annual there are quite common on the Yunnan side of the border, and there is a more noticeable Sino-Himalayan element as well. Some of the hundreds of possible avian highlights here include Mountain Bamboo-Partridge, Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike, Black-backed Forktail (which just barely gets into China in this one small region), Siberian Rubythroat, Fire-capped Tit, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Puff-throated Babbler, the sought-after Rufous-necked Laughingthrush, Chinese Hwamei, several species of Phylloscopus Warblers, Striated Grassbird, Little Bunting, Common Rosefinch, and Chestnut-tailed Starling are all among the species likely to be encountered on our visits to forest edge habitat. The bird hides in the region may offer us such shy goodies as Rusty-naped Pitta, Gray Peacock-Pheasant, and Kalij Pheasant. We'll have a crack at the mostly Burmese specialty Collared Myna, and perhaps even the extremely poorly known Naung Mung Scimitar-Babbler, known only from a tiny bit of Myanmar, but that has been seen here in the past couple of years. We'll also keep an eye out for the impressive Black Giant Squirrel clambering through the treetops.



*The ornate Black-backed Forktail just edges into Yunnan near Hongbenghe. This is another bird found along fast-moving streams. Photograph by guide Dave Stejskal.*



*Mountain Bamboo-Partridge is one of a number of pheasant-type species that we'll seek on this tour. These birds are found in higher elevations from northern India to southern China. Photograph by participant Fred Dalbey.*

## Itinerary for China's Yunnan Province

**Days 1-2, Sat-Sun, 9 Jan-10 Jan. Departure from US; arrival in Kunming.** For North American travelers, most international flights currently originate in the morning or afternoon of Day 1 and arrive in Kunming late on Day 2. Upon arrival, you will be met by a representative from our hotel or ground agent and escorted to our nearby hotel in Kunming. Night of Day 2 in Kunming (2100 m elevation). We encourage you to fly into Kunming a day or two early in case of delays and to rest after the long flight. Our office will be happy to advise you and arrange the flights that are best for you.

**Day 3, Mon, 11 Jan. Kunming to Chuxiong via Kunming Botanical Garden.** Doug will contact you the evening of Day 2, Sunday, January 10, to confirm the start of our program today. We will begin with an introduction to the avifauna of the region by exploring the famous Kunming Botanical Garden. A mix of wintering migrants and resident birds will include possibilities of White-throated Fantail, Red-tailed and Blue-winged Minlas, the gaudy Red-billed Leothrix, Black-breasted Thrush, Blue Whistling-Thrush, the unique Crested Finchbill, and maybe even a flock of Black-headed Greenfinches. After lunch, we drive on to Zixi Mountain Forest Park, in Chuxiong (about 2.5 hours). Depending on our timing, there may be time for a little local birding when we arrive. Night Chuxiong Zixi Mountain (2300m).

**Day 4, Tue, 12 Jan. Zixi Mountain Forest Park to Lijiang.** Covering about 16,000 hectares in land size, Zixi Mountain is the largest nature park in Yunnan, with nearly full forest coverage. The park is dominated by evergreen forests and Yunnan pine forests, which provide an ideal habitat for many nuthatches (notably the endemic Yunnan Nuthatch and the rare Giant Nuthatch), as well as some specialties of southwestern China. Other species we will have a good chance of seeing include Yunnan Fulvetta, Black-streaked Scimitar Babbler, Black-faced Warbler, the Himalayan form of Eurasian Jay, Speckled Piculet, Gray-capped Woodpecker, Long-tailed and Gray-chinned minivets, White-browed Shrike Babbler, Yellow-bellied Fairy Fantail, Chinese Thrush, Himalayan Bluetail, Spectacled Fulvetta, Bar-tailed Treecreeper, and Godlewski's Bunting. Following the morning's birding, we will drive about 5.5 hours to Lijiang. Night in Lijiang (2300m).

**Days 5-6, Wed-Thu, 13-14 Jan. Lijiang.** One full day will be dedicated to birding near Lijiang, as there are numerous great birding sites near the town, including a bird hide for the restricted-range Biet's Laughingthrush. Here, we will also

have good chances for other target species like Brown-winged Parrotbill, Yunnan Nuthatch, Salim Ali's Swift, Black-bibbed Tit, Black-streaked Scimitar-Babbler, Spectacled Fulvetta, White-browed Fulvetta, Rusty-capped Fulvetta, Chinese Babax, Elliot's Laughingthrush, Black-faced Laughingthrush, Rufous-tailed Babbler, Bar-throated Minla, Black-headed Sibia, Rufous-vented Yuhina, Yellow-throated Bunting, and more. The other full day here will be spent on a quest for the Black Snub-nosed Monkey, an exceptionally range-restricted primate. This will involve a 3-hour, one-way drive to get to the Black Snub-nosed Monkey park, where we stand a very good chance of coming across a troop of these endangered monkeys in the place where they are most well-studied in the wild. Birds possible at the park include Alpine Accentor, Hodgson's Redstart, White-capped Redstart, Manipur, White-browed, Spectacled, and Rusty-capped Fulvettas. Nights in Lijiang (~2300 m).

**Day 7, Fri, 15 Jan. Lijiang to Baihualing.** After a morning of birding and some breakfast, we will devote the middle of the day and the afternoon to the long drive (about 6 hours) westward to the impressive Gaoligong Mountains. Night in Baihualing (~1,400 m).



*Scarlet-faced Liocichla is a small, colorful babbler found in scattered locations in SE Asia.  
Photograph by participant Daryl Kellenberger.*

**Days 8-9, Sat-Sun, 16-17 Jan. Gaoligong Mountains, Baihualing area.** Located on the western side of Yunnan Province, the Gaoligong belongs to the southern end of the Hengduan Mountain Ranges, with an elevation that steeply ranges from 650 meters at the bottom to 5,128 meters at the peak. As a result of this elevational range, the Gaoligong Mountains have been rated as one of 36 hot spots for biodiversity by Conservation International, and over 500 bird species have been recorded here. We will spend two days here searching for birds in the different habitats that the mountains offer. There are a host of ground-dwelling species to focus on, such as Silver Pheasant, Mountain Bamboo Partridge, Rufous-throated and Hill partridges, Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, Red-tailed Laughingthrush, Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush, Blue-winged Laughingthrush, Scarlet-faced Liocichla, Grey-winged Blackbird, Long-tailed Thrush, Wedge-billed Wren Babbler, and three species of Tesia. And yes, though the understory is a treasure trove on its own, we will also be on the hunt through the higher levels and canopy of the dense virgin forests, looking for Himalayan Cutia, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Great, Golden-throated, and Blue-throated barbets, Bay Woodpecker, Red-tailed Minla, Scarlet Finch, Gray-headed Parrotbill, Spot-breasted Parrotbill, Whiskered Yuhina, Rufous-vented Yuhina, Striated Bulbul, Beautiful Sibia, Long-tailed Sibia, Large and Rufous-bellied niltavas, Snowy-browed Flycatcher, Rusty-fronted Barwing, and more! The area also hosts some of the finest-looking sunbirds in Asia: Fire-tailed, Black-throated, Mrs. Gould's, and Green-tailed! Nights in Baihualing (~1,400 m).

**Day 10, Mon, 18 Jan. Gaoligong Mountains to Tengchong.** We will spend the golden hours of the morning birding in Baihualing in search of our target species, before continuing our journey to Tengchong, known for its mild climate, ancient volcanoes, and geothermal springs. The drive will take approximately two and a half hours, and we will cross the Mekong-Salween Biological Divide in the process. Night Tengchong (~1,650 m).

**Day 11, Tue, 19 Jan. Tengchong to Yingjiang.** In the morning, we will drive to Laifengshan Mountain, the largest park in the city, to continue our birding. Here, we will search for species such as Black-breasted Thrush, Brown-winged Parrotbill, Slender-billed Oriole, and Maroon Oriole, Black-streaked (Spot-breasted) Scimitar-Babbler, and perhaps Yunnan Fulvetta. Afterward, we will drive for about one and a half hours to Yingjiang. Upon arrival, we'll visit the Dayingjiang River, where we can look for a variety of species including Indian Spot-billed Duck, Small Pratincole, River Lapwing, Little Ringed Plover, Temminck's Stint, Coppersmith Barbet, Rufescent Prinia, Grey-breasted Prinia, Grey-throated Martin, Asian Barred Owlet, Dusky Warbler, Collared Myna, Great Myna, Citrine Wagtail, Paddyfield Pipit, and Little Bunting. Night in Yingjiang (~820 m).

**Day 12, Wed, 20 Jan. Yingjiang to Nabang.** In the morning, we will do some more open country and wetland birding to search for a variety of bird species, including Alexandrine Parakeet, Asian Green Bee-eater, Coppersmith Barbet, Blue-throated Barbet, Rufous Woodpecker, Rosy Minivet, Burmese Shrike, Rufous-necked Laughingthrush, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Chestnut-tailed Starling, and Chestnut-capped Babbler. In the afternoon, we will continue our way towards Nabang, making stops for birding along the way as opportunity allows. The drive will be about 2.5 hours. Along this route, we have good chances of encountering Greater Coucal, Crested Treeswift, Asian Palm Swift, River, Gray-headed, and Red-wattled lapwings, Ashy Woodswallow, Striated Grassbird, Wire-tailed Swallow, Asian Pied Starling, Chestnut-tailed Starling, Red-billed Starling, Vinous-breasted Starling, Collared Myna, Great Myna, and more. We'll spend the night on the very border of Myanmar, in the town of Nabang and may find time to venture forth from our—by local standards—upmarket hotel to take in the scenes on the market streets leading down to the border bridge. Night near or in Nabang (~240 m).



*Long-tailed Broadbill is a forest-dweller that we'll look for near Nabang. Photograph by participant Lois Wood.*

**Day 13, Thu, 21 Jan. Nabang to Hongbenghe.** We will spend the morning birding around this border town, dividing our time between the subtly different habitat zones around Nabang, but will target our efforts in order to maximize chances of species likely to be encountered only here. Doing so, we may even make genuine contributions to the patchy knowledge

of bird distribution on the Myanmar/Yunnan border. We'll focus on a range of exciting target species such as Long-tailed Broadbill, Common Green-Magpie, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Nepal Fulvetta, Streak-throated Fulvetta, Rufous-headed and Pale-billed parrotbills, Pale-headed Woodpecker, Stripe-breasted Woodpecker, Lesser Yellownape, Golden Babbler, White-browed Shrike-Babbler, Black-eared Shrike-Babbler, Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, White-hooded Babbler, Spot-breasted Laughingthrush, Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush, White-browed Shortwing, White-tailed Robin, and Rufous-gorgeted and Sapphire flycatchers. Afterward, we will drive for about three and a half hours to Hongbenghe, and if we have some time, may be able to do some birding upon arrival. Night near or in Hongbenghe (~600 m).



*Pale-billed Parrotbill is one of several parrotbills we'll seek. These tiny birds have a spotty distribution across SE Asia; we'll look for them near Hongbenghe.*

**Days 14-15, Fri-Sat, 22-23 Jan. Hongbenghe area.** During our two-day exploration, we will focus primarily on Shiti and the surrounding Hongbenghe area, renowned as the best place in China to see hornbills, alongside a rich diversity of pheasants, laughingthrushes, and flycatchers. We will visit multiple bird hides while also exploring the forest in search of species such as Great Hornbill, Oriental Pied-Hornbill, Wreathed Hornbill, Gray Peacock-Pheasant, Red Junglefowl, Kalij Pheasant, White-cheeked Partridge, Green-billed Malkoha, Crested Serpent Eagle, Jerdon's Baza, Brown Boobook, Red-headed Trogon, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Blue-eared Barbet, Greater Flameback, Lesser Yellownape, Great Slaty Woodpecker (the largest extant woodpecker in the world!), Collared Falconet, Oriental Hobby, Long-tailed Broadbill, Blue-naped Pitta, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Collared Treepie, Sultan Tit, Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler, Large Scimitar Babbler, Spot-throated Babbler, Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, Scarlet-faced Liocichla, Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, Streaked Wren Babbler, Brown-cheeked Fulvetta, Crow-billed Drongo, and many others. Nights near or in Hongbenghe (~600 m).

**Day 16, Sun, 24 Jan. Hongbenghe to Tengchong, then fly to Kunming.** We will continue our exploration in Hongbenghe this morning before driving approximately 3.5 hours to Tengchong, where we will catch a late-afternoon flight back to Kunming. Check in at our hotel at the airport. Night in Kunming (2100 m).

**Day 17, Mon, 25 Jan. Departure for home, from Kunming.**

## About Your Guides

**Doug Gochfeld** was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, where his interest in birds was sparked at a young age (he participated in his first CBC at the age of 7), thanks to his father.

His extensive travels as a working birder have taken him all over the world, and he spent parts of four years as a guide-in-residence on St. Paul Island, in Alaska's Pribilof Islands, interpreting the island's natural wonders, from the abundance of breeding birds to the wayward migrants from Asia and the lush summer flora, for a variety of visitors. He now leads all over the world for Field Guides. His robust interest in the birds and culture of East and Southeast Asia has brought him to lead a broad spectrum of tours across these fascinating regions, and the Himalayan region has a particular hold on his heart. You can also find him exploring, through the lens of bird guiding, Australia, Mexico, New Guinea, Israel, Alaska, and locales beyond and in between.

Doug has served on various statewide and national bird records committees and has been a regular leader at birding festivals throughout the USA. He has worked in Alaska, Suriname, and Brazil studying the breeding and wintering ecology of shorebirds, which hold a special place in his heart. His strongest interests in birding are migration, vagrancy, and patterns of distribution, and he's always excited to share his enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, these subjects and much more (even beyond birds!) on his tours, whether close to home or halfway around the world.

*"Doug's enthusiasm, skill and tenacity at finding birds is amazing. He clearly loves showing birds to people - be it a common or not so common bird".  
D. S. Colorado Grouse*

Your Field Guides leader will be accompanied throughout the tour by a **local guide**.

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for Doug's complete tour schedule.

## Financial Information

**FEE:** \$7275 per person from Kunming  
**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional):** \$525  
**DEPOSIT:** \$725  
**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** July 13, 2026  
**LIMIT:** 8

## Other Things You Need to Know

**TOUR MANAGER:** The manager for this tour is Nicole Cannon. Nicole will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

**ACCOMMODATIONS AND FOOD:** Accommodations throughout are, for the most part, quite good. In addition to hotels of a good standard, there will be several comfortable and clean guesthouses, a couple of which are fairly basic, but perfectly fine for our purposes. Some accommodations may not have an elevator, though we can always have someone available to assist you with your bags, should it be necessary.

All meals and tea are provided throughout the tour. As a rule, evening meals will generally be taken at our hotels, while breakfast and lunch may be in rather basic restaurants or taken as a picnic from our ground agent's stock of provisions, as appropriate to maximize time spent in the field. Food in this region is both tasty and nourishing – for sure something to look forward to on this tour. It is great, and easily customizable to be friendly for people who avoid dairy and gluten. It can be somewhat meat-heavy, but good options are always available for vegetarians as well. The food will be broadly similar to the food we have on tour in Sichuan, though with different local vegetables and seasonings. Some snacks will be available for the times in between the main meals, but feel free to bring some pre-packaged/wrapped snacks if you have any types that you are particularly attached to.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** This tour begins and ends in Kunming, China (Kunming Changshui International Airport, KMG).

**Arrival:** Kunming (KMG) on January 10 at any time. We encourage you to arrive early to allow for any travel delays and can assist with extra arrangements.

**Departure:** Kunming (KMG) on January 25 at any time.

Please wait to purchase airline tickets until we notify you that the tour is confirmed to operate. At that time, we'll be glad to assist with your flight arrangements at no service fee.

**DOCUMENTS:** Be sure to verify the latest entry requirements for each country you will visit or transit.

**Passport:** A valid passport is required for international travel. It should be in good condition, valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date, and have at least **two blank pages for China**, plus an additional blank page for each country on your itinerary. When you register for the tour, **our office will require a copy of the title page of your passport**, which our supplier will use to complete the Tourist Invitation Letter to be submit with your visa application.

**Visa:** U.S. and Canadian citizens are required to obtain a **visa** to enter China. We will provide visa instructions at the appropriate time. Refer to the [Requirements and Procedures for Chinese Visa Application](#) to prepare the required documents. When you receive your passport from the Chinese consulate with your new Chinese visa, please verify that the visa dates coincide with the dates of your entire stay in China.

Non-US citizens should consult the consulates of each destination for current entry requirements.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The tour fee is \$7275 for one person in double occupancy from Kunming.**

It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 16, all meals from breakfast on Day 3 through breakfast on Day 17, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

**The above fees do not include** your airfare to and from Kunming, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

**The single supplement is \$525 for those requesting a single room.** If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour, but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

**TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please contact us at [fieldguides.com/contact-us/](http://fieldguides.com/contact-us/).** Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

**Please send your deposit of \$725 per person;** see [fieldguides.com/payment-options/](http://fieldguides.com/payment-options/) for our Payment Options.

**Full payment of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or by July 13, 2026.** We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later. Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

**SMOKING:** Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refund of deposit and full payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 180 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the full tour fee is non-refundable, which would include the full deposit if the final payment has not yet been paid. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable.

Our cancellation policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of that insurance is not refundable, so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airline's restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. In most such cases, full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. Note this exception, however: If you have been advised pre-tour that there is a non-refundable portion of your tour fee no matter the reason for Field Guides cancellation of the tour, that portion will not be refunded. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to protect your investment in case of injury or illness to you or an immediate family member before or during a trip. Because we must remit early and substantial deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer refunds for cancellations outside of our Cancellation Policy. If a participant is unable to join or continue a tour due to illness, all related expenses will be their responsibility, and no refunds can be issued for missed days. Please wait to purchase insurance until we notify you that the tour is confirmed to operate, as most policies are non-refundable.

For full details, visit our Trip Cancellation Insurance page at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/>.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

**THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.**

NCP 7/2020; 09/13/25 DG; 3/27/26NC; mz; 4/26peg