

## Trekking in Yunnan, China

### 金沙江 JinSha River Winter Trek – 2025: February 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>



#### ABOUT THE REGION

JinSha means “Golden Sand”. Coming down from the Tibetan Plateau, the JinSha River is becoming later on the Yangtze River, being Asia’s longest river, the third longest river in the world, and the longest river to flow entirely in one single country. Yunnan Province uses 81% hydro energy, with the JinSha River as its hydroelectric powerhouse hosting several of the world’s largest hydroelectric power stations.

It is also the JinSha River with its wild white-water (especially in the summer) that flows through the famous Tiger Leaping Gorge. The Gorge, which has a maximum depth of ca. 3790 meters, is one of the deepest and most spectacular river canyons in the world, offering different very popular hiking options. For this trip we will follow the JinSha River until we reach a part much further down, a remote area with small Naxi villages, an impressive historic stone village built on a rock, and a hiking trail that is demanding in its way, but suitable for hiking intermediates (or trekking beginners), revealing to us spectacular views of high cliffs, tunnels through rocks and the river in its magic winter color.

The Stone Village is built on a rock with cliffs on 3 sides and the river, with strictly 2 gates to enter. It has around 800 years of history, going back to Yuan Dynasty, which was the reign of the Mongols. It is said that Kublai Khan, the grandson of Genghis Khan, rested here with his army in 1253 before going to conquer Dali Kingdom. The mountains along the JinSha River 10km north of the village form a narrow gorge that is named after him: the “Prince Pass” (TaiziGuan).

#### ABOUT THE HIKE

The trail we are going to walk is connecting different Naxi villages along the JinSha River. After a first night in WuMu, a village of around 160 families located at an altitude of 2260m, we will follow a trail rebuilt just 2 years ago, looking over the river. We will have a steep climb down until we get to YanKe Village where we will have a simple lunch.



The afternoon will bring us up into the cliff, to follow an impressive trail built into the rock around 20 years ago, right above the river. Here we need to be sure to overcome our fear of heights, as the path is safe but sometimes narrow. Finally we see the Stone Village in the distance, our destination of the day.



On Day 2 in the morning we leave Stone Village through its north gate to make our way up. We walk through fields and small villages until we get back to the majestic view of the turquoise JinSha River.



Though the most interesting part is still to come: today the trail leads us up the mountain and through 2 tunnels, 60m and 90m long, man-made in the 1950ies, according to locals. By the end of the day we arrive at a tiny village where we will be hosted by a simple guesthouse with a good local meal for the night.





On the third hiking day we will leave in the early morning, follow a beautiful path through forest and villages that will lead us out of the mountain, until we walk down and eventually arrive at the riverbank. Before noon a boat will wait for us there, to bring us back to our starting point. A last climb will bring us back to the guesthouse in WuMu.



After seeing the river from above during the past 2 days of hiking and being in or on top of the cliffs, we change now perspective enjoying the turquoise water upfront, and the view of the high mountain cliffs from below. But to see those stunning views when going through the narrow TaiziGuan Gorge on the boat, you need to come experience this trip yourself..... 😊



## PRICE QUOTATION

Price, per person (tax and other deductions all included):

**from 3,900rmb** (5 days/4 nights) // **EARLY BIRD sign up** 1) until October 31<sup>st</sup>: **3,300rmb**  
2) until December 1<sup>st</sup>: **3,600rmb**

### Price includes:

Preparation, organization, operation, leading (guide speaks English, French, German, Chinese), transportation by car (from Lijiang airport and back, as per schedule), boat trip at the end of the hike, accommodation in guesthouses (shared rooms)\*, 3 meals a day\*\* (as per schedule), drinks (water, coffee & tea).

### Price excludes:

Flights to and from Lijiang, personal hiking equipment\*\*\*, entrance fees (for parks etc., if applicable), snacks for hiking days, other personal consumptions (drinks, beer, etc.), personal health and accident insurance.

### ---- Additional Notes:

\* Accommodation in 4\* Guesthouse for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> night. Simple guesthouse rooms during the trekking days (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> night). If you need single accommodation, please inquire with us about the additional fee.

\*\* Local food in the guesthouse or at available restaurants, breakfast, lunch and dinner (as per schedule). Simple picnic lunch on Day 2 & 3 during the hike.

\*\*\* Missing equipment can be rented, if necessary (+\$\$). Please advise at least 2 weeks in advance.

## DETAILED SCHEDULE

**“JinSha River Winter Hike”**: total 40km; Hiking 3 days / 2 nights; Highest altitude at 2560m.

**Total 5 days: FEB 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

**Wed Feb.19, Day1:** arrive in Lijiang\*; PM transfer to BaoShan Township; Stay in WuMu Guesthouse.

**Thurs Feb.20, Day2:** Hike from WuMu to YanKe (lunch break), then continue to Stone Village. Distance: 13km; Hiking time: 6-7 hours. Stay in Village Guesthouse.

**Fri Feb. 21, Day3:** Hike from Stone Village to ShangLiu. Distance: 11km; Hiking Time: around 7 hours. Stay in Hiking Guesthouse.

**Sat Feb. 22, Day4:** Hike from ShangLiu to JinSha riverbank; take boat back, and walk back up to WuMu. Distance: 11km+4km Hiking time: 3-4 hours plus 2.5-3 hours. Stay in WuMu Guesthouse.

**Sun Feb. 23, Day5:** Transfer back to Lijiang\* for departure (if time permits, drive through the Tiger Leaping Gorge).

\*early arrival and additional stay in Lijiang can be organized (+\$\$) / additional day in WuMu or longer stay in Lijiang and/or the area after the trip can be organized (+\$\$).

## GENERAL NOTES

Participants: min. 4 to max. 8 hikers. (If less than 4p., price needs to be adjusted to guarantee departure.)

Requirements to participate:

- General fitness, able to hike 3 days in a row.
- Bring suitable hiking shoes & clothing, and a small backpack (packing list to be provided).

The trip is suitable for hiking intermediates, or trekking beginners. Participants need to have an overall fitness, do regular workout and have an overall good health. *Trip is NOT recommended for people afraid of heights, neither for small children.* Trails are generally safe, but sometimes narrow, or steep.

### Season

When the winter comes, JinSha River changes into a stunning turquoise colour for several months (*please note: none of the photos in this document is photo-shopped, changed or beautified etc. in any way!*). The blue sky and most of the time clear sunshine during Yunnan's dry season keeps us warm during daytime. The altitude of around 2200-2500m is generally not too difficult to cope with.

Temperatures will be estimated according to actual weather situation before the trip, but in general: Daytime feel temperatures around 20+C degrees. Night temperatures down to around 8-10C.

Note that in case of a drastic weather change, this trip might need to get cancelled.

## BOOKING THIS TRIP

Payment Schedule: 10% deposit to sign up (non-refundable); 50% 1 month prior to trip; remaining 40% to be paid 7 days before arrival.

Cancellation and Refund policy:

### **Cancellation by the Client:**

- The deposit of 10% is not refundable.
- Until 14 days prior to departure: guest can choose between refund of 80% of the second payment, or postponing the trip to alternative dates (TBC).
- 7 days prior to departure: no refund, unless for special reasons (\*see below).
- After departure: no refund of the whole travel sum (please see our disclaimer).

(\*) "Special reasons": If the cancellation by the client is caused by force majeure, or severe illness, a complete refund will be given to the client anytime, except for the 10% deposit. The reason for the cancellation must be demonstrated through an official statement or document from the Chinese or foreign (traveler's homeland) authorities or through a medical report. Valid reasons for cancellation include some government policy related to pandemic control (e.g. COVID-19), a change in local regulations at the place of destination of the trip for the guests upon arrival, or the complete closure of some area that affects the trip in a way that it cannot be conducted anymore.

### **Cancellation by SYLVIE Consulting:**

- Full refund until the departure date.
- After departure: refund of the percentage not delivered during operation of the tour.

## **ABOUT THE ORGANIZER**

SYLVIE Culture Consulting 云南喜临文化 is an independent consulting service provider, based in Yunnan China, operating in the arts and culture field. SYLVIE Travel Consulting is not a common travel agency, but is offering tailor-made experiences for small groups of travellers who wish to explore the stunning nature and colorful mix of minority cultures in South and South-Western regions of China. With some 20 years of professional experience out of Germany, Canada and China organizing cultural tours and events worldwide, SYLVIE offers solid organizational skills and a large-reaching network to provide a sensitive and very personal insight into China. Respect, trust and inclusiveness are the key terms of our operation modus; curiosity, flexibility and a positive state of mind define our approach to travel.



For any further questions or requirements, please don't hesitate to contact us.

If you wish to go on this trip, but at another time and with your own group of min. 4 people, feel free to inquire with us.

### **SYLVIE Culture Consulting**

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