

Whitewater Rafting in Yunnan, China

怒江 Nu River

available December 2024 to March 2025



ABOUT THE REGION

Nu River is a large river flowing from north to south in southwest China, Yunnan province, originating from Tanggula Mountain in northern Tibet. The name "Nu" is first of all related to the Nu ethnic group who lives along the river. The character 怒 Nu in Chinese stands for the human emotional state of 'anger', it also means 'fury' or 'vigorous', which describes well the roaring waves flowing through high mountains and canyons.

Out of Dehong Prefecture in Yunnan Province, China the Nu River enters Myanmar, where it is called the "Salween River", before flowing into the Andaman Sea in the Indian Ocean. The total length of the Nu River is about 2100 kilometers, and it is one of the few large rivers in the world that has hardly been dammed on the main stream, creating a perfect environment for Whitewater Rafting on a wild and free flowing river!

Gaoligong Mountains are a north-south oriented mountain range in Western Yunnan. It is formed by the collision and uplift of the Indian and Eurasian plates, and the Nujiang River is the suture zone between the two plates. From the highest Gawa Gapu Snow Mountain (5128 meters) to the Gongyang River mouth (535 meters) in Longling County, there is a vertical height difference of over 4500 meters, which creates a unique three-dimensional climate and a spectacular natural landscape. It is a global biodiversity hotspot and protected nature area.

The Nujiang Canyon and Gaoligong Mountain are both part of the Three Parallel Rivers region, a United Nations World Natural Heritage Site since 2003. With rivers and rainforests, canyons and mountains, the region also has 16 ethnic groups with their own cultural characteristics living over a short stretch of 100km.



The Nujiang River is known as the "Whitewater Paradise" amongst top athletes in the world's rafting industry (especially in kayaking), and several international competitions have been held here.



For our activity we chose the Baoshan section of the Nu River, which belongs to its middle and lower reaches, about 2,5 hours drive west from Dali. Here, the dry and hot valley climate alternates with the subtropical monsoon climate, with no severe cold in winter and abundant water resources in summer. When the North of China is in the midst of ice and snow, the mountains and fields in the Nujiang Region are lush green, the rising sun is warming up to 25°C, fruits and flowers are growing everywhere. It is the transitional zone after the Nu River rushes out of the deep canyon ditch, where the mountains on both sides gradually decrease, the river drop decreases, the valley gradually widens, and the water flow is stable, making it perfect for rafting.

ABOUT THE TRIP

Our Whitewater Rafting activity is suitable for everyone, no matter if you have previous experience in rafting, or not. Our captain and his professional team have been drifting on this river for many years and dozens of times, they have selected the Baoshan section as it is suitable for beginners. After a professional introduction and some basic training, we will be drifting for a total of 64km over 3 days. On the way, we will stop on some sand beaches for picnic lunch, or to soak our feet in a wild hot spring just next to the river. Depending on the group, the captain will know how to navigate the rafting vessel through the rapids, in order to bring every participant the maximum of excitement and fun. In the later afternoon, cars will pick us up to bring us to our accommodation where our luggage will be waiting for us.



After 3 days on the water, we will go to explore Gaoligong Mountains on a hike where we will watch birds, explore the rich biodiversity of the forest and explore wild hot springs before discovering a waterfall hidden in the tropical rainforest.



On the very last day of the trip we will relax visiting a coffee plantation in LujiangBa, the region in China where the best coffees is grown, and this already for some 30 years. Visit the coffee plants, talk with the local farmer, drink a cup of fresh brewed coffee to experience yourself the taste of coffee grown in Yunnan province.



The trip focus is on immersive outdoor experiences, an adventure for adults and children alike, encouraging exploration and survival instinct. River whitewater rafting and Mountain Hiking are high-end customized ecological exploration activities, suitable for people who like to try something different, have a general fitness, and have a love and curiosity for nature. The challenging and unique experience of river whitewater rafting never leaves anyone insignificant!



PRICE QUOTATION

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

Please get in touch with us to inquire on specific prices

Price includes:

Preparation, organization, operation, leading; Accommodation for 6 nights (2p. shared rooms)*, 3 meals a day** (as per schedule), daily fruits, drinks (water, coffee & tea); Transportation within the trip, as well as luggage transportation during rafting days; Use of professional rafting equipment, fees for professional coaches; All entrance tickets within the itinerary; Insurance (1 million Allianz outdoor sports insurance).

Price excludes:

Arrival to and departure from BaoShan City; Snacks or other personal consumptions during the trip.

---- Additional Notes:

* Accommodation will be 4 nights in a 4* Hot Spring Hotel (1st, 2nd, 5th & 6th night); Simple hotel during the rafting (3rd night); One night at a Guesthouse at Gaolingong Mountain (4th night). If you need single accommodation, please inquire with us about the surcharge.

** Local food in the hotels or at available restaurants, breakfast, lunch and dinner (as per schedule). Simple picnic lunch during rafting days and the hike.



GROUP DEPARTURE DATES

Exact dates to be announced soon!

Please note: a min. of **6 people** can form an independent team. If you want to have a shorter or otherwise modified schedule, we'll be pleased to tailor-made one for you.

For details, or to inquire about available dates, please contact us.

DETAILED SCHEDULE

“Nujiang River Whitewater Rafting Trip”: total 64km of Rafting; 7-12km of Hiking.

Total 7 days:

Day1: arrive in Yunnan, BaoShan City, pick-up at airport or train station*. Stay at Hot Spring Hotel.

Day2: 23km Rafting

Introduction to Rafting by the Coach. Distribution of equipment and basic training. Get into the water near DongFeng Bridge. Getting used to the flow on the water during the first rafting day, with some smaller rapids. Stay at Hot Spring Hotel.

Day3: 22km Rafting

From White Beach to GanDing. On the second day we will meet several difficulty class 1-2 rapids, and also practice emergency response. On the way, we will stop at a wild hot spring by the river. Stay in Hotel down the road.

Day4: 19km Rafting

Today we will experience several 2+ class rapids, as well as a class 3 one. It will be the most challenging and exciting rafting day where we can show the skills we have learned over the past 2 days. Stay in Gaoligong Guesthouse.

Day5: GaoLiGong Mountains Hike 7-12km. Hiking through tropical rainforest, watching birds, exploring wild hot springs, get to a waterfall. Stay at Hot Spring Hotel.

Day6: Visit of a Coffee Plantation in Lujiangba, picking & tasting coffee. Stay at Hot Spring Hotel.

Day7: Transfer back to BaoShan* airport or train station for departure.

*BaoShan City in Yunnan can be reached by airplane, or by high-speed train from Dali (around 1.5h), Kunming (around 4h) or Lijiang (around 4h). Early arrival and additional stay in the area before or after the trip can be organized (+\$\$), contact us for options.



GENERAL NOTES

Participants: min. 6p. to max. 16p.

Requirements to participate: The trip is suitable for **beginners**, no prior experience in rafting or similar watersports is required. Participants need to have an overall fitness and an overall good health.

Trip is NOT recommended for people afraid of water, neither for small children. The trip is though particularly suitable for **parent-child travel**, for ages 9 and above. During our outdoor activities, some minor accidents or injuries can occur. Signing up for this trip means being aware of the risks associated with the activities and assuming the consequences to be borne.

Whitewater River Rafting is also very suitable for **teambuilding activities**, as it helps to create bonds between boat-members, raises confidence, leadership and cooperation skills. If your company is interested, please feel free to forward our information and contact.

Season: When the winter comes, Nujiang River changes into a turquoise colour for several months. The blue sky and most of the time clear sunshine during Yunnan's dry season keeps us warm during daytime. Winter is the only season suitable for river activities: Only when the source of the river partly freezes, the impact and power of the summer monsoon precipitation gradually decreases, and the turbid and roaring river becomes green, clear, and gentle enough to dare going on the water.

Temperatures will be estimated according to actual weather situation before the trip, but in general: Daytime feel temperatures will be up to 25°C degrees. Night temperatures down to around 10°C.

Note that in case of a sudden drastic weather change, the trip might get cancelled.

BOOKING THIS TRIP

Payment Schedule: 10% deposit to sign up (non-refundable); 50% payment 21 days 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: refund of 80% of the second payment.
- 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 Travel Consulting:

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

ABOUT THE ORGANIZER

Big River Rafting Team 大河漂流团队 was founded by the renowned domestic explorer Wang Bing, known as "Captain Ice" in the industry. As a pioneer and promoter of the Chinese river drifting movement, he and his team have explored almost all major rivers within China through kayaking and rafting.

The Big River Team is composed of more than ten of the best domestic river drifting guides, all of whom have international and domestic certified coach qualifications. As the top drifting team in China, in line with international standards, more than 10,000 people have already experienced their exciting river activities throughout the country. Adventure rafting activities are organized on Jinsha River, Lancang River, Nujiang River in Yunnan, Yalong River, Liqiu River in Sichuan, Yarlung Zangbo, Palong Zangbo and other major rivers in Tibet where they have obtained a special license for their activities.

Captain Ice and his team are dedicated to exploring and promoting outdoor sports tourism by setting up a sustainable ecological travel model. They especially care about natural rivers and natural education, aiming to raise people's awareness for nature protection and our use of natural resources. For them, drifting is not a goal, but an interesting and unique way of understanding the world.



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 25 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, with your company as teambuilding activity or simply with your own group of min. 6 people, feel free to reach out to inquire with us.

SYLVIE Culture Consulting

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