

Mountain Trekking in Yunnan, China

1) 梅里雪山 Meili Snow Mountains Trekking, Yunnan



About Meili Snow Mountains

Meili Snow Mountains is a mountain range of 13 peaks in Yunnan province in southwestern China that rises to over 6000 meters above sea level. It is located in the very northwest of Yunnan province, in Deqin county, just at the border with Tibet, between the Salween river to the west and the Mekong to the east. Part of the bigger Hengduan mountain group, Meili covers a north-south length of 200km, and an east-west width of 30km.

The highest peak in the range is Kawagarbo (卡瓦格博), which rises to 6740 meters, being the highest mountain in Yunnan. The area is a land of pilgrimage for Tibetan Buddhists, coming from all areas to pay tribute to the Gods. Kawagarbo means the “God of Snow Mountains” in local language, it is considered sacred to Tibetans, similar to Mt.Kailas in Tibet, and should therefore not be summited.

Other main peaks are named Cogar Laka (Peak 6509), Miancimu (6054m – said to be one of the most beautiful peaks in the world) and Jiariren-an Ridge (5470m).



Altitudes, Distances & Schedules*:

In Meili different trekking options and routes are available:

- 1) Setting base in a guesthouse in Yubeng Village, for 2-3 day hikes to glacier, holy lake, holy waterfall (no camping!). Total 4-6 days.
- 2) “The Heart of Meili”: total 55km, trekking 5 days / 4 nights, 4x passes over 4000m, highest pass 4660m on Day 5 (before arriving in Yubeng Village). Total 7 days.
- 3) “Meili North Slope”: total 40km, trekking 4 days / 3 nights, 2x passes to climb: 4700m on Day 2 and 5200m on Day 3. Total 5 days.

* add 2 days for arrival/departure (depending on departure location and onward destination).



PRICE QUOTATION:

MEILI Price, per person:

from 3,800rmb (4 days) to 6,800rmb (6-7 days) to more for longer trips

– final price TBC according to trip details and season

2) 哈巴雪山 Haba Snow Mountain Trekking, Yunnan



About Haba Snow Mountain

Haba Snow Mountain is the Western side of the famous Tiger Leaping Gorge, where the JinSha River (becoming the Yangtze River later on) flows in wild white water. The maximum depth of the gorge is ca. 3790 meters making it one of the deepest and most spectacular river canyons in the world.

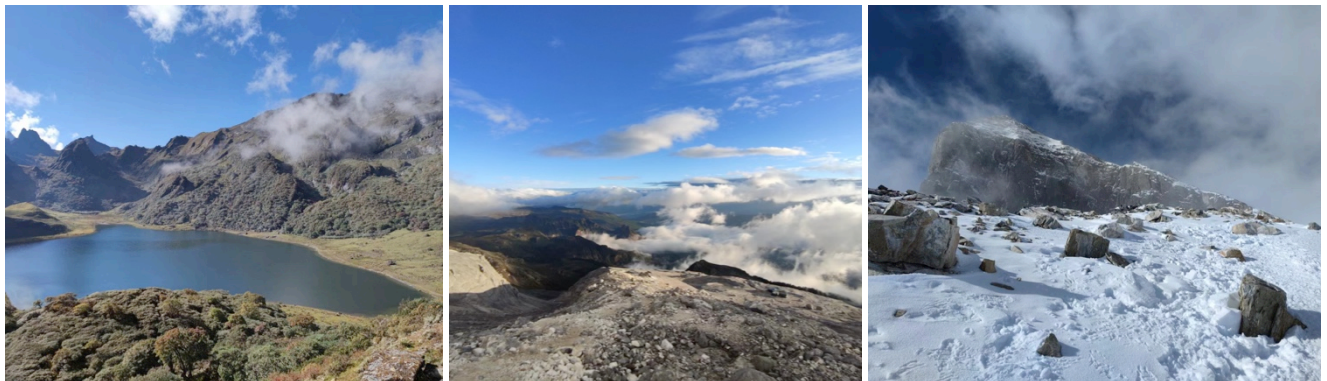
To access Haba Snow Mountain area, one passes typically through Haba Village (2600m) and the summit climb up to 5396m starts at Base Camp (4100m). But the Haba Snow Mountain area offers many natural attractions with breathtaking mountain views, alpine lakes and flowers, meadows of grazing yaks and ethnic villages steeped in tradition. In total about 200km of trekking routes can be explored, for day or multi-day hiking.

Altitudes, Distances & Schedules*:

At Haba different trekking options and routes are available:

- 1) Setting base in a guesthouse in Haba Village, to do some day hikes. Total 3-4-5 days.
- 2) “The Summit”: total 26-36km, trekking 2-3 days / 1-2 nights, summit Haba snow mountain peak at 5396m. Total 4-5 days.
- 3) Haba Westslope: total 20-23km, trekking 3 days / 2 nights.
- 4) Routes can be combined with hiking in the Tiger Leaping Gorge, individually designed in terms of days and distances.

* add 2 days for arrival/departure (depending on departure location and onward destination).



PRICE QUOTATION:

HABA Price, per person: from 3,800rmb (4 days) to 7,400rmb (7 days)

– final price TBC according to trip details and season.

3) 巴拉格宗 Balagezong Nature Reserve Trekking, Yunnan



About Balagezong National Nature Reserve:

Balagezong Nature Reserve is north of Shangri-la, and its 5545m Gezong Snow Mountain is the highest peak in Shangri-la county, covered with snow all year around. Its canyon reaches down by 3345 meters. It spans an area of 176km² and only part of it is open to regular tourists. When trekking one can enter a remote part of this rich Nature Reserve, reaching up to 4250m in altitude, getting through lush green forests and impressive natural rock formations, amongst them the holy Shambala Stupa.

Altitudes, Distances & Schedules*:

At Balagezong different trekking options and routes are available, from day hikes to multiple days with camping.



PRICE QUOTATION:

BALAGEZONG Price, per person:

from 3,800rmb (3 days) to 6,800rmb (6 days)

– final price TBC according to trip details and season.

4) **Inquire with us on other options like Jade Dragon Mountain, AbujiCuo, NiRu, etc.**

I. General Notes on CLIMATE & WEATHER:

The weather in such high mountain areas is very complex, due to their geographic location and environment determined by the vertical distribution of natural and climatic zones. Therefore, the weather varies with altitude rises and changes rapidly on its different slopes.

The rainy season in Sichuan and Yunnan usually happens from mid-June to September, accounting for 70% of the annual rainfall there. Trekking is not recommended during rainy season, as sunny days are rare to see, and paths might become difficult to walk on. The months before or after the rainy season (May-June and Oct-Nov.) are normally the best time for high altitude trekking, providing the clearest views on its glaciers, meadows and snow mountain peaks, as well as blooming flowers during early summer. The winter months are not suitable for trekking due to very low temperatures and snow.

Temperatures will be estimated according to actual weather situation before each trip, but in general:

Daytime: max. 10/12°C to min. 5C [Higher feel temperatures with bright sunshine]

Nighttime: max. -3C to min. -10/12C [Lower temperatures with strong winds]

II. General Notes on TREKKING PROPOSALS:

Participants: min. 4 to max. 8 hikers.

Requirements to participate:

- General fitness, able to hike several days in a row.
- Some prior experience in higher altitudes, over 3000m.
- Available suitable equipment, camping and clothing (or can be rented – please advise).

Schedule: It is highly recommended to add at least one full day and night for altitude acclimatization before starting a trek.

Each proposal includes:

Preparation, organization, operation*, leading (Chinese, English, French & German speaking), transportation by car (from Lijiang or Shangri-la and back, plus all transfers during the trip, as per schedule), accommodation in simple but clean guesthouses (shared rooms) or camping (as per final schedule), 2 meals a day** (every day of the trip, as per schedule), drinks (water***, coffee & tea).

Each proposal excludes:

Flights to and from Lijiang or Shangri-la, trekking and camping equipment****, entrance fees (for parks etc., if applicable), lunch, personal consumptions, personal health and accident insurance.

---- Additional Notes:

- * Equipment and food will be carried by horses. Personal equipment shall not exceed 10-12kg per person.
- ** Local food in available restaurants. Simple but efficient food for the trekking days: breakfast and dinner.
- *** Mountain water will be fetched and boiled on the way during trekking days, as needed.
- **** Missing equipment can be rented, if necessary (+\$\$). Please advise at least 2 weeks in advance.

General Payment Schedule: 10% deposit to sign up (non-refundable); 50% 1 month prior to trip; remaining 40% 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: 80% of the second payment is refundable.
- 5 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:

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

III. About the Organizer

SYLVIE Culture Consulting is an independent consulting service provider based in Yunnan China. SYLVIE Travel is not a 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-West regions of China. With some 15 years of professional experience out of Germany, Canada and China organizing cultural tours worldwide, SYLVIE offers solid organizational skills and a large-reaching network to provide a sensitive and very personal insight into their chosen host country 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.



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