Trekking in Yunnan, China
金沙江 JinSha River Spring Trek – 6 days/5 nights/4 days hiking
2027 two departures: 1) March 21st – 26th & 2) April 4th – 9th





ABOUT THE REGION

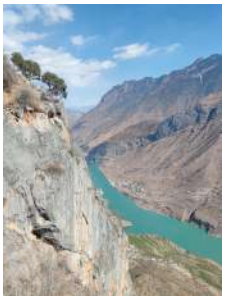
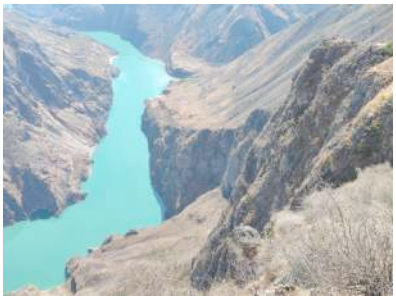
JinSha means "Golden Sand". Coming down from the Tibetan Plateau, the JinSha River is becoming later on the Yangtze River, being Asia's longest river, the third longest river in the world, and the longest river to flow entirely in one single country. Yunnan Province uses 81% hydro energy, with the JinSha 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 is connecting different Naxi villages along the JinSha River. After a first night in MingYin Town, we start the first trail part that was opened for hiking only recently, giving us beautiful views over the surrounding mountains and the river. We'll stay in WuMu, a village of around 160 families located at an altitude of 2260m, relaxing on the beautiful terrace of the guesthouse.



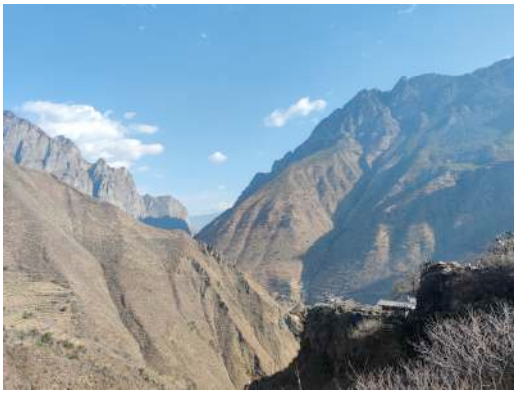

On Day 2 we will have a steep climb down until we get to YanKe Village where we will have a simple lunch. The afternoon will bring us up into the cliff, to follow an impressive trail built into the rock around 20 years ago, right above the river. Here we need to be sure to overcome our fear of heights, as the path is safe but sometimes narrow. Finally we see the Stone Village in the distance, our destination of the day.





On Day 3 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 village house with a good local meal for the night.









On the fourth 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 down the river.





After seeing the river from above during the past 3 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 enjoy those stunning views when going through the narrow TaiziGuan Gorge on the boat, you need to come experience this trip yourself…… ☺





From our arrival point with the boat, we drive to DaJu Town for the last night. While enjoying the views of Jade Dragon and Haba Snow Mountains, we can relax and have a last meal together. The next morning we drive through the Tiger Leaping Gorge to get back to Lijiang. End of the trip.

PRICE QUOTATION

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

from 4,650rmb (6 days/5 nights) // **EARLY BIRD sign up UNTIL Dec. 15th: 4,250rmb.**

Price includes:

Preparation, organization, operation, leading (guide speaks English, French, German, Chinese), transportation by car (from Lijiang town 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, pick up or drop off at Lijiang Airport (¥¥), 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 local guesthouses, in shared rooms. (Some more comfortable, some simple standard.)

If you need single accommodation, please inquire with us about the additional fee.

** Local food in the guesthouses or at available restaurants, breakfast, lunch and dinner (as per schedule). Simple picnic lunch on Day 1 & 3 during the hike.

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

DETAILED SCHEDULE

"JinSha River Spring Hike 2026": total 54km; Hiking 4 days / 3 nights; Highest altitude at 2560m.

Total 6 days/5 nights: MARCH 21st – 26th //// APRIL 4th – 9th, 2027

Sun March 21/April 4, Day1: arrive in Lijiang*; around 15:00 transfer to MingYin Town; Stay in MingYin GH..

Mon March 22/April 5, Day2: First hiking day: Distance: 18km; Hiking time: 8 hours. Stay in WuMu Guesthouse.

Tues March 23/April 6, Day3: Hike from WuMu to YanKe (lunch break), then continue to Stone Village. Distance: 13km; Hiking time: 6-7 hours. Stay in Village Guesthouse.

Wed March 24/April 7, Day4: Hike from Stone Village to ShangLiu. Distance: 11km; Hiking Time: around 7 hours. Stay in local village house.

Thurs March 25/April 8, Day5: Hike from ShangLiu to JinSha riverbank; take boat back down the river, arrive at Ahai Power Station. Drive to DaJu. Distance: 11km; Hiking time: 3-4 hours. Stay in Guesthouse.

Fri March 26/April 9, Day6: Transfer back to Lijiang* for departure (if time permits, have lunch in the Tiger Leaping Gorge).

**early arrival and/or additional stay in Lijiang or surroundings before or after the trip can be organized (+¥¥). Please contact us as early as possible.*

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 4 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, the JinSha River changes into a stunning turquoise colour for several months. March-April is spring season in Yunnan, the winter dry season comes to an end and can bring a mix of some clear, sunny weather and some clouds, maybe some drops of rain.

Temperatures will be estimated according to actual weather situation before the trip, but in general: Daytime feel temperatures around 20-25C degrees. Night temperatures can go down to around 10C.

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

BOOKING THIS TRIP

Payment Schedule: 800rmb deposit to sign up (non-refundable); 50% 1 month prior to trip; remaining amount to be paid 7 days before arrival.

Cancellation and Refund policy:

Cancellation by the Client:

- The deposit of 800rmb 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 deposit. The reason for the cancellation must be demonstrated through an official statement or document from 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.

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