



JULY 1ST GLACIER

High up in the Qílián Shān range at 4300m, this glacier provides a cooling escape from the deserts of Gānsù. Avoid winter visits unless you're totally hardcore.

KHARA KHOTO

Hunt out this ruined and remote Tangut city in the northwest of the Badain Jaran Desert in Western Inner Mongolia. It was once buried by centuries of dust storms and today is embedded in a sublime landscape.

GǔBĚIKǒU

The Coiled Dragon and Crouching Tiger Mountain are less-visited stretches of the Great Wall at Gǔběikǒu; off-the-beaten track but not too far from Běijīng. Perfect for day trips.

KOGURYO SITES

Scattered outside Jí'ān, the ruins, stone pyramids and tombs of the ancient Korean Koguryo kingdom dot a striking landscape of remote fields, terraces and green hills.

HIGHWAY 219

The repaved Xinjiāng–Tibet highway is China's remotest road and an awesome route through the largely uninhabited expanses of Aksai-Chin.

TALAM KHANG GUESTHOUSE

This small, remote temple-stay in West Sichuān matches rustic accommodation with a beautiful setting of snowcapped mountains and grasslands, a hot spring and the nearby monastery of Darjay Gumpa.

Nǚ JIĀNG VALLEY

This epic gorge in Yúnnán – pinched between Gāolígōng Shān, Myanmar, Tibet and Bìluó Shān – is the stunning habitat of a rich and vibrant diversity of fauna and flora.

XĪNYÈ

A calm and unhurried portrait of geomantic harmony and architectural balance, the beautiful Zhèjiāng village of Xīnyè is a delightful retreat from the chaos of modern China.

CĀNGZHŌU'S IRON LION

Standing proud but battered (and missing the Buddhist statue that once rode it), Cāngzhōu's Iron Lion – China's oldest and largest cast iron sculpture – was devised to calm the seas in a distant corner of Héběi province.