



Yúnnán

POP 47.13 MILLION

Includes ➔

Kūnmíng	669
Jiànshuǐ	678
Yuányáng	
Rice Terraces	680
Dàlǐ	684
Shāxī	691
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Why Go?

Yúnnán (云南) is the most diverse province in all China, both in its extraordinary mix of peoples and in the splendour of its landscapes. That combination of superlative sights and many different ethnic groups has made Yúnnán *the* trendiest destination for China's exploding domestic tourist industry.

More than half of the country's minority groups reside here, providing a glimpse into China's hugely varied mix of humanity. Then there's the eye-catching contrasts of the land itself: dense jungle sliced by the Mekong River in the far south, soul-recharging glimpses of the sun over rice terraces in the southeastern regions, and snowcapped mountains as you edge towards Tibet.

With everything from laid-back villages and spa resorts to mountain treks and excellent cycling routes, Yúnnán appeals to all tastes. The roads are much better than they once were, so getting around is a breeze, but you'll need time to see it all – whatever time you've set aside for Yúnnán, double it.

Best Places to Eat

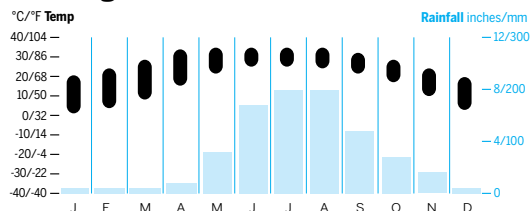
- ➔ Duan's Kitchen (p687)
- ➔ Hungry Buddha (p692)
- ➔ Silent Holy Stones (p709)
- ➔ Tiāntiān Xiān (p698)
- ➔ Yán Quán Nóngjiā (p691)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Blossom Hill Joyland (p697)
- ➔ Fùjiǎ Liúfāngyuàn (p691)
- ➔ Jade Emu (p686)
- ➔ Lost Garden Guesthouse (p672)
- ➔ Nanshan Arts Hotel (p708)

When to Go

Kūnmíng



Apr Prepare to get soaked in Xishuāngbǎnnà during the Dai water-splashing festival.

Jul & Aug Head for the mountains and glaciers around Déqín.

Dec & Jan Escape China's winter chill and head for Kūnmíng, the city of eternal spring.



Yúnnán Highlights

- 1 Yuányáng Rice Terraces** (p680) Catching a magical sunrise or sunset at this awesome natural sight.
- 2 Tiger Leaping Gorge** (p701) Testing your legs and lungs on this famous trek.
- 3 Déqín** (p711) Marvelling at the peaks (and glacier) on the Yúnnán-Tibet border.
- 4 Nuòdèng** (p690) Stepping off the tourist trail in this delightful ancient village.
- 5 Xīshuāngbǎnnà** (p727) Hiking through the jungle to minority villages.
- 6 Dàlǐ** (p684) Kicking back in the laidback cafes and bars.
- 7 Lúgū Hú** (p704) Lazing around the shores of the lake.
- 8 Shāxī** (p691) Seeing how time has stood still in this former Tea Horse Road oasis.
- 9 Bīngzhōngluò** (p715) Getting way off the map in the remote Nù Jiāng Valley.
- 10 Jiànshuǐ** (p678) Enjoying classic architecture and great barbecue