

PROPOSAL

YUNNAN

Ancient Tea and Horse Road

Summer 2020: August 22 - 27

Destination Northern Yunnan



Located just east of the Himalayas, Northern Yunnan's mountain scenery is some of the most spectacular in the world. For centuries, the rugged terrain shielded local people from the Han-dominated empires of China's past, helping to insulate and preserve the greatest number of minority cultures of any region in China.

We call this program "The Tea and Horse Road", because each of the locations we explore were part of that ancient trade route which, for nearly 1000 years, connected the peoples of Southwest China.

During our adventure on this tea and horse road participants will tackle arduous terrain and interact with local communities. Each day, participants will have the opportunity to participate in carefully designed activities that are sure to bring new challenges, new flavors, new stories, and new friends. From the breathtaking views of Tiger Leaping Gorge to friendly villagers around Shaxi, participants are sure to experience China like never before and take home a new, unique perspective of the Middle Kingdom.

What you'll be working on **Key Concepts**

PHYSICAL CHALLENGE

How might we learn more about ourselves by testing our perceived physical boundaries?

Northern Yunnan offers the opportunity to challenge ourselves physically. Whether it's hiking the legendary Tiger Leaping Gorge, cycling the valleys of Shaxi, or trekking to the ancient grottoes of Shibaoshan, Northern Yunnan is a grand adventure that requires participants to step outside their perceived physical comfort zones to experience the natural beauty of this rugged region.

CULTURE & IDENTITY

How might we better understand different cultures by engaging with the people of Northern Yunnan?

In Northern Yunnan, participants will become acquainted with the customs, the languages, and the values of its ethnic minorities. They'll venture far from the beaten path, gaining both a deep appreciation China's vast cultural diversity, as well as an understanding of the shared values which connect the region's unique communities.



GEOGRAPHY & TRADE

How can we understand the impact of this historical trade route by traveling along the ancient Tea Horse Road?

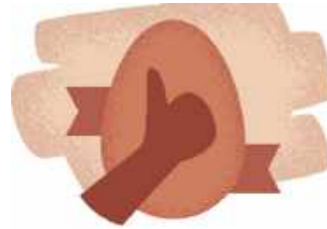
Participants will examine how climate and terrain played a crucial role in the development of the Tea and Horse Road. They will explore how this trade route, often called The Southern Silk Road, shaped the culture and the identity of the region.

Our principles

Hutong Core Values

Throughout our programs, we challenge participants to not only push their boundaries and explore their surrounding culture but we encourage them to take responsibility for their actions through embracing sustainable travel, making good decisions and supporting their classmates.

These notions are born out of our six Hutong Core Values.



BE A GOOD EGG

We are honest, respectful and 100% reliable. We're a basket full of good eggs.



EMBRACE DIVERSITY

We learn from others and broaden our minds by seeking out different perspectives and proactively embracing diversity.



LIGHT A SPARK

We love what we do and are eager to share our enthusiasm. Our passion lights a spark



GO THE EXTRA 'LI' (MILE)

Our dedication leads us to deliver more than expected and always go the extra 里 (li).



SEEK CHALLENGE

We view obstacles as opportunities to work together, step outside of our comfort zones, and grow.



SMILE MORE

We have fun, laugh a lot and always make time to play. That's why we smile more!



Itinerary **Program Overview**

The following pages describe your itinerary, from meeting the group at the arrival point, right up to the moment you and the group leave to go home.

We've broken down the key structure of each day and included summaries of the program's daily highlights.

Day 1

Arrival in Lijiang (Baisha)

Meals: Dinner

Accommodation: Guesthouse in Baisha
Old Town

Morning / Afternoon

- Activities provided for families arriving to Baisha

Evening

- Program Introduction
- Special Yak meat hot pot dinner
- Reflections at hotel



Day 2

Tiger Leaping Gorge

Meals: All provided

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Morning

- Breakfast
- Transfer to Tiger Leaping Gorge
- Begin Tiger Leaping Gorge Hike

Afternoon

- Lunch at Naxi guesthouse on the trail
- Continue hiking to Tea Horse Guesthouse
- Clean up and shower

Evening

- Dinner
- Bonfire and stargazing (weather permitting)



Day 3

Tiger Leaping Gorge - Shaxi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (Dinner on own)

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Morning

- Breakfast
- Morning mindfulness and stretching
- Check-out from guesthouse
- Complete Tiger Leaping Gorge trail

Afternoon

- Late lunch
- Transfer to Shaxi Valley
- Guesthouse Check in

Evening

- Dinner on your own in Sideng Old Town



Day 4

Shaxi

Meals: All provided

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Morning

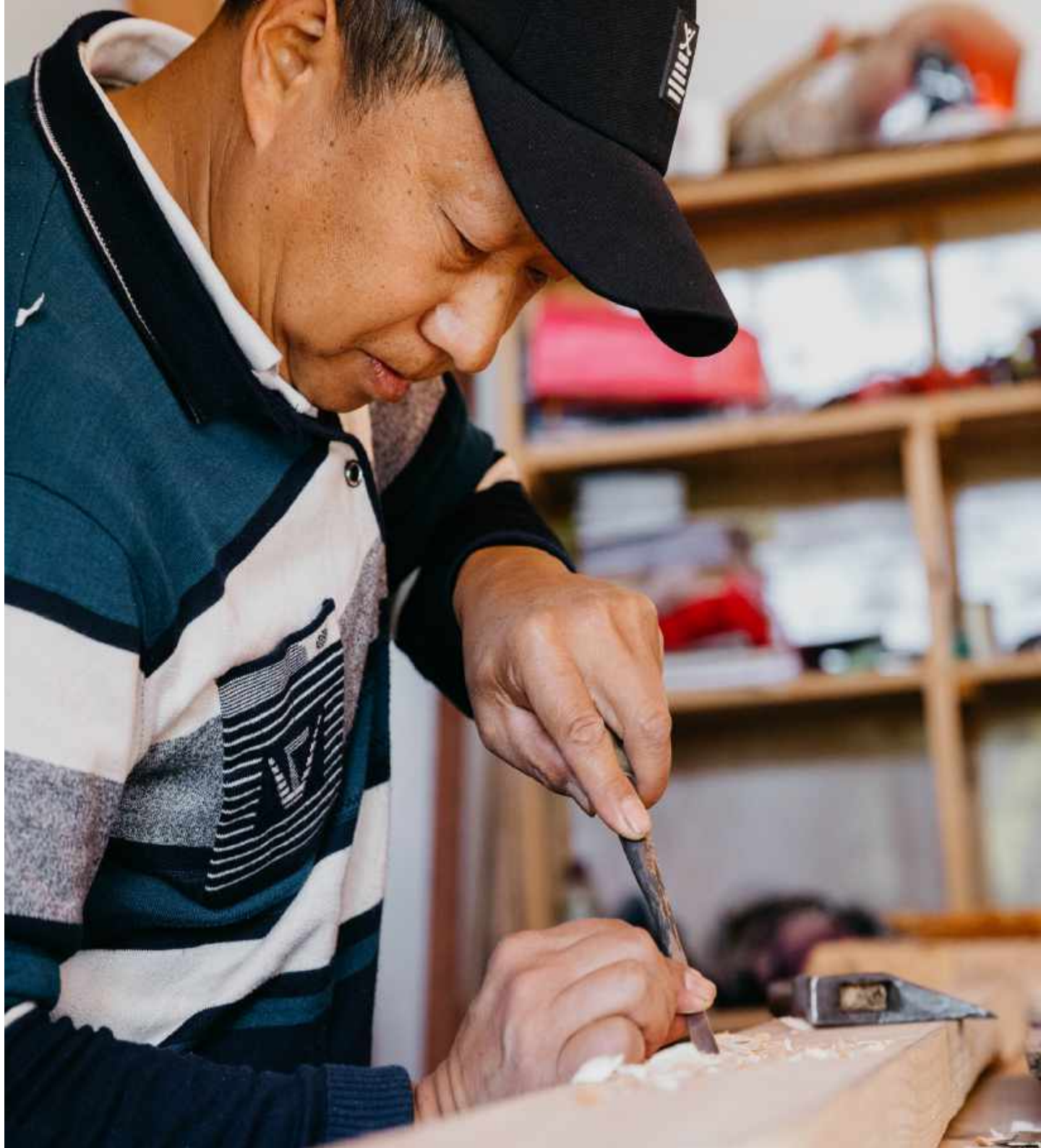
- Breakfast in guesthouse
- Shaxi Old Town Exploration
- Walk/cycle to Hua Long Village

Afternoon

- Lunch
- Options:
- Option A: Shaxi Valley Cycle
- Option B: Wood Carving workshop with Master He Rui Chang & Walk to Duan Village

Evening

- Dinner in an old theater
- Bai Minority Musical and Dance performance



Day 5

Shaxi - Lijiang (Dayan)

Meals: All provided

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Morning & Afternoon

- Breakfast in guesthouse
- Shaxi Shibaoshan mountain hike to learn the history for Bai religion
- BBQ along a mountain lake
- Visit Shaxi Linden Center
- Transfer to Lijiang for final wrap up

Evening

- Transfer to Lijiang (Dayan Old Town)
- Dinner Enroute
- Program Conclusion
- Hotel Check In



Day 6

Program Conclusion

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: N/A

Morning

- Breakfast and check-out
- Program Closing activities
- Transfer provided to Airport/Train Station



Follow the footsteps of the old
Tea Horse Caravan

Highlight
**HIKING THE
TIGER LEAPING
GORGE**



An unforgettable sight, Tiger Leaping Gorge is one of the world's deepest canyons. Here the mighty Yangtze roars through 34 sets of rapids in just 15 kilometers.

Over the course of two physically challenging days, participants will have the opportunity to hike this legendary trail amidst dramatic snow-capped peaks, bright green countryside and clear blue sky of the valley. At the midway point, far from cities and pollution we will rest in a stunning guesthouse drinking in the serenity as participants will (with luck and good weather) gaze out over one of the most spectacular starscapes one can see in China.

Highlights Cycling in Shaxi

Beautiful on foot, Shaxi is even better on two wheels.

Reach the colorful villages and secret scenic areas of the valley by bike; an absolute must-do activity for groups visiting Shaxi.

Interested participants will be led by our experienced team of guides through winding valley roads, narrow village streets, over lush green fields, and along lazy rivers to some of the best spots in the area.



Cultural Performances

Shaxi has a number of active old theaters, with local musicians and artisans using the creative spaces to share culture with visitors and perform for local residents.

During our time here, will have the opportunity to see and hear traditional performances and music.



Rooftops of Lijiang Town



Highlight
**Exploring the old
towns on the
Tea and Horse Road**

Dig deep and learn about the rich history and cultural heritage of former trade stops along The Tea and Horse Road through interactive exchanges and fun activities.

Stays along the old Tea and Horse Caravan route like sleepy Shaxi and Hua Long villages will inspire participants to explore the history of the region and engage with the local residents, getting to know their personal history and about their way of life. Our program will offer participants hands-on opportunities to be immersed in the local culture while learning about the importance of sustainable tourism.

References

Don't just take our word for it

We have been running innovative, custom-crafted educational tours since 2009 with responsible professionalism, and while maintaining an exemplary safety record. We encourage all new partners to contact references for an objective perspective on their experiences with The Hutong.

Below is a list of top administrative contacts for international schools that we regularly run programs for. We are also happy to provide contact information of teachers who have been trip leaders on our programs, and with whom we have worked closely.

Simon Joyce

sjoyce@isf.edu.hk

Head of Co-Curricular Activities, ISF
Academy Hong Kong

Jim Hartland

jim.hartland@britishschool.org.cn

Assistant Head (Pastoral), British School of
Beijing

Heidi Witt-Williams

heidi.wittwilliams@bsn.org.cn

Head of Secondary School, British School
of Nanjing

Brenda Petersen

brenda.petersen@concordiashanghai.org

Assistant Head of School, Concordia
International School, Shanghai

Greg Ladner

gladner@hkis.edu.hk

Associate Principal, Hong Kong
International School

Thomas Nolan

tnolan@harrowbeijing.cn

Head of Upper School, Harrow School
Beijing





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In 32 years of teaching, I have accompanied many school trips all over the world and used many companies.

This trip was one of the best and The Hutong deserve to be ranked at the top.

”

Beryl

The Hutong is the best group I have had the opportunity to work with in my 16 years of doing Week Without Walls programs.

They are safety-oriented, engaging to participants, understand the importance of building solid relationships, great communicators, detail-oriented, problem solvers, and an all around fun group of people work with.

Craig Gingerich





The Hutong **A Bit About Us**

The Hutong creates unforgettable travel experiences throughout China for participants from international schools around the world. Since 2009, we have been running educational programs to off-the-beaten-track destinations across China: from the rainforests of southern Yunnan to the grasslands of the Mongolian steppe, all of our programs are meticulously researched and planned to optimize student learning and to offer fun, innovative, and immersive experiences.

As well as being a licensed travel operator across Greater China, The Hutong is at heart a transformative education company. We partner with leading schools to build programs that incorporate learning objectives and life skills, all the while maintaining absolute professionalism, and an impeccable safety record. From our team of international educators to our travel specialists, each and every Hutonger shares a passion for providing exceptional learning experiences.

Participants who attend Hutong programs engage with global issues and leave with broadened horizons, a renewed sense of their strengths and abilities, and a more solid understanding of ethical tourism and global development. No matter where we go, we aim to make a positive impact on the communities we visit, and on the student groups we lead.



**The Hutong
Education**

Contact information

**Any questions,
get in touch**

CONTACT

jiajia@thehutong.com

Web: www.thehutong.com

Email: education@thehutong.com

The Hutong Courtyard, Beijing

1 Jiudaowan Zhongxiang

Beixinqiao, Dongcheng District

Beijing, 100007

China

中国北京东城区北新桥九道湾中巷1号100007