

4-day Torch Festival Join in Tour (fixed date)

(Dali – Lijiang)

Tour Summary: The Torch Festival is a traditional festival celebrated among some ethnic groups in southwestern China, such as the Yi, Bai, Hani, Lisu, Naxi, etc. The origin of the festival may have something to do with the worship of fire by ancestors, who believed fire had the power to repel insects, drive away evils and to protect crop growth. It is also a good opportunity for young men and women to meet their prospective spouses. During the festival, torches are erected in front of every household, and a pile of faggots of several meters high is erected in the center of a square. When night falls, people of all ages come forward to ignite the faggot pile. Cheerful flames leap up to the sky, crackling and spluttering. Shouts of joy make a sea of rejoicing, a big celebration you should join at least once in your life!



24 Jul (Sun) Arrive in Dali

Upon arrival at Dali airport, meet your Dali guide and proceed to visit the **Three Pagodas**, followed by **Cangshan Mountain** tour (round-way cable car). Then explore in the **Dali Ancient Town** with a history of 1,300 years, which is the home to Bai minority. The town, whose format is like a chess board with four gates guarding in the directions of east, south, west and north stands between Cangshan Mountains and Erhai Lake, a natural configuration that seems

specially designed for a good bountiful life. Dinner today will be on your own account to taste the local flavor. (L)

Accommodation: Landscape Hotel **** (located along the so-called foreigners' street in the old town)

25 Jul (Mon) Dali-Lijiang

Drive to **Xizhou and Zhoucheng for Bai's morning market and residential house**. Due to the Torch Festival, you will see torches tied up with dried pine wood and lightwood on sale, and be touched by the festival atmosphere. You will also take a **cruise on Erhai Lake** and see how locals catching fish with help of osprey. Then drive to Lijiang. A gathering place of the Naxi minority, [Lijiang Ancient Town](#) is a mountain town of stone and tile, laced with canals and lanes, which has been listed as an UNESCO world monument. Unlike most of the old towns in China, there is no city wall due to a superstitious belief of the local ruler whose family



name is Mu (tree), when encircled by walls, would be Kun (besieged). In the evening, at the **central square of the old town, people gathered around a bonfire**, dancing and smiling. You should not miss the carnival! (B,L,D)

Accommodation: Lijiang Old Town Hotel **** (at the very centre of the old town)

26 Jul (Tue) Lijiang



A whole day tour to **Yufeng Monastery, Black Dragon Pond with Dongba Culture Museum, Baisha Frescos and the Former Residence of Joseph Rock**, the Austro-American botanist and explorer who lived here from 1922 to 1949, introducing innumerable plant species to the West and completing rigorous works on Naxi ethnology. After dinner, guide will take you to **Shuhe old town to experience the final festival day!** (B,L,D)

Accommodation: Lijiang Old Town Hotel **** (at the very centre of the old town)

27 Jul (Wed) Depart from Lijiang

Transfer to airport for departure flight. (B)

Note: B - Breakfast L - Lunch D - Dinner

Hotel list (or the same standard):

Dali: **** Landscape Hotel www.landscapehotel.com

Lijiang: *** Old Town Hotel www.oldtown-hotel.cn

Price in 1/2 double room: RMB2480 per person

Single supplement: RMB550

Note:

1. It is based on join-in tour, departing with 2 persons at least. The max number is less than 20 persons per group.
2. The dinner of first day is not included. There are many characteristic local snacks for tasting on your own.
3. On 24 July, there are only morning flights from Kunming to Dali: MU 5987 (0700/0735) and 8L 9903 (0815/0850). If you need, we can book the flight for you. If the group is more than 10 persons joined in, our travel agency will apply for group discount for you if possible.
4. Traveling in Yunnan is for experienced lovers of ethnic culture with a genuine interested in nature. From the tropical South to the high alpine North: no other Chinese province offers more cultural and ecological diversity. We can arrange your extension tour in Kunming, Zhongdian, Jianshui & Yuanyang, and etc.

Price included:

-- English speaking guide

- Air-conditioned van
- 3 nights accommodation (on sharing twin basis) with daily breakfast in hotels
- Lunch & dinner mentioned in the itinerary
- (First) entrance fee mentioned in the itinerary

Price excluded:

- Personal expenses as laundry, mini bar, etc.
- Tips to guide, driver or luggage porter
- Insurance
- Airtickets and tax