

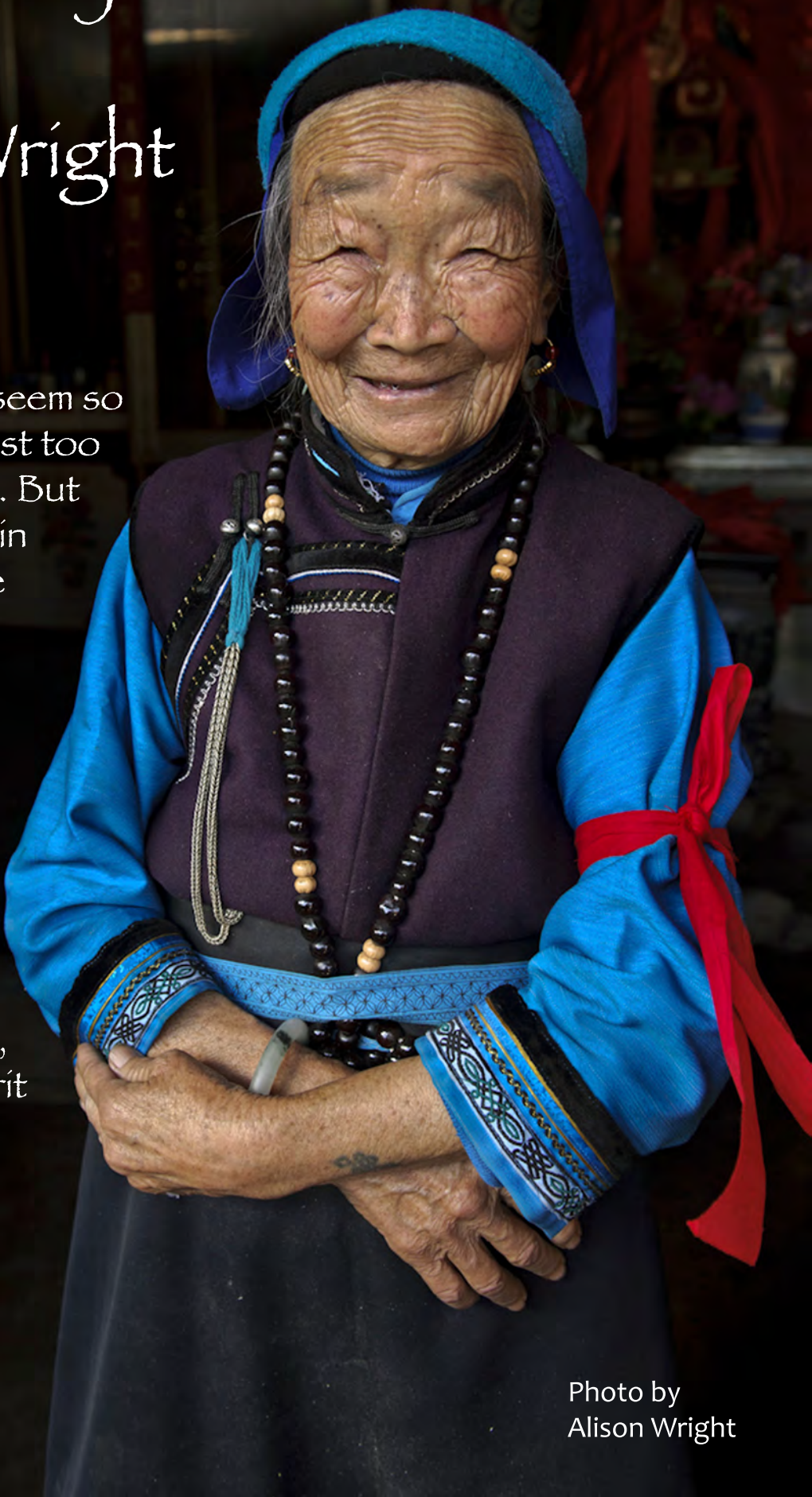
A Photojourney in Yunnan with Alison Wright

October 9-22, 2013

“The planet, at times, can seem so vast, with the numbers almost too large for us to comprehend. But when you capture the look in someone’s eyes, an intimate stare, a knowing glance, his or her situation becomes a shared experience, a more personal connection. Their eyes seem to radiate a dignity, a claim for a right to be seen, no matter what their circumstances.”

– Alison Wright

Face to Face,
Portraits of the Human Spirit



LINDEN CENTRE

Photo by
Alison Wright



A playground for photographers lies nestled in the ancient valleys of China's southwest Yunnan Province. The vestiges of the Himalayas form the backdrop and the headwaters of the Yangtze and Mekong carved the gorges that now are home to over 25 ethnic groups. These peoples, such as the matriarchal Naxi, Muslim Hui and Buddhist Bai and Tibetans, have all created flourishing traditions untouched by outsiders. They exist in a visual paradise- verdant landscapes of tea and indigo climbing from rushing waters to the snow capped peaks- and yet it is the people and their pristine villages that capture the hearts of so many of Yunnan's visitors.

Come with us on a journey to the villages, schools, temples and homes of these peoples. Their timeless images will forever touch you, both spiritually and professionally.

Our adventure will be lead by renowned National Geographic photographer, Alison Wright. Alison, who has previously explored the region with the Lindens, has spent a career capturing the universal human spirit through her photographs. Influenced by her years of living in Asia, her work documents the traditions and changes of people and cultures throughout the most remote regions of the world.



She is a recipient of the Dorothea Lange Award in Documentary Photography, and a two-time winner of the Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Award. Her photographs and writing have been published in a number of her books including Face to Face, Portraits of the Human Spirit, The Spirit of Tibet: Portrait of a Culture in Exile, The Dalai Lama: A Simple Monk, Faces of Hope: Children of a Changing World, and the best-selling book "Learning to Breathe," chronicling Alison's survival and rehabilitation after a devastating bus accident in Laos.

Which of my photographs is my favorite? The one I'm going to take tomorrow." – Imogen Cunningham



PHOTO ITINERARY October 9-22, 2013 with ALISON WRIGHT

Wednesday, October 9: Early a.m. departure from Los Angeles, +1 Day

Guests, who decide to book their air travel with us, will depart from LAX in the early a.m. hours of the 9th. The flight over the Pacific will cross the International Date Line, thus arriving in China a day later.

October 10: Arrival Day in Kunming

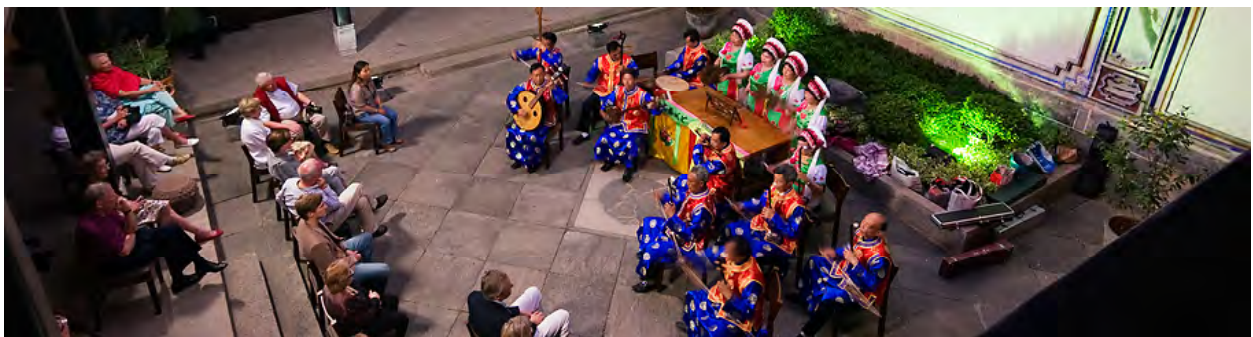
Upon arrival in Kunming, capital city of Yunnan, a Linden Centre staff member will meet you at the airport and transport you to the centrally-located New Era Hotel. After check-in, rest and a chance to freshen up, we will meet in the hotel lobby and walk to the local Bird and Flower market- Kunming's original central market-place- which sells a variety of items ranging from exotic fruits and snacks, books, antiques, artwork and handicrafts-items from Yunnan's 26 ethnic groups.

We will also have a chance to change money and help you negotiate for any treasures that catch your eye. For tonight's dinner we will dine in a restored courtyard mansion and learn more about Yunnan and the upcoming adventures over dinner and tea.

October 11: To the Linden Centre

After a delicious Western breakfast buffet with bottomless cups of indigenous Yunnan coffee and teas we will drive 4.5-5 hours northwest through the mountains to the Dali Valley, nestled in the shadows of the 14,000 foot snowcapped Cang Shan mountain chain, the southeast vestiges of the Himalayas. Along the way, we will pass scenes and villages of the Yi, Han and Bai people.

After checking into the Centre, we will have a special welcome lunch cooked by the Linden Centre's chefs. In the afternoon, we will give a tour of the Centre; tell the story of the former owner and point out interesting architectural details. The autumn season is alive with the signs of the rice harvest and a short horse cart ride through the fields will give you a feel and layout of the village in preparation for the days ahead. Feel free to join the villagers with their harvest. They always are open to an extra hand!





October 12: Xizhou Village-The Portrait

Our first full day of Linden Centre activities will include Western and/or Chinese breakfast followed by a visit to the morning markets of Xizhou for interaction with the local villagers/ photo opportunities. (You can walk to the market every morning with our staff and chefs to pick out foods throughout your stay at the Centre. Today's venture will also take us to see the village elder- an octogenarian who has secretly documented the history of our small village from the revolution through the Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution and recent opening to the West. We will stop in a temple that was used by Yale-in-China students, who fled to Xizhou to avoid the encroaching Japanese, during WWII. After lunch at the Centre, Alison will present a workshop about photographing people. A seasoned veteran of taking shots in the area, Alison will discuss how to best interact with some of the local villagers and will give guests the first of their daily exercises. Dinner will be followed by traditional Bai ethnic music performed by Xizhou's traditional music troupe.

October 13: Ancient Town of Dali

After breakfast we will meet in the media room for a photo presentation by Alison. Afterwards we will drive 15 miles south to the ancient walled city of Dali. Dali was the capital of the Nanzhao and Dali Kingdoms which dated from roughly 700-1300 A.D. Marco Polo was sent to Dali by the Mongol ruler, Kublai Khan, to help negotiate a peace treaty between the Yuan Dynasty and the local Bai rulers. Yunnan is known for its indigenous tea. We will drive to the Dali Tea Plantation where we can sample locally grown tea and take in the scenery with the Tang-Dynasty 3 Pagodas as a backdrop. Lunch will be at the Tea Plantation sampling local dishes with freshly grown organic produce. Dali is an exotic and beautiful city filled with many boutique galleries and cafes. Dinner is at the Centre.

October 14: Kindergarten visit and Monday Market

Following breakfast, we make a special visit to a village kindergarten to interact with the young children and teachers. We continue on to the largest local market in the area: the Monday Shaping market. We will take photos in this colorful outdoor market before breaking away for lunch in a local Bai ethnic restaurant. After lunch we will head back to Xizhou and the

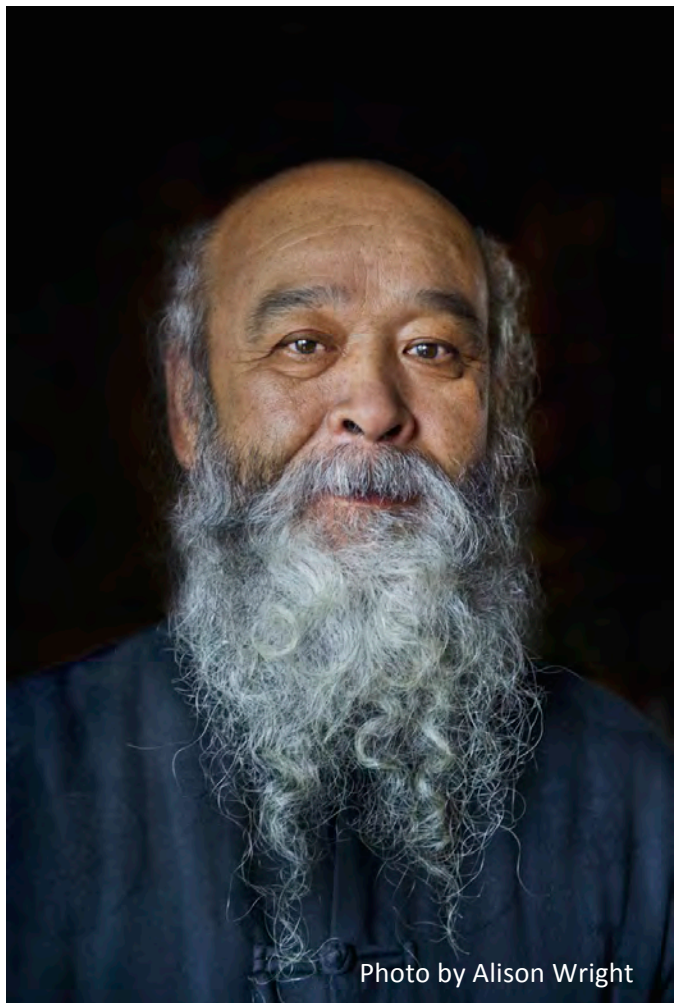


Photo by Alison Wright



Centre where guests will have the opportunity to venture out on their own, or spend valuable time learning from Alison in a more relaxed format.

October 15: Tie-Dye Village and Er Hai Boating

Just north of the Centre is the historic village of Zhoucheng renowned for its tie-dye/cloth-making tradition. Zhoucheng's picturesque town square has a Qing Dynasty performance stage and is shaded by massive canopied Banyan trees. We will have time to capture the colors of this lively market place and the surrounding Buddhist temples. In the afternoon, we will travel to Shang Guan and take a private boat across Er Hai Lake, capturing the sights of the valley while on the pristine waters of China's sixth largest lake. We will also spend time on the peninsula of Shuanglang to learn to photograph the beautiful fishing village situated on the shores of Er Hai. Lunch will be at local restaurant. Dinner will be at the Centre.

October 16: Touching the Sacred- A Journey up Mount Weibao

We will take an all-day journey to the sacred mountain of Weibao- located 90 minutes south of the Linden Centre. Mt. Weibao is a spiritual destination for Taoists, Buddhists and the Yi ethnic group- who trace their original ancestor to a temple on the mountain. We will take a three hour hike around the top of the mountain to stop in the many pristine and functioning temples. There will be many opportunities to meet and converse with local monks.



meet with the

After descending the mountain, we will walk the ancient Weishan village. Built during the Nanzhao Kingdom in the 8th century, Weishan was an important and thriving city and the original capital of this fabled kingdom. The city continued to expand during successive dynasties and was built in a shape of a chessboard in which the two Gate Towers still stand today. On the way back to the Centre, we will stop in an ancient Tea and Horse Road caravansary- the Muslim village of Dong Lian Hua- to visit the mosque and villagers.

October 17: Return to Dali – Three Pagodas

Today we will visit Dali Old Town again to pick up where we left off on our previous visit. We will stop and visit the Three Pagodas and the surrounding Chongsheng Buddhist Temple. Built during the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD) these pagodas are a resplendent example of architecture that has survived the test of time and elements. Lunch will be in the old town with time to do any last minute shopping.



This will be our last night at the Centre, so you will have free time after our return from Dali in the afternoon. Our evening activity will be sharing photos in the T.V. screening room.

October 18: Overnight in Shaxi Town

After breakfast, we will travel 3 1/2 hours north to the old historic town of Shaxi, once a bustling stop along the ancient Tea and Horse Road. The market square is now protected under the World Monuments Watch list and is being preserved by local and international groups. We will spend the night here and have private time to explore this picturesque town and its environs. Lodging will be in a renovated Bai style caravansary.

October 19: Tiger Leaping Gorge and Natural Mineral Terraces

This morning we will drive north along one of the most picturesque roads in the world. We will quickly arrive at the Great Bend of the Yangtze River. It was here that Marco Polo, Kublai Khan and many others have crossed the treacherous river. The upper reaches of the Yangtze are known as the Golden Sands River, and we will follow it as it gains strength to carve out one of the world's deepest valleys- Tiger Leaping Gorge. This narrow valley is cut between two 18,000 foot mountains- Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and Mt. Haba. We will stop in the gorge to take photos of the thunderous stream, one of the world's largest rivers, as it thins to less than 10 meters across! Unlike many visitors to the gorge, we will travel its full south to north length and quickly climb to the Tibetan plateau. The villages we pass will alternate between Naxi, Hui and Tibetan. We will visit the spiritual falls at the Natural Mineral Terraces- one of the most revered places for the Naxi people and will arrive in the fabled village of Shangri-la for dinner.

October 20 and 21: Lost Horizons

The renowned trading center of Zhongdian was renamed Shangri-La in 2001, an imaginary paradise on earth named after James Hilton's book. The Tibetan old city and the surrounding area offer endless photography opportunities. We will escort you to one of the most important Tibetan Buddhist monasteries in the world- the Songzanlin complex located two miles from Shangri-La and explore the timeless Tibetan villages on the mountainsides overlooking Zhongdian valley. Shangri-la is one of China's most beautiful destinations. We will be seeing it just before the snows make the passes in and out inaccessible. The quiet cobbled stone streets will be perfect settings for your last days of shooting in China.

October 22: Thank You

After breakfast, we will accompany you to the Zhongdian Airport in time for your flight to Kunming and beyond.



Photo by
Alison Wright



Summary

What—13 day cultural excursion and photography tour in Yunnan, China.

When— October 9 – 22, 2013

Who - Anyone who wishes to experience the romanticism and spirituality of the true China. The traveler who hopes to experience many different facets, customs and culture of Yunnan and capture it through photos and memories.

Cost—\$5495 Includes Round-trip, international airfare to Kunming from LAX, all domestic travel after arrival in Kunming, all accommodations, most meals unless specified, and all activities and cultural services. Single supplement is an extra \$600. Medical evacuation insurance is included with round trip air ticket and tour price.

Group Size: This tour group is limited to 16 people to ensure that all participants receive more personal attention from the staff. Our minimum group size is 8 people; we reserve the right to cancel any tour if the minimum size is not met. All rooms are non-smoking.

Not included: Guests are responsible for obtaining their own Chinese visa, costs related to alcohol, beverages not included in regular meals, laundry, personal items, souvenirs, and long distance telephone calls. Airfare to and from Los Angeles, trip interruption and cancellation insurance is not included. For this insurance, please inquire.

The Lindens have been living in China since 1984. Their twenty-plus years of contacts will ensure that all participants see and experience aspects of China unknown to other visitors. For most of their previous guests, the experiences throughout these regions of China have been among the most memorable in their lives. Please come and enjoy an indigenous travel experience to one of the world's most storied cultures.

How to reserve space for the tour: Contact us to email you the forms or Download the Reservation Form and Contract on www.linden-centre.com. Call or email us to reserve space and mail your forms and a check for \$500 or cc information. Initial and sign the Tour Contract and Contract Terms and Conditions. Keep a copy for your records.



Photo by Vaughn Hart

The Linden Centre Tour Itinerary 2012-13