

6-Day Kunming Jianshui Yuanyang Rice Terraces Tour

Trip overview

Venture south from Kunming into a world of breathtaking landscapes and deep-rooted culture. This 6-day curated journey takes you to the spectacular Yuanyang Hani Rice Terraces—a UNESCO World Heritage site and a photographer's paradise. Along the way, you will step back in time in the ancient city of Jianshui, famous for its elegant Confucian architecture and traditional lifestyle. From the "Stone Forest" to the shimmering flooded paddies, this tour offers an intimate look at the diverse beauty of Yunnan.

- **Durations:** 6 Days
- **Destinations:** Kunming Naigu Stone Forest - Jianshui Ancient Town - Yuanyang Rice Terraces
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://asiachinatour.com/6-days-kunming-jianshui-yuanyang-tour/>

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Kunming - The City of Eternal Spring

Welcome to Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province, celebrated for its year-round pleasant climate and blooming flowers. Upon your arrival at **Kunming Changshui International Airport (KMG)**, you will be warmly greeted by your private local guide and driver.

A comfortable private transfer will whisk you to your hotel in the city center. After checking in, the rest of the day is yours to relax and adjust to the elevation. If you are feeling energetic, take a leisurely stroll around **Green Lake Park (Cuihu)**, where you can witness local life and the vibrant rhythm of this "City of Eternal Spring."

Accommodation: Hotel in Kunming

Meals: /

Professional Suggestions:

*Kunming sits at an altitude of about **1,900 meters (6,200 ft)**. While most travelers do not*

*experience altitude sickness here, we recommend staying hydrated and avoiding heavy exercise on your first day to help your body acclimatize. If you arrive early, the area around **Nanqiang Night Market** is a fantastic place to try your first bowl of authentic "**Crossing the Bridge**" **Noodles (Guoqiao Mixian)**. Also, please note that Kunming's airport is quite large; your guide will be waiting for you outside the arrival hall at the designated exit—look for the sign with your name!*

Day 2: From the Black Stone Sea to Ancient Jianshui

Your exploration begins this morning as you head to the **Naigu Stone Forest**, a spectacular UNESCO-listed geological marvel. Unlike the more crowded classic Stone Forest, Naigu (which means "Black" in the Yi language) is renowned for its towering, dark limestone formations that date back over 270 million years. Climbing to the summit, you will be rewarded with an imposing panoramic view of a vast, jagged "Black Stone Sea"—a scene that feels like a journey back to a prehistoric era.

After a local lunch, you will enjoy a scenic drive south to **Jianshui**, one of Yunnan's most well-preserved historical treasures. The afternoon is yours to enjoy a relaxing walk through the ancient gates and stone-paved streets of this cultural gem. As the sun sets, feel the tempo of life slow down as locals gather in the squares and traditional craftsmen continue their centuries-old trades.

Accommodation: Hotel in Jianshui

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Professional Suggestions:

*The paths at Naigu Stone Forest involve some climbing and uneven steps, so please wear **sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots**. Compared to the "Main" Stone Forest, Naigu is much quieter and better for photography, especially if you want shots without crowds. Once in Jianshui, don't miss the chance to try the famous **Jianshui Grilled Tofu** at a street-side stall—watching the locals grill the small cubes over charcoal is a quintessential Jianshui experience. Also, the evenings in Jianshui can be surprisingly cool, so having a light sweater handy for your night walk is recommended.*

Day 3: Scholarly Elegance & the Mirror of the Heavens

Step back into the imperial past this morning at the **Jianshui Confucius Temple**. With over 700 years of history, this is the second-largest Confucian temple in China, admired for its grand traditional architecture and tranquil lotus ponds. Next, explore the **Zhu Family Garden**, a sprawling 20,000-square-meter private residence known as the "Grand View Garden of South Yunnan." You will wander through an intricate maze of courtyards, elegant pavilions, and traditional gardens that showcase the peak of Qing Dynasty architectural artistry.

After lunch, your journey continues to the spectacular **Yuanyang Rice Terraces**, a UNESCO World Heritage site carved into the Ailao Mountains by the Hani people over 1,300 years. The day culminates with a breathtaking sunset at **Laohuzui (Tiger's Mouth)**. As the sun dips below the horizon, the flooded terraces transform into a kaleidoscope of colors, reflecting the sky like thousands of shattered mirrors scattered across the mountainside.

Accommodation: Hotel in Yuanyang

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Professional Suggestions:

*At the Confucius Temple and Zhu Family Garden, there are many intricate details on the wooden beams and stone carvings—keep your camera ready for close-ups! For the **sunset at Laohuzui**, we recommend arriving at the viewing platform at least 45 minutes early to secure the best spot, as this is a legendary location for photographers. The temperature in Yuanyang drops significantly once the sun sets, so be sure to bring a **warm jacket**. Also, the road to Yuanyang involves many winding mountain curves; if you are prone to motion sickness, please take appropriate precautions beforehand.*

Day 4: Sunrise Over the Clouds & Hani Tribal Life

Today begins before dawn for a truly spiritual experience. You will head to **Duoyishu Village**, widely considered the best spot in Yuanyang to capture the sunrise. As the first light breaks, watch as the mist dances over the water-filled paddies, turning the entire mountain range into a shimmering sea of silver and gold. From your high vantage point, the terraces stretch endlessly down to the valley floor like a giant staircase to heaven.

After the sunrise, delve into the soul of the Hani culture at **Qingkou Village**. Here, you can admire the iconic "mushroom houses" with their thatched roofs and learn how the Hani people have maintained their sophisticated irrigation systems for over a millennium. The day concludes with a sunset at the **Longshuba Rice Terraces**. Unlike the grand vistas of the morning, Longshuba is famous for its intimate beauty and the vibrant "red duckweed" that adds a surreal splash of crimson to the mirrored waters in late afternoon.

Accommodation: Hotel in Yuanyang

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Professional Suggestions:

*For the **Duoyishu sunrise**, it can be extremely cold and windy in the early morning, so please wear **thermal layers, a hat, and gloves**. Since the lighting changes rapidly, photographers should have a tripod ready to capture the transition from blue hour to golden hour. At **Qingkou Village**, please be respectful when photographing locals and their homes; asking for permission with a smile goes a long way. Also, if your visit coincides with a **local market day** (which rotates based on the lunar calendar), your guide can adjust the schedule to let you experience the vibrant ethnic trading—it's a sensory explosion of colors and local produce!*

Day 5: Morning Serenity & Return to the Spring City

Enjoy a final, peaceful morning in the heart of the Ailao Mountains. After breakfast, you have the freedom to take a leisurely stroll through the nearby Hani villages at your own pace. This is the perfect time to witness the quiet rhythm of rural life—smoke curling from thatched roofs, water buffalos heading to the fields, and the gentle mist lifting off the terraces. It's a chance to soak in the profound tranquility of the countryside before we begin our journey back.

In the late morning, you will begin the comfortable private transfer back to **Kunming**. The drive offers a changing tapestry of Yunnan's landscapes, moving from the dramatic red earth and terraced mountains back to the modern, blossoming cityscape of the provincial capital. Upon arrival in the evening, check into your hotel and perhaps enjoy a final celebratory dinner of Yunnan's famous ethnic cuisine.

Accommodation: Hotel in Kunming

Meals: Breakfast

Professional Suggestions:

*The drive back to Kunming takes approximately **6 to 7 hours** depending on traffic. We recommend having your favorite playlist or a good book ready for the journey. We will make a few stops at service areas along the way for snacks and restroom breaks; these local rest stops are a great place to pick up fresh seasonal fruits like **loquats or pomegranates** depending on the time of year. Once back in Kunming, if you are looking for a unique dining experience, the area around **Nanping Pedestrian Street** offers everything from traditional Dai bamboo rice to modern fusion restaurants.*

Day 6: Kunming Departure - Farewell to Yunnan

After a final breakfast at your hotel, enjoy a relaxed morning in the "City of Eternal Spring." Depending on your flight schedule, you may have time for some last-minute souvenir shopping or a final stroll through the bustling local flower markets.

At the appointed time, your private tour guide and driver will meet you at the hotel lobby for a comfortable transfer to **Kunming Changshui International Airport (KMG)**. As you head to the terminal, look back on a week filled with the vibrant colors of the rice terraces, the ancient whispers of Jianshui, and the legendary warmth of Yunnan's people. We wish you a pleasant journey to your next destination or a safe flight home.

Accommodation: /

- **Meals:** Breakfast

Professional Suggestions:

*Kunming Changshui International Airport is one of China's major hubs and can be quite busy, so we recommend arriving at least **2.5 to 3 hours before your flight**, especially for international departures. If you have any remaining space in your luggage, the airport has excellent shops selling vacuum-packed **Yunnan Ham** or **Pu'er Tea**, which make for fantastic gifts. Also, please double-check your carry-on for any **liquids or lighters**, as security at KMG is very thorough. We hope the "Spring City" has left a lasting impression on your heart!*

Booking Policy

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation by Customer

- Cancellation received before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 20% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 40% of total rate

- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 70% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

Children Policy

The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults.

- For infant (<04 years old): Free of Charge
 - 04 - 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate
 - 04 - 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
 - Above 11 years old with extra bed: 100% adult rate
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Tel:

Beijing: +86 904-6699-222

Chengdu: +86 904-6699-234

Lhasa: +86 904-6699-253

Cambodia: +84 904-6699-555

Address:

Address 1: Floor 4, Global Center, Chengdu, Sichuan, China

Address 2: Chaoyang Road No.21, Guilin, Guangxi, China

Email:

info@asiachinatour.com

Website:

www.asiachinatour.com