

Yunnan is situated in Southwest China, internally abutting on Tibet, Sichuan, Guizhou and Guangxi, externally bordering on Burma, Laos and Vietnam. It is a region of longitudinal ravines of the Hengduan Mountains, formed as a result of the extension and extrusion of the World's Roof-the Himalaya Mountains.

In conformity with the mountainous terrain, the rivers spread from northwest to southeast in the form of a sector, passing through the whole province, linking Southwest China with Southeast Asia. Therefore, Yunnan is also called the "water tower" of Asia.





Yunnan is one of the regions in the world abounding in natural scenery. Gathered here are the most variform landforms and topographies, such as glaciers, snowcapped mountains, volcanos, ravines, forests, grasslands, hills, basins, deserts, marshes, rivers, lakes, springs, waterfalls and eaves.





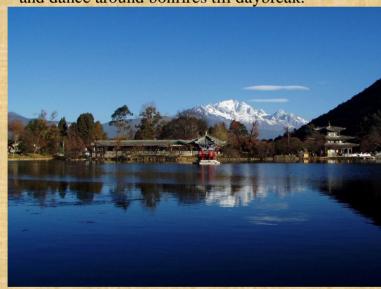
Dali is the ancient site of the Nanzhao-Dali Kingdom in the period of the Tang and Song dynasties. They still retain their own distinctive ethnic features. Dali is famed at home and abroad for its "wind, flowers, snow and the moon."

Kunming, situated at the middle of Yunnan, is the capital of the province and a famous historical-cultural city in the country. It is also a city known for its scenery and tourism. Surrounded by mountains on three sides and bordered by Dianchi Lake in the south, it has neither too hot summer nor too cold winter, despite its elevation of 1891m. With an annual average temperature of 14.5C, trees are green perennially and flowers are in bloom all the year round. Hence the name of "Spring City" for Kunming.



The Stone Forest, with an area of 350 sq.km., is located 86 km. south of kunming. It is a worldfamous scenic spot with the largest karst landform. Being a huge assemblage of stone peaks, stone pillars, stone bamboos and stone sprouts, it looks fantastic and grotesque and seems to be arranged with ingenious design. The chief tourist attractions are: Greater Stone Forest, Lesser Stone Forest, Naigu Stone Forest and Dadieshi Waterfall.

The Torch-Light-Festival of the Yi people living at the Stone Forest takes place every year on the twenty fourth of the sixth month of the lunar calendar. Apart from all sorts of ethnic recreational activities, there are night festivities during which the merrymakers, holding flamming torches, sing and dance around bonfires till daybreak.





The Dayan Ancient Town, which is reputed as ¡ Venice in the East; was The Stone Forest, south of kunming. It is a world-famous scenic spot included by the UN in 1997 in (The List of the World; s Cultural Heritage).

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