



## Article Side

The Unforgettable Yunnan - Minds Abroad Program Destination by [Tom Hopkins](#)

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Yunnan is a treasure trove of everything a person can ever want. From the wealth of history, the most beautiful climate to the abundance of ethnic diversity, Yunnan has it all and Lonely Planet reconfirms that very fact saying "If you have time for but one province in China, Yunnan should be it." Minds Abroad has chosen the location for its study abroad programs for a reason and every part of Yunnan goes on to prove the veracity of what is said and thought about it. Every other province in China fails to compete with Yunnan, especially when it comes to its cultural diversity. What Yunnan perfectly does is to effortlessly showcase the best of China in its fluid magnetic dynamism. Students and travelers alike get the essence of China and its beauty through Yunnan's perfect encapsulation. Varied people with varied taste come to Yunnan and for each one of them, it will have something special to offer.

The most significant component of Yunnan's beauty is undoubtedly its people. Within Yunnan alone the 25 ethnic minorities are present and this leads every area of the province to have its own distinct set of attributes which separates it from the next. Of them, the most important of all is the Naxi who settled just under the enormously snow covered peak of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain in the comfortably tucked away town of Lijiang. Naxi are known for their veritable traditional music and their practice of using pictograph script (also known as Dongba) for religious purposes.

Away from Lijiang is Dali, which is home to yet another important ethnic minority group called the Bai people. Bai people are mostly focused on agriculture owing to the fertile valleys present under the Cang Shan mountain range. Tea, potatoes, rice are the crops generally farmed by Bai people. Fish is also caught by Bai fishermen in an altogether intriguing way of using their cluster of trained birds.

After people, one inevitably arrives at Yunnan's climate. Fortunately, climate too shares the same variety and Yunnan again successfully depicts the even distribution of diverseness of climate all through. Xihuangbanna with its tropical delight of a climate with pineapple palm and exotic passion flowers growing profusely, and Shangri-La and the northwest regions of Deqin with their wild orchids blooming all over are just few of the examples.

Lastly, one cannot complete the China tour without experiencing Yunnan's excellent historical wealth that renders it the depth and understanding that only thousands of years of accumulated history can give. Those interested in Tibetan culture can visit Shangri-la's Kham, check out the 300-year-old Tibetan monastery, Ganden Sumtseling Gompal. Apart from that there is the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the town of Lijiang, Dali Old Town and its 1200 year old pagodas and numerous other attractions. What is obviously proven here is the simple fact that Yunnan, with its stupendous all round dimensions, helps every traveler and student to have a satisfying China travel experience of learning and understanding the country in a more elaborate way than ever before.

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