

*A Special Chinese New Year Season Cultural - Photographic Expedition*



**A Photographic Diary of our "2010 Western China Special Tour"**

*Feb. 16th - Mar. 5th*

by *Yau-Sun Tong*

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摄影及文字：湯友新

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

<http://photoart.chebucto.org/photonews.html>

# *Table of Contents*

The following point-and-shoot snapshots are chronologically classified into the following categories:

- *Preface* (page 4)
- *Brief intro* (page 5)
- *Diaries during our special tour* (page 6 - 48)
- *Epilog* (page 49)
- *Upcoming special cultural/photographic expeditions* (page 50)

*Enjoy...*

# Preface

The following images within this “**Photo-diary**” of 《2010 Feb 16th~Mar5th Western China Cultural/Photographic Expedition》 were taken with a little pocket-sized **Leica D-Lux 3** camera.

These **snapshots** are only intended **to capture** and **to document** the **events, our travel routes, the joy and fun of our tour members** during this lifetime experience of a fantastic visit to another region of western China; and for our memories.

The little “point-and-shoot” **D-Lux 3** has a lot of limitations in picture taking, little performance in terms of optical quality (certainly not compared to the famed **Leica R and M** camera systems with slide-films I am so often used to and fond of using), but at the same time it poses a challenge to myself for still trying to create meaningful images with it.

High quality slide-film images taken during this tour are **not** shown in this **photo-diary**. My slide-film images will only be shown through actual slide-film projectors (e.g. with the famous top quality Leica projectors/lenses), like many slide-shows I’ve given in many occasions or exhibitions.

# Brief intro

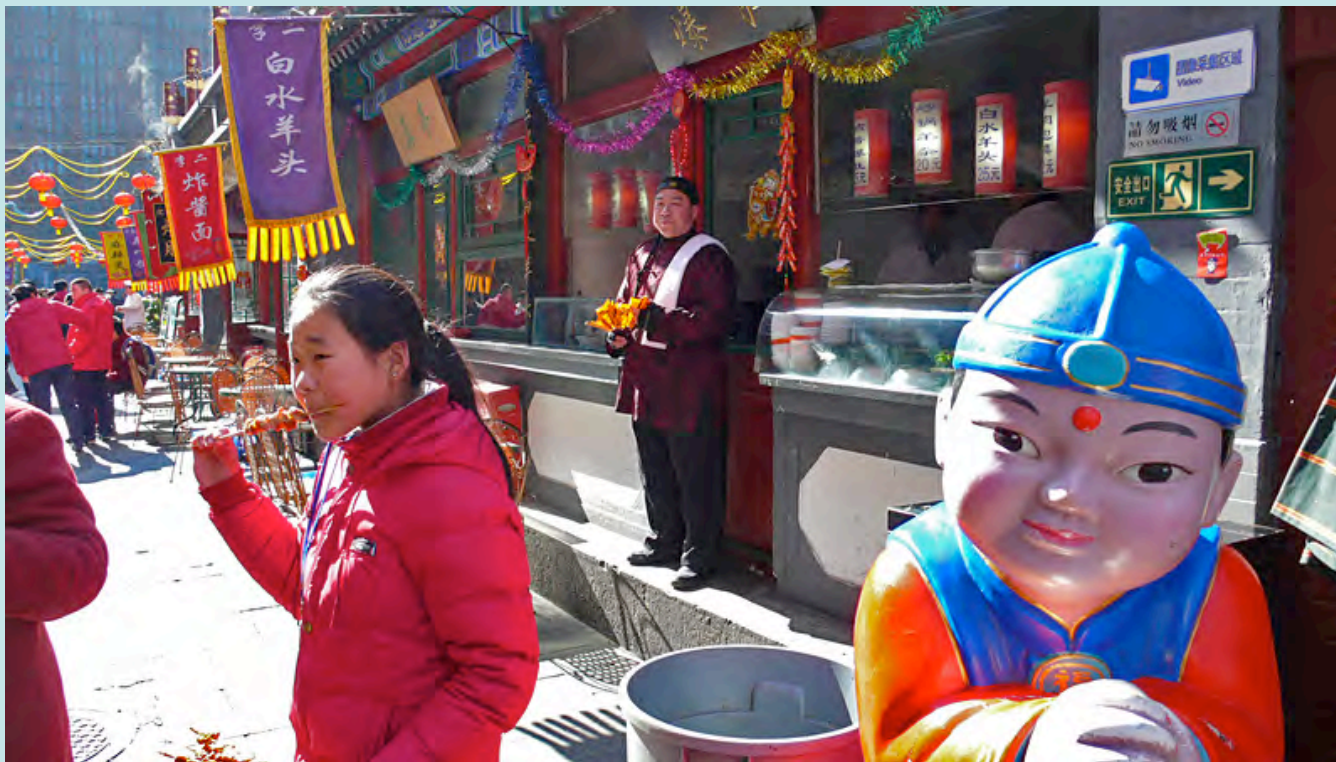
Gathered in ***Beijing*** at mid Februray, our tour group flew to ***GuiZhou*** province, started this lifetime experience of our  
《**2010 Chinese New Year Seaon Western China Cultural/Photographic Expedition**》  
which was especially  
designed for those who were interested in a real cultural experience  
in some of the fascinating places for unusual and  
rich topics of travel and photography.

Some of the most interesting areas and cultural events in ***Southwestern China's GuiZhou & Northwestern China's GanSu provinces*** were hand-picked  
to be arranged in this expedition,

The following images in chronological order are intend to share the enjoyments  
from some of the events and highlights of this 18-day journey –  
another successful expedition in our  
**Western China Cultural/Photographic Tour Series.**

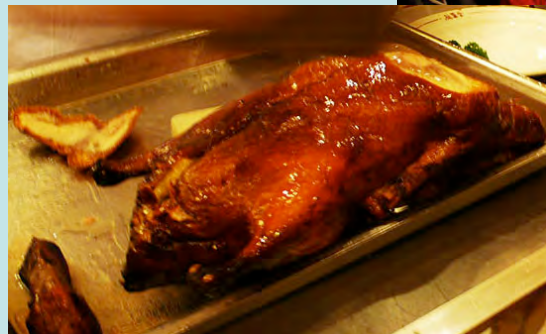
My sincere appreciation and many thanks to all participants of this very special tour!





Gathered in Beijing on Feb 16, we started our good time with a relaxing street strolling; then an evening of Peking-duck welcome dinner, followed with a Peking Opera performance...

Our welcome dinner was rich and yummy! In fact, all meals everyday during our journey were great! I'll show you few photos in this diary, just to tease your taste buds a bit...







Our first meal in GuiZhou was already fantastic!  
(*watch out, many to come...*)



The next day, we flew to GuiZhou province, started our Southwest China journey by an unique overnight visit to the remote Zhanliu village in Jianhe county...; participated the local Miao villagers' annual festival...

There were no tourists, but just the small group of us, with the aboriginal Miao villagers...





Upon our arrival, villagers had already lineup outside the village welcoming us!

We had to go through the first test - wine drinking “拦門酒”...before allowed to enter the village...; look, Jessie seemed to have some reservations about that...





We received a great welcome.  
And the hospitality was  
something else...







Next morning, we were up early enjoying the tranquility as well the activities of the village, the preparations for the joyful traditional annual festival...





Villagers are up early preparing for the day of festival ...







Morning is the best time for strolling and photographing around the village...

Just coming back from the market, the two piglets look like will have a new home, well, at least for a year... till they are meaty enough...





The competition between song birds, and the rosters fighting are parts of the activities during the festival day...





It is a relaxing and joyful festival day...





We descended from Zhanliu village with unique memories.  
The visit gave us some different perspectives about life...



That evening and the next morning we were  
enjoying wonderful thermal hot springs in this  
comfortable hotel, and of course good foods...





In an unique Miao village...



Wine again... more Miao people's hospitality...



More tasty traditional Miao dishes...





Xijiang Miao village...





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Village tribal Miao cultural performances...





good foods, fun time, delightful views...





On route to some other villages, festivals...







In this village, the Miao still able to use an ancient paper making technique to produce some beautiful, truly artistic hand-made papers...  
Totally organic, multiple plants, flowers etc. being used for naturally beautiful patterns and designs. Their products are in demand...









We had a great southeastern GuiZhou visit and left GuiZhou with a fond memory...!







By flight, we arrived Lanzhou of GanSu province, started our northwestern region part of the itinerary...



It is the Chinese New Year season, the air is full of festivities...





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Here the “Yellow River” runs  
through the city of Lanzhou...





In northwest, the flavors of cooking have distinguishable differences compared to those from the southwest...



The famous Lanzhou “hand-pulled noodles”, great taste, fun to watch the amazing skills of the chefs making the noodles...







In northwest China, there are large populations of Muslims. We are traveling southwards from Lanzhou...The unique DongXiang ethnic people live in this part of the southern GanSu...

The DongXiang “hand grab” mutton is famous for it’s quality and taste, often eating together with raw garlic...







good foods...

but much more importantly,  
a great sense of unique cultural  
condensation, fantastic opportunity  
for photography...



东乡族孩童  
Dongxiang  
ethnic children  
in Gansu, China  
photo by:  
Yau-Sun Tong 湯





Further south, we were in the Tibetan region of southern GanSu...





A nice Tibetan yak-meat burger is enough to feed an army...



The altitude is rising, the landscape, the culture, and foods changing again...





Liangmu village, an unique place in the junction of southern Gansu and northern Sichuan... Each year on the 13th day of the Chinese New Year, there is a major religious event held by the local Tibetan monastery...





We traveled to here the day before the festival... getting familiar with the surroundings, visiting local Tibetan families...



Look Marcelle with some Canadian postcards as part the gifts to this family...





The next morning...

We wished to have some snow scene for the next morning's event... and we got that! An overnight snowfall whitened the surrounding...





It was a morning of solemn religious ceremony - "Sunning the Buddha's Portrait"...







Once a year, at this very day of the morning in sunrise, the Buddha's giant portrait is displayed for "sunning"...







Monks... villagers, pilgrims and visitors from afar... all up early for this special moment...







And then accompanied with a set of solemn and formal procedure the portrait was covered and rolled up again, shoulders by a line of monks back to storage inside the monastery...







Afternoon, we left Liangmu continued our travel to Luqu - another interesting small township, for the next day's festival...





The next morning...



The 14th day after the Chinese New Year, it is a special day each year for this place...



Villager's parade... Monastery's  
ritual dancing and religious  
events... etc...



It is fantastic for anyone  
who's interested in culture  
or photography...



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The town of Xiahe, where the famous Labrang Monastery is located here...

In Xiahe, a typical Tibetan dish...





The annual Buddhist debating event in Labrang monastery, Xiahe...



after back to Lanzhou, a great dinner, our last meal in GanSu. We had a superb experience in Gansu...







by flight from northwest China  
to Guangzhou in south China...

an afternoon of museum and city  
visit... completed with an evening  
river-cruise on the Pearl River...







We left Guangzhou early the next morning for Xinhui county...

Xinhui county has noticeable historical events. It has nice environments, interesting sightseeing spots, unique local products and crafts...



Enjoying Cantonese cuisines...



Visiting some local Xinhui handcraft and art exhibits and studios...





and we had an evening of fantastic welcome banquet with specially prepared Xinhui cuisine, entertained by the Xinhui County top officials...

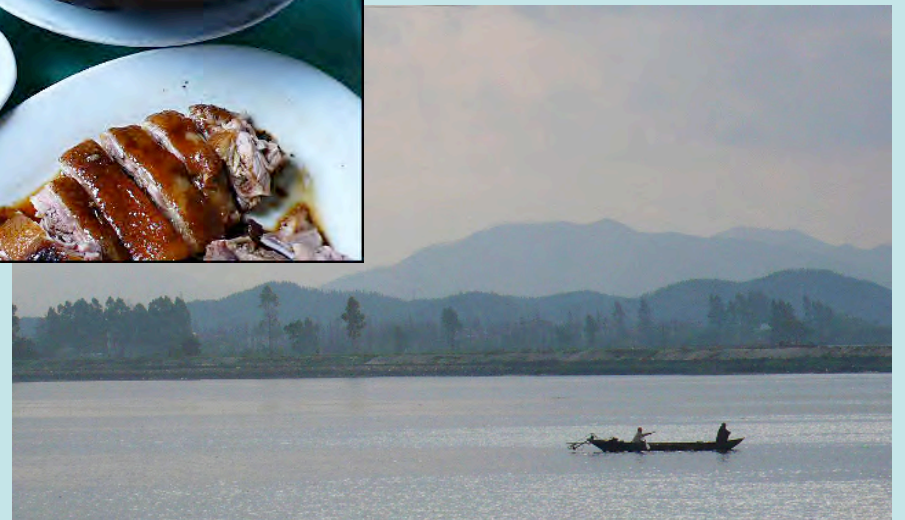




The Kaiping “diaolou” architectures are unique; some Kaiping cuisines are also famous...



Kaiping, an county that holds the only UNESCO World Heritage Culture Site in Guangdong province...







The last day in mainland China... after another tasty meal... through Zhuhai district, we crossed into Macao - the former Portuguese's colony which returned to China in the year of 1999...







“Ruinas de Sao Paulo”, situated in the UNESCO World Heritage Culture Site area in central Macao...



Macao was our itinerary's last stop for exiting China...

It was a great journey for us, and it will not be the last one...



# Epilog

The snapshots in this Photo-diary are in no way able to represent the richness of culture and nature scenes we've seen, the fun and joy we've experienced during our group's 2010 Chinese New Year Season "Western China Cultural/Photographic Expedition" travel...

for Yau-Sun Tong's special "Western China Cultural/Photographic Series" expedition tours for July 16-31, 2010 and Oct. 15-31 2010  
*(see next page for description)*

contact Yau-Sun for details:

tel: (902) 443-5500

e-mail: [taiji@chebucto.ca](mailto:taiji@chebucto.ca)

please visit news page:

<http://photoart.chebucto.org/photonews.html>



## Yau-Sun Tong's Upcoming Special Western China Cultural/Photographic Expeditions

### July 16th - 31st, 2010

An exclusive 16-day ***“Tea-Horse Ancient Trail”*** expedition, starting from the very northwestern YunNan, through the very eastern part of Tibet, around the very western of SiChuan, then into the very southeastern of Qinghai - attending the famous yet mysterious Tibetan Horse-back Racing Festival in this very interior part of western China...; and to the source of Yellow River...  
By 4-wheel-drive vehicles, journey through this most magnificent nature route in the world, with some of the most interesting and authentic cultures still existing...

A true Shangri-La experience for the mind and camera that will last for life. An unconventional itinerary only offered by Yau-Sun Tong's "Special Western China Cultural/Photographic Expedition Series".

### Oct. 15th - 31st, 2010

#### ***Have You Seen the Real Central Asia?***

An true Cultural/Photographic special journey. To northwestern China's XinJiang region and beyond...

Around the world second largest desert and more, the multi cultural and landscape scenes ... the expedition provides true and rare opportunities that commercial tours can not offer...

It is not a "silk-road tour" at all, but an uniquely designed and specially arranged expedition for a true cultural/photography experience of a lifetime!