

A SPECIAL WESTERN CHINA CULTURAL - PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPEDITION



A Photographic Diary of our 2010 “Ancient Tea-Horse Trail Expedition”

July 26th - Aug. 10th

by Yau-Sun Tong

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Table of Contents

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

- *Preface* (page 4)
- *Brief intro* (page 5~6)
- *Diaries during our special tour* (page 7~46)
- *Epilog* (page 47)
- *Upcoming special cultural/photographic expeditions* (page 48)

Enjoy...

Preface

The following images within this “**Photo-diary**” of《2010 July 26th~Aug 5th “Ancient Tea-Horse Trail” 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.

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 have given in different occasions or exhibitions.

Brief intro

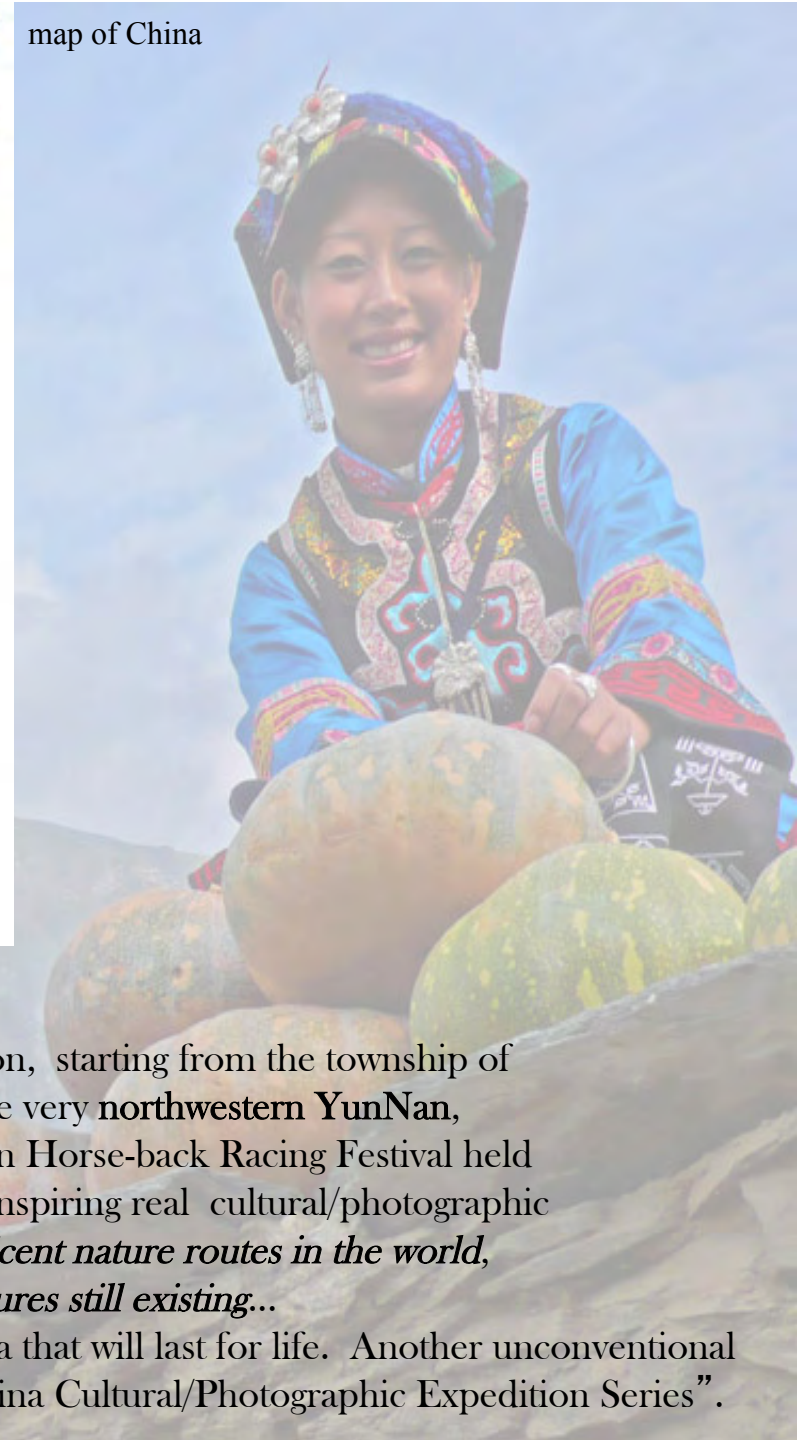
Gathered in *Beijing* at late July, our tour group flew to *LiJiang* started this lifetime experience of our
《2010 Western China “Tea-Horse Trail” Cultural/Photographic Expedition》
which was especially
designed for those who were interested in a real cultural experience
in some of the fascinating places for unusual and
rich topics of travel and photography.

Some of the most interesting areas in *northwestern YunNan & western SiChuan provinces* of China 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 16-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!

map of China



Highlights:

A very special 16-day “Ancient Tea-Horse Trail” expedition, starting from the township of **LiJiang** - the “UNESCO World Heritage Site”, through the very **northwestern YunNan**, the **western** region of **SiChuan**, attending the Litang Tibetan Horse-back Racing Festival held annually in this interior part of **western China**...; An truly inspiring real cultural/photographic journey; by 4-wheel-drive vehicles, *one of the most magnificent nature routes in the world*, with some of the *utterly captivating and truly authentic cultures still existing*..

A superlative *Shangri-La* experience for the mind & camera that will last for life. Another unconventional itinerary offered by Yau-Sun Tong’s “Special Western China Cultural/Photographic Expedition Series”.

By air from Beijing we arrived LiJiang, it is our expedition's starting point.





We stayed in this beautiful cottage style hotel, with our own private house keeper in each unit. The surroundings, the comfort and service were excellent. Look, breakfast was being preparing by our own house servant... it was great after came back from our early morning outing...

Left LiJiang, we started our journey by 4-wheel-drive Landcruisers toward north...



Sightseeing along the way...





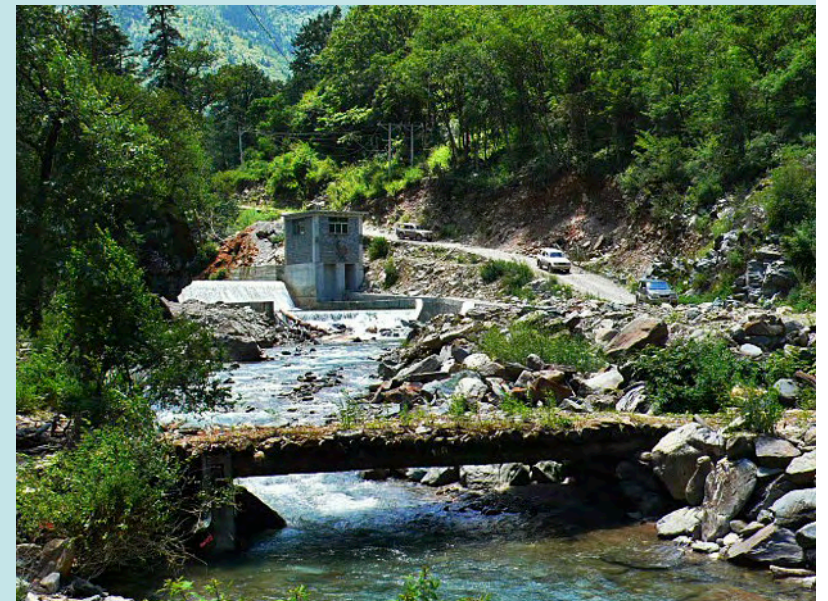
From the town of ZhongDian, along an unmarked mountain road, full sight of nature beauties... all the way from YunNan into SiChuan...



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In times, there are no roads... but we have 4x4...





On route to western SiChuan...



Here nature's beauties are Everywhere...



Hey, that's Steve and Mary chatting with K.B....





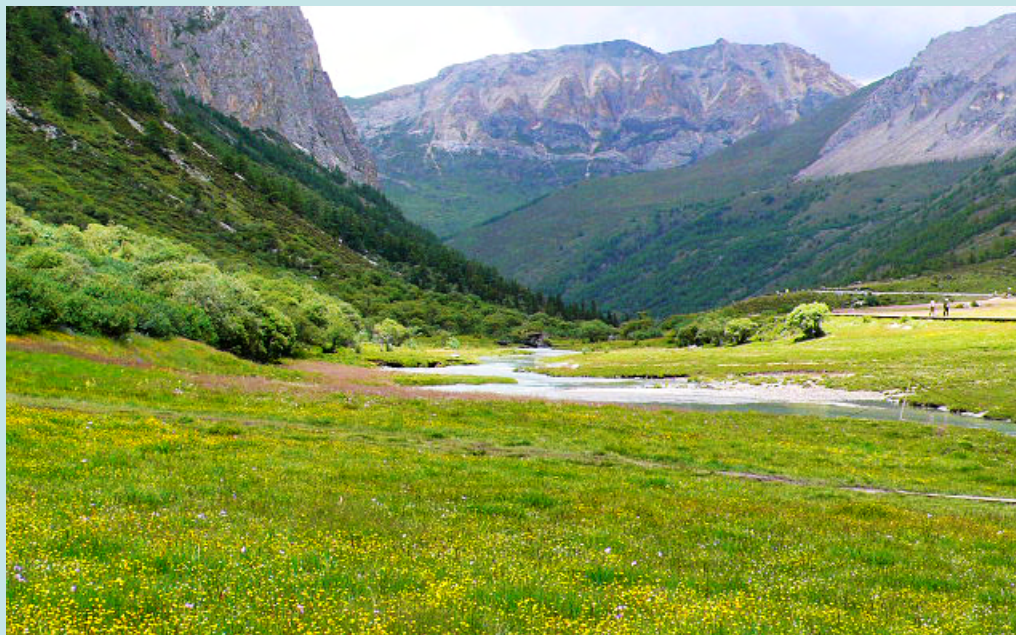
The sacred Aden mountain...



Hey, that's Pat on horseback... our group rode horses deep into the nature...

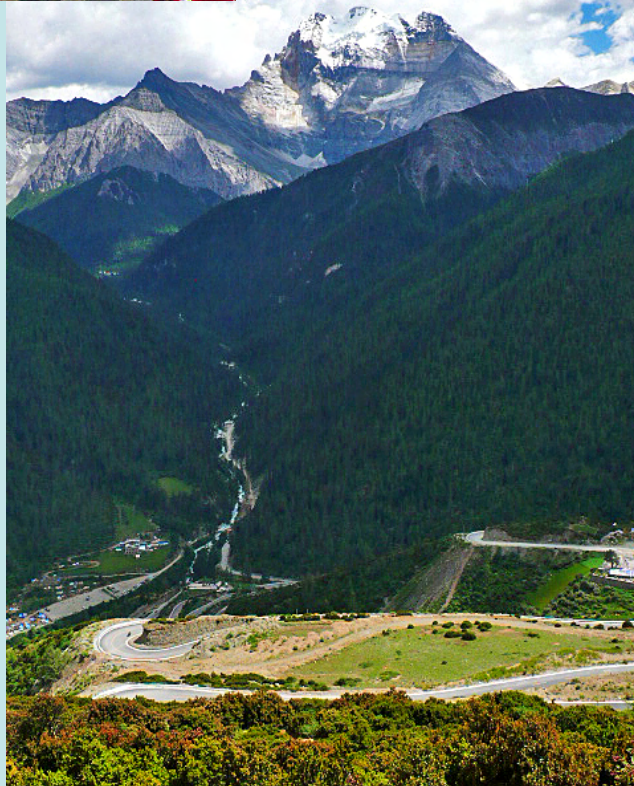


A holly shrine under this
Holly mountain...



To Taiji here is like
heavenly...





Villages, locals, everything's naturally nice...



Cattle ranges, local monastery...



Western SiChuan is a special place...
Nature, culture... all along the
ancient "Tea-Horse Trail"...





Like always, our expedition has deliciously healthy foods...



Spacious local Tibetan family houses...





At “*Rabbit Mountain*”, while our drivers took a cigarette break, we explored the landscape at 4,696 meter high elevation...



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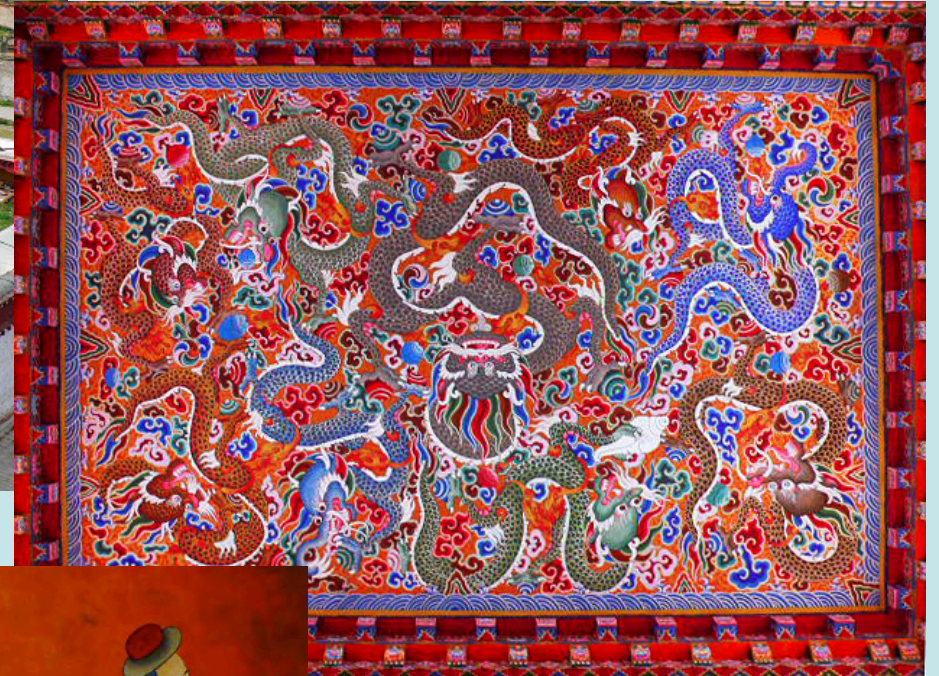


Local Tibetans...





Litang county, elevation over 4,000m...



Litang – an important township in western Sichuan,
situated at 4,200 meters elevation...





Villages and villagers...



Monks debating...





Our daily variety locally fresh tasty nutrients...



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Villages at dusk...





Our joyous morning outings...



Hey, that's Donna, she has horses back home in British Comubia...



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Local villager...

Kids around the world all like to play...



Village visits are always interesting...



Time for good foods...







A sacred lake...



On route to Dege – at a junction of extreme northwestern Sichuan and Tibet...

Here we enjoy the 5,050-meter altitude...





We are in the famous “Dege Sutra-Printing House”, (Dege Parkhang) an important relic with ancient history in Tibetan Buddhism, built in Qing dynasty in 1729...



Inside the Dege Sutra-Printing House...





After Dege, turning eastwards...



A local school with lots of Tibetan kids...



Still the beauties of western Sichuan...



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Village and villagers visit...



Of course good foods...





Inside a Tibetan home...





We received their extremely genuine hospitality...





Luhuo county...





We had good visit in Dawu county of the
Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture...



Colourful & spacious Tibetan houses...

Mornings are fantastic time for our photography or just the atmospheric & cultural enjoyment...







Passing by the famous Danba village...



Reaching Luding county is also signaling our fascinating – “Ancient Tea-Horse Trail” expedition comes to an end this time...

Yes there are so many to see, feel & taste... one expedition is not enough... there are many more others awaiting for us...!

The historically famous “Luding Bridge” – during the renowned “Long-March”, the Red-army crossed here in 1935...

Here is Chairman Mao’s poem of :
“**The Long March**” on October 1935
after crossed the river:

*Of the trying long march the Red Army makes light:
Thousands of rivers and mountains are barriers slight.
The five serpentine Ridges outspread like rippling rills;
The pompous Wumeng peaks tower but like mole-hills.
Against warm cloudy cliffs beat waves of Golden Sand;
With cold iron-chain Bridge River Dadu is spanned.
Glad to see the Min Range snow clad for miles and miles,
Our warriors who have crossed it beak into broad smiles.*

English translation by scholar Xu YuanZhong



Epilog

The snapshots in this Photo-diary are in no way able to represent the richness of culture and nature scenes we had seen, the fun and joy we had experienced during our group's 2010 "Ancient Tea-Horse Trail" travel...

for Yau-Sun Tong's special "Western China Cultural/Photographic Series"
expedition tours in the year of 2014
(see next page for description)

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

April, 2014

An exclusive “**Southwestern China Cultural-Photographic Expedition**” ...

A unique itinerary & activities to some most fascinating places in the **most Northern** Guangxi and **Southeastern** Guizhou regions.

Another unconventional itinerary only offered by Yau-Sun Tong' s “Special Western China Cultural/Photographic Expedition Series”.

May, 2014

“**Leica on Top of the World**” !

An true Cultural/Photographic special journey, to **Southwestern region** of Tibet Autonomous Region that's not yet been opened to outsiders...

A special program offered by Leica Camera Inc. for it's famous Leica Academe program. Itinerary especially designed and led by Yau-Sun Tong...